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MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

**STRATEGIC
SERVICES
AGENCY**

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DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD

Throughout the year 2011, the Strategic Services Agency (SSA) continued to engage its stakeholders at the national, regional and hemispheric levels to enhance and enforce policies aimed at strengthening mechanisms to tackle the burgeoning illicit drug trade and related criminal activities. The pursuance of a multifaceted strategy to confront this scourge has been at the forefront of the SSA's efforts in 2011.

The SSA recognizes the global dimension of the problem and the fact that no single country can successfully eliminate illegal drugs from its shores. It is with this in mind that we are ever mindful of government's commitment to deal with these issues and hence ensure that the obligations under the relevant international instruments to which we are a state party are adhered. We believe that a global concerted effort is the only appropriate strategy and it is this commitment that underpins the work of the Agency.

The 2011 report gives account of the Agency's activities as outlined in the National Anti-Drug Strategy and relevant Work Plan. We cannot deny that there were challenges along the way but the Agency, despite this, never lost focus on its goals and objectives.

We intend to work even harder at achieving our goals in 2012 and beyond.

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

CEI – Critical Energy Infrastructure

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

COPOLAD is a partnership cooperation programme between the European Union (EU) and Latin America (LA), aiming to improving the coherence, balance and impact of drugs policies, through the exchange of mutual experiences, bi-regional coordination and the promotion multisectoral, comprehensive and coordinated responses.

ESSI-Energy Sector Security Initiative

EC- European Commission

ECLAC- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

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.

MNCPC- National Mission for the Control of Chemical Drug Precursors (France)

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

NDO – 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

OID – Inter-American Observatory on Drugs

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

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 meeting its international obligations. This Annual Report, therefore, will review the activities that have been undertaken in key thematic areas and reflect the main issues in which the Agency has been actively engaged during 2011, whilst ensuring Trinidad and Tobago's compliance with other anti-drug initiatives regionally, hemispherically and globally.

Cognizant of the importance of addressing the issues within its mandate in a comprehensive and integrated manner, including the strengthening of regional and international cooperation, the Agency focused in 2011, in a very robust way, to achieve the objectives set out in the National Supply Reduction Strategy, including, inter alia, facilitating mechanisms to reduce the illicit supply of drugs, and the monitoring and control of precursor chemicals; illegal guns and ammunition at the national level. Coupled with 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.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

The exigencies of the Agency in 2011, while abundant in scope, focused on the following key areas:

1. Providing strategic direction to government;
2. Building and consolidating relationships among stakeholders;
3. Building capacity among stakeholders;
4. Serving as a recognized national entity for interface with the international community on all aspects of drug interdiction initiatives;

5. Facilitating the fulfilment of Trinidad and Tobago's international obligations under instruments relating to drugs and related transnational organized crimes;
6. Coordinating counter drug initiatives among relevant enforcement, legal, regulatory and financial sectors of the stakeholders community;
7. Establishing a supporting pillar for the efforts of the National Drug Council/National Anti Drug Plan 2008-2012 in the supply reduction component of its drug control mission.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION OF THE GOVERNMENT

The SSA, since its establishment has contributed significantly to the national strategic response on drug trafficking and related transnational organized criminal activities. The Agency has provided and continues to provide strategic direction at the national, regional, hemispheric and international level in, inter alia, the following areas:

- Advising on policy with respect to the need for various legislative initiatives, due to international commitments or improvement to existing legislation;
- Monitoring Compliance to ensure that the country fulfills its political and international commitments as they relate to counter drug initiatives;
- Coordinating and strengthening relationships among the stakeholder communities involved in national counter –narcotics programme;
- Collecting, collating and analyzing information to determine existing and emerging patterns and trends.

Supply Reduction Strategy

The development of a national Supply Reduction Strategy is critical and tantamount to a global integrated and balanced strategy to counter the World Drug Problem. It is incumbent on State Parties to the various International Drug Control Conventions to devise, implement and monitor measures to combat the illicit traffic of drugs and its related transnational organized crime activities.

The National Supply Reduction Strategy as designed by the SSA is the country's response and equivalence to the international call of shared responsibility and clearly defined, integrated pro-active activities. The strategy has been and continued to be in 2011 the basis and guide for counter narcotic activities as well as the pillar on which the SSA operated.

The SSA continued to monitor and report on trends and patterns in illicit drug trafficking and other transnational criminal activities to facilitate the strengthening of legislative, administrative, regulatory and operational mechanisms in a number of thematic areas. The Agency prepared and submitted, inter alia, country assessments to various international agencies, as well as provided suitable representation at conferences and working groups.

BUILDING AND CONSOLIDATING RELATIONSHIPS AMONG STAKEHOLDERS

Expansion /strengthening of the National Drug Information System & National Drug Observatory

There are a number of prescribed criteria for information gathering determined by international organizations such as the UN and the OAS. The goal is to develop the requisite methodology to integrate existing supply and demand data in order to gain a comprehensive analysis of the interactions between supply and demand and to compare these with regional, hemispheric and international estimates. Understanding the size and scope of the drug problem; the underlying antecedents; trends and effects must be defined through the establishment of reliable research mechanism, which would monitor trends continuously.

The National Drug Information System (NDIS) of the National Drug Observatory (NDO) of Trinidad and Tobago was adopted by the National Drug Council (NDC). It aims to collect, collate and store data on narcotics related information from key stakeholders in keeping with CICAD's own Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID). It was created in 2002 to help promote and build a drug information network for the Americas that offers objective, reliable, up-to-date and comparative information so that member states can better understand, design and implement policies and programmes to confront the drug phenomenon in all its dimensions.

While the NDIS provides statistical data, the NDO is a database containing data on all aspects of the Government's counter drug measures inclusive of projects, programmes and research papers. The SSA has worked closely with the NDC in both expanding and strengthening the technical capacity of both systems.

