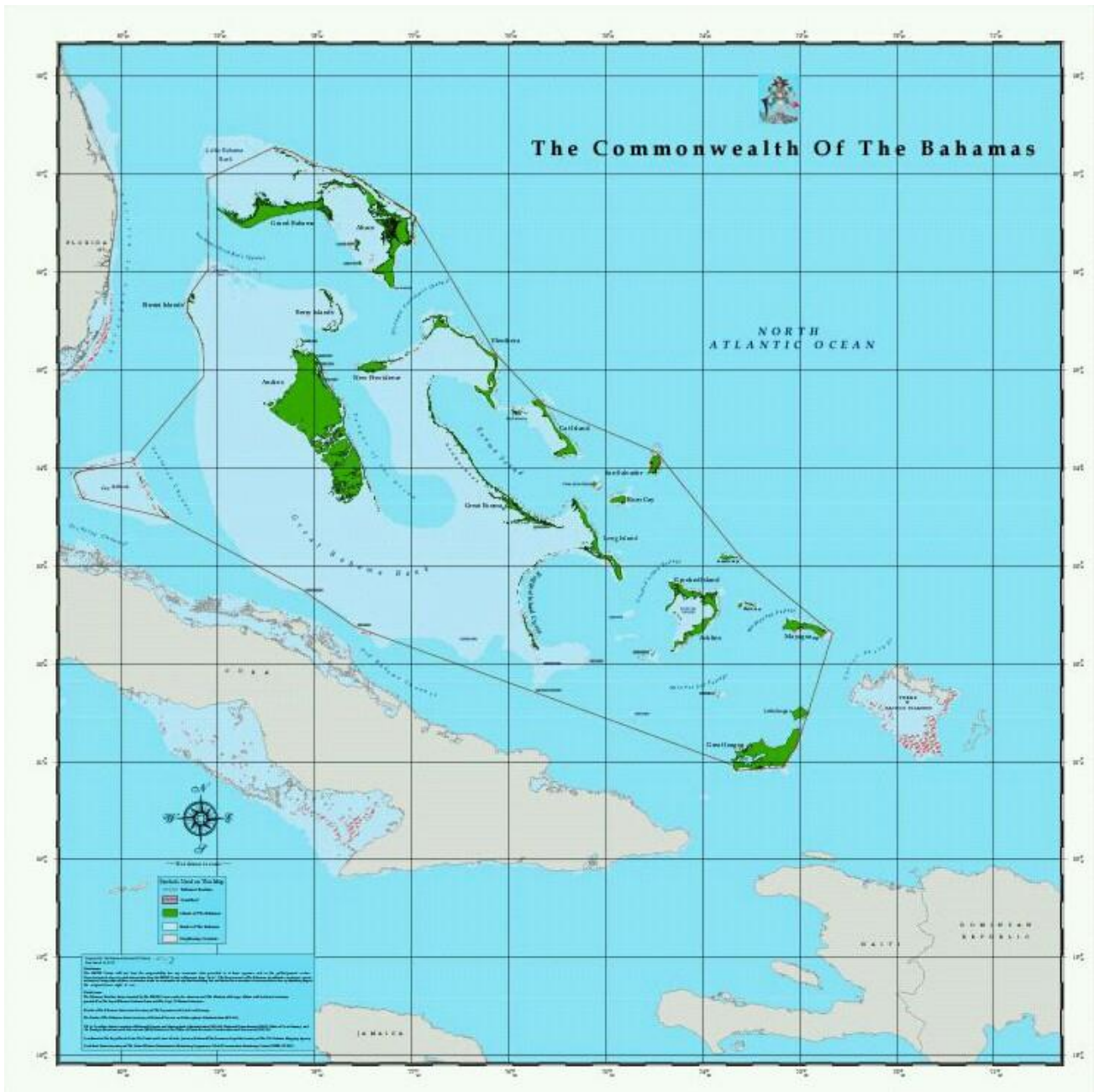




**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH
OF THE BAHAMAS
NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY 2012-2016**

**BUILDING COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS TO CURB
DEMAND, REDUCE SUPPLY, DISRUPT TRAFFICKING
NETWORKS, AND PROMOTE HEALTHY, DRUG-FREE
LIFESTYLES, ESPECIALLY AMONG YOUTH**



This map has been prepared by Bahamas National Geographic Information Systems (BNGIS) Centre

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A Message from the Minister of National Security

This Strategy details the Government's five-year plan to deal vigorously with the major and distinctive challenges drug abuse and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances present to our country. While the Strategy recognizes the damaging and harmful impact of drugs which has, for more than four decades, put our citizens, our neighborhoods, our communities and our country at risk, its primary focus is not on listing problems, but on crafting effective solutions to these problems.

The Strategy reinforces action taken to counter the drug problem over the years, including the work of Bahamas law enforcement, the criminal justice system, the drug treatment and rehabilitation facility at the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). It recognizes the significant progress the country has made in drug control, which has reduced the volume of cocaine and marijuana trafficked into and through The Bahamas from tons to pounds.

At the same time, the Strategy recognizes that changing patterns and trends in drug abuse and illicit trafficking continue to test our determination to deal vigorously with the drug problem. Today, drug abuse and illicit trafficking continue to be a major problem for our country, damaging lives through abuse and addiction, and driving crime and criminality, including through the widespread availability of illegal firearms, the weapons of choice in the commission of violent crime.

The Strategy's overarching objective is to mobilize the country as a whole for a comprehensive and effective national response to drug abuse and illicit trafficking, with particular focus on our young people. It therefore creates partnerships among Government Ministries/Agencies and civil society, including NGOs, the private sector, the churches, the media, professional associations, the schools and tertiary institutions to counter the dangers that drugs present.

New administrative and law enforcement mechanisms are created to contribute to the implementation of the Strategy. Courses of action, including professional training and research, are set out to build capacity to respond to all aspects of the drug problem in a balanced manner. Scrutiny and oversight mechanisms have been put in place. Importantly, this is a Strategy in which the Government will prudently invest its resources, including allocations from the Confiscated Assets Fund (CAF).

We have undertaken widespread consultations in the preparation of this Strategy, and I am assured that the stage has been set for ***“Building collaborative partnerships to curb demand, reduce supply, disrupt trafficking networks, and promote healthy drug-free lifestyles, especially among youth”***.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tommy Turnquest', written in a cursive style.

The Honourable O.A.T. (Tommy) Turnquest

PREFACE
A RESULTS ORIENTED STRATEGY

The National Anti-Drug Strategy for 2012 to 2016 has been devised to produce tangible results in countering all aspects of The Bahamas complex and serious drug challenge. The Strategy takes into account global patterns and trends in the illicit production, abuse and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and assures that The Bahamas will meet its international obligation in these areas. Its particular focus, however, is on reversing the profoundly negative impact of long-standing and devastating transnational drug trafficking and related criminal activities at the national level.

Over the five years of the Strategy, action will be taken on all fronts, including demand and supply reduction, treatment and rehabilitation, the criminal justice system, law enforcement, legislation, research and public information, for a more effective response to drug control. Allocation of additional resources will ensure that requisite action can be taken, especially to address crime, criminality and violence and other significant human, social and national security costs of drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

Ultimately, however, it is the sustained, cohesive and comprehensive action of relevant governmental and non-governmental partners, and the general public, that will make the Strategy the effective anti-drug tool it is crafted to be. We are assured that partnerships are in place and will be further strengthened to effectively implement the Strategy's objectives to curb demand, reduce supply, disrupt trafficking networks, and promote healthy drug-free lifestyles, especially among youth.

The National Anti-Drug Secretariat (NADS), situated in the Ministry of National Security, is the principal national body for building coherence and cooperation among Government entities, NGOs and community organizations for a holistic, balanced and cooperative approach to the country's multifaceted drug problem. The NADS will therefore play an important role in the implementation of the Strategy. Full details of the functions of the NADS are contained in Annex I¹.

¹ Annex 1 – NADS General Functions

Acknowledgements

The National Anti-Drug Strategy 2012-2016 will, for the next five years, underpin sustained, collaborative national action, including among Ministries/Agencies of Government with drug control mandates, non-governmental organizations that work in this critical area, and the public at large, to counter the harmful and destructive effects of drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

The Strategy's background analysis, policy framework and priorities for action are based primarily on wide-ranging, in-depth briefings and discussions with senior public officials having direct responsibility for drug control matters in pertinent Ministries/Agencies of Government, and with leaders of national non-governmental organizations working in this field. Recent research, reports and related materials provided data, analysis and expert input for the Strategy.

The Strategy in draft was comprehensively reviewed and considered by all contributing Ministries/Agencies and by non-governmental organizations, including in a special review meeting convened for that purpose. The Strategy is therefore a collaborative work of those that will have primary responsibility for its implementation.

Production of the Strategy was under the direction of the Minister of National Security, the Honourable O.A.T. (Tommy) Turnquest, and was coordinated by A. Missouri Sherman-Peter, Adviser, Ministry of National Security. Mrs. Sherman-Peter, who authored the Strategy, was ably assisted by a National Anti-Drug Secretariat (NADS) Team comprising Siobhan Deane, NADS Coordinator, David Ramsey, Supply Reduction Officer and Shervin Lloyd, Demand Reduction Officer, with input from the Director of the NADS, Captain Godfrey Rolle.

Appreciation is extended to the numerous Officers in Ministries/Agencies of Government that contributed to the preparation of the Strategy, by submitting reports and other data, providing advice, analysis and commentary on the drug problem, and proposing courses of action for inclusion in the Strategy.

Special thanks are extended to The Bahamas National Drug Council (BNDC); the Royal Bahamas Police Force, and in particular, the Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU); the Royal Bahamas Defence Force; the Customs Department; the Office of the Attorney General, Department of Public Prosecutions (DPP); the Ministry of Education, Health and Family Life Education Unit; the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, Department of Social Services; the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre Lignum Vitae Unit (SRC/LVU), the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, and the Department of Immigration.

The contribution of Dr. Kirk Christopher Christie and Dr. John Babington Bates Dillett II of the SRC/LVU is especially recognized, as their research provided valuable input for the Strategy's demand reduction priorities. The contribution of Pastor Eric Fox and the staff of Teen Challenge Bahamas, Mr. Terry Miller of the Bahamas Association for Social Health (BASH) and Pastor Carlos Reid of the Hope Centre is also specifically recognized, for the helpful and practical information and counsel they gave, based on the experience of their organization's demand reduction initiatives.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE BAHAMAS NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY 2012-2016: BUILDING COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS TO CURB DEMAND, REDUCE SUPPLY AND DISRUPT TRAFFICKING NETWORKS, AND PROMOTE HEALTHY DRUG-FREE LIFESTYLES, ESPECIALLY AMONG YOUTH

The National Anti-Drug Strategy 2012-2016 is underpinned by the renewed commitment of the Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas to provide effective leadership for building collaborative and cohesive partnerships among the Government, the private sector, Non-Governmental, private voluntary organizations and individuals to counter the country's continuing serious drug problem.

The Strategy is the five-year framework within which drug control policies, programmes and projects will be implemented, to reduce the harmful impact of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances on individuals and society in The Bahamas. It reflects major shifts in The Bahamas drug problem from its early manifestations in the 1960s through the 1990s² and especially over the past decade.

Particular emphasis is placed in the Strategy on striking the balance required to deal with all aspects of the drug problem, including production, trafficking and abuse. This approach is reflected in the Strategy's objectives, which take into account The Bahamas exploitation by international drug traffickers as a transit point for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, none of which are produced in the country.

The illicit trafficking primarily of marijuana and cocaine into and through The Bahamas remains the significant root cause of the country's drug problem. This illicit trafficking is a constant and ongoing challenge for The Bahamas, an extensive archipelagic state with open and porous borders. The Strategy therefore reinforces and strengthens decisive action against this transnational drug trafficking, and also recent experimentation with domestic production of marijuana.

Avoiding the first use of drugs through primary prevention, and the treatment and rehabilitation of persons that misuse or abuse drugs, are taken up as core issues in the Strategy's balanced approach. In dealing with these issues, the Strategy points out the effect of the country's alcohol problem on the drug problem, which as appropriate, is taken into account in drug control policies and programmes.

Recent empirical studies have contributed to the groundwork for the Strategy's emphasis on reducing substance abuse and drug dependence, especially among youth and in schools. Particular reference is made to the Ministry of National Security's "*2008 Secondary School Drug Survey*"³, "*A Survey of Patients with Substance use Disorders at Government Treatment*

² *The Bahamas and International Drug Control 1980-1994: A Perspective* - A. Missouri Sherman-Peter

³ *Bahamas 2008 Secondary School Drug Prevalence Survey* - Ministry of National Security (Terrance Fountain)

*Facilities in The Bahamas*⁴ and “*Prevalence of Mental and Personality Disorders in Male Prisoners Convicted of Murder/Manslaughter*”.⁵

In the more than four decades that drug abuse and illicit trafficking has been of grave concern to The Bahamas, its harmful and destructive effects have continued to negatively impact individuals, families and communities. The Strategy sets down the courses of action that will be pursued to deal with the manifestations of the drug problem at the national level, the non-exhaustive list of which includes drug dependency, abuse of prescription drugs, arms trafficking, corruption, money laundering, and particularly crime and criminality, including crime of a violent nature such as murder and armed robbery.

Although the exact nature of the link between crime and criminality and drugs is yet to be empirically determined in the Bahamas context, there is no doubt that persons charged and incarcerated in connection with the range of drug offences are burdening the criminal justice system, and are adding to the Prison’s population. To produce the results expected, therefore, the Strategy’s courses of action support improved responses to the drug problem in the criminal justice and prison systems.

The Strategy’s multifaceted and integrated approach is reflective not only of the complexities of the drug challenge, but also of the broad scope of activities that must be undertaken to achieve its goals and objectives, and the resources that would be required for its implementation over the five-year period.

To build the expertise, experience and research skills required for sustained action in all areas of drug control, capacity building initiatives are given particular emphasis in the Strategy. The emphasis placed on public discourse in the Strategy reflects the importance given to building national consensus on countering the drug problem. The media is taken to have an especially important role to play, both in contributing to national consensus building and supporting campaigns against illicit trafficking and drug abuse.

Importantly, the Strategy reflects the range of committed partners that will be involved in its effective implementation. It factors in the active participation of Non-Governmental, voluntary and faith-based organizations and community groups (including therapeutic communities) and the private sector in action to tackle the country’s drug problem.

It is the intention of the Government to give leadership and direction at the highest political level to the implementation of the Strategy. Oversight of the Strategy is entrusted to a Cabinet Committee comprising Ministers with portfolio responsibilities in the core areas of the Strategy.

The Strategy establishes a National Drug Policy Advisory Committee (NDPAC), to give expert advice on all drug control matters to the Ministerial Committee, and to review and advise

⁴ *A Survey of Patient with Substance Use Disorder at Government Facilities in the Bahamas*; Dr. Kirk Christopher Christie

⁵ *Prevalence of Mental Disorder in Male Prisoners Convicted of Murder / Manslaughter* Dr. John Babington Bates Dillett II

the National Anti-Drug Secretariat (NADS) on policy implementation, programmes and performance. The Committee will comprise professionals with requisite qualifications, expertise and experience in the various aspects of the drug problem. Members of the Committee are to be appointed in their personal capacities.

The Strategy establishes new joint law enforcement and criminal justice groups and other mechanisms and procedures for a more uniform approach to demand reduction, including treatment and rehabilitation. The Strategy strengthens structures in other areas as well, to enhance implementation, monitoring and evaluation of priorities and to achieve the desired outcomes of the various objectives

Following a review undertaken during the consultation and preparatory stages, the relationship between The Bahamas National Drug Council (BNDC) of the Ministry of Health, which has responsibilities in the area of demand reduction, and the National Anti-Drug Secretariat (NADS) of the Ministry of National Security, which has been given specific responsibilities for carriage of the Strategy, has been revisited. The BNDC will advise the NADS in matters of demand reduction, and will implement initiatives in this area in close collaboration with the NADS.

To meet the demands for a consistent source and steady flow of reliable data for policy and programme formulation and implementation, the Strategy formally launches and strengthens the National Drug Observatory (NDO) as a Special Unit within the NADS.

