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**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION**

CICAD

Organization of American States

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Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

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**INTRODUCTION: HEMISPHERIC PERSPECTIVE
ACTION PLAN OF THE SECRETARIAT FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL SECURITY (SMS)
ADAM BLACKWELL, SECRETARY FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL SECURITY**

CICAD 48, Monday, December 6, 2010

Distinguished Principal Representatives:

This is the first time I have had the pleasure of appearing before you as the OAS's new Secretary for Multidimensional Security, and I do so with enormous satisfaction: CICAD is the oldest of the agencies that make up the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, and its long history offers an example and a solid grounding for our future work.

It is a happy coincidence that this first appearance of mine is taking place immediately after the election of Mr. Chan Santhoki and Mr. José Ramón Granero as the Commission's Chair and Vice Chair. I sincerely congratulate you on your appointments, which do justice to what the countries you represent, Suriname and Argentina, have been doing for many years within CICAD.

I am not going to insist on the importance of Multidimensional Security as a concept. You are well aware of its importance because it is a part of your day-to-day work. In that work it is very difficult or impossible to distinguish the actions of organized crime from those of illegal drug trafficking or the funding of terrorism. For that reason, the activities you carry out in your countries can but tend toward the coordination of all the agencies responsible for responding to that phenomenon. And for that same reason, within the OAS we want to offer a coordinated response to those same problems, whether they arise from the sale of base paste, from cloning the data held on credit cards, or as a consequence of the challenge to the rule of law posed by organized crime.

Multidimensional Security is, essentially, the rule of law. How does the OAS help make the rule of law a specific condition for improving the wellbeing of all the people who live in our countries? First of all, as you know, the OAS defends democracy in its member states through actions that, while perhaps not perfect, would have been unthinkable a few decades ago when the Inter-American Democratic Charter did not exist and the multilateral agencies had not assumed

the commitments that they fortunately pursue today and that have given rise to what, within the OAS, we call “modern multilateralism.”

But in addition, and based on the concept of Multidimensional Security, the OAS strives so that our citizens, our peoples, can live free of fear and free of need. The effective exercise of the rule of law demands those freedoms: if our citizens are not free from fear, they will not be at peace at work, they will not be at peace in their places of learning, they will not be at peace as they cast their votes; and if our citizens are not free from need, they will be unable to live in peace or to effectively enjoy the benefits of democracy.

Many of the contemporary fears assailing our people are related to the global drugs problem and its consequences. Fear is felt by parents who do not want their children to use drugs or to die in a traffic accident caused by alcohol use; fear is felt by addicts who are aware that prison is almost inevitably their final destination because they are unable to overcome their illness or sustain their habit and so have to steal; and fear is felt by all the potential victims of the violence and crime associated with drug trafficking and drug abuse. Fear is also felt by banks that could be used for money laundering, and by agents of the justice system with threats hanging over their heads. Our job is to help put an end to those fears, and we want to do so in the most effective way possible.

For that reason I have set myself the task of organizing the activities of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security and, in particular, those of the three Departments it contains, around a strategic plan that will provide us with a clearer view of our objectives, greater transparency in our actions, and an enhanced ability to give account of our activities – that is, of our successes, but also of our failures – in this vitally important task that we have undertaken together with you. We hope that this will also be an expression of modern multilateralism.

The mission of our Secretariat is to “promote and coordinate cooperation among the OAS Member States, and between them and the inter-American system and other agencies of the international system, in order to assess, prevent, address, and respond to security threats.” To remain faithful to that mission, we have set ourselves the goal, over the next five years, of becoming the “main hemispheric reference point for the development of cooperation and capacity-building in the OAS member states, in order to respond effectively to threats to security in the Americas.” That is our vision and, to make it a reality, we propose progressing in four main thematic areas: (1) building the capacities of our Organization’s member states to deal with

threats to security; (2) helping the member states to comply with their international security commitments; (3) strengthening our own internal structure as a Secretariat; and (4) publicizing our work to the outside world.

We have identified 21 results to be attained by our three Departments in these four central thematic areas, together with 125 deliverables that are to reflect those results over the coming five years. We hope to make the details of this plan available to you all soon, over the OAS web page and, later, on our own web site, and we invite you not only to read it but, more importantly, to demand information on its implementation in the future.

For the moment, and just as an example, I can describe one of the results that the CICAD Executive Secretariat has identified in the mandates that you have assigned to it in accordance with your authority, but also in line with the general objective of helping strengthen the member states' capacity to deal with threats to security that we, as the Secretariat, have set ourselves.

The result sought by the CICAD Executive Secretariat is to contribute, at the request of the member states, to ensuring that "the drugs plans of the member states are consistent with the plan of action of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy."

As you can see, the great modern multilateralism effort you are making in establishing a Plan of Action for the Hemispheric Drug Strategy, even though it is not yet finished, is already a part of our Secretariat's future plan of action. And both the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security and the Executive Secretary of CICAD have assumed responsibility for attaining that goal and for reporting on their achievements.

That is just one example of the efforts we are making in order to better serve you, our member states, with a holistic and hemispheric vision of the problem. Clearly, we have to undertake many actions and attain many results to achieve that goal, many others in addition to the one I have just referred to, but it seemed to me to be a good example of the kind of steps you can expect from the OAS Secretariat for Multidimensional Security over the coming five years: actions that, I hope, will be inclusive and transparent.

Distinguished Principal Representatives:

The drugs problem affecting our society and the patterns of violence and crime associated with it are a tangible threat not only to the security, health, physical integrity, and lives of millions of inhabitants of the Americas, undermining individual freedoms and basic rights; they also affect the bases for economic development and threaten the very integrity of the state and democratic institutions in many of our region's countries.

Faced with that threat, we must redouble our efforts and deploy our full abilities. Our adversary has shown himself to be capable of surviving in spite of our attacks, and he has shown great skill in developing new ways to act and to spread. Our obligation is to display superior capabilities in order to defeat him.

The week before last, the city of Rio de Janeiro was the scene of a mass effort to face down organized crime. I was able, last week, to personally visit the *favela* retaken by the police and the military, and I can attest that it was an action by the Brazilian State in defense of its citizens that could be considered, in a positive way, as the first step in a strategy of total war against violence.

My own visit to that place and all the background information I have seen lead me to think that such dedicated and courageous actions as these nevertheless bring with them questions and challenges that nation states and the international community cannot ignore. One of these – perhaps the main one – deals with the legal framework and specific protocols for engagement under which the armed forces participate in the fight against organized crime and its chief activity, drug trafficking. To date, the situations have been internal matters within our countries and it does not fall to the OAS to rule on them. They do, however, offer a good example of the depths of the topics that we must address on account of our adversaries' ability to develop new ways of acting and spreading and our consequent obligation to develop and implement ever greater capacities to defeat them.

And we must do so without losing sight of the fact that behind actions such as those undertaken by the Brazilian State in Rio de Janeiro, behind the monumental labor you have undertaken to devise a Hemispheric Drug Strategy and then a Plan of Action or, in more modest terms, behind the component lines of a strategic plan such as the one we seek to implement within the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, stand all the individuals for whom these actions are being taken: the child we want to keep away from drug use, even though we might have to fight against his environment; the desperate addict, who has the right to decent, professional treatment;

the honest worker who wishes to live in a climate of peace and tranquility. In addition, our states' institutions and democracies must be strengthened and expanded so that all our citizens can enjoy the right to live free of fear and free of needs.

Thank you very much for assisting us in this effort.