In 2011, the Agency was actively involved in numerous consultations with NDC to identify a suitable solution for the functionality of facilitating the collection, storage and retrieval of real time data. Additionally, the SSA was tasked to identify the technical solutions implemented internationally to provide those responsible with a better appreciation of user needs and best practices. As guided by its mandate to act as a central repository for drug related information, the SSA will continue to collaborate with the NDC on matters surrounding the strengthening of the NDIS and NDO.

BUILDING CAPACITY AMONG STAKEHOLDERS

Negotiating Technical Assistance

By virtue of 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.

The Agency succeeded in obtaining assistance from the European Union under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) for the enhancement of the delivery of services by officers of the Organized Crime Narcotics and Firearms Bureau (OCNFB) from both supply and demand reduction perspectives, as well as strengthening the networking capabilities of those tasked in the fight against illegal drugs.

The training seminar, funded by the European Union took place from the 5 - 16 December, 2011 and sought to enhance the quality of services provided by officers tasked with implementing/operationalizing the government's anti drug initiatives. In this regard, the Agency was invited to conduct presentations with a view to enhancing the knowledge and understanding of participants with respect to Trinidad and Tobago's anti-drug initiative and responsibilities. The presentations focused on Precursor Chemical Control and Transnational Organized Crime. The latter aimed at sensitizing participants as to the nature of transnational organized crime; more specifically its emergence, definition, characteristics and its link to drug trafficking as a critical component; the threat to public safety and security and how combatting TOC requires translating political will into concrete results. The presentations further identified the roles of law enforcement agencies in combating TOC and underscored the importance of coordination and cooperation for an effective operationalizing of the anti drug initiative.

RECOGNIZED NATIONAL ENTITY FOR INTERFACE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ON ALL ASPECTS OF DRUG INTERDICTION INITIATIVES

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

As this country is an integral member of the European Union Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs, Latin America and the Caribbean (EULAC), the Agency serves as the focal point, responsible for articulating and advancing Trinidad and Tobago's interest and concerns as it relates to bi-regional cooperation in the fight against illicit trafficking of drugs.

The EULAC Mechanism is based on the rationale of joint responsibility in the international fight against drugs. Within the framework of a comprehensive approach, the Mechanism deals with all the different facets of the problem with a view to enhancing capacities, increasing cooperation, exchanging and sharing of experiences and best practices.

For the reporting year, the Agency continued to perform its integral role in facilitating dialogue between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean on critical drug related issues as follows:

i. Articulation and promotion of Trinidad and Tobago's interest:

The Agency provided comments and inputs on the Draft Bogota Declaration 2011 in preparation for the 13th High Level Meeting of the EU/LAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs. The Final Declaration, which is an international instrument used to guide the bi-region, under the rubric of shared responsibility and cooperation in tackling the world drug problem, defines an agreed approach

integrating both supply reduction, demand reduction and other areas of drug related criminal activities.

ii. Expert Representation:

The Agency along with a senior member of the Organized Crime Narcotics and Firearms Bureau (OCNFB) represented Trinidad and Tobago at the 13th High Level Meeting of the EU/LAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs held in Bogota, Colombia. The meeting serves as a bi-regional forum to discuss and negotiate from a global perspective, matters treating with demand reduction and supply reduction issues affecting States in the bi-region. The meeting also considers matters relating to EULAC cooperation and matters requiring follow-up action on preceding Plans of Action.

Given Trinidad & Tobago's lead role in CARICOM in the area of security, the Agency has ensured that the country continues to effectively represent the English speaking Caribbean. The Agency successfully articulated the concerns of small arms proliferation in the Region and negotiated for its inclusion into the Final outcome document of the 13th High Level meeting.

iii. Facilitating the monitoring and implementation of EU-funded projects:

Since 2009, the Strategic Services Agency (SSA) has actively participated on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in the Prevention of the Diversion of Precursor Chemicals in Latin America and the Caribbean (PRELAC) Project. The EU aims to create and strengthen bi-regional and trans-regional synergies to tackle transnational organized crime with emphasis on those illicit activities along the cocaine route. Thus, the EU has adopted a comprehensive approach to treating with the inflow of cocaine entering its Member States. As focal point for international and local precursor chemical efforts, the agency within 2011, continued to guide a

number of activities for the implementation of Phase 1 of the project¹. (Port of Spain Declaration)

iv. Signaling of Trinidad and Tobago's Interest in Other EU funded project:

The Agency also signaled at the 13th High Level meeting, Trinidad and Tobago's interest in participating in the COPOLAD² project; a cooperation programme aimed at strengthening the bi-regional dialogue between the European Union and Latin America, consolidating the EU-Latin America and Caribbean Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs and contributing to improving the coherence, balance and impact of drugs policies at the national, sub-regional and bi-regional levels.

Project to Strengthen Information on Public Security

On behalf of the GRTT, in July 2011, the Ministry of National Security signed a Cooperation Agreement with the OAS for the execution of a Project to Strengthen Information on Public Security and National Observatories on Crime and Violence in the Caribbean. The Project forms part of an integrated approach to hemispheric security within the America's. The Secretariat for Multidimensional Security of the OAS, underpinning the "Commitment to Public Security in the Americas", provided OAS Member states like Trinidad and Tobago ongoing technical support in matters of public security management and international cooperation to achieve the purposes, objectives and actions of this commitment.

¹ A detailed account of these activities for 2011 is contained in the Precursor Chemicals Chapter.

² COPOLAD is a partnership cooperation programme between the European Union (EU) and Latin America (LA), aiming to improving the coherence, balance and impact of drugs policies, through the exchange of mutual experiences, bi-regional coordination and the promotion multisectoral, comprehensive and coordinated responses.

The project aims to provide member states with the requisite tools for capacity development in order to ensure a more comprehensive analysis of trends in crime and violence, creating an effective technical and methodological framework for the development of strategies and policies to deal with public safety and security that is evidenced based.

