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INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE  
CONTROL COMMISSION

**CICAD**

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

**FIFTY-FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
**May 9-11, 2011**  
**Washington, DC**

**OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.51**  
**CICAD/doc.1967-rev.1 /12**  
**18 July 2012**  
**Original: Spanish**

**FINAL REPORT**

## I. BACKGROUND

The Statute of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) provides in Article 21 that the Commission shall hold two regular sessions per year; one to deal with general matters, the other to address specific technical topics determined by the Commission or such other matters as may require its special attention. The Statute also provides that special sessions shall be held whenever the Commission so decides, or at the request of a majority of its member states.

At its fifty regular session, the Commission decided, in accordance with Articles 20 and 21 of the Statute, that the fifty first regular session would be held on May 9-11, 2012, in Washington, DC.

## II. PROCEEDINGS

### 1. Opening Session

#### *a. Dr. Rafael Antonio Bielsa, Secretary of State, Secretariat for Programming Drug Abuse Prevention and the Fight against Drug Trafficking (SEDRONAR), Republic of Argentina, Chair of CICAD*

The Secretary of State of Argentina, Dr. Rafael Antonio Bielsa, gave his opening remarks at the fifty-first regular session of CICAD (CICAD/doc.1957/12). Dr. Bielsa expressed his desire for a fruitful meeting for the day-to-day work to be undertaken by member states to combat the global drug problem in its many phases. Dr. Bielsa also reflected on the recently held fiftieth regular session of CICAD where Argentina assumed the presidency by Chair of the commission with an eye on the future which is now and imposes the need to make this a central moment to take on the global drug problem. It is a time when the region seeks for a critical reflection with respect to the success and failures of the strategies and actions that have been developed.

#### *b. Dr. José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General, Organization of American States (OAS)*

The Secretary General of the OAS, Dr. José Miguel Insulza, welcomed the delegates, permanent observers and representatives of the international organizations, civil society and other guests. The Secretary General emphasized that only by working together on a common strategy can this problem be confronted with efficacy. Furthermore, the Secretary General recalled how last month the Presidents and Heads of Governments of member states at the Sixth Summit of the Americas, looked to the OAS to entrust with the task of producing a report that analyzes the results of current drug policies and explore new effective approaches. He further stated that the mandate stemming from the Summit does not ask for decisions or proposals, rather to present a wide range of options that must be fundamentally evidence-based.

## **2. Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Organization of American States (OAS/CICAD)**

The cooperation agreement between the PAHO and CICAD was signed to establish a joint program on information and action in the area of demand reduction. Dr. Mirta Roses Periago signed on behalf of PAHO while Dr. Jose Miguel Insulza signed on behalf of the OAS. The signing was officially witnessed by Dr. Rafael Bielsa, Chair of CICAD.

### ***Remarks by Dr. Mirta Roses Periago, Director, Pan-American Health Organization.***

Dr. Roses emphasized that the two organizations came together to cooperate with member states in the field of demand reduction by providing technical assistance based on common aspects of the strategies of both institutions, such as human rights, public health and scientific evidence (CICAD/doc.1955/12). She also highlighted that there is no single solution to the drug problem and that both organizations have recognized that to make real progress in this regard, a complementary balance is needed between supply and demand reduction policies according to the needs and national realities, to protect and promote public health.

## **3. Remarks by Dr. Gil Kerlikowske, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), United States**

Dr. Kerlikowske outlined key aspects of the 2012 National Drug Control Strategy of the United States (U.S.) which recognizes that drugs are a public health issue and not just a criminal justice one and represents a historic shift towards an evidence-based approach to dealing with drug use (CICAD/doc.1956/12).

Dr. Kerlikowske then highlighted that the drug use in the U.S. has declined by one third since its peak in the 1970s while use of methamphetamines is down by 50 percent and cocaine use has declined by 40 percent in the past five years. Nonetheless, the use of this substance increased in Europe, and the consumption presents challenges to all countries in the hemisphere as well as that of organized crime.

Dr. Kerlikowske stated that he was pleased with the discussion on drug policy during the last Summit of the Americas and suggested that we must rely on science and not dogma. Dr. Kerlikowske then provided some concrete examples of evidence-based approaches to drug policy in the U.S. as well as examples of approaches to disrupting transnational criminal organizations. In this regard, legalization of drugs would not prevent criminal organizations from continuing their diverse criminal activities such as human trafficking, kidnapping and extortion. Likewise, the potential tax revenue from legalization would not offset the costs to society of the resulting increase in drug use.

In closing, Dr. Kerlikowske reiterated the U.S. commitment to collaborating with its hemispheric partners to protect the health and safety of its citizens.

## **4. Adoption of the draft agenda and draft schedule of activities**

The Commission approved the draft agenda (CICAD/doc.1934/12) and the draft schedule of activities (CICAD/doc.1935/12) without modification.

## **5. CICAD 2011 draft Annual Report to the General Assembly (CICAD/doc.1937/12) and draft Resolution (CICAD/doc.1937/12)**

At the request of the delegation of Venezuela, the Chair convened a working group to review the draft Annual Report of the Commission to the General Assembly (CICAD/doc.1937/12 rev.1) and the draft paragraphs corresponding to the resolution on Advancