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From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs
- Annual Report (1 January 2025 - 31 December 2025)

Delegations will find in the Annex the above-mentioned annual report, endorsed at the XXVIth High-Level Meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs, which took place in Punta Cana (Republica Dominicana) on 30 April 2026.

**EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs -
Annual Report
1 January 2025 - 31 December 2025**

This report is the result of a regular analysis of the activities carried out in relation to the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the European Union (EU) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025. The information contained in this report is limited to inter-regional programmes and does not contain information on other EU-funded programmes at regional and bilateral levels in the field of drugs.

I. EU-CELAC High-Level Meeting and Technical Committee Meetings

The CELAC-EU Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs (‘the Mechanism’) held its **XXVth High-Level Meeting on 8 May 2025 in Warsaw (Poland)**, under the co-Presidency of Poland and Colombia. The co-Presidencies of the Mechanism were represented by H.E. Maciej Duszczyk, Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Interior and Administration of Poland as well as by H.E. Assad José Jater Peña, Ambassador of Colombia to the Republic of Poland. The High-Level Meeting discussed updates on the implementation of the La Paz declaration¹, in which it was agreed to focus bi-regional cooperation of the Mechanism for the next five years by addressing in particular five topics of common interest:

Four thematic debates were held during the XXVth High-Level Meeting, focusing on the following topics:

- Topic 2 of the La Paz Declaration: Addressing and countering the manufacture and trafficking of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and other synthetic drugs, their consequences on citizen security, and their social, health, and economic impacts on people and affected communities, including via early warning;

¹ ST 6914/24

- topic 3 of the La Paz Declaration: Addressing substance use and substance use disorders, including abuse, as well as issues related to health, including mental health, and social vulnerabilities, focusing on prevention and treatment quality standards;
- topic 4 of the La Paz Declaration: Addressing the link between drugs and crimes that affect the environment, countering such crimes and tackling their negative impacts, including the effects of illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, the effects of drug manufacturing, and waste disposal on the environment, on local communities, and providing corresponding drug policy responses;
- topic 1 of the La Paz Declaration: Addressing and countering the illicit production and trafficking of drugs, including cocaine, its consequences on citizen security and public health, and their social and economic impact on people and communities.

The High-Level Meeting also addressed the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and UNODC, focusing on the 68th Session of the CND, as well as the implementation of CND resolution 68/6 on the “strengthening of the international drug control system”, and adopted the Annual Report for the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024². The CELAC Co-Presidency of the Mechanism was handed over to the Dominican Republic, represented by H.E. Alejandro de Jesús Abreu, President of the National Drug Council.

Two meetings of the Technical Committee of the Mechanism were held on 12 February 2025 in Brussels in person under the co-Presidency of Poland and Colombia³, and on 11 December 2025 in Brussels in person under the co-Presidency of Denmark and the Dominican Republic⁴.

At the **Technical Committee meeting on 12 February 2025**, participants held the preparations for the XXVth High-Level Meeting of the Mechanism. Delegations also focused on the implementation of the objectives of the joint La Paz Declaration of the XXIVth High Level Meeting of the Mechanism, as well as the developments on COPOLAD, Global Illicit Flows Programme (GIFP) and other regional programmes, and the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and UNODC.

² ST 8356/25

³ CM 1393/25

⁴ CM 5300/25

The **Technical Committee meeting on 11 December 2025** was a half day meeting held in person, with the participation of the Heads of the national Drugs Agencies from the CELAC region. It was preceded by a seminar organised by COPOLAD on shared challenges among EU and CELAC countries in the field of drugs on 9 and 10 December 2025. On the side of the Dominican Republic Co-Presidency, the meeting was opened by H.E. Faride Raful, Minister of Interior and on the side of the Danish co-Presidency H.E. Thomas Højgaard, the Deputy Permanent Secretary from the Ministry of Justice chaired the meeting.

The Technical Committee meeting addressed the latest updates on the drug situation and policy developments in both regions. Delegations also focused on the implementation of the objectives of the joint La Paz Declaration, as well as the cooperation in the context of the UNODC and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, including priorities for the 69th session of the CND. Two thematic debates were also held, both focusing on the linkages between youth and drugs. The first thematic debate addressed advancing evidence-based prevention, treatments, and risk reduction policies to effectively address drug demand and related health and social harms. The second thematic debate focussed on prevention of youth involvement in drugs trafficking and drug-related violence. The Dominican Republic Co-Presidency presented the preliminary results of the general reflections within CELAC on ways to strengthen, energise, and modernise the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism, aiming to ensure that the Mechanism reaches its full potential in responding to the current challenges of the global drug phenomenon.

II. EU-CELAC Cooperation: Cooperation Programmes on drugs policies between Latin America, the Caribbean, and the European Union

A. COPOLAD III

COPOLAD III is the only EU-funded programme covering the entire CELAC region and providing support for a balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary, and scientific evidence-based approach to address the world drug problem in Latin American and Caribbean⁵ countries.

COPOLAD III covers the various fields of drugs policy from both a drug demand and a drug supply reduction perspective, as well as promotes evidence-based policies, with monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and with the task of providing technical support to the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs.

The third phase of COPOLAD was launched in February 2021 with an initial duration of 48 months and a budget of EUR 15 million. In August 2024, the programme was granted a non-cost extension until March 2026. This was subsequently followed by a further extension until February 2029, together with an additional budget of EUR 8 million.

This approved extension enables the programme to address emerging trends in drug trafficking that were not previously covered and to respond effectively to the priorities agreed by EU and LAC countries in the **2024 La Paz Declaration** throughout its implementation period.

It also strengthens COPOLAD's capacity to promote **preventive and comprehensive drug policies**, ensuring coordinated national, regional and bi-regional responses that integrate **justice and citizen security** with **health, social, economic and environmental** dimensions. Particular emphasis is placed on **prevention, violence reduction**, and the **dismantling of the economic and social structures** that sustain drug trafficking, especially in the most affected areas and along key trafficking corridors.

⁵ An initial phase of the programme (2011 to 2015) covered all Latin American countries and – based on the evaluation of its results – a second phase was launched, including all CELAC countries, in response to the demand of Caribbean countries.

COPOLAD III is managed by a consortium formed by the International Ibero-American Foundation for Public Policies and Administrations, Spanish Cooperation (FIIAPP) and the Italian-Latin American International Organization (IILA), with the participation of the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA) - former European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

Building on the achievements of its previous phases⁶, COPOLAD III continues to promote technical and political dialogue between CELAC and the EU. COPOLAD III is aligned to the EU Drugs Strategy 2021-2025, and delivers a balanced approach to positively impact public policies related to drugs supply, demand and harm-reduction in the following fields:

Supply reduction:

- sustainable and integrated alternative development;
- cooperation in drug trafficking investigations,
- fight against illicit capital and money laundering,
- control of chemical precursors,
- penal law reforms and alternatives to imprisonment.

Demand and harm reduction:

- Comprehensive prevention and care,
- Harm reduction programmes and services,
- Social inclusion for persons with problem drug use,
- Territorial approaches in demand reduction policies.

COPOLAD's activities incorporate issues of gender equality, human rights, environmental impact and innovation.

⁶ COPOLAD II (2016-2019) was a regional cooperation programme funded by the European Union, with a total budget of EUR 10 000 000, and managed by the International and Ibero-American Foundation for Public Administration and Policies, Spanish Cooperation (FIIAPP). The first phase (COPOLAD I), also managed by FIIAP, ended in June 2015.

COPOLAD III also supports National Drugs Observatories in evidence-based policy making and in identifying new threats (Early Warning Systems). In addition, the programme has been supporting the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on drugs for 13 years⁷.

COPOLAD III covers the entire CELAC region and provides support for an integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary development and with an approach to address the world drug problem in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean based on scientific evidence. In addition, the programme is based on a results-oriented methodology based on the demands and needs of partners and on a Team Europe spirit that encourages coordination, complementarities and synergies at EU level.

At **regional level**, the programme operates through the creation of Working Groups (WG) bringing together countries with similar interests, while promoting **south-south or triangular cooperation**. The expertise provided by Task Forces ensure the necessary support for implementing action plans and specific technical assistance. A key approach at regional level are the alliances with the regional organisations operating in Latin America and the Caribbean. In this regard 8 regional roadmaps have been signed with key supranational organisations: Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors - AIAMP, Conference of Ibero-American Countries' Ministries of Justice - COMJIB, Inter-American Association of Public Defenders - AIDEF, Latin American Financial Action Task Force - GAFILAT, Caribbean Financial Action Task Force - GAFIC, CARICOM IMPACS Law Enforcement and Security Task Force.

At **national level**, specific technical assistance was offered through roadmaps based on the needs identified by participating countries and their national authorities. 75 national roadmaps are being implemented with the aim to strengthen public drug policies in 25 countries through the different programme components.

⁷ COPOLAD I started on 31 January 2011

Within its cross-cutting issues COPOLAD III has fostered a human rights approach to drug policies. The integration of a gender equity perspective is a priority for COPOLAD III. The specific needs of women and girls are being mainstreamed by the programme, and attention is being paid to reducing gender inequality by adopting tailored-made approaches for each component. In addition, social innovation has been an important tool for working at local level in a bottom-up approach which is helping the coordination with national drug policies. Finally, the programme also focuses on the environmental impact of drug production and trafficking.

COPOLAD’s activities in the implementation of the La Paz Declaration and its short-term objectives (May 2025 – May 2026).

