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United States of America

**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION**

CICAD

Organization of American States

P. 202.458.3000
www.oas.org

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

**FORTY-EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION
December 6 - 8, 2010
Washington, DC**

**OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.48
CICAD/doc.1847/11
7 December 2011
Original: Spanish**

**FINAL REPORT
TWELFTH MEETING OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON DEMAND REDUCTION
GUADALAJARA, MEXICO**

TWELFTH MEETING OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON DEMAND REDUCTION
GUADALAJARA, MEXICO
October 25-27, 2010

Final Report

The Twelfth Meeting of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction was held in Guadalajara, Mexico, from October 25 to 27, 2010, under the chairmanship of Mexico, represented by Dr. Mauricio Hernández Ávila, Secretary for Prevention and Health Promotion, Secretariat for Health of Mexico. The Vice Chair of the Group was Mr. L. Bradley Hittle of the US Office of National Drug Control Policy. The meeting was attended by experts from the following countries: Argentina, the Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Experts who specialize in drug treatment and rehabilitation were also present at the meeting (see Annex I, List of Participants).

The purpose of this meeting was to begin to give substance to the “Declaration of [Basic Principles of Drug Treatment in the Hemisphere](#)” developed at the Eleventh Meeting of the Group of Experts in Mexico City in October 2009.

On the first day of the meeting (see Annex II, Agenda) work centered on the topic of public policies on drug treatment. For the purpose two keynote addresses were offered: one by Dr. María Elena Medina Mora, Director of Ramón de la Fuente Muñiz National Institute of Psychiatry, Mexico; and the other by Dr. Tom McLellan from the University of Pennsylvania and former Deputy Director of the US Office of National Drug Control Policy. Dr. Ángel Álvarez, a CICAD consultant, also delivered a presentation. There was also a discussion panel with presentations given by Dr. Alvarez and Ms. Eugenia Mata, Head of Demand Reduction of the Costa Rican Institute for Drug Control.

The Meeting addressed three topics on the second day: Organization of treatment services, Protocol for dual-pathology patients, and Training of treatment staff. As part of the topic “Organization of treatment services,” in addition to a presentation given by CICAD on the general framework there were three presentations on national experiences: Dr. Carla Dalbosco, SENAD, Brazil; Ms. Marcela Lara, CONACE, Chile; and Dr. Gabriel Rossi, National Drug Board, Uruguay.

The Treatment protocol for dual pathology patients was presented by Dr. Mariano Montenegro, a CICAD consultant. There followed presentations on specific experiences of treatment protocols for other populations: the first was for the female drug-dependent population and was given by Dr. Nelson Clarke, expert from The Bahamas; the second, for street children, was given by Dr. Leticia Vega Hoyos.

Finally, as regards the topic of training for drug treatment staff, the Executive Secretariat of CICAD, under the coordination of Alexandra Hill and Alfonso Abarca, presented the training and certification program for drug treatment counselors and a computerized information system on patients in treatment. Subsequently there was a panel discussion on best practices, which included a presentation on the program in Costa Rica, COCERTRAD, one of the projects on which CICAD has worked with the country in the framework of the staff training and certification program. In addition and also in the framework of this program, Mr. Simón Tavera, Representative of the National Council on Addictions (CONADIC) delivered a report on progress in Mexico in this regard. Closing this panel, Mr. Joel Chávez, Director of the Jalisco State Council on Addictions, gave a presentation on the drug counselor training initiatives underway in that state of Mexico.

At that point the Executive Secretariat of CICAD presented two documents prepared by a number of working groups under the coordination of the Executive Secretariat's Demand Reduction Unit: The first was an input on organization of treatment services in national health systems; the second was a draft treatment protocol for dual pathology patients diagnosed with drug dependence and mental disorders. Both documents will be analyzed by the experts present in order to have a final review that incorporates the observations of all member countries, the purpose being to present a consensualized proposal for the hemisphere.

The third and final day of the meeting opened with a roundtable discussion that included remarks by Dr. Francisco Cumsille, Head of the CICAD Inter-American Observatory on Drugs, on the role of information in the Hemispheric Drug Strategy, with particular emphasis on treatment. Next, Mr. Juan Gabriel Morales, Second Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the OAS, briefed the Group of Experts on progress in the Plan of Action of the CICAD's Hemispheric Drug Strategy. In this regard, Mr. Morales described and explained the work that member states have done so far, in order to identify priority action areas and aspects of the Strategy on which progress has been made, with the aim of refining how the plan of action is carried out.

