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INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

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INTERNATIONAL ANTI-NARCOTICS CONFERENCE **PARAMARIBO DECLARATION**

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The delegates representing the Governments of the following Countries and Territories:

1. The Federative Republic of Brazil
2. The Republic of Colombia
3. The French Republic
4. The Co-operative Republic of Guyana
5. The Kingdom of the Netherlands consisting of Aruba, the Netherlands Antilles and the Netherlands)
6. The Republic of Suriname
7. The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
8. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
9. The United States of America
10. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela,

And the delegates representing the following organizations:

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)/ Organization of American States (OAS), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), European Union (EU), International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), and the Representative of South Africa, as observer,

hereinafter referred to as the “ Participants” of the International Anti-Narcotics Conference held in Paramaribo, Suriname on 12 and 13 October 2006, applaud the Government of Suriname for introducing this Declaration, and strongly support our plans to continue to collaborate in the counter-drug battle. The Declaration states the following:

Aware that the illegal cultivation, production, extraction, manufacturing and processing of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and of the substances frequently used in their illegal manufacturing, the trade in such drugs and substances, as well as the organization, facilitation and financing of activities related hereto, undermine the economy of certain countries and endanger the social lives of the various peoples and the security of the territories;

Taking into account and reaffirming the commitments made at various forums to adopt and effectively implement the 1988 UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, the 1996 Barbados Plan of Action, the 2000 UN Convention Against Trans-national Organized Crime, the Special Session of the United Nations, New York, 1998, Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere and the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), a body of the Organization of American States (OAS) and other related

conventions and protocols, which incorporate concepts aimed at addressing more effectively the various aspects of the world drug problem among which the principles of shared responsibility and balanced approach;

Taking note of all the efforts made for and by countries in order to counter the world drug problem and related crime activities;

Recognizing that because of their trans-national nature, the world drug problem and the crimes associated therewith must be addressed on a broad international basis;

Recognizing that it is necessary to cooperate internationally and regionally with other countries and specialized law-enforcement and investigative agencies, in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of combating these types of crime;

Convinced of the necessity that all participating countries and organizations should adopt effective complementary measures to combat the drug trade and the offences associated herewith;

Believing that the enforcement of laws in respect of perpetrators instrumentalities and proceeds from criminal activities is an effective deterrent to participation in unlawful activities;

Bearing in mind the desirability of establishing a rigorous supervision of the production, distribution and the commercial use of raw materials and substances that are frequently used in the illicit manufacturing of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

Committed to establish means which may facilitate direct communication between the competent authorities of participating countries and organizations, as well as the exchange of information concerning activities related to the illicit production, consumption and trafficking of narcotics and psychotropic substances;

Taking into consideration their constitutional, legal and administrative systems,
The aforementioned participants have reached the following understanding:

1. Participants intend to continue cooperating at bilateral, regional and multilateral level in order to respond appropriately and effectively and in a timely manner to reduce the availability, production, trafficking and demand of drugs of natural origin and synthetic drugs, as well as psychoactive substances, the latter of which become illicit when diverted from their proper purposes. These measures will apply with respect for the particular conditions and consideration of the circumstances in each country, and will be in accordance with the legal framework and domestic laws and programs of said countries.
2. Participants intend to undertake efforts to improve the operational and communication capacity of the national control agencies preventing the smuggling of drugs and precursors and other essential chemicals through ports and containerized cargo.

3. Participants intend to develop and implement joint or combined operations to detect the trafficking of illicit drugs and dismantle illegal airstrips and cooperate with and support each other in joint or parallel investigations with respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each country and its internal legal order and pursuant to bilateral or multilateral treaties.
4. Participants intend to work individually and collectively to identify and dismantle international, regional and national criminal organizations and their support networks engaged in illegal drugs, firearms and ammunition.
5. Participants intend to intensify their efforts to exchange information and gather evidence, as well as support each other in accurate collection, recording and monitoring of data, in order to enable them to effectively prosecute the leaders and other members of criminal organizations and their support networks, and seize assets derived from these criminal activities.
6. Participants intend to facilitate the exchange of information, and the development of comprehensive, integral and balanced anti-drug strategies by identifying and appointing focal points that will coordinate the exchange of information regarding the identification of criminal organizations within the chain of production and trans-shipment of, and demand for illicit drugs.
7. Participants intend to ensure that their legal systems and mechanisms will be harmonized with and their investigative and evidence gathering procedures, in order to establish an effective strategy against the problem of illegal drug trafficking and all crimes related thereto.
8. Participants intend to, where necessary, freeze and forfeit of the proceeds of money laundering within the framework of their legal system and consistent with their international obligations and domestic laws, and consider the sharing of forfeited assets among their governments. Efforts will be undertaken to keep criminal organizations from utilizing and developing mechanisms to legalize the proceeds of their crimes.
9. Participants intend to establish and strengthen internal mechanisms for the control of precursors and essential chemicals according to the Vienna Convention of 1988.
10. Participants intend to develop and implement policies for the demand-reduction of illicit drugs, and develop and implement drug-abuse prevention programs and drug dependents treatment programs.

Participants intend to annually evaluate the progress of this declaration, and where necessary, modify its contents.

Paramaribo October 13, 2006