The following activities have been carried out by COPOLAD in 2025 contributing to the main priorities of La Paz Declaration and to the Short-Term Objectives approved at Warsaw HLM:

1. Addressing and countering the illicit production and trafficking of drugs, including cocaine, its consequences on citizen security and public health, and their social and economic impact on people and communities

- *1.4. The adoption and implementation of preventive and law enforcement measures to identify, impair, and dismantle organised transnational criminal groups engaged in drug trafficking*

- *1.6. Strengthening police and judicial cooperation and assistance in order to guarantee the success of investigations on criminals and organisations, including as regards extradition.*

Key technical assistance and outputs achieved:

- Partnership with the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors - AIAMP, comprising 22 public prosecutors' offices in Latin America, Spain, Portugal, and Andorra, achieved the following results:
- Elaboration of Regional guidelines to address situations in which women and LGTBIQ+ trafficked persons are involved in the production, transit or commercialisation of drugs (Approved on May 2025 by AIAMP's General Assembly). This action was implemented jointly with the Trafficking Network, Anti-Drug Network, Gender Network.
- Support for the Ibero-American Anti-Drug Prosecutors Network (RFAI) and the AIAMP Environmental Protection Networks in drafting guidelines for investigating and prosecuting the environmental impact of drug trafficking, accompanied by a regional assessment of this issue.
- Guidelines for Criminal Prosecution: [Lineamientos MPs impacto ambiental narcotráfico.pdf](#)
- Both documents were presented at the annual meetings of both the Ibero-American Network of Anti-Drug Prosecutors (RFAI) and the AIAMP Environmental Protection Network and were approved by both networks.”
- The **protocol on undercover agents** approved by the Ibero [American National Prosecutors General Assembly in May 2025](#).
- **Follow-up** with countries interested in the implementation of the protocol on undercover agents (COPOLAD) and adoption of the regulatory framework. An agreement was reached with EL PACCTO to support operational implementation in at least two countries in 2026.
- Technical support to Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay: **training** of civil servants and elaboration of guidelines in public prosecutors' offices from the three AIAMP networks on trafficked women involved in drug trafficking.
- Publication of two key guides, in partnership with **CARICOM IMPACS**, addressing **preventive asset-based approaches to dismantle drug trafficking finances and emerging challenges related to synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances (NPS)**.

- 1.7. *The strengthening of our bi-regional and international cooperation in the field of drug policies within programmes such as COPOLAD, to improve the design and implementation of policies dealing with reduction of drug demand and supply, including to promote research, and information- and knowledge-sharing.*

Activities to support the technical-political dialogue between the EU and CELAC regions on drug-related issues:

- Support the implementation of the La Paz Declaration.
- COPOLAD provided support to the co-presidencies of the EU–CELAC Drugs Mechanism — the Dominican Republic, Poland and Denmark — as well as to the organisation and follow-up of the Technical Committee Meetings.
- EU and CELAC Seminar of National Drug Agencies was held in Brussels on 9th – 10th December 2025. The seminar focused on harm and risk reduction, drug-related violence, and chemical precursors. The discussions confirmed broad consensus on the relevance, effectiveness and added value of COPOLAD as a key instrument for EU–CELAC cooperation on drug policy. Participants agreed on the need to build on the programme’s demonstrated results and strong political mandate to move decisively from dialogue towards implementation, with a clear focus on measurable outcomes and policy impact.
- *Toolbox accompanying “The Silent Destruction” study on the environmental impacts of drug trafficking and state responses in Latin America and the Caribbean.* The study identifies and analyses the environmental impacts of illegal drug production, trafficking and drug control responses in the region, and provides strategic, policy-oriented options to mitigate, reduce or compensate for these impacts.

Activities focusing on research and outputs:

- **Scientific research agendas** were launched in close cooperation with the **National Drug Observatories (NDOs)** of **Suriname, Panama, and Trinidad & Tobago**, as well as with the **research network in Guatemala**, strengthening evidence generation and analytical capacity at national level.
- In the **Dominican Republic**, the **Scientific Advisory Committee of the National Drug Observatory** has been formally established, reinforcing the technical quality, independence and sustainability of research and analysis.
- In July 2025, the **National Drug Observatory of Cuba** was officially launched, with both its **research agenda** and **triennial work plan** approved, marking an important step towards institutionalising data-driven drug policy.
- A **Guide for the evaluative analysis of drug policies**, incorporating a **human rights and gender perspective**, was developed as a **conceptual and methodological reference for National Drug Observatories**. The guide was validated in **October 2025** and provides a common framework to strengthen policy evaluation across the region.
- In **Uruguay**, two major analytical studies were supported:
 - *Direct Costs to the Uruguayan State of Activities Related to its Drug Policy* (December 2025), and
 - *Evaluation of Public Drug Policies in Uruguay in the 21st Century*, focusing on **care and treatment, risk management and harm reduction**, and **market regulation**.
- In **Costa Rica**, COPOLAD supported the **design of the evaluation of the restorative justice model**, including a **cost analysis**, resulting in a dedicated report on the evaluation design published in **December 2025**.

○ 1.8. *As the provision of integral and sustainable alternative development opportunities and viable economic options for local communities that are affected by or vulnerable to the illicit cultivation of crops used for production and manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and to related illicit drug economies in urban, rural, and protected environmental areas, while mainstreaming a gender perspective and taking into account gender-specific needs and vulnerabilities.*

● **Comparative study** analysing the opportunities for Colombia and Brazil to use seized assets in urban and rural Alternative Development programmes, SENAD Brazil and the Colombian Drug Policy Directorate, Ministry of Justice (*see also priority 5.5.*)

○ 1.10. *The cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the scientific community, academia, the private sector, to address the illicit production and trafficking of drugs.*

● **Initiative with civil society organisations** on the social use of confiscated assets. Design of a normative proposal for the social and cultural reuse of expropriated assets, Colombia and Brazil.

2. ***Addressing and countering the manufacture and trafficking of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and other synthetic drugs, their consequences on citizen security, and their social, health and economic impact on people and affected communities, including via early warning.***

○ 2.1. *The strengthening of bi-regional and international operational cooperation to successfully deal with trafficking of new psychoactive substances and other synthetic drugs, including to exchange on best practices in national and regional approaches concerning chemical precursors.*

Key Technical Assistance and outputs focused on strengthening cooperation between the EU and CELAC region on the international control of chemical precursors:

- Working Group with 18 countries to enhance regulatory development:
- Technical Assistance to update or develop regulations on chemical precursors aimed at harmonizing national regulations, improving inter-institutional coordination, and promoting a comprehensive approach to the control and management of chemical precursors.
- 4 updated regulations proposals (Colombia, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Antigua & Barbuda).
- 1 new developed regulation proposal (St. Lucia).

These regulations have been presented to the countries and are currently under national administrative and legislative procedures for approval.

- Technical Assistance to improve national procedures for the management and final disposal of seized substances in Bolivia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Paraguay.
- Each country (7) currently possesses a reference Manual that establishes appropriate procedures guidelines for safe and sustainable handling, transport, and final disposal of chemical precursors.
- Training to 668 public servants from these countries in the application of these manuals.
- Higher University Course of Specialisation in Control and Investigation of Drug Precursors with the Foundation of the National Distance University of Spain: 500-hour training. 40 scholarships, 29 LAC countries in September 2025.
- October 2025: Regional workshop on chemical precursors with interested countries to exchange about consolidating experiences, promote best practices and define future steps for EU–LAC cooperation.

- 2.2. *The support of gender-based public health interventions for people who use drugs with a focus on harm reduction measures, rehabilitation, social integration and voluntary access to treatment*

Adaptation of addiction care and harm reduction services to improve access for women and vulnerable populations.

- 7 countries have mainstreamed the gender approach in their National Drug Observatories (2024).
- Costa Rica has approved an interinstitutional Protocol with gender approach for the Attention to Women involved in the crime of introducing drugs into a penitentiary center.

Activities promoting access to and quality of care (women, vulnerable population) harm reduction and social inclusion:

- Adaptation of care services and the development of plans in relation to women and vulnerable populations (until the end of September 2025): Colombia (support to harm reduction action plan); Chile and El Salvador (substance use disorder of minors under the protection of the State); Mexico (guidelines, toolkits and capacity building for prevention and treatment for Methamphetamine and Fentanyl drug abuse); Uruguay (support to the national plan on problematic drug use for persons deprived of liberty).
- Ecuador: Support to the Ministry of Health and the Secretariat of the Inter-institutional Committee on Drugs in improving the telephone helpline service for people experiencing mental health crises and problematic drug use and consumption, through the development of a Guide for the 171 helplines.
- Mexico: Support to CONASAMA in improving comprehensive care and harm reduction services related to fentanyl and methamphetamines and improving access for the LGTBQI+ population.

- Colombia: (planned for Dec. 2025) Guidelines developed minor contracts, technical assistance for the design of a national roadmap and governance mechanisms to enable the management of harm reduction strategies. Technical support for the consolidation and inter-institutional management of broad-spectrum territorial harm and risk reduction plans in three priority cities (Armenia, Pereira and Dosquebradas).
- Uruguay: Support to the Ministry of the Interior in improving the prison service and social reintegration of the prison population serving criminal sentences, through the development and approval of the Guide to Addressing and Treating Drug Use in Prisons.
- El Salvador: Support to CONAPINA in improving and upgrading the service provided to children and adolescents in state residences, through i) a technical guide on care; and ii) exchange of experiences with other LAC countries (June 2025).
- **Support** to interested countries to incorporate the fight on the Incidence of stigma among people with problematic drug use within the action plans from national drug policies: Policy paper on stigma, September 2025.
- **Guide** on good practices and capacities for social and economic inclusion.