As the Agency has consistently demonstrated the capacity to deal with matters of this nature, the Agency was designated as the Public Security Official Data Coordinator (PSODC) to facilitate the monitoring and implementation of the two (2) phase project.

As PSODC, the SSA has been charged with the responsibility to:

- i.* Act as a liaison between the Inter-American Observatory on Security (OIS) and national governmental authorities; and
- ii.* Gather data on public security required for the completion of the United Nations Survey on Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UNCTS) in coordination with the OAS in pursuance of the Project.

In this regard, the Agency has compiled and completed for submission to the UN the 14th UN-CTS in 2011, which is a review of 2010. Additionally, the Agency participated in a two-day workshop entitled “An essential tool in Public Security Management” in Panama City, Panama in October 2011. The workshop was aimed at promoting hemispheric cooperation; technical assistance and knowledge transfer between Member States using each State’s experience in collecting and analyzing public security-related information.

TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIMES

REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

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 community of nations in tackling the threats posed by illegal drugs and related criminal activity. During the reporting period of 2011, the Agency ensured the submission of a number of reporting tools to its international partners.

HONLEA

- i.* As Point of Contact for 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 2010 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. It also establishes working groups to analyze the issues, and subsequently submit reports and recommendations to the attention of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). These recommendations are then translated into actions at the national level for countries within the hemisphere to combat the illegal trade and its related criminal activities. States are then required to assist in updating the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) annually with information on the actions their Governments had taken to implement the recommendations adopted at HONLEA.

United Nations Survey on Crime Trends and Operation 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.

The UN-CTS is a questionnaire which is compiled and completed for submission to the UN by the SSA, based on the information submitted by the relevant institutions in Trinidad and Tobago. The information, which is gathered annually, was submitted to the UN by the SSA in 2011.

Country Statements and Position Papers

The Agency is mandated to acquire and maintain the requisite expertise and knowledge on a myriad of issues related to supply reduction initiatives and the requirements for Trinidad and Tobago to meet its obligations at the regional, hemispheric and international level. The SSA provided and assisted in the preparation of the following position papers and country statements for Trinidad and Tobago representatives at various international forums within the 2011 reporting period:

- i.* Country Statement and Briefing Document on National Priorities and Initiatives Taken to Deal with the Problem of Illegal Drugs and Related Crime: prepared for T&T Representatives to the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs 54th Session, held in Vienna, Austria, March 2011.

- ii.* **Republic of Trinidad and Tobago country Statement on Supply Reductions:** Initiatives prepared for 13th High Level Meeting of EU/LAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs, held in Bogota, Colombia, June 2011

 - iii.* **Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Statement on Actions and Initiatives taken to Implement the Hemispheric Plan of Action Against Transnational Organized Crime,** presented at OAS, Third 3rd Meeting of the Technical Group on Transnational Organized Crime, held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, November 2011.
- IV.* Prepared comments for submission to the United Nations Office on Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) on the Efforts taken at the national level to strengthen information security and promote international cooperation in this field as stipulated in the UN General Assembly Resolution 65/41 entitled '*Development in the field of information and Telecommunications in the Context of international Security*'. (June 2011)

COORDINATING COUNTER DRUG INITIATIVES

In 2011, the SSA conducted a number of presentations for newly trained recruits /officers of the OCNFB. The presentation provided and overview an overview and comprehensive examination of the illicit drug problem nationally, within the region and the nexus to international illicit markets and illicit flows. The goal of the presentation was to provide the officers with a strategic understanding of their new roles within the supply control framework. The presentation further underscored the importance of understanding the dynamics of transnational organized crime, Trinidad and Tobago's efforts in tackling this issue and the importance of collaboration locally and internationally.

ALIGNING WITH THE NATIONAL DRUG COUNCIL/NATIONAL ANTI DRUG PLAN 2008-2012

The country's drug policy is guided by the National Anti-Drug Plan 2008-2012, which is recognized as the overarching policy document for drug control. The Plan summarises national policies, defines priorities and allocates responsibilities for drug control efforts in five (5) key thematic areas: *Institutional Strengthening; Drug Demand Reduction; Supply Reduction; Research; and Monitoring and Evaluation*. The National Strategy to Eliminate Illicit Production and Trafficking of Drugs Produced Naturally or Synthetically to Promote Related Control Measures developed by the SSA supports the Supply Reduction positions articulated in the Plan.

In 2011, the NDC conducted a monitoring exercise of the Anti Drug Plan 2008-2012 with an aim to assess the implementation status, level of completion and merit of the Plan while developing its monitoring and evaluation capacity. The SSA, as the designated Agency for all supply control matters was responsible for the coordination of a host of activities geared towards the monitoring and evaluation of the "Supply Component"³, which contains an overall objective and 13 clear activities, of the National Anti-Drug Plan.

In this regard, the activities undertaken by the Agency included:

- i.* Collection of pertinent information from various stakeholders about progress in the 13 activities;
- i.* Collation of information and preparation of a matrix of key achievements accomplished within 2008-2011;

³ Facilitation of improved law enforcement to ensure efficient interdiction and reduction of the supply of illegal drugs, while providing intervention in the areas of crime reduction, money laundering and precursor chemicals

- ii.* Conduct of continuous assessments, information gathering and feedback to stakeholders;
- iii.* Conduct of stakeholder meetings to discuss challenges and consolidate information on the various activities;
- iv.* Engagement in consultative workshop with the contracted Project Manager, retained by the NDC to conduct the overall monitoring and evaluation assessment;

PRECURSOR CHEMICALS:

The significance of the 1988 Vienna Convention cannot be understated in this field anti-drug activity. The international instrument encouraged countries to link previously conceptually isolated efforts against money laundering, drug and firearm trafficking as well as drug production into a coordinated approach to reduce the global illicit drug supply. Unfortunately, this prescribed consolidated approach is not always sought through coordinated implementation efforts within signatory States.

