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NOTE

From:	EU co-Presidency
To:	Delegations
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Subject:	Buenos Aires declaration

Delegations will find below the Buenos Aires declaration as adopted at the XIX High Level Meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs held on 18-19 May 2017 in Buenos Aires.

THE BUENOS AIRES DECLARATION

1. Having met in Buenos Aires on 18th and 19th may 2017, under the co-presidencies of Argentina and Malta, at the XIX High Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the CELAC and the European Union.
2. WE REAFFIRM the importance of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between CELAC and the European Union, as a bi regional forum for dialogue and cooperation built on mutual understanding on the basis of the principle of common and shared responsibility, a balanced, comprehensive, integrated and evidence based approach, in full conformity with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments that constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system, and with the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States.
3. WE WELCOME the positive results during the first phase of the Cooperation Program on Drugs Policies between Latin America and the European Union (COPOLAD I) and we strongly support the continuation of the activities under COPOLAD II, with the full involvement of the Caribbean countries.
4. WE RECALL the Declarations of the Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union at the Summits that were held in Rio de Janeiro (1999), Madrid (2002), Guadalajara (2004), Vienna (2006), Lima (2008), Madrid (2010) and Santiago de Chile (2013), Brussels (2015) and the EU-CELAC Action Plan, as well as the commitments made in the bi-regional Declarations adopted at the High Level Meetings of the Mechanism.

5. WE REAFFIRM that the principle of common and shared responsibility guides all CELAC and EU States actions to ensure their equal commitment to address the World Drug Problem in all its dimensions and encourages ever greater international cooperation in strengthening national capacities on the basis of a comprehensive, balanced and multidisciplinary approach.
6. WE CONSIDER UNGASS 2016 outcome document as a pivotal reference document, representing the latest high level consensus for discussions of relevance to international drug policy in all pertinent fora and WE WILL SEEK for broad international implementation of the UNGASS operational recommendations.
7. UNDERLINING the positive cooperation between our regions in the preparations for and during the recently held United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS 2016) and emphasizing in this regard that both regions commit themselves to the outcome document. We highlight our joint ambitions and priorities towards a balanced, comprehensive, and integrated approach to address the World Drug Problem in 2019, having in mind that there are important topics that need further discussion. Should a new political agreement be reached it would build upon UNGASS 2016 Outcome Document.
8. WE WELCOME the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and we note that efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the World Drug Problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing.
9. WE EMPHASISE that bi-regional cooperation should complement efforts undertaken at local, national, bilateral, sub-regional, regional and multilateral levels and recognize the importance of ensuring that such cooperation aligns with agreed priorities and objectives and that it should take place under the principle of common and shared responsibility.
10. WE TAKE NOTE of the negative impact on cooperation of unilateral lists and certifications on drug trafficking and other related matters that are contrary to international law.

On demand reduction and related measures, including prevention, and treatment as well as other health-related issues

11. WE REITERATE our commitment to promote the health, welfare and well-being of all individuals, families, communities and society as a whole, and facilitate healthy lifestyles through effective, comprehensive, scientific evidence-based demand reduction measures at all levels, covering, prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration activities, as well as initiatives and measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse.
12. WE ACKNOWLEDGE that prevention is one of the main health responses to the world drug problem, and that effective prevention interventions, policies and systems should be developed and implemented in an integrated manner, taking account of the specific needs of target groups and centered on and tailored to the needs of individuals, families and communities as part of comprehensive and balanced national drug policies with the full respect of human rights. WE REAFFIRM our commitment to investing in and working towards delivering evidence-based prevention programmes in a range of settings, including in families, schools, workplaces and communities.
13. WE COMMIT ourselves to take effective and practical primary prevention measures that protect people, in particular children and youth, from drug use initiation by providing them with accurate information about the risks of drug abuse, by promoting skills and opportunities to choose healthy lifestyles and by developing supportive parenting and healthy social environments and by ensuring equal access to education and vocational training.

14. WE SUPPORT the principle of equal access to public health services, which should guarantee broad coverage, as well as basic treatment, respecting human rights. We also welcome bi-regional cooperation respecting national legislation and in accordance with the three International Drug Control Conventions, and in the context of comprehensive and balanced drug demand reduction efforts, giving consideration, as appropriate, to effective measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse, including but not limited to appropriate medication-assisted therapy programmes, injecting equipment programs, as well as anti-retroviral therapy and other relevant interventions that prevent the transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne diseases associated with drug use, as well as considering access to such interventions including in treatment and outreach services, prisons and other custodial settings, and promoting in that regard the use, as appropriate, of the WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS Technical Guide for Countries to Set Targets for Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for Injecting Drug Users. We further agree to cooperate on and share and promote best practices, research and scientific evidence-based programmes on prevention, early intervention, treatment, and social reintegration and rehabilitation to better address the World Drug Problem.
15. WE ENCOURAGE the development and adoption of policies, according to national legislation, that incorporate a holistic, strengthened, balanced and multidisciplinary approach with the objective of reducing the impact of drug abuse on public health and preventing the stigmatization, marginalization and discrimination of drug users.

On ensuring the availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion

16. WE CONTINUE to bi-regionally support all efforts to promote, in line with the UNGASS 2016 Outcome Document, the availability of, affordability of and accessibility to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes exclusively, including for the relief of pain and suffering, and defined by national legislation, while preventing their diversion, abuse, misuse and trafficking. We will further focus our efforts by examining, as appropriate, domestic legislation and regulatory and administrative mechanisms, as well as procedures including domestic distribution channels, with the aim of simplifying and streamlining those processes and removing unduly restrictive impediments, when present, without undermining the capacities to ensure traceability.

17. WE ENCOURAGE to strengthen the systems, evidence-based information and research for assessing legitimate needs for medical use in order to make a correct and adequate provision of all necessary prescriptions, especially those used to relieve pain and to treat critical illnesses and/or terminal ones, and in this way establish a more effective tool to guarantee access and avoid diversion to illicit channels.

On supply reduction and related measures: effective law enforcement, responses to drug related crime, countering money laundering and promoting judicial cooperation

18. WE REITERATE our commitment to protecting the safety and assuring the security of individuals, societies and communities by cooperating at all levels and focusing our efforts to prevent and counter the illicit cultivation, production, manufacture and trafficking of narcotic and synthetic drugs, as well as drug-related crime and violence.
19. WE RECOGNIZE the challenge originated by the use of the internet for drug related criminal activities. In this regard, we encourage countries, in coordination with the political and technical levels, to share information, views and best practices and to increase the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building, including training and acquisition of equipment that anticipate the early and effective detection, to prevent, address and counter the use of the internet by drug trafficking networks and transnational criminal organizations.
20. WE STRESS the need to implement joint preventive and law enforcement measures, where appropriate, to identify, disrupt and dismantle transnational organized criminal groups involved in drugs trafficking, as well as all other forms of criminal activity that may be linked to the trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, such as money-laundering, trafficking in persons, the smuggling of migrants and arms trafficking.
21. WE WILL CONTINUE joint actions, where appropriate, aimed at sharing information and transferring technologies among law enforcement authorities in order to better trace international money laundering and precursors deviation routes, and we are committed to strengthening judicial cooperation and mutual legal assistance to better identify, investigate, prosecute and sanction individuals and organizations, in particular financial entities engaged in money laundering and other drug-related criminal activities in accordance with national and international legal frameworks including, where possible, the seizure and recovery of the assets involved.

