

**Joint Communiqué**  
**Signing of Trilateral Agreement on the Integrated Monitoring System for**  
**Surplus Coca Cultivation Reduction Pilot Project**

**La Paz, January 20, 2012**

The governments of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Federal Republic of Brazil, and the United States of America signed on January 20, the Integrated Monitoring System for Surplus Coca Cultivation Reduction Pilot Project. This trilateral project gives priority to strengthening international counternarcotics cooperation under the principle of shared responsibility. The Project will promote technical and scientific coordination among the signatory countries to implement better monitoring and achieve greater measurement precision in the areas of surplus coca cultivation for eradication.

Bolivian Minister of Government Wilfredo Chávez, Brazilian Ambassador to Bolivia Marcel Biato, and U.S. Charge d'Affaires John Creamer signed the Project in a ceremony held in La Paz today.

This project will implement an integrated monitoring system for the reduction of excess coca cultivation and will provide technological support to enable Bolivia to identify new areas of coca expansion. The project will be carried out by the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Federal Republic of Brazil, and the United States, with the participation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Bolivia. The project specifically seeks to develop methodologies for the detection of new areas of expansion of surplus coca cultivation, to verify measurement methodology, to monitor crops, to provide technical support for the reduction of surplus coca cultivation in areas under eradication and rationalization, to provide regular feedback for effective planning, to prioritize new areas of intervention, and to ensure that relevant information is available in a timely fashion.

The pilot project will also provide training for Bolivian technical personnel, who will be in charge of collecting data in the field with improved technology. The project will support the use of high-precision measurement equipment, such as state-of-the-art GPS and laser-enabled measuring equipment, satellite imagery, and digital-processing software for the analysis of geo-referenced data. The trilateral agreement establishes that the equipment and training in its use will be provided by the United States, images and training for obtaining and interpreting the same will be provided by Brazil, and Bolivia will conduct the field work and provide the necessary infrastructure.

The participant countries intend to engage in dialogue to develop drug demand reduction strategies, including activities related to a situational diagnosis of consumption, as well as to develop prevention and intervention actions by the Bolivian and Brazilian authorities in border municipalities of both countries. Also, the signatory countries, recognizing that drug trafficking represents a common threat, will continue to cooperate to face this scourge.