This often results in suboptimal efforts to reduce national and by extension global drug supply. In recognizing this some countries have responded by structurally positioning entities as the lead institution with overarching responsibilities for combating all drug related activities. Examples of this can be found with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) within the Department of Justice and the Mexican *Procurador General de la República* (PGR) or the Attorney General's Office.

Nevertheless, aspects of a national anti-drug approach do undoubtedly require strong inter-agency dialogue and cooperation with precursor chemical control being one of the most dependent on such levels collaboration.

An example of this collaborative approach can be seen France where, in 1993, the National Mission for the Control of Chemical Drug Precursors (MNCPC) was established as a national task force. The MNCPC is the competent authority in France in the field of precursor chemical control and serves two primary purposes:

- Fulfillment of the obligations assumed by France in the ratification of the Vienna Convention; and
- Implementation of European Union legislated anti-precursor chemical diversion measures.

The MNCPC therefore controls and coordinates the implementation of national and EU policies against the diversion of precursor chemicals. It is also responsible for providing the interface between law enforcement and industrial chemical handlers.

The Unit is appropriately staffed with civil servants of the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Industry as well as those seconded by the Ministry of the Budget (Customs) and the Ministry of the Interior (Police). To date this structure has worked well for the French in satisfying domestic, European Union (EU) and UN obligations relative to precursor chemicals.

Such a consolidated coordination function in precursor chemical control is envisaged to be invested within the SSA, through the creation of the Precursor Chemical Unit (PCU), as prescribed by Precursor Chemical Bill. It is hoped that this will remedy the currently disjointed precursor control efforts between the main stakeholders in the Ministry of Health, Customs and Excise and National Security.

In the interim however, in 2011 the SSA maintained a steady emphasis on promoting comprehensive measures to advance national precursor chemical control efforts.

These initiatives comprised:

- i.* Enactment of Comprehensive Legislation on Precursor Chemical Control (PCC);
- ii.* Consistent Capacity Building;
- iii.* Employment of Electronic Information Management Systems;
- iv.* Keeping abreast of PCC developments; and

v. Research and Evaluation.

Enactment of Comprehensive Legislation on Precursor Chemical Control (PCC) Bill and Policy Developments

The PCT and the Legislation Review Committee Process

On 27 June, 2011 Cabinet approved the redrafted Bill and Policy, the product of consistent roundtable discussions within Cabinet-Appointed Precursor Chemical Committee throughout 2010 as facilitated by the SSA. The Bill was then placed on the Legislation Review Committee's (LRC) Agenda as the penultimate step before eventual tabling on the Government's Parliamentary Agenda.

Within the LRC, deliberations on the Bill's progression encountered a few unexpected obstacles; chief among these were several objections made by stakeholders as to specific content within the Bill. This inevitably caused some delay to the process. However, through negotiation with stakeholders, the SSA secured the Bill's passage into the Pre-LRC stage.

This Stage of any Bill involves subjecting the Bill to intense scrutiny by legal and technical representatives of all relevant stakeholder Ministries involved in its development. For the Precursor Chemical Bill, these stakeholders represented the Ministries of National Security (through the SSA), Health, Trade & Industry, Justice (Forensics Sciences Centre), Finance (Customs & Excise Division), Energy and Energy Affairs and the Office of the Attorney General. The group held five sittings to improve the provisions and resolve any anticipated issues that may arise in the final reading of the Bill at the LRC.

At the final sitting of the PRE-LRC group for 2011, it was concluded that the major issue needing resolution was the presence of similar chemicals existing both on the Toxic Chemicals Regulations (2007) as well as the Bill. Sittings are scheduled to reconvene in 2012.

The PRINCE2 Precursor Chemical Project

The PRINCE2 Project is officially entitled the “Effective control and monitoring of precursor chemicals in Trinidad & Tobago” and seeks to streamline the activities involved in the realization of the Precursor Chemical Unit (PCU). These include:

- i.* Enactment of draft Legislation on precursor chemical control;
- ii.* Agreement among stakeholders as to the operational framework for the functioning of the PCU; and
- iii.* Development of an enhanced national policy on precursor chemical control.

The ‘PRINCE2’ aspect of the Project is the application of one of the latest internationally recognized project management methodologies called the ‘Projects In Controlled Environments (PRINCE) 2’.

This approach will contextualize the work of the Project’s participants and related discussions involving the PCU’s operations to streamlined activities, timeframes, deadlines and evaluative measures inherent in formal project management. Therefore, the Project primarily seeks to advance the passage of the Bill and reduce any delay in the establishment of the PCU following the enactment of the legislation.

In December 2011, the first Project Board meeting marked the commencement of the activities under the PRINCE2 Project. At this point, the Board discussed the way forward in 2012 which included another attempt to sensitize respective Permanent Secretaries as well training opportunities in the PRINCE2 methodology and

technical aspects in precursor chemical control for civil servants of participating Ministries.

CAPACITY BUILDING

PRELAC-Sponsored Training

The SSA's performed the role of Trinidad and Tobago's focal point for the activities of the Prevention of the Diversion of Drug Precursors in Latin America and the Caribbean (PRELAC) Project and secured a major training opportunity for local stakeholders.

During January 31 – 04 February 2011, PRELAC sponsored a Precursor Chemical Control Training in Panama City, Panama, for beneficiary countries within the Greater Caribbean Region. Trinidad and Tobago was represented by contingent comprising ten (10) officers from the Health, Police, Coast Guard, Customs and Excise and the Public Prosecution's Office.

While the SSA facilitated the attendance of officers from these institutions, it was particularly instrumental in securing the participation of this country's Director of Public Prosecution. This marked the first time that a senior legal State prosecutor was ever involved in training involving precursor chemical control⁴.

