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INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
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CICAD

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REPORT OF THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP COORDINATOR IWG-MEM



Organization of
American States



Presidencia
República de Costa Rica

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GROUP COORDINATOR
IWG-MEM**



CICAD

Comisión Interamericana para el Control del Abuso de Drogas
Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission



OBJECTIVE:

- ü Preparation of a new evaluation instrument for the Sixth Evaluation Round of the MEM, based on the CICAD Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its Plan of Action.

(Resolution CICAD-DOC.1932-CORR.1,
November 4th, 2011).



METHODOLOGY AND MAIN ISSUES PRESENTED:

- ü Methodology used: on-line platform. With the support of the MEM-ES/CICAD Section.
- ü Recommended Actions from the Hemispheric Strategy's Plan of Action.
- ü Drafting of new indicators.
- ü Evaluation parameters.
- ü Required Manuals.



ACCIONS CARRIED OUT:

- ü A list of recommended actions taken from the Plan of Action, which were considered as applicable within the framework of the MEM, was presented as a working document. Each action was selected based on:
 - ü Feasibility of being measured and evaluated,
 - ü Agreement with the fundamental MEM principles,
 - ü Level of complexity in its execution,
 - ü Whether the action is binding or not.
- ü During the month of February up to March 15th, the platform registered an exchange of ideas on the process elements and best practices of the GAFI evaluation methodology.



PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE FUTURE PROPOSAL:

1. Have a standard list of the most significant recommended actions encompassed in the Plan of Action, each with a detailed explanation of what is to be evaluated and with “interpretative notes” to guide evaluators (evaluation parameters).
2. Evaluate each recommended action according to a scale (compliant, largely compliant, partially compliant, non-compliant, and not applicable).
3. Separate the recommended actions into two categories: “key recommendations” and “important recommendations.”
4. The evaluation cycle would consist of only one full evaluation phase.





PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE FUTURE PROPOSAL (Contd.):

5. The gathering of information and consultations would be accomplished through a questionnaire of indicators based on the standard list.
6. Carry out supplementary evaluation *in situ* visits proposed in the Resolution for the 7th Round.
7. A registry of qualified experts in each of the thematic areas of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy (duly certified experts by topic) in each Member State would be established.
8. GEG working groups would be established by thematic area, to evaluate the information received from Member States, and to prepare the draft reports to be submitted for approval to the GEG plenary.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM ON-LINE PLATFORM:

- ü Design a questionnaire based on a list of specific objectives.
- ü Apply an implementation scale for the recommended actions.
- ü Classify the recommended actions according to categories.
- ü Develop a manual for evaluators.
- ü Divide the evaluation into thematic areas.
- ü Review and final approval of reports to be done by a plenary of experts.





VARIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ü The request made by Commissioners is to design a new instrument. However, there are elements from the Fifth Round Questionnaire which could be used in the instrument for the Sixth Round and which are consistent with the objectives of the new Anti-Drug Strategy.
- ü The work plan for the coming months includes forming a number of thematic mini-groups to work on both, the new indicators and on the thematic inputs for the Evaluation Manual.
- ü The groups should be formed in the Pre-IWG meeting in order to move forward in July, August and September (both, virtually and in on-site workshops) with group coordinators.



VARIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS (Contd.):

- ü It is proposed to the Commissioners that this evaluation instrument be based directly on the objectives of the Plan of Action, and to use a standard list of recommended actions derived from those objectives in order to be able to measure the level of implementation of those objectives in each country.
- ü To maintain the reduced list of “recommended actions” of the Plan of Action to be used as the basis for the instrument to be prepared by the thematic mini-groups of specialist.





VARIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS (Contd.):

- ü The majority of participants in the forum have also expressed their preference for a two-year cycle, to evaluate the implementation of the objectives of the Plan of Action in each member state.
- ü Taking into account that the Sixth Round would start in 2013, a two-year round would also coincide with the end of the first period of the Plan of Action 2011-2015, enabling the MEM to be the instrument that will inform CICAD in 2015 on the progress reported by the countries.



VARIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS (Contd.):

- ü Applying an evaluation scale for each recommended action through precise and objective criteria.
(i.e.: whether a country is compliant, largely compliant or partially compliant with a recommendation, or whether that recommendation is not applicable).
- ü Organize the evaluation carried out by the GEG by thematic areas and not by country.
- ü The in situ visits will be reviewed for the Seventh Evaluation Round.



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¡THANK YOU!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO
WELCOMING YOU IN COSTA RICA.

PRE-IWG MEETING
SAN JOSE, 12 TO 15 OF JUNE, 2012



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