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**1. BARBADOS AND EASTERN CARIBBEAN**

**1.1. General Situation: Drug production and trafficking**

**Barbados**

Barbados is not a major drug producing, exporting or growing country. Cannabis cultivation (primarily for local use) over the past few years has remained constant based on eradication statistics. Cannabis is found under cultivation in cane fields, gullies, and enclosed yards in homes. Reports conducted by local authorities<sup>1</sup> show that illegal drugs are now sold and consumed in every secondary school.

Shipments of illicit drugs are transferred at sea at predestined GPS coordinates for retrieval by local vessels at sea and they are then landed in Barbados on deserted beaches. Cocaine continues to be imported using pleasure boats, cargo vessels, yachts, fishing vessels and “go fast” boats.

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<sup>1</sup> National Council on Substance Abuse

The majority of cocaine is believed to be sourced from Colombia, where it transits through Venezuela, Trinidad, and/or Guyana before entering Barbados via one of the Eastern Caribbean islands and is then exported to Europe and/or North America.

Cocaine trafficked from Barbados is via airlines, cruise ships, yachts, freight shipping containers, and travellers/couriers. There were no reports of production, transit or consumption of methamphetamines or other designer drugs. Three major drug traffickers believed to be kingpins in a cocaine export ring to the United States remain on custody as they continue to fight their extraditions to the US.

The United Nations Caribbean Human Development Report states that transnational organized crime is involved in drug trafficking. According to this report, Barbados is only one of two countries (Suriname being the other) out of the seven countries surveyed (Antigua, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, St Lucia, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago) where the homicide rates, including gang related killings, has not increased substantially in the past 12 years.<sup>2</sup>

#### **Antigua & Barbuda, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines**

The islands of the Eastern Caribbean all form part of the transit zone for the passage of cocaine from South America to Europe and North America. The drugs travel by boat or air up the island chains. In the area around Antigua, they either go to Europe or North America. The Regional Security System (RSS) estimates that less than 10% of all illegal drug shipments are successfully intercepted in this region.

With significant areas of unprotected deserted beaches, poor border control, and weak legislation, these countries continue to provide the crime groups with a safe environment for landing drug shipments. The most common methods used for trafficking of cocaine from Columbia and Venezuela are via go-fast pirogues, fishing and cargo vessels. Drugs are also stockpiled in Trinidad. Shipments are brought over by sea to deserted beaches or unmonitored ports and transferred onto vessels that make the trip up the island chains. These boats rendezvous at predestined GPS spots at sea where the transfer takes place onto the vessels that either cross the Atlantic to Europe or East to the United States.

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<sup>2</sup> UN Caribbean Human Development Report 2012

Fishing vessels, commercial airlines, cruise ships, recreational sailing vessels and freight transporting ships, travellers/couriers are also used for drug exports to North America and Europe.

Corruption of officials in some Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) states remains a cause for concern. The US, through the Regional Security System, has now established a vetting unit to help address this. However, US analysts believe drug trafficking organizations continue to elude law enforcement agencies through bribery, influence or coercion.

MDG members noted that the lack of priority accorded by some of the governments of the OECS, combined with a scarcity of legitimate alternative income options, results in segments of some islands dependent on marihuana production and the related trafficking and money laundering activities. There have also been reports of trade between Trinidad and Tobago and St Vincent dealers, where cannabis is traded for weapons and cocaine.

MDG members noted the significant role the RSS continues to play in helping member states fight against drug trafficking. In addition to running the C-26 air surveillance, the RSS supports marihuana eradication. The MDG members note that the overall effectiveness and sustainability of these programs is frequently hampered by severe funding limitations. The Group noted that the RSS is forced to operate on approximately 40-50% of the approved annual operating budget due to non-payment by some Member States. The RSS is also limited in terms of where they can receive bilateral aid, due to sovereign limitations of member states. The main donors to the RSS are Canada, France, the United Kingdom and the United States.

## **1.2. Anti-drug Strategy**

### **Barbados**

Barbados has been without a National Anti-Drug Plan now for three years. The National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA) which co-ordinates the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, institutional building, programme evaluation and legislation, is underfunded and understaffed. Barbados has implemented the Barbados Drug Information Network to improve the collection and evaluation of drug-related statistics but surveys are not conducted regularly. 2009 is the date of the most recent survey.

Prevention programmes are targeted at primary, secondary and tertiary level students and treatment for rehabilitation is available at three centres. Barbados' demand reduction education in schools is based on the US Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) programme. The NCSA sponsors a Drugs Decision program in 45 primary schools and continues sponsoring prison drug and rehabilitation counselling initiatives which is administered by one officer. There are 4 rehabilitation clinics in operation. However there are no established minimum standards of care for persons with drug use problems.

Barbados financial sector operates within the context of the Money Laundering (Prevention and Control) Act (1998) and Anti-Terrorism Act (2002). Civil forfeiture and asset sharing legislation are yet to be introduced. A limited number of chemical substances (12) from United Nations international drug control are controlled.

The Police, Barbados Defence Forces and the Coast Guard collaborate well in counter narcotic operations. The Government is considering launching a Youth Service which will invite youth between the ages of 16-18 to undertake community-minded service for 2 years. This program is aimed at reducing the youth at risk population by providing this target group with job and life based skills.

The Government of Barbados has been looking at establishing a Drug Court for several years.

### **Antigua & Barbuda**

Antigua and Barbuda has a multi-agency national Anti-Drug Plan which has been in force since 2007<sup>3</sup>. It is administered by the National Drug Council (which has no assigned budget) and the Ministry of National Security. The priorities include increased patrols by air, land, and sea to interdict shipments and to reduce the importation of illicit drugs, while strengthening coordination in the areas of intelligence, interdiction, use of material resources, specialized communication and training of personnel, and broadening the scope of existing prevention programs and increasing the scope within schools and the community. Antigua launched the Cadet Core program in September 2012 to address the upsurge of violence in the school system and intends to expand the DARE programme to include six secondary schools. .

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<sup>3</sup> 2010 MEM Report Antigua and Barbuda

The Office of National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy (ONDCP) coordinate drug-related statistics in the area of supply reduction. No studies related to demand reduction have been completed since 2006. Minimal drug prevention education program is undertaken in the junior and high school systems.

There are no government run drug treatment facilities, although there is one private one. There are no alternate sentencing options for persons charged with possession.

The Antigua and Barbuda Police Force, the Office of National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy, the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force, the National Joint Coordinating Centre, Customs, Port Authority and Immigration Departments are responsible for controlling illicit drug trafficking. Their work is governed by an MOU and overseen by the Joint Intelligence Group. There is no common interagency database or mutual access to databases to gather, analyze, exchange or share information and intelligence among these agencies.

Specialized training to address illicit drug trafficking is provided to law enforcement and customs officials.

Although Antigua and Barbuda has a mechanism to monitor and regulate the use and distribution of pharmaceutical products and controlled chemical substances, there are weaknesses in infrastructure to adequately control and regulate their use.

Antigua and Barbuda currently has four pending cases where charges of money laundering have been laid. The most recent was in March 2012 where EC\$125,000 was seized on a yacht. Three people, including two Venezuelans, have been charged. Antigua and Barbuda is considering an economic citizenship program, which will likely be announced before the end of 2012.

### **Commonwealth of Dominica**

The Commonwealth of Dominica does not have a national anti-drug plan<sup>4</sup>. The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs is the national anti-drug authority. The Dominica Police Force has the responsibility for the area of supply reduction. No studies or research to compile drug related statistics has been carried out within the past six years.

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<sup>4</sup> 2010 MEM Report Commonwealth of Dominica

Dominica conducts a few prevention education programs but their coverage is limited. Courses and training in drug abuse prevention are offered to teachers, community leaders and local government officials. There are no licensed specialized drug treatment centers. There are no statistics on referrals or requested treatment from the General Hospital.

Dominica has now established a National Prosecution Service which allows the major players to meet together to address challenges. Prosecution processes have also been strengthened, through the implementation of a Code for Prosecutors.

The Money Laundering Prevention Act (passed in 2000, amended in 2001 and regulations in place in 2001) criminalizes the laundering of proceeds from any indictable offence. A Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) - which receives suspicious transactions - was established in 2001. The MDG continues to express concern over the GCoD programme of economic citizenship, whereby non-residents can purchase Dominican passports with no residence obligations.

Weak law enforcement and maritime capability and strengthening economic ties with Venezuela appear to be fuelling Dominica as a major transshipment hub for Venezuelan drug trafficking organizations.

## **Grenada**

Grenada's national drug plan expired in 2008<sup>5</sup>. The National Council on Drug Control is the national anti-drug authority, which functions under the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development.

A comprehensive prevention education program is in place providing complete coverage to students, incarcerated individuals, primary and secondary students and some community based non-government organizations. Training and courses in drug abuse prevention, treatment and research is provided for police officers, teachers, nurses, technical, and non-university trainers.

The Ministry of Health has responsibility for the country's two licensed specialized treatment facilities which are staffed by professional personnel specializing in the treatment of drug-use related problems.

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<sup>5</sup> 2010 MEM Report Grenada

The legal framework has been tabled now for the Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act to prevent the misuse of a controlled drug to include pseudo ephedrine and ephedrine. Still pending action since 2005 is a draft Precursor Chemical Bill to develop an institutional infrastructure to implement controls preventing the diversion of controlled chemical substances.

New anti-corruption laws, Integrity in Public Service Act and Prevention of Corruption Act, have been passed. All public servants must report their income and assets. Grenada has also recently passed legislation recognizing the International Criminal Court.

Six members of the Grenada police force have been charged with the killing of a non-national who was in police custody at the time of his death. A criminal investigation is underway, and there have been reports that this perceived excessive use of force by police offices is not an isolated incident.

