

TWENTY-THIRD REGULAR SESSION
May 5-8, 1998
Washington, D.C.

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FINAL REPORT

I. BACKGROUND

Article 21 of the Regulations of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) states that the Commission shall hold two regular sessions annually. The Regulations also state that the Commission may hold special sessions to consider urgent or important matters.

II. PROCEEDINGS

A. PARTICIPANTS

1. MEMBER STATES OF CICAD

Delegates from the following countries attended the twenty-third regular session of the Commission: Argentina, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

2. PERMANENT OBSERVERS

Delegates from the following countries also attended the twenty-third regular session of the Commission in their capacity as permanent observers to the Organization of American States: Spain, the United Kingdom, France, Japan, the Russian Federation, and Portugal.

3. SPECIALIZED INTER-AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Representatives from the following organizations also attended the twenty-third regular session of the Commission: the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN), the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), and the European Union (as represented by a delegation from the European Commission).

The regular session participant list is published as document CIDAD/doc.954/98 rev. 1.

B. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. The opening session was held at 9:50 a.m. on May 4, 1998, at the headquarters of the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C. The Chair of CICAD, General Enrique Astete Baca, invited the Executive Secretary to explain the provisions of the Regulations that pertain to CICAD meetings.
2. The Executive Secretary mentioned that the following meetings were scheduled to take place at the same time: the Third Consultative Meeting and the meeting referred to in the Declaration of Santiago directing CICAD to begin formal negotiations to establish a single and objective process of multilateral governmental evaluation of actions and cooperative activities intended to prevent and combat all aspects of the drug problem and related crimes. He also discussed the rules and regulations of CICAD meetings and the suggestion submitted by the Chair on March 30, 1998, in his letter SGE/CAD.383/98. Based on the above, he recommended that the topic of the Third Consultative Meeting be discussed at the twenty-third regular session of the CICAD; an official agreement to this effect was adopted by consensus.

C. TWENTY-THIRD REGULAR SESSION

1. INAUGURAL SESSION

The inaugural session was held at 10 a.m. on May 4, 1998, at the headquarters of the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C. The Secretary General of the OAS, Dr. César Gaviria, and the Chair of CICAD, General Enrique Astete Baca of Peru, welcomed the participants and opened the meeting. They specifically discussed the meaning of the mandate issued at the Santiago Summit and the role of the Commission therein.

The heads of the delegations responded by presenting their ideas on how to comply with the mandates issued at Santiago.

2. WORKING SESSIONS

A total of seven working meetings were held by the Commission on various points included on the agenda of the twenty-third regular session. General Enrique Astete Baca presided over the meeting along with the Vice Chair of CICAD, Dr. Carlos Sosa Coello of Honduras. Summary minutes of the plenary sessions were prepared.

In the second session, which dealt with the mandate issued at the Santiago Summit, the Commission established an Intergovernmental Working Group on the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM). This working group met for the first time at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, May 4, on Tuesday, May 5, and until 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 6, 1998. The next item on the agenda of the twenty-third regular

session was considered at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 6.

In other sessions, the Commission heard and discussed the presentations made by the representatives of the member states, the permanent observer states, and other international organizations, as well as the presentations made by representatives of the Expert Groups on Chemical Precursors, Demand Reduction, and Alternative Development. The Executive Secretary presented a report on the implementation of the Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere. A list of meeting documents is attached to this report.

3. CLOSING SESSION

The closing session was held at 5:30 p.m. on May 7, 1998. The speakers were Mr. David R. Beall, Executive Secretary of CICAD, and General Enrique Astete Baca, Chair of CICAD. The Chair then declared the twenty-third regular session closed.

III. DECISIONS ADOPTED

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND THE ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

The agenda (CICAD/doc.951/98 rev. 3) and the activities program (CICAD/doc.952/98 rev. 2) were adopted with corresponding additions from the draft agenda (CICAD/CON/doc.2/98) and the schedule of activities (CICAD/CON/doc.3/98 rev. 1) proposed for the Third Consultative Meeting, which led to the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM).

2. FOUNDING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP ON THE MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM) AND ELECTION OF ITS OFFICERS

During the first working session, in accordance with Article 20 of its regulations, the Commission established the "Intergovernmental Working Group on the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)," which will be charged with implementing the mandate of the Santiago Summit. It also named Mr. Jean Fournier of the Canadian delegation as Chair and Mr. Pablo Lagos of the Chilean delegation as Vice Chair. The report of the First Meeting of the Working Group (CICAD/MEM/doc.1/98 rev. 1) is attached.

3. REPORT OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON CHEMICAL PRECURSORS

The Chair of the Expert Group on Chemical Precursors reported on their meeting held the previous week (April 29 to May 1, 1998) and discussed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the provisional version of the Group's

final report (CICAD/doc.956/98 rev. 2).

The Chair placed particular emphasis on the revision process. He said that the Expert Group had determined that this process would require more time than had been anticipated and that this work would therefore be continued at the next meeting.

In view of the fact that the revision process was still under way, he said that some countries had expressed the opinion that it would be premature to prepare a draft resolution for the next session of the OAS General Assembly with a view to adopting changes to the model regulations. He added that changes to particular provisions of this resolution could be presented to the appropriate forum in the following ways:

“3. To take note of the work of the CICAD Expert Group on Chemical Precursors aimed at changing the Model Regulations for the Control of Precursors and Chemical Substances, Machines and Materials, as well as by providing support for this important work.

