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United States of America

INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE  
CONTROL COMMISSION

**CICAD**

Organization of American States

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PROPOSALS OF THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA REGARDING THE FUTURE FUNCTIONING OF  
CICAD AND THE COMMISSION'S EXPERTS GROUPS

**UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION**

Permanent Mission of Colombia  
To the Organization of American States

MPC/OEA No. 747/2012

The Permanent Mission of Colombia to the Organization of American is pleased to address the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) Executive Secretariat—Organization of American States—in reference to the 51<sup>st</sup> Regular Session of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, to be held May 9-11 in Washington, D.C., United States.

This mission is transmitting the proposals of the Republic of Colombia regarding the future functioning of CICAD and the Commission's Experts Groups; these issues should be addressed during the third plenary session, as indicated in the Schedule of Activities (CICAD/doc.1935/12rev.3). In addition, the Mission requests the translation and circulation of the annexed documents.

The Permanent Mission of Colombia takes this opportunity to renew to the Executive Secretariat of CICAD—Organization of American States—the assurances of its highest and distinguished consideration.

Washington, D.C., May 8, 2012

To the honorable  
Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission  
Organization of American States  
Washington, D.C.

## **Work of Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission's Expert Groups**

### **Nature of the Expert Groups**

As established in Article 22 of the Commission's Regulations, the Expert Groups are "advisory bodies of the Commission," and are subject to those regulations. In this regard, all activities carried out by the Expert Groups shall:

- Respond to the objectives established within the framework of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy.
- Develop, implement or suggest methods of implementation for the activities included in the Strategy's Plan of Action.
- Be subject to the approval of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, during its plenary sessions.

The role of the Expert Groups is limited to CICAD's scope of action, not that of the separate hemispheric system. In this regard, these groups advise CICAD by their very nature and support the Commission in its role as a "consultative and advisory body to the Organization [of American States] on the use, production, trafficking and illicit distribution of drugs, and related crimes."

### **Functioning of the Expert Groups**

Article 22 of the Commission's regulations establishes that these groups shall determine their internal operations, in accordance with the Regulations and Statute of the Commission, and the Rules of Procedure of the Organization's Permanent Council. However, the functioning of the Group, to the extent that it is dependent on the Commission, shall be subject to its approval.

In the event that the Commission determines that the Expert Group has fulfilled its mission, it may, in accordance with the authority provided for in its regulations, disband the Group. In addition, it may modify the group, in accordance with the necessities or priorities of the region, or the mandates included in the Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its Plan of Action.

### **Responsibilities of the Expert Groups**

- Present reports on activities, separate from the recommendations it makes. These reports should demonstrate that the mandate of each Expert Group has been fulfilled.
- Present reports on recommendations, subject to the Commissioners' debate, and independent of the activity reports.
  - The recommendations presented by the Expert Groups, once approved, may, but do not have to be, included in the mandate for the following year.
  - The recommendations should not include a Plan of Action, nor recommend its approval.
- The annual Work Plan is a document independent of the reports or recommendations. This Plan of Action or annual Work Plan shall be subject to the debate and approval of the Commission.

- In addition, taking into consideration what has been established in Article 22 of the regulations, the Commission may modify or disband the Expert Group.
- The Commission can add or eliminate activities in the Work Plan presented by the Expert Group.

Bearing this in mind, at the end of each year—with the understanding that mandates should be assigned to the Expert Groups annually<sup>1</sup>—the Expert Groups shall present, at minimum:

- Report of Activities—which would include a report on the fulfillment of the mandate assigned by the Commission
- Report of Recommendations
- Proposed Annual Work Plans

These three documents should be presented independently. Neither constitutes a part of the other. Based on these documents, the Commission shall proceed to assign, should it be pertinent, the annual mandate of the Expert Group.

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<sup>1</sup> Regardless of the determination of chairmanship, this is sometimes carried out bi-annually.

## **Future Operation of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission**

### **FUNCTIONING OF THE COMMISSION**

The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission shall have two Regular Sessions.

#### **Regular Session – First Half of the Year**

The Regular Session carried out in the first half of the year shall be held prior to the General Assembly session, in order to present its results at that meeting.

This session shall address issues related to the development of policy guidelines, and follow up on the mandates assigned to the Working Groups and Expert Groups, and the Executive Secretariat's annual work plan.

In addition, thematic discussions shall be carried out, which would provide inputs that reflect the countries' perspectives, and based on which a mandate for the Executive Secretariat and the Commission's Expert Groups and/or Working Groups can be formalized.

#### **Functioning of the Session**

##### **Plenary**

Plenary sessions shall be presided by the country elected as Chair of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission.

