

Presidential Documents

Title 3—

Presidential Determination No. 2026–23 of September 11, 2026

The President

Presidential Determination on Major Drug Transit or Major Illicit Drug Producing Countries for Fiscal Year 2027

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 706(1) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–228) (FRAA), I hereby identify the following countries as major drug transit or major illicit drug producing countries: Afghanistan, The Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Burma, the People's Republic of China (PRC), Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela.

A country's presence on the foregoing list is not necessarily a reflection of its government's counterdrug efforts or level of cooperation with the United States. Consistent with the statutory definition of a major drug transit or major illicit drug producing country set forth in sections 481(e)(2) and 481(e)(5) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (Public Law 87–195) (FAA), the reason countries are placed on the list is the combination of geographic, commercial, and economic factors that allow drugs or precursor chemicals to be transited or produced, even if a government has engaged in robust and diligent narcotics control and law enforcement measures.

Pursuant to section 706(2)(A) of the FRAA, I hereby designate Afghanistan, Bolivia, Burma, and Colombia as having failed demonstrably during the previous 12 months to make substantial efforts to adhere to their obligations under international counternarcotics agreements and to take the counternarcotics measures required by section 489 of the FAA. Included with this determination are justifications for the designations of Afghanistan, Bolivia, Burma, and Colombia, as required by section 706(2)(B) of the FRAA. I have also determined, in accordance with the provisions of section 706(3)(A) of the FRAA, that United States assistance to Bolivia, Burma, and Colombia is vital to the national interests of the United States.

My Administration has made historic progress in protecting the American people from deadly drugs and vicious narcoterrorist organizations. Under my Administration, our southern border is the most sealed and secure in American history, thanks to the largest investments in border security and law enforcement in our Nation's history. After 4 years of open border chaos, seizures of fentanyl and other drugs being smuggled into the United States have been reduced by more than half, and drug overdose deaths have plunged. My Administration has saved tens of thousands of American lives from this scourge. The narcoterrorists responsible for this invasion are either dead, in jail, or living in fear knowing they will be next to face American justice. I have unleashed the strongest military in the history of the world to strike narcoterrorists wherever they threaten our country. Behind the might of the American military, my Administration has destroyed cartel infrastructure, shut down former trafficking highways across sea and land borders, and captured and killed hundreds of the most vicious narcoterrorists. Under the Americas Counter Cartel Coalition, an alliance with over a dozen countries in the Western Hemisphere, we have achieved historic results,

drastically reducing United States-bound drug flows and seizing billions of dollars of illicit cartel finances. United States law enforcement agencies are reporting record drug seizures, and our allies are extraditing more cartel bosses to the United States than ever before. We have inflicted unprecedented losses on our enemies, and we are just getting started.

While my Administration has successfully secured our borders from invasion, Canada and Mexico need to do far more to stop the flows of deadly drugs into our country. Fentanyl continues to be illicitly produced in clandestine Canadian labs, and precursor chemicals and synthetic drugs continue to enter the United States through Canada. Canada needs to take meaningful action to dismantle drug labs, strengthen supply chain security, and degrade criminal networks and Chinese gangs operating along our northern border. We recognize Mexican President Sheinbaum's administration for seizing greater volumes of drugs, dismantling clandestine laboratories, and deploying additional law enforcement and military resources to our shared border. Additionally, United States-Mexican security cooperation has helped eliminate some of the world's most notorious cartel bosses, including "El Mencho." However, Mexico must take additional action against the narcoterrorist organizations that dominate vast areas of its territory and continue to threaten the American people. Mexico needs to bolster supply chain integrity by soliciting greater private industry participation and significantly increasing inspections at its ports of entry. Additionally, Mexico's current investments in its security forces are insufficient to sustain and expand its campaigns against narcoterrorists, their finances, and their criminal networks. This includes exposing, arresting, and prosecuting the many corrupt public officials who have aided and abetted the cartels and betrayed their own country's security and sovereignty.

The drug threat to America extends beyond our northern and southern borders. The PRC continues to be the world's largest producer of many of the precursor chemicals used to illicitly produce fentanyl, methamphetamine, and other deadly synthetic drugs. I have raised this directly with State Chairman Xi Jinping, and in 2025, at my request, the PRC implemented new requirements for its companies to obtain licenses before exporting designated precursor chemicals to North America. However, criminals continue to find ways around these controls through the use of unregulated precursor chemicals. The PRC needs to take more aggressive action to effectively reduce the flow of these substances by scheduling additional chemical precursors and substances requested by the United States. This enhanced cooperation will enable timely prosecution of the criminals responsible for supplying drug traffickers with deadly precursor chemicals.

Other governments have taken measures to confront drug trafficking and narcoterrorism. Dramatic political changes in South America over the past year have created historic openings for United States cooperation with governments in the region. In Venezuela, thanks to my Administration's arrest and removal of former illegitimate dictator and drug trafficker Nicolas Maduro, we are already seeing the results of growing cooperation with the country's interim government against cartels, including the elimination of Tren de Aragua leader Nino Guerrero. Given the positive steps taken under interim President Deley Rodriguez, I have determined Venezuela should no longer be designated as having failed demonstrably to fulfill its drug control commitments. I expect to see continued, measurable progress from the interim government in dismantling narcoterrorist groups and stopping drug trafficking through Venezuela to the United States.

