

2010 ANNUAL REPORT



MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

**STRATEGIC
SERVICES
AGENCY**

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THE DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD

The Strategic Services Agency (SSA) through its mandate as set out in the SSA Act: Section 6(1)c of **Chapter 15:06**, has developed and implemented drug interdiction strategies to stimulate action towards the elimination of illicit drug production and trafficking of drugs produced naturally or synthetically. The current strategy entitled '**The National Strategy to Eliminate Illicit Production and Trafficking of Drugs Produced Naturally or Synthetically and to Promote Related Control Measures (2005-2009)**', takes into account the international and regional trends and Government's continued commitment to addressing public security and safety. This Supply Reduction Strategy has been disaggregated into 15 objectives¹ to achieve certain specific goals as follows:-

- 1. Define the scope of the illicit drug supply problem**
- 2. Provide Government with Strategic Direction**
- 3. Promote a co-ordinated Approach to Drug Interdiction**
- 4. Mobilize support and participation of stakeholder communities**
- 5. Mobilize human security initiatives**
- 6. Access funding and technical assistance and training opportunities locally and internationally to advance Trinidad and Tobago's reduction programme**
- 7. Encourage regional and international cooperation**
- 8. Protect Territorial borders of Trinidad and Tobago**
- 9. Strengthen the criminal justice system**
- 10. Eliminate and prevent local illicit drug production**
- 11. Prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals**
- 12. Eliminate the illicit traffic of arms, ammunition and their component parts**
- 13. Eliminate the incidence of criminal money laundering**
- 14. Eliminate corruption**

¹ In December 2004 Cabinet approved of the Agency's *National Strategy to Eliminate The Illicit Production And Trafficking Of Drugs Produced Naturally Or Synthetically and to Promote Related Control Measures (2005 – 2009)*.

15. Evaluate the effectiveness of the National Supply Reduction Strategy

It is against this background that the SSA sought to conduct its affairs in 2010 which meant seeking to undertake relevant activities that would promote the achievement of the fifteen (15) stated objectives.

Whilst the task has been challenging, given the uncertainty of the environment in which the Agency was operating, staff must be complimented for giving yeomen service in assiduously undertaking the work of the Agency.

This report, therefore, captures the details of the various activities undertaken by the SSA in 2010 and seeks to highlight the successes along the way.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACIS – Advanced Cargo Information System

ATT - Arms Trade Treaty

AML/CFT-Anti-Money Laundering /Counter Financing of Terrorism

CARICOM – Caribbean Community

CARICOM IMPACS- Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security

CDCTF – Counter Drug Crime Task Force

CICAD – Inter American Drug Abuse Control Commission

CIFTA - Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacture of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Material

CFATF - Caribbean Financial Action Task Force

CND- Commission on Narcotic Drugs

EC- European Commission

ECLAC- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

ECU- Economic Crime Unit (Precursor Unit to the Strategic Services Agency)

ESSI-Energy Sector Security Initiative

EULAC- European Commission

FATF – Financial Action Task Force

FIU – Financial Intelligence Unit

GEG – Governmental Experts Group

HONLAC- Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean

HONLEA- Heads of National Law Enforcement Agencies

IMF – International Monetary Fund

INCB- International Narcotics Control Board

Mini- Dublin Group- A flexible, informal consultation and coordination body concerned with the global, regional and country-specific problems of illicit drugs production, trafficking and demand.

MoF – Ministry of Finance

MoFA - Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MoH - Ministry of Health
MNS – Ministry of National Security
MOU – Memorandum of Understanding
NADAPP – National Drug Abuse Prevention Programme
NDC - National Drug Council
NDIS – National Drug Information System
NDOTT – National Drug Observatory of Trinidad and Tobago
NDS- National Drug Control System
NOC- National Operating Centre
OAS- Organization of American States
ODPM-Office of Disaster and Preparedness Management
OSS – Office of Strategic Studies (Precursor Unit to the Strategic Services Agency)
PCC – Precursor Chemical Control
PCT- Precursor Chemical Team
PCU – Precursor Chemical Unit
PEN- Pre-Export Notification Online System
PRELAC- Prevention of the diversion of drugs precursors in the Latin American and Caribbean Region
PSODC- Public Security Official Data Coordinator
SALW – Small Arms and Light Weapons
SAR – Suspicious Activity Reporting
SSA – Strategic Services Agency
TOC-Transnational Organized Crime
TTDF – Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force
TTPS-Trinidad and Tobago Police Service
TTPrS - Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service
UN – United Nations
UNIDIR-United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
UNODA- United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
UNODC – United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime
UNODA - United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs
UNPoA- United Nations Programme of Action

UNROCA- United Nations Register of Conventional Arms

UN-LIREC- United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

UN-CTS – United National Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems

INTRODUCTION

For the reporting year 2010, the Strategic Services Agency (SSA) confronted a number of persisting and newly emerging trends and challenges to the security of Trinidad and Tobago. This report on the operations of the Agency for the calendar year 2010 seeks to place the organisation's activities and achievements in the context of its mandate and its role in the national security landscape, amidst a period of change and one that has been influenced extensively by the Security Sector Review Report and Implementation Plan.

This report is also formulated against the backdrop of salient issues which apparently escaped the attention of the Review Team. Two of these issues are listed below:

1. The 1988 United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988 Vienna Convention) advocated that States parties put in place:

“A legally constituted and internationally recognized National Point of Reference (Central Office) for all actions related to the Article provisions, having regard to the diverse range of domestic bodies that will be engaged in interdiction efforts in each territory and to the international dimension of the Convention requirements”.

2. The successor instrument which is the 2000 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) expands upon and consolidates the article provisions of the 1988 Vienna Convention by achieving the following:

a) defining and standardizing certain terms adopted in the Vienna Convention that are used with

different meanings in various countries or jurisdictions;

- b) requiring State parties to establish specific offences as crimes. Additionally, Articles (5)(6)(8) and (23) make specific reference to “participation in an organized criminal group”, “participation in money laundering”, “corruption” and “obstruction of justice”;***
- c) requiring introduction by States parties of specific control measures such as the protection of victims and witnesses;***
- d) promoting international cooperation specifically through such measures as mutual legal assistance, extradition and joint investigations;***
- e) providing for the forfeiture of the proceeds of crime***

It is to be noted that this interrelatedness between the two instruments was noted by Cabinet in June 2006. In the said Minute a Policy Paper on TOC piloted by the Minister of National Security was considered and formally adopted. This approved Policy now serves as an additional authorizing instrument for plans of action pursued by the SSA under the Cabinet Approved Supply Reduction Strategy of the National Anti Drug Plan 2008-2012.

The Agency's main focus continues to be the implementation of Trinidad and Tobago's Supply Reduction Strategy and, consistent with its mandate, providing impetus to Trinidad and Tobago in maintaining its commitment to its international obligations. This report, therefore, will review the activities that have been undertaken in key thematic areas.