Following Mr. Morales's remarks, Dr. Anna Chisman, Head of the Demand Reduction Unit, said that the new Chair of the CICAD Group of Experts on Demand Reduction would be elected by the Commission at its forty-eighth regular session to be held in Washington, D.C., from December 6 to 8, 2010. She said that the nominations she had so far received were those of the Government of the United States for Chair of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction for a two-year period and the Government of Brazil for Vice Chair of the Group for the same length of time. Finally, she bade farewell as the chief of the unit in view of her impending retirement from the Organization of American States, reiterating her commitment to the drug issue and recognizing the progress that the hemisphere has made in this area over the last 24 years.

To conclude the thematic agenda, Dr. Mauricio Hernández Ávila presented to the group a document containing 17 topics identified by the group (Annex III). It met with the agreement of all present.

Finally, and to close the Twelfth Meeting of the CICAD Group of Experts on Demand Reduction, in the presence of the First Lady, Mrs. Margarita Zavala, Ambassador Adam Blackwell, OAS Secretary for Multidimensional Security, and Dr. Mauricio Hernández Ávila signed a memorandum of understanding between the Organization of American States (through SMS/CICAD) and the Health Secretariat of Mexico to carry out the Drug Treatment Training and Certification Program. The memorandum signing ceremony was followed by the closing session of the meeting at which remarks were offered by Mrs. Margarita Zavala, Secretary Hernández Ávila, and Ambassador Adam Blackwell.

Twelfth Meeting of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction

October 25 to 27, 2010

Guadalajara, Mexico

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Twelfth Meeting of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction

October 25 to 27, 2010
Guadalajara, Mexico

OEA/Ser.L.XIV.4.12
CICAD/DREX/doc.2/10.rev.2
October 25, 2010
Original: English

INTRODUCTION

CICAD's Group of Experts on Demand Reduction of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) was established by the Commission at its twenty-first regular session in 1997. Composed of experts nominated by each member state, it is an advisory body to the Commission on technical matters having to do with substance abuse prevention and treatment. The Expert Group's remit includes developing models, programs and guidelines to address the many problems deriving from substance use and abuse in the hemisphere.

At its Eleventh Meeting, which was chaired by Mexico, the Group developed a Declaration of Principles on Drug Treatment which was presented and approved by the Commission at its forty-sixth regular session held in Miami in November 2007. This document is a tool that serves to guide member states in their efforts to improve the care given to drug users and drug-dependent persons in the hemisphere. It was also suggested that the work for the year ahead should consist of developing material to give substance to the contents of the Declaration. Accordingly, the Group of Experts has been working to develop this material with a view to presenting it at this meeting. To that end, a series of documents will be presented on: Dual pathology treatment protocols and Organization of treatment services. There will also be presentations on best practices in the hemisphere on the above topics.

This meeting brings to a close the tenure of the current officers of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction, with Mexico as Chair and the United States as Vice Chair. The next officers will be elected at the forty-eighth.

PROGRAM

Sunday, October 24

18:00 - 20:00 **Registration**

Monday, October 25

09:00 - 09:30 **Registration**

09:30 - 10:30 **Inaugural session**

Dr. Alfonso Petersen Farah
Secretary of Health of the State of Jalisco

Ambassador James F. Mack
Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control
Commission, Organization of American States

Dr. Mauricio Hernández Ávila
Secretary for Prevention and Health Promotion, Mexico
Chair of the CICAD Group of Experts on Demand Reduction

Mr. Emilio González Márquez
Governor of the State of Jalisco, Mexico

10:30 - 10:45 **Coffee break**

10:45 - 11:00 **Introduction of the Twelfth Meeting of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction**

Dr. Mauricio Hernández Ávila
Secretary for Prevention and Health Promotion, Mexico, and
Chair of the CICAD Group of Experts on Demand Reduction

- *How will the various topics on the agenda for this meeting be addressed in the panels?*
- *What do we expect the outcome of the meeting to be? Include the review procedure and, as appropriate, propose adjustments to the documents presented.*
- *By what means can the Expert Group promote improvements in*

drug treatment in the member states?