The Bahamas highly values multilateral approaches to a drug problem that is global in scope. The Strategy therefore encompasses cooperation and collaboration in drug control at the bilateral level, and with organizations at the regional, hemispheric and international levels. It incorporates initiatives to meet obligations arising from the international drug treaties⁶, relevant instruments of the Inter-American System⁷, and bilateral agreements and arrangements⁸. Best practices in other countries that can assist in strengthening The Bahamas drug control initiatives are also taken into account.

The core components of the Strategy around which cooperative, cohesive and integrated relationships will be built for its implementation are:

- **Curbing Demand:** preventing first use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, particularly among children and youth, prevention of drug abuse generally, and the treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration into their communities of persons recovering from substance abuse. The Strategy's courses of action in this area will help to address the profoundly negative impact of drugs on youth, and tackle many of the myriad societal problems that are exacerbated by drug abuse and illicit trafficking, including juvenile delinquency, the breakdown of families and crime and criminality. (**Chapter 1**)

⁶ Annex II: UN and Related Treaties

⁷ Annex III: OAS and Related Treaties & Instruments

⁸ Annex IV: Bilateral & Trilateral Instruments

- **Reducing Supply and Disrupting Trafficking Networks:** strengthening law enforcement action to reduce the threat to the security, safety and stability of The Bahamas, and the supply of illicit drugs on streets and in neighbourhoods. Under the Strategy, law enforcement action against illicit drug trafficking networks at sea and on land will be intensified. Vigilance and aggressive action will be taken to prevent illicit marijuana production from becoming a major problem in the country. Concurrent with the Strategy’s courses of action, the vigorous enforcement of alcohol laws is advocated, bearing in mind the links between alcohol and drug abuse. **(Chapter 2)**

- **Strengthening the Criminal Justice System:** keeping under constant review laws related to drug control, including those concerning forfeiture of the proceeds of crimes and money laundering, to ensure that they are in step with shifts in the drug problem. Close cooperation and coordination among key agencies of the criminal justice system to bring those involved in the illicit drug trade to justice, sentencing practices, including alternative sentencing, and related matters are among key objectives in this area. **(Chapter 3)**

- **Consolidating Institutional Frameworks:** establishing and strengthening the institutions and mechanisms required to effectively counter all aspects of drug abuse and illicit trafficking at the national level, and to meet The Bahamas obligations at the bilateral, regional and international levels. Particular focus is given to setting clear mandates, leadership roles and responsibilities, to accountability, and to structures that will encourage the broad participation of all partners, including the media in drug control initiatives generally, and in the implementation of the Strategy in particular. **(Chapter 4)**

- **Bilateral, Regional and International Cooperation:** consolidating cooperative action with bilateral, regional and international partners in ongoing and further initiatives against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Particular attention is given to meeting international obligations and commitments, including through participation in standard setting, evaluation and other activities in line with “*shared responsibility*” for international drug control, and effective implementation of the international drug control treaties and regional and hemispheric instruments. **(Chapter 5)**

- **Financial Resources and Related Matters:** taking up the issue of resources required and available for the implementation of the Strategy over the next five years, in respect of both Government leadership initiatives and the initiatives of non-governmental and private voluntary organizations. Consideration of resources available from the Confiscated Assets Fund (CAF), and encouragement of contributions from the private sector and other donors are taken into account. **(Chapter 6)**

- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** clearly identifying the Ministry, Agency, or other entity tasked with responsibility for monitoring and evaluation for the various courses of action set out in the Strategy. Procedures outline how evaluation information will be collected, collated and analysed, to give an accurate indication of progress in the implementation of the Strategy. Such information will assist in the formulation of anti-drug policies and programmes and in the preparation of an annual comprehensive national report on the status of drug control in The Bahamas. (**Chapter 7**)

The National Anti-Drug Strategy has been developed in consultation with concerned parties as a comprehensive, practical and implementable plan. With its adoption, The Bahamas embarks on a decisive, carefully considered path to intensify efforts and effectively mobilize action at all levels to counter the country's current drug problems, and the problems it will continue to face for the foreseeable future. The Government of The Bahamas is fully committed to the success of the Strategy.

THE BAHAMAS AND THE ILLICIT DRUG CHALLENGE— THEN AND NOW

The National Anti-Drug Strategy 2012 – 2016 builds on The Bahamas earlier policies, strategies and significant efforts in drug control. Previous anti-drug efforts centered primarily on law enforcement action to counter the exploitation of the country by international drug traffickers as a transit point for the transshipment of drugs, and the fallout from this traffic. Cocaine and marijuana were the principal drugs in the traffic.

A combination of factors account for The Bahamas continuing vulnerability to transborder drug trafficking and to drug abuse. It will be seen from the map of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas (at the front inside cover) that the country is a sizable archipelagic state in the western Atlantic Ocean. Its islands number approximately 700, its cays some 2,000 and its maritime territory is extensive, spanning over 100,000 square nautical miles.

In the north, the country's border is with the United States of America, in the south-west with Cuba, in the south with Haiti and the Dominican Republic, and in the south-east with the Turks and Caicos Islands. The map also shows that The Bahamas is strategically located on air and sea routes between source and supply centres of illicit drugs in Central and South America and the Caribbean, and illicit markets in the United States and Europe.

The population of The Bahamas remains relatively small, some 353,000 according to the 2010 census report. Only 22 of its islands and cays are populated. The majority of the population of the country, some 65%, resides on a single island, the island of New Providence on which the capital city Nassau is located. New Providence is one of the smallest inhabited islands in the archipelago. Some 15% of the population resides on the Island of Grand Bahama, the second most populous island, and the rest is scattered throughout the remaining, sparsely populated "Family Islands".

The Bahamas standard of living is relatively high, with a per capita income of some BS\$16,647.00. Its main industry, tourism, accounts for over 51% of the gross domestic product (GDP). The second largest sector of the economy is the financial services industry, which represents some 15% of the GDP.

In summary, factors including open and porous borders, hundreds of unpopulated islands and cays, proximity to drug source and supply centres and lucrative illicit drug markets, a small population, a relatively high standard of living, a financial services industry and the ease of movement of people and crafts essential to a vital tourism industry, keeps The Bahamas vulnerable to drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

Up to the 1990s, the nature of The Bahamas drug problem was easily comprehensible. Huge quantities of cocaine and marijuana were seized by Bahamian law enforcement agencies, and by these agencies in cooperation with bilateral and international partners, particularly the United States. Seizures could annually total in the tons. Trafficking in heroin, hashish and psychotropic substances was rare and sporadic, and never amounted to a significant problem. Much of the earlier "bulk" trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances was destined for lucrative markets in North America.

By the 1980's, quantities of the cocaine and marijuana from the transit traffic were remaining in the country, including as payment to collaborators for facilitation of the illicit drug trade. The result was a major and very serious surge in cocaine and crack cocaine abuse, regarded by some experts as a pandemic. The abuse of crack cocaine, in particular, had a devastating impact on individuals, communities and the entire country. There was also abuse of marijuana, but not to the same extent, and not with the same consequences as cocaine and crack cocaine.

Stemming the flow of illicit drugs into and through the country remains an important priority for the Government of The Bahamas today. Over the years, however, marked changes have taken place in the global drug problem, in areas including trafficking routes, shipment and transshipment methods, centres of production and the movement of precursor chemicals that might be used in the production of narcotic drugs.

Significant transformation has also taken place in The Bahamas drug problem, encompassing trafficking methods, areas of transshipment, substances abused, and the supply of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including experimentation in domestic production of marijuana.

(i) Status of Drug Seizures

There has been a steady and significant decrease in seizures of marijuana and cocaine over the years. Table I and Table II below, which indicate the quantity of seizures of cocaine and marijuana 1985 – 1990 and 2005 – 2010, illustrates this point. The decrease in seizures is an indication that The Bahamas is now less attractive to drug traffickers, due to decisive law enforcement action and proactive improvements in intelligence, assets and technology, legislation and bilateral and regional cooperation for drug control.

Drugs Seizure 1985-1990

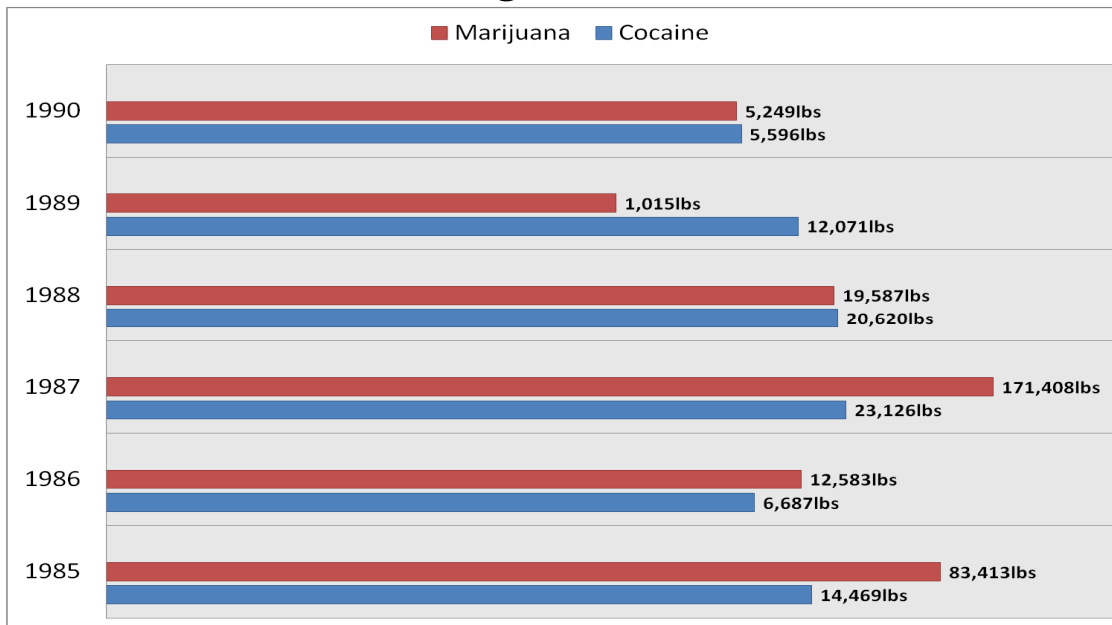


Table I
xiii

Drug Seizures 2005 - 2010

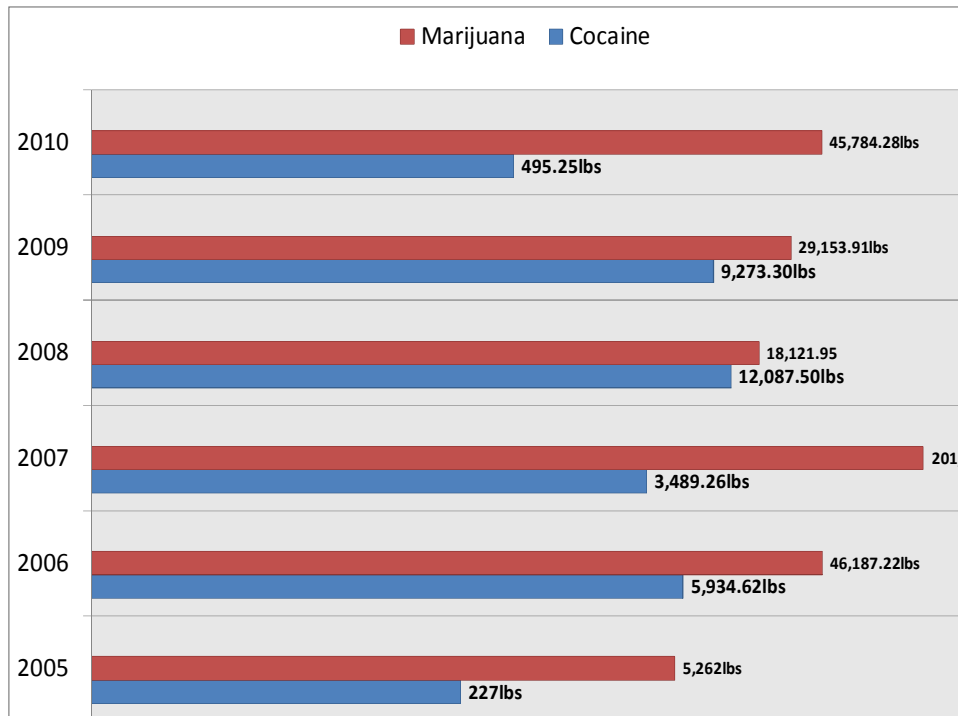


Table II

The intelligence community, however, is reporting that in the continuing targeting of The Bahamas for illicit drug transshipment, traffickers both Bahamian and non-Bahamian have become more creative and resourceful, changing routes and methods of smuggling and overall, making drug trafficking and related criminality more difficult, complex and dangerous to tackle. Illicit drug trafficking, therefore, remains a major and serious problem for The Bahamas.

(ii) Trends in Drug Abuse

The 1980s and 1990s boom market for cocaine as a drug of abuse has collapsed and with it a significant decrease in the abuse of cocaine and crack cocaine. Most persons now presenting with cocaine dependency are chronic abusers, some from the pandemic period of the 1980s. Few new cases are being reported. *The Bahamas 2008 Secondary School Drug Prevalence Survey*⁹ confirms this trend, indicating that among the student surveyed, the use of cocaine had also decreased markedly.

As cocaine lost its appeal among drug abusers and persons experimenting with drugs, it has been further marginalized by marijuana. Since the turn of the century, marijuana has steadily become the narcotic drug of choice, especially among young people, and is frequently used in combination with alcohol, including binge drinking.

⁹ Ministry of National Security (Terry Fountain), *ibid*

The *2008 Secondary School Drug Prevalence Survey*¹⁰ indicates that there has been only a marginal increase in marijuana abuse among the students surveyed, which was an encouraging finding. Notwithstanding, marijuana abuse and alcohol consumption, singularly and in combination, have generated particular challenges for the young people that abuse them, and have had an adverse effect in areas including education, mental health, delinquency and the family. Protecting young people by reducing the risks inherent in the abuse of marijuana and other narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including in combination with alcohol, is therefore now a primary concern.

There has been some evidence of the misuse of prescription drugs in The Bahamas. While there has been no evidence of large-scale use of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), there have been reports of the abuse of so-called “club drugs” such as ecstasy. These disturbing trends are taken into account, so that appropriate action can be taken to avoid the misuse of prescription drugs and harmful, dangerous and easily produced ATS.

Polysubstance abuse, dependence on three or more substances, has become a concern for The Bahamas. Alcohol is generally one of the substances that is abused, together with a narcotic drug, usually marijuana and/or a psychotropic substance(s). Given the apparent link between alcohol and drugs, it is recognized that the systematic approach that is now required to stem polysubstance abuse must take into account laws, policies and programmes on alcohol abuse as well.

(iii) Other Substance Abuse

The *2008 Secondary School Drug Prevalence Survey*¹¹ indicates that among students surveyed, there is evidence of experimentation with new substances other than narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances under international control. These “licit” substances include glues and other chemicals. There is also concern about the long-term effects of cigarette smoking, including use of the so-called “beedies” cigarettes that have become popular among young people. Notwithstanding that these “legal” substances are not set down in the international drug control treaties, the potential risk to young people cannot be underestimated, making it important to keep these matters on the agenda in countering substance abuse in The Bahamas.

(iv) Drugs and Crime

A particular feature of the drug problem which was not as evident in the 1980s and 1990s is the linkage between drugs and other crime and criminality. This includes crimes of a violent nature such as murder and armed robbery, and other national and transnational crimes such as arms trafficking and weapons possession. These are critical and immediate policy issues for The Bahamas. Current manifestations of violent drug related crimes have been attributed to factors that include jostling for power and influence following the extradition of major players charged with, and extradited for drug crimes, and the increasing number of guns being brought into the country to protect drug traffickers and their shipments.