The Report reflects the main issues in which the Agency has been actively engaged in during 2010, whilst ensuring Trinidad and Tobago's compliance with other anti-drug initiatives regionally, hemispherically and globally.

Aware of the importance of addressing the issues within its mandate in a comprehensive, balanced and multidisciplinary manner, including the strengthening of regional and international cooperation, the Agency focussed in 2010, in a very robust way, on the issues involving, inter alia, money laundering, the monitoring and control of precursor chemicals and illegal guns and ammunition, to achieve the objectives set out in the National Supply Reduction Strategy. The support and collaboration of its stakeholder partners at the national, regional, hemispheric and international level played a significant role in the attainment of the objectives.

Within the first quarter of 2010 the Agency continued to pursue issues related to the combating of money laundering and the financing of terrorism. Money laundering, a critical category of illicit type activities, typifies common attributes of transnational organised crime and illicit drug trafficking; a reality, which must be treated with a sense of urgency in order to fully comply with Financial Action Task Force (FATF) 40+9 recommendations. It is in this respect that mechanisms to address these related criminal activities enshrined in the National Supply Reduction Strategy were aggressively pursued. These measures were aimed at enhancing domestic legislation, strengthening enforcement capabilities and institutional and capacity building throughout the country's national security framework. Whilst in the midst of aggressively pursuing these measures aimed at achieving these objectives, the Agency was informed of the establishment of the Compliance Unit, Ministry of National Security which has been charged with the responsibility of dealing with the issue of Anti-Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT).

Another critical component of the Agency's activities for 2010 was the continuation of its work in the area of precursor chemicals control and monitoring

to ensure government's commitments in enforcing control measures through the establishment and strengthening of internal mechanisms. In pursuance of this objective, the SSA has maintained its efforts to inform national policy and addressed legislative and institutional inadequacies.

As the country's main point of contact for the United Nations Programme of Action (UNPoA) and other firearms-related instruments, the SSA, aided by its international partners, has ensured that government's commitment to tackling the proliferation of firearms trafficking was consistent with its international obligations. Central to this effort was the Agency's role in strengthening Trinidad and Tobago's strategic and policy framework at the hemispheric and global levels. Within the reporting year, the SSA fulfilled the government of Trinidad and Tobago's reporting requirements to the United Nations (UN) and the Organization of American States (OAS).The submission of reports to these organizations provides the opportunity for States like Trinidad and Tobago to promote transparency in the acquisition of small arms and light weapons, and at the same time benefit from much needed assistance in the areas of enhancing legislation and capacity building.

TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME/SUPPLY REDUCTION:

Strengthening Trinidad & Tobago's Response to all types of illicit activity

All types of illicit activity are of critical interest to Trinidad and Tobago, as the trans-border characteristics of TOC create a sizeable threat for States within the region. In tackling TOC, Trinidad and Tobago has pursued a number of measures that encompass national, bilateral, regional, hemispheric and global arrangements, inclusive of the enhancement of domestic legislation, institutional reform and capacity building, to deal with the issue of tackling transnational organised crime

Internationally, TOC has been at the forefront of all supply reduction strategies since 1988. The SSA and its precursor agencies, the Economic Crime Unit (ECU) and the Office for Strategic Studies (OSS) have been at the forefront of Trinidad and Tobago's thrust in dealing with these issues while ensuring this country's adherence to related international obligations in suppressing this global scourge.

The resultant policies and strategies are all aimed at strengthening mechanisms to prevent and tackle the constantly evolving nature of TOC inclusive of:

- Illicit trafficking in drugs,
- Illicit trafficking in arms, ammunition and explosives,
- Illicit trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants,
- Money Laundering,
- Corruption,
- Terrorism,
- Kidnapping,
- Cyber Crime, and
- Organized Criminal Groups

The Transnational Organised Crime Policy has continued to be one of the conduits by which activities of the Agency are aligned with Trinidad and Tobago's ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized

Crime and its three supporting Protocols which speak to specific illicit activities that are aligned to supply reduction.

The SSA continued to monitor and report on trends and patterns of transnational criminal activities to facilitate the strengthening of legislative, administrative, regulatory and operational mechanisms. The Agency prepared and submitted, inter alia, country assessments with respect to providing various international agencies with relevant data as well as provided suitable representation at conferences and working group forums on TOC.

The Agency continued to collaborate with national stakeholders in fulfilling Trinidad and Tobago's commitment to combating illegal drugs and related components of TOC through rigid adherence to the following international instruments and benchmarks set for anti-drug and TOC initiatives:

- **UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961**
- **UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961) Amended by The Protocol (1972)**
- **UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971),**
- **UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988)**
- **Inter-American Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere (1997)**
- **The Inter-American Anti-Drug Strategy 2011-2015**
- **Hemispheric Plan of action against Transnational Organized Crime(OAS)(2006)**

REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

Annual Report Questionnaire

The SSA continued to play a key role in enabling Trinidad and Tobago to meet its international reporting obligations and maintaining its commitment to the global

community in tackling the threats posed by illegal drugs and related criminal activity.

- ❖ The responsibility for coordinating responses from relevant services, necessary for the submission of Trinidad and Tobago's Annual Reports Questionnaire (ARQ) resides with the SSA. The Agency coordinated responses and other information from its stakeholders for compilation and submission to the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND).

States Parties to the **Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961) Amended by The Protocol (1972)** are required to provide an ARQ to the UN CND. Each year the importance of this report, which is compiled in a questionnaire format, serves as an assessment tool for monitoring the phenomenon of global drug use and abuse and assists with the review of the progress made in meeting the objectives set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the UN General Assembly.

The Convention and its Protocol is the foremost international agreement which strives to combat drug trafficking through international cooperation. It limits the possession, use and trade in distribution, import, export, manufacture and production of narcotic drugs and drugs with similar effects, exclusively for medical and scientific purposes.

HONLEA/HONLAC

- ❖ As Point of Contact for the **Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies of Latin America and The Caribbean (HONLEA)**, the Agency coordinated, compiled and submitted to the UNODC action taken by Trinidad and Tobago on recommendations emanating from the 2009 HONLEA as well as a national report on Government's regional and sub-regional cooperation efforts in joint investigations, law enforcement training, the sharing of information and expertise in countering illicit drug trafficking.

The Meeting of HONLEA, which is an annual United Nations forum established to further cooperation in drug enforcement activities within this hemisphere, is designed to, inter alia, identify salient policy and law enforcement issues in the region. This is accomplished through the establishment of working groups to analyze the issues, and subsequently submit reports and recommendations to the attention of the UNCND. These recommendations are then translated into action at the national level for countries within the hemisphere to combat the illegal drug trade and corresponding criminal activities. States are then required annually, to assist in updating the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) with information on the actions their Governments had taken to implement the recommendations adopted at HONLEA.