Grenada implemented and strengthened its legislation and regulation of its offshore sector. This resulted in the country being removed from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) non-cooperative countries and territories list in 2003. Grenada has cancelled its economic citizenship programme. The Grenada International Financial Services Authority (GIFSA) monitors and regulates offshore financial services. The Grenada Authority for the Regulation of Financial Institutions (GARFIN) Act was enacted in May 2006, providing for a single regulatory agency for non-bank financial institutions and services, with GARFIN achieving operational status in 2007. Money laundering and proceeds of crime acts have criminalised money laundering in Grenada, with a Supervisory Authority established to inspect, investigate and receive suspicious transaction reports through the FIU. There have been no prosecutions to date.

## **St Kitts and Nevis**

The National Council on Drug Abuse Prevention (NCDAP) coordinates efforts in demand reduction in St Kitts and Nevis, with remaining areas (supply reduction, control measures, institutional framework, programme evaluation and money laundering) being implemented by ministries and other agencies<sup>6</sup>. The program reports total coverage in delivering prevention programs to elementary and high school students. Very little data on drug use is available. There is one licensed rehabilitation facility on the island.

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<sup>6</sup> 2010 MEM report St Kitts and Nevis

A legal and institutional framework is in place to control and prevent the diversion of pharmaceutical products but with little evaluation of its effectiveness. Although there are provisions to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances, MDG members noted that there is no effective control of these chemicals.

Drug related violence continues to escalate. There were 33 murders (64 per 100,000) in 2011, 30 of which were gun related and suspected to be drug related. Most of these cases remain unsolved as witnesses are reluctant to come forth with evidence due to fear and coercion.

Most of the offshore activity is concentrated in Nevis, where activities include three internet gaming companies. Anti-money laundering legislation is in place - including the Proceeds of Crime Act which criminalises money laundering. The St Kitts and Nevis Financial Services Commission regulates non-bank financial institutions and issues guidance on money laundering. Casinos are overseen by the St. Kitts and Nevis Gaming Board. The FIU receives reports of suspicious transaction reports which are then investigated by the police. To date there have been no prosecutions. Sufficient resources are not available to effectively implement the anti-money laundering regime particularly as it pertains to the offshore financial sector.

St. Kitts has now established a National Prosecution Service which allows the major players to meet together to address challenges Prosecution processes have also been strengthened, through the adoption of a Code for Prosecutors and the installation of a video-link facility for intimidated, child and vulnerable witnesses in High Court and Family Courts, which does away with the need for face to face testimony.

## **St Lucia**

St Lucia has not had an anti-drug plan since 2005<sup>7</sup>. The Substance Abuse Council Secretariat, which falls under the Ministry of Health, coordinates the national counter narcotics and substance abuse strategy. There are no specially earmarked funds for the work of this Secretariat. No demand reduction studies have been completed since 2009. The Government runs a selective drug abuse prevention program.

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<sup>7</sup> 2010 MEM Report St Lucia



St. Lucia offers drug treatment and rehabilitation at an in-patient facility known as “Turning Point” run by the Ministry of Health which has 20 beds.

St. Lucia enacted a comprehensive inventory of offshore legislation in 1999 with the Committee on Financial Services established in 2001 and an integrated regulatory unit announced in 2003, but not yet fully functional. Legislation - (Proceeds of Crime Act 1993 and Money Laundering (Prevention) Act 1999) - is in place which criminalises money laundering and imposes reporting and record keeping requirements. To date there have been no prosecutions. The autonomous Financial Intelligence Authority became operational in 2003. It investigates analyses and reports suspicious financial activities. No legislation exists for civil forfeiture or sharing of seized narcotics assets. Intercept legislation and regulation was introduced in 2006. St Lucia's central position in the trafficking of narcotics makes its offshore financial services sector vulnerable to organized crime.

The Mini Dublin Group expresses concern over the twelve fatal shootings by the Royal St Lucia Police Department and recommends that full independent investigations be conducted. The group also notes that several international human rights groups are also conducting their own investigations. Reports indicate a concern that the police force is not allowed to act independently of political influence. There were fifty murders in St Lucia in 2011 (28 per 100,000).

Prosecution processes have been strengthened through the adoption of an updated Code for Prosecutors and by the launch of the region's first Witness Charter, which outlines best practices for witness care by Police and the St. Lucia Crown Prosecution Service.

## **St Vincent and the Grenadines**

St. Vincent and the Grenadines does not have an anti-drug plan or an anti-drug authority.<sup>8</sup> The most recent studies on drug use were completed in 2008. There is no formal drug treatment facility and all drug related cases are handled through the psychiatric ward of the hospital. There is a limited drug demand reduction program, including the DARE program run by the police service within the schools.

No centralised office for gathering and evaluating drug related data exists.

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<sup>8</sup> 2010 MEM Report St Vincent and the Grenadines

Prosecution processes have been strengthened, through the adoption of a Code for Prosecutors and the instalment of a video-link facility for intimidated, child and vulnerable witnesses in High Court and Family Courts, which does away with the need for face to face testimony. St. Vincent passed the Interviewing of Suspects for Serious Crimes Act 2012, which requires video recording of suspect interviews for certain offences including money laundering, drug trafficking and corruption. Police officers and prosecutors were trained on application of the Act.

Efforts to eradicate the marihuana crop are minimally successful. The Government has indicated that they may have successfully eradicated only a third of the crop production, and that the industry has infiltrated the economy in a major way. Although agencies exchange supply reduction data there is no evaluation of their effectiveness.

As a result of being a transit point for and exporter of illicit drugs, St Vincent and the Grenadines is vulnerable to money laundering and other financial crimes. The International Financial Services Authority regulates the international financial sector. Money laundering was criminalised by the Proceeds of Crime and Money Laundering (Prevention) Act of 2001. A FIU commenced operations in 2002 to supervise compliance with regulations and laws. The unit, reported by MDG members to be one of the best functioning FIUs in the sub-region, has successfully prosecuted for money laundering and applied confiscation provisions and is recognized as the first country in the region to use asset forfeiture in a criminal prosecution.

### **1.3. Updates to major bilateral and multilateral CN programs**

#### **Barbados and the OECS**

Generally development and donor support is given on a regional or sub-regional basis to the OECS.

The United State Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI) ensures coordination in several areas that impact counter narcotics support. The United States' support to the RSS consists of training, equipment, and a plan for a major upgrade to the Air Wing. It also includes work to strengthen legal systems and work on the ground with specialized drug units.

The US-sponsored 2012 Tradewinds Exercise was hosted in Barbados in June. The United States provides bilateral support in the form of training and equipment to OECS countries, including two RIB<sup>9</sup> boats for each country for direct drug interventions, polygraph units, communications units, vehicles, uniforms, and other equipment. The United States and the United Kingdom provide Boarder Control Training.

The United Kingdom supports the RSS through equipment and training. Support from the United Kingdom includes work to strengthen legal systems and work on the ground against serious organized crime via specialized drug units. United Kingdom military vessels patrol the region regularly. The United Kingdom provides direct support to strengthen the FIU, is working on setting up a training program for the FATFs, and is conducting a mentoring program with the judiciary to support ongoing civil asset forfeiture cases.

The United States and the United Kingdom are working closely to strengthen capacity in regional the justice systems, particularly in the areas of prosecution structures and processes, investigation, and legislation. The Caribbean Association of Prosecutors (CAP) has been established to share information, best practice and to develop Criminal Justice System. Following 10 years of discussion, a CAP constitution has now been ratified. Support has also been given to developing a quarterly newsletter, Indictment, for investigators and prosecutors of serious organized crime. Indictment shares best practice and good results – and is now available on the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court Website at: [http://www.eccourts.org/public\\_info.html](http://www.eccourts.org/public_info.html)

The European Commission supports demand reduction regionally. The European Union supports a safety and security programme in St Kitts and Nevis, in addition to providing funds through CARIFORUM for training on justice reform.

Canada supports the RSS Police Training Institute, the Barbados Defence Force in forensics training, and the Royal Barbados Police Force – with the United States - in RIBIN technology which allows the imaging of bullet casings. Canada offers peace keeping and French language training to military officers from Barbados and Antigua and provides information technology focussed military training.

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<sup>9</sup> 30 or 40 foot near shore interceptor boats

France is also involved in regional security, particularly through the RSS. It has made equipment donations for the Air wing, undertaken, sponsored training via the French CFIAD (interdepartmental training centre for anti-drugs) in Dominica, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent. A French Law of the Seas specialist attended the RSS Regional Council of Ministers meeting in March. France is working together with the United States to raise awareness of the San Jose Accord, a tool to assist in the control of clandestine operations in the archipelago and cross-country information sharing.

The Organization of American States (OAS), primarily through the OAS Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), provides various regional training programmes in border control, airport security, and precursor chemicals. With funding provided by Canada, the OAS is supporting the establishments of drug observatories to compile statistics and promoting the establishment of specialized drug courts.

The United Nations Caribbean Human Development Report 2012 provides supportive research that illicit drug trafficking and gang related violence are negatively affecting the development capabilities of the citizens of this region. The report provides governments with firm recommendations geared at upgrading the judiciary, police reform, focussing on youth at risk, and prioritizing the safety of citizens in line with the safety of the countries. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) runs several programmes focussed on anti-corruption programme and have recently placed a full time officer from United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the CARICOM Secretariat with responsibility for this region.

China provided training in Barbados (e.g. training for the Barbados Defence Force and financial assistance).

Venezuela has offered military support to Dominica and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

Israel is currently funding training in St. Lucia.

France, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Canada and the United States also support the Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Council (CCLEC).

The United States, Canada and the United Kingdom provide funding to support the bi-annual Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police (ACCP) meetings.

#### **1.4. Mini-Dublin Group meeting**

MDG meetings were held in March, June, September and October 2012.