¹⁰ Ministry of National Security (Terry Fountain), *ibid*

¹¹ Ministry of National Security (Terry Fountain), *ibid*

Discovery and seizures of significant amounts of cash, also not evident in earlier times, indicate that drug traffickers continue to profit handsomely from the misery and harm they inflict on people, including young people. The enormous profits gained from the drug trade can give drug traffickers immense influence in the neighborhoods from which they operate, enabling many to act brazenly and without fear of being exposed by the community. Enormous ill-gotten gains have also raised the issue of the capacity of drug traffickers to corrupt public officials, and indeed the possibility of involvement of officials themselves in the illicit drug trade.

Drug and drug related crimes are contributing to the burdening of the criminal justice system, with persons coming before the courts to answer charges including “Possession of Dangerous Drugs”, “Possession with Intent to Supply”, and “Possession with Intent to Export”. As at 31 December 2011, 1,326 remanded and sentenced persons were incarcerated in Her Majesty’s Prison. Of this number, more than one-third or 477, were remanded or sentenced for drug crimes.

The number of drug cases coming before the courts have brought many issues into focus, including trial and sentencing practices. New legislation that the Government recently passed in Parliament has taken up many of these matters. Additionally, emphasis is being placed on research in criminal justice and other drug-related areas, to further clarify empirically the nexus between drugs and crime and to provide a sound basis for further developments in law, policies and regulations.

(v) **Treatment and Rehabilitation**

The progress that has been made over the years in treatment and rehabilitation and in integrating recovering drug abusers into their communities has been underpinned by the work of the dedicated staff of the Government’s drug rehabilitation facility, the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre’s Lignum Vitae Unit (SRC/LVU). Non-governmental and community based organizations, however, have been critical to this process since early in The Bahamas anti-drug efforts, managing both residential and non-residential facilities for recovering drug addicts and persons abusing or at risk of abusing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Government Ministries/Agencies as a matter of course refer persons with drug problems to NGOs and voluntary organizations. Government’s focus is therefore on creating the coherent and integrated relationships such partnerships urgently require. Standard setting, training, grant funding and other support for NGO initiatives, including those to house, find employment and create a long-term support system for recovering drug abusers, are therefore included among critical areas of concern.

Dr. Dillett’s study on the prevalence of mental and personality disorders in male prisoners convicted of murder/manslaughter indicates that the use of alcohol and narcotic drugs such as cocaine and marijuana was prevalent among the persons incarcerated in Her Majesty’s Prison that participated in the study. According to this study, 71.7% of participants reported some prior or present use of marijuana or alcohol. An overwhelming number of those incarcerated are young men. Focus is being placed on treatment and rehabilitation as an integral element of reform programmes at Her Majesty’s Prison.

(vi) **General Remarks**

The fundamental reassessment of The Bahamas illicit drug challenges carried out in the preparatory stages of the National Anti-Drug Strategy 2012-2016 confirmed that the rudiments of the country's drug problem have remained basically the same over more than four decades. Some critical aspects of the problem, however, are new and distinctly different, and do not easily fit into earlier approaches to drug control.

While ongoing strategies such as decisive drug interdiction and law enforcement responses and bilateral anti-drug cooperation at the operational level remain critical, approaches are being developed to counter newer manifestations of the drug problem. Bearing this in mind, emphasis has been placed in this Strategy on developing courses of action that reflect The Bahamas current drug control realities in a balanced way.

The discourse internationally on the legalization of drugs, particularly marijuana, is not taken up in the Strategy, as this is not now considered to be an option for The Bahamas. Further, these are matters for discourse and decision in the context of the obligations of states arising from the international drug control treaties.

Our Strategy focuses on achieving national consensus for building collaborative partnerships to curb demand, reduce supply and disrupt trafficking networks, and promote healthy drug-free lifestyles, especially among youth.

CHAPTER 1
CURBING DEMAND

The Government is determined to take effective action to curb the demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substance, in view of mounting evidence of its linkages to mental illness, crime and criminality and other economic and social challenges. While the vast majority of the population, including youth, do not abuse drugs, every effort will be made to treat and rehabilitate those that do.

Sustained and strengthened demand reduction initiatives under the Strategy take as their starting point the ongoing and long-term effects of drug trafficking in a transit state, which makes narcotic drugs and psychotropic substance easily accessible. Courses of action formulated to turn around the compelling human tragedies and serious harm caused by drug abuse to individuals, neighbourhoods and communities, particularly in the Island of New Providence, are therefore focussed primarily on cocaine and marijuana abuse, the principal drugs in the traffic.

The Strategy's broad demand reduction objectives encompass action to prevent the first use of drugs, especially by children and youth, to prevent the transition from first use to chronic use, to support the efforts of people that abuse drugs to stop by providing appropriate treatment and rehabilitation, and to support individuals and families at risk.

Demand reduction objectives also include the periodic assessment of the prevalence of drug abuse for policy-making and implementation purposes, engagement with the media to raise public awareness about the dangers of drug abuse, and investment in training, research and other activities that support the courses of action set out in the Strategy.

1.1 Demand Reduction Framework

Demand reduction initiatives will be advanced in a cooperative framework in which collaboration between relevant Government Ministries/Agencies will be improved, and partnerships with civil society, including NGOs and the media, will be strengthened. Strategy initiatives of the Government build, in particular, on the work earlier done by The Bahamas National Drug Council (BNDC) of the Ministry of Health, and the pivotal work of the SRC/LVU.

For greater coherence and to maximize demand reduction efforts, action taken by relevant Government Ministries/Agencies in their specific areas of responsibilities will be directed towards establishing a rational division of labour that incorporates clearly defined courses of action, and detailed plans for their implementation.

The scope of demand reduction initiatives will be expanded through collaboration with, and renewed support for, NGOs and community-based organizations. Particular emphasis will continue to be placed on partnerships with those organizations that have customarily worked in the area of demand reduction, especially those offering residential and transitional facilities to persons with drug dependence.

The Media is critical to the country's drug control initiatives generally, and specifically to demand reduction initiatives. Close cooperation with the media, and particularly the Public Broadcaster, will continue to ensure that appropriate anti-drug messages reach the wider community over the course of the Strategy.

1.2 Patterns of Drug Abuse

Demand reduction initiatives begin with the premise that people abuse drugs that are readily available and easily accessible. Action under the Strategy, therefore, focuses on the abuse of marijuana and cocaine, the leading cause of dependence among those seeking treatment and/or entering rehabilitation programmes.

Cocaine addiction is less prevalent now than a decade ago, and there are scarcely any new addictions being reported. The initiatives to counter the abuse of this drug, therefore, are in the main directed towards chronic addicts. This approach takes into account that while a significant swing back to cocaine and crack cocaine seems unlikely, it cannot be definitely ruled out. Consequently, initiatives taken in this area can also deal with the possibility of new cocaine addictions.

Marijuana, which earlier did not make the public's priority list the way that cocaine did, is now the popular drug of choice, especially among young people, and has become a significant mental health and crime problem to be reckoned with. Health care facilities report that marijuana represents a danger to those who abuse it, and that chronic, regular use can induce mental illness, especially in young people. This accounts for the particular focus given to reducing chronic marijuana use and on changing customary attitudes that marijuana is a recreational, harmless substance, and not a dangerous drug. The Strategy's approach to marijuana abuse also challenges the presumption that the country's drug problem ended with the crack cocaine pandemic and that today, there is no serious problem of demand for drugs at all.

Indications are that not all marijuana and cocaine users abuse a single drug. Many are likely to use a combination of both drugs, or one or the other of them, together with alcohol¹². These polysubstance combinations have been kept in view in devising the Strategy because of the particular danger they present.

While the Strategy's core activities deal with cocaine and marijuana, they are broad enough to tackle the abuse of Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS), still not considered a serious problem in the country, despite occasional reports of ecstasy abuse. Courses of action proposed under the Strategy, therefore, seek to reduce the risk of these easily produced, potentially deadly substances to public health and well-being.

Apart from alcohol, the abuse of "licit" substances has been slow in registering on the agenda of public opinion. The Strategy's framework is also broad enough to take up these issues, including the dangers posed by abuse of "beedies" and other cigarette use, chemicals and prescription drugs, including those procured through internet sales.

¹² Christie, *ibid*

1.3 Bahamas National Drug Council (BNDC) Initiatives

The principal mandate of the BNDC since its inception in 1985 has been advocacy for drug demand reduction. Particularly at the time of the crack cocaine pandemic, BNDC provided exemplary leadership in this area. Initiatives to rationalize the working relationship between the National Anti-Drug Secretariat (NADS) in the Ministry of National Security and BNDC will ensure that the core demand reduction function entrusted to the BNDC remains the important priority that it is.

The more recent focus of the BNDC's work on prevention of drug abuse in schools and the workplace, community based interventions, interventions at the request of religious institutions, and advocacy, provide a guide for action incorporated into the Strategy. Collaboration with the Ministry of Education, which provides the BNDC access to the public school system, is central to demand reduction work. In light of experience gained from earlier school-based initiatives such as the Drug Free Schools (DFS) Programme, new plans are being developed for advancing the demand reduction agenda in schools.

The Strategy takes into account plans now in hand for the launch of a drug prevention initiative in tertiary institutions in The Bahamas, in cooperation with relevant institutions. This initiative will seek to address the drug control concerns of each institution and of the student body, and provide the forum in which the students themselves may address and respond to these concerns. Feedback from the institutions will be factored into the courses of action implemented in the framework of the Strategy.

Community engagement is an important approach that will continue to be taken to demand reduction. The premise is that each community is aware of its specific needs and the interventions required to curb drug abuse, especially among young people. The BNDC Community Development Action Committees (CODACS) established to further this approach are in the developmental stage, and over the course of the Strategy should begin to deliver substantially on the programmes, projects, and outreach envisaged in their mandate.

Drug prevention programmes now centered in significant population areas in the Islands of New Providence and Grand Bahama are to be extended to Family Islands having emerging drug abuse problems, or that are assessed as being especially vulnerable to such problems. The Family Islands Demand Reduction Programme (FIDRP) initiated by the BNDC for this purpose, is in its developmental stages. Action to operationalise it will be taken up in the context of the Strategy.

The following are among the steps that will be taken to implement the demand reduction mandate of the BNDC, taking into account institutional arrangements to be developed especially between the NADS and the BNDC for greater coherence in the context of the Strategy:

- A structured, collaborative drug prevention network comprising Government entities, NGOs and community organizations will be further developed and strengthened, for a comprehensive response to demand reduction efforts centered on promoting healthy drug-free lifestyles, especially among young people. Measures for prevention of drug abuse, to be

focussed on prevention of first use, will be linked to broader issues of education, welfare and the protection of youth, especially girls, from all forms of exploitation;

- A renewed outreach to the private sector to partner with Government and the community by sponsoring demand reduction and prevention projects, particularly those crafted and to be implemented by young people;
- The reassessment, reorganization and streamlining of the Community Development Action Committees (CODACS) and the Family Island Demand Reduction Programme (FIDRP) models, to enable them, with requisite support from relevant Ministries/Agencies to play the key role contemplated in implementing the objectives of the Strategy;
- The launching, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and relevant academic institutions of a Tertiary Institutions Drug Prevention Initiative, to provide continued support to young people not to abuse drugs, to seek help for drug problems before they become worse, and for advancing demand reduction projects in schools.

1.4 Drug Prevention in Schools

The Government appreciates that its obligation to educate children and youth to the dangers of drug abuse begins in the schools. The position that the Strategy advocates is to prevent the first use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and to empower children and young people not to experiment with drugs and alcohol. The priority the Government has given to investing in primary prevention in the school system is based on the premise that it costs less to prevent a young person from taking drugs in the first place than it would take to treat and rehabilitate that person later as drug addict.

Under the Strategy, the drug education curriculum in schools would be markedly improved, and will be given on an ongoing basis as an integral part of the school's regular curriculum. Appropriate education and training will be provided for teachers and instructors, which will include sensitization to the warning signs of drug abuse. New and updated culturally relevant teaching and classroom materials will be produced for use in drug education classes. Programmes currently in place will be reviewed periodically, to ensure that the appropriate anti-drug messages are being sent and received by the intended target audience.

The emphasis on education for the prevention of drug abuse will be on getting the message to children and their parents about the dangers of drug abuse, especially at an early age. It will also be on strengthening the resolve of young people to resist peer pressure, a significant contributing factor to drug abuse, and on discouraging them from trafficking drugs into and around their schools. In that regard, schools will be encouraged to develop an "adolescent friendly facility" where students with drug and other problems can discuss their issues with Counsellors in confidence.

Complementary initiatives in the area of demand reduction between the Ministry of Education and the BNDC will continue. Collaborative approaches will also be encouraged

between the public and private school systems, for synergies in their respective demand reduction initiatives.

Among the priorities identified for action to prevent first use of drugs and to reduce the demand for narcotic drugs, psychotropic and other substances in the school system are:

- The updating and full integration into the regular public school curriculum of the drug component in the Ministry of Education's Health and Family Life Curriculum, and the periodic review of the curriculum to determine its effectiveness in promoting healthy drug-free lifestyles. The National Drug Policy Advisory Committee (NDPAC) will be consulted in these matters;
- The specialized training of school personnel (Educators, Counsellors etc), especially in areas identified for anti-drug intervention by the BNDC, the NADS, and the NDPAC;
- The continued production of culturally relevant anti-drug teaching and study materials for use by teachers, students and by Parent-Teacher Associations in special meetings convened specifically for dialogue on children, youth and the drug problem;
- Continued cooperation between the Ministry of Education, the BNDC and the NADS on projects that support the concept of drug-free schools, and collaboration with the private school system for complementarity of drug control action in schools.

1.5 Youth Interventions

Drug education in schools is but one of the multiple areas in which action will be taken during the five years of the Strategy to address serious national concerns about youth and drugs, and especially the overwhelming number of young men that are involved. The Strategy will focus on the range of points of access that can be tapped in efforts to reach young people, and to prevent and reduce drug abuse among them.

Youth policies and programmes in areas including sports, culture, skills training and community services would, as appropriate, include components focussing on leading healthy drug-free lifestyles. Government's investment in policy and programmatic areas affecting youth, including youth employment and educational initiatives, will make more resources and options available to them, to lessen the pressures and other problems that might lead them to abuse drugs and to engage in related anti-social behaviour.

Youth organizations have an important role to play in helping young people to meet the distinctive challenge that drug abuse pose to their well-being and development. Organizations such as sporting clubs, brigades, marching bands and other youth associations would be encouraged to make their contribution towards reducing the demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, by continuing to emphasize principles and values and to offer counsel and guidance to encourage young people to steer clear of drugs. At the same time, young people will be encouraged to be accountable for their choices and action, and to seek help for drug dependence.

Youth interventions that will be carried forward during the Strategy to encourage young people not to take drugs and to provide the support needed for these purposes include:

- Continued investment by the Government in policies and programmes for youth development, including in the areas of education, employment, sports and recreation, to give young people opportunities and the resolve to avoid the temptation of drugs and other anti-social behaviours;
- The effective engagement of national youth organizations and groups in anti-drug initiatives, in particular by encouraging them to spread among their members the no first use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances concept, and the importance of living healthy drug free lifestyles;
- The further involvement of the Police Force, the Defence Force, the Prison Department and other relevant agencies, as appropriate, in youth anti-drug initiatives, including those seeking to reach out of young people in the schools;
- Targeted advocacy for the vigorous enforcement of the laws relating to the sale of drugs, alcohol and cigarettes to children and young people, particularly in and around school premises.

1.6 Social Services

The Department of Social Services' (DSS) broad mandate for providing "at risk services" and other social services to a significant cross-section of Bahamians presents an important window of opportunity through which trends and patterns in drug abuse, as well as drug dependent persons, may be identified.

Data on persons abusing drugs which is acquired in the course of rendering essential services in areas such as housing, child protection, family services, and rehabilitation services, is important to demand reduction policies and programmes. Such data, for example, might be critical to breaking the cycle of drug abuse, where children live in homes with parents addicted to drugs and who are alcohol users, and in the framing of drug treatment and rehabilitation services.

Over the course of the Strategy, the Government intends to better equip the DSS to play a more proactive role in demand reduction initiatives, in areas including identifying drug dependent persons and the collection and dissemination of data on persons abusing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

The DSS referrals of drug dependent persons to residential and other facilities will be rationalized and facilitated, in line with the Government's provision of tangible support to such facilities. DSS' input as a member of the Inter-Ministry Group on Drug Control will also contribute to the integrated national approach the Strategy takes to implementing demand reduction objectives.

