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**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
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**FINAL REPORT
V IBERO AMERICAN MEETING OF NATIONAL DRUG OBSERVATORIES**



V Ibero American Meeting of National Drug Observatories
Training Center of the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development,
Montevideo-Uruguay.
18 to 22 October 2010.

FINAL REPORT

Introduction

Functionaries, technicians and investigators of the National Drug Observatories of the 15 Member States of the OAS (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela), the Director of the Spanish Observatory on Drugs from the Government Delegation for the National Plan on Drugs in Spain, Dr. Julia Gonzales, the functionary from the network REITOX and with international cooperation from the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), Mr. Alexis Goosdeel, Mr. Coen Bussnik of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna, Assistant Executive Secretary of CICAD, Mr. Rafael Franzini, and professionals from the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security of the Organization of American States (the complete list of participants is attached), participated in the **V Ibero-American Meeting of National Drug Observatories**, celebrated **October 18 to 22, 2010** in the Training Center of the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development in Montevideo, Uruguay, on the basis of presentation sessions, experience exchanges, training workshops and discussions held at the event, hereby agree to the following conclusions.

- Even in the highest spheres of political decision the importance of evidence-based diagnosis has been recognized, as has the need for reliable and valid studies. Some national drug observatories have significant institutional and budgetary limitations that hinder their development. Of the total of participating observatories, 5 of them defined their level of development and low, i.e., that have not yet defined an information system, have no regular data on drug use and institutionally are not consolidated. Another set of countries (9), was located at an intermediate point, which includes institutional consolidation, the definition of an information system and implementation of periodic surveys on drug use. No country felt that their observatory had reached a high level of development.
- It was agreed that the main function of a National Drug Observatory is **to ensure that decision-making bodies, national and international, have access to valid and sufficient information for assessing the national situation regarding the problem of drug abuse and drug trafficking, and to coordinate the collection, analysis and dissemination of information to various national and international bodies.**
- In this sense, it is understood that the specific functions of National Observatories, collected by the Manual of National Observatories on drugs are:
 - ✓ Design a national information system—dimensions and indicators—which allow for the diagnosis and monitoring of the problem of consumption and trafficking of psychotropic substances.



- ✓ Complete and promote research in relevant areas of knowledge about the use, abuse and dependence, treatment, associated phenomena and control of the supply of psychoactive substances.
 - ✓ Define methodologies to collect valid, reliable, comparable and systematic data related to the problem.
 - ✓ Coordinate the implementation of research programs
 - ✓ Design strategies to disseminate information according to various audiences (functionaries, researchers and the general population).
 - ✓ Establish mechanisms for coordination and exchange of research protocols and best practices with national observatories and regional observatories.
- In relation to the aforementioned points and consistent with the Hemispheric Drug Strategy 2010, the heads of national drug observatories agree in stating that **institutional, operative and budgetary strengthening should be a permanent objective of National Commissions for Drug Control and multilateral bodies that understand the matter**, in order to make viable and ensure the production of valid and reliable information that will enable each country to have a comprehensive and updated diagnosis of the problem of drugs.
 - Participants agree to ask the **OID to implement training sessions** on epidemiological methods and information systems design.
 - Considering the importance of issues relating to indicators of demand for treatment, patients in treatment and evaluation of treatment programs, it was agreed to develop a **specific seminar that addresses these issues**. Similarly, it was agreed to deepen the observation of the problem of synthetic drugs.
 - Countries agree to incorporate in their national studies scales to estimate problematic use, abuse and dependency of substances, as carried out in studies of the Subregional System Information and Research on drugs, so as to provide a more precise diagnosis on the magnitude of the problem to orient policies of prevention and assistance.
 - It was agreed that it is important to **place emphasis on tracking the problem** (traffic, use, abuse, dependency) of other substances such as heroin and inhalants.
 - In recognition of the heterogeneity of the use and abuse of psychoactive substances within countries, **it is observed that there is a need to develop methodologies for estimating the problem at the neighborhood and municipal levels**, with emphasis on community participation in the diagnostic process.

Acknowledgements

The OID / CICAD and the delegations of the 15 participating countries in the hemisphere and the international organizations invited express their appreciation to the Government Delegation for



the National Drug Plan of Spain and the Spanish Agency for International Development and the Training Center of the Spanish Cooperation in Montevideo, Uruguay, for the constant support extended to this event, which will directly benefit National Observatories on Drugs and strengthen national information systems to improve the response to the challenge posed by this problem in the hemisphere.

In the city of Montevideo, Uruguay, to twenty days of October two thousand and ten.