- 11:00 - 11:15** Vice Chair of the CICAD Group of Experts on Demand Reduction
United States
L. Brad Hittle
Office of Supply Reduction
Office of National Drug Control Policy
United States
- 11: 15 - 11:35** **Presentation of the “Declaration of Basic Principles of the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusing and Drug-dependent Persons in the Hemisphere”**

Dr. Mauricio Hernández Ávila
Secretary for Prevention and Health Promotion, Mexico, and Chair of the
CICAD Group of Experts on Demand Reduction
- 11:35 - 12:30** **Application of the “Declaration of Basic Principles of the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusing and Drug-dependent Persons in the Hemisphere” in member states**

At this session a presentation will be given on the ideal scenario wherein health systems of member states could adopt mechanisms in response to the Declaration in order to meet the principles set out therein. A short introduction will also be given of the four topics to be addressed: Dual Pathology Treatment Protocols; Training; Public Policy on Drug Treatment; and Organization of Treatment Services.

Dr. Anna McG. Chisman
Head, Demand Reduction, CICAD/OAS

Dr. Luis Alfonzo
Specialist in Demand Reduction, CICAD/OAS
- 12:30 - 14:00** **Lunch**
- 14:00 - 14:30** Public Policy on Drug Treatment
Dr. Maria Elena Medina-Mora Icaza
María Elena Medina Mora, Director General of Ramón de la Fuente Muñiz
National Institute of Psychiatry
Mexico

- 14:30 – 15:30 Panel 1: Public Policy on Drug Treatment**
- Moderator: Dr. Armando Patrón Vargas
 Technical Director for Addictions, Technical Secretariat of the National Council on Addictions (CONADIC), Mexico
- Dr. Ángel Álvarez
 Consultant CICAD/OAS
- Eugenia Mata
 Costa Rican Institute for Drug Control, Costa Rica
- 15:30 - 15:40 *Coffee break***
- 15:40 - 16:40 Discussion**
- 16:40 - 17:30** Presentation by Dr. Tom McLellan
 Treatment Research Institute
 University of Pennsylvania
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
- 17:50 - 18:00 Closing remarks**
- 19:00 - 21:00 RECEPTION OFFERED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO AND CICAD**

Tuesday, October 26

- 08:30 - 09:00 Organization of treatment services**
- Dr. Luis Alfonzo
 Specialist in demand reduction
 CICAD/OAS
- 09:00 – 10:00 Panel 2: Organization of treatment services**
- Moderator: Dr. Luis Solís Rojas
 Assistant Director General, STCONADIC, Mexico
- Dr. Carla Dalbosco, Director for Drug Policy Linkage and Coordination,
 National Drug Policy Secretariat (SENAD), Office of the
 President of the Republic of Brazil
- Marcela Lara, CONACE, Chile
- Dr. Gabriel Rossi, Chief, Treatment Area, National Drug Board, Uruguay

- 10:00 - 10:10** **Coffee break**
- 10:10 - 11:00** **Discussion**
- 11:00 - 11:30** **Dual pathology treatment protocol**
- Dr. Mariano Montenegro
Consultant CICAD/OAS
- Discussant: Dr. Ángel Prado García
Assistant Director General, Youth Integration Centers, A.C., Mexico
- 11:30 - 12:30** **Panel 3: Protocols for other populations**
- Moderator: Dr. Mariano Montenegro
Consultant CICAD/OAS
- Treatment for drug-dependent women in the Bahamas*
Dr. Nelson Clarke, Medical Chief of Staff, Public Hospital Authority,
Ministry of Health, The Commonwealth of The Bahamas)
- Street children*
Dr. Leticia Vega Hoyos
Ramón de la Fuente Muñiz National Institute of Psychiatry”
Mexico
- 12:30 - 14:00** **Lunch**
- 14:00 - 15:00** **Discussion**
- 15:00 - 15:30** **Training Drug Treatment Staff**
- Alexandra Hill
Specialist in demand reduction
CICAD/OAS
- Alfonso Abarca
Specialist
CICAD/OAS
- 15:30 16:30** **Panel 4: Best practices in human resources training**
- Moderator: Carmen Fernández Cáceres
Assistant Director General, Youth Integration Centers, A.C., Mexico
- Franklin Jiménez
Carolina Garro

Committee of the Drug Treatment Training and Certification Program (COCERTRAD), Costa Rica

Simón Tavera Romero
Director of Management Systems, STCONADIC, Mexico

Mr. Joel Chávez Rivera
Technical Secretary of the State Council against Addictions, Jalisco, Mexico

- 16:30 - 16:40** **Coffee break**
- 16:40 - 18:00** **Discussion**
- 18:00 - 18:10** **Closing remarks, day 2**
- 19:30 - 22:30** **RECEPTION OFFERED BY THE STATE OF JALISCO**