To enhance the contribution of the DSS towards achieving the demand reduction objectives set out in the Strategy, the following action will be taken:

- The DSS will be given the resources (financial, technical, expert) and selected staff will be provided the training required to collect, desegregate and collate data on drug abuse among the persons to whom the Department provides services. Data collected will be used, as appropriate, for referrals to organizations providing demand reduction services, for research, and to inform the Strategy's progress;
- The DSS will contribute to the development and periodic updating of protocols to be used by Government Ministries/Agencies in referring persons to Government, NGO and community facilities providing support for youth at risk and for drug dependent persons;
- The DSS will provide input for the production of, and will assist in the dissemination of materials designed to educate the community and parents, in particular, about the harmful effects of drug use and the importance of seeking help for children and young people that have substance abuse problems.

1.7 Treatment and Rehabilitation

Treatment and rehabilitation of drug dependent persons is an essential pillar of demand reduction. The Government has therefore made progressive improvement in the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre's Lignum Vitae Unit (SRC/LVU), the country's specialist drug treatment and rehabilitation facility, a priority of the Strategy.

Health care services currently provided by SRC/LVU include detoxification (Detox Unit) and in-hospital rehabilitation (Lignum Vitae Unit). Community based out-patients care is also available (Community Counselling and Assessment Centre). These services will be further developed and enhanced. Rehabilitative care is available almost exclusively on the Island of New Providence, but initiatives to extend services to Grand Bahama and the Family Islands are in various stages of planning.

The SRC/LVU does highly commendable work in addressing the myriad problems of chronic drug addicts, and in taking initiatives to prevent new incidences of drug dependence. The overarching objective of this work is to turn lives around, so that those affected will regard recovery from addiction and avoidance of drug abuse as a natural act of self-preservation. Of those seeking treatment, a majority are males, with the ratio of men to women being reported as 8 to 1¹³. SRC/LVU is the only facility providing residential care to women with drug problems, a group reported to be generally disinclined to seek treatment and rehabilitation.¹⁴

The number of persons seeking treatment for drug dependence and related conditions, together with court mandated and monitored treatment for drug offenders, translates into significant demands on the single Government drug treatment and rehabilitation facility in an

¹³ Christie; *ibid*

¹⁴ Christie; *ibid*

archipelagic state. Further, persons recovering from drug dependence generally return to the same high risk environment from which they came. It is not unusual for discharged recovering persons to relapse, and return to SRC/LVU for treatment yet again. The capacity of SRC/LVU to provide essential treatment and rehabilitation services is therefore quite strained, and the costs of care high.

SRC/LVU refers a number of persons recovering from substance abuse to halfway house programmes run by NGO and community based organizations. These organizations are committed to providing essential services in this area. Residential accommodation in their programmes, however, is scarce. Few are available on the Family Islands and there are none currently available for women. In the circumstances, after-care and follow-up is recognized as a significant challenge to be taken up in the Strategy.

The SRC/LVU strongly advocates general standards of care for persons that abuse drugs, for uniformity in the services offered by that facility as well as the NGOs partners to which it refers persons with drug dependence. The objective is to ensure that the highest standard of care is uniformly offered and maintained by all.

With the objective of improving the quality of, and accessibility to, drug treatment and rehabilitation care and services countrywide, courses of action considered for implementation over the five years of the Strategy include:

- The development of a five-year plan to expand the services, build professional and expert capacity, increase financial and other resources, and extend and improve the physical plant of the SRC/LVU, commensurate with the need for treatment and rehabilitation;
- The extension of the reach of the SRC/LVU through the implementation of the out-patient programme at the Rand Memorial Hospital, and the development of similar programmes in Family Islands having significant, emerging, or potential problems with drug and substance abuse;
- Meeting the challenge of after-care and follow-up of persons recovering from substance abuse through improved accessibility to treatment and rehabilitation follow-up facilities, including in targeted Family Islands;
- Strengthening engagement with national organizations concerned with the status of women to enhance the SRC/LVU's outreach to, and treatment and rehabilitation of women with drug and substance abuse challenges;
- The review of the procedures for the referral of persons with substance abuse problems, and those recovering from substance abuse, to Government entities and NGOs and community based organizations for efficacy and uniformity in connecting those requiring help to the most appropriate entity, and the updating of procedures and guidelines in this area as necessary;

- The establishment, following consultations with partner NGOs and community based organizations, of a Regulatory Body by the SRC/LVU that will set minimum standards for all treatment and rehabilitation facilities.
- In collaboration with the NADS and the BNDC, the establishment for purposes of public information of a Register of Ministries/Agencies and organizations that assist individuals and families, particularly young people, seeking and/or requiring assistance with substance abuse problems.

1.8 Criminal Justice Responses to Demand Reduction

The development of drug treatment courts (DTC) is a course of action intended to address recidivism and to reduce crimes committed as a result of drug dependence. Most drug treatment court models utilize court-monitored treatment and rehabilitation and community service to support offenders with drug dependence. Over the course of the Strategy:

- Consideration will be given to the implementation of a special DTC which would impose sentences intended to treat and rehabilitate persons that commit crime as a result of drug dependence.

1.9 Prison Demand Reduction Programme

Empirical data¹⁵ indicates that many convicted persons, including those sentenced for drug crimes, come to Her Majesty's Prisons abusing or having abused narcotic drugs and other substances, and that many inmates continue to have access to drugs smuggled into the Prison. The vast majority of the Prison's inmates, and those specifically abusing drugs, are young men.

The Government has therefore focussed on the Prison as a pivotal setting for a rigorous drug treatment and rehabilitation programme to curb demand and treat and rehabilitate the predominantly male population of young people that abuse drugs, and to prepare them for re-integration into their communities upon their release from Prison.

Routine drug testing upon admission to the Prison identify persons currently abusing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In the course of the Strategy, the utility of removing such persons and persons with a history of drug abuse from the general population to a designated drug treatment and rehabilitation section will be assessed. This action would allow for cooperation between the Prison and SRC/LVU for the long-term, sustained treatment and rehabilitation of inmates with drug dependence. Persons identified for drug treatment and rehabilitation will be subject to random drug testing until their release from Prison.

The DSS and concerned NGOs and community organizations will be engaged in partnerships with the Prison System to assist persons who have abused drug in pre-release exercises, and where possible, to offer or arrange half-way house accommodation and other services for them, with a view to reducing recidivism both of drug abuse and return to Prison.

¹⁵ Dillet; ibid

Specific areas identified for intervention and the approaches the Strategy advocates to curb demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in the Prison system include:

- The continued regular drug testing on admission to the Prison, and random drug testing throughout the period of incarceration for persons found to be abusing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;
- Exploring the feasibility of establishing a special facility at the Prison for the recovery of persons testing positive for narcotic drug and psychotropic substances, the institution of a special programme in cooperation with SRC/LVU to treat and rehabilitate such persons, and appropriate training for Prison Officials that will work in this area;
- Establishing partnerships among relevant Ministries/Agencies of Government, NGOs and community organizations in the pre-release period to provide support for former inmates recovering from drug abuse upon their release, in areas including accommodation, employment and family support;
- Reinforcing existing controls and imposing new controls a necessary to prevent the smuggling of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances into the Prison.

1:10 Research

The Government intends to continue to establish drug control priorities, policies and programmes on the basis of timely, accurate and accessible information, to ensure that all measures taken to counter the drug problem respond to the specific problems, needs and circumstances of the country. Over the course of the Strategy, research initiatives to underpin Government action will therefore be stepped up and expanded.

The NADS National Drug Observatory (NDO), which plays a pivotal role in the basic framework for research and data collection, will not only play an active part in research initiatives but will also cooperate with a wide range of researchers and institutions in conducting empirical studies in critical areas of concern. Researchers would be expected to make the results of their work available to the Government.

It is expected that issues such as the nexus between drugs and crime, gun violence associated with drug trafficking and drug abuse, the prevalence of drug abuse, and anti-drug programmes and projects that have yielded positive results, will be among the topics that are the subject of scholarly research. In particular, the following research matters will be supported under the Strategy:

- The regular assessment of the drug situation, through surveys that accurately reflect patterns and trends in drug abuse and the impact of prevention programmes, and that provide timely data for the adjustment, as appropriate, of national policies and programmes;

- Collaboration between the NADS/NDO and the College of The Bahamas and other academic institutions interested in undertaking research, including on drug control issues identified for further study;
- The facilitation of access of approved professionals to Government facilities such as Her Majesty's Prison, to conduct research in drug matters.
- The facilitation by the NADS/NDO of the establishment of a national Drug Information Network (DIN) to ensure that timely and accurate information is properly recorded and easily accessible

1.11 Education and Training

An important part of The Bahamas drug control challenge consist in continuing to build the cadre of trained professionals required to deal effectively with the country's drug problem. Over the course of the Strategy, priority will be given to providing and upgrading education and training for persons in areas including drug education curriculum design, counselling, social work, addiction studies, epidemiology and psychiatry. Priority will initially be given to filling in the gaps where particular professional qualification and skills are urgently required.

It is the intention of the Government to take up training opportunities offered bilaterally and by regional, hemispheric and international organizations, including the Inter-American Drug Control Commission (CICAD) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Additionally, it will support on-line training including by the University of the West Indies, and in-country training at the College of The Bahamas and by visiting experts.

Given the important work done by NGOs in the area of demand reduction, initiatives will be taken to assist them with the further professional development of their staff. This will be done through subsidies to assist their participation in training exercises offered at the bilateral level, and also by regional and international organizations.

To improve the cadre of professionals trained to address drug abuse issues, it is the intention of the Government, in the context of the Strategy:

- To continue to support the academic and technical education and training required to build among professionals the specialist qualifications, knowledge and skills indispensable to dealing with the full range of drug abuse issues, particularly those involving children and young people;
- To respond positively to training opportunities and other capacity building initiatives offered bilaterally and by regional, hemispheric and international organizations, with a view to improving the country's initiatives to reduce the illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

- To facilitate the training of NGO professionals, by supporting their participation, as appropriate, in training and capacity building initiatives offered to The Bahamas bilaterally, regionally and internationally.

1.12 Media Awareness Raising

The media reaches a vast audience every day, and is a powerful medium that will be used for raising public awareness of, and to galvanize essential public support for, initiatives to counter drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Over the course of the Strategy the Government, through The Bahamas Information Service (BIS), will continue to build strong working partnerships with the media to get the anti-drug message out about the dangers drug abuse and illicit trafficking pose to The Bahamas and to countries around the world, and what is being done about it. Public broadcasting is expected to play an important part in publicizing anti-drug messages, particularly through Public Service Announcements (PSA).

Targeted Public Information Campaigns and anti-drug messages to be publicized during the course of the Strategy will address the harmful and destructive consequences of drug abuse. The media will also be encouraged to address the culturally acceptable attitudes towards the abuse of licit substances, especially alcohol and cigarettes, and the need to curb access to these substances by under-age persons to prevent them moving on from these substances to experimentation with drugs.

The primary focus of Public Information Campaigns, however, will be on positive anti-drug messages that embrace cultural, ethical, moral and spiritual values, highlight positive role models, promote good health, publicize the positive academic and other accomplishments of young people, and above all, encourage people not to abuse or misuse drugs.

Private sector partnerships will be further sponsorship of special anti-drug events, including those organized in the context of the National Month against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, public service announcements, and other media drug demand reduction programmes.

The courses of action set out below outline the cooperative media related activities that will be taken in the context of the Strategy, to raise public awareness and to enlist public support for action against drug abuse and illicit trafficking:

- The BIS, in cooperation with the NADS, will partner with Media Executives in the production and implementation of National Anti-Drug Campaigns, documentaries, messages and print materials aimed at preventing and reducing the demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Input for these exercises will be provided by relevant Government Ministries/Agencies, NGOs and community organizations;
- The BIS, in cooperation with the NADS, will hold periodic briefings for journalists to update them on the Government's initiatives in drug control, both nationally and internationally, and on developments regarding illicit drug issues in the country and the progress being made in the implementation of the Strategy;

- NADS will appoint a Media Liaison Officer who, together with the BIS and relevant Government Ministries/Agencies, will provide the media with early and factual information on developments regarding drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

1.13 NGOs and Community Organizations Concern with Drug Control

A wide range of NGOs and community organizations, including faith-based organizations, have instituted, implement and manage drug demand reduction programmes, focussed primarily on treatment and rehabilitation, and youth at risk. The particulars of a cross section of NGOs and community organizations currently partnering in demand reduction programmes¹⁶ show that some have been meeting urgent needs in this area for decades.

The range of essential residential, counseling, job training, employment and other services NGOs and community organizations provide help to make demand reduction initiatives sustainable. However, the capacity of these organizations, particularly the therapeutic and residential communities, is greatly surpassed by the need for their services.

Greater coherence and collaboration between Government entities and NGOs and community organizations, and among these organizations themselves, can help to fill the gap between need and capacity. It also permits all to work together to efficiently implement national demand reduction priorities. Coherence, together with the strengthening of existing partnerships and the forging of new ones, have therefore been identified for marked improvement over the five years of the Strategy.

The more coherent framework being pursued will ensure that as important implementing agents for the Strategy, NGOs and community organizations take forward their particular stake in its successful implementation, bearing in mind that each partner is bound to implement programmes and projects that accord with its own specific charter and mandate.

Where practicable, joint planning and implementation of activities is encouraged to avoid duplication, strengthen outcomes and promote the development of “best practices”. Open dialogue and a structured cooperative mechanism that gives NGOs an advisory role in demand reduction policies, programmes and projects, will be supported.

The considerable focus being given by hemispheric and international organizations to setting specific standards for treatment and rehabilitation of drug dependent persons should be a matter of special interest to NGOs and community organizations. Taking the lead from the SRC/LVU on regulatory matters and standard setting will help to keep NGOs and community organizations in step with best practices in this area.

The overwhelming ratio of males to females seeking drug treatment no doubt accounts for the fact that all NGO and community organizations’ programmes and residential facilities are for males with drug abuse problems. Given the reasons advanced for women’s reluctance to seek

¹⁶ Annex V – NGO Demand Reduction Partners

treatment for drug dependency¹⁷, including opposition from family members regarding entry into treatment, women's demand reduction challenges require more attention.

To build on collaborative partnerships with NGOs and community organizations in treatment and rehabilitation, and support their essential far-reaching and ongoing work and initiatives to improve the management of their facilities and services, courses of action that will be taken during the course of the Strategy include:

- The provision of support and incentives, including regular and dependable financial support, to NGOs and community organizations to improve and expand their treatment and rehabilitation facilities and programmes as necessary, in accordance with established guidelines;
- Under the leadership of SRC/LVU, providing assistance in the building of professional and expert capacity in NGO and community based organizations by incorporating them, as appropriate, in education and training exercises offered by bilateral, regional and other partners and organizations, and in regional and international demand reduction meetings;
- The encouragement of NGOs and community based organizations to work towards the development of a “women's agenda” that takes into account the needs and perspectives of women on the drug demand reduction and treatment and rehabilitation side;
- The establishment of an NGO Consultative Forum (NGOF) to foster continuing interaction, dialogue and consultations among NGOs, to make decisions on issues including the division of labour in respect of demand reduction and treatment and rehabilitation issues, including activities set out in the Strategy, and to provide advice and feedback to the NADS on issues of concern to NGOs;
- Collaboration by NGOs and Community organizations to implement national and international standards for the treatment and rehabilitation of persons with substance abuse and other demand reduction measures, in accordance within guidelines set by the SRC/LVU, and in building a more structured relationship for this purpose.

¹⁷ Christie; *ibid*

CHAPTER 2
REDUCING SUPPLY AND DISRUPTING TRAFFICKING NETWORKS

The targeted action set out in the Strategy is devised to reduce illicit drug supply and disrupt drug trafficking networks by substantially raising the risk and cost of drug trafficking into and through The Bahamas, and making the illicit drug trade perilous for transnational drug trafficking networks, transborder traffickers and local pushers alike.