Regional Activities addressing drug-related vulnerabilities on the territory:

- Working Group with 21 countries: permanent training and country coordination.
- COPOLAD III supports Latin American and Caribbean countries in addressing drug-related vulnerabilities through a territorial approach based on the ECO2 Community Treatment methodology. The programme focuses on reaching populations in highly vulnerable contexts with limited or no access to state services, through integrated, community-based interventions that combine employment, housing, basic assistance, education, rehabilitation, harm reduction, and cultural activities.
- Territorialisation is a core strategy, bringing public policies closer to communities by articulating formal and informal actors and adapting interventions to local realities. This approach has been implemented in Bahamas, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.

Key results include:

- Development of low-threshold care mechanisms adapted to community conditions.
 - Design of intervention models for highly vulnerable and previously underserved populations.
 - Implementation of harm reduction and risk management strategies.
 - Mobilisation of resources for implementation, piloting and scalability.
 - Integration of community leaders' knowledge to ensure contextualised and replicable solutions.
- 2.3. *The adoption and implementation of preventive and law enforcement measures to identify, impair, and dismantle transnational criminal groups engaged in drug trafficking and any other criminal activities that may be linked to the trafficking of new psychoactive substances and other synthetic drugs, including to exchange on best practices in national and regional approaches concerning chemical precursors.*
- Approval and implementation of the Protocol on Undercover Agents by the Ibero-American National Prosecutors General Assembly (May 2025), including its incorporation into national regulatory frameworks.
 - Approval of a regional diagnosis and operational guidelines by the Ibero-American National Prosecutors General Assembly (May 2025).
 - Targeted follow-up in Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay, including training of prosecutors and development of guidelines on cases involving trafficked women linked to drug trafficking, through the three AIAMP prosecutorial networks.
 - Adoption of Guidelines for Criminal Prosecution on Drug Trafficking and Environmental Impact, approved by the Network of Anti-Drug Prosecutors of Ibero-America (RFAI) and the AIAMP Environmental Protection Network (May 2025).
 - Development of two practical guides on asset prevention measures and on synthetic drugs and NPS, in cooperation with CARICOM IMPACS, to be published in 2025.

3. On addressing substance use and substance use disorders, including abuse, as well as issues related to health, including mental health, and social vulnerabilities, focusing on prevention and treatment quality standards:

- *3.1. The promotion, in National Drugs Strategies, of health, safety, welfare and well-being of all individuals, families, communities and societies as a whole, prioritizing persons in vulnerable and marginalised situations.*
- Community-level regional initiatives implemented in Bahamas, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Peru, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and Uruguay, focusing on: (i) community-based service devices, (ii) integration of a territorialisation approach into national drug policies, (iii) capacity development, and (iv) interventions in prison settings.
- Adoption of minimum standards for the humanisation of criminal and prison drug policies by the Conference of Ministers of Justice of Ibero-American Countries (COMJIB).
- Development and approval of the Protocol for the Application of Restorative Justice under Article 77 bis of Law No. 8204 in Costa Rica, led by the Costa Rican Drug Institute (ICD) in coordination with the Judiciary and IAFA, enabling alternatives to imprisonment for women in vulnerable situations convicted of minor drug offences.
- Technical development of the Local Guide of Recommendations and Practices for Gender-Sensitive Defence in Paraguay, led by the Ministry of Public Defence.
- Design and implementation of a Comprehensive Restorative Justice Programme for young people involved in drug-related offences in the Dominican Republic, developed jointly by the Judiciary and the National Public Defence Office.
- *3.4 The implementation of the right to equitable and available access to public health, social services, basic treatment, and continuity of care that is gender-sensitive and respects, protects and fulfils human rights, and guarantees broad coverage for people with substance use disorders and persons in vulnerable situations.*

Adaptation of care services and the development of plans in relation to women and vulnerable populations (until the end of September 2025): Colombia (support to harm reduction action plan); Chile and El Salvador (substance use disorder of minors under the protection of the State); Mexico (guidelines, toolkits and capacity building for prevention and treatment for Methamphetamine and Fentanyl drug abuse); Uruguay (support to the national plan on problematic drug use for persons deprived of liberty)

- **Support** to interested countries on social inclusion of people with drug use problems, until September 2025.
- Women and drugs trafficking - **Technical assistance** for the implementation of general guidelines for action, standards and good practices, to be used by the operators of the Public Prosecutor's Office, in relation to gender violence, drug trafficking and human trafficking (Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay)
- 3.6. *The promotion of bi-regional cooperation between EU and CELAC, to share best practices, scientific research and evidence-based programmes on prevention, treatment, recovery and social reintegration.*
- The landing of the **social inclusion model** on social inclusion of people with problematic drug use, has been worked with Colombia and Uruguay. The exchange of good practices has been promoted with the rest of the implicated countries.
- Within the community approach to **reduce vulnerabilities** linked with drugs, the work with interested countries has led to final inclusion in their National Drug Policies of the territorial and community approach. [This has been achieved](#) specially in: Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Jamaica, Peru, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and Uruguay.

- 3.7. *The cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the scientific community, academia, and the private sector, to address substance use and substance use disorders, and other health related issues.*
- On the basis of the guide on social inclusion of people with problematic drug use, civil society organisations and public institutions will be part of the landing of the **social inclusion model** in countries such as Colombia and Uruguay
- Within the community approach to reduce vulnerabilities linked with drugs, the **implication of civil society organisations** is being facilitated in the following countries: Bahamas, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Jamaica, Peru, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Uruguay. **Innovation labs** in Chile, Colombia and Uruguay have promoted the joint work between the National Drug Agency and public institutions involved at National level, the local governments and civil society in the co-creation of the prototypes which COPOLAD has been supporting.

4. Addressing the link between drugs and crimes that affect the environment, countering such crimes and tackling their negative impacts, including the effects of illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

- 4.2. *Examining, addressing and countering the harmful impact on the environment and biodiversity of illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and of illicit laboratories that manufacture narcotic drugs, within the efforts of integral and sustainable alternative development, as well as the drugs demand and supply reduction.*

Activities relating to alternative development:

- Working Group to support integral and sustainable alternative development: 17 countries. Permanent training, country exchanges and coordination
- Social use of confiscated assets and Alternative Development: Diagnosis of recommendations for interested countries.
- **Study** on the identification and analysis of factors, dynamics, determinants and criteria to develop an index of institutional capacities and a toolkit to guide and support the governing bodies of drug policies in Latin America and the Caribbean for a systemic diagnosis of the environmental impacts of drug trafficking and state responses to reduce the supply of drugs. Tool kit elaborated together with Brazil, Colombia, and Perú.
- *4.3. The promotion of bi-regional cooperation, including partnerships with international organisations, the private sector and financial institutions, for the implementation of integral and sustainable alternative development projects that enable and foster environmental protection and sustainability.*
- See above activities on priority 4.2.
- *4.5. The adequate dismantling of illicit laboratories, including those that manufacture cocaine and synthetic drugs, and harm the environment.*
- Face-to-face meeting on the environment and drugs. AIAMP - Network of Anti-Drug Prosecutors and Network of Environmental Prosecutors' Offices: see also priority 4.2 and 4.6. The elimination in the shortest possible time and under standards of respect for the environment, of seized drugs and chemical precursors used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, through mechanisms that guarantee the impossibility of their restitution to illicit markets, while ensuring that these procedures do not impact negatively on possible criminal proceedings.

○ 4.7. *The promotion of bi-regional cooperation between the EU and CELAC and sharing of best practices for final disposal of seized illicit drugs and chemical substances used in the illicit manufacture of drugs.*

● See above activities on priorities 2 and 3.

○ 4.8. *The consideration of environmental aspects within the framework of drug supply reduction programmes, including, but not limited to the law enforcement against drug trafficking-related crimes that affect the environment.*

● Following the study “[The silent Destruction. Environmental impacts of drug trafficking and state responses in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)” a **Study** on the identification and analysis of factors, dynamics, determinants and criteria to develop an index of institutional capacities and a toolkit to guide and support the governing bodies of drug policies in Latin America and the Caribbean for a systemic diagnosis of the environmental impacts of drug trafficking and state responses to reduce the supply of drugs. Tool kit elaborated together with Brazil, Colombia, and Perú.

5. *Addressing and countering other forms of organised crime related to drug trafficking such as money laundering and firearms trafficking, and their negative effect on the economy and citizen security*

○ 5.4. *The development and strengthening, as appropriate, of mechanisms of coordination and timely and efficient information sharing between authorities involved in identifying and countering drug trafficking and related money laundering, to integrate financial investigations more thoroughly into interdiction operations, so as to identify individuals and companies involved in such activities.*

- Activities focused on strategies to combat illicit money and money laundering, through confiscation of assets and management of confiscated assets:
 - Regional document on the capacities in the administration of confiscated property and the modalities of its destination in GAFILAT countries approved.
 - Comparative study on beneficial ownership registers in support of the proposed law to establish a beneficial ownership register in Chile.
 - Design of economic, financial and tax analysis tools for the preparation of expert evidence in money laundering proceedings in Perú.
 - *Teaching guide on New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and synthetic drugs: 'Enforcement strategies for drugs: new psychoactive substances (NPS) and synthetic drugs' (CARICOM IMPACS) (see also priority 5.4.)*
- 5.5. Comprehensive strategies for subsequent use of the forfeited properties and assets derived from illicit activities linked to drug trafficking
- **Paper** on asset recovery, asset management and asset earmarking, including earmarking for social use, which analyses the capacities of the 18 member countries, presents good practices and makes recommendations for the fifth round of mutual evaluations approved at GAFILAT Plenum in San Salvador in July 2025.
 - **Comparative study** on the opportunities for Colombia and Brazil to use confiscated assets in Alternative Development programmes at the urban and rural level, with SENAD of Brazil and the Colombian Drug Policy Directorate.
 - With the ICD of Costa Rica, a **proposal for a reform** has been presented on the Asset Recovery Unit law that includes social use.