After decades of inept socialist governments, the United States welcomed the Bolivian people's democratic choice in the 2025 elections and the opportunity to open a new chapter in United States-Bolivia relations under President Rodrigo Paz. Cooperation between Bolivia and the United States has significantly expanded over the last year, and I welcome the resumption of law enforcement coordination between our governments to target illicit drug production and criminal networks. Bolivia's extradition of narcoterrorist

Sebastian Marset to the United States in March 2026 highlighted our growing friendship and cooperation and prevented one of our hemisphere's most notorious drug traffickers from shipping more drugs to American communities. However, the new government has not yet had sufficient time to reduce coca cultivation that increased under the previous government. Corruption in Bolivia continues to facilitate drug trafficking and impede investigations. If Bolivia can demonstrate progress in reducing illicit drug production in the coming year, and make substantive progress in tackling the endemic corruption weakening Bolivia, I will consider revisiting its status as having failed demonstrably to uphold its counterdrug commitments.

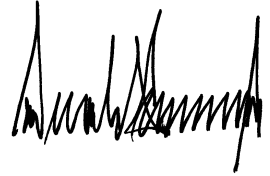
The people of Colombia made the courageous choice to elect Abelardo de la Espriella as President. He has pledged to lead an aggressive campaign against coca cultivation and cocaine production, which reached record levels under the failed socialist policies of his predecessor. Colombia is poised to resume its place as our foremost security partner in the hemisphere, and the country's military, police, prosecutors, and courts now finally have a worthy champion in President de la Espriella. If, as expected, Colombia makes progress on aggressive coca eradication and dismantling its narcoterrorist networks over the coming year, I will consider lifting the country's "failed demonstrably" status, which remains in place solely due to the incompetence and chaos produced by the previous far-left government in office throughout the bulk of the past year.

I welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Government of India's efforts to address illicit opium poppy cultivation and bolster supply chain integrity. I look forward to continued cooperation through the United States-India Drug Policy Framework. In Peru, I likewise welcome the commitment of new President Keiko Fujimori to work with the United States and other allies to destroy the criminals ailing Peru and reduce cocaine flows bound for the United States. I also applaud three of America's greatest allies in our hemisphere—Argentina, Ecuador, and El Salvador—for their leadership, resolve, and success in the fight against narcoterrorism.

While many governments in the Western Hemisphere are taking courageous action to reduce drug flows and eradicate cartels, the Government of Brazil has failed to confront the designated foreign terrorist organizations Primeiro Comando da Capital and Comando Vermelho, which have transformed Brazil into a hub for global cocaine flows. These Brazilian terrorist organizations are a growing threat to peace and security around the world, and Brazil's government urgently must take aggressive measures to confront and defeat them before they spread and grow. Unsurprisingly, for a socialist dictatorship, the illegitimate Ortego-Murillo regime in Nicaragua has failed to take sufficient action against drug trafficking and the complicity of regime actors in the drug trade.

In Burma, the military regime has made little discernible effort to crack down on its drug economy, making the country the world's largest source of opium poppy and one of the largest suppliers of methamphetamine. Despite the Taliban's announced opium poppy ban, Afghanistan continues to supply drug markets across the world, likely funding Islamist terrorism. For these reasons, I am once again designating Burma and Afghanistan as having failed demonstrably to uphold their drug control obligations given the serious threats to United States interests and international security.

You are authorized and directed to submit this determination, with the accompanying memoranda of justification, under section 706 of the FRAA, to the Congress, and to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name with a long, sweeping underline.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, September 11, 2026

MEMORANDUM OF JUSTIFICATION FOR
PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION ON MAJOR DRUG TRANSIT OR MAJOR
ILLICIT DRUG PRODUCING COUNTRIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027

Section 706 of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 Foreign Relations Authorization Act requires the President to report annually to Congress by September 15 the countries he has determined to be major illicit drug producing or major drug transit countries (the "Majors List") if he intends to waive related foreign assistance restrictions (22 U.S.C. § 2291j-1(1)). The President must also designate any of the countries on the list that have "failed demonstrably, during the previous 12 months, to make substantial efforts" to adhere to obligations under international drug control agreements and to take specific drug control measures (22 U.S.C. § 2291j-1(2)).

In consultation with interagency partners, the following countries are designated as having failed demonstrably during the previous 12 months to make substantial efforts to adhere to obligations under international drug control agreements and to take specific drug control measures: Afghanistan, Bolivia, Burma, and Colombia.

AFGHANISTAN

Despite the Taliban's announced ban on poppy cultivation and drug trafficking, Afghanistan remains a production and trafficking hub for various drugs and plays an important role in the production and trafficking of methamphetamine. Limited progress in countering methamphetamine production, the flow of funds from drug trafficking to transnational criminal groups, and the role of some Taliban members in profiting from the drug trade continue to undermine the ban's impact.