The Bahamas drug problem originated with, and continues to be driven primarily by persistent trans-border traffic in narcotic drugs from Central and South America and the Caribbean, destined primarily for North America. This illicit traffic by sea represents a significant threat to the country's sovereignty, territorial integrity and national security.

The methods of trafficking have remained consistent over the decades, most taking place in the country's maritime territory. A wide range of maritime vessels are used in the trade, including freighters and sloops, and especially go-fast boats. Light aircraft also remain a significant means of trafficking. To a lesser extent, drugs are trafficked in commercial aviation, primarily by couriers. Traffickers have at their disposal, and make good use of, new technologies, communications and equipment comparable to that of law enforcement agencies.

2.1 Strengthening Law Enforcement

A significant component of the Strategy's action and an integral part of its balanced approach is to strengthen law enforcement action to suppress illicit drug trafficking, and thereby reduce the supply of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances coming into and through the country.

Action is also being taken to counter experimentation with marijuana production by maintaining the high detection rate of cultivation, with a view to halting the growth of a domestic supply of that narcotic drug. Stepped up drug law enforcement is also directed towards related trafficking activities, including arms trafficking, human smuggling, and illegal immigration, and the potential for trafficking in persons.

High priority is given to countering the manifold domestic law and order challenges caused by drug trafficking, especially drug and gun related crime and violence that is centered primarily in the Island of New Providence. The strictest enforcement of all drug and related laws, including border protection laws enforced by the Department of Immigration and the Custom Department, is an important objective of the Strategy.

The Government is determined to ensure that the relevant agencies¹⁸, particularly the Royal Bahamas Police Force and the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, are positioned to discharge their critical drug law enforcement responsibilities on land and sea in a cooperative, coordinated, proactive and effective way, so as to produce tangible results that would enhance citizens safety and security.

¹⁸ See Annex VI – Security Agencies

To produce the expected supply reduction results, the Government will continue to ensure that relevant agencies are well equipped to do their jobs effectively. There will be regular recruitment to the ranks of the agencies, state-of-the art assets and communications will continue to be provided, and facilities and equipment will be upgraded as necessary, including at the container port in Grand Bahama and other ports throughout the country.

Improvements in the Police Force, the principal agency for law and order in the country, will be directed towards addressing the crime and violence resulting from the undisputed competition for turf among drug trafficking groups, the jostling to fill the void left by those extradited to the United States for drug crimes, and the continued illegal importation and trafficking of guns. Guns are now the weapon of choice of serious offenders, drug addicts committing petty and other crimes, and perpetrators of other drug related crime.

Countering drug trafficking at sea will continue to be a priority in ongoing initiatives to decentralize the Defence Force from its principal base in New Providence to bases throughout the archipelago, for quick and effective maritime law enforcement operations. This action takes into account the growing trend of drug traffickers to avoid New Providence as the hub of their drug transshipment enterprises in favour of the Northern Bahamas. It also takes into consideration the varied changes in drug trafficking trends and routes that normally occur (the balloon effect) when international counter-narcotics operations are intensified in South and/or Central America.

The Government's phased acquisition initiative will add to the impressive array of assets and equipment acquired for the Defence Force over the past four years, to ensure that it is enabled to interdict the range of maritime vessels operating illegally in the country's maritime domain, and that its surveillance capacity is further developed.

Substantial action by the security agencies, particularly the Police Force and Defence Force, is expected to keep step with drug trafficking patterns, methods, transportation corridors, and craft, to disrupt drug trafficking networks comprised primarily of Bahamians and nationals of neighbouring Caribbean countries.

Action will especially be aimed at putting out of business the notorious gangs that control the transshipment of drugs from the Caribbean into and through the Northern Bahamas, the area in close proximity to the United States southern coast. These gangs are reported to have close connections with criminal enterprises in the United States.

Priorities identified for action to strengthen law enforcement during the course of the Strategy include:

- Positioning the Police Force, Defence Force and other security agencies to intensify action against illicit drug and other trafficking and drug related crime and criminality by upgrading the infrastructure, assets and equipment, and increasing the ranks of the agencies;

- The continued decentralization of Royal Bahamas Defence Force bases to strategic areas throughout the archipelago, with specific focus on the Northern Bahamas, and phased acquisition and deployment of assets for the most effective patrolling and policing of the country's territorial waters and extensive sea border against illicit drug trafficking and other illicit trafficking activity ;
- Creating synergies between law enforcement action to counter crime and criminality generally, such as the Special Task Force on Firearms aimed at halting the importation of guns into the country and initiatives to counter murder and other violent crime, and specific strategies devised to tackle drug crimes, including the Special Task Force dealing with drug houses and its initiatives to disrupt drug trafficking gangs;
- Meeting the challenge to halt and prevent experimentation with the domestic production of marijuana, by improving systems for the detection, eradication and destruction of illicit crops;
- Greatly improving the country's forensics capabilities by continuing the development of a state-of-the art forensic science laboratory that would facilitate the analysis of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in the illicit traffic, and the timely submission of evidence to the courts;
- Acquiring and deploying technical equipment, including scanners, at Ports of Entry throughout the archipelago;
- Engaging in cooperative measures (e.g. intelligence gathering and information sharing and joint counter narcotics operations) among domestic security agencies, and with regional and international partners.

2.2 Training/Technical Assistance

The Government's strategic approach to effective drug law enforcement includes continuous training that meets the country's specific needs. The country's drug law enforcement responses in core areas such as intelligence gathering and sharing, maritime interdiction, money laundering, ballistic, forensics and the detection and control of precursor chemicals, is now greatly improved by training opportunities sponsored by bilateral partners, and by regional and international organizations.

The country's law enforcement agencies have especially benefitted from the myriad operational and other training opportunities sponsored by the United States Government, and now particularly by the United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM). The Government will continue to closely cooperate with the Government of United States in implementing a wide-ranging national training agenda during the course of the Strategy. This agenda includes in-country training by visiting specialists, and the building of indigenous specialized drug law enforcement expertise that can be tapped for training nationally and in the Caribbean region.

To achieve strategic law enforcement training objectives, the action that will be taken in the context of the Strategy will be designed:

- To maximize training opportunities in priority drug law enforcement areas identified by the security forces, including intelligence gathering and analysis, surveillance, reconnaissance and monitoring techniques, investigative techniques to detect drugs, firearms and other contraband in commercial and container shipments in port areas, ballistic analysis, maritime law enforcement, money laundering, tracing, freezing and forfeiture of the proceeds of drug crimes, and the control of precursor chemicals;
- To prepare indigenous scientists to effectively manage a new state-of-the-art forensic facility and employ new technological equipment that will be acquired for forensics investigations and analysis in the area of drug control;
- To build expertise and experience in the maintenance of sea and air assets of the security forces, including vessels donated by the Government of the United States under Operation Enduring Friendship, so as to maintain the fleet of the Defence Force, in particular, in good working order.

2.3 Money Laundering

As a country with a long-established financial service industry, The Bahamas determination to safeguard its banks and other financial institutions from money laundering is reflected in the action to be taken under the Strategy. This is particularly so in the area of drug control, where the Government's objective is to disrupt trafficking networks by preventing them from using the banking and financial system to move money across national borders, and to conceal the proceeds of their crimes.

The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) will continue to play its pivotal role in the effective functioning of the regulatory regime for countering money laundering, and in law enforcement action to deprive drug traffickers of their ill-gotten gains. The FIU works closely with the financial services industry and the Police Force in carrying out its responsibilities, and will continue to do so, including as a member of the Drug Investigative Review Group (DIRG) to be established in the context of the Strategy.

Money laundering initiatives will continue to be underpinned by a strong and effective system that incorporates international regulatory standards, rigorous enforcement of legislation and regulations in respect of disclosure, surveillance, and mutual legal assistance, a critical partnership between Government and the financial services sector, and cooperation with security regulators at the international level.

The Government intends to constantly strengthen regulatory oversight of the financial services sector, to ensure that the country keeps pace and remains in full compliance with internationally accepted standards and practices. In that regard, The Bahamas active participation in forums for international cooperation to counter money laundering, including the Egmont Group and the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) will continue.

The following courses of action are among those that will continue to be specifically targeted for ongoing implementation under the Strategy, to maintain the country's decisive position against money laundering:

- Continuous review and updating of regulatory and supervisory laws and practices on money laundering to protect the integrity and security of the financial services industry, to rigorously enforce disclosure requirements and other requirements, and to keep in step with international regulatory standards;
- Close cooperation in conducting enforcement investigations, in particular with the United States, United Kingdom and Canada and other countries with which The Bahamas has or will negotiate Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties;
- Customary participation by the FIU and other Ministries/Departments of Government in forums for dialogue and decision-making on financial services matters, including the Egmont Group and the CFATF.

2.4 Forfeiture of the Proceeds of Drug Crimes

Forfeiture of the proceeds of drug crimes is a powerful weapon that is being used aggressively by the criminal justice system to deprive convicted drug traffickers of the profits of their illegal enterprises, and disrupting their affluent lifestyles. Confiscation strikes a blow against major drug traffickers in particular, who build their fortunes on human misery, and at the expense of law and order and the safety and security of citizens, residents and visitors alike.

An important incentive to pursue confiscation of the proceeds of drug crime is that it reduces the capacity of traffickers to fund their illegal operations, and to conduct other criminal activities. Importantly, the proceeds of confiscated properties, assets and monies of convicted drug traffickers, amounting in the millions of dollars, are deposited to the Confiscated Assets Fund (CAF), and are used to pay for the acquisition of major assets for the security forces, and other drug control initiatives.

Under the Strategy, the approach to the identification, tracing, freezing and forfeiture of the assets of convicted drug traffickers will:

- Build on ongoing national initiatives and those being taken in collaboration with other countries to deprive drug traffickers of assets they have acquired using profits from their illegal enterprises;
- Centre on the strict enforcement and periodic updating of laws and regulations governing forfeiture, to ensure their effectiveness;
- Use the resources of the CAF to support a broader range of effective anti-drug policies and programmes, including those formulated to promote social cohesion and social development.

2.5 Supply Reduction Measures in the Prison System

It is an unfortunate reality that, as in prisons in many countries, convicted inmates in The Bahamas prison system can obtain and abuse narcotic drugs, particularly marijuana¹⁹ and other substances smuggled into the Prison. There is also concern about inmates convicted or remanded on serious drug charges continuing to run their illicit drug operations from behind the Prison walls, using cellular telephones illegally smuggled into the facility.

Putting in place effective measures to end smuggling of illicit drugs, cell phones and related items into the Prison will be a priority under the Strategy. These measures will include:

- Appropriate training in intelligence gathering and detection methods and procedures for Officers of the Prison's Special Drug Investigative Unit (SDIU);
- Strengthened cooperation and collaboration between the Prison Service and the Police Force's Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU) in the conduct of drug investigations within the Prison;
- The acquisition and strategic utilization of technological equipment, including to block the use of cellular telephones.

2.6 Corruption

The corrupting influence of drug traffickers is underpinned by the enormous wealth generated by the illegal drug trade. Corruption of Public Officials particularly Officers of the security forces, subverts governmental processes, weakens the effectiveness of the country's drug policies and programmes, and brings discredit to, and erodes confidence, in key institutions.

Eradicating corruption requires decisive action to establish and monitor ethical standards of official conduct in accordance with the law and regulations. The imperative of living up to Codes of Ethics/Codes of Conduct should be effectively communicated to all concerned. Accountability is critical. Public Officials should know that corruption carries serious risk, and equally carry serious consequences.

To assist in preventing and eradicating the corrupting influence of drugs and drug traffickers, over the course of the Strategy the following action will be taken:

- Codes of Ethics/Codes of Conduct will be strictly enforced, and Public Officials would be expected to strictly adhere to the fundamental moral and ethical standards set for their responsibilities, work and for their organizations, as would officials in the private and NGO sectors to whom the Government delegates responsibility for drug related programmes;
- Allegations of corruption will be investigated expeditiously, and were found to be factual, decisive disciplinary action or criminal prosecution will follow immediately;

¹⁹ Dillet; ibid

- Legislation and procedures to address corruption will be reviewed, updated and strengthened as necessary, taking into account country's obligations under the Inter-American Convention on Corruption and other international obligations in this area.

2.7 Community Policing

Police/Community partnerships are pivotal to the success of initiatives to tackle drug violence and crime. This is especially so in New Providence, where drugs and crime are responsible for the breakdown of law and order and social cohesion in a number of communities and neighbourhoods. Community policing is therefore an integral part of the Strategy's law and order component.

With security and safety of people as a priority, existing partnerships and those being instituted are directed towards exposing and bringing to justice drug dealers and pushers that are using their ill-gotten wealth and/or intimidation and fear to exercise influence and control in their neighbourhoods and communities, in order to frustrate law enforcement efforts. Action to reduce the influence of these drug dealers and pushers on vulnerable young people is being treated as an imperative.

Over the course of the Strategy, Community Policing measures that will be implemented will ensure that:

- Existing Police/Community partnerships are strengthened, and other partnerships developed on a continuous basis;
- The significant presence of Police Officers in communities and neighbourhoods will continue, especially in areas in which drug violence is taking a heavy toll, so as to empower people to stand up to, and expose wrongdoers involved in the drug trade and other criminal activities;
- Communities are encouraged to identify their specific drug trafficking and drug abuse challenges and concerns, and in partnership with the Police Force, create community law enforcement needs assessment profiles, for use in crafting agreed measures to address the drug problem;
- Community self-help volunteer groups such as "Neighbourhood Watch" will continue to be supported by the Police Force, as essential players in efforts to reduce the supply of drugs and rid communities of criminals involved in the drug trade.

2.8 Security Cooperation Mechanisms

To ensure that all security agencies have the capacity to effectively tackle their particular drug challenges, Special Drug Investigative Units (SDIU) will be established in agencies in which they do not presently exist. The Royal Bahamas Police Force's Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU) will be further strengthened, and will be tasked with coordinating a Drug Investigations

Review Group (DIRG) comprising Heads of each of the SDIU and a Representative of the Office of the Attorney General's Department of Public Prosecutions.

The DIRG is expected to contribute substantially towards ensuring the drug control investigations of the agencies are coordinated, proactive, and effective, and produce tangible results. Inter-agency collaboration and cooperation will be an essential element of the work of the DIRG, including in the Container Port in Grand Bahama and in other ports throughout the country.

Direction and supervision of the DIRG will be the responsibility of the Meeting of Heads of National Security Agencies (HONSA). The HONSA will be convened bi-annually to review the work of the DIRG, or as/when required to advise the Minister of National Security/Ministerial Committee on urgent, strategic drug control matters. The NADS will provide Secretariat Services for formal meetings of the HONSA.

It is imperative to improve cooperation and coordination in drug control between national security agencies. Courses of action to be implemented in the course of the Strategy are intended to do so, including through:

- The timely establishment and/or strengthening of Special Drug Investigative Units (SDIU) in all security agencies;
- The establishment and commencement of the work of the Drug Investigations Review Group (DIRG), coordinated by the DEU;
- The establishment of the Meeting of Heads of National Security Agencies (HONSA).

2.9 Sustaining Partnerships in Bilateral and Regional Cooperation

The Bahamas has for more than four decades found a committed and supportive partner in drug law enforcement in the Government of the United States. Longstanding cooperative initiatives from which both countries have mutually benefitted over the years, including the Shiprider arrangement and the targeted donations of assets and equipment, notably under Operation Enduring Friendship, have been pivotal to The Bahamas anti-drug initiatives. The Government has factored in continued law enforcement cooperation in this strong partnership into the Strategy.

OPBAT, an excellent example of effective tripartite drug law enforcement cooperation among The Bahamas, the United States and the Turks and Caicos Islands, will continue to be given priority in the context of the Strategy. The Government highly values the long-standing and successful intelligence and operational cooperation under OPBAT. The joint law enforcement initiatives undertaken in this partnership, from which the parties have all realized mutual benefit, remains critical to countering the illicit transborder drug trade, particularly in the maritime domain and airspace of the parties, and has the full support and cooperation of The Bahamas Government.