#### **1.5. Prioritized identification of needs for external assistance for the area**

MDG members identified the following areas in need of external assistance:

- Training for police, defence forces, customs, immigration and security-related front line personnel in identifying traffickers, and protecting and securing evidence;
- Develop stronger communication links between regional law enforcement units to share intelligence;
- Strengthening of the legal system in areas including legislation, training and mentoring to judges, prosecutors and police in areas specific to proceeds of crime, asset forfeitures, witness protection, and sentencing in the areas of money laundering, and drug trafficking;
- Put in place asset sharing protocols to ensure that some of the funds obtained from successful legal proceedings are diverted back into law enforcement;
- Put in place systems that protect witnesses in serious crimes;
- Support for restructuring of police forces and their channels of accountability, to reduce political interference and to ensure adherence to human rights and professional standards;
- Support for regional policing efforts to reduce the personal risk and exposure of front line officers;
- Support for regional security infrastructure and assets, including the creation of competent regional maritime intercept capacity;
- Support for encouraging national and regional security to be a top political priority;
- Polygraphing police, defence, customs, and immigration officers who are involved in anti-drug trafficking investigations;
- Assistance in creating alternate employment options for those currently involved in the drug trade, with specific emphasis on St Vincent and the Grenadines; and
- Assistance in developing alternate sentencing options to drug users and addicts.

## 1.6. Mini-Dublin Group assessment of needs

MDG members identified the following emerging regional threats/trends as well as political initiatives taken by countries and recommendations to meet these threat/trends.

### (i) Threats and trends:

- The lack of response/action to donor initiatives at the regional and political level that deal with security issues;
- Risk of infiltration by drug traffickers within government levels;
- Crime and security are recognized as a major issue but insufficient funds are dedicated to it by the governments;
- Weakness of regional organizations' abilities to deal with the security issues;
- Increase in gang related activities and firearms;
- Increase in the number of women using illegal narcotics;
- Serious fiscal constraints requiring governments to seek financial assistance from potentially compromising, non-traditional sources;
- Weak economic climate has fostered an increase in crime;
- Weak judicial and legal framework to adequately deal with serious crime issues;
- Increased number of fatal police shootings against suspected criminals;
- Witnesses, judges, magistrates, and police officers being threatened, injured and killed in drug related cases; and
- The drug trade is having a strong economic impact on fragile economies.

### (ii) Political initiatives:

- The RSS members have approved a "first responders" course;
- Barbados included anti-corruption related legislation in its promises when elected in January 2009, but has not yet decided upon how to proceed;
- Antigua has introduced anti-corruption legislation but it has not yet passed;
- St Kitts and Nevis and Antigua have sought the assistance of the OAS to assess the infiltration of gangs;
- Success on proceeds of crime case in St Vincent, supported by an OECS High Court ruling on asset forfeiture which has set a valuable precedent;

- St Kitts and Nevis will no longer be using EU EDF funds to support a police training institute; They will now use the funds to build a new police station;
- Barbados is looking at establishing a Drug Court; and
- RSS has established a polygraphing unit.

(iii) Recommendations

MDG members recommend that governments in the region:

- Commit to the proper regulation and oversight of their financial sectors;
- Sign and ratify all relevant UN Conventions, particularly the Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its protocols, the Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and in due course the UN Convention against Corruption;
- Sign and ratify the Regional Maritime Agreement to focus more on a regional versus bilateral approach;
- Provide the resources to properly regulate offshore entities;
- Address legislation to make international and inter-island extraditions more efficient;
- Pass and implement anti-corruption legislation and put into place the required mechanisms to implement and enforce legislation;
- Provide legislation that permits the crown to dispose of seized assets in a timely manner while awaiting the court decisions;
- Pass civil forfeiture laws and appropriate the funds directly into meeting the needs for strengthening security;
- Support the recommendation by donor countries for a regional training academy and other regional initiatives, including witness protection, that reduce the personal risk for officers and witnesses;
- Put equipment, infrastructure and systems in place to reduce the risk level for witnesses and jurors in serious crimes;
- Commit the necessary resources to establish and maintain specialist law enforcement units which enable the pursuit of the high end targets;
- Establish alternate sentencing options for drug users;
- Commit to proper levels of drug education, treatment and rehabilitation and establish these centers independent of those associated with mental illness; and
- Pay annual dues to the Regional Security System.

## **2. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

### **2.1. General Situation: Drug production and trafficking**

The Dominican Republic remains an important transit point for drug traffickers to traffic cocaine from South America, particularly from Columbia and Venezuela, to continental United States, Puerto Rico, Canada, and Europe.

The nature of drug trafficking in the Dominican Republic has remained unaltered since last report. Cartels still pay their Dominican facilitators with a percentage of the illicit drugs being transited through the country. This has caused an increased local demand for illicit drugs and with it, many of the problems associated to drug abuse. Drug related violence throughout the Dominican Republic has been partially attributed to arms trafficking, as evidenced by the seizure of illicit weapons at Dominican Ports of Entry in the last year.

MDG members remarked upon the low court conviction rate in the Dominican Republic. Low conviction rates could be attributed to a number of factors, including insufficient or flawed evidence, corruption of law enforcement officers and prosecutors, lack of awareness on the part of investigators of the provisions of and procedures under the recently introduced Criminal Code, mistrust between law enforcement officials and prosecutors.

#### Trafficking by sea

As noted in previous reports, the serious situation related to trafficking at Dominican seaports continues. Although the Dominican drug agency, the Dirección Nacional de Control de Drogas (DNCD), has stepped up its efforts to address trafficking at ports, it remains difficult to estimate the precise quantity of cocaine transiting this vector. “Go-fast” boats remain the preferred mode of transportation to traffic illicit drug through the country. It is estimated that on a weekly basis two to three of these boats arrive at the country’s shores departing from the Venezuela/Columbia Guajira Peninsula region. Depending upon the size, a boat can transport 500-1500 kilograms of cocaine in a single run. For example, in February 2012 the DNCD seized 632 kilograms of cocaine from a local Dominican drug organization that had been ‘offloaded’ from a go-fast 60 nautical miles from the Dominican Republic coast. In March 2012, the DNCD seized 1500 KG of cocaine from a go-fast boat during an air-maritime operation it led with the US Drug Enforcement Administration.



Once in the Dominican Republic, the cocaine is loaded into ship containers or leave the country via other modes such as drug mules, planes, other go-fast boats, ferries to Puerto Rico and other destinations.

The Government of the Dominican Republic is taking steps to address this problem, including signing an agreement with the United States for the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV or drones) to locate go-fast boats coming to the shores of their country. Through the use of this technology, the DNCD hopes that it will soon be able to seal its shores to this type of drug smuggling. To ensure that addressing one mode of trafficking does not create displacement to another, the DNCD will continue its focus on the country's three main container ports, those being the Port of Caucedo, the Port of Haina, and the Port of Manzanillo on the northwestern tip of Dominican Republic.

### Trafficking by air

In 2011, there was only one suspected drug flight from South America to the Dominican Republic. This low number, compared to eleven in 2010, has been attributed to an aggressive campaign by the government to suppress suspected drug flights. Although statistics for Haiti were not available, MDG members report that traffickers use airplanes to drop their shipments of cocaine in that country. Efforts are continuing between the governments of Haiti and the Dominican Republic to develop an agreement to address this issue.

Although suspected drug flights from South America to the Dominican Republic have significantly reduced, outgoing drugs seizures at the country's airports are numerous. In 2011, 1,492 kilograms of cocaine were seized at the country's main airports with one seizure alone accounting for 1,077 kilograms hidden in suitcases destined for Belgium. Seven individuals were subsequently arrested and charged, including airport security officers and Swissport baggage handlers. During the first half of 2012, a total of 126 kilograms of cocaine were seized from a total of 54 drug mules. Enhanced intelligence gathering and the Airport Jetway training program<sup>10</sup> used by DNCD officials account for some of the successful seizures at airports.

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<sup>10</sup> Airport Jetway is a Government of Canada program, conducted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, that aims to provide a common-sense, behavioural-based approach to detect and interdict criminals or contraband while in transit. The program enhances investigative techniques of law enforcement officers by improving their awareness of suspicious behaviour and possible concealment in airports, bus stations or other public places.

## Corruption

Corruption of officials and law enforcement remains an obstacle in the Government's effort to address illicit drugs. A number of arrests were made in 2011 and it is anticipated that more arrests will be made throughout 2012. Efforts to reduce corruption include implementing recently secured polygraph training and equipment.

## Money Laundering

Money laundering continues to be a serious problem in the Dominican Republic, especially in Santo Domingo, as evidenced by the continuous construction of new condominium towers and shopping malls. While drug trafficking accounts for a major source of the laundered proceeds, other illicit activities and tax evasion also contribute to this estimate. Casinos and unsupervised gaming activities represent significant money laundering risks.

MDG members note the latest efforts by Dominican authorities to re-instate a Financial Analysis Unit within the Egmont Group. In 2006 the Dominican Republic was disqualified from the Group due to lack of compliance with membership requirements. Not being part of the Egmont Group has hindered the abilities of international law enforcement agencies to exchange relevant information with Dominican Republic counterparts. The president of the Dominican Republic National Drug Council is working to re-instate the country within the Egmont Group. The Egmont group is actively engaging the Dominican Republic to become a member dependent upon appropriate legislation. To this end, government legislation addressing the creation of offshore financial zone will have to be amended.

Efforts to adopt a Civil Forfeiture law continue. The proposed law "Extincion de Dominio" (Termination of Ownership) would create a civil forfeiture scheme in the Dominican Republic thus allowing assets linked to drug trafficking, money laundering, and other criminal activities to be forfeited under a lower burden of proof, regardless whether or not an individual associated to the good had been convicted of a substantive crime. Individuals whose assets and income could not be "justified" could also potentially fall target to the scheme. It is anticipated that this law will be passed before the end of the year and, if passed, provide for a civil forfeiture scheme that would include a transparent process of identification, localization, seizure, management and disposition of seized assets.