Additionally, prior to the participants' attendance, the SSA:

- i.* Briefed the group on the goals and objectives of the training;
- ii.* Worked alongside team members to develop the country presentation to be made at the Course; and

⁴ International best practice dictates that officials from State's prosecutor's offices and judiciary be trained in precursor chemical control in order to improve their ability to respectively prosecute and adjudicate cases in this area of anti-drug control.

- iii.* Achieved consensus on what would be the best outcome for each Agency/Ministry and by extension, Trinidad and Tobago.

After the training, the SSA surveyed participants' feedback and created an evaluative report on their experiences and its likely impact on their respective institutions. As underscored in the report, it can therefore be said that the training has, *inter alia*, both increased the awareness of stakeholder institutions and enhanced their capacity to deliver improved precursor chemical control in Trinidad and Tobago.

Furthermore, it is noteworthy to underscore that these activities were performed despite the fact that no SSA representative attended the course. Extensive stakeholder support therefore remained the primary focus of the Agency.

European Union (EU) – Sponsored Training

The SSA similarly sought and succeeded in obtaining assistance from the European Union in capacity building for the hosting of a training course in the areas of precursor chemical control and transnational organised crime at the EU-sponsored "Empowering Narcotic Law Enforcement Officers for 2012 and Beyond" Training Course. Here, officers from the TTPS, Customs and Excise Division as well as the Air and Port Authorities were made aware of the complex issues involved in transnational organized crime and the need for precursor chemical control.

The SSA provided facilitators from the Supply Reduction and the Precursor Chemical Control Desks to deliver presentations on transnational organised crime and precursor chemical control.

With respect to precursor chemicals, the majority of participants reported that they were unaware of the precursor chemical control component of local and

international anti-drug measures. This fact is startling given the high emphasis various foreign law enforcement and international agencies place on precursor chemical control.

Therefore, to avoid a detrimental lack of awareness to such a critical component of anti-drug activities among law enforcement, regulatory and policy personnel, capacity building through training needs to be continuously pursued. The SSA, by virtue of its mandate, remains appropriately poised to fulfill this national need.

Technical Assistance.

One of the goals of PRELAC is the establishment of '*a web-based system for information exchange on the movement of precursor chemicals in the Region*'. An objective of this goal was the installation and operation of the National Drug Control System (NDS) in Member States which previously lacked an automated database for controlling the flow of precursor chemicals nationally.

Through the SSA, Trinidad and Tobago sought the System's full implementation through the technical assistance offered by PRELAC. Besides, the facilitation of PRELAC officials to T&T as reported in 2010, this involved:

- i.* Advocating among stakeholders, the importance to the use of the NDS;
- ii.* Assisting stakeholder IT personnel in connecting to the NDS; and
- iii.* Migrating stakeholder information into the NDS platform;

It is anticipated that the work of PRELAC, inclusive of receiving NDS stakeholder training, will conclude in 2012.

Employment of Electronic Information Management Systems

National Drug Control System (NDS)

The NDS is at present the electronic information management system of choice for Trinidad and Tobago and is carded for full implementation in 2012. In this regard, all end-user institutions will need the appropriate information technology (IT) infrastructure to utilize the System. To this end, a needs-assessment was conducted by the SSA in 2010.

The equipment needed will be procured by the SSA and accordingly loaned to each Ministry/Agency for their use of the NDS. In 2011, the SSA obtained the approval for the purchase the items, which should be acquired in 2012.

The Pre-Export Notification (PEN) System

This system allows for the electronic exchange of information between Member States on shipments (export and import) containing precursor chemicals. The SSA and the Ministry of Health's Drug Inspectorate Division both collaborate to verify the legitimacy of each chemical import.

Where the SSA is advised that a discrepancy in the pending shipment is observed, the Agency registers this country's objection to the shipment on the System. Thereafter the Drug Inspectorate commences an investigation with a view to clarifying any problematic issue.

CONSTANT DIALOGUE BETWEEN AND AMONG PCC STAKEHOLDERS LOCALLY, REGIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

Internationally

In pursuance of this requirement the SSA participated, on behalf of Government of Trinidad and Tobago, in the Special Meeting of the CICAD Group of Experts (GoE) on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products held in Lima, Peru. The purpose of this gathering was to review and update the CICAD Model Regulations on Chemical Substances drafted at the 2010 Annual Meeting.

Trinidad and Tobago was the only CARICOM country participating in the discussions. As such, the SSA sought to ensure that the terms of the Model Regulations would be as broad as possible to facilitate future adoption by CARICOM counterparts. The Trinidad and Tobago delegation, for example, promoted provisions for adequate information exchange between law enforcement and regulatory agencies in light of this country's activities in implementing the NDS. This Special Meeting was followed by the regular Annual Meeting in July of that year. At the latter meeting an example of precursor chemical diversion occurring within the Caribbean Region was presented.

Within a working group session, a member of the Mexican delegation reported of a recent incident where a ghost company of a Mexican drug trafficking organization operating in Belize, had its precursor chemical shipment interdicted at the Port of Kingston, Jamaica.

Locally

The SSA therefore was keen on sharing this information with stakeholders to underscore the need for Trinidad and Tobago to enact its Precursor Chemical Bill currently before the LRC. Therefore, on return to Port of Spain, the SSA informed local stakeholders of this incident, in an attempt to reinforce the need to have their full cooperation in preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals whether in or through Trinidad and Tobago.

Sensitizing the public to precursor chemical control took place this year in a collaborative effort between the SSA and the Organized Crime, Narcotics and Firearms Bureau (OCNFB) where both organizations hosted a booth at the National Drug Council (NDC) - coordinated Toco Community Day in December 2011.

This event was one of the activities held this year in recognition of the UNODC's International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking'. The SSA's exhibit was aimed at promoting awareness of precursor chemical diversion while OCNFB highlighted various drug concealment measures by criminal smugglers.

