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## **REPORT ON THE REGIONAL SUMMIT ON DRUGS, SECURITY AND COOPERATION**

**SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

**Presentation by**

**Dr. Mabel Félix Báez**  
**President, National Council on Drugs**  
**of the Dominican Republic**

**REPORT ON THE REGIONAL SUMMIT ON DRUGS, SECURITY  
AND COOPERATION, SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN  
REPUBLIC AT THE  
41<sup>ST</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF CICAD, MAY 2, 2007**

**Presented by: Dr. Mabel Féliz Báez, President, National Council on  
Drugs of the Dominican Republic**

General Paulo Roberto Yog de Miranda Uchôa,  
Chairman of CICAD,

Mr. James Mack,  
Executive Secretary of CICAD,

Mr. Abraham Stein,  
Deputy Executive Secretary of CICAD,

Delegates and Permanent Representatives,

Permanent Observer representatives,

Ladies and gentlemen:

Based on the principle of shared responsibility and recognizing the surge in violence and transnational organized crime in the Greater Caribbean area, His Excellency Dr. Leonel Fernández Reyna, President of the Dominican Republic, convened, for March 16, 2007, the Regional Summit on Drugs, Security and Cooperation to promote discussion and exchange of views among government representatives and experts of international organizations on the threat of illicit drug trafficking in the region and its repercussions for the security of states and democratic regimes, and to recommend specific actions and strategies to enhance the efficiency of efforts being made by countries in said area to counteract this terrible phenomenon.

Invited to participate in the Summit were René Préval, President of Haiti, and Álvaro Uribe, President of Colombia, attended by their corresponding delegations; Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, with his delegation; Mr. José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General of the Organization of American States, accompanied by Mr. James Mack, Executive Secretary of CICAD, and his work team; and representatives of Spain, United States of North America, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, France, the Netherlands, the European Union, CARICOM, the International Crisis Group, Puerto Rico, the United Nations, and the World Bank.

As part of the Summit, a seminar was conducted on the situation of drugs in the region, at which expert presentations were given by a group of panelists and delegations of countries and guest international organizations; strategies and actions were discussed; and plans to follow up on and evaluate the topics discussed and examined.

Speakers included representatives of New Link Political, the Institute of Public Safety and Justice of the Government of Jamaica, the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies of Florida International University, the Department of International Studies of the University of Miami, Universidad del Rosario of Colombia, CIDE of Mexico, the University of the West Indies of Jamaica, and the Government of the United States of North America.

Topics such as the Colombian case; drug trafficking in Mexico; Trinidad and Tobago: A bright spot in the Caribbean; implications for the region; the drug problem in Latin America; the drug problem in Jamaica; evaluation of the drug problem in the Greater Caribbean area; the history of insecurity and illicit drug flows in the Caribbean; evolution of the problem of drug trafficking in the Dominican Republic; and United States of North America drug control policies for Latin America, among others, generated interventions, discussions, and analyses that will promote the search for channels for interregional, bilateral, and multilateral cooperation in the fight against illicit drug trafficking.

At the end of the Regional Summit on Drugs, Security and Cooperation, Leonel Fernández, President of the Dominican Republic; Álvaro Uribe, President of Colombia; René Prével, President of Haiti, and Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, expressed their commitment in the Declaration of Santo Domingo (Appendix A).

The Heads of State and Government reached agreement on the following:

To work to solve demand for drugs through consumption prevention campaigns, education, rehabilitation and social reintegration, aspects for whose implementation our National Strategic Anti-Drug Plan 2007-2011 provides.

To establish or strengthen national drug observatories in their respective countries, and to work jointly with the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD). They called upon the States and international organizations to provide financial and technical support for training offered to their countries in the fight against the illicit traffic of drugs.

To strengthen participation by civil society in matters related to prevention, supervision, education and rehabilitation. Also to consolidate the fight against drugs and related crimes, such as illicit human trafficking, kidnappings, illicit trafficking in

firearms, ammunition, and explosives, diversion of chemical precursors, asset laundering and corruption.

To strengthen or establish mechanisms to exchange information and to facilitate mutual assistance among judicial bodies of their countries in the fight against the illicit trafficking in drugs.

The Heads of State and Government undertook to eradicate and disrupt the cultivation and production of drugs, to prosecute and convict drug traffickers, and to strengthen operational cooperation with coordinated air, maritime and land interdictions, with the goal of dismantling trafficking organizations.

They underscored sharing lessons learned and best practices in the fight against this threat and strengthening institutions with responsibility for enforcing laws on drugs and controlled substances.

President Leonel Fernández, President Álvaro Uribe, President René Préval, and Prime Minister Patrick Manning decided to create entities in their countries with a view to establishing a Summit regional coordination mechanism in order to monitor the implementation of commitments adopted. They also decided periodically to hold summits to evaluate the drug situation in the Region, as well as progress achieved, and to make adjustments as necessary.

Mr. President, Mr. Executive Secretary, delegates and Observers, the Dominican Republic once again reiterates its absolute commitment to make every possible effort to prevent and counteract a such as illicit drug trafficking, on a scale devastating for humankind. Our country's government, headed by His Excellency Dr. Leonel Fernández Reyna, President of the Republic, is clearly aware of the responsibility he must assume and the part he must play, not only in the interests of the country's citizens, but also on behalf of the international community.

May I express my appreciation for the opportunity afforded me, one I take to reiterate to you all assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

**Dr. Mabel Félix Báez**  
**President, National Council on Drugs**  
**of the Dominican Republic**