## **2.2. Update on the anti-drug strategy**

The Government of the Dominican Republic continues to be committed to its efforts to stop illicit drugs. The Government has indicated that it will not consider decriminalization. In 2012 the Government increased the budget of the DNCD by twelve percent, from USD\$10.7 million to USD\$12.2 million. MDG members note that this budget includes the salary expenses for over 2100 employees and numerous non-operational expenses such as electricity, gasoline for police cars, leaving scarce funds for day-to-day illicit drug operations.

## **2.3. Bilateral and Multilateral Counter-Narcotic Programs in the Dominican Republic**

Mini Dublin members encourage the need for donors to improve coordination and information sharing so as to avoid duplication of efforts and to prevent competing demands on the local government.

Funded through Canada's Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program, specialized courses will be offered to the Dominican Republic's DNCD to focus on illicit drugs and organized crime investigations, evidence gathering and forensic interviewing techniques. The courses will be implemented by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and will enhance DNCD's ability to investigate transnational organized crime activities thereby leading to increased convictions in the Dominican Republic.

The European Union indicated that it would provide €100,000 as part of its 2011 fiscal year funds. Some of this money will be directed to the DNCD for training in areas such as investigative methodology, report writing, maritime vehicle search techniques, and container profiling. Spain will be taking the lead to manage this training.

France is leading a 3 year €200,000 project that will provide capacity building and material support to the DNCD and the Dominican National Police Anti-Narcotic Department.

Germany is sponsoring two Dominican Police internships (one DNCD and one Dominican National Police). As such, two officers are travelling to Germany for a six-month training program.

The United Kingdom, through the Serious Organized Crime Agency (SOCA), has sent a Liaison Officer to Santo Domingo from its office in Caracas, Venezuela. In 2011, the United Kingdom provided £50,000 to purchase equipment and train polygraph operators. Fifteen vetted candidates from various law enforcement backgrounds have started a two-month intensive polygraph course.

The United States is a strong supporter of capacity building programs in the Dominican Republic. Through its Narcotics Affairs Section (NAS), the United States is committed to implementing programs that will enhance the existing land and maritime law enforcement capabilities of the DNCD, as well as improve investigation capabilities and foster the respect and understanding of Human Rights by the National Police. The NAS is assisting Dominican lawmakers move forward a civil forfeiture regime. Advances have been made and it is anticipated that, before the end of 2012, a civil forfeiture program will be created. The United States also supports reform of the Dominican Financial Analysis Unit whose functioning is crucial to combat money laundering. Training will involve the basics of money laundering investigation and how to establish an anti-money laundering program. The United States is also supportive of efforts to establish a “Ley Organica de la Policia Nacional” to review the functioning of the Dominican Republic National Police. Finally, the United States is also providing USD\$300,000 for repairs to the Police School building in San Cristobal.

#### **2.4. Mini- Dublin Group meeting**

MDG members provided an update to the previous report in September 2012.

#### **2.5. Mini-Dublin Group assessment of needs and recommendations**

A new Government was elected on August 16, 2012 which Mini Dublin members anticipate will result in a number of changes. Mini Dublin members recommend:

- Continue to encourage the Government to provide the DNCD with the necessary resources to carry out its mandate;
- Continue to encourage the Government to create a commission that would be responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of the current judicial system, provide recommendations for improvement, and improve the rate of conviction;

- Continued capacity building support by donors for the Dominican National Police and DNCD officers in the area of understanding and implementing the new Criminal Code; and
- Encourage both donor and the Government of the Dominican Republic to support the DNCD Polygraph Program.

### **3. GUYANA**

#### **3.1. General Situation: Drug production and trafficking**

Guyana's location, limited law enforcement capacity, and lack of full political commitment remain contributing factors to the growing drug trafficking problems in the country. Illicit drugs, specifically cocaine, continue to be transited through Guyana from Colombia, Venezuela and Peru, into Suriname, French Guiana, Europe, West Africa and North America. There has also been evidence of Guyanese' traffickers involved in offshore transfers of illicit drugs in Guyana's coastal waters.

Over the past years, several large shipments of cocaine and marihuana originating from Guyana have been seized in North America, Europe and the Caribbean. The Guyanese authorities in Port Georgetown and at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport have had some success at interdictions in recent months, but with no significant prosecutions to support these successes. Violent crimes, including murder, linked to drug trafficking has decreased in recent years, but continues to occur. The Guyana Police Force reported that a two percent decline in serious crimes (including homicides) for the period January-May 2012 in comparison to the a similar period in 2011. Smugglers seek new trafficking routes regularly, and the unprotected, sparsely populated interior highlands and coastal Savannah regions of Guyana make an attractive corridor for traffickers. Traffickers are using remote locations in the interior and making airstrips to facilitate the transit of narcotics and refuelling of aircrafts to continue their journeys to other countries. They also use remote but navigable rivers in the hinterland to transport drugs such as go-fast boats. In the first six months of 2012, the Guyana Police Force (GPF) recorded seizures of 11 kilograms of cocaine with 72 arrests and 25,000 kilograms of cannabis in 347 related arrests. In 2011, the GPF recorded seizures of 25.76 kilograms of cocaine, 1.8 kilograms of crack cocaine, 287.2 kilograms of crystal cocaine, 4480.1 kilograms of cannabis, and the eradication of 121.5 acres of cannabis.

Seizures have been from smugglers using a variety of methods, including human swallowing, concealment in false bottoms and walls of suitcases, shoe soles, fuel containers, fish, fruits, cassareep<sup>11</sup>, juice, religious kunds<sup>12</sup>, false backs and bottoms of wheelchairs and cargo containers. MDG members reported that the capacity of the government to interdict the full flow of illicit drugs remains constrained by limited resources, inadequate training and equipment, and gaps in prosecutorial and judicial processes.

Guyana continues to lack a robust demand reduction strategy that adequately addresses rehabilitation. The drug of choice in Guyana is marihuana, with cocaine closely behind. MDG members note the growing presence of cocaine trafficked and used as a result of payment in-kind in lieu of cash. There is one local body that directly addresses demand reduction: the Guyana National Council for Drug Education, Rehabilitation and Treatment that is incorporated in the Adolescent Health Unit of the Ministry of Health. Several Non-Governmental organisations such as: The Salvation Army and the Phoenix Recovery Project, also offer treatment and rehabilitation for drug users.

### **3.2. Update on anti-drug strategy**

The Government of Guyana's 2005 five-year National Drug Strategy Master Plan has expired. The New Drug Strategy Plan 2012-2016 is still undergoing consultations. An initial draft report has been submitted to the Inter-Agency Task Force on Narcotics and Illicit Weapons for review. It is expected that the new report will be ready by mid-2013.

MDG members raised concerns about the ability of the FIU to mitigate money laundering and seize the proceeds of crime, in the absence of a complementary independent investigations unit. They identified the current disjointed approach to interagency collaboration as a major hindrance. The FIU's mandate is to collect financial intelligence from reporting entities, but it does not have investigative powers. While such authority legally resides with the GPF's Criminal Investigations Department, this Department lacks the expertise to conduct complex financial investigations. As a result, information collected by the FIU does not translate into investigations that could lead to prosecutions. The current loose arrangements among the FIU, Director of Public Prosecutions, the GPF and the judiciary to enforce the legislation are inadequate to the task at hand.

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<sup>11</sup> A sauce that the indigenous people make from the yucca plant and used for cooking a traditional Guyanese dish.

<sup>12</sup> A Hindu religious artifact.

The FIU's functional capacity is further impeded because of the lack of trained and vetted personnel in these agencies to competently implement the legislation. In an attempt to help the FIU address this issue, two persons from the Eastern Caribbean Financial Advisory Team (ECFAT) came on a one-week needs assessment mission in August 2012. ECFAT (with the Department for International Development funding) helps state bodies to build their capacity to investigate and prosecute proceeds of crime and money laundering. A draft report is with the Guyanese authorities. The United Kingdom is financing the purchase of a much-needed, new server and additional IT equipment for the FIU.

Mutual evaluations reports by Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) have stated that, despite Guyana developing a robust anti-money laundering act in 2009, there is only one record of a prosecution under these laws, which is still pending prosecution in the courts since 2011.

Since the government announced earlier this year the drafting of anti-gang legislation and the operationalization of the Integrated Crime Information System (ICIS), there have been no further follow up statements on progress. The ICIS is aimed at monitoring trends in crime and violence, through a network that links the Ministry of Home Affairs to the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, all prisons and information technology equipped Police Stations. The ICIS is a section of the Government's E-Governance, or "E-Gov", initiative, which also includes the One Laptop per Family Program (OLPF). According to the "E-Gov" website, this initiative is being designed and implemented by Huawei of China. During discussions with the GPF in September, it was revealed that the implementation of the ICIS has not commenced and they have asked the United States for assistance to supply equipment for the setting up of ICIS.

MDG members acknowledged that there is an urgent need for a strategic sector and organisational reform in the security sector in Guyana. They agreed that the lack of professionalism and resources, poor leadership and political interference are the key elements that characterise the security sector. Meanwhile, the Government's focus seems to be more on modernisation of the police through training - an approach that has not led to significant improvements in the last ten years. In the past four months, there have been three reported incidents of police killing unarmed citizens, mostly young men. One incident has resulted in the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry to investigate and report on the events that led to the death of three protestors. Although the Ramotar administration had initially showed a readiness to address the security situation in Guyana, the political impetus appears to have waned.

