

Part Two

NARCOTRAFFIC AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

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Políticas Públicas sobre Drogas & Drug Policy



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Public Security



Perspectivas Internacionais
International Perspectives

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NARCOTRAFFIC AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

In the second session the speakers presented some of the implications of international criminal organisations, notably narco-trafficking organisations for regional, hemispheric and global security. The new groups, networks and criminal connections in operation in the world, and the actions taken to combat them were presented by the speakers.

Emmanuel Reinert, Executive Director of ICOS started the session introducing the negative aspects of globalisation in increasing the mobility and ease of criminal connections. Reinert also explored the ‘politicisation of organised crime’ – criminal organisations seeking participation in local politics as a strategy to conquest the hearts and minds of communities and local leaders, in order to facilitate their criminal objectives.

Coronel Christopher Langton, Senior Fellow for Conflict & Defence Diplomacy at IISS, explained the implications of globalisation, urban population growth, the diffusion of communications, and container transit, relating these factors with the increasing trend of groups operating outside the law in an organised fashion. Coronel Langton explained the principle tendencies in criminal groups and their sources of financing. He concluded that globalisation ever increasingly facilitates the activities of

these groups, while making the task facing law enforcement more difficult.

Romesh Bhattacharji, former Narcotics Commissioner of India presented a case study of Afghanistan’s heroin commerce. Explaining three facets of the problem: The trade in chemical precursors, the excessive profits of narco-trafficking, and the related money laundering of these products. Mr Bhattacharji gave a detailed case study of Afghanistan, where heroin export combined with the inefficiency of repressive and fiscal agencies, allows the Taliban to obtain more and more profit, contributing directly to the financing of the insurgency.

Francisco Thoumi, Founder of the Institute for Public Policy on Drugs in Colombia, explained that drug cultivation occurs in regions where illegal activities can occur with greater ease. Thoumi explained that the production, as much as the consumption of drugs reflects un-resolved social problems in society, with a tendency to concentrate in the most vulnerable parts of society, exacerbating existing social problems. Thoumi critiqued repressive policies of combating drugs without preventative actions for their inefficiency, in failing to address the root of the problem,

¹ Romesh Bhattacharji could not attend the symposium, but the presentation he prepared is included in this publication.

concluding that the challenge is to look for a solution.

José Mariano Beltrame, Rio de Janeiro's Public Security Secretary, explained the reasons that put Rio de Janeiro in the present public security situation. Mr Beltrame explained the extensive influence that drug trafficking factions and militias have over the favelas, imposing violence on people's everyday lives. The Secretary presented the work of the Secretariat of Public Security, where there is a lack of investment, equipment and human resources. The Secretary concluded that that the combat of violence should be achieved through the promoting human dignity, the generation of work and income, and social inclusion of at risk youths.

Roberto Troncon, Director of the Combating Organised Crime Department of Brazil's Federal Police, offered an analysis of the phenomenon of narco-trafficking through the prism of organised crime, explaining the mechanisms adopted by Brazil in reducing drug supply. Troncon explained the differentiated approach of pro-active investigations aimed at disarticulating criminal organisations. The Director of the Organised Crime Department affirmed Brazil's interest in cooperation in combating drug trafficking at the domestic and international levels, and its will to increase international exchange in order to build the capacity of police agents, and encourage the transfer good practices.