The Bahamas remains committed to hosting the Joint Task Force (JTF), the principal forum for review of OPBAT activities and forward planning among the range of law enforcement agencies of The Bahamas, the United States and the Turks and Caicos Islands. It is committed to continued contribution to the JTF's frank and open dialogue, conducted on the basis of mutual respect and mutual understanding.

The active participation of Bahamas law enforcement agencies in the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI) process has been taken into account in the courses of action in the Strategy. Since the beginning of the CBSI process in 2009, relevant agencies have contributed to the identification of common regional security objectives in drug control, and to decisive action to implement these objectives. Over the course of the Strategy, Bahamas law enforcement officers will continue to actively work in the CBSI partnership to intensify action against illicit drug trafficking networks operating in the region.

Opportunities for bilateral and regional drug law enforcement cooperation presented by participation in the CARICOM security regime and other regional, hemispheric and international bodies, including Inter-American Drug Control Commission (CICAD), the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), the Heads of Narcotics Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) and INTERPOL, will continue to be a priority under the Strategy.

To further effect drug law enforcement action in the five years of the Strategy, it is intended that The Bahamas will:

- Within the strong and effect partnership in drug law enforcement between The Government of The Bahamas and the Government of the United States, continue to work both bilaterally and in the context of OPBAT and the JTF to intensify joint initiatives against illicit drug trafficking networks operating in The Bahamas and in the territory of the OPBAT partners;
- Maintain consistent, across-the-board participation in regional and international drug law enforcement forums, to ensure that The Bahamas viewpoints are taken into account in the formulation of drug control strategies and policies, and for the exchange of information, ideas and sharing of "best practices" that would improve the country's responses to the illicit production, trafficking and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

CHAPTER 3

STRENGTHENING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Government's initiatives to strengthen the criminal justice system and to address specific crime and drugs crime matters, will progressively improve the functioning of the system over the course of the Strategy. As part of this drive, a cadre of Prosecutors has been identified and will specialize in the area of drug related matters and will be assigned to prosecute drug and other related cases.

To further improve the efficiency of the criminal justice system in countering illicit drug crime and criminality, adequate resources will be provided to the judiciary for its effective functioning, and equipment and assets will be provided to law enforcement teams to permit them to work together effectively. Transportation and safe and secure communications, in particular, will be provided to law enforcement teams from the CAF. Best practices in the area of criminal justice and drug control are being reviewed, so as to introduce into The Bahamas those that are relevant to its particular goals, objectives and circumstances.

3.1 Drugs and the Law

The extensive body of drug and related law, which is kept under constant review, ensures the continuing relevance of legislation to new and emerging patterns and trends in the illicit drug trade. The legislation also seeks to effectively incorporate into domestic law the provisions of bilateral, regional and international treaties and agreement. A compendium of current drug and related laws is contained in Annex VII.²⁰

Recent amendments to several acts, and further legislative action in contemplation, will give the criminal justice system short to long-term advantage in dealing with offenders in the illegal drug trade. The amendment to the Firearms Act will slow the smuggling of a wide range of weapons linked to the drug trade into the country, and the use of these weapons to commit violent crimes.

Amendments to the Firearms Act will also improve law enforcement tracking of weapons brought into the country legally, to ensure that they are subsequently taken out. Amendments to the Dangerous Drug Act specifically target drug houses. Law enforcement officers will now have authority to identify and to shut down such houses, and to thereby take illicit drugs out of the community.

3.2 Court System Developments including Sentencing Matters

The five years of the Strategy will be a period during which drug cases move more expeditiously through the courts, and backlogs of cases are reduced. Judicial vacancies will be filled promptly, to ensure a full complement of Justices and Magistrates. Four courts instead of two will hear drugs and crime cases exclusively, and the courts will sit in improved facilities.

²⁰Annex VII – Drug and Related Laws

With the increase in the magistrates sentencing powers, persons convicted of drug offences in the magistrate's court can now expect to be sentenced to the maximum of seven rather than five years. The more structured approach to remand hearings will increase efficiency in drug crime matters. Other measures introduced or in contemplation should reduce the prospects of jury tampering and witness intimidation, to address challenges to jury trials in serious drug matters.

Creative and effective alternative sentencing practices will be pursued, to strengthen the criminal justice system's response to persons, particularly first time juvenile offenders, charged with committing crimes because of their abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Community service and character building initiatives will continue to be among measures available to the court to reduce recidivism in drug offenders, particularly youthful offenders, and to contribute to achieving the Strategy's overall objective. A special Drug Treatment Court (DTC) is also in contemplation.

3.3 Criminal Justice System Cooperation and Training

Close cooperation, coordination and teamwork among key agencies of the criminal justice system are essential to apprehend and bring to justice those involved in the illicit drug trade. Close cooperation between Prosecutor and Police is particularly supported by the Government, as it ensures that strong and admissible cases will be brought before the courts, and that the prospects for conviction and sentencing, particularly in serious drug cases, will be improved.

Specially targeted training in specific areas and for specific groups including Magistrates (especially those assigned to hear drug cases), Prosecutors, Police, Immigration, Customs and other security agencies will be a priority under the Strategy. Cross-cutting, inter-agency law enforcement training is also planned, to improve the capacity of teams to work together for best results. Bilateral regional and international offers of training will continue to be accepted for capacity building. Priority will also be given to conducting training locally, with the assistance of specialist consultants.

Specific courses of action that will be taken to advance the objectives of the Strategy to strengthen the criminal justice system will include:

- The regular review, amendment, and enactment of illegal drug and related legislation to effectively address new and emerging challenges in drug control, and to keep step with international obligations;
- The strict enforcement by the criminal justice system and all security agencies of anti-drug and related laws, including those on the sale of drugs and alcohol to children and young people; pushing drugs in and around schools; gun possession; border protection; and the import and export of pharmaceuticals/chemicals, including precursor chemicals, in accordance with relevant provisions of the international drug control treaties;

- The adoption of additional measures to reduce the prospects of jury tampering and witness intimidation, to address challenges to jury trials in serious drug matters;
- Development of protocols, as appropriate, to govern inter-agency cooperation, including between Prosecutors and Police, in apprehending offenders and in bringing them to justice;
- The provision of adequate resources to the judiciary, and the provision of assets and equipment for the effective functioning of the criminal justice system, to ensure that all cases before the courts are dealt with expeditiously;
- The development of procedures and protocols between the Customs Department and The Bahamas Pharmacy Council for the assessment/inspection of medical/chemical shipments at ports of entry by qualified personnel, to ensure that such shipments conform to the requirements of the law and the provisions of the international drug control treaties for substances under international control;
- Continuous training and cross-training in the criminal justice system to allow for greater cohesion in criminal justice system responses to drugs and crime.

CHAPTER 4
CONSOLIDATING THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The institutional framework that takes the Strategy forward is more coherent, comprehensive and inclusive of all partners. It contains the mechanisms and structures required to effectively counter the production, consumption and illicit trafficking in drugs at the national level, and to meet The Bahamas obligations at the bilateral, regional and international levels.

4.1 The Ministerial Committee on Drug Control (MCDC)

The Government's oversight of the Strategy will be at Ministerial level, to give the political leadership required for the implementation of the Strategy's goals and objectives, and to approve its Annual Programme of Action over the five-year period. The MCDC comprises Ministers having portfolio responsibilities pertinent to the control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, namely, National Security, Health, Education, Youth, Social Development, and Finance.

4.2 Drug Control Bodies (NADS and BNDC)

As the principal national body for building coherence and cooperation in drug control, the NADS is positioned to have an overview of the broad range of national action to counter drug abuse and illicit trafficking, as well as cooperative action taken at the regional and international levels.

The relationship between the NADS and the Bahamas National Drug Council (BNDC), situated in the Ministry of Health, has been revised for greater coherence in the work of the two bodies and to avoid duplication. BNDC is mandated to organize and coordinate initiatives for the prevention of drug abuse, drug education and treatment and rehabilitation of persons with substance abuse problems. BNDC's Governmental and non-governmental members are appointed by the Minister of Health.

With the passing of specialist counselling and other drug demand reduction and related services to the SRC/LVU and non-governmental and community organisations, the remaining functions of the BNDC centres in the main on spearheading collaboration with the Ministry of Education and other partners in the organization, administration and implementation of demand reduction projects, with expert input from its various committees.

The BNDC will retain lead responsibility for drug prevention and demand reduction initiatives, and would advise the NADS in these matters. The two bodies would collaborate in the implementation of demand reduction strategies and policies. For clarity regarding the standing of the NADS, the broad drug control body, and the BNDC which is charged with demand reduction matters, the new nomenclature for the BNDC would be the "***Council for Drug Prevention and Demand Reduction***" (CDPDR). The feasibility of merging the BNDC with the NADS will be actively considered over the course of the Strategy.

4.3 Other Relevant Bodies

The NADS may, in implementing its mandate, draw on the experience and expertise of a number of existing or soon to be established bodies, strengthened or created to improve the coherence and effectiveness of the country's drug control efforts. These bodies include those delineated in the various sections of this Strategy, including in Chapter 2. Particular emphasis has been placed on setting clear mandates, determining leadership roles, responsibilities, and accountability of these bodies, and expanding the range of partners participating in them. Among the principal Bodies that will assist in the implementation of the Strategy are:

- The NADS National Drug Observatory (NDO) – mandated to provide factual, objective and reliable drug information to underpin policymaking, drug related services and drug control generally. The NDO is also to collect, produce and analyze data required to interpret drug issues, and for reports on the country's drug situation and efforts, including to bodies such as the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB);
- The National Drug Policy Advisory Committee (NDPAC) – an expert group comprised of 7-10 specialists representative of the principle areas in drug control (e.g. law enforcement, criminal justice, mental health, social work, financial services, statistics). Members are appointed in their personal capacity for a period of 3-5 years. As an advisory body to the Ministerial Committee on Drug Control (MCDC), the Committee will provide analysis and information on drug control, particularly in the priority areas identified in the Strategy, and will review, assess and make recommendations on the Programme of Work of the NADS. The Director of the NADS will be an ex-officio Member of the NDPAC;
- Inter-Agency Working Group on Drug Control (IAWG) – a Group comprising senior Public Officers from Ministries and agencies having responsibilities in drug control generally, and in the core areas of the Strategy in particular. The Group, which the Director of the NADS will Chair, is to ensure the exchange of information and ideas, complementarity in Government drug control initiatives, and the coordination of joint activities. Group Representatives are appointed in their personal capacities, but Alternate Representatives may be appointed to stand in for them in their absence. The Group would meet quarterly, or as necessary;
- Community Development Action Committees on Demand Reduction (CODACS) – the community development framework originally administered by the BNDC will be kept in place, but the mandates of the Committees have been revised and their numbers reduced to four (Drug Abuse Prevention & Public Information Committee; Youth, Family and Community Leaders Committee; Faith-Based Organizations Leaders Committee; and Fundraising Committee);
- NGO Consultative Forum (NGOF) – to ensure appropriate NGO collective input in drug control policies and initiatives, particularly in the area of demand reduction and treatment and rehabilitation, it will be proposed to NGOs and community organizations that they establish a Consultative Forum for monitoring and advising on Government, NGO and

private sector programmes in their specific areas of interest, and for undertaking joint initiatives as appropriate;

- Ad-Hoc Focus Groups (AFG) – to be established as necessary, but on a temporary basis, to address critical, specific priorities in drug control or emanating from the Strategy, for example, the links between youth violence and drugs and between guns and drugs. The AFGs may take the form of panel discussions;
- National Annual Public Forum on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (NPF) - to allow for the expression of public opinion and to provide input into the country's drug policies and programmes.

Other bodies contributing to the strengthening of the institutional framework for drug control include:

- Health Information Research Unit, Ministry of Health – the work of this body in areas including the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistical information on the health situation and health services, and the consultative services it provides for special projects by Government, health care professionals, and to non-governmental agencies are important to the furtherance of the Strategy's objectives;
- The Bahamas National Drug Agency (BANDA) - an agency of the Public Hospitals Authority that assists in the preparation of those parts of The Bahamas reports to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) relating to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances under international control, and in local and international law enforcement initiatives as requested;
- The Bahamas Pharmacy Council (BPC), responsible for the registration and licensure of pharmacy professional and facilities, which perform essential functions that assist in countering the diversion and abuse of licit prescription drugs, and which makes an essential contribution to the implementation of the Strategy.

4.4 Overarching Institutional Action

In keeping with what the overall institutional framework is expected to accomplish, overarching institutional action that will be taken to meet the objectives set out in the Strategy and in drug control generally over the next five years will include:

- Publicizing the mandate and functions of the NADS for the benefit of partners that will be engaged in the implementation of the Strategy and for the general public;
- A review of the staffing tables, facilities and equipment available to the NADS to effectively play its role as the principal national body for building coherence and cooperation in drug control, and for coordination and implementation of the National Anti-Drug Strategy;

- The upgrading and re-launch of the NADS National Drug Observatory (NDO), by providing requisite staff, accommodation and technological equipment, to permit it to effectively carry out its functions and maintain the standards recommended by regional, hemispheric and international drug control bodies;
- The establishment of a NADS Fundraising Committee, to seek financial and other support from the private sector and bilateral, regional and international donors for national drug control activities;
- The operationalisation, at the earliest possible time, of newly conceptualized institutional arrangements, so as to improve and strengthen coherence, cooperation and collaboration in the implementation of the Strategy and in drug control generally;
- The provision by the NADS of secretariat services to the MCDC, NDPAC, IAWG, and of accommodation for meetings of the NGOF;
- The preparation by the NADS, in consultation with the IAWG, of an **Annual Programme of Work** at the beginning of each year of the Strategy, to be reviewed by the NDPAC and approved for implementation by the MCDC. The Work Programme will include a schedule of meetings, public consultations and events to be held during the year, and will be publicized when the Programme is approved;
- The presentation of a report on the outcomes of the Annual Work Programme to the MCDC, following review and discussion between the NADS and the NDPAC; and
- The preparation by the NADS National Drug Observatory of an Annual Report on the country's drug situation set in the context of the implementation of the Strategy and other drug control initiatives over the course of the preceding year.

CHAPTER 5
BILATERAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

As an archipelagic state with particular vulnerability to illicit transit trafficking from source and supply centres in the Caribbean and Central and South America, and illicit markets in North America and Europe, the value Government attaches to “*shared responsibility*” and multilateral approaches to drug abuse and illicit trafficking as a transnational problem is reflected in the Strategy.

By stepping up its cooperation in bilateral, regional and international drug control forums and initiatives, The Bahamas reaffirms its commitment to active participation in a coordinated and effective multilateral response to the drug problem. Its overarching objective is to continue to do its part, through implementation of the international drug control treaties and the courses of action emanating from the various forums and gatherings on drug control, in areas including law enforcement, crime prevention and criminal justice, and supply and demand reduction.

5.1 Regional and International Instruments and Organizations

The Bahamas, the first state to ratify the 1988 United Nations Convention against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, is a states party to all of the international drug control treaties, and to a range of related international and hemispheric instruments. These instruments are a critical part of the framework within which The Bahamas implements its drug control obligations, both nationally and internationally.

Active participation in regional and international forums is, and will continue to be an important aspect of The Bahamas international drug control activities over the course of the Strategy. The Bahamas commitment to regional and international initiatives of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), including the Santo Domingo Pact and the Regional Heads of Narcotics Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), will be maintained.

As a member of the Inter-American Commission on Drug Control (CICAD), The Bahamas will continue to work closely with its OAS partners in implementing the Hemispheric Drug Strategy, and carrying out the essential work of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), as well as other CICAD initiatives. As an active participant in the Conference of Ministers of Defence of the Americas (CDMA), The Bahamas will cooperate with hemispheric states in implementing the Conference’s objectives, including those for drug control.

Regional action to counter drug abuse and illicit trafficking will be actively supported within the framework established by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), particularly though the Council for National Security and Law Enforcement (CONSLE). The cooperative action for drug control advocated under the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI)²¹, launched in Washington D.C. in May 2010 will be advanced through participation in the Dialogue, Commission, and Ad Hoc Technical Working Groups. Regarding money laundering,

²¹ Membership incorporates the countries of CARICOM, the Dominican Republic and the United States

The Bahamas will continue to work with other Caribbean states in supporting the work of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) and as well, the work of the Egmont Group.