Wednesday, October 27

- 09:30** **10:00** **The role of information in the Hemispheric Drug Strategy, with an emphasis on drug treatment**
- Dr. Francisco Cumsille
Head of the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs, CICAD/OAS
- 10:00** **11:00** **Discussion**
- 11:00** **11:15** **Coffee break**
- 11:15 – 12:15** **Future steps for the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction**
- The Hemispheric Drug Strategy and the work of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction*
Second Secretary Juan Gabriel Morales Morales
Permanent Mission of Mexico to the OAS
- Considerations on the election of the new officers of the CICAD Group of Experts on Demand Reduction*
Dr. Anna McG. Chisman
Head, Demand Reduction, CICAD/OAS
- L. Brad Hittle
Office of Supply Reduction
Office of National Drug Control Policy
United States

12:15 -	12:30	Summary of decisions
		Dr. Mauricio Hernández Ávila Secretary for Prevention and Health Promotion, Mexico, and Chair of the CICAD Group of Experts on Demand Reduction
12:30 -	14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00	14:30	Signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation and Technical Assistance between the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, through the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, and the Secretariat for Health of the United Mexican States, for training and certification of drug treatment counselors.
14:30 -	15:00	Closing remarks
		Mr. Emilio González Márquez Governor of the State of Jalisco, Mexico
		Dr. Mauricio Hernández Ávila Secretary for Prevention and Health Promotion, Mexico, and Chair of the CICAD Group of Experts on Demand Reduction
		Ambassador Adam Blackwell, Secretary for Multidimensional Security, Organization of American States
		Margarita Zavala President of the National Comprehensive Family Development (DIF) System, Mexico

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TOPICS IDENTIFIED BY THE GROUP

The experts of the OAS member states gathered in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, in the framework of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), reached the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. The Group recognizes the value of the documents presented and believes that they will be of great importance for organizing treatment services in the countries of the region.
2. Drug treatment systems should be offered within a continuum of care that enables users to progress through each phase of evolution of their illness until they are reintegrated in the community.
3. Treatment models for persons with problems associated with the use of psychoactive substances should be adapted to the characteristics of each population, bearing in mind the particular circumstances of each community. To that end, the exchange of successful experiences is recommended among the countries of the region that share similar problems.
4. Treatment systems should be framed by comprehensive demand reduction policies that mesh closely with prevention strategies and seek to strengthen measures at the primary health care level.
5. To give momentum to public treatment policies it is necessary to encourage permanent, productive dialogue between the technical sphere and the political, legislative, and decision-making spheres. To that end it is advisable to reach a common understanding that would allow the creation of synergies founded on a realization of the importance of treatment for drug-dependent individuals.

6. It is essential to generate evidence founded on studies and local conditions in order to design policies at that level. It is necessary also to transfer research findings to both the community at large and decision-maker, and for that purpose it is vital to strengthen information and research systems in coordination with national drug observatories, where feasible.
7. An adequate treatment policy should be implemented in tandem with general health and social development policies, and involve the relevant social actors.
8. Acknowledgment of drug dependence as a chronic disease demands that its treatment be in the hands of staff specially trained for that purpose. Accordingly, priority should be given to training of the necessary human resources and the introduction of rules and regulations thereon. To that end, it is necessary to determine the criteria and skill sets that they should have.
9. Indicators should be introduced to measure treatment success that include, apart from abstinence, different psychosocial variables.
10. Treatment systems should be comprehensive and always take into account the needs and components of the process for drug-dependent individuals.
11. The Group recognizes the importance of having in place protocols to guide the treatment of drug dependent individuals that are appropriate to their specific circumstances, as well as of evaluating their impact.
12. The Group recognizes the importance of according particular attention to vulnerable population groups, such as street children, migrants, and prison populations, among others.
13. Given that research has shown that a percentage of individuals who suffer from an addiction also have a psychiatric disorder, it is highly recommended to implement dual pathology treatment protocols.
14. It is suggested that drug courts or tribunals be introduced in the countries of the hemisphere in order to offer noncustodial alternative penalties for drug-dependent offenders.

15. The Group of Experts urges CICAD to continue to strengthen dialogue and exchange among specialists in order to enrich proposals that support the implementation of addiction treatment policies, models, and tools.
16. The Group recognizes the efforts of the countries in this area, given that drug treatment is a matter of justice and social investment and should be particularly assurance.
17. Given the increase that has been recorded in a number of countries in drug and alcohol use by women, it is recommended that models with a gender-specific approach be included in treatment programs.