Both themes were selected so that members of the community would be aware of the active work of the Ministry of National Security. Information on precursor chemical control was disseminated to the public to highlight the need to report, to the Ministry, any suspicious activity members of the community may observe, involving person(s) handling chemical substances.

EVALUATION

As reported last year, the SSA is heavily involved in the generation of the responses to the Supply Reduction Questionnaire of the CICAD Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM). This is in pursuance of recommendations made within the 5th evaluation round.

A status report of the 5th Round recommendations implemented thus far, show that one recommendation has been fulfilled⁵ while the others remain pending. The fulfillment of the latter is directly related to the passage of the Precursor Chemicals Bill and the full implementation of the National Drug Control System (NDS), both of which, as demonstrated earlier, are currently engaging the attention of the SSA.

FIREARMS

The issue of illicit trade of firearms continues to be an issue of pressing importance for the GRTT. The phenomenon of firearms trafficking is inextricably linked to the trafficking of illicit drugs and is an essential component in transnational organized crime. The GRTT, recognizing the nexus between illicit drug and firearms, has adopted measures to improve firearms control in all its aspects in order to assist in reducing the supply of illicit drugs. These measures have been re-enforced by the government's commitment to its international obligations under the following instruments:

- i.* United Nations International Tracing Instrument ["ITI"]– 2005
- ii.* The United Nations Programme of Action ["UN PoA"] – 2001

⁵ This refers to the recommendation for research and training in activities related to illegal traffic of drugs via the internet.

- iii.* The United Nations Convention on Trans-national Organized Crime [“UN TOC”] – United Nations Third Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their parts and components, and Ammunition-2000
- iv.* Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacture of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Material [CIFTA] - 1997

The SSA, in pursuance of its mandate and in the performance of its core functions within this thematic area, ensured that the GOTT continued to enforce domestic measures in alignment with these instruments.

To highlight how these activities have contributed to the National Drug Supply Reduction Strategy, this chapter of the Annual Report shall identify the firearms-related activities that the SSA performed in 2011 while juxtaposing these activities against the regional and international commitments aforementioned.

REGIONAL OBLIGATIONS

Reporting Obligations

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

The GOTT became a State Party to the Inter- American Convention against the Illicit Manufacture of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Material (“CIFTA”), a legally binding multilateral treaty, in May 1998 and ratified in February 2004. As a State Party to CIFTA, the GOTT has an obligation to implement its provisions in order to be in compliance with the hemispheric instrument. What is noteworthy is the provisions of this treaty mirror those

provisions set out in the UN PoA, particularly, reporting on the transfer of the same seven (7) categories of major conventional weapons. CIFTA emphasizes the need for authorization of export, import and transit licenses; and reinforcement of checkpoints for exports, among other aspects.

During the year 2011, the SSA continued to ensure that the GOTT fulfilled its obligations under this hemispheric instrument in implementing applicable provisions. Towards this end, the SSA responded to a request from the Secretariat Pro Tempore of CIFTA to determine the status of *Implementation and Effectiveness of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Material (CIFTA)*. Considering that this request sought to ascertain up-to-date information on the implementation status of Member States and the challenges they faced in this regard, in-depth research needed to be conducted. The SSA consulted with key stakeholders which included the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, Customs and Excise Division, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of the Office of the Attorney General to determine Trinidad and Tobago position in this regard.

On accessing the information sourced from its key stakeholders, the SSA was in a position to transmit to the OAS, Trinidad and Tobago's position with respect to the implementation of CIFTA along with challenges faced in the process.

The implementation status as it relates to Trinidad and Tobago would be presented at a Review Conference scheduled for April 2012, where Member States will have the opportunity to identify challenges in CIFTA's implementation and to seek consensual solutions for common problems.

CHALLENGES

Information Sharing

As reported in the 2010 annual report, the SSA has continued to face an uphill battle with its stakeholder agencies as it pertains to information sharing. However in 2011 the Agency was able to get some measure of cooperation from its key stakeholders to treat with the issue of the fight against the proliferation of illegal firearms. Agencies such as the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force (TTDF), The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS), The Customs and Excise Division, and many other arms of the Ministry of National Security have played a major role in maintaining that the GOTT meets its international requirements as far as the UNPOA reporting obligations are concerned. Without the input of these agencies the SSA would not be able to fulfill these reporting obligations.

While the SSA acknowledges the effort made by its stakeholders, the Agency still remains with the challenge of sourcing in a timely manner the relevant information for its stakeholders to facilitate reporting to the UNPOA. However, the SSA will continue to enhance its efforts to resolve this challenge.

INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS

Reporting Obligations

United Nations Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons

In 2002, Trinidad and Tobago became a State Party to the United Nations Programme of Action (“UNPoA”), a politically binding instrument with the aim of monitoring and controlling the ever-growing illicit trade in Small Arms and Light

Weapons (“SALW”) with a view to assisting countries to combat this global problem.

In an effort to tackle the problem of illicit trade of firearms, as a State Party to the UNPOA, the GOTT has committed itself to fulfilling various obligations, namely:

- i.* Making illicit gun production / possession a criminal offence
- ii.* Establishing a national coordination agency on small arms
- iii.* Identifying and destroying stocks of surplus weapons
- iv.* Disarmaments, Demobilizations and Re-integration of ex-combatants, including collection and destruction of their weapons
- v.* Supporting regional agreements and encourage moratoria
- vi.* Marking guns at point of manufacture for identification and tracing
- vii.* Maintaining records of gun manufacture
- viii.* Engaging in information exchange
- ix.* Ensuring better enforcement of arms embargoes
- x.* Including civil society organizations in efforts to prevent small arms proliferation

These obligations were designed to identify areas in which countries need to pay particular attention since they are the areas where SALW are diverted to the illicit market, inclusive of the illicit drug trade. The SSA facilitated the GOTT to fulfill the requirements of the UNPOA by ensuring the timely submission of the 2010 Annual Country Report on the status of implementation of the UNPOA in the areas identified above.

As the National Coordinating Agency for all aspects of implementation of the UNPOA, the Agency to conducts stakeholder consultations to collate, analyse and compile the relevant information to form the body of this Country’s National Report.

It is to be noted that the Country Report facilitates the promotion of transparency in this Country’s acquisition in SALW transactions during the year under review. It also allows for an assessment to be done by the UNODA as to what technical

assistance and funding may be needed to enhance measures taken at the national level to tackle the issue of illegal firearms trafficking.

United Nations Register of Conventional Arms

An auxiliary component to the implementation process of the UNPoA is the submission to the UNODA, of annual country reports to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms (“UNROCA”). This report, allows Member States that are States Party to the UN PoA to report on the seven categories of weapons exported and imported from their territory during the calendar year, in an effort to monitor and identify the movement of firearms in the region.

In an effort to compile this report, the SSA hosted stakeholder meetings to source the required information. This report was subsequently submitted to UNPOA for its consideration against the backdrop of national measures adopted in tackling the illegal firearms trade.

United Nations Report on Military Expenditure

The United Nations Report on Military Expenditure is another reporting instrument under the UNPoA which serves to prevent excessive and destabilizing accumulations of conventional arms by promoting transparency through the submission of annual reports.

In 2011, the Agency hosted stakeholder meetings to source and collate the information required for the completion of the UNROCA. The SSA was successful in completing and submitting the UNROCA to the Ministry of National Security for transmission to the UNODA. This report covered military holdings, the transfer of conventional arms, which included small arms and light weapons, procurement

through national productions, relevant policies and/or national legislation and information on points of contact, in accordance with **United Nations General Assembly [“UNGA”] Resolution 64/54**, entitled “*Transparency in Armaments*”.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean assistance in Firearms Destruction and Stockpile Management

In April 2010, the GOTT, on the recommendation of the SSA, accepted the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (“UNLiREC”) Firearms Destruction (“FD”) and Stockpile Management (“SM”) Package, estimated at US \$1 million. Technical assistance in this area is one of the features of the UN PoA, that is, “*identifying and destroying stocks of surplus weapons*”. Comprehensive stockpile management policies and procedures combined with the periodic destruction of surplus, obsolete and confiscated weapons are essential measures to ensure public security and prevent diversion to criminal networks.

In July 2010, Trinidad and Tobago entered the first phase of the project where a Workshop was held in December of that same year to discuss the details of the technical assistance package as well as preparation for Phase II. In May 2011, Trinidad and Tobago entered Phase II of this programme.

Phase II consisted of two (2) simultaneous exercises, which began in October 2011 as follows:

- i.* Commencement of firearms and ammunition destruction exercises; and
- ii.* A proposed Inter-Institutional Training Course (“IITC”) on Combating the Illicit trafficking in firearms, ammunition and explosives (“FAME”)

The structure of IITC sought to offer practical training for law enforcement officials to deal with the illegal trade and illicit trafficking of firearms. It further aimed to raise awareness among law enforcement officers, government officials and their respective institutions on proper measures for stockpiling and firearms destruction.

Representatives of the SSA played a fundamental role in the IITC by delivering a presentation on *“International Instruments and Legal Framework”*. This presentation focused on comparing the provisions in the *Trinidad and Tobago’s Firearms Act Chapter 16:01 of 1970*, with its amendments and regulations, against regional and international benchmarks. The SSA also participated in the training workshop to be sensitized to the main features of stockpile management and firearms destruction.

Complementary to these two (2) activities, UNLiREC commenced a legislative review of all relevant Trinidad and Tobago’s firearms laws. To assist in this review, UNLiREC submitted to the GOTT for its consideration and prospective implementation, a dossier of generic standard operating procedures (*“SOPs”*) on Inventory Management, Stockpile Management and Destruction of SALW and ammunition.

Prior to adoption or implementation of these generic SOPs, a thorough examination of its provisions was required in order to decipher the areas in which national legislation and administrative procedures were deficient. Consequently, the SSA had been designated as Chair by the Minister of National Security to conduct a review and to juxtapose these SOPs with existing administrative procedures of the main statutory offices that are responsible for firearms in Trinidad and Tobago, namely, the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service [*“TTPS”*] and the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force [*“TTDF”*]. As Chair, the Agency hosted a series of stakeholder meetings to achieve this objective. These meetings will continue in 2012.

EXPERT REPRESENTATION

United Nations Arms Trade Treaty Negotiations

The United Nations acceded to the call from Member States for the negotiation of a **legally** binding Arms Trade Treaty (“ATT”) to ensure the transfer of weapons fall within internationally agreed standards. The objective of the ATT is to establish a global normative framework for all States to guide their decisions on arms transfers to prevent diversion of weapons to illicit markets and to further enhance achieving the objectives of the provisions under the UNPOA.

The SSA has played and continues to play an important role in the negotiation process of this treaty by active participation in preparatory committee (“**PrepCom**”) meetings and Inter-sessionals. In 2011, PrepCom II and PrepCom III were held in February and July respectively at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. At these two (2) meetings, the Agency’s representative, as a member of the Trinidad and Tobago delegation, provided technical support and prepared and delivered national statements to the Chair and Member States on the issues of ‘*Final Provisions*’ and ‘*Implementation*’ of the future treaty.

In between the PrepCom meetings, Inter-sessional meetings are also held. These meetings were geared to allow like-minded states to convene and to establish a common position to be articulated at PrepComs. During 2011, two (2) inter-sessionals were held in Trinidad and Uruguay respectively. The inter-sessional meeting held in Trinidad and Tobago, which took place at the Hyatt Regency Hotel between January 31st and February 1st, 2011, focused on the *Scope, Implementation and Criteria* of the future instrument in order to ascertain a CARICOM position. At this inter-sessional, the SSA contributed to the organization of this meeting and

continued to provide technical support to contribute to a CARICOM position to be delivered at PrepCom II.