#### **National Interventions**

- Countries, registered with the Secretariat, shall make interventions, during which they present national positions, specific thematic presentations and/or special requests to the Executive Secretariat. These requests would be subject to the approval of the Commission.

#### **Review of mid-Term Reports**

- The working groups established by the Commission shall present mid-term reports to advise the Commission on progress made in their work.

In addition, they may make recommendations regarding progress made in and fulfillment of the annual mandates assigned by the Commission.

- The Chairs of the Expert Groups shall present mid-term reports to advise the Commission on progress made in their work.

In addition, they may make recommendations regarding progress made in and fulfillment of the annual mandates assigned by the Commission.

- The Commission's Executive Secretariat shall present a report on its Work Plan, to inform the Commission on progress made to date.

The Executive Secretariat may also present requests to the Commission.

#### **Thematic Debates**

- The thematic debates will be moderated by the Commission's Chair.
- The Executive Secretariat will carry out Secretariat functions and record the conclusions of each thematic debate. These will be reflected in the report of the Regular Session.

In addition, reports—concept papers—will be prepared, based on the results of these debates, which will serve as the basis for the mandates of the Expert Groups and working groups and the development of hemispheric policies on each of the topics.

- Panelists selected by the member states will participate in the thematic debates, on topics which have been approved during the fall session of the previous year.
- These debates will take the form of roundtable discussions.
- At the regular session during the first half of the year, five thematic debates will be held, each based on topics proposed by the subregional groups—in accordance with the issues they consider to be a priority.
- The Executive Secretariat will publish briefings, detailing the results and conclusions of these thematic debates, on its website.

#### **Approval of Draft Resolutions**

- Countries will present draft resolutions that have been considered by the Committee of Delegates.
- The text to be presented will be the final text adopted by the Committee of Delegates.

#### **Committee of Delegates**

##### **Sessions**

- Sessions will be led by the country acting as Vice Chair of the Commission.
- Four negotiating sessions will be held, beginning the afternoon of the first day of the regular sessions and ending the morning of the final day of the session.

##### **Presentation of Draft Resolutions**

- Draft resolutions will be presented in advance, two weeks prior to the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission's Regular Session.
- A meeting will be held to present the draft resolutions to be discussed. Representatives of the Permanent Missions to the OAS will participate in this meeting which will be held the week before the start of the Regular Session.

### **Proposed structure of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission Regular Session, First Semester**

		<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>Morning</b>	<b>Plenary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening of the meeting</li> <li>• National Interventions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thematic Debate I</li> <li>• Thematic Debate II</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thematic Debate IV</li> <li>• Thematic Debate V</li> </ul>
	<b>Committee of Delegates</b>	Session starts in the afternoon	Second session to review draft resolutions	Fourth session to review draft resolutions
<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>Plenary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Working Groups</li> <li>○ Expert Groups</li> <li>○ Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thematic Debate III</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conclusion of thematic debates</li> <li>• Approval of the draft resolutions</li> <li>• Approval of the report on the First Regular Session</li> <li>• Closing</li> </ul>
	<b>Committee of Delegates</b>	First session to review draft resolutions	Third session to review draft resolutions	

## **Regular Sessions – Second half of the year**

The Regular Session during the second half of the year shall be held once the work planned for the working groups, Expert Groups and Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism is complete.

This Regular Session will be responsible for developing the Annual Work Plan for the Commission, its Executive Secretariat and its Expert Groups. The continuation of the work of each Expert Group shall be considered, and the mandate for the following year shall be discussed and approved.

The Executive Secretariat shall present a report on the work carried out and the fulfillment of the mandate that was assigned the previous year. In addition, reports on the work carried out by the Expert Groups, Working Groups and Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism shall be presented. These will be subject to the review and discussion of the Commissioners, prior to their approval.

The thematic debates proposed for the following regular session will also be presented and approved, and their order will be determined.

## **Functioning of the Session**

### **Plenary**

The plenary sessions will be presided by the Country elected as Chair of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission.

## **National Interventions**

- Countries, registered with the Secretariat, shall make interventions during which they present national positions, specific thematic presentations and/or special requests to the Executive Secretariat. These requests would be subject to the approval of the Commission.

## **Presentation and Approval of the CICAD Executive Secretariat's Report**

- The Commission's Executive Secretariat shall present for the consideration of the Commission, a report detailing the activities carried out under the framework of the mandate assigned by the Commission. In addition, it shall indicate which activities were carried out under its own initiative, following the Commission's approval, and which were requested by CICAD member states.

## **Presentation and Approval of reports of the Working Groups and Expert Groups:**

- The Working Groups shall present reports on the activities carried out, in order to evaluate their fulfillment of the assigned mandates.
- The Expert Groups shall present reports indicating what activities have been carried out in fulfillment of the Annual Work Plan approved by the second regular session of the prior year.

## **Definition and approval of the Executive Secretariat's Annual Work Plan**

- The Executive Secretariat shall present for the Commissioners' consideration a draft Annual Work Plan, which should include those issues within the framework of:

- The draft resolutions approved during the first regular session of the year
- The reports and conclusions of the thematic debates
- Requests made by countries that have been approved by the Commission
- The recommendations of the Working Groups and Expert Groups

### **Definition and approval of the Working Groups' and Expert Groups' Annual Work Plans**

- The Commission shall evaluate the need to continue the expert groups, in accordance with the recommendations received from the Committee of Delegates, who will be tasked with evaluating these groups based on their activities, their results, and the objectives mandated to the Working Groups and Expert Groups.
- The Working Groups that the Commission has created, in accordance with its Statute and Regulations, shall present a report on the activities carried out.

The presentation of this report shall be the responsibility of the country acting as Chair during the prior year.

The Working Group shall present a Work Plan, subject to discussion and revision, consistent with the needs identified by the Commission's member states. In addition, it shall include the topics identified as a priority, within the framework of the discussions that took place during the Thematic Debates of the first session.

The Working Group shall present a list of recommendations, which shall be subject to the consideration of the Commission's Plenary.

In addition, the Commission will evaluate the pertinence of the continuation of the Working Groups. These may be disbanded or modified, in accordance with the priorities identified by the Commission and the fulfillment of the assigned mandates.

- The Expert Groups that are in operation during this regular session shall present draft Work Plans.

The presentation of this report shall be the responsibility of the country acting as Chair during the prior year.

The Expert Groups shall present draft Work Plans, subject to discussion and revision, consistent with the needs identified by the Commission's member states. In addition, they shall include the topics identified as a priority, within the framework of the discussions that took place during the Thematic Debates of the first session.

The Expert Groups shall present a list of recommendations, which shall be subject to the consideration of the Commission's Plenary.

In addition, the Commission will evaluate the pertinence of the continuation of the Expert Groups. These may be disbanded or modified, in accordance with the Commission's regulations and the priorities it has identified.

### **Proposals, approval and order of the thematic debates for the following year:**

- Each subregional group shall present a proposed topic to be discussed within the framework of the thematic debates, will be held during the following regular session.

The following shall be considered the Subregional Groups:

- North America
- Central America and Mexico
- The Caribbean
- Andean Community
- Mercosur and Chile

Based on the proposals presented, a selection of five topics will be developed, to be discussed during the thematic debates of the next regular session.

In the event that more than one proposal is presented by a Regional Group, the priority issues will be discussed and the Commission will decide which topic will be included in the next session.

- The order in which the topics will be debated will also be determined.

### **Committee of Delegates**

#### **Sessions**

- Sessions will be led by the country acting as Vice Chair of the Commission.

#### **Evaluation of the continuation of the Commission's Working Groups and Expert Groups**

- The Committee of Delegates shall begin its sessions the day before the first day of the plenary session and at this time will consider relevant information regarding the Recommendation to Create, Continue or Disband the Working Groups and/or Expert Groups.
- In addition, it will consider modifying the functioning of the Working Groups and Expert Groups.
- Its report shall be presented at the start of the discussion regarding the reports of Working Groups and Expert Groups.

#### **Presentation of Draft Resolutions**

- If draft resolutions are presented for this session, the Committee of Delegates shall review and discuss them.
- The method of presenting the draft resolutions will be the same as that for the First Regular Session.

### **Proposed structure of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission Regular Session, Second Semester**

		<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>Morning</b>	<b>Plenary</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening of the meeting</li> <li>• National interventions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the Working Groups' and Expert Groups' Reports</li> <li>• Presentation and approval of the Working Groups' and Expert Groups' Annual Work Plans</li> </ul>
	<b>Committee of Delegates</b>	Advance Meeting of the Committee of Delegates Evaluation of the Creation, Modification or Disbanding of Working Groups and/or Expert Groups	First session to review draft resolutions	Third session to review draft resolutions
<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>Plenary</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the Executive Secretariat's report</li> <li>• Presentation and approval of the Executive Secretariat's Draft Work Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation and discussion of the thematic debates for the next regular session</li> <li>• Approval of the draft resolutions</li> <li>• Approval of the report on the Regular Session</li> <li>• Closing</li> </ul>
	<b>Committee of Delegates</b>	Presentation of draft resolutions	Second session to review draft resolutions	