### **3.3. Updates to major bilateral and multilateral CN programs**

In October 2011, the Government of Canada supported CARICOM's meeting to discuss plans to roll out the first phase of the CARICOM Social Development and Crime Prevention Plan. The first phase of the plan focuses on youth gangs and gang violence and is aimed at strengthening the capacity of youth and community members to design and implement programmes to address gang formation and gang violence among and against youths. In addition, the project aims to increase livelihood opportunities and employability for economically and socially marginalized youth. The Home Affairs Ministry, in August, 2011, received several pieces of hardware and software equipment from the OAS to support the establishment of the Public Security Observatory. This OAS's project was funded by the Canada through its Anti-Crime Capacity Building Programme. The High Commission of Canada has partnered with Transparency Institute of Guyana Incorporated to support the establishment of a Citizen Charter. This will seek to empower citizens to demand a society where public and private officials in positions of trust are held accountable.

The European Union and CARIFORUM are in the process of finalising a crime and security programme, to be funded under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) Regional Indicative Programme. Guyana's Ministry of Home Affairs last year sent a request to the EU for resources for crime fighting, border control, money laundering, drugs – supply and demand reduction – and trafficking of precursor chemicals. But it was not accepted based on the fact that the nature of EU funds did not match the requests. Regionally, under the 9th EDF intervention (programming cycle 2008-2013), the EU has supported Drug Supply and Demand Reduction through three components:

- Implementation of the Regional Drug Demand Reduction Strategy via the CARICOM Secretariat
- Capacity Building for Law enforcement Agencies also via the CARICOM Secretariat
- Capacity building to IMPACS.

Under the 10th EDF, referred to above, which has not yet been finalized (CARIFORUM to submit a revised proposal end of October 2012), concentrates on addressing drug trafficking and related crimes, which also continues to be an integral element of the priorities and actions established by the EU-Latin America and the Caribbean cooperation. It is anticipated that part of this support will build on the activities of the 9th EDF.



The likely areas of focus are the following:

- Drug demand reduction strategy in CARICOM;
- Improvements to the Security Environment in CARICOM through the implementation of IMPACS Strategic Plan and Capacity support to the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) to implement common countermeasures to address the problem of criminal money laundering. Support to the Regional Security System is being considered;
- Crime Prevention issues in CARICOM (based on strategies developed in cooperation with the UNODC); and
- Promote collaboration between CARICOM and the Dominican Republic on Crime and Security.

The United Kingdom is not currently engaged in bilateral work with the GOG on security issues. The SOCA visits Guyana occasionally and it is envisaged that the frequency of these visits would increase in 2012. The United Kingdom has allocated specific funding for drugs and crime work in Guyana and Suriname in 2012/13. Some of the funding is being used to send five Customs Anti Narcotic Unit officers to Jamaica for specialised training. A significant part of the allocation was used to fund the purchase of an urgently needed new server and additional IT equipment for the Financial Intelligence Unit. The United Kingdom, through the British High Commission, has funded the establishment of Transparency Institute of Guyana Inc. in 2010. Over the last financial year, the BHC has also supported capacity building in the United Kingdom for the Supreme Court Registrar.

While the United Nations Development Program is not currently directly engaged in any crime reduction initiatives with the Government of Guyana, its Support to Parliament, Youth Empowerment, Inclusion and Reconciliation, Support to Rights Commissions and Community Dialogue and Participation Projects are all geared towards assisting the people of Guyana in bringing about greater security, social cohesion and peace. The projects are of a short and medium term nature and follow on the recently concluded Enhance Public Trust Security and Inclusion Project.

The Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI) program has emerged as a key driver of the United States' broader bilateral relationship with Guyana. Its strategic focus on strengthening workforce development, law enforcement, and anti-money laundering capabilities directly addresses priority concerns for the Government of Guyana and the United States Government.

The following is a list of projects under the CBSI program:

- Maritime Operations Support
- Fingerprint Biometrics Program
- USAID's Skills and Knowledge for Youth Employment
- Law Enforcement Professionalization and Support
- Borders and Ports
- Strengthen Counter-narcotics Control Capabilities
- Money Laundering/Financial Crimes
- eTrace Firearms Tracking Program

CBSI funding in 2013 will focus on areas such as prison reform, justice reform, forensics, and developing vetted units. The U.S. Embassy is developing these programs in tandem with other initiatives already in place under CBSI and those of Canada, the EU and United Kingdom.

Juvenile reform and capacity building at the New Opportunity Corp will be priorities under prison and justice reform projects. Before the end of 2012, the US is planning to engage a forensic and prison assessor to aid in the development of these projects.

In relation to building the forensic capacity of the GPF, emphasis will be placed on the counter-narcotics operations and the establishment of a well-trained and functional multi-agency group that will also address issues of gender-based violence. Training will be provided to special sexual assault nurse examiners, GPF and Child Protection Agency social workers to conduct forensic interviewing of children and domestic violence victims. Part of this plan includes the invitation of prosecutors to participate in the upcoming CBSI technical working group in December 2012. In the long-term, CBSI funding will focus on strengthening the Rule of Law in Guyana through institutional capacity building, judicial training, legal aid services, community policing crime prevention initiatives.

### **3.4. Mini Dublin Group meetings**

MDG member provided an update on October 9, 2012.

### **3.5. Prioritised identification of needs for external assistance for the area**

MDG members reported that local law enforcement agencies need, and ask for, external assistance at every level. Equipment, infrastructure and training are all required. Donors, however, have expressed concerns about lack of capacity, lack of political consistent commitment, the effectiveness and reliability of the security agencies, and appropriate use of lethal and intelligence-related equipment. Group members pointed out that there is a need to establish units that are independently vetted, to improve interagency communication and better use of existing resources, such as regional organisations like CARICOM IMPACS.

In addition, members recognised the need for training for the Director of Public Prosecutions' Office, The GPF and the Judiciary on the implementation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act and to strengthen the FIU.

### **3.6. Mini Dublin Group assessment of needs**

MDG members identified the following emerging regional threats/trends as well as political initiatives taken by countries and recommendations to meet these threat/trends.

#### **(i) Threats and trends:**

- The expansion of the mining sector has opened new and remote areas in Guyana. Airstrips have been constructed and are frequently used by traffickers to air drop drugs. Several drug traffickers own large concessions of land in mining areas. These concessions are then leased to both foreign and local mining prospectors. Gold is used as a currency in remote areas to conduct transactions;
- There are 75 known airstrips in Guyana, 50 of which are operational. The unused ones have not been decommissioned and remain largely unmonitored. These airstrips, especially unused ones, are being utilised as drop-off and stop-over points for drug smuggling planes from Venezuela en-route to West Africa, specifically Guinea Bissau and Sierra Leone. The United States under the CBSI program is working with the Government of Guyana to enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies to monitor airstrips and gather intelligence regarding their use;

- Security at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport remains a major concern especially with the advent of new airlines offering direct flights to North America. MDG members noted reports of airport employees colluding with drug traffickers and, in some instances, corrupt law enforcement officials. Ground service employees are not properly vetted. While authorities have acknowledged this challenge and promised to tighten security measures at the airport, it remains to be seen if and how they will implement this; and
- Guyana and the Caribbean are experiencing spill overs from the drug-fight in Central America. . These shifts have caused a rapid increase of drug trafficking in the region thus resulting in a rapid rise in crime.

(ii) Political initiative:

Guyana's National Intelligence Agency is expected to be fully operational by mid-2012. In the interim, it will be responsible for, telephone interception and the closed circuit cameras installed around the city to support law enforcement efforts. As to date, there is no information as to the implementation of this Agency.

The Government of Guyana is working on launching two reports that capture the government's counternarcotic activities for 2011. These reports are:

- The Drug Information Network Report 2011 – to be completed by November. This report is a collection of statistics and some analysis on demand reduction and supply control activities/trends. Data is collected from law enforcement agencies, other government ministries and non-governmental organisations.
- The National Drug Report 2011 – government plans to issue this report before the end of 2012.

Guyana has bilateral arrangements with its three neighbours, Brazil, Suriname and Venezuela to combat drug trafficking.

Guyana - Brazil

The Joint Commission on Police Cooperation and Drugs between Guyana and Brazil met in April 2011 to discuss issues related to crime and security. The Commission agreed to share information to combat organised crime and improve joint border control mechanisms. The possibility of judicial cooperation was also explored. The Commission met in May 2012.

In September 2012, Brazil's Minister of Defence met with President Ramotar and members of Guyana's Defence Board to discuss bi-lateral military engagement. The meeting resulted in an agreement to establish a Guyana/Brazil Bilateral Defence Working Group that will provide oversight and follow-up to the defence agenda between Guyana and Brazil. The agreement includes the use of the Brazil's satellite technology to monitor the Amazon jungle for illegal activities and environmental degradation as it applies to defence and security, as well as training of Guyana Defence Force personnel at the Brazilian Amazon Surveillance Integrated System (SIVAM) facility in Manaus, Brazil. The two countries also agreed to promote the coordination of military operations in their respective border areas, in order to ensure more effective results and to enhance the integration and stability of the respective communities.

#### Guyana – Suriname

In February 2012, Presidents Donald Ramotar and Desire Bouterse met in Paramaribo to deliberate on several bilateral issues including security. The leaders agreed to the establishment of a Border Security Committee as an attempt to put measures in place to combat border crimes, especially drug trafficking and smuggling. The Border – Security Committee is expected to affect the flow of drugs and intercept smuggling activities. Since, its creation this committee has met once.

The national intelligence communities of Guyana and Suriname met at the Ministry of Home Affairs in Guyana during the year, they discussed among other areas, drug trafficking, illegal weapons and regularising of the contraband crossing between the countries. A second meeting of this group is planned.

#### Guyana-Venezuela

In February 2011, Guyana and Venezuela began negotiations on an anti-drugs cooperation agreement. The agreement is not operational, since the Venezuelans are yet to ratify it. In March 2012, Venezuela announced the deployment of 15,000 soldiers to regions along its borders, including that with Guyana, in order to combat armed groups and drug trafficking. The government views this as a measure that will greatly help Guyana since, this move would provide added security at the porous borders.

