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COMMITTEE ON HEMISPHERIC SECURITY Original: English

Third Meeting of National Authorities on

Transnational Organized Crime (RANDOT III)

June 23-24, 2021

Virtual

RECOMMENDATIONS

AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

(Adopted by RANDOT III on June 24, 2021)

We, the National Authorities on Transnational Organized Crime and the representatives of the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), gathered virtually in Washington, D.C., on June 23 and 24, 2021, at the Third Meeting of National Authorities on Transnational Organized Crime (RANDOT-III), convened by the OAS General Assembly through resolution AG/RES. 2950 (L-O/20),

NOTING WITH DEEP CONCERN the diversity, complexity, and extent of transnational organized crime, and the multidimensional challenges that it poses for the security and protection of societies, economies, financial systems, institutions of governance, and democracies of member states in our region;

NOTING that in the Declaration on Security in the Americas, adopted at the Special Conference on Security, held in Mexico City in October 2003, the member states condemned transnational organized crime, since it constitutes an assault on institutions in our countries and negatively affects our societies, and renewed the commitment to fighting it by strengthening the domestic legal framework, the rule of law, and multilateral cooperation, respectful of the sovereignty of each state;

RECALLING that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the three protocols supplementary thereto, on Trafficking in Persons, Smuggling of Migrants, and Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition] constitute the cornerstone of international cooperation and essential legal framework for combating transnational organized crime; and welcoming the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of these instruments, as well as the entry into force of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and its protocols;

RECALLING ALSO that the "Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime," was adopted by the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States in October 2006 [CP/RES. 908 (1567/06)] with the principal objective of promoting the application by the OAS member states of the Convention and the protocols thereto;

UNDERSCORING the importance of strengthening coordination and collaboration between the relevant entities of the OAS General Secretariat and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in support of member states’ efforts to combat transnational organized crime;

MINDFUL that the transnational nature of certain crimes and their impact on member states calls for continued strengthening of the institutional capacities of the member states to combat transnational organized crime in all its manifestations, as well as close coordination and cooperation among national authorities, including establishing channels of communication between their competent authorities, agencies and services in order to facilitate the secure and rapid exchange of information;

DETERMINED to raise awareness and make recommendations to bolster Global and Hemispheric Efforts to address transnational organized crime;

OFFER THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

I. For member states

1. Adopt a Hemispheric Strategy against Transnational Organized Crime.
2. Continue promoting the implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime and adopt the performance indicators approved by the National Authorities against Transnational Organized Crime to facilitate the evaluation of the implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime.
3. Adopt the Draft OAS Guidelines on the Designation of National Authorities and National Points of Contact on Transnational Organized Crime.
4. Encourage all OAS Member States to develop and implement national strategies on transnational organized crime, in accordance with Section II, paragraph 1 of the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime.
5. Encourage greater collaboration among judicial, prosecutorial, law enforcement, and intelligence authorities of member states, and Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs), and a greater understanding of their sharing of information and its protection, especially when third parties are involved.
6. Encourage greater information sharing, to include operational information sharing in real time, which will enhance OAS member states transnational organized crime investigations and impact.
7. Request that the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH) continue to support the institutionalization of this important forum for dialogue and cooperation in order to ensure that a Meeting of National Authorities on Transnational Organized Crime be held every two years, in coordination with the work of the REMJA and MISPA processes and alternating annually with the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
8. Request that the CSH convene a meeting of the National Points of Contact every two years, to follow up on the Recommendations of the National Authorities and to continue to the work of coordination and communication, globally and hemispherically, to advance the implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action against TOC.
9. Mainstream a human-rights and gender perspective in their strategies, programs, projects, and activities, as well as in agencies and organizations that address transnational organized crime.
10. Promote greater dialogue and collaboration among UNODC, OAS, and member states aimed at fostering effective implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols supplementary thereto on Trafficking in Persons, Smuggling of Migrants, and Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition by national experts for mutual legal assistance and extradition in criminal matters.
11. Strengthen the existing OAS network of National Authorities on Transnational Organized Crime, encouraging all member states to nominate their national authorities and encourage interaction on a bilateral, sub-regional and regional level to make use of the network to advance the work of the UNTOC-COP and relevant OAS fora.
12. Call on member states that have not yet done so to designate as soon as possible a national point of contact to coordinate and facilitate follow-up to the Hemispheric Plan of Action at the domestic level, pursuant to Section III, paragraph 3, of the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime.
13. Call on the network of National Points of Contact on Transnational Organized Crime to advance and promote cooperation among member states to implement the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime through the regular exchange of information and practices, as necessary, and the sharing of access to training and technology-based solutions for combating transnational organized crime activities.
14. Invite OAS member and observer states to consider making voluntary, financial, technical, and/or human resource contributions in order to achieve the implementation of these recommendations.
15. Examine opportunities to implement joint law enforcement operations and continue joint investigative efforts.
16. Encourage national authorities, national points of contact, and law enforcement, to collaborate with international partners, academia, private sector, civil society, survivors, and other entities in countering TOC in line with the objectives and purposes of the UNTOC and the protocols supplementary thereto on Trafficking in Persons, Smuggling of Migrants, and Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, Parts and Components and Ammunition, as well as the Hemispheric Plan of Action against TOC.
17. Request member states to give economic content to national programs in the fight against organized crime in order to comply with the agreements reached in this proposal.
18. Encourage member states that are parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementary protocols to actively participate in the evaluation cycles of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and its protocols, with a view to fostering information sharing on good practices and problems encountered, as well as to help states parties implement these international instruments effectively.

II. For the General Secretariat of the OAS

1. Request the Secretariat of Multidimensional Security (SMS), through the Department against Transnational Organized Crime (DTOC) to maintain the directories of National Points of Contact and National Authorities on Transnational Organized Crime and to periodically update and distribute them to member states.
2. Request the DTOC to closely coordinate with CICTE, CICAD, the Department of Public Security, the Inter-American Security Observatory, and the Inter-American Network for Police Development and Professionalization (REDPPOL)and through the SMS with other parts of the General Secretariat (Legal Affairs for cybercrime and MESICIC for corruption); and fora (REMJA and MISPA) to ensure that their activities and assistance programs do not duplicate each other, and are aligned to effectively assist member states in their fight against transnational organized crime.
3. Request the DTOC to continue providing specialized training and technical assistance to those member states that request it, in those areas such as special investigative techniques, parallel financial investigations, joint investigations, and asset forfeiture and management, aimed at building law enforcement capacity to effectively combat transnational organized crime.
4. Request the DTOC to coordinate with the Inter-American Security Observatory to upload, make visible and share official data on transnational organized crime and its illegal activities, through said platform.
5. Request that DTOC and DPS coordinate closely with regard to police training and capacity building to effectively combat transnational organized crime, in particular with the REDPPOL.
6. Request the SMS and the DTOC to continue to work with the international donor community and member states to obtain financial support and cooperation for the technical assistance and capacity building programs requested by member states in order to achieve the purposes and objectives of these Recommendations; and to keep the Permanent Council informed, through its Committee on Hemispheric Security, about the results achieved.
7. Request the OAS Permanent Council to follow up on these Recommendations through the Committee on Hemispheric Security.

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