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**PRESENTATION BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF CICAD
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CICAD 48: Presentation by Executive Secretary

2010 has proven to be a *watershed* for the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission. In May, after a year of honest and constructive dialogue, this body approved the *Hemispheric Drug Strategy*, giving our CICAD member states, and the region as a whole, a new conceptual framework for dealing with the drug issue. Endorsement by the General Assembly one month later bestowed upon the Strategy the full political commitment of the member states at the highest level. Since then, the high level drafting group has been working on a *Plan of Action* for the Strategy.

I want to thank *Paulina Duarte* of Brazil again for her leadership during the Strategy drafting process and *Gabriel Morales* of Mexico for getting the member states off to a good start on drafting the *Plan of Action*.

We in CICAD's Executive Secretariat see our primary task as helping member states acquire the *practical tools to convert the concepts* of the *Hemispheric Drug Strategy* and its eventual *Plan of Action* into national and hemispheric action. I want to take this opportunity to inform you what your Executive Secretariat has been doing to accomplish that goal.

As you will recall, last year your Executive Secretariat published an English language document entitled *How to Develop a National Drug Control Policy: A guide for Policymakers, Practitioners and Stakeholders*. That document was developed in a joint venture between the CICAD and CARICOM Secretariats. You received the completed product last year at the CICAD session in Miami. I am very pleased to inform you that thanks to support from SEDRONAR, Argentina's national drug secretariat, and its *Secretario de Estado* Dr. José Ramón Granero, we now have a Spanish version. SEDRONAR assumed the costs of translation, editing and publication. I want to emphasize that this document is *not* simply a direct Spanish language translation from the original English. On the contrary, through much effort, including two seminars during the past six months made possible by the governments of Argentina and Costa Rica, it has been adapted to the Latin American reality. The Spanish language version, entitled *Como Desarrollar una Política Nacional sobre Drogas: Una Guía Para Responsables Políticos, Técnicos y Expertos*, is now available both in *online* and print editions.

The Executive Secretariat also is pleased to provide another tool for your kit. This publication is entitled *Building a National Drug Observatory: a Joint Handbook*, and also is *the product of a collaborative effort* --- this time between CICAD's *Inter-American Drug Observatory* and our good friends in the *European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction –EMCDDA*. The preparation of the handbook, led by Alexis Goosdeel from the EMCDDA, compresses two decades of learning experience in implementing drug observatories, or national focal points as they are called in Europe, into some 100 pages: that's 20 years of trial and error, hard lessons, eureka moments and even – the secret sauce: the key strategic factors that ensure success for a national drug observatory. I'll give you a hint. You may want to jump straight to Chapter Six. As repeatedly emphasized in the Hemispheric Drug Strategy, *drug policy and programs must be based on evidence. And a well functioning national drug observatory must lie at the center of any effort to obtain, distill, and present that evidence.*

What's more, the new observatory handbook provides *online* resources -- in English, Spanish and French -- that can be continually updated with additional bibliographic references, templates, practical guidelines and working documents. You can access all this material *a link* on the CICAD web page.

Synthetic drug use is an emerging problem we all should be concerned about. In that sense, we appreciate the collaborative spirit at the EMCDDA in broadening the scope of this handbook to include the Americas. We've found a similar spirit in the UNODC which, starting early next year, will be *seconding* to the CICAD Secretariat offices here in Washington *a professional* to work on the Western Hemisphere component of the UNODC Global Synthetic Drugs Monitoring Programme (known as the SMART Program). The SMART programme aims to close the serious information gap that exists in the world regarding *amphetamine-type stimulants* (ATS). The UNODC contractor to be *seconded* to the CICAD Secretariat will work with CICAD member states to improve their capacity to *gather, analyze and share* information on ATS products, on their use, and on their trafficking routes.

At the same time, we need to acknowledge that the same spirit of collaboration is strongly present among our own member states. In recent years, we have perceived a growing need for our member states to obtain more accurate information about *the costs associated with the drug problem*, as a key element for the design of public policies and allocation of public resources. Thanks to Dr. Jose Ramon Granero, for the last 5 months, SEDRONAR has *posted* to the CICAD

Secretariat offices in Washington a SEDRONAR economist to help update the CICAD's *methodology* for estimating the human, social and economic costs of the drug problem in the Americas. That *methodology* has undergone a peer review and will be re-published on the CICAD website. I would like to ask Guillermina Barriviera to stand up so that we can express our appreciation for her excellent work.

As you know our three year EU-LAC city partnership project is concluding shortly. This was an ambitious undertaking full of challenges, not the least being the need for participants from 45 cities on both sides of the Atlantic, plus CICAD staff, to fly across the Atlantic Ocean multiple times. Jet lag aside, this programme was well worth the effort because it has broadened all of our understanding of the impact of policy making and program implementation at the local level, and provided a beneficial exchange of *best practices* among the participating cities on drug treatment and on drug treatment courts. *For every Euro received from the original European Union contribution, the host cities, and in many cases their national governments, contributed an additional 50 cents in cash and in-kind contributions.* But beyond the monetary value was the *thorough organizational skills and warm-hearted hospitality* demonstrated by the host cities which served to maximize the benefits of these exchanges.

I want to mention by name all the host cities of the EU/LAC fora and summits by name: Coimbra, Lugo, Segovia, San Miguel de Tucumán, Ghent, Goteborg, Santiago de Chile, Montego Bay, San José, Montevideo, and Santo Domingo. In addition, the cities of Peñalolén, Paramaribo, and Barcelona, as well as the region of Lambayeque in Peru, organized bilateral city exchanges.

As a direct result of the EU-LAC city partnership project, your Secretariat is moving in new directions to support *judicially supervised treatment alternatives to incarceration* for criminal offenders who suffer from drug dependence, also known as *drug treatment courts*. We already have published one study on the experiences of six CICAD members states with *drug treatment courts*, plus the experiences of seven non-member states. Next year we will publish a second study that will deal with key concepts that should be considered when establishing a *drug treatment court*. And now, thanks to funding from the Government of Canada, we soon will be launching a *drug treatment court* project in the Caribbean under the direction of our CICAD Executive Secretariat colleague *Antonio Lomba*. We are working on a similar program for Latin American countries.

The CICAD Drug Treatment Court program supports the spirit of our new Hemispheric Drug Strategy, which holds that *drug dependence is an illness, not a personal or moral failing or a crime.* A year ago at the CICAD meeting in Miami, many of you had the opportunity to observe a drug treatment court in session. You saw first hand how these courts can help rehabilitate lives, heal families, make communities safer, *all at a lower cost than incarceration.*

If we could give authorship of the *drug treatment court* initiative, as many others, to a single staff member in the CICAD Executive Secretariat, it would be to *Anna Chisman*. Until she retired last Wednesday, Anna headed CICAD's Demand Reduction Section; but what you may not know is that she had been a member of the Executive Secretariat staff since its creation in 1986. A few years ago, before the Commission heard about the concept of drug treatment courts for the first time, it was not at all clear how CICAD could play a role in supporting the development of this very specialized kind of court in our member states. Through her careful development of the EU-LAC City Partnership programme, Anna showed us how.

I've been speaking about your Secretariat's commitment to put tools in the hands of the national commissions. Anna personifies that vocation.