22. WE COMMIT to strengthen national, regional and international monitoring of chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs and new psychoactive substances, with a view to more effectively preventing the diversion of and trafficking in those chemicals, while ensuring that the legitimate trade in and use of those chemicals are not adversely affected, including by using national, sub-regional and international reporting systems and International Narcotics Control Board tools such as Project Prism, the Precursors Incident Communication System and Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online).
23. We RECALL the importance of the use of the PEN Online system for monitoring international trade in drug precursor chemicals, having in mind that some countries require notification for some substances transiting their territory.
24. WE RECOGNIZE that the supply of and demand for drugs reinforce each other and that drug trafficking has multiple and severe negative impacts on the development of, in particular, transit countries, and we therefore call upon all participants of this bi-regional mechanism, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, to continue to develop and implement effective prevention strategies, while simultaneously developing and implementing supply reduction strategies.
25. WE RECOGNIZE that each state faces different challenges that require a customized approach and reaffirm the continuing need for cooperation and support, with a continued commitment to working together to develop comprehensive capacities and strategies to counter the challenges posed by new and existing drug trafficking routes and new technologies and methods used by traffickers, including the provision of technical assistance, to, inter alia, enhance their capacities to effectively address and counter the World Drug Problem.
26. WE ALSO HIGHLIGHT the efforts made by the EU and participating CELAC countries including, inter alia, in the Cocaine Route Programme. We also take note of the upcoming formal launch of the new cooperation programme EL PACCTO (Europa-Latinoamérica Programa de asistencia contra el crimen transnacional organizado: por el Estado de Derecho y la seguridad ciudadana), in which a number of CELAC countries already participate.

On drugs and human rights, youth, women, children, vulnerable members of society and communities

27. WE REITERATE our commitment to respecting, protecting and promoting all human rights, fundamental freedoms and the inherent dignity of all individuals and the rule of law in the development and implementation of drug policies. We also agree to ensure that our national drug policies, as part of a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach fully respect all human rights and fundamental freedoms and protect the health, safety and well-being of individuals, families, vulnerable groups of society, communities and society as a whole, without any discrimination.
28. In line with the 2030 Agenda and the UN General Assembly Resolution S-30/1, WE HIGHLIGHT the need to mainstream a gender perspective and ensure the involvement of women in all stages of the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of drug policies and programs, develop and disseminate gender-sensitive and age-appropriate measures that take into account the specific needs and circumstances faced by women and girls with regard to the World Drug Problem and, as States parties, implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
29. WE UNDERLINE that men and women are affected by the drug problem in different ways and therefore WE EMPHASISE that a gender perspective must be integrated into all relevant aspects of drug policy. It must not be treated as an isolated issue or a separate track, so that women's and men's specific needs and conditions permeate all relevant activities and actions and encourage the mobilization of financial resources from relevant sources in order to mitigate the impact of the world drug problem on women.
30. WE WILL ENSURE that measures to prevent illicit cultivation of and to eradicate plants containing narcotic and psychotropic substances respect fundamental human rights, take due account of traditional licit uses, where there is historic evidence of such use, and the protection of the environment, in accordance with the three international drug conventions, and also take into account, as appropriate and in accordance with national drug control legislation, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

On proportionate and effective policies and responses, as well as legal guarantees and safeguards pertaining to criminal justice proceedings and the justice sector

31. WE NOTE that in our respective regions we have different legal systems with different sanctions for drug-related offences. However, we do note that we aim for proportionate sanctions within national legislations and with full respect for the international framework.
32. WE AGREE to promote proportionate national sentencing policies, practices and guidelines for drug-related offences, in accordance with the provisions of the drug control conventions and national legislation, whereby the severity of penalties is proportionate to the gravity of offences and whereby both mitigating and aggravating factors, including a gender perspective, are taken into account, while attaching great importance to human dignity and human rights.
33. WE ENCOURAGE, in line with national legislations, to consider the development, adoption and implementation of alternative or additional measures to conviction and punishment in the application of justice concerning drug related offences, consistent with the three United Nations drug control conventions, international law and relevant UN standards. We invite the participants of this bi-regional mechanism to consider evidence-based treatment, care, rehabilitation and social re-integration practices and community-based support services for drug dependent persons in prisons, as appropriate, as well as the transition from penitentiary institutions to the community, securing continuum of care.