B. EL PACCTO 2.0

The **EL PACCTO 2.0 programme, Europe-Latin America Programme of Assistance against Transnational Organised Crime** (EUR 58.8 M for the period from November 2023 to 2027), officially launched in Panama (March 2024), is the EU's flagship programme to foster EU-LAC cooperation in fighting transnational organised crime. It has doubled in budget, and it has expanded its works both in terms of content, covering many more areas and criminal markets, as well as in geographical scope, including also the Caribbean, thus covering the entire LAC region. It covers justice and security-related matters, which is important to guarantee effective policies. The goal of EL PACCTO 2.0 is to establish a robust EU-LAC partnership to strengthen the rule of law and combat transnational organised crime, enhancing citizen security and stability in both regions. The programme works on:

- Strengthening Regional & Bi-regional cooperation and political dialogues, supporting key mechanisms for justice and security (CLASI-Latin American Committee in Internal Security, Ameripol, Justice Policy Cycle);
- Economic Dimension of Crime, with a focus on anti-corruption, money laundering, asset recovery, and penitentiary reforms;
- Institutional Strengthening of Justice & Security Institutions, by enhancing the rule of law, improve legislative frameworks, and boost JITs and cross-border cooperation. Special focus on women and youth-specific concerns, for instance to avoid early recruitment to join organised crime groups;
- Addressing Transnational Organised Crime, targeting six key criminal markets: drug trafficking, firearms trafficking, human trafficking, environmental crimes, trafficking of cultural goods; and Cybercrime.

EL PACCTO 2.0 also includes a project implemented by INTERPOL focusing on building EU-LAC cooperation to improve fugitive investigations. This second phase of the project started in January 2024 with operational results. The project facilitates joint fugitive investigations through increased interregional police cooperation and standardised information exchange. The fugitives, some of whom had been wanted for up to 15 years, were all subject to INTERPOL Red Notices – an international wanted persons alert that helps arrest thousands of the world’s most dangerous criminals each year. Up to date, this initiative has reached great success, leading to 116 arrests during 2025, with also 26 additional positive locations. The Project has handled 184, reaching a 66% success rate resulting in arrest or positive locations, getting all participating countries to publish the record figure of 3644 red notices.

Summary of the main concrete results and actions, including some examples of the work developed in 2025 under EL PACCTO 2.0:

1) Regional/bi-regional meetings and strategies:

- Annual meeting EL PACCTO “A partnership that protects” June 2025 in Lima, was a key milestone towards the EU-CELAC Summit in Colombia. It brought together EU, Latin America and Caribbean countries to discuss about justice and security matters at the highest level.
- EU-CLASI: Ministers of Interior and Security from EU Member States and Latin America endorsed a Joint Declaration and a Roadmap for Operational Cooperation Priorities 2025-2026. Important meetings included the EU-CLASI Ministerial 6-7 March 2025 and the EU-CLASI SOM 19 November 2025
- CLASI: An agreement was reached on the adoption of CLASI’s Operational Action Plans (OAPs) and a Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of a CLASI Secretariat was adopted.

- Justice Bi-regional cooperation:
 - Bilateral working arrangements were signed between EUROJUST and nine Latin American countries (six in 2024, three in 2025) to facilitate coordination; the Programme has supported an internal Latin American enhanced cooperation mechanism in between those 9 General Prosecutors Offices, leading to an increase of 300% in the EUROJUST open cases with Latin American countries.
 - Bilateral working arrangements were signed between the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) and six Latin American countries to facilitate information exchanges, including a communication protocol and operational guidelines, leading to the first EPPO freezing order executed in Latin America.
- Follow-up meetings of the Cycle of Justice Policies (Latin American regional organizations for Justice), approving a roadmap was adopted for the implementation of the Programmatic Agreement for the Justice Policy Cycle 2025 – 2027, including the elaboration and approval (also 2025) of a Model law on international cooperation in criminal matters.
- REDCOPEN: A decision was made to advance the institutionalisation of the Latin American Regional network on Penitentiary intelligence, with a dedicated working group established to work on its regulation and organisational structure.
- AMERIPOL: A roadmap for AMERIPOL's institutionalisation was defined in May 2025, supporting the regional advancement on the ratification process of the Brasilia Treaty and the financial regulations of the Institution.
- Anti-corruption: During the June 2025 meeting of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working, a roadmap was adopted for the development of a regional anti-corruption strategy in Latin America.
- Cyber-crime: EL PACCTO 2.0 supported the review of the new CARICOM IMPACS's cyber-security and cyber-crime strategy, already adopted, in a coordinated manner with the new Latin American strategy development process.
- Artificial Intelligence: A regional AI strategy and Model Law was produced with support from EL PACCTO 2.0 with Latin American and Caribbean countries engaged.

2) Examples of technical support provided:

During 2025, almost 185 institutions received (direct) technical assistance from EL PACCTO 2.0, bringing the total number of institutions supported since the beginning of this second phase to 199.

Progress was made in strengthening legislative and policy frameworks.

- In Guatemala, EL PACCTO 2.0 continued to support the National Anti-Corruption Commission in revising the country's anti-corruption framework, resulting in an adopted national strategy.
- Technical assistance in anti-corruption issues to FOPREL resulted in a new framework law, to be mandatorily transposed by its Member States into a new bill.
- In Chile, expert input was provided to support a legislative proposal on maximum security prison regimes in Chile, already under scrutiny in the Chilean Parliament.
- In Costa Rica, two Interinstitutional Technical Committees (ITC) were established this year, one focused on the management of women in prison, and another one on penitentiary intelligence.
- In Paraguay, an ITC on penitentiary intelligence was activated and in parallel, an ITC on alternative measures was revamped with a new structure.
- Minimum standards for data protection in international criminal cooperation were adopted in the of the support to the Justice Policy Cycle.
- Regional guidelines on obtaining and managing E-evidence were also developed in the context of the support to the Justice Policy Cycle [Result OP1.3.5]
- A regional agreement was reached on the most relevant treaties on criminal justice and international cooperation, for signature / ratification of Latin American countries in between more than 70 institutions.

- In the field of countering money laundering, relevant steps were taken through regional technical workshops on crypto-assets management and drug-related money laundering, leading to new operational guidelines and up to 50 bilateral operational meetings on the margin of the activities.
- A Gender Regional Coordination Mechanism has been created, with internal and institutional Gender Focal Points to identify / work on gender-related actions.
- Within the LYNX network (Trafficking of Human Beings), an observatory (MAYA) was established, marking the first step towards the development of a dedicated glossary.
- In the area of criminal finances, REDFFIC (*Red de Fiscales contra el Crimen Organizado Transnacional*) adopted a declaration on strengthening of information cooperation tools, paving the way The adoption of dedicated protocols and guidelines.
- The different cybercrime law enforcement or prosecution networks working with the Programme benefited on the approval of several protocols and guidelines:
 - o Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) Guidelines adopted by the ELIPSIA network.
 - o Guide on cyber-patrolling developed and adopted by CIBEL@ network.
 - o Crypto-currencies standardised forms, adopted by CIBERRED.

3) Examples of operational contributions:

The programme is involved in several Operational Actions under EMPACT. The programme also supports CLASI Operational Action Plans on countering drugs, firearms and human beings trafficking, the concrete operations launched by the different specialised law enforcement and prosecutions networks and the strengthening of AMERIPOL, as well as the operations of its Specialized Centers (AC3 for Cybercrime in Buenos Aires, CTT for countering trafficking in human beings in Brasilia, etc). At the same time, the establishment of regional and bi-regional Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) is fostered through dedicated support (countering with a dedicated platform for 24/7 support, the JITs+Channel).

The programme supported around 20 different regional big-impact operational actions during 2025.

The following can be briefly highlighted:

- Operation SENTINEL: As part of the implementation of CLASI's Operational Action Plan-Arms, supported by EL PACCTO 2.0, the operation was carried out under Uruguay's coordination. A total of 10,999 officers, 1,320 vehicles, 67 dogs and 8 scanners were deployed, amounting to an estimated 1,237 hours of operational effort. Checks were conducted on 213,673 individuals and 114,604 vehicles. Results: 187 arrests and 343 firearms (handguns and assault rifles). Led by Chile's Ministry of Public Security, co-led by Ecuador's Ministry of the Interior, and involving several countries in the region, AMERIPOL and the ARCO Network.
- Operation ROUGH SEAS against firearms trafficking in the Caribbean region, in coordination with CARICOM IMPACS and all its members states leading to coordinated seizures of more than a hundred handguns and 10.000 rounds of ammunition, in addition to high-grade marijuana.
- Operation ATENEA: The Cybercrime Specialized Centre (AC3) of the American Police Community (AMERIPOL), together with the police forces of Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Spain, Honduras and Paraguay, successfully concluded a major transnational crackdown on the distribution of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) online. Supported with technical assistance from EL PACCTO 2.0 -resulted in 14 arrests, 18 searches, and the seizure of dozens of electronic devices containing critical digital evidence. Subsequently, an operational action was carried
- Operation KAERB: Five convictions linked to a cybercrime platform. Coordinated from Buenos Aires with support from EUROPOL, AMERIPOL and EL PACCTO 2.0, the operation spanned 6 countries, resulting in 17 arrests. Five individuals (included 1 High-Value Target) were convicted of 4,245 cases of computer fraud, receiving prison sentences of one to three years, all to be served in full.