5.2 Bilateral Cooperation Matters

To strengthen partnerships in drug control and forge new partnerships, The Bahamas enters into bilateral agreements with states in their mutual interest. It has signalled its interest in entering into further bilateral agreements.

The Bahamas and the United States, in particular, continue a long-term, mutually beneficial bilateral partnership to counter illicit transit trafficking in drugs, generally destined for the United States. Operation Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands (OPBAT) the 29 year tripartite flagship cooperation agreement among The Bahamas, the United States and the Turks and Caicos Islands plays an important role in drug interdiction efforts in air and maritime space of the parties.

The effectiveness of other Bahamas/United States cooperation programmes is also much in evidence. In line with The Bahamas Shiprider Programme, in effect since March 1982, there is a continuing presence of Royal Bahamas Defence Officers stationed aboard various United States Coast Guard vessels operating in Bahamas territorial waters. This allows United States law enforcement Officers to assist in stopping, boarding and searching and/or arresting vessels in Bahamas territorial waters suspected of being engaged in transnational criminal activities, including drug trafficking.

Under the Enduring Friendship Programme, the state-of-the-art interceptor vessels donated by the Government of the United States have helped to substantially improve The Bahamas maritime interdiction capability. Bahamas-United States Inter-Agency joint operations and intelligence sharing across a broad range of law enforcement organizations have helped to disrupt the illicit drug trade in The Bahamas maritime and air space.

The virtually seamless transfer of law enforcement cooperation between The Bahamas and the United States from the United States Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) to the United States Northern Command (NORTHCOM) in 2010 has ensured that cooperation in the drug control and related areas has proceeded uninterrupted. Training, capacity building and operational cooperation have been particularly beneficial in this context.

The Bahamas recommits to working together with the United States, including in the bilateral cooperative framework of which the existing agreements and programmes form an integral part. It does so in recognition of the important progress that has been made and the significant results that have been achieved, for the mutual benefit of both countries.

For purposes of the Strategy, priorities identified for action in respect of international cooperation include:

- Taking legislative, operational and other action to meet the country's obligations under the international drug control treaties and related treaties and agreements into which the country

has entered, and reviewing and considering other regional and international instruments for signature, ratification or accession;

- The active and consistent participation in standing regional and international drug control bodies and other forums, including CICAD, the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), so as to contribute to their work, and to ensure that The Bahamas viewpoints are incorporated in international decision-making and standard setting activities;
- Active participation in the new agenda for security cooperation and the arrangements and activities agreed for action under the CBSI, and for purposes of the Strategy, those areas concerning drug abuse and illicit trafficking;
- Strengthening bilateral cooperative agreements and arrangements for effective drug control, particularly OPBAT and other programmes with the United States of America, continuing to implement existing bilateral agreements, and considering prospective agreements with other countries as may be mutually beneficial; and
- Identifying and accessing bilateral, regional and international sources of financial assistance, technical expertise and training that may be tapped to build capacity in all aspects of the drug problem, and participation in regional capacity building assistance exercises sponsored by international organizations and donors.

5.3 Ministry of National Security (NADS)/Ministry of Foreign Affairs Liaison

It is important to ensure that the work under the Strategy, in addition to meeting national goals and objectives, is closely linked to the country's international relations, for which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have lead responsibility. To ensure coherence between action at the national level and obligations at the regional and international levels, the close collaboration between the Ministry of National Security's NADS and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, essential to achieving drug control objectives, will be enhanced through a special liaison arrangement. The NADS will liaise with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on matters including:

- The designation and accreditation of Bahamas delegations to regional and international drug control meetings and forums;
- Receipt and dissemination of information on drug control, including reports of Bahamas delegations to various meetings, and The Bahamas monitoring of the implementation of decisions of various drug control bodies and forums;
- Monitoring of The Bahamas reporting and other obligations, including coordination of the preparation of questionnaires and other documents to be submitted to regional, hemispheric and international organizations;
- Organization and management of drug control meetings hosted by The Bahamas, including the OPBAT Joint Task Force.

Chapter 6
FINANCIAL RESOURCES & RELATED MATTERS

The Government accepts that careful and strategic investment is needed to carry out the concerted action required to tackle the country's multifaceted drug problem, and to further strengthen its capacity to counter the illicit production, abuse and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in a balanced way. This is the approach taken to the Strategy's financial resources and related matters.

The commitment to provide necessary funding for implementation of the Strategy is made bearing in mind the significant cost of anti-drug efforts, the complicating effects of substantial drug control expenditure on development efforts, and the continuing global financial situation, which is putting pressure on Government's resources and donor funding alike.

The Strategy's budget estimates will be prepared annually for each of the five years as a collaborative initiative of the NADS and the IAWG, in consultation with the NDPAC, and with input from NGO and community organizations. Budget funding will come from a combination of allocations from the regular budget and the CAF. The budget estimates will be presented to the MCDC for review and decision.

Ministries/Agencies with responsibilities in the core areas of drug control, including the NADS, will continue to be allocated funds from the regular budget to implement their drug control agendas. Each year, regular budget allocations for drug control will be supplemented by an allocation from the CAF, the amount of which will be recommended by the MCDC, on the advice of the NADS and the NDPAC. CAF resources for the Strategy will be managed by the Ministry of National Security

The overall budget for drug control will be directed primarily towards supporting broad national anti-drug objectives, including capacity building in all aspects of the drug problem, forging effective anti-drug partnerships, raising awareness of the dangers of drug abuse and illicit trafficking, meeting The Bahamas regional, hemispheric and international obligations, and overall, promoting the coherence and coordination required to deliver the Strategy's objectives.

The law and order response to the drug problem, stemming from the country's vulnerability to illicit transit trafficking, particularly in cocaine and marijuana, has yielded marked results over the years. With the dedication of substantial resources to the Royal Bahamas Police Force and the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, these agencies now have at their disposal state-of-the art technology, communications and assets that allow them to more effectively meet the challenge of drug trafficking and related criminality.

While initiatives will continue to strengthen the law and order response to the drug problem, to counter the detrimental impact of drug abuse and illicit trafficking on individuals, communities and on the society as a whole, and to maintain a balanced approach to drug control financial resources will be increased, and drug control efforts stepped up, in other areas.

Additional funds will be allocated, as appropriate, in areas including: demand reduction; treatment and rehabilitation; drug education and public information; social services; research; specialist education and training; participation in, and organization and management of events at the national, regional and international levels; media campaigns; and targeted interventions to halt experimentation with marijuana cultivation. Activities in these areas will be implemented in New Providence, and as appropriate, in Grand Bahama and the Family Islands.

Some of the most effective national anti-drug measures, particularly in the areas of demand reduction and treatment and rehabilitation, have been taken by NGOs and community based organizations. Strategy funding responds to the request of these organisations for greater financial and other support for their essential work, to assist them in meeting the growing demands for residential, counseling, walk-in and other services.

The Government intends to provide a regular and dependable source of grant funding and other support to NGO and community organizations from the CAF allocation, including to meet the increasing costs of upkeep of persons recovering from drug dependence in residential and transitional facilities. As with other courses of action to be implemented under the Strategy, allocation of resources to NGOs and community organizations will be activity and project driven, and results oriented.

In the allocation of regular and realistic grants, particular consideration will be given to those organizations to which Government Ministries/Agencies and the courts regularly refer persons with substance abuse and abuse problems. Support will also be given to NGO and community based organizations committed to investing in specific programmes/facilities for treatment and rehabilitation of women with drug dependence, and in the extension of the capacity of residential and transitional homes/halfway houses.

The NADS will cooperate with NGOs and community organizations, at their request, in their income-generating and other activities. The NADS Fundraising Committee will take the requirements of these organizations into consideration in investigating sources of funding for anti-drug activities and projects from bilateral, regional and international donors. The NADS will also continue to forge partnerships with the private sector to encourage targeted funding for the implementation of Strategy activities, including projects and programmes of NGOs and community based organizations.

NGOs and community organizations applying for Grants from the CAF will be required to provide detailed information on the feasibility, practicability, value added and sustainability of the projects and programmes they present for funding. Where Grants are awarded, accountability would be key. Organizations would be required to follow regulations, guidelines and procedures established by Government for these purposes.

A core imperative of Strategy funding is to ensure that national drug control initiatives are complementary and cohesive, and meet the Strategy's objectives. This requires prioritization of the range of action that must be taken over the course of the Strategy. With these considerations in view, it is the intention of the Government to provide financial and other resources for the implementation of the Strategy as set out below:

6.1 Role and Capacity of the NADS

- To strengthen the capacity of the NADS to deliver on its mandate as the principal national body charged with effecting coherence, collaboration and coordination in anti-drug efforts and for implementation of the Strategy, in particular through improvement in its facilities and technical capacity and increase in its staffing tables;
- To reinforce the National Drug Observatory (NDO), the NADS Special Unit, by expanding its staffing tables and providing the technological equipment required for the collection, analysis, management and dissemination of information, the conduct of surveys and the preparation of reports and papers to inform drug policy and programmes;
- To fully develop the NADS website and the range of online methods that may be used to collect, share and disseminate information, to exchange ideas and information on drug control issues, and to publicize the work of the NADS and other Ministries/Agencies of Government and NGOs and community organizations in drug control;
- To provide the means for the NADS to support newly operationalised mechanisms outlining the Strategy and make available services, including secretariat services, required for them to effectively respond to and sustain effective counter-drug initiatives;
- To support the convening, organization and follow-up of events and meetings at the national level, particularly the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the National Annual Public Forum on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, and youth anti-drug activities, and events and meetings which the Bahamas host or in which it participates, at the bilateral regional and international levels;
- To prepare and publish statistical and other periodic reports, complete questionnaires and other instruments from regional and international organizations, develop culturally relevant anti-drug resources, including drug prevention materials, professional and other guidelines, anti-drug posters and other public information publications.

6.2 Strengthening the rule of law

- To develop, as appropriate, Special Drug Investigative Units (SDIU) in the security forces and uniform branches, and to support the work of a Drug Investigations Review Group (DIRG) comprising the Heads of each of the SDIUs, coordinated by the Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU) of the Royal Bahamas Police Force, and the DIRG's oversight by the Meeting of Heads of National Security Agencies (HONSA);
- To continue the decentralization and upgrading of law enforcement facilities and initiatives throughout the archipelago, particularly those of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, to better counter the trans-border trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, often linked to illegal migration flows and the illegal arms trade;

- To assist in confronting and reducing drug related crime and criminality and enhancing public safety, by the further the acquisition of assets for the security forces and other agencies, including modern equipment and technology for surveillance, information systems, and patrol crafts;
- To enhance the security of the Container Port in Grand Bahama and ports throughout the country, through the purchase and upgrading, as necessary, of equipment for the detection of drugs and other contraband in cargo shipments;
- To further strengthen the criminal justice system through the vigorous enforcement of drug and related laws and regulations, and in particular, through the implementation of legislation recently passed by Parliament on issues including sentencing practices;
- To invest in law enforcement and other initiatives to halt experimentation with marijuana cultivation in New Providence and the Family Islands.

6.3 Demand Reduction

- To advocate the development of effective prevention and demand reduction measures that address the root causes of the drug problem, and to offer possible solutions to them, by addressing the socio-economic and other challenges the abuse and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances engender;
- To make drug prevention education an integral part of the school curriculum, and in that regard, to review and consolidate existing anti-drug initiatives, and to launch new initiatives as appropriate;
- To promote the engagement of youth and youth organizations, including the National Youth Crime Council and youth arms of the Security Forces in the country's anti-drug efforts, particularly in activities aimed at preventing the first use of drugs and alcohol by children and youth, and to promote healthy drug free lifestyles;
- To produce culturally relevant anti-drug guidelines and teaching materials for educators and school staff generally, and for parents and guardians on preventing drug and alcohol abuse, and to promote educational encounters with pivotal agencies such as the Royal Bahamas Police Force and Her Majesty's Prison, to convey emphatic clear-cut anti-drug messages.

6.4 Investing in Treatment and Rehabilitation

- To extend and improve the SRC/LVU infrastructure, framework and staffing table for drug treatment and rehabilitation, commensurate with the numbers and condition of persons seeking treatment for drug dependence, with the aim of providing customary high-quality services and the best possible outcomes in a state of the art facility;
- To support a more comprehensive, collaborative and uniform approach to treatment and rehabilitation among Government Ministries/Agencies and NGO and community based

organizations, and for these purposes, to advance and conclude the SRC/LVU's initiatives to provide guidance, clarify international standards, and set national goals and standards for organizations offering services in treatment and rehabilitation;

- To address the challenge of persons convicted and sentenced to prison for possession of dangerous drugs, and other inmates found to have a history of drug abuse, by implementing a robust drug education and treatment and rehabilitation programme in Her Majesty's Prison.

6.5 NGOs and Community Organizations – Cooperation in Capacity Building

- To provide qualifying NGO and community organizations with regular, realistic and dependable Grants to support the essential health care, employment and skills development initiatives, and residential and transitional home and half-way house accommodation they provide, particularly to persons recovering from drug dependence;
- To give requisite support to NGO and community organizations that extend their treatment and rehabilitation and other services to include women that require such services;
- To assist NGOs and community organizations, at their request, with staff training and professional development, and in identifying trained staff such as Counsellors and Administrators to support the management of their facilities and delivery of the range of services they provide;
- To give incentives and recognition to NGOs, community organizations and individuals for their achievements in rendering services in the area of drug demand reduction and treatment and rehabilitation of persons with drug dependence.

6.6 Capacity Building through Training and Professional Development

- To support the further development of a multi-disciplinary cadre of trained professionals and technical experts having the knowledge, skills and expertise required to counter all aspects of the drug problem in New Providence, Grand Bahama and the Family Islands, so as to expand, as a matter of priority, the number of persons in critical areas of concern, commensurate with the work that needs to be done;
- To support the implementation of a professional development strategy that delivers appropriate anti-drug education and training. The strategy would prioritize in-country, in-house training that utilizes the resources of national institutions such as the College of The Bahamas and local and regional expertise, as well as on-line training and opportunities for training at the bilateral, regional and international levels;
- To identify and support key areas for specialty training and professional development, including the criminal justice system, forensics, ballistics, social services, and pharmacy drug audits for medications having controlled substances, so as to improve national responses to drug control, and to meet international obligations and standards in this area.

6.7 Research

- To incorporate a broad range of individuals and institutions in conducting research over the spectrum of serious drug challenges, so as to support an evidenced based, balanced approach to drug control, and in particular to produce data and analysis required to underpin culturally relevant drug control policies and strategies and for the completion of questionnaires and instruments from regional and international organizations;
- To support the production of a uniform system and instrument to be used by all entities concerned with drug control for the collection, collation and analysis of data, for a clear picture of patterns and trends in drug abuse and illicit trafficking, and the country's drug situation;
- To support, in cooperation with individuals and institutions at the national level, including the College of The Bahamas, research projects conducted by the NADS/NDO, such as that on specific issues identified by the Ad-Hoc Focus Groups (AFGs), and to forge mutually beneficial partnerships with academic and other institutions abroad for research purposes.

6.8 Public Information

- To formulate and sustain, in cooperation with the media, an effective National Anti-Drug Public Information Campaign, key elements of which will be sending out clear and unambiguous messages about the dangers of drug abuse and illicit trafficking, promoting positive action and publicizing effective initiatives and notable achievements in this area, and reporting on The Bahamas participation in, and contribution to bilateral, regional and international drug control initiatives;
- To publicize and highlight the work of the NADS, other Government Ministries/Agencies and NGOs and community organizations in drug control, including through documentaries and other audio-visual and print materials, public awareness-raising and recognition events, and forums for public dialogue on drug control.

6.9 International Cooperation

- To continue to actively participate in the work of regional, hemispheric and international organizations concerned with drug abuse and illicit trafficking, and in initiatives such as the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI) that have an important drug component, and in bilateral partnerships for drug control, including those with the United States of America and in the tripartite OPBAT agreement;
- To participate actively in regional operational activities to improve interoperability, including among the Caribbean region's drug security forces;
- To take action to meet the country's obligations under the international drug control treaties and related bilateral and regional agreements and instruments, including those of the Organization of America States.