The SSA usually forms part of the Trinidad and Tobago delegation to these meetings and spearheads action on facilitating the implementation of the recommendations adopted at HONLEA.

United Nations Survey on Crime Trends and Operation of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS)

- ❖ The ***United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS)***
- ❖ The UN-CTS is an international instrument designed by the UNODC geared towards the collection of data on the incidences of reported crime and the operations of criminal justice systems with a view to improving the analysis and dissemination of that information globally. The survey results, which provide an overview of trends and interrelationships between various parts of the criminal justice system, promote informed decision-making in administration, nationally and internationally.
- ❖ **(UN-CTS)** takes the form of a questionnaire which is compiled and completed for submission to the UN, based on the information sourced from

the relevant institutions in Trinidad and Tobago. The SSA is tasked with the responsibility each year of sourcing the relevant information, compiling the responses and submitting to the UN. In 2010, the Agency completed the activities within the stipulated time-frame.

COUNTRY STATEMENTS AND POSITION PAPERS

By virtue of its core responsibilities, the Agency possesses the requisite expertise and knowledge on a myriad number of issues related to supply reduction initiatives and the requirements for Trinidad and Tobago meeting its obligations at the regional, hemispheric and international level. Within the reporting period of 2010, the SSA prepared and /or assisted with the presentation of the following position papers and country statements for Trinidad and Tobago representatives at various international forums:

- ❖ Briefing Document for participation by the T&T Representative of the Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva to the **Second Open-ended Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on Possible Mechanisms to Review Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and the Protocols** thereto, held in Vienna, Austria, January 2010.
- ❖ Briefing Document on Draft Declaration of Lima: PEACE, SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN THE AMERICAS: **Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime and Strengthening of Hemispheric Cooperation**, 40th Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), held in Peru .June 2010.
- ❖ Draft Statement on Transnational Organized Crime presented at **High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Transnational Organized Crime**, United Nations Headquarters, held in New York. June 2010.

NEGOTIATING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- ❖ By virtue of the SSA Act, Chapter 15:06 , Section 6 (2) e and f, the SSA successfully negotiated with the European Union Commission for technical assistance for security-related activities aimed at furthering the effectiveness of the supply reduction strategy through the training of specialized staff of various law enforcement agencies involved in countering illegal drug trafficking.

- ❖ In 2010, the SSA succeeded in obtaining assistance from the European Union under the 10th European Development Funds (EDF) for the enhancement of the delivery of services of Organized Crime Narcotics and Firearms Bureau (OCNFB) officers from the perspectives of both Supply and Demand Reduction, while at the same time, strengthening the networking capabilities of those tasked in the fight against illegal drugs. The programme, which will involve a training seminar, has been accepted for funding by the European Union Delegation in Port of Spain and is scheduled for commencement in 2011.

PRECURSOR CHEMICALS: *Improving Monitoring & Control*

It is encouraging to note that much of the work of the SSA in 2010 was geared towards improving measures for Precursor Chemical Control (PCC). These measures emanated from Article 12 of the 1988 Vienna Convention in which the international community determined² that precursor chemical control should involve five key areas. The SSA, in pursuance of its mandate and in the performance of its core functions³ within this thematic area, ensured that PCC remained a priority for Government Departments involved in this process, by facilitating the implementation of activities within all five areas identified below:

- Enactment of Comprehensive Legislation on Precursor Chemical Control (PCC);
- Consistent Capacity Building;
- Employment of Electronic Database Management Systems;
- Constant Dialogue between and among PCC Stakeholders locally, regionally and internationally; and
- Research and Evaluation.

² There is no single legally binding international legislation which details all the current requirements for a country seeking to become 'compliant' in precursor chemical control. There are however, other non-binding instruments that offer further detail to the control measures outlined by the 1988 Conventions, and example of which is the CICAD Model Regulations to Control Chemical Precursors and Chemical Substances, machines and Materials.

³ The core functions of the Strategic Services Agency (SSA) in the field of precursor chemicals is governed by Sections 6 1 (a) and 6 2 (g) (ii) (d) and 6 (2) (h) of Act 24 of 1995 and guided by Objective #11 of the 15 Strategic Objectives: To prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals and promote the monitoring of controlled drugs.

ENACTMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATION ON PRECURSOR CHEMICAL CONTROL

Formulation of PCC Bill and Policy

The SSA, as Chair of the Precursor Chemical Team (PCT), continued to facilitate the work of this Committee which resulted in the following:

- ❖ Widened participation to include the following representation:
 - Ministry of National Security (MNS):
 - Strategic Services Agency (SSA);
 - Ministry of Health (MoH)
 - Chemistry, Food and Drugs Division; and
 - Drug Inspectorate
 - Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs (MEEA)
 - Ministry of Finance (MoF)
 - Customs and Excise Division
 - Ministry of the Office of the Attorney General
 - Ministry of Trade and Industry [MTI] (including):
 - Chamber of Industry and Commerce; and
 - Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association;
- ❖ Completion of roundtable discussions to incorporate the views of the new members and amendments, where necessary, to improve the quality of the Precursor Chemical Bill and Policy;
- ❖ Collaboration with the Chief Parliamentary Counsel in redrafting the Bill; and
- ❖ Submission of the redrafted Bill and Policy to the Ministry of National Security for the reconsideration of Cabinet.

It is envisaged that once the Administrative Heads of the various Ministries have endorsed the Bill and Policy, both will be resubmitted to Cabinet.

THE PRECURSOR CHEMICAL/PRINCE2 PROJECT

Fully cognizant of the bureaucratic and administrative challenges which resulted in the protracted drafting process, the SSA, in 2010, signed a project partnership agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to embark on measures to improve the PCC regime. The Project, "Effective control and monitoring of precursor chemicals in Trinidad & Tobago", seeks to streamline the activities involved in the realization of the Precursor Chemical Unit (PCU). The SSA was unable to fully implement activities relative to this project due to several challenges which included the inability of the relevant Permanent Secretaries to commit to the project.

CONSISTENT CAPACITY BUILDING

The Prevention of the Diversion of Drug Precursors in the Latin America and Caribbean Region (PRELAC) Project.

The SSA continued to act as the Focal Point for Trinidad and Tobago's activities within the PRELAC Project. Initiated by the European Commission (EC) and implemented by the UNODC, the PRELAC Project is of two years duration with a second phase to be introduced in 2011. The SSA undertook the following activities related to this project:

- ❖ Facilitated a visit by PRELAC Technical Coordinator to Trinidad and Tobago in October 2010 to meet with domestic stakeholders involved in PCC, inclusive of Customs and Excise and CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS), with regard to the operation of the National Drug Control System (NDS).
- ❖ Initiated the facilitation of a European Union E-training course for Customs and Excise Officials on PCC
- ❖ Collaborated with other PRELAC Member States in determining the scope and functionality of the PRELAC Web Platform for information

Exchange. This Platform is meant to provide a web-based facility to share specific information, pre-determined by Member States, on precursor chemical shipments that occur within the Region. Furthermore, this electronic mechanism will complement the PEN Online System and the NDS which are already operational in several Member States; and

- ❖ Facilitated technical assistance in full implementation of the NDS.

Should Trinidad and Tobago not successfully complete all of the activities identified for implementation during the first phase of the project, it can redound negatively on the country's continued involvement in this Project and other related EC-funded Projects.

EMPLOYMENT OF ELECTRONIC DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Pre-Export Notification (PEN) Online System

- ❖ The PEN Online jointly developed by the UNODC and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) was launched in 2006 as a fully automated system which facilitates the electronic exchange of information between Member States on shipments (export and import) containing precursor chemicals. In communication between country's **national competent authorities**, the exporting country informs the receiving country as to the details of the export transaction (PEN) and affords it the opportunity to raise objections to the proposed shipment(s).

Collaboration continued between the SSA and the MoH's Drug Inspectorate Division on the PEN online system. PEN alerts received by the SSA were forwarded to the Chief Medical Officer, the point of contact for INCB on precursors and pharmaceuticals. The SSA's response is dependent upon the decision taken by the Drug Inspectorate to accept or reject the shipment.

National Drug Control System (NDS)

- ❖ The NDS, also developed by the UNODC, allows countries greater control over their national precursor chemical supply chain inclusive of production, manufacturing, import and export. Cumulatively, this augurs well for the global anti-diversion effort which, like the PEN Online, is networked globally among participating countries. The NDS *'facilitates the daily management of licit movements, production, distribution and consumption as well as international trade in all controlled substances in both raw material form as well as in the form of pharmaceutical preparations'*⁴. In this regard, the SSA conducted a needs-assessment among end-user institutions to ascertain the IT infrastructure needed by each stakeholder in order to advance implementation arrangements of the NDS.

CONSTANT DIALOGUE BETWEEN PCC STAKEHOLDERS LOCALLY, REGIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

In an effort to keep abreast of the latest diversion trends and countermeasures locally, regionally and internationally, the SSA maintains constant dialogue with local and international partners. The SSA further utilizes the opportunity at meetings of the PCT to update members as to stakeholder's role in matters of an international dimension related to PCC.

In October 2010, the SSA facilitated the visit of the PRELAC Technical Coordinator to Trinidad and Tobago, one of the objectives of which, was to promote participation of the wider Caribbean States in measures involving precursor chemical control. One of these measures involves the implementation of the CARICOM Advanced Cargo Information System (ACIS) being integrated with the NDS to advance more effective PCC within the Region. In this regard, the SSA facilitated discussion on this matter between the PRELAC Official and CARICOM IMPACS.

⁴ Pharmaceutical products in so far as they contain controlled substances that can be used in the manufacture of illicit drugs

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

As part of the SSA's mandate, the Agency conducts research and evaluation on precursor chemicals which involves analysing the nature of the diversion problem, global seizures of chemical substances as well as strategies and tactics used to counter this phenomenon. The Agency utilizing the research conducted, sought to identify ways in which Trinidad and Tobago could improve its PCC regime to avoid incidents of diversion within its borders.

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism

- ❖ The SSA, by virtue of its mandate, is also responsible for all aspects of the supply reduction component of OAS CICAD Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), an instrument designed to evaluate national anti-drug measures of OAS Member States. During the period under review, the SSA continued to evaluate all responses inclusive of those related to PCC, thereby assisting this country in enhancing capacity to effectively deal with monitoring and control of precursor chemicals.

Based on the recommendations emanating from the 4th Round of the MEM and the responses of the 5th Round of the MEM, in the area of precursor chemical control, the recommendations for Trinidad and Tobago again entailed:

1. Implementation of specialized training courses for personnel in the public and private sector involved in the handling of pharmaceutical products;
2. Implementation of an automated information management system to facilitate the control of pharmaceutical products;
3. Pursuing research and training activities related to the prevention and control of illicit traffic of pharmaceutical products and other drugs via the internet, which will enable the country to identify its regulatory and operative needs;
4. Approval and implementation of the necessary legislation for the fulfilment of the provisions and proposals of Article 12 of the United Nations

- Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;
5. Implementation of specialized training courses for personnel in the public and private sector involved in the handling of chemical substances; and
 6. Establishment of administrative control measures over the areas of licence control, monitoring, distribution, inspection, investigations, transport, control, and pre-export notifications of controlled chemical substances.

The work of the SSA in precursor chemicals, as described earlier in this section, specifically relates to Recommendations 2, 4, 5 and 6, in terms of:

1. Full Implementation of the NDS System (2 and 6) ;
2. Adoption of the revised precursor chemical policy and enactment of the Precursor Chemical Bill (4); and
3. Involvement in the PRELAC Project (2, 5 and 6)

The SSA worked assiduously to complete the precursor chemical bill and policy with an aim of fulfilling the requirements for the recommendations as contained in the MEM and in particular recommendations (2) and (6)

CHALLENGES

❖ NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL SYSTEM

The SSA has encountered numerous challenges in fully implementing the NDS due to the following reasons:

1. Agreement among the PCC community as to the definitive role that each stakeholder performs in exercising control measures;
2. Ensuring that the technical capacity of each stakeholder is sufficient to enable access and use of the System;
3. Training in the use of the System; and
4. Migration into the NDS of relevant data currently stored in hard copy format among different stakeholder institutions.

FIREARMS:

Combating Firearms Proliferation

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago [GRTT], in dealing with the issue of the proliferation of illegal firearms and ammunition and recognizing the transnational nature of this phenomenon has sought international assistance by becoming State Parties to the following multilateral instruments:

- 1. Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacture of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Material [CIFTA] - 1997**
- 2. The United Nations Convention on Trans-national Organized Crime – United Nations Third Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their parts and components, and Ammunition-2000**
- 3. The United Nations Programme of Action [UNPoA] – 2001**
- 4. United Nations International Tracing Instrument – 2005**

The Agency continues to be guided by the provisions of these instruments to develop strategies and make recommendations to the GRTT on the formulation of policy in relation to counter-narcotics matters and related transnational organized crime, one of which is the measure to combat the trafficking in illegal firearms and ammunition. This has therefore guided the work of the Agency with respect to firearm-related issues by fulfilling the countries obligations to the following instruments:

- United Nations Programme of Action [UNPoA]
- Arms Trade Treaty [ATT]
- Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacture of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Material [CIFTA]

UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ACTION [UN PoA]

In 2002, Trinidad and Tobago became a state party to the UNPoA, the aim of which is to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons [SALW] in all its aspects. To fulfil this objective, the UNPoA has identified the following areas to which governments should pay particular attention:

- **Policy guidance**

- **Research, monitoring and implementing adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures to exercise effective control over:**
 - **Trafficking**
 - **Circulation**
 - **Brokering and trade**
 - **Marking and tracing**
 - **Collection and destruction of small arms and light weapons**

In seeking to fulfil the country's requirements for the implementation of the PoA, the Agency's activities were centred on:

- Trinidad and Tobago's UNPoA reporting obligations;

- Expert Representation
 - Regional Workshop to Advance Caribbean Action on Small Arms

 - Regional Meeting on the Implementation of the UNPoA on Small Arms and Light Weapons; Regional Workshop on Transparency in Armaments; United Nations Register of Conventional Arms [UNROCA]

 - Fourth Biennial Meeting of States [BMS-4];

- Negotiations for Technical/ Financial Assistance

The GRTT, in recognition of the expertise and organizational capacity of the SSA in dealing efficiently with issues of this nature, has designated the Agency as the Point of Contact and National Coordinating Body for all aspects of the implementation of the UNPoA. This role forms the basis of the work of the Agency in ensuring that the country's reporting obligations, which include the submission of national reports, are fulfilled in a timely manner. Reporting on a timely basis allows the UN to monitor the importation and exportation by States, of firearms and ammunition, thus rendering the process transparent. Additionally, the compilation and submission of Trinidad and Tobago's national reports to the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs [UNODA] ensures that this country positions itself to benefit from much needed technical assistance in the area of combating the proliferation of illegal firearms and ammunition. Trinidad and Tobago's submission of its 2009 report was made immediately prior to the convening of the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States, which was held in New York in July 2010.

Another important aspect of the implementation process is the submission to the UNODA, of reports to the **United Nations Register on Conventional Arms [UNROCA]** and on **Military Expenditure**. The UNROCA, a politically binding mechanism under the UNPoA, allows Member States to report on seven categories⁵ of arms exported or imported from their territory during the calendar year. This mechanism is intended to serve as a confidence-building measure and to encourage countries to develop appropriate measures of control over the export and import of arms.

The Agency was faced with challenges in submitting the 2009 UNROCA and Military Expenditure reports due to circumstances beyond its control. The Agency, nevertheless, attempted to revive the reporting process by seeking to identify a suitable point of contact within the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force [TTDF] to assist in the completion of these reports. This point of contact would have been responsible for submitting to the Agency the relevant data, in a timely manner, in order to facilitate the compilation and submission of Trinidad and Tobago's 2009

⁵ battle tanks, attack helicopters, armoured combat vehicles, large calibre artillery systems, combat aircraft, warships, missiles and launchers

Report to the UNROCA. This attempt had proven unsuccessful and as a result neither of these reports was submitted to the UNODA in 2009.

EXPERT REPRESENTATION

The Agency has also been actively involved in articulating Trinidad and Tobago's position regarding illicit trafficking in SALW by means of expert representation at meetings related to PoA matters. It is in keeping with this policy there was participation at the following meetings, seminars and workshops throughout 2010:

Regional Workshop to Advance Caribbean Action on Small Arms

- ❖ Held from January 20 - 21, 2010 at the University of the West Indies [UWI], St. Augustine Trinidad. The Agency contributed to the findings of this workshop through a presentation, which stressed the need to develop proper information sharing systems for the transfer of firearms- related data between and among national stakeholders. This presentation further illustrated the capabilities of the Ministry of National Security's Taskforce Suite Investigations [INV 7] Analytical Tool that was designed to facilitate, inter-alia, the exchange of intelligence and information between and among law enforcement and security stakeholders.

The Agency also delivered a presentation on its role as the National Point of Contact for the UNPoA. The presentation outlined that the role of the Point of Contact in examining the contents and components of conventions and treaties to which Trinidad and Tobago is a State Party and to recommending the establishment of national committees, where appropriate, to achieve related benchmarks.

Regional Meeting on the Implementation of the UN PoA on Small Arms and Light Weapons; Regional Workshop on Transparency in Armaments; United Nations Register of Conventional Arms [UNROCA]

- ❖ Held from March 01 – 04, 2010 in Peru. This regional workshop provided a forum for officials to discuss deficiencies and best practices in aspects of the implementation process of the Programme. Trinidad and Tobago's delegation comprised a representative from this Agency as well as a representative from the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service [TTPS].

The Agency's representative delivered a presentation on Trinidad and Tobago's approach and experiences in implementing the UNROCA and gave a detailed account of the reporting process from a CARICOM perspective. It addressed the region's inconsistencies in reporting to the UNROCA and to the Instrument for reporting on Military Expenditure and further proposed possible solutions towards improving the reporting process.

The Agency's representative, who was also appointed as Chair of the CARICOM Working Group on SALW, led the process in formulating a CARICOM position on this issue in preparation for the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States [BMS-4]. The group prepared, and the Chair, on behalf of the group, presented an outcome document outlining CARICOM's position on SALW.

Fourth Biennial Meeting of States [BMS-4]

- ❖ BMS-4 Held in New York from July 14 - 18, 2010, considered the challenges regarding the implementation of the UN PoA and assessed the preparations for the Review Conference on the BMS carded for 2012. Discussions at the BMS-4 included:
 - Prevention and combat of illicit trade in SALW across borders;
 - International cooperation and assistance;
 - Strengthening the follow-up mechanism of the UNPoA; and

- Implementation of an international instrument to enable States to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, illicit SALW

The Agency's Representative delivered Trinidad and Tobago's national statement on the subject of strengthening the follow-up mechanism of the UNPoA as well as a presentation, on behalf of CARICOM, on International Cooperation and Assistance. A key element in this presentation was the petitioning once again for the re-opening in the CARICOM region, of the Regional UN Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC], which was previously located in Barbados.

NEGOTIATIONS FOR TECHNICAL/FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The UNIDIR Matching Needs and Resources Assessment Tool as a supplement to the UNPoA assists States in identifying areas in which technical assistance is required in all aspects of SALW. The Agency compiled and submitted this Assessment, based on consultations with stakeholders and a comprehensive analysis of their short term and long term needs.

Furthermore, emanating from its participation at meetings at which the issue of SALW was discussed, the Agency has sought and negotiated for technical assistance for Trinidad and Tobago to better equip law enforcement agencies to ultimately treat with the spiralling trade in illegal firearms. Towards this end, the Agency was able to successfully negotiate for Trinidad and Tobago's a technical assistance package consisting of UN-LiREC Firearms Destruction and Stockpile Management. The Agency took a lead role in influencing other Caribbean English-speaking countries to be part of this initiative, based upon the similarity of firearms-related problems facing the region. As a result of this proactive approach and its expertise in UNPoA matters, among which includes Stockpile Management and Firearms Destruction, its representative was initially nominated as the **Point of Contact** between UN-LiREC and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to ensure the implementation of the technical and financial assistance package.