- Operation GUYANA SHIELD: Since late 2024, a team comprising police and judicial experts from Brazil, Guyana, Suriname and France (French Guiana) has been receiving technical assistance and support from EL PACCTO 2.0 to foster cross-border cooperation in combating illegal gold mining. As a result, from 8 to 12 December, a joint operational action was conducted under the coordination of team members at the CCPI in Manaus, Brazil, with the support of INTERPOL. The cross-border operation involved over 24,500 checks on vehicles and individuals and led to almost 200 arrests. These include the detention in Guyana of three men on suspicion of gold smuggling and money laundering. They were carrying unprocessed gold and USD 590,000 in cash and are alleged to be members of a major organized crime group with possible links to a leading Guyanan gold exporting firm.
- Operation DEEPCLEAR against THB and the use of social media for fake job offers, leading to coordinated arrests and the identification of more than 800 victims.
- Additionally, EL PACCTO 2.0 is actively supporting 4 different ongoing JITs (two of them bi-regional, another two in between different Latin American countries).

C. EUROFRONT

EUROFRONT (Support for Integrated Border Management in Latin America) promotes intra-Latin American and bi-regional EU–Latin America cooperation in the fields of Integrated Border Management (IBM) and the fight against trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling. The programme is led by Spain (FIAPP), with the participation of Italy (IILA) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and is guided by cross-cutting principles including human rights, gender equality, good governance, the rule of law and fundamental freedoms. It complements other EU cooperation programmes in the areas of justice and security.

The programme initially focused on strengthening border management in four strategic areas: Rumichaca (Colombia–Ecuador), Desaguadero (Peru–Bolivia), the Triple Border (Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay), and Aguas Blancas–Bermejo (Argentina–Bolivia). It is currently active in Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Uruguay and Paraguay, where it has strengthened operational capacities, intelligence-sharing mechanisms and cooperation among partner countries to address organised crime and enhance citizen security.

EUROFRONT has been extended until January 2029, allowing for the consolidation of results, the integration of customs-related aspects, and an expansion to Central America, covering Guatemala, El Salvador, Panama, Costa Rica and Honduras.

Summary of the main concrete results and actions, including some examples of the work developed in 2025 under EUROFRONT:

Regional and bi-regional coordination

EUROFRONT contributed to the 48th Meeting of the Andean Community High-Level Group on Border Integration and Development (GANIDF) in Colombia, by presenting analytical studies on the current state of the initiative to improve and fully establish Binational Border Service Centres (CEBAF), strengthening regional coordination on integrated border management.

In December 2025, the first Regional Meeting of the Athens Network (Red Atenas) took place in Asunción. The meeting brought together border, migration and law-enforcement authorities from partner countries, as well as international organisations, to strengthen cooperation against document fraud. Exchanges focused on information-sharing, emerging fraud trends, operational coordination and capacity-building, marking a key step in the institutional consolidation of the Network.

Operational results – Component 1: Integrated Border Management

In 2025, EUROFRONT delivered tangible operational results by reinforcing intra-regional and EU–Latin America cooperation on border management, particularly through enhanced data exchange, document analysis and migration intelligence.

A core achievement is the Athens Network (Red Atenas), an operational cooperation mechanism bringing together border, migration and document-fraud experts to detect fraudulent travel documents at border crossings and support law-enforcement action. Through structured information exchange and joint verification processes, the Network enables the rapid identification of high-risk individuals linked to organised crime, terrorism and drug trafficking.

Over 20 months of implementation, Red Atenas has contributed to 155 arrests. In 2025, the Network was implemented in Uruguay, including the establishment of a national node, and is currently active in seven countries, with a pilot underway in Brazil.

A notable operational milestone was a joint operation by Spanish and Ecuadorian authorities leading to the arrest in Spain of two members of the Ecuadorian criminal organisation “Los Lobos”, including its leader, “Pipo”, considered one of the most prominent drug-trafficking figures in Ecuador. The arrests were enabled by document analysis conducted within the Athens Network, which identified inconsistencies between the suspects declared identities and official records. These findings were confirmed through an extraordinary verification process involving the Atenas Points of Spain, Colombia and Ecuador, the latter two established with EUROFRONT support.

In parallel, the Migration Intelligence and Analysis Network supported under Component 1 contributed to five coordinated operations, the production of four analytical intelligence products, and one additional product currently under development in Peru, directly supporting the disruption of criminal networks.

Technical assistance and policy support

EUROFRONT supported key regional policy frameworks, including the Andean Community's Resolutive Action Plan (PAR) and Decision No. 936 on migration information exchange and the establishment of an Andean Data Bank, as well as the MERCOSUR Agreement on Linked Border Localities.

EUROFRONT supported the international exercise "Charlie Lima Bravo", held in Ávila, focused on the collection and analysis of migration-related information from open sources. The exercise brought together more than 35 countries and 50 institutions, strengthening analytical capacities, information-sharing practices and the use of open-source intelligence (OSINT) to better understand and anticipate migratory flows.

In August 2025, the programme strengthened binational coordination at the Rumichaca border between Ecuador and Colombia to improve the protection of human rights in border contexts. Activities included specialised training for frontline personnel on human rights and gender, and the establishment of a Binational Technical Roundtable tasked with developing a joint protocol to address cases involving violations of fundamental rights.

Migration Intelligence Networks (RIMs): [Ecuador](#), Colombia, [Paraguay](#), and Peru have established inter-agency platforms to generate and share intelligence on irregular migration, trafficking, and smuggling. These networks contribute to the dismantling of transnational organized crime groups by enhancing coordination and information sharing among national authorities.

Component 2: Trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling

EUROFRONT Component 2 concluded in February 2025, having delivered significant results at both national and regional levels. Nationally, the programme strengthened legal frameworks, institutional capacities and information systems, supporting reforms such as the regulation of anti-trafficking legislation in Ecuador, draft legislation in Paraguay, and the implementation of Brazil's National Action Plan against migrant smuggling. Improvements to information systems in Argentina, Brazil and Colombia enhanced data quality, analysis and case traceability. At regional level, EUROFRONT promoted coordinated responses to transnational criminal networks through the consolidation of the Regional Platform against Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling (PRETT) as a space for cooperation and exchange of good practices.

III. Other EU-funded inter-regional initiatives in which some CELAC countries participate: The EU Global Illicit Flows Programme in CELAC countries

The **Global Illicit Flows Programme (GIFP)** is currently the umbrella term for the actions implemented by the EU's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) designed to combat organised crime and illicit trafficking. With the launch of new flagship projects on air and sea trafficking and criminal justice support expected for 2026, the use of the GIFP branding will be gradually discontinued in favour of the broader 'EU Global Threats Programme', encompassing also interventions in a wider policy spectrum (e.g. maritime security, cyber, CBRN etc)⁸ CELAC countries participate in the following actions under the GIFP:

⁸ An overview of the wider portfolio of actions is available here: [EU Global Threats Programme - EU Global Threats programme - European Union](#)

A. AIRCOP

AIRCOP (Airport Communication Project) implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in partnership with the World Customs Organisation (WCO) and INTERPOL, is the longest running GIFP project (since 2010). It builds interdiction capacities at selected international airports by establishing Joint Airport Interdiction Task Forces (JAITFs), promoting information sharing at international level, as well as intelligence-led approach to countering transnational organised crime and terrorism.

Currently in phase VI running until 2026, CELAC countries (and airports) covered by AIRCOP include: Argentina (Buenos Aires), Barbados (Bridgetown), Bolivia (Santa Cruz), Brazil (Sao Paulo, associate), Colombia (Bogota, associate), Dominican Republic (Santo Domingo and Punta Cana), Ecuador (Quito), El Salvador (San Salvador), Jamaica (Kingston and Montego Bay), Panama (Panama City), Peru (Lima, associate) and, the latest unit, Paraguay (Asuncion, pending MoU signature). The Paraguay unit is fully established and actively participating in capacity building and operational activities while the formal MoU process is being finalized. With non-EU funding, Chile has joined the initiative with a unit fully established, and engagement is ongoing in Mexico, Belize and Antigua and Barbuda where units are established or under establishment, while Joint Airport Interdiction Task Forces (JAITFs) are fully established in Bolivia (La Paz), Ecuador (Guayaquil) and Trinidad and Tobago, also with non-EU funding.

During the reporting period, AIRCOP VI, through the joint efforts of UNODC, WCO and INTERPOL, continued to deliver tangible results in the CELAC region in support of Member States' efforts to address transnational organized crime. The Programme actively supported a network of 14 JAITFs across 12 partner countries in CELAC, strengthening coordinated, intelligence-led responses at international airports.

AIRCOP maintained a strong focus on sustainable capacity development. In 2025, more than 37 capacity-building activities were delivered across the CELAC region, consolidating operational foundations and enhancing the application of risk-based targeting and interdiction practices. During the reporting period, AIRCOP further strengthened South–South cooperation by drawing on regional expertise, including contributions from current and former JAITF officers as trainers and mentors, thereby reinforcing peer-to-peer learning and national ownership.

To anchor implementation in national priorities and promote sustainability, AIRCOP convened 10 steering committee meetings in 7 CELAC countries during the reporting period. These platforms supported nationally owned planning, ensured counterpart engagement and provided strategic guidance to align activities with evolving national and regional needs.

Operational cooperation and information exchange remained central to delivery. JAITFs participated in 3 joint operations during the reporting period, reflecting continued commitment to international law enforcement cooperation. In parallel, AIRCOP facilitated the exchange of operational information through CENcomm, enabling secure and rapid communication among airport-based authorities on alerts, targeting information and ongoing cases.

In support of these operational efforts, AIRCOP provided operational equipment to strengthen frontline capacities in the Dominican Republic (Punta Cana and Santo Domingo JAITFs) and Paraguay (JAITF Asunción), contributing to enhanced operational readiness and the sustained functioning of inter-agency airport teams.