Subsequent to PrepCom II, an inter-sessional meeting, entitled “*Supporting the Arms Trade Treaty through Regional Discussions and Expertise sharing*”, was held in Uruguay from April 27th-29th, 2011. Discussions at this seminar centred on *regulation, transparency and accountability* of conventional arms in preparation for PrepCom III. The Agency provided technical support and articulated Trinidad and Tobago’s position on the aforementioned issues through participation in group deliberations. At the end of these group discussions, the Agency was nominated to give an overview on the various national firearms control systems within various Member States in CARICOM.

ENERGY PROTECTION

Protecting and securing the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago’s critical infrastructure and resources is essential to the nation's security, economic vitality, public health, and public safety. The nation’s critical infrastructure is the combination of physical, economic, and virtual assets—whether publicly or privately controlled—that are essential to the basic operations of the government, the economy, and day-to-day life. Disruption of the critical infrastructure could significantly dislocate the functioning of both Government and business. Terrorist attacks and natural, manmade, or technological hazards could produce catastrophic losses in terms of human casualties, property destruction, and economic effects.

Critical Energy Infrastructure

In January 2008, an interagency assessment team that involved the collaboration of technical experts from the Departments of Energy, Homeland Security and other United States Government Departments completed a series of vulnerability assessment of the Trinidad and Tobago critical LNG system components. In May 2008 a final assessment report was given to the Prime Minister and Ministers of Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs, Ministry of National Security and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The report included a Proposed Implementation Plan (IP), and advised that if these corrective measures were implemented, it would significantly improve the security of Trinidad and Tobago's LNG infrastructure.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago accepted the report and subsequently the National Security Council approved the proposed implementation plan. The Trinidad and Tobago government indicated that it is committed to working with private industry to formalize a government/industry security team, establish effective threat information sharing, and develop a plan of action to address identified gaps and proposed a suitable course of action.

Energy Security Sector Initiatives (ESSI)

Under the direction of Ret'd Commodore Best a working committee was formed called the Energy Security Sector Initiatives (ESSI).

The role of the Working committee was to develop sustainable mechanisms for the timely sharing of security information between the energy industry and the Ministry of National Security:

- i.* Risk Assess and prioritize current information on threats and risks to industry
- ii.* Assess and advise steering committee on the best methods of mitigating risk
- iii.* Assist in developing structured incident Management System
- iv.* Assist in developing Emergency Response Plans for threat based scenarios

- v. Prioritize other industry security issues and advise Steering Committee on the way forward.

To accomplish the work of the ESSI working group, Ret'd Commodore Best sought to establish two sub-working groups the Policy and Strategy Working Group (PSWG) and an Operations and Training Working Group (OTWG). The Strategic Services Agency (SSA) was nominated as Co-chair of the PSWG along with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). The groups were tasked to partake in fortnightly meetings with an effort to develop a work plan that would endeavour to hasten the work of the ESSI.

In May, 2011 the SSA hosted the inaugural meeting of the reconvened PSWG. The meeting sought to inform and obtain the participation of all members of the PSWG as to the aim, scope and objectives of this sub-working group. Subsequently, the PSWG at a quarterly meeting in August 2011 presented to the Steering Committee the groups' Aim, Scope and Objectives.

TRAINING

In September 2011 members of the PSWG attended a two day seminar in Europe at which the Strategic Services Agency was represented. The aim of the "National Critical Energy Infrastructure Protection in Europe" Seminar was to facilitate the transfer of expert knowledge and experience, ensure business continuity in the most adverse conditions, identify the best strategies to manage incidents, establish public-private partnerships and determine the best way to assess and manage risks for CEIs. This two-day seminar was facilitated by five (5) presenters. There were thirty-five (35) representatives from fourteen (14) countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Trinidad and Tobago. Seminar teaching methods included lectures, case studies, best practice reports, interactive workshops with

group tasks, plenary discussions, provision of course materials and handouts and question and answer sessions which provided a perfect platform to identify available resources and improve strategies.

At the end of 2011 the SSA with the aid of the PSWG members developed a working relationship with the Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs (MEEA). In addition the Agency has met with the major players in the energy industry. This aided in the development of the call up response system that the PSWG outlined in *objective 4*. The PSWG developed an Incident Information Report Form (IIRF)'s as a solution to the complaints of "lack of communication" amongst stakeholders in Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI). The fields in the form were tailor-made specifically for the upstream and downstream stakeholders.

CONCLUSION

Despite the perennial challenges of sourcing information from stakeholders and the impact this usually have on advancing the work of the Agency, nevertheless, serious strides have been made in 2011 to achieve some of the objectives as outlined in the National Anti-Drug Strategy 2008-2012.

In the area of precursor chemical control, the SSA, throughout the year, sought to advance the work on the draft legislation and capitalized on various opportunities to sensitize law enforcement and border control authorities as well as the wider public on what is involved in precursor chemical control and what the Government of this country is doing to ensure that effective control measures are in place.

The SSA also sought to build capacity of border control and law enforcement authorities to strengthen their resolve in the area of precursor chemical control through the hosting of training courses and workshops.

In firearms control, the SSA has been actively involved in negotiations for an Arms Trade treaty as we recognise the need to enhance at the global level tighter control on firearms. The SSA has also been involved in facilitating the review of legislation in firearms control to ensure that this country meets international standards.

The overall mandate of the SSA is to facilitate measures at the national level to reduce the supply of illicit drugs. In this regard, the SSA undertakes its activities within the framework of a Cabinet-approved National Supply Reduction Strategy which spells out the parameters in which this objective can be met.

In 2012, the SSA will continue to seek to achieve the objectives as set out in the Supply Reduction Strategy while taking into consideration the many challenges that it may face in doing so.