

48 periodo de sesiones ordinarias CICAD

Washington DC, 6-8 de diciembre de 2010

Intercambios Civil Association Statement

Mr. President, Mrs. and Mss. Delegates

Thank you for letting me a few minutes to speak to you.

I represent an NGO from Argentina, Intercambios Civil Association. Our mission is to provide the construction and application of knowledge of drug-related problems, within the framework of Human Rights. We are part of the International Consortium on Drug Policy, a global network of NGOs working together to promote an objective and open debate on drug policy. Also we represent Latin America in its steering group.

We believe that Hemispheric Drug Strategy adopted at the previous session last May, includes important aspects: The explicit reference of human right's respect is the principle on which the strategy is based, and the recognition of the importance of civil society's participation, among others aspects. We believe that these aspects should be incorporated into the plan of action, in line with the strategy.

In the latter regard, we suggest for consideration by the delegates, the need to study specific mechanisms that would effectively promote the NGO`s participation in national and regional levels.

For example, we would be very pleased that the meetings to prepare the action plan as well as thematic discussions include on the panels representatives from NGOs and other civil society experts. These could enrich the views and exchange of experiences.

In this sense, we encourage regional governments to consider including experts from civil society in their official delegations.

Also we will be very pleased that CICAD establish more systematic contact and interaction with NGOs in the region. It would be desirable more active involvement of civil society organizations and most affected groups, in doing CICAD`s reports and projects. Also, it would be important to organize regular meetings with representatives of NGOs in the region, and report its results in the biennial regular sessions. Maybe it's time to consider whether it would be advisable for the CICAD have a specific area of relationship with civil society.

Once again, thank you for your attention, and be sure that we are willing to put our experience and knowledge for the construction of better, more effective, humane and evidence-based answers.