Operational impact in the CELAC region is further reflected in the 617 seizures recorded by CELAC JAITFs during the reporting period, based on available CENcomm III data. Drugs remained the most frequently seized commodity, followed by medicines and pharmaceutical products, underscoring the effectiveness of AIRCOP’s integrated approach combining targeting, intelligence-sharing and joint operations. Through analysis-based cooperation with INTERPOL and WCO, selected CELAC-related cases informed analytical products including reports, newsletters and trend analyses, which were shared across the network to support operational decision-making.

At the national level, AIRCOP's emphasis on the JAITF model continued to strengthen inter-agency cooperation across CELAC partner countries, contributing to improved operational effectiveness and the mitigation of corruption risks. All supported units operate in an inter-agency manner, which in several contexts represents a distinctive coordination mechanism within national security architectures.

- AIRCOP has established the Africa-Latin America and the Caribbean Exchange Programme, aimed at strengthening and prioritizing South-South cooperation and information sharing among JAITFs in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. The two exchange visits foreseen under the initiative were successfully carried out in Lagos, Nigeria in August 2025 and in Bridgetown, Barbados in December 2025. The visits brought together JAITFs from Nigeria, Ghana, The Gambia, Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, alongside CARICOM IMPACS JRCC, INTERCOPS (Brazil), DIRAN (Colombia) and the Canada Border Services Agency, with non-EU funded units supported by Canada. Discussions focused on operational practices and intelligence frameworks across both passenger and cargo environments, including best practices for profiling and interdiction, innovation in data exploitation such as Jamaica's data collection initiatives, and cross border information sharing facilitated by JRCC. The dialogue reinforced a shared understanding of emerging trafficking trends affecting Latin America, the Caribbean and West and Central Africa, and helped build trust, resilience and longer-term cooperation between participating units. This Programme is slated to continue with virtual encounters and updates throughout 2026. In May 2025, at the request of the Office of the Attorney General of Barbados, concerned about regional security dynamics affecting the country, CRIMJUST and AIRCOP collaborated to deliver a meeting which served as a platform for senior management personnel of national authorities to gain insights into the multifaceted nature of TOC and explore actionable solutions tailored to regional needs. The meeting highlighted the importance of fostering partnerships between national governments, regional organizations (e.g., CARICOM IMPACS and the RSS), and international bodies. By exploring a holistic approach that integrates preventive measures, capacity-building initiatives, and robust legal frameworks, participants gained additional insights into creating resilient systems capable of countering TOC while promoting sustainable development, advancing fairer and more accountable justice systems, and ensuring the protection of human rights in Barbados and across the Caribbean.

- In December 2025, Aircop Task Forces in the Caribbean also participated in regional and international WCO led operations, namely Operation Calypso and Operation COCAIR VIII. The feedback phase of these operations is ongoing and final reporting will be done within the first quarter of 2026. Both operations focused on drug and firearm trafficking and sought to promote joint efforts to combating organized crime at air and/or maritime ports. During each Operation, Aircop Teams in Jamaica and Barbados were engaged and directly contributed/led the interception of narcotics.
- Since 2023, the Aircop has maintained a formal cooperation agreement with the Customs and Border Management Directorate of the Spanish Guardia Civil. This partnership has supported high-level capacity-building activities for established Joint Airport Interdiction Task Forces (JAITFs) in Spanish-speaking Latin America and the Caribbean, while also facilitating a structured framework for the exchange of operational information between key airport gateways in Europe and Latin America, contributing to significant seizures. In 2025, this cooperation was operationalized through 5 targeted capacity-building activities, including specialized training courses, operational internships at major European airports and expert advisory missions, aimed at strengthening airport interdiction, air cargo control and tax and border management capacities across the region.
- In the Southern Cone, Paraguay's newly established JAITF is fully integrated into the Programme's network, actively participating in information exchange with partner countries and already delivering initial operational results. In November 2025, this cooperation contributed to the seizure of 21 kilograms of gold and the dismantling of an internal network involving airport employees. During the reporting period, officials from Chile, Argentina, Paraguay and Bolivia also participated in a study visit to Madrid airport. The engagement, supported by the Spanish Guardia Civil, further strengthened operational cooperation and led to additional cocaine interdictions and the arrest of drug couriers through established information-sharing channels

- The JAITF at Ezeiza International Airport in Buenos Aires has continued to serve as a regional reference point, maintaining active operational collaboration with counterparts across the region. Given that Argentine nationals are frequently recruited as drug couriers on routes from South America to Europe, particularly via Brazil, the unit plays a key role in regional interdiction efforts. In recognition of the Programme's impact, Argentine Customs has formally requested the expansion of Aircop support to Jorge Newbery Airport (Aeroparque), the country's second-busiest airport.
- In Panama, Aircop activities continued to deliver tangible operational results at Tocumen International Airport, including significant seizures of illicit drugs and other contraband on high-risk routes connecting Panama with Europe, North America and Oceania. These results reflect the effectiveness of joint airport interdiction efforts and strengthened inter-agency cooperation under Aircop. Building on these achievements, UNODC and the Government of Panama are in the final stages of formalizing a new Letter of Agreement, which will further reinforce Aircop implementation by expanding the scope of operations beyond air cargo to formally include passenger control. The forthcoming agreement is also expected to broaden institutional participation by incorporating additional national stakeholders, including airport security personnel from Tocumen International Airport, thereby enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of joint airport interdiction operations.
- JAITFs in Barbados and Jamaica took part in regional training activities throughout 2025 covering topics such as investigative interviewing, airport crisis management, reporting, firearms recognition, as well as the regional meeting of the Aircop CARICOM JAITFs. Jamaica also conducted its national operation which led to many seizures in July 2025.

Throughout 2025, the JAITFs in Barbados and Jamaica actively participated in a range of regional capacity-building activities, strengthening operational, analytical and coordination skills. These activities covered key thematic areas including investigative interviewing techniques, airport crisis management, standardized reporting practices and firearms recognition, and were complemented by the regional meeting of Aircop CARICOM JAITFs, which further reinforced cooperation and information-sharing among Caribbean partners. In parallel, Jamaica implemented a national operation during the reporting period, demonstrating the operational maturity of the JAITFs and the effective application of acquired capacities.

B. COLIBRI

- COLIBRI (Monitoring and Controlling General Aviation), launched in 2019 and implemented by the WCO, assists in tackling illicit trafficking via general aviation. The second phase of COLIBRI started in April 2023 and will be running until 2026. Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Bolivia and Ecuador are partners in the project. COLIBRI developed the Geoportal, a geolocalisation tool aimed to support surveillance of movements by general aviation to enhance international cooperation and information-sharing among law enforcement agencies.
- General Aviation remains highly vulnerable to exploitation by transnational organised crime groups due to its flexibility, limited oversight in remote areas, and the availability of lightly regulated aerodromes. Criminal networks increasingly use GA aircraft to transport drugs, weapons, cash, and other illicit commodities across borders while avoiding traditional control points. The combination of vast territories, insufficient surveillance coverage, and the presence of undeclared or clandestine runways further amplifies these risks. In several regions, sophisticated criminal organisations have developed the logistical capacity to operate aircraft, modify flight plans, and rapidly adapt routes to evade detection. These dynamics make GA a strategic enabler for long-distance trafficking, fiscal fraud, and other forms of transnational organised criminal activity, underscoring the need for continuous monitoring, harmonised control practices, and strengthened international cooperation.
- In 2025, COLIBRI intensified its efforts to raise awareness of the risks associated with the potential use of General Aviation (GA) by transnational organised crime and to promote stronger international collaboration among partner administrations. The project works to strengthen the harmonisation of GA control and inspection techniques and over 2025, significantly improved information exchange across countries and regions. A major milestone was the **WCO Forum on General Aviation Control**, held in **December 2025 in Argentina**, which gathered practitioners from **30 countries** and brought together more than **100 participants**. The Forum deepened intercontinental cooperation and reinforced trust among partners.

- As part of this broader engagement effort, COLIBRI conducted **two monitoring missions**, including one in **Brazil**, aimed at reinforcing cooperation with national administrations and supporting their continued leadership in GA control. Given Brazil’s advanced capabilities and resources, the mission focused on consolidating strategic alignment and strengthening Brazil’s role within the COLIBRI network. A second monitoring mission in **Ecuador** enabled the project to assess progress and identify areas requiring additional support.
- The formalisation of cooperation frameworks continued to advance. In 2025, new Memoranda of Cooperation (MoC) were signed with Customs Brazil (Receita Federal) in September 2025, and Customs Peru (SUNAT) in October 2025, and the Uruguayan Air Force in November 2025. These add to the MoCs already signed with Argentina (Customs and Ministry of Security), Colombia (Air Force), Peru (DEVIDA), and Uruguay (Customs). In total, five countries now have MoCs signed across several administrations, and discussions with the remaining countries, such as Ecuador are progressing.
- Mentoring and IT tutoring activities expanded significantly over 2025. A total of five missions were organised in Bolivia (July 2025), Brazil (August 2025), Paraguay (September 2025), Uruguay (October 2025), and Peru (November 2025), providing tailored mentoring and support to strengthen the use of COLIBRI tools and improve operational preparedness. With most countries covered in 2024–2025, only Argentina and Ecuador remain scheduled for mentoring and tutoring missions in 2026. These activities continue to be instrumental in identifying implementation challenges and boosting operational engagement among national counterparts.