#### Guyana-Russia

Earlier this year, Guyana signed a drug cooperation agreement with Russia. The signing took place in Cuba. The two countries have been sharing information on criminal activities. The GoG intends to approach the Russian government to provide support for CANU and the GPF.

(iii) Recommendations:

MDG members should:

- Convey the importance of policies and efforts to investigate and prosecute those involved in money laundering and other financial crimes that enable traffickers to profit from the drug trade.
- Urge the Government to overcome the existing gap between financial intelligence and effective prosecutions by establishing an independent financial investigations capacity.
- Continue to convey to the Government the threat posed to society and the economy by illicit drug trafficking and the resulting insecurity, which could deter potential foreign investment;
- Continue to communicate to the Government that international agencies find it challenging at times to work with Guyanese officials on combating the drug problem because of a lack of follow-up on cases and a lack of a clear strategic approach to government efforts.
- Urge the Government to conduct a thorough review of drug arrests and track resulting convictions to assess the effectiveness of Guyana's legal framework for drug prosecutions, the effectiveness of investigations, and difficulties encountered in prosecutions and judicial procedures. In the absence of convictions, drug traffickers will continue to operate with impunity; and
- Strongly urge the Government to adopt a comprehensive security reform program to improve agencies' strategic approach, effectiveness and ability to reduce corruption within law enforcement agencies.

#### **4. JAMAICA**

##### **4.1. General situation: Drug production and trafficking**

Jamaica remains the largest Caribbean producer and exporter of marihuana to Europe and North America. Statistics indicate that 47,961 kilograms of marihuana were seized in 2011 compared to 39,291 kilograms in 2010. Marihuana trafficking groups in Jamaica focus on trafficking to Haiti, the Dominican Republic, the Bahamas and the Cayman Islands for onward shipment to North America and Europe. There has also been a significant increase in marihuana shipments to Trinidad and Tobago, Curacao and Barbados, in some cases with cocaine coming back to Jamaica. With respect to cocaine, statistics indicate that 552 kilograms of cocaine were seized in 2011 (176 kilograms in 2010).

Organized crime groups from South America, including Venezuela and Colombia, and local groups continue to take advantage of the country's relatively lax and corrupt law enforcement, porous maritime border, Jamaica's status as a popular tourist destination, and container transshipment point as an operational platform to move money, firearms and illicit drugs to North America, Europe, and around the Caribbean.

Drug trafficking takes place at airports (drug couriers and baggage) and at the sea ports (containers, cargo vessels, canisters, fishing vessels and go-fasts). Illicit drugs are traded for money, guns and other goods and much of the proceeds are used to foster criminal activities. The port of Kingston has experienced serious issues involving corruption, violence, intimidation, and the circumvention of controls. The port is a point for the bulk movement of multi-ton shipments of marihuana and cocaine to Europe, North America and Trinidad and Tobago. Organised crime groups heavily influence personnel at the ports. The Sangster International Airport continues to be the airport of choice for traffickers and causes particular concern for law enforcement agencies due to the sheer number of flights and tourist traffic. MDG members noted that corruption at airports continues to remain a problem.

**Other Drugs:** Derivatives of cannabis (hash oil and hashish) are the major illicit drugs other than cannabis and cocaine being trafficked. There is evidence that new drugs, such as heroin and ecstasy, have entered the Jamaican market in small amounts in the past few years.

#### **4.2. Anti-drug strategy**

The Jamaican government destroyed 707 hectares of marihuana in 2011 as part of its marihuana eradication program, up from 447 in 2010. The total amount of marihuana grown in Jamaica's estimated at 15,000 hectares, while the total arable land in the country is approximately 120,000 hectares. The marihuana "industry" is viewed as a viable option to traditional farming or other legitimate profit oriented engagements as the profits garnered from the marihuana industry are far more significant. Marihuana farmers find creative ways to prolong the marihuana cultivation in non-traditional planting areas. Farmers locate in remote forested areas and swamp lands which are not easily accessible for counter narcotic measures by law enforcement agencies. In addition, marihuana farmers are cultivating multiple fields at different locations (instead of one or two large plots) so as to prevent the loss of an entire yield to law enforcement eradication efforts.

The Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA), adopted in 2007, has been increasingly successful but is still not being used to its fullest potential. The POCA incorporated the existing provisions of its predecessor legislation and permits the civil forfeiture of assets related to criminal activity. The Act has expanded the confiscation powers of the Government of Jamaica and permits, in addition to pre-conviction forfeiture of assets, a post-conviction forfeiture of benefits assessed to have been received by the convicted party within the six years preceding the conviction. POCA criminalizes money laundering related to narcotics offences, fraud, firearms trafficking, human trafficking, terrorist financing, and corruption and applies to all property or assets associated with an individual convicted or suspected of involvement with a crime. This includes legitimate businesses used to launder drug money or support terrorist activity. The new Jamaican government has formed the Major Organized Crime and Anti-Corruption (MOCA) Task Force to go after assets of criminal facilitators and to pursue lottery scammers. In addition, new legislation has been drafted in 2012 to increase the obligations of designated non-financial businesses and professions including lawyers, accountants and realtors.

Effective enforcement of POCA has been hindered by lack of capacity in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, in the Financial Investigative Division, and in the courts' capacity to process such cases on a timely basis (as is the case for most matters brought before the courts). Increased technical assistance (including support to strengthen asset recovery systems, institutional infrastructure, legal frameworks and operational capacity) and attention from Mini Dublin Group donors has led to a more robust application of POCA, with more assistance coming on line in 2013.

A substantial amount of money from drug trafficking to Europe is laundered through Jamaica. Money is also routed through Jamaica on its way to Colombia and financial institutions in other South American countries including Venezuela. A related concern is the physical movement of large quantities of cash payments destined for Latin American producers of illicit drugs. In addition there are concerns that remittance flows and 'cambios', particularly in Montego Bay, are being used as a cover for money laundering.

Corruption remains the primary obstacle to countering narcotics trafficking and other related criminal activity. Jamaica continues to be challenged by very high rates of violent crime that are closely related to trafficking activities by organized crime groups and subsequent turf conflicts. Organized crime groups still exert significant influence in many communities and are able to influence government officials.



Like the previous administration, the new government has committed to breaking this link between politics and organised crime as one of its key priorities, yet the adoption of campaign finance reform legislation and the Special Prosecutor's bill -- both considered key to achieving that goal -- have been delayed. The political party in power recently received strong majorities in both parliamentary and local elections, but it is yet to be determined if there is sufficient political will to take strong and decisive action on this issue.

The Jamaica Constabulary Force's (JCF) Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) is now led by a JCF officer, following the departure of its former director, a United Kingdom International Police Officer who made gains in spear-heading the JCF's drive to weed out corrupt individuals. Approximately five percent of the JCF have been dismissed in recent years following investigations by the ACB, which has been and continues to be strongly supported by Mini Dublin Group donors. In 2012, the ACB expanded geographically with the installation of a branch office in Montego Bay, and in 2013 the ACB hopes to expand operationally with the creation of a Central Vetting Unit that would provide vetting for police recruits and holders of key security positions in all of government. The ACB's performance under its new leadership will be observed closely with the hope that the unit's performance will continue its successful track record.

Jamaica has the Caribbean's highest murder rate (2011 represented a seven-year low for the country with 1126 recorded murders, down from 1442 in 2010).

Establishment of the Independent Commissioner of Investigations (INDECOM) which is empowered to, among other things, investigate police killings -- a serious problem in Jamaica with approximately 236 reported extrajudicial police killings in 2011 and 67 more in the first quarter of 2012 -- is a positive development, although the number of prosecutions is low. INDECOM resulted from a reorganization of the previous offices charged with receiving police complaints and investigating police malfeasance. Mini Dublin Group members provide support to INDECOM, including technical assistance and equipment, and while the organization has experienced some growing pains members are confident the organization is moving in the right direction. INDECOM would benefit from additional political support from Mini Dublin Group members, as the organization is sometimes criticised locally for being overzealous. Tensions have been exhibited between rank and file members of the police and INDECOM, as well as between INDECOM and the police force administration. Mini Dublin Group members continue to express concern at the high rate of extra-judicial killings.

### **4.3. Updates to major bilateral and multilateral CN programs**

MDG members continue to work closely with the Jamaican Government on counter-narcotics interventions. There is good co-operation, but note that greater and sustained political will is required to drive forward changes that would facilitate investigation of organized criminal activities and subsequent prosecution of high-level operators.

### **4.4. Mini Dublin Group meeting**

MDG members provided an update on October 10, 2012.

### **4.5. Mini Dublin Group assessment of needs**

MDG members identified the following emerging regional threats/trends as well as political initiatives taken by countries and recommendations to meet these threat/trends:

- Counter-narcotics responses should be developed as regional and/or sub-regional interventions, as it is widely accepted that traffickers operate flexible networks choosing the path of least resistance through the Caribbean, and continued collaboration through the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative should be encouraged;
- Continued capacity-building to tighten border security at the ports and the international airports and targeted activities against organised crime elements operating at these transit points;
- Continued support to tackle corruption at all levels of the public sector with a particular focus on the JCF;
- Ensure adequate financial and political support to ensure functioning of both INDECOM and the Office of the Special Prosecutor on Corruption once implemented;
- Enforce legislation in place to disrupt and dismantle criminal organizations, inhibit/seize proceeds of drug related criminal activity, including increased use of POCA;
- Continued enforcement of anti-money laundering legislation to oblige intermediaries to report on suspicious transactions, and more effective use of the intelligence gathered on money-laundering through Jamaica, especially with respect to high-end targets;
- Initiatives that seek to reverse the institutionalisation of political tribalism and dismantle political garrisons;

- Continue to press for the passing of campaign finance reform legislation to weaken the links between political parties and organized crime, and to prevent illicit funds from financing political campaigns;
- Increased capacity-building to improve Jamaica's ability to investigate, prosecute and try financial crime effectively;
- Improve the efficiency of the criminal justice system to provide more timely prosecution of criminal cases, in particular high-profile cases involving organized crime, financial crime, POCA actions, and narcotics and firearms trafficking;
- Continued support to help create a more professional police force that is better connected to the communities through training in human rights, community based policing, management, leadership, and the application of non-lethal force;
- Continued support to INDECOM and other oversight agencies as necessary; and
- Support for pending legislation on campaign finance reform, anti-gang measures, procurement and the Special Prosecutors bill, and ensuring that new legislation includes meaningful sanctions. .

## **5. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

### **5.1. General situation in country**

Trinidad and Tobago continues to face ongoing challenges with the transshipment of illicit drugs originating from Colombia, transiting Venezuela, Suriname, Guyana, to Hispaniola and with a final destination of North America or Europe (via West Africa). With increased regional and international interdiction efforts addressing trafficking in Central America, the Caribbean has re-emerged as a transshipment route for traffickers. MDG members remarked that Trinidad and Tobago has the potential to serve as a staging ground for traffickers as a result of several factors, including the availability of cheap diesel fuel combined to service marine vessels thereby facilitating drug trafficking in international waters beyond territorial jurisdiction. Trafficking in diesel fuel has been identified as a peripheral activity of crime groups in Trinidad and Tobago.

## **New Leadership in the National Security Architecture**

Trinidad and Tobago's national security architecture underwent significant changes in leadership in 2012. In June, 2012 Austin "Jack" Warner was appointed as Minister of National Security with a mandate to reduce violent crime. In August, an Acting Police Commissioner, Stephen Williams, was appointed following the resignation of both the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Police. Trinidad and Tobago Police Service efforts are concentrated on reducing the country's high homicide rate.

## **Trafficking**

Trinidad and Tobago's porous southern border and its proximity to South American shores are particularly problematic, as limited security resources are being deployed there. MDG members surmise that this limited focus may be attributable to the fact that trafficking does not directly provoke violence in the area and communities likely benefit economically, either directly or indirectly, from this illicit activity. It is possible that trafficking in Trinidad and Tobago and powerful money laundering schemes that operate in the Caribbean from Port of Spain contribute the high levels of violence and crime in the country.

MDG members note that while there has been an increase in the interception of both semi and fully-submersible vessels in the Caribbean, no such interceptions has been reported in the Gulf of Paria. The group further notes that Trinidad and Tobago is likely being used as a preparation ground for smuggling of narcotics to Canada, US and Europe. There is also evidence to suggest that firearms may be trafficked in and through Trinidad and Tobago from Brazil and Venezuela via Suriname and Guyana.

## **Drug Abuse Awareness, Demand Reduction and Treatment**

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has taken considerable efforts to address demand reduction, with a number of programs aimed at public education and awareness. Efforts include the Citizens Security Program, which commissions research studies into the socioeconomic cost of drugs and the impact of substance abuse on gender-related violence and crime.

Trinidad and Tobago lacks up-to-date statistics on national drug abuse. Trinidad and Tobago's National Drug Council (NDC) reports that marihuana remains the drug of choice followed by cocaine and, most recently, reports of heroin and synthetic drugs. The country's National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme plans to implement a primary and secondary school study in 2012.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) provide roughly 30 drug treatment programs throughout the country. In-patient, out-patient and prison-based modalities are available. However, treatment plans are not standard. The government is working to strengthen programs with the assistance of the OAS CICAD. Other drug prevention efforts include training for educators, anti-smuggling campaigns, and special event outreach. Approximately three outreach programs are conducted per week.

## **Production**

Dug production in Trinidad and Tobago appears to be limited to marihuana, which thrives in the tropical climate. Over the past two years, there has been a considerable number of local marihuana grow-ops that have been dismantled. The MDG notes recent reports that local law enforcement eradicated 419,565 adult marihuana plants between January and September 2012. While these eradication efforts are welcome, they indicate that Trinidad and Tobago is not just a drug transit country.

## **5.2. Anti-Drug Strategy**

The government has been pursuing a policy of enhancing its maritime assets in order to improve surveillance and interdiction of narcotics smuggling to its shores. Six fast patrol craft and fourteen fast interceptor craft have been acquired.

## **Money Laundering:**

Trinidad and Tobago has taken steps towards improving its anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) regime, including by enacting regulations for the establishment of a FIU and amendments to the Anti-Terrorism Act regarding freezing of terrorist assets. At the October 17-19, 2012 meeting of the international FATF held in Paris, FATF members welcomed the Government's significant progress in improving its AML/CFT regime, noting that the country has established the legal and regulatory framework to meet its commitments identified in February 2010. Trinidad and Tobago is therefore no longer subject to FATF's monitoring process under its on-going global AML/CFT compliance process. Trinidad and Tobago has stated its commitment to working with CFATF, the Caribbean branch of FATF, as it continues to address the full range of AML/CFT issues identified in its Mutual Evaluation Report, particularly the implementation of the new legislative and regulatory reform in order to more effectively combat illicit finance in Trinidad and Tobago.

While these recent actions demonstrate progress, MDG members note that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has not yet prosecuted a financial crime. In September 2012, the Government convened a special sitting of Parliament, to repeal Section 34 of the Administration of Justice (Indictable Offences) Act after it was alleged that this was to be used as a loophole for dismissal of fraud and money laundering charges.

### **Coastal Surveillance**

A radar surveillance network was implemented through the National Coastal Radar Surveillance Centre along with a network of radar towers that covers all of Trinidad and Tobago's territorial waters. This network has been expanded to include other nearby islands including Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and St. Lucia. There are questions, however, concerning the efficiency of this system for drug interdictions. The government announced its intention to install container scanners at the country's main maritime ports of entry in order to help stem the flow of illegal guns, drugs, and other contraband coming into the country.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago signed a Maritime and Airspace Cooperation Agreements with several CARICOM countries to enable signatories to patrol and interdict traffickers within each other's territorial waters. The government plans to establish and implement in stages twelve Coast Guard stations as part of a new strategy.

Some of the recommendations made in Trinidad and Tobago's Comprehensive Review of the Security Infrastructure have already been implemented, including efforts to streamline and better coordinate intelligence gathering. It is anticipated that a new Security Operations Centre will be established as part this review process.

### **Assessment of the government's political will to conduct a comprehensive and resolute anti-drugs policy**

The 2012 budget allocation to the Ministry of National Security is the largest ever awarded to the security portfolio, amounting to \$5.1 billion TT. While there may be varying views on the degree of political will to address illicit drugs, MDG members note that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has demonstrated its commitment through the passage of several pieces of legislation, including forensic-based legislation and other areas related to the fight against crime and violence. MDG member note that the challenge is the limited scope and lack of enforcement of these legal mechanisms.

### **5.3. Updates to major bilateral and multilateral CN programs**

#### **Australia**

The Australian Federal Police (AFP), through its Latin America Regional Liaison Office - Bogota, continues to engage law enforcement partners in the region to combat international narcotics trafficking. This includes sharing of intelligence, undertaking joint investigations and where appropriate, identifying opportunities for capacity building initiatives to assist in enhancing law enforcement capability.

The AFP continues to provide opportunities for suitable law enforcement personnel to attend training programs in Australia, including courses such as the "Management of Serious Crime", the "Police Management Development Program" and the "Police Executive Leadership Program". The AFP has previously conducted training programs within the region, including a Financial Investigations training package. The AFP Liaison Office - Bogota continues to seek opportunities to deliver relevant and needed training packages in the region to assist partner law enforcement agencies.

#### **Canada**

Canada has been actively involved in programming in the area of rule of law. Canada, through the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and in conjunction with the OAS Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, is conducting "Jetway" training courses in Trinidad and Tobago. The next course is scheduled to take place in November 2012. The course focuses on interdicting the transport of contraband from airports, ports/cruise ships, local bus terminals and train stations.

The program uses a common sense policing approach to detect travelling criminals.

In January 2012, a 6 person delegation (3 from the Ministry of Justice and 3 from Ministry of National Security) travelled to Canada on a Corrections study visit. This followed a July 2011 high-ranking member of the Trinidad and Tobago Corrections Service visit to Canada. In May 2012, Canada and Trinidad and Tobago signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Corrections.

In March 2012, Canada provided 100,000TT\$ to Crime stoppers T&T earmarked to an outreach campaign to enable the community to play a greater role to address illicit drugs. Further to the training provided in October 2011 to investigators and the legal team of the Police Complaints Authority, the RCMP conducted a pre-selection polygraph course in October 2012 with the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS). Two candidates have been selected to attend a polygraph operator training course at the Canadian Police College.

In April 2012, Canada announced the launch of the Regional Integrated Ballistic Information Network. While the focus of the project is the tracking of guns, it will undoubtedly lead to tracking illicit narcotics as well.

With respect to addressing the abuse of illicit drugs, Canada funded, through the OAS CICAD a Drug Treatment Court workshop. As a result, T&T launched its first Drug Court to deal with addicts who are victims of drugs.

In May 2012, Canada announced three ongoing security projects that could have an impact on addressing transnational crime in Trinidad and Tobago and the region. These projects are being implemented through international partners like the UNODC and the OAS.

### **France**

France has put in place a series of initiatives for 2012 with an emphasis on training, including a training program aimed at improving drug detection in maritime shipping containers and an international seminar “Cocaine routes towards Europe and West Africa” (held in Margarita with a representative from Trinidad & Tobago in attendance).

### **Germany**

Germany Federal Crime Agency (BKA) is planning a self-protection seminar for 20 TTPS officers and six police officers from the region in Trinidad and Tobago. One police officer has participated in training in Germany in 2012.

### **Netherlands**

The Netherlands Police Agency has liaison officers located in Suriname and Curacao (servicing Trinidad and Tobago). Together with international partners, like the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre – Narcotics (MAOC-N), the Dutch National Crime Squad, Maritime Police, Dutch Royal Navy and the Coastguard for the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the Caribbean an initiative to target yachts carrying cocaine through the Caribbean to Europe was established in March 2012. Since 2009 there has been cooperation between the Coast Guard of Trinidad and Tobago and the Coast Guard of the Kingdom of the Netherlands based in Curacao and Aruba. The operational cooperation includes intelligence sharing and training and exchange of Coast Guard staff members.



## **Spain**

Spain continues to participate, through its Embassy in Port of Spain and along four other Mini Dublin Group partners, in the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative/CBSI dialogue, providing input on its ongoing security programmes with all Spanish speaking Caribbean countries in the fields of counter- terrorism, drug trafficking, extraditions, piracy and finance- related crimes.

## **United Kingdom**

The United Kingdom provides support to the Trinidad and Tobago authorities through its Serious Organised Crime Agency on reducing international crime, including drug trafficking. The United Kingdom is working closely with Trinidad and Tobago and its near neighbours to address the trafficking of drugs through the Caribbean by yacht and continues to engage with various jurisdictions to improve regional cooperation on counter narcotics intelligence operations. Through its regular deployments to Piarco and Crown Point Airports, the United Kingdom Border Agency continues to work in close partnership with Trinidad and Tobago authorities to catch drug traffickers using this country as a gateway to the smuggle cocaine to Europe.

The United Kingdom continues to promote reform of the criminal justice system in Trinidad and Tobago, through a Government of Canada funded placement of a UK Crown Prosecution Service Criminal Justice Adviser in Port of Spain. Working in close partnership with the Trinidad and Tobago judiciary, police, ministries and regulatory bodies, the Criminal Justice Adviser continues to make progress on identifying ways to speed up methods of investigation into criminal matters and streamlining the judicial process. An inter-ministerial action group comprising Ministers and members of the judiciary has been established (the Judiciary and Justice Sector Committee and is working towards accelerating criminal justice reform. Work is in hand to abolish preliminary inquiries which historically have caused major blockages in the processing of cases to trial. A Code for Prosecutors was launched in June 2012. The CJA has worked directly with the Judiciary drafting Criminal Procedure Rules which are now available for consultation. A Guidebook: *“Guide to Prosecuting Serious Organised Crime”* has also been produced for police and prosecutors.

## **United States**

The Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI) is a shared regional security partnership launched in 2010 that focuses on reducing illicit trafficking, increasing public safety and security, and promoting social justice. In Trinidad and Tobago, CBSI programming is aimed at increasing citizen security in the areas of juvenile justice, youth development, counter-narcotics capacity building, military and law enforcement professionalization, drug demand reduction, and financial crimes investigations. The goal of these programs is to strengthen the capacity of Trinidad and Tobago's national resources to improve security, promote social justice, and counter the efforts of local and international crime organizations. Building on the USD 420,000 in direct, bilateral assistance in Fiscal Year 2010, the U.S. is providing an additional USD 1.2 million in assistance from Fiscal Year 2011 funds. With this money the U.S. will continue to work with government and civil society representatives to develop and expand programs for the training, education, and capacity building of all entities involved in the fight against crime.

As part of US security sector engagement a number of U.S. Government entities provide ongoing assistance and collaboration with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. The Regional Security Office of the Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) provides antiterrorism assistance, but also has programs with a counter-narcotics impact.

From September 2011 to August 2012, U.S. Department of State International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Bureau, the Federal Bureau of Investigations and Drug Enforcement Agency supported the training of over 800 law enforcement officials in 25 training courses on general and specific policing skill sets such as interview & interrogation techniques, basic criminal investigative techniques, financial crimes investigations, gang investigations, homicide investigations, crime scene investigations, and narcotics investigations. In addition the U.S. Embassy's Military Liaison group continues to provide training and assistance to the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force, whose Coast Guard play a major role in interdiction efforts. The Drug Enforcement Agency also works closely with local counterparts in law enforcement, military, and judiciary on specific counter-narcotics operations to include interagency and international cooperation, and operational training on evidence gathering to disrupt criminal/narcotics networks.

Finally, the United States Agency for International Development assists in counter-narcotics efforts via assistance programs to at-risk youth, such as, supporting the training of 150 vulnerable youth in numeracy, literacy and basic computer skills in Trinidad and Tobago. Collaboration with the Ministry of National Security on the refurbishment of youth centers in low income neighbourhoods to support training and alternatives to a lifestyle of crime continues.

## **European Union**

The European Union supports Trinidad and Tobago through its regional crime and security agenda. Based on recent evaluations of past projects, it was revealed that the region's efforts are hampered by inadequate capacity and institutional response to address illicit drug trafficking and the related security threats. Therefore, a project is being designed with CARIFORUM to strengthen institutional response and capacity to address drug trafficking and transnational criminal activity and financial crime in the region. Specifically, the European Union would address, among other activities, the enhancement of the capacity of Caribbean Law Enforcement across several critical domains.

## **United Nations Development Programme**

Through the United Nations Development Programme, the organization is involved in counter narcotic issues and citizen's security from the perspective of human development and the impact thereon of escalating crime and violence. The UNDP's Caribbean country offices have launched the first ever Caribbean Human Development Report on Citizen Security launched in February 2012 in Trinidad and Tobago.

At the request of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) provides technical expertise and assistance, as well as specialized training and equipment, to the Ministry of National Security for its destruction of seized, obsolete and unserviceable firearms and a large quantity of expired ammunition as well as explosives. In 2012 UNLIREC launched a sub-regional training course for security sector officers from 11 different Member States of the Caribbean region to combat illicit firearms trafficking and convened a Roundtable on Combating Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons through Strengthened Border Control for 12 countries.

The International Organization for Migration has expanded its activities in Trinidad and Tobago with an office within the Ministry of National Security.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) appointed Amado Philip de Andrés as Representative of the UNODC Regional Office for Central America and the Caribbean (in Panama also covering Trinidad and Tobago). Mr. de Andrés took up his assignment in March 2012.

#### **5.4. Mini Dublin Group meeting**

MDG members met on October 11, 2012. In attendance were representatives from Canada, the EU, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Nations and the United States.

#### **5.5. Prioritised identification of needs for external assistance**

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has identified areas of priority under its national security mandate. MDG members are supportive of the security priorities identified and encourage their full implementation.

Training remains an immediate need, as well as that of enforcing legislation, better use of resources that already exist and an improvement of inter-agency communication to fight crime. Resources are needed to look at the root cause of crime. MDG members note that there could be more emphasis on social services to at-risk populations. The group encourages the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to implement programmes targeting these vulnerable groups in addition to working in cooperation with MDG members that implement programmes in this area.

There is also a need for continued bilateral and multilateral assistance in the form of capacity building initiatives at an operational level, in an aim to increase the effectiveness of counter-narcotic operations. This includes capacity-building with respect to law enforcement, military and coast guard training, criminal justice system capacity-building and reform, capacity-building related to the financial intelligence units and money-laundering, and capacity-building related to the management of precursor chemicals and pharmaceuticals.

#### **5.6. Mini Dublin Group assessment of needs**

MDG members identified the following emerging regional trends as well as political initiatives taken by countries and recommendations to meet these trends.

(i) Emerging Threats/Trends:

- Trinidad and Tobago is a transshipment country for illicit drugs and firearms. This may coincide with the development of crime and gang culture as well as increasing impact of urban warfare and gun-related violence within Trinidad and Tobago. Some interlocutors have commented on the inverse correlation between the level of violence and drug trafficking as it appears the less trafficking there is, the more violence becomes a problem as groups fight for scarce resources; and
- Lack of border controls have become increasingly important issue as traffickers exploit vulnerabilities in the Caribbean region.

(ii) Political initiatives:

- Trinidad and Tobago participates in intelligence sharing through the Regional Intelligence Fusion Centre. The continuing reorganisation of the national security architecture at both the regional and national level may present obstacles to the intelligence sharing efforts; and
- While Trinidad and Tobago has one of the largest defence forces in the Caribbean and a significantly sized police force, the challenges in tackling crime remain.

(iii) Recommendations:

Mini Dublin Group members should:

- Encourage Government agencies to collect and disseminate more reliable statistics on drug trafficking and related crimes;
- Encourage Government to finalise and make public its National Security Policy and Strategy, so that activities identified for support by Mini Dublin members can coincide with the Government's priorities;
- Pursue regional approaches to challenges faced, including strengthening institutional arrangements and implementation mechanisms of these regional agencies;
- Assist national skills development in the area of the management of precursor chemicals and pharmaceuticals;
- Facilitate maritime border security capacity building via inter-agency cooperation with the Coast Guard, the Customs Service and the Immigration Service;
- Encourage pro-active sharing of data regarding drug seizures both at ports and also within the country;

- Encourage full utilization of the Financial Investigative Unit for the purpose of investigating money-laundering schemes related to drug trafficking;
- Support efforts of the government to deal with the social causes of drugs-related crime;
- Continue to undertake capacity building initiatives at an operational level in order to increase the effectiveness of counter narcotics operations;
- Carefully monitor and follow-up on these initiatives to ensure that training offered is being used effectively;
- Continue to share information with each other on a regular basis on respective counter narcotics programs in order to avoid duplication of efforts;
- Share information with the Ministry of National Security in order to ensure that programs meet Trinidad and Tobago's needs effectively;
- Improve human resource capacity in the areas of law enforcement and the military, to be efficiently used in combatting transnational organised crime. This should take into consideration recruitment, development, training, retention and succession planning policies. Accountability and transparency should be foremost in the management of human capital. Members should consider providing advice/assistance in this regard; and
- Continue engagement in criminal justice system reform –working to speed up the judicial system by implementing or reforming requisite legislation.

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