The GRTT, on the recommendation of the Agency, agreed in April 2010 to accept the Firearms Destruction and Stockpile Management Package, estimated to be worth over US \$1 million. Following the acceptance of this package, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago entered into the first phase of the project in July 2010, where a group of technical experts visited Trinidad and Tobago and conducted a Baseline Assessment highlighting three [3] phases in key areas that needed improvement.

A Workshop organized by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in collaboration with UN-LiREC, was subsequently held from December 08 - 09, 2010 to discuss the findings of the Baseline Assessment Report. This represented the first phase of the project. At this workshop, discussions also centred on preparation for the conduct of the second phase of the project, which is scheduled to begin in the first half of 2011.

THE ARMS TRADE TREATY [ATT]

In an attempt to combat the burgeoning trade in licit firearms to illicit markets and to address the lack of legally binding enforcement powers of the UN PoA, the United Nations acceded to the call from Member States to negotiate a legally-binding International Arms Trade Treaty [ATT]. The treaty is currently being negotiated, against the background of the highest possible common international standards so as to deter the diversion of weapons to illicit markets and to further enhance achieving the other requirements outlined in the UN PoA.

The Agency has played and continues to play an important role in the negotiation of the Arms Trade Treaty [ATT] by active participation in the **First Preparatory Regional Workshop for the Negotiation of an Arms Trade Treaty** to assist CARICOM in arriving at a regional position. The CARICOM position was subsequently articulated at the **First Preparatory Committee (PrepCom)** Meeting at the UN headquarters in New York in July. The Agency's Representative, as a Member of the Trinidad and Tobago Delegation, provided technical support in the

preparation and delivery of a national statement on the scope of activities that the ATT should regulate.

It is important to note that inter-sessional meetings are held in between PrepComs so as to allow like-minded States to convene and further streamline the views of such States in arriving at a consensus position to be articulated at subsequent PrepComs. In keeping with Trinidad and Tobago's commitment to align itself with like-minded States on firearms-related issues affecting the region, the Agency participated in the ***Boston Symposium on the Arms Trade Treaty [ATT]***, an inter-sessional meeting held from September 28 - 30, 2010. The Second PrepCom is scheduled to take place in the first quarter of 2011.

INTER- AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURE OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS [CIFTA]

The Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacture of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other related materials [CIFTA] mirrors at the hemispheric level, elements of the United Nations Programme of Action [UNPoA] in combating the illicit trade in SALW. Notably among these, is the provision of reporting on the transfer of the same seven [7] categories of major conventional weapons as those required by the UNROCA.

Throughout 2010, the Agency sought to align Trinidad and Tobago's strategic and policy framework in compliance with CIFTA obligations. Towards this end, the Agency, in collaboration with the Ministry of the Office of the Attorney General and the Ministry of National Security, spearheaded efforts to design a work plan which was aimed at outlining a programme of work for enhancing domestic legislation in conformity with "CIFTA Model Legislation".

The Agency conducted an in-depth comparison of the pertinent existing legislation of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago against the CIFTA Model Legislation regarding:

- **marking and tracing,**
- **international movement of firearms,**
- **confiscation and forfeiture,**
- **control of international movement of firearms- Broker Regulations,**
- **legislation to establish criminal offences, and**
- **strengthening control at export points.**

The Agency developed a matrix of this analysis, identifying apparent deficiencies in Trinidad and Tobago's legislation in several areas, notably among which, are the sections dealing with "Marking and Tracing" and "Control of International Movement of Firearms- Broker Regulations".

Technical Assistance

In 2010, the Department of Public Security, a branch of the OAS circulated among Member States a questionnaire entitled: ***"Project of the Organization of American States: Department of Public Security pertaining to the Firearms Marking in Latin America and the Caribbean"***, to ascertain their level of compliance with CIFTA legal requirements in the areas of **marking imported, exported and/or confiscated firearms**. This comprehensive study sought to identify the needs of States vis-à-vis the area of marking, with the aim of further strengthening capacities of member States.

The Agency spearheaded the collection and collation of pertinent data, in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders, by undertaking an analysis of Trinidad and Tobago's level of compliance with CIFTA. This analysis identified apparent deficiencies in Trinidad and Tobago's legislation that dealt with these three areas.

Consequently, Trinidad and Tobago will benefit from the provision by the OAS of one **dot-peen laser-marking machine** along with the relevant training from the OAS. This marking machine will attempt to strengthen Trinidad and Tobago's tracing capabilities and further improve the country's compliance with its hemispheric commitment to CIFTA, and by extension its international obligations.

The acquisition of the marking machine will also represent a clear opportunity for Trinidad and Tobago to encourage its CARICOM partners to seek cooperation and assistance to construct a standard small arms marking system across the region and thereby aid in the identification of weapons which have been illegally diverted within the region.

CHALLENGES

❖ Information Sharing

As Point of Contact for both international and regional instruments dealing with SALW, the Agency continues to be faced with challenges regarding sourcing data and other information sharing between and among its stakeholders. The Agency has a legislative obligation to ensure that Trinidad and Tobago meets its regional, hemispheric and international commitments as far as the instruments relating to SALW are concerned. One of the most critical challenges in fulfilling this obligation is the ambiguity of roles and functions within the various departments of the Ministry of National Security that deal with the whole issue of firearms proliferation(enforcement, legislative, administrative).

❖ Gun-Retrieval Strategic Committee

In 2005, a Ministerial directive was given to the Agency to establish the Gun Retrieval Strategic Committee in order to execute a national strategy that would result in the curtailment of the illegal trade of SALW and at the same time, to establish a framework that would facilitate the seamless sharing of information and intelligence between and among relevant stakeholders.

The work of the Committee was guided by the Ministry of National Security's approved "**Programme of Work for Implementation by Trinidad and Tobago of International Instruments aimed at combating and eradicating the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons [SALW] (and their component parts) and ammunition** with eight [8] key priorities:

1. Adhere to relevant international instruments
2. Ensure the existence of effective mechanisms and resources for Law Enforcement to seize, confiscate, apprehend and charge
3. Enhance Border Control Capabilities
4. Strengthen Intra- Regional [CARICOM] and International Partnerships
5. Coordinate and Integrate Scientific Support [Address Marking and Tracing]
6. Update and secure record keeping, registration
7. Support networks and partnerships with civil society
8. Conduct issues specific baseline surveys

During the course of 2010, the Agency has been unable to fully undertake the remaining priorities of the Programme as the status of the continuing Committee was under review.

MONEY LAUNDERING:

Strengthening Trinidad & Tobago's AML/CFT Framework

During the reporting period, the Anti Money Laundering /Counter Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) aspect of the Agency's function ceased with effect from the second quarter with the establishment of the Compliance Unit attached to the Ministry of National Security. The current AML/CFT files were officially handed over to the head of that Unit. Additionally, two members of Staff who specialise in AML/CFT matters were temporarily assigned to assist in the work of the Unit and to ensure a seamless transfer of functions. Initially, the Unit was also allotted material resources inclusive of office space at the SSA until suitable alternative accommodation was identified in October 2010.