- Operation COLIBRI Paramuno, conducted from 1 to 16 March 2025 in partnership with the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre – Narcotics (MAOC-N) and preceded by a pre-operational meeting in Brussels in February 2025, represented a major operational milestone. Building on lessons from Operation Rutilant (2023), Paramuno focused on detecting contraband, identifying emerging trafficking trends, and uncovering illicit activities within the General Aviation (GA) sector. Over a 16-day period, more than 1,900 General Aviation (GA) controls were registered in the WCO Geoportal. In Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), the operation resulted in the seizure of 2.2 tons of drugs, the confiscation of weapons, the identification of more than 70 undeclared runways, and the efficient cross-border recovery of stolen aircraft, stolen in one country and located in another. This achievement is particularly significant, as aircraft theft, often involving robbery and violent aggression, has been observed as an emerging trend in the region. These recoveries demonstrate the growing strength of international cooperation among LAC countries.
- To further harmonise practices and finalise the project’s training resources, the 6th Expert Meeting was held in July 2025 in Spain, hosted by the Guardia Civil. Experts worked on updating training materials and standardising the toolkits that will be delivered to partners in all four project languages, ensuring consistency and long-term usability. The meeting was also extended to newly accredited experts from the WCO process and specialists from the region, reinforcing continuity and contributing to the development of lasting regional expertise.
- **SEACOP (Seaport Cooperation Project)**, implemented by Expertise France and FIAP, aims to contribute to the fight against maritime illicit trafficking and associated criminal networks in Latin America, the Caribbean, and West Africa. The project does so by enhancing cooperation and information sharing, as well as strengthening capacities for maritime search and interdiction of illicit commodities at the national, regional, and transregional levels, with the support of Frontex, MAOC-N, and EMPACT. The sixth phase of the project began in November 2023 and will run until October 2026. CELAC countries covered by SEACOP include: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Panama, Peru, Paraguay, St Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.

- In November 2024 – an Environmental Crime Seminar was held in Guyana with support of CANU and ECOSOLVE to share information about the threat and provide training solutions, as well as acting as operational and intelligence vehicle to combat its presence and effects in beneficiary regions.
- At the beginning of 2025, SEACOP officially welcomed Suriname and Costa Rica as partners through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding. In March, a JMCU Basic Training was completed in Suriname. In Costa Rica, MIU Basic and Advanced courses were delivered, along with a JMCU Basic Training.
- In April 2025 a Seminar on Transnational Crimes and their Impact on the Amazon was held in Colombia, in cooperation with the Colombian National Navy, ECOSOLVE and UNODC. The seminar aimed to analyse the link between drug trafficking and illicit economies, revealing a series of related crimes that have an impact on the environment, and which are complex to investigate due to their lack of knowledge.
- From May to November 2025, a JMCU Competition was conducted in Antigua, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, St Kitts and Navies and Antigua and Barbuda. The competition was designed to encourage JMCUs to meet regularly, do refresher training, and focus on safety. The subsequent assessment came after activity which included refresher training, documented proof of two team meetings, and safety training. These “entry requirements” for the competition achieved the objective of the competition. The competition also provides an opportunity to assess the team’s effectiveness, to identify areas that need further development, and to mentor the teams.

- This year, SEACOP reinforced its GRES (Special Response Group) strategy, enhancing inter-regional cooperation between Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa. This strategy is structured around two main axes: a horizontal dimension, which brings together the different actors involved across the response chain, and a vertical dimension, which addresses the successive stages of contamination and response. To this end, efforts must focus on improving knowledge of the threat by implementing specialized courses on maritime drug trafficking. The network of Anti-Drug Prosecutors (RFAI) and the EMPACT Operational Action are supporting the project. Two groups of countries were defined: GRES Atlantic with Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Brazil and GRES Pacific with Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and Panama. 8 GRES Operational Meetings were conducted within the GRES Atlantico and GRES Pacifico frameworks.

C. CRIMJUST

CRIMJUST, implemented by UNODC in collaboration with INTERPOL since 2016, is a Global Illicit Flows Programme (GIFP) flagship initiative supporting Member States along illicit supply chains to move beyond interdiction and actively disrupt and dismantle organized crime networks. It strengthens transnational investigations and prosecutions, fosters international cooperation in criminal justice matters, and promotes joint actions against criminal groups. In addition, CRIMJUST promotes ethics, integrity, and the integration of human rights and gender considerations in criminal justice responses. Currently in its third and last phase, running until March 2026, CRIMJUST's legacy will continue through the forthcoming EU criminal justice project THEMIS, set to launch in the second quarter of 2026.

The last phase CRIMJUST has engaged the following CELAC countries as active partners: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.

In 2025, prosecution guidelines under CRIMJUST III set common standards within the region and enhance cross-border collaboration. These efforts are reflected in the following key documents:

- AIAMP Protocol on the Security and Protection of Prosecutors
- Guide of Best Practices in Security and Protection of Prosecutors
- Guide of Best Practices in International Cooperation for Environmental Crime Investigations
- Guide for MERCOSUR Border Prosecutors on Cross-Border Investigations
- Guide of Best Practices in International Cooperation for Corruption Case Investigations

The following CRIMJUST implementation achievements in CELAC countries should be highlighted for 2025:

- **JIT on Environmental Crime:** With CRIMJUST support, a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) was established and is now being implemented between Peru and Bolivia to address environmental crime. At Bolivia's request, CRIMJUST facilitated the process by offering technical expertise, legal input, and tools such as the newly adopted international cooperation guide on crimes affecting the environment, endorsed by the AIAMP General Assembly in May 2025.
- **First Application of AIAMP Prosecutor Protection Protocol:** In September 2025, the AIAMP Protocol for the Protection of Prosecutors – developed with technical support from CRIMJUST – was applied for the first time during the trial of a high-profile organized crime figure in Rio de Janeiro. The defendant, prosecuted for committing a homicide in Paraguay to avoid extradition to Brazil, faced trial under heightened security measures. A Paraguayan prosecutor testified for nearly seven hours before the Jury Court in Rio de Janeiro, under a comprehensive protection arrangement coordinated by Brazil's Federal Prosecutor's Office (MPF), in full compliance with the Protocol.
- **Human Rights and Gender Roadmaps:** CRIMJUST roadmap have catalysed state initiatives in Trinidad and Tobago and Ecuador, strengthening human rights safeguards in organised crime contexts and promoting gender-responsive criminal justice strategies.

- Organized crime terrorism nexus: CRIMJUST enhanced the capacity of Jamaican law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges to address organized crime cases with terrorism-related linkages through targeted training on operational, legal, and institutional responses. The national training fostered inter-agency coordination and international cooperation, while integrating expertise from CRIMJUST on cross-border crime disruption, legal frameworks, and human rights-compliant counter-terrorism practices. A key outcome was the co-development of a national roadmap to institutionalize Jamaica’s strategic response to the crime-terror nexus.
- Anti-Corruption Efforts: CRIMJUST supported the VIII. Meeting of the Ibero-American Network of Prosecutors against Corruption (RFIC) in June 2025. This event offered a valuable platform to highlight CRIMJUST’s integrity-focused initiatives while promoting the dissemination and practical use of the Guidelines on International Criminal Justice Cooperation in the Investigation and Prosecution of Corruption Cases. The meeting also strengthened the RFIC network by fostering trust-building and enhancing regional cooperation among specialized anti-corruption prosecutors.
- Criminal Analysis: The AIAMP GTAC (Criminal Analysis) Working Group Meeting in Santiago de Chile in November 2025 explored priority issues such as drug-related crime in ports and the trafficking of synthetic opioids – topics essential to protecting strategic infrastructure from organized crime. It also facilitated an exchange of experiences with the Ibero-American Anti-Drug Prosecutors Network (RAI), strengthening operational ties and boosting regional cooperation. Overall, the meeting acted as a catalyst for advancing criminal analysis efforts and promoting joint strategies to counter organized crime across the region.

D. EU Action on Container Control in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa

The EU Action on Container Control in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa commenced on 1st December 2025 and is currently in the inception phase. The primary goal is to enhance the capability of local authorities to identify and intercept containers used for transporting illicit goods, such as drugs and weapons.

The project is implemented by UNODC, with WCO/OMD as a partner. It focuses on training activities and technical support for the customs and police authorities of the partner countries, aiming to strengthen container controls at ports and other strategic entry points.

The partner countries are in the process of being identified and may indicatively include: Benin, Ghana, Senegal, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Panama, with Morocco as an associated country. The final selection of partner countries will be confirmed during the inception phase, in consultation with the national authorities of the partner countries.

E. EU Global AML/CFT Facility

In 2025, the Facility provided support to countries across the LAC region through a mix of regional and national activities, both online and onsite. Overall, support was provided to support countries in relation to FATF evaluations, namely preparation for the new round of FATF mutual evaluation which started in 2025 (ex. Cuba, Colombia, El Salvador, Peru, Costa Rica), support to countries which are listed by FATF and the EU (ex. Bolivia) as well as support to countries in addressing the recommendations contained in their last mutual evaluation (ex: Paraguay).

In terms of thematic areas, support on AML/CFT was provided in relation to protecting non-profits from abuse for terrorist financing (Argentina); turning intelligence into evidence (Bolivia); virtual assets (Colombia, El Salvador; Peru); the notary sector (Costa Rica); FATF statistics (Cuba); strategic approach to national risk assessment (Haiti); as well as special investigation techniques (Paraguay).