“4. To urge member states, in consideration of the ongoing work of the CICAD Expert Groups, to give strong political support to bring into force the CICAD Model Regulations by means of legal instruments at the national level and to provide the institutional support necessary for their appropriate application.”

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY IN THE HEMISPHERE

The Executive Secretary of CICAD presented an internal report on the current implementation status of the Plan of Action for the Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere (CICAD/doc.965/98). He indicated that the final report would be presented at the Commission's next regular session and emphasized that the above strategy has much in common with the mandate contained in the Santiago Plan of Action.

After hearing the presentations of the various sections of the Executive Secretariat, the delegates decided to remove certain paragraphs that had already been implemented from the text of the Plan of Action. In addition, they directed the Executive Secretariat to continue to implement and adjust the Plan of Action in light of the mandates issued at the Second Summit of the Americas and the agreements reached at the First Meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism.

5. REPORT OF THE CICAD EXPERT GROUP ON DEMAND REDUCTION

The Chair of the Expert Group on Demand Reduction submitted the final report on its Second Meeting (CICAD/doc.953/98). This meeting was held in Mexico City from March 3 to March 6, 1998, and focused on establishing minimal standards for the treatment of addicts.

The delegations of Brazil, Guatemala, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, the United States, and Barbados recognized the work being carried out by the Expert Group and expressed the opinion that member states should implement and reinforce this work.

The Mexican delegation pointed out the importance of demand reduction activities in their country and the need for balance between these activities and efforts to reduce supply.

The Brazilian delegation expressed concern about regulations within the therapeutic community and about the lack of concrete programs for social re-integration. Together with the Canadian delegation, they suggested that a future meeting of experts could evaluate successful models for prevention.

The delegation of the United States mentioned that there is a need to develop indicators for successful programs which could be adopted by all countries.

The Chilean and Argentine delegations proposed that the final report be ratified. This motion was adopted by consensus.

6. REPORT OF THE CICAD EXPERT GROUP ON ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT

The Chair of the CICAD Expert Group on Alternative Development presented the final report on its First Meeting, held in Washington, D.C. in February, 1998 (CICAD/doc.955/98). She stated that the Letter of Understanding signed between CICAD and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in December, 1997, had been broadened to include all countries of the Hemisphere in alternative development activities carried out jointly by CICAD and IICA.

The Chair also reported on the progress that had been made on the recommendations of the Expert Group meeting held in February, pointing out that progress had been achieved in the formulation of the Strategic Framework Document on Training Programs for Alternative Development in the Hemisphere. She also said that their next meeting would be held before the next CICAD meeting in order to consider updating the definition of alternative development and to consider the above Strategic Framework Document, among other topics.

The Delegation of the United States spoke of the importance of Alternative Development and highlighted its pivotal role in counter drug activities. The Commission approved the final report of the Group of Experts, and the Group was given approval to continue its work.

7. IMPLEMENTING THE MANDATES OF THE SANTIAGO SUMMIT

The Executive Secretary of CICAD spoke about the mandates of the Santiago

Summit, especially those contained in the Summit Plan of Action under the section entitled Prevention and Control of Illicit Consumption of and Traffic in Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and other Related Crimes.

The Executive Secretary pointed out that progress had been made on various points and that a number of activities had already been concluded or were currently being implemented. For example, the work of the CICAD Expert Group on Demand Reduction is focusing on developing treatment, rehabilitation, and re-integration methods; CICAD is developing projects already approved by the Inter-American Development Bank to comply with the mandate to encourage “financial institutions to redouble their efforts to prevent money laundering”; the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Production and Trafficking of Firearms has already entered into force; and the CICAD Model Regulations on the Control of Arms and Explosives Connected with Drug Trafficking will be presented for approval to the General Assembly in June.

The Executive Secretary said that the discussions and presentations made at this meeting had clearly demonstrated that several of the mandates contained in the Plan of Action of the Second Summit of the Americas had been, or were being, implemented.

8. OTHER MATTERS

The Canadian delegation proposed that the CICAD member states meet informally to exchange information during the CND meetings to be held at UNDCP headquarters in Vienna.

The Mexican delegation stated its concern over the Canadian delegation's proposal, indicating that it would support this proposal only if it referred exclusively to sporadic exchanges of information which were strictly of an informal nature. However, it wished to state its disagreement with holding any other type of meetings of CICAD member states, taking into account that only the groups of regional coordination, in which all members of the United Nations participate without exception, are authorized in the framework of that organization, to address, negotiate and, when necessary, assume common positions on the topics being examined in their intergovernmental organs.

The Guatemalan delegation indicated that it would support the Canadian proposal on the understanding that the meetings would be held for the informal exchange of information.

The delegation of Canada clarified that the nature of its proposal coincided fully with the views of the delegations of Mexico and Guatemala.

The Honduran delegation restated its desire to chair the next CICAD regular session.

The Jamaican delegation said that it had established a program to provide specialized training to judges and a regional drug training center for law enforcement officials. It also stated that it would be willing to host events sponsored or coordinated by CICAD at the above center's headquarters.

9. PLACE AND DATE OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH CICAD REGULAR SESSION

The Commission decided to hold the twenty-fourth regular session in Honduras during the last week of October or the first week of November. The exact date will be made known after consultations with the Honduran government.