Notwithstanding the reassignment of functions, the SSA provided yeoman service in ensuring that Trinidad and Tobago maintained its credibility in meeting its international obligations, specifically as they relate to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) 40+9 Recommendations. In this effort, the Agency undertook the implementation of key areas of the approved AML/CFT Policy:

- Public Outreach,
- Strengthening Trinidad and Tobago's Legal and Institutional framework to ensure conformity, with the Financial Action Task Force 40+9 Recommendations,
- Strengthening enforcement capabilities, and
- Adoption of risk based approach.

ENSURING COMPLIANCE THROUGH PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Sixth Annual Compliance Conference on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (January 13th to 14th, 2010)

The event, an initiative of the CFAFT and the GRTT afforded local stakeholders, specifically those in the financial sector, the opportunity to become more conscious of counter AML/CFT measures needed to be implemented, so as to ensure Trinidad & Tobago's full compliance with international benchmarks. The Agency acting in the capacity of Secretariat was charged with the responsibility for planning and streamlining activities towards the hosting of this event.

The Annual Conference, aimed at engaging the attention of the national community and relevant stakeholders towards a better grasp of their role in the fight against AML/CFT, created awareness of the key responsibilities that would ultimately facilitate the effective implementation of and compliance with internationally recognized AML/CFT standards in Trinidad and Tobago. Some of the key elements discussed were, inter alia:

- effect the passage and implementation of the required legislation
- instituting measures to ensure credibility in the financial sector;
- demonstrate causes and effects of money laundering and related challenges to society;
- express the role of law enforcement in tackling organized criminal activity; and
- heighten public awareness to facilitate compliance with the AML/CFT framework by expressing the importance of rigid anti-money laundering strategies

STRENGTHENING TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The attainment of an effective AML/CFT framework in Trinidad and Tobago requires strong legislation and institutional cooperation that would lead to enhanced collaboration resulting in the implementation of a robust legislative anti-

money laundering regime. Within the first quarter 2010, the SSA through the work of the Committee was able to facilitate the passage of:

- I. Financial Obligations Regulations 2010
- II. Anti-Terrorism Amendment Act 2010

STRENGTHENING ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES

The SSA assisted the new FIU in fulfilling its mandate by:

- Recommending preliminary security arrangements for the establishment of the FIU ;
- assisting in the development of a communication platform
- Temporarily providing software and hardware to facilitate IT related activity;
- Identifying and recommending a suitable mechanism for the retrieval and storage of suspicious activity reports(SAR's) from financial institutions;
- Designing ,developing and implementing the hardware infrastructure and network requirements needed to support the above mentioned mechanism;
- Digitally reviewing and sanitizing existing intelligence reports and data that were previously maintained by the precursor Agency, Counter Drug Crime Task Force (CDCTF) ,which was initially assigned the task of conducting financial investigations; and
- Assisting in the migration of existing data into the new system

ADOPTION OF RISK BASED APPROACH

Mindful that an important consideration underlying the (FATF)40+9 Recommendations is the degree of risks of money laundering and terrorist financing for particular types of financial institutions, customers, products or transactions, the SSA, on behalf of the Ministry of Finance, initiated dialogue with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which sought to identify the major money laundering risks in the economy, a sector or an individual institution with a view to developing and alternating controls and resources accordingly. As a result, Government agreed to the proposal to have the IMF conduct a Vulnerability

Survey during the Fourth Mutual Evaluation exercise tentatively scheduled for the first quarter of 2011.

SECURITY CLEARANCE & ACCESS CONTROL: *Implementing a Standardized System*

The **Committee to Develop a Concept Paper Geared towards Security Clearance and Access** was established by a Ministerial directive emanating from the Heads of Security Forum, under the Chairmanship of the SSA, to implement:

- **Standardized access control systems to all Ministry of National Security buildings,**
- **Standardized security clearance vetting and renewal processes for all Agencies involved in National Security;**
- **Standardized document classification systems for all Agencies in National Security; and**
- **Standardized random integrity testing of personnel in all Agencies in National Security**

The Committee continued its work during 2010 and completed recommendations for the consideration of the Minister of National Security on the processes for implementation of systems relative to items (I) and (II) above.

While work was being undertaken by the Committee on item (III), it was informed that the Security of Information Bill (2009), one of the Ministry's omnibus legislation which dealt with the said issue, was about to be laid in Parliament. The Committee, after having reviewed the draft Bill, opined that activities should cease until the passage of the Bill, after which the Committee will make recommendations relative to Section 23 of the Bill which determines how the Act should be regulated.

The Committee was unable to fully implement item four relative to testing of personnel employed within the Ministry due to issues relating to a change in Government and the requisite inputs from key stakeholders in the Ministry of National Security.

CHALLENGES

❖ Security Sector Review

Throughout 2010, at the forefront of the challenges encountered by the Agency was the stark reality of the uncertainties and inconsistencies emanating from the recommendations of the National Security Sector Review Report. The key recommendation which impacted on the work of the Agency during 2010 was the possible amalgamation of the Strategic Services Agency (SSA) and Security Intelligence Agency (SIA) to form the National Security Intelligence Agency (NSIA). As the Security Sector Review recommendations did not address the future of the agency's core functions against the backdrop of the imminent merger, this created immense ambiguity for the sustainability of an integrated supply reduction strategy and concomitant deleterious impact this would have on the international credibility in tackling the world drug problem.

The proposal to merge the SSA with the SIA to establish the NSIA impacted negatively on the Agency's operations which it has lawfully and traditionally performed, in accordance with Chapter 15:06, in the maintenance and strengthening of Government's integrated drug supply reduction strategy. It should be noted from the outset the SSA's role in strategic intelligence focuses mainly on the issue of developing an integrated strategy to deal with drug interdiction and related transnational criminal activity and developing and advising on policy in this regard. Since it is proposed that the NSIA will be tasked with the responsibility for criminal and security intelligence matters, it is feared that the SSA's role in coordinating the supply reduction strategy will be diminished, if not eliminated. In this regard, it is imperative to be reminded that the **'raison d'être'** for the

establishment of the SSA is in recognition of the multifaceted nature of drug trafficking, the need for the development of an overall strategy and the requirement for concerted, simultaneous and integrated action by a wide range of government and non-government entities to contribute to the counter narcotics effort.

❖ **Removal of Core Functions**

The reassigning of issues relating to Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorist Financing AML/CFT activities to the Compliance Unit, Ministry of National Security, within the 2nd quarter of 2010 created another challenge for the full implementation of the Agency's supply reduction strategy. As the mandate of the SSA is to develop an integrated drug reduction strategy, the removal of a key component such as AML/CFT matters impacted negatively on the Agency's ability to undertake a holistic and integrated approach in dealing with the issue of illicit drug trafficking and transnational organised crime as a whole at the strategic level.