Chapter 7

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Given the critical role that monitoring and evaluation play in the success of the Strategy, reliable systems incorporating sound performance indicators have been put in place to determine, on a continuous basis, that progress is being made in achieving the Strategy's goals and objectives. This approach allows for the Strategy to be adjusted as necessary to take up new and emerging drug control challenges, and to initiate other activities when short-term objectives have been achieved. It also allows for a coherent and comprehensive picture of what the Strategy accomplished at the end of the five-year period.

The NADS is the lead agency responsible for coordination of the monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy and for reporting on progress made in implementing its courses of action. The NADS/NDO will play a key role in this exercise. The NADS' work in this area will be reviewed by the NDPAC, and will be sent forward for review and direction to the MCDC.

It is the responsibility of the NADS to work together with Government Ministries/Agencies, NGOs and community organizations and all concerned with drug control to create a dynamic partnership for the effective implementation of the Strategy. Senior public officers, professionals with specialist expertise and Heads of NGOs and community organizations are expected to play a central role in the monitoring and evaluation exercise.

Each year of the Strategy, the IAWG, together with the NADS and in consultation with relevant NGOs and community organizations, will engage in a strategic planning exercise to draw up a Working Document based on the Annual Programme of Work for the forthcoming year. The Working Document will establish agreed priorities and courses of action for each partner. Selected indicators will be agreed upon, and an Instrument developed for the uniform collection of data will be made available to partners for their necessary action.

The expectation is that each member of the partnership would meet the general requirement of oversight, scrutiny and evaluation of its own specific programmes and projects. Data on their accomplishments would be provided to the NADS to feed into the monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy. The IAWG's quarterly meetings will be utilized in part for a review of the information provided to the NADS.

The review would determine the progress made system-wide in implementing the courses of action set out in the Strategy and the essential next steps, and would identify best practices that have emerged from the implementation activities for future reference. Given the importance of these exercises to the assessment of the overall situation of drug abuse and illicit trafficking in the country, the Head of the NADS/NDO would join the Director of NADS as Co-Chair of the IAWG's review sessions.

Within the NADS, the NDO will have lead responsibility for preparing three quarterly provisional reports on the status of implementation of the Strategy and of drug control in the country generally, following the review sessions. The fourth quarterly report would be a full

end-of-year status report that takes into account the provisional reports and related matters, and which will constitute the country's National Annual Drug Report.

To ensure that the Strategy is effectively monitored and evaluated, and that it meets its objectives, targeted action to be taken will include:

- The launching of the mechanism for the overall monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy, which comprise the NADS (NDO), as lead agency the IAWG as the principal review forum, the NDPAC as consultative and advisory body, and the MCDC for direction, in line with Government policy;
- The dissemination to all partners of the Instrument prepared by the NADS (NDO), in cooperation with the NDPAC and IAWG to be used for the collection of data on all aspects of the drug problem in a standardized manner, taking into account the indicators set for assessing progress in meeting the goals and objectives of the Strategy;
- The identification of a person(s) in all Ministries/Agencies of Government, NGOs and Community organizations as Points of Contact (POC) for cooperating with the NADS in completing the Instrument for the quarterly review of progress made in implementing the Strategy;
- The production of three quarterly Provisional Reports and an Annual Report on the status of the implementation of the Strategy and on drug control generally, for presentation to the MCDC through the NDPAC, and for circulation to all partners, the general public and as appropriate, to international organizations;
- The utilization of review reports for the completion of questionnaires and reports to be submitted under the international drug control treaties, and requested by regional, hemispheric and international organisations;
- The use of the NADS website and other social media to provide public information on the implementation of the Strategy and to encourage feedback on it programmes, projects and other activities.

NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG SECRETARIAT

GENERAL FUNCTIONS

- The maintenance of a comprehensive overview of drug control activities of Government Ministries/Agencies, NGOs and community organizations and others entities concerned with drug control;
- Assistance in the development of policies and programmes for prevention of drug abuse, treatment and rehabilitation and supply reduction and related matters;
- The collection, compilation and analysis of national statistical and other data on drug abuse and illicit trafficking, including the regular conduct of surveys and studies that inform policy, and the regular assessment of the state of drug control and implementation of the National Anti-Drug Strategy;
- The preparation of reports and papers, including an Annual Report on the drug situation in The Bahamas, and the encouragement in, and assistance for, research and production of scholarly works by individuals, academics and academic institutions, including the College of The Bahamas and the University of the West Indies;
- Cooperating with, and facilitating collaboration among Government Ministries/Agencies, non-governmental and community organizations and the media, to support the implementation of anti-drug projects, programmes and public information campaigns;
- In conjunction with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and relevant Governmental entities, assisting in the implementation of obligations arising from the international drug control treaties, articulating Government policies in regional, hemispheric and international organizations, and participating in international standards setting exercises, including in the Caribbean Community, the Organization of American States, the Commonwealth and the United Nations;
- Cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other Ministries/Agencies and partners in carrying out The Bahamas reporting obligations, including under regional, hemispheric and international treaties and arrangements;
- Coordination of Bahamas delegations and representation of The Bahamas in bilateral, regional and international forums concerned with drug abuse and illicit trafficking;
- The convening, organization and management of national drug control forums, and assisting in the convening and organization of bilateral and international meetings held in The Bahamas, including the tripartite Joint Task Force (The Bahamas, the United States and the Turks and Caicos Islands).

ANNEX II

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL TREATIES
& RELATED TREATIES AND INSTRUMENTS TO WHICH
THE BAHAMAS IS A STATE PARTY

TREATY/AGREEMENT	SUCCESSION /ACCESSION	SIGNATURE	RATIFICATION
United Nations Convention against Corruption, 2003	10 January 2008 (a)		
United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000		9 April 2001	26 September 2008
Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, Supplementing the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime 2004		9 April 2001	26 September 2008
Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking In Persons, Especially Women and Children Supplementing the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime 2003		9 April 2001	26 September 2008
Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and components and Ammunition, Supplementing the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime 2001		9 April 2001	26 September 2008
United Nations Convention against the Illicit Traffic In Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances 1988		20 December 1988	30 January 1989
United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961 as Amended by the 1972 Protocol	13 August 1975 (s)		
United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971	31 August 1987 (a)		

ANNEX III

INTER-AMERICAN DRUG CONTROL RELATED TREATIES AND INSTRUMENTS TO WHICH THE BAHAMAS IS A STATE PARTY

TREATY/AGREEMENT	SUCCESSION /ACCESSION	SIGNATURE	RATIFICATION
Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing Of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials (1997)		15 April 1998	5 June 1998
Inter-American Convention against Corruption (1996)		2 June 1998	9 March 2000
Inter-American Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters		26 April 2001	22 April 2009

ANNEX IV

BILATERAL & TRILATERAL INSTRUMENTS INTO WHICH THE BAHAMAS HAS ENTERED

INSTRUMENT	COUNTRY	EFFECTIVE DATE
Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	Canada	10 July 1990
Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of Cuba and the Commonwealth of The Bahamas to Combat International Drug Trafficking	Cuba (Done at Havana)	10 May 1996
Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and The Bahamas Concerning the Investigation of Drug Trafficking and Confiscation of the Proceeds of Drug Trafficking	United Kingdom	October 1990 (Signature 28 June 1988)
Agreement between the Government of The Bahamas and the Government of the United States concerning the Interdiction of Narcotics Trafficking	United States of America (Done at Nassau)	6 March 1985 (Signature 6 March 1985)
Bilateral Agreement between the Government of the United States of America And The Bahamas on the Control of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances	United States of America (Done at Nassau)	17 February 1989 (Signature 17 February 1989)
Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of The Bahamas Concerning Cooperation in Maritime Law	United States of America	29 June 2004 (Signature 29 June 1989)
Memorandum of Understanding between the United States, The Bahamas and The United Kingdom, including Turks and Caicos Islands, Concerning Cooperation in the Fight against Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs through the use of Equipment and Personnel Based at Great Inagua and Such Other Bases as may be Established in the Turks and Caicos Islands (OPBAT)	United States of America (Done at Washington D.C.)	12 July 1990
Operation Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands (OPBAT) – An agreement with the United States and the Turks and Caicos Islands for the collaboration of law enforcement agencies of the signatories in interdicting and disrupting narcotics networks using the islands as launch points into the United States	United States of America	March 1982
Treaty between the United States of America and the Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters	United States of America (12 June 1987)	18 July 1990 (Signature August 1987)

BILATERAL & TRILATERAL INSTRUMENTS
INTO WHICH THE BAHAMAS HAS ENTERED (CONT'D)

INSTRUMENT	COUNTRY	EFFECTIVE DATE
Agreement correcting the text of the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	United States of America (Done at Nassau)	4 February 1988 (Exchange of Notes 27 January & 4 February 1988)
Agreement concerning a Cooperative Ship-rider and Over-flight Drug Interdiction Program for Joint Operations	United States of America	1 & 6 May 1996 (Exchange of Notes)

ANNEX V

CROSS-SECTION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATION PARTNERS IN DEMAND REDUCTION

ORGANIZATION	ORGANIZATION HEAD	FUNCTION	COMMENCE ACTIVITIES
Bahamas Association for social Health (BASH), Columbus Avenue, Chippingham P.O. Box SS-5372 Nassau, The Bahamas (242) 356-2274 bashbahamas@hotmail.com	Executive Director Terry Miller	To substantially reduce crime, violence and drug abuse in communities in The Bahamas	1991
Dean Granger Centre Market Street P.O. Box N-653 Nassau, The Bahamas (242) 326-7833	Executive Director Eugene Palacios	Half-Way House for men	
Great Commissions Ministries International, The Erma Miller Centre, 16 Wulff Road, P.O. Box N-1444, Nassau, The Bahamas (242) 325-5801 info@gcmglobal.org	President & Founder – Bishop Walter Hanchell Executive Director – Minalee Hanchell	Promoting reconciliation, restoration and hope for persons affected by poverty, crime, drug abuse and broken relationships	1987

<p>Hope Centre P.O. Box GT-2353 Nassau, The Bahamas (242) 356-6549 <u>thehopecenter@gmail.com</u></p>	<p>Executive Director Carlos Reid</p>	<p>Mentoring young people to be productive citizens</p>	<p>1995</p>
<p>Teen Challenge Bahamas Marshall Road, South Beach P.O. Box SS-6754 Nassau, The Bahamas <u>tchallenge@coralwave.com</u></p>	<p>Executive Director Eric Fox</p>	<p>Facilitating Life Transformation (one person at a time)</p>	<p>1988</p>
<p>Prison Fellowship Bahamas Shirley & Market Streets P.O. Box EE-17779 Nassau, The Bahamas <u>jujuplums59@yahoo.com</u></p>	<p>Managing Director Dr. Olga Clarke</p>	<p>Assist inmates and their immediate families during the inmate's incarceration and with the reintegration of inmates into society upon their release</p>	<p>1984</p>

ANNEX VI

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WITH CORE
MANDATES IN DRUG CONTROL

AGENCY	AGENCY HEAD
<p>Bahamas Customs Department, Thompson Boulevard P.O. Box N-155, Nassau, The Bahamas (242) 325-6550 CUSTOMS@BAHAMAS.GOV.BS</p>	<p>Glen Gomez Comptroller of Customs</p>
<p>Bahamas Department of Immigration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs ad Immigration, Hawkins Hill, P.O. Box P.O. Box N-831, Nassau, The Bahamas (242) 322-7530; IMMIGRATION@BAHAMAS.GOV.BS</p>	<p>Jack Thompson Director of Immigration</p>
<p>Department of Public Prosecutions, Office of the Attorney General East Hill Street, P.O. Box N- 3007 Nassau, The Bahamas (242) 502-0400 ATTORNEYGENERAL@BAHAMAS.GOV.BS</p>	<p>Vinette Graham-Allen Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP)</p>
<p>Department of Legal Affairs, Office of the Attorney General East Hill Street, P.O. Box N- 3007, Nassau, The Bahamas (242) 502-0400 ATTORNEYGENERAL@BAHAMAS.GOV.BS</p>	<p>Deborah Fraser Director of Legal Affairs</p>
<p>Financial Intelligence Unit, Frederick Street, P.O. Box SB -50086 Nassau, The Bahamas (242) 356-9808 director @fiubahamas.bs</p>	<p>Reginald Ferguson Director</p>
<p>Her Majesty's Prison, Fox Hill, P.O. Box N-504, Nassau, The Bahamas (242) 364-9800</p>	<p>Dr. Elliston Rahming, Superintendent</p>

<p>Port Department, Prince George Dock, P.O. Box N-8175, Nassau, The Bahamas (242) 322-2049 PORTDEPARTMENT@BAHAMAS.GOV.BS</p>	<p>Commander Patrick McNeil Port Controller</p>
<p>Royal Bahamas Defence Force, Headquarters, Coral Harbour Base, P.O. Box N-3733, Nassau, The Bahamas (242) 362-1818 rbdf.gov.bs</p>	<p>Commodore Roderick Bowe, Commander</p>
<p>Royal Bahamas Police Force, Headquarters, East Hill Street, P.O. Box N-458, Nassau, The Bahamas (242) 322-4444 info@royalbahamaspolice.org</p>	<p>Ellison Greenslade Commissioner of Police</p>

ANNEX VII

DRUG AND RELATED LAWS OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

ACT	COMMENCED ON
The Dangerous Drug Act, Chapter 228 The Dangerous Drug (Amendment) Act 2011	28 December 2000 3 November 2011
The Proceeds of Crime Act, Chapter 93	28 December 2000
The Financial Intelligence Unit Act Chapter 367	28 December 2000
The Financial Transactions Reporting Act Chapter 368	28 December 2000
The Financial and Corporate Service Providers Act , Chapter 369	28 December 2000
The Mutual Legal Assistance (Criminal Matters) Act Chapter 98	20 August 1990
Bail Act, Chapter 103 The Bail (Amendment) Act, 2011	22 September 1994 3 November 2011
The International Business Companies Act, Chapter 309	28 December 2000
The Firearms Act, Chapter 213 Firearms (Amendment) Act 2011	17 July 1969 3 November 2011
The Criminal Justice (International Cooperation) Act Chapter 105	28 December 2000

The Penal Code, Chapter 84 The Penal Code (Amendment) Act 2011	1 January 1927 3 November 2011
The Pharmacy Act, Chapter 227	17 December 2009

ACRONYMS

Bilateral/Regional/International

CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CBSI	Caribbean Basin Security Initiative
CFATF	Caribbean Financial Action Task Force
CICAD	Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission
CND	United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs
CCPCJ	United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
HONLEA	Head of Narcotic Law Enforcement Agencies
INCB	International Narcotic Control Board
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
JTF	Joint Task Force
OPBAT	Operation Bahamas and Turks and Caicos
OAS	Organization of American States
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drug and Crime

National

AFG	Ad-Hoc Focus Group
BANDA	The Bahamas National Drug Agency
BIS	Bahamas Information Services
BNDC	Bahamas National Drug Council
BPC	The Bahamas Pharmacy Council
CAF	Confiscated Asset Fund
CODACS	Community Development Action Committees
CDPDR	Council for Drug Prevention and Demand Reduction
DEU	Royal Bahamas Police Force's Drug Enforcement Unit
DFS	Drug Free Schools
DIRG	Drug Investigative Review Group
DSS	Department of Social Services
DTC	Drug Treatment Court
FIDRP	Family Islands Demand Reduction Programme
FIU	Financial Intelligence Unit
HONSA	Heads of National Security Agencies
IAWG	Inter-Agency Working Group on Drug Control
MCDC	Ministerial Committee on Drug Control
NADS	National Anti-Drug Secretariat
NDO	National Drug Observatory
NDPAC	National Drug Policy Advisory Committee
NGOF	NGO Consultative Forum
NPF	National Public Forum on Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking
SDIU	Special Drug Investigative Unit
SRC/LVU	Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre/Lignum Vitae Unit

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Research and Planning Unit, Her Majesty's Prison

Department of Statistics

Bahamas National Geographic Information System (BNGIS) Centre, Ministry of the Environment

