



ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

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DECLARATION OF ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

Adopted by consensus by the
Workshop on Substance Abuse Counseling and Treatment in Correctional Facilities
Antigua, Guatemala
February 27-March 3, 2006

**DECLARATION OF ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA ON
SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT
IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES**

The representatives of Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama, gathered at the Workshop on Substance Abuse Counseling and Treatment in Correctional Facilities,

CONSIDERING:

That, taking into account the recommendations of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) on the need to put in place, strengthen and evaluate prevention and treatment programs targeted at specific populations, such as prisoners, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States (CICAD/OAS) convened representatives of seven member states -- Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama -- to participate in a Workshop on Substance Abuse Counseling and Treatment in Correctional Facilities, held February 27-March 3, 2006, at the training center of the Spanish International Cooperation Agency, Antigua, Guatemala, sponsored by the Central Government Office for the Spanish National Drug Plan, and by the Government of Canada. Representatives of Canada, Chile, Peru, Spain, the United States, and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) participated as special guests; and

RECOGNIZING:

That substance abuse and its consequences constitute serious problems fundamentally affecting the quality of life of the prison population with substance abuse-related problems and significantly diminishing their prospects for full recovery and return to society;

That, according to data from different sources, substance abuse is often associated with the commission of crimes that result in imprisonment and is frequently the root cause of recidivism into crime, with the implications this has for public safety and for the economic and social costs to society as a whole; and bearing in mind that, according to international studies, prisoner participation in substance abuse treatment programs is one factor related to lower recidivism rates;

That, nonetheless, most participating countries acknowledge that they have few or no strategies to address problems of substance abuse in correctional facilities and that the current legal lacunae mean that they lack a legal basis for substance abuse prevention and treatment interventions in correctional facilities; and

That there is a need to recognize the right of prisoners with substance abuse and dependency-related problems to receive appropriate treatment that will allow them to enhance their quality of life and improve their prospects for full recovery and return to society, in a framework of respect for their fundamental rights,

DECLARE:**1. Basic principles**

1.1 That prisoners with drug abuse and dependency problems should have access to high-quality substance dependency prevention and treatment programs that guarantee respect for their fundamental human rights;

1.2 That substance abuse and dependency treatment programs in correctional facilities should be based on ethical principles and prior and informed prisoner consent;

1.3 That said programs should take a comprehensive approach to other factors present in the correctional facility environment that contribute significantly to potential substance abuse therein, by promoting a culture of lawfulness and non-violence as a element contributing to the success of treatment actions;

1.4 That they condemn torture and torture-related conduct, and

1.5 That they condemn corruption and organized crime, as these factors hinder appropriate implementation of treatment programs in correctional facilities.

RECOMMEND THAT GOVERNMENTS:**2. Policies and structures**

2.1 Formulate national policies for the treatment of prisoners with substance abuse problems, with the aim of reducing criminal recidivism and its associated costs; and enact and/or implement legislation and regulations to promote said programs and ensure that they are adequately financed;

2.2 In national demand reduction policies, include substance abuse treatment in correctional facilities;

2.3 In national substance abuse and dependency treatment systems, adopt strategies for the care of prisoners with problems of substance abuse;

2.4 Raise awareness among political authorities, academia, and nongovernmental organizations, with the aim of promoting further and/or more in-depth research in this area;

2.5 Promote interagency and intersectoral participation, taking into account representation by the different entities involved in this area;

2.7 Establish an ongoing information, evaluation, and monitoring system to determine the status of substance abuse in correctional facilities;

- 2.8 Promote the training of officials with responsibility for the care, treatment, prevention, and monitoring of prisoners with substance abuse problems;
- 2.9 Enter into strategic partnerships with national and international programs on HIV/AIDS, other sexually transmitted diseases, and tuberculosis, as such diseases constitute serious threats to prisoner health;
- 2.10 Promote treatment and prevention programs for especially vulnerable populations, promoting strategies specifically targeted at women, indigenous peoples, minors, and senior citizens;
- 2.11 Within educational systems, promote indicated and selective prevention programs on substance abuse and other related risk behaviors for socially excluded minors who may become risks to society;
- 2.12 Establish policies and strategies for the prevention and treatment of mental health and job-related problems of correctional facility personnel and external staff working in treatment programs in correctional facilities;
- 2.13 Promote measures to ensure security and appropriate maintenance in correctional facilities and establish better control to prevent drugs from entering them; and
- 2.14 Give consideration to the advisability of allocating a percentage of funds confiscated by law, taking into account each country's legislation.

RECOMMEND THAT CIVIL SOCIETY:

Provide support for substance abuse and dependency treatment programs with prisoners and released offenders through awareness strategies, information, job training, and other social services;

RECOMMEND THAT CICAD:

Establish a horizontal cooperation network to facilitate the exchange of experiences and information among participating countries and others, under the coordination of CICAD/OAS.

Antigua, Guatemala
March 3, 2006