While the main interlocutors at the national level are the National Coordinators on AML/CFT or the Financial Intelligence Units, the Facility also closely worked with the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT), and to a lesser extent the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF). In addition to participating in all GAFILAT plenaries (July and December 2025), the Facility also worked with GAFILAT to help its member countries to prepare for their upcoming mutual evaluations, namely through a Manual on FATF statistics and templates (which was subsequently presented to the FATF plenary and raised interest beyond the LA region), and a Report on the national and regional priorities in terms of effectiveness for the upcoming evaluations. Both documents were approved by GAFILAT plenary in July 2025. Finally, the Facility delivered a regional online training on the Manual on FATF statistics for all GAFILAT countries, and started working on a new joint activity on the use of storytelling to present data in the ongoing GAFILAT's round of mutual evaluations

Throughout 2025, the Facility maintained close coordination/contact with other EU financed projects in LAC (in particular EL PAcCTO and COPOLAD).

F. ECO-SOLVE

ECO-SOLVE (Disrupting Illicit Environmental Commodity Flows Through Innovative Activities) has been designed to monitor the illicit online trade of environmental commodities, extract useful and digestible data that can inform law enforcement actions, while driving greater transparency and accountability in tackling illicit online markets. It will run until August 2026. It covers multiple regions with focus on the Amazonia basin (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, and Peru) in Latin America.

IV. CELAC contributions to the implementation of the La Paz Declaration

Within the framework of the XXVI High-Level Meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs, held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, on April 30, 2026, an agenda item was dedicated to the presentation of successful experiences in the implementation of the La Paz Declaration.

On behalf of CELAC, the heads of delegation from Uruguay, Panama, and Jamaica, representing the South American, Central American, and Caribbean subregions respectively, presented the results of an exercise aimed at identifying successful experiences in the implementation of the La Paz Declaration at the subregional level.

The results by subregion are summarized below.

SOUTH AMERICA

1. Strengthening early warning systems and regional prevention

Chile stands out for strengthening the Early Warning System, SAT Drogas, in order to improve capacities for the detection, analysis, and timely management of new drug-related phenomena and New Psychoactive Substances (NPS). In Chile's case, and in partnership with other countries in the subregion, the strengthening of Comprehensive Drug Use Prevention Systems should also be highlighted. Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Brazil will participate in this advisory initiative, which seeks to enhance peer learning and develop common analytical and monitoring tools.

2. Environmentally responsible management and control of synthetic drugs

Ecuador has established itself as a regional benchmark in the environmentally responsible management and destruction of illicit drugs and chemical precursors, in line with the principles of the La Paz Declaration. Among the methodologies applied, encapsulation stands out. Within the framework of the COPOLAD III program, Ecuador developed the "Manual for the Treatment, Management, and Final Disposal of Precursors and Chemical Substances in Ecuador." Ecuador has also promoted international coordination spaces, particularly through the organization of the International Conference on Synthetic Drugs in Ecuador (2026), aimed at anticipating and preventing the spread of these substances.

3. Specialized and inclusive care for women and diverse populations

In February 2026, **Uruguay** inaugurated a new center to address problematic drug use, focused on providing care for women and gender-diverse persons. The center is located in the city of Las Piedras, in the Department of Canelones, a densely populated area where significant unmet social needs still exist. This initiative is the result of the Uruguayan government's decision to develop innovative responses, based on a human rights approach that integrates a gender perspective, in accordance with the principles of common and shared responsibility among States in responding to the world drug problem.

This initiative emerged from community participation and territorial work. Traditional treatment facilities were, in many cases, strongly characterized by a predominantly male presence. This created difficulties, situations of discomfort, violence, and even risk. Many women simply did not access these services. The new center is conceived as an open-door space with extended hours, designed not only for consultation but also as a place where people can stay, build relationships, and reduce exposure to the risks and violence associated with homelessness and violent situations. Most of the women served had complex trajectories involving judicial issues, mental health problems, and a very high percentage (more than 70%) experiencing homelessness. Strong emphasis is placed on building trust and respecting the pace of each individual process. The center seeks to ensure that no woman or gender-diverse person with substance use issues is left outside the system due to a lack of appropriate responses.

CENTRAL AMERICA

1. Knowledge generation and evidence-based decision-making

Guatemala has taken a strategic step by strengthening its National Drug Observatory. This effort has enabled effective coordination between academia and public institutions, consolidating a national research network and a scientific advisory committee. This progress is essential, as it allows public policies to be guided by solid data, improving their precision, effectiveness, and sustainability.

2. Strengthening institutional and professional capacities

Through its training and certification program for human resources in the treatment and prevention of drug use disorders, **El Salvador** has committed to the professionalization of the system. Through its “Training and Certification Program for Human Resources in the Treatment and Prevention of Drug Use Disorders,” the country has invested in the professionalization of personnel, ensuring that care for people with drug use disorders is based on technical, ethical, and scientific standards. To date, more than 300 professionals have been certified, guaranteeing that treatment is grounded in technical and scientific standards. Furthermore, El Salvador has gone beyond this by developing a comprehensive Quality Assurance System for treatment services for people who use substances. This program establishes the creation of an Advisory Council on the Quality of Treatment for People with Substance Use Disorders, as well as a National Evaluation Instrument for the assessment and continuous improvement of service quality across all specialized public and private treatment units in the country. This demonstrates a clear commitment to institutionalizing continuous improvement, ensuring homogeneous standards, and strengthening trust in care systems.

3. Consolidation of comprehensive people-centered approaches, including care for vulnerable populations and the incorporation of a gender perspective

Costa Rica stands out for its participatory approach in the development of its National Drug Policy 2026–2035. This multisectoral process not only strengthens the legitimacy of public policy but also guarantees its sustainability over time by integrating multiple stakeholders into its design and implementation.

Likewise, **Panama** has made particularly relevant progress in strengthening service quality and incorporating differentiated approaches. Within the framework of the project entitled “Quality Assurance – Enabling Drug Dependence Treatment in Line with International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders in Latin America,” a regional initiative promoted with the support of UNODC, Panama has developed a national diagnosis of treatment services as well as a strategic roadmap for implementing a quality assurance system. Panama has also updated the minimum standards required for service authorization and developed innovative tools such as the Seal of Good Practices, which establishes clear criteria for both management and infrastructure. In addition, Panama has incorporated specific criteria for gender-responsive care, enabling progress toward more inclusive services adapted to the needs of vulnerable populations.

CARIBBEAN

1. Integration of robust Early Warning Systems (EWS) designed to identify and mitigate the threats posed by synthetic drugs and New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

The Caribbean's counter-drugs efforts are increasingly defined by the integration of robust Early Warning Systems (EWS) designed to identify and mitigate the threats posed by synthetic drugs and New Psychoactive Substances (NPS). These national networks prioritize multisectoral collaboration, bridging gaps between forensic analysis, public health data, and law enforcement to ensure rapid, evidence-based responses to emerging market trends.

Key milestones in this regional initiative demonstrate a rapid expansion of monitoring capabilities across member states. **Jamaica** advanced its national security posture with the implementation of a multi-sectoral EWS in February 2024, focusing on immediate alerts for psychotropic substances. Shortly thereafter, **Suriname** launched its own multidisciplinary system in July 2024, specifically tailored to monitor NPS and bolster public safety through centralized data collection. These developments complement the long-standing efforts of countries like **Antigua and Barbuda**, as well as **Trinidad and Tobago** that actively refined their national drug monitoring infrastructures to combat regional threats.

Simultaneously, other Caribbean nations are operationalizing sophisticated data-sharing frameworks to maintain peace and security. **Guyana** has successfully integrated forensic and public health databases into its GUYDIN system, while **Grenada** utilizes the GRENDEN network to provide consistent annual reporting to the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD).

2. Territorialization of drug response strategies by decentralizing targeted interventions to safeguard populations in vulnerable situations through community-level action

The Caribbean has made remarkable strides in "territorializing" its drug response strategies, as aligned with the La Paz Declaration, by decentralizing targeted interventions to safeguard populations in vulnerable situations through community-level action. **Belize** has led this charge via the COPOLAD territorialization project, which leverages sports and gardening initiatives to foster youth resilience and prevent substance misuse at the grassroots level. **Grenada** has similarly excelled with comprehensive school-based prevention programs, complemented by ongoing research into emerging threats like youth vaping, ensuring proactive trend detection.

Cuba's "Against Drugs We Win" campaign stands out as a success of localized impact, seamlessly blending community surveillance with tailored educational outreach to empower neighborhoods and shift behaviors effectively. Complementing these efforts, the region is achieving transformative progress by pivoting from punitive approaches to rehabilitative justice models. **Trinidad and Tobago** and **Guyana** are expanding their Drug Treatment Courts, which has been operational since the 2010s and gaining momentum in **Guyana** with innovative explorations of "Dissuasion Commissions" to offer non-violent offenders pathways to rehabilitation rather than incarceration.

3. Bolster border security through advanced technology and intelligence-led operations

As a critical transit point for global illicit trade, the Caribbean has achieved notable achievements in bolstering border security through advanced technology and intelligence-led operations.

Spearheaded by CARICOM IMPACS and the World Customs Organization (WCO), Operations CALYPSO I (2024) and CALYPSO II (2025) delivered transformative results, including the seizure of over one tonne each of cocaine and cannabis, plus 350 firearms, which decisively disrupting trafficking networks.

A standout Caribbean-led triumph is **Jamaica**'s own efforts in interdicting unprecedented amounts of cocaine in recent years. Since January this year, 4,323.87 Kg or 4.7 Tonnes of Cocaine valued at over 2.5 billion JMD was interdicted, including the country's largest single seizure of 2,763.8 kg of cocaine valuing 1.6 Billion JMD occurring on March 21, 2026.

Through the Advance Cargo Information System (ACIS) and Passenger Intelligence Units (PIU), CARICOM Member States now harness real-time data analytics to proactively intercept suspicious vessels and aircraft, markedly enhancing maritime and aerial domain awareness since their full regional rollout in 2023. These successes showcase the precision of collaborative efforts – locally, regionally and internationally.