On cross-cutting issues in addressing and countering the world drug problem: evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persistent challenges and threats, including new psychoactive substances, in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments

34. WE RECOGNIZE that there are persistent, new, and evolving challenges that should be addressed in conformity with the three international drug conventions, which allow for sufficient flexibility for state parties to design and implement national drug policies according to their priorities and needs, consistent with the principle of common and shared responsibility and applicable international law.

35. WE ARE AWARE that synthetic drugs offer criminal organizations opportunities for illicit production and distribution among different channels, like the internet. In this regard, we need to design and implement national drug policies, taking into account the priorities and needs of States, as well as the persistent challenges, new and changing, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions redesign public policies in the area of drug trafficking and to assume the commitment to share information regarding synthetic drugs production, distribution and routes including developing early warning systems and enhancing capacity of national laboratories and law enforcement agencies for the detection and identification of synthetic drugs.
36. WE REAFFIRM our commitment to increase the bi-regional dialogue and cooperation in order to address the main challenges, risks and threats related to the misuse of Internet and the increasing availability of new psychoactive substances. Sustained information exchange at the regional and bi-regional levels on effective prevention and treatment and related legislative responses to these threats to support the development of effective, evidence-based responses to the emerging challenge of new psychoactive substances with regard to their adverse social and health consequences is also required.
37. WE RECOGNISE and commit to address the challenges posed by new psychoactive substances and the involvement of organized criminal groups in their production and distribution. In this regard, we recognize the importance of capacity-building in order to address this matter.
38. WE HIGHLIGHT that the misuse of prescribed medicines is one of the new challenges both regions are facing.
39. WE PROMOTE exchange of information to better understand the extent of adverse impacts, including the health, social and economic and safety impacts, of drug trafficking in small quantities in order to develop, where appropriate, effective responses to counter micro trafficking.
40. WE TAKE ACCOUNT OF the need to develop, as appropriate, drug policy indicators and tools for the collection and analysis of accurate, evidence-based, reliable and comparable data on all relevant aspects of the World Drug Problem taking into consideration the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

41. WE WELCOME increased cooperation between the UNODC and other relevant UN bodies, within their respective mandates, on drugs, human rights, youth, women, children, vulnerable members of society and communities, as well as on the implementation of relevant UN Conventions addressing those issues.
42. WE COMMIT to strengthen, including through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and, as appropriate, its subsidiary bodies, the regular exchange of information, good practices and lessons learned among national practitioners from different fields and at all levels to effectively implement an integrated and balanced approach to the world drug problem and its various aspects and consider additional measures to further facilitate meaningful discussion among those practitioners.

On alternative development on development-oriented balanced drug control policies, and on addressing socioeconomic issues

43. WE COMMIT to continue efforts in the context of long-term and sustainable development programmes to address the most pressing drug-related socioeconomic factors, including unemployment and social marginalization.
44. WE REITERATE our commitment to strengthen sub regional, regional and international cooperation to support comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, as an essential part of successful prevention and crop control strategies to increase the positive outcome of such programs, especially in the areas affected by and at risk of illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, taking into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and the operational recommendations related to alternative developments included in the UNGASS 2016 Outcome Document.

45. WE ENCOURAGE the promotion of inclusive economic growth and support initiatives that contribute to poverty eradication and the sustainability of social and economic development, develop measures for rural development, improving infrastructure and social inclusion and protection, addressing the consequences of illicit crop cultivation and the manufacture and production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances on the environment, with the incorporation and participation of local communities, and consider taking voluntary measures to promote products stemming from alternative development, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, to gain access to markets, consistent with applicable multilateral trade rules and with national and international law, within the framework of comprehensive and balanced drug control strategies.
46. WE ENCOURAGE the development of sustainable urban development initiatives for those affected by illicit drug-related activities to foster public participation in crime prevention, community cohesion, protection and safety and to stimulate innovation, entrepreneurship and employment.
47. WE AGREE to convene the XX High-Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between CELAC and the European Union in 2018 under the co-presidencies of Suriname and Bulgaria.
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