Reports from neighboring countries indicate Afghan-origin drug trafficking continued over the past year, signaling both ongoing production and the trafficking of prior year stockpiles. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has reported Afghan-sourced methamphetamine trafficking networks have effectively globalized, carving out expanding, highly resilient trafficking routes into the Middle East, Africa, and parts of Europe. Credible sources have assessed local Taliban commanders and factions participate in the country's drug economy, with some lower-level Taliban members directly facilitating or taxing the trade and allowing clandestine laboratories to operate in exchange for protection fees.

BOLIVIA

After years of weak political will to combat narco-trafficking under previous governments, President Rodrigo Paz Pereira assumed office in November 2025 and pledged to intensify efforts against the drug trade and criminal organizations. Paz announced plans to modernize the police, judiciary, and armed forces to restore public trust and combat systemic corruption. The United States strongly supports these efforts and is committed to supporting Bolivia in reforming its criminal justice institutions and reducing its illicit drug economy. Nevertheless, continued corruption within Bolivia's institutions protect and facilitate transnational drug trafficking, and Bolivia remains the third largest source of cocaine in the world according to UNODC.

For nearly 20 years, Bolivia's previous far-left governments under its Movement toward Socialism (MAS) party allowed transnational criminal networks to widely exploit the country's coca economy, legalized under its domestic laws, and become entrenched within the country. Judicial and prosecutorial weaknesses perpetuated impunity for mid- and upper-level traffickers and in many cases, have facilitated these crimes. While it is too early to evaluate the progress of President Paz's administration in reducing coca and cocaine supplies, the previous government allowed coca cultivation to increase by approximately 10 percent, to 34,000 hectares between 2023 and 2024. Coca eradication and cocaine interdiction efforts lagged in 2025 compared to 2024.

The United States encourages President Paz to sustain efforts to overcome the failed legacy of Bolivia's prior governments. Bolivian authorities must take action to investigate and prosecute drug-related criminal activity associated with transnational criminal organizations who profit from illegal coca markets that violate Bolivian law. The country's current government has taken aggressive early steps to arrest leaders of criminal organizations within the country and must continue these efforts to reverse the legacy of drug-fueled corruption under MAS governments.

Pursuant to Section 706 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act of FY 2003, a national interest waiver has been granted to enable the continuation of U.S. programs that advance vital U.S. interests in Bolivia.

BURMA

Burma remained a major source of illicit methamphetamine and opiates in 2025, with production and trafficking thriving under the country's military regime. Opium poppy cultivation increased by 17 percent in 2025 according to UNODC, from 45,200 hectares in 2024 to approximately 53,100 hectares in 2025, reaching the highest level recorded in a decade. Burma remains the world's largest opium producer, accounting for roughly half of global supply. Seizures of methamphetamine and other drugs traced to Burma remained at record levels across Southeast Asia.

The military regime has not focused on counternarcotics and has curtailed cooperation with international actors on drug control and law enforcement. There has been little information available on arrests or other law enforcement actions over the past 12 months. Criminal activity by ethnic armed groups and military-affiliated militias remains outside of the jurisdiction of regime police and prosecutors. Pervasive corruption, weak oversight, and limited law enforcement capacity enable trafficking and production, especially in conflict-affected border areas. Anti-corruption and counternarcotics efforts remained inconsistent, largely reactive, and focused on low-level offenders rather than the most harmful organized crime networks. Political instability and conflict further hindered investigations and accountability for narcotics-related misconduct at all levels.

Pursuant to Section 706 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act of FY 2003, a national interest waiver has been granted to enable the continuation of U.S. programs that advance vital U.S. interests in Burma.

COLOMBIA

Under former President Gustavo Petro's failed socialist policies, coca cultivation and potential cocaine production reached record levels, and crop substitution programs did not deliver meaningful results. The most recent UNODC data indicate that coca cultivation increased by 3 percent, reaching 261,000 hectares in 2024, up from 253,000 hectares in 2023. Forced eradication of coca plummeted under former President Petro, with only 8,051 hectares eradicated in 2025, following 9,403 hectares the year before. Additionally, Colombia has not demonstrated measurable and verifiable progress on its goal to transition

50,000 small coca farmers to licit economic activity. Limited progress on verified voluntary eradication in 2026 is too little and too late. Colombia's national police, armed forces, justice sector, and local law enforcement agencies continued to show bravery and professionalism, and, working with the United States and other international partners, seized a record 1,056 metric tons of cocaine and cocaine base in 2025. The scale of potential cocaine production in Colombia also hit record levels and vastly exceeded Colombia's interdiction efforts.

Colombia's election of President Abelardo de la Espriella represents a bold decision by the Colombian people to reverse this backsliding and restore Colombia to its place as a security lynchpin for South America and the Western Hemisphere. President de la Espriella has pledged to forcibly eradicate coca crops and defeat the narcoterrorist groups that have long plagued Colombia's security and sovereignty. The United States is fully committed to supporting his government's efforts and strengthening the longstanding security partnership between our countries.

Pursuant to Section 706 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act of FY 2003, a national interest waiver has been granted to enable the continuation of U.S. programs that advance vital U.S. interests in Colombia.