The SSA ,as Chair of the AML/CFT Cabinet Appointed Committee, facilitated international cooperation by implementing the provisions against money-laundering contained in all relevant international and multilateral instrumentsⁱ, with a view to developing strategies aimed at, inter alia, establishing new legislation and strengthening existing domestic legislative frameworks to criminalize the laundering of money derived from drug trafficking, precursor chemical diversion and other serious crimes of a transnational nature. These measures are designed to provide for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of money laundering; to establish new or strengthening existing financial and regulatory regimes, to implement effective detection, investigation, prosecution and conviction measures and to promote effective cooperation in strategies designed to counter money laundering. It is therefore undeniable that a removal of a key component of the mandate without giving due diligence to the coordinated and integrated approach that is necessary to treat with drug trafficking and its related

criminality, has hampered the Agency in fulfilling its mandate to adequately tackle the various dimensions of this scourge.

❖ **Other Challenges**

The Agency continues to face challenges with respect to:

- information sharing;
- ambiguity of roles and functions within various departments of National Security within the Ministry;
- lack of awareness of the importance of the issues that feature prominently in fulfilling the Agency's mandate and the collaborative efforts required from key Stakeholders inclusive of the Ministry;
- non-resolution of pertinent issues within thematic areas as a result of competing priorities of stakeholders
- lack of consultation and inclusion of the SSA on matters pertinent to Government's Supply Reduction Strategy thereby negatively affecting the country's coordinated approach, comprehensive international reporting and policy formulation and implementation;
- generally a lack of understanding of the role and function of the SSA in engaging with Government in the formulation of policy, provision of strategic support, coordination and centralization of information and strategic intelligence and delivery of relevant programmes and projects strengthened by appropriate networking, locally and internationally.

THE WAY FORWARD

Notwithstanding the view expressed in the National Security Sector Review that “...the role and mandate of the SSA has ebbed and flowed over time depending on the priorities of the Government of the day and depending on the priority interests of the Director...”, the Agency continues to and will continue to adhere unwaveringly to its core functions, more so those identified under **Sections 5 to 10 of Chapter 15:06**. Despite the many challenges faced by the Agency in 2010 inclusive of the imminent merger of the SSA and SIA into the NSIA, the Agency will continue to ensure that the foreign policy of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, in the area of drug supply reduction initiatives reflected in regional and international agreements, is aligned with Government's national policy.

The question now posed is, where within the framework of the NSIA, the execution and monitoring of the international agreements would now reside and what mechanism will exist to fulfil bilateral agreements that promote , inter alia, the facilitation of national reporting on initiatives, alignment of international agreements with national strategies on supply reduction, the strengthening of coordination and collaboration among stakeholders, the accessing of technical assistance and cooperation with multilateral agencies, ensuring that supply reduction measures are carried out in full conformity with the principles of international Charters . Logically, such commitments should reside within a *Supply Reduction Framework* that enjoys international recognition.

The imperative for a legally constituted drug supply reduction framework was promoted by the United Nations in 1988. Notably, there is a current momentum within the international community to amalgamate domestic authorities engaged in drug control and related transnational organized crime initiatives, in recognition of the obvious interconnectedness of their portfolios. The SSA has made significant contributions to the nation's strategic response to drug trafficking and crime in general as this country's national focal point for drug-related supply reduction,

information-gathering, monitoring international and local drug trafficking trends and negotiating training and technical assistance opportunities.

Given this current momentum at the international level, it is imperative that the role and function currently undertaken by the SSA be embodied in an independent entity so constructed to fulfil the purport and intent of the 1988 Vienna Convention. It is therefore imperative that these functions not be subsumed within a Ministry or another Government department, for so doing will in effect erase the gains accomplished as a result of the work of the SSA and its precursor agencies in dealing with the illicit drug supply problem.

Despite the challenges posed by the imminent merger of the SSA with the SIA, the Agency will continue in 2011 to pursue its legislative mandate in undertaking activities related to the implementation of the National Supply Reduction Strategy.

APPENDICES

Appendix I

International Agreements signed and ratified by Trinidad and Tobago which impact upon the functions of the SSA.

- ❖ UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961
- ❖ UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961) Amended by The Protocol (1972)
- ❖ UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971),
- ❖ UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988)
- ❖ Inter-American Convention against Corruption(1996)
- ❖ The Inter-American Program of Rio(1986)
- ❖ The Inter-American Anti-Drug Strategy (1997)
- ❖ Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacture of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Material(1997)
- ❖ Inter –American Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999)
- ❖ Inter-American Model Regulations to Control Chemical Precursors and Chemical Substances, Machines and Materials
- ❖ The Caribbean Financial Task Force (CFATF)Kingston Declaration (1992)
- ❖ Kingston Declaration (1996)
- ❖ Financial Action Task Force 40+9 Recommendations
- ❖ The United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (2000)
 - Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
 - Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
 - Protocol Against Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their parts and Component s and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
- ❖ United Nations Convention Against Corruption (2003)
- ❖ Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime(OAS)(2006)

- ❖ **United Nations Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem(2009)**
- ❖ **The Inter-American Anti-Drug Strategy 2011-2015**
- ❖ **The United Nations Programme of Action (2001)**
- ❖ **United Nations International Tracing Instrument (2005)**

Appendix II

International/Bi-Regional and Hemispheric Bodies for which the SSA is a Point of Contact

United Nations Programme of Action (UN POA)

United Nations Instrument to Identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons

Inter-American Convention Against Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials

United Nations Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and the Trafficking in Firearms (their parts & components) & Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

EU/UNODC Prevention of the diversion of Precursor Chemicals in Latin America and the Caribbean Project (PRELAC)

CICAD - Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products

Precursor Chemical Project (PRINCE2) Project Board

INCB Pre-Export Notification Online System

United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)

United Nations HONLAC

European Union ,Latin America and the Caribbean Coordination & Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs(EULAC)

UNTOC Transnational Organized Crime

Multi-lateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)

Appendix III

International Assessment Tools and Reporting Obligations for which the SSA is responsible

Organization	Assessment Tool
UNITED NATIONS-UNODC	ANNUAL REPORTS QUESTIONNAIRE (ARQ)
	BIENNIAL REPORTS QUESTIONNAIRE (BRQ)
	Implementation of Recommendations HONLEA Session
	UN Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems
	United Nations Register On Conventional Arms
	UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons
	National Report –International Tracing Instrument
	Reporting on Military Expenditures
	Questionnaire on the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
UNITED NATIONS-INCB	Evaluation of Implementation of the International Drug Control Treaties
Organization of American States-CICAD	Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism: Supply Reduction Component

ⁱ The 1988 Vienna Convention, the Transnational Organized Crime Convention and the Convention against Corruption and the Financial Action Task Force Recommendations on Money Laundering.