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INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION
C I C A D

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

FIFTY-FIRST REGULAR SESSION
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Contributions by Civil Society

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51st Regular Session of CICAD
Washington DC, May 11, 2012

– Intercambios Civil Association

www.intercambios.org.ar

The institutional mission is to contribute to the construction and application of knowledge of the problems associated with drugs.

– International Consortium on Drug Policy (IDPC)

www.idpc.net

A global network for the promotion of open and objective debate on drug policy.

The role of NGOs and the relationship with governmental agencies

- The public sphere is not a state monopoly.
- Social participation is generated by the people and is an essential mechanism between the State and society.
- Key step in making politics a more democratic process.
- Civil society as a key player in the design, implementation, and evaluation of policies.

Best Practices

- There are experiences of joint and coordinated efforts on specific project (implementation).
- To a lesser extent, in design and evaluation
- Recognition of the role played by NGOs is recent and not yet fully incorporated (CICAD)
- The field of HIV/AIDS projects provides interesting models of coordination.
- At the level of intergovernmental agencies: UNAIDS has a civil society formally represented in the Program Coordinating Board, its governing body.
- At the national level: the majority countries have formalized the participation of civil society in the national commissions, Country Coordinating Mechanisms, or through other methods.

Strengthening Capacities

- Networking strengthens NGOs and the State by providing a more integrated approach
- Transparency and mutual auditing process
- Take advantage of respective developments. Ex: "Guide to Drug Policy" of the EDPC

Other actors from civil society

- Needed to ensure different perspectives and alternative actions.
- Need to be engaged in decision-making that effects the most affected communities, including drug users and academia.
- Needed to broaden the perspective beyond "NGO experts on drugs" (human rights movements, indigenous organizations, community-based social organizations).

Challenges and opportunities

- To maintain and further the agenda of CICAD for/with civil society.
- Include representatives of NGOs and civil society experts in thematically pertinent discussions.
- Mandate of the VI Summit of the Americas:
  - Opportunity to carry out an independent assessment, one that reflects the diverse perspectives.
  - Relevance of including NGOs and experts in all stages of an evaluation process.

Expectations of the IDPC

- IDPC is available to assist in assessing the impact of implemented policies.
- IDPC recommends to resume important work, such as the recently published "Drug policy and the public good" by PAHO.
- IDPC hopes to contribute to the development of new studies: we consider it important to include new indicators and questions to establish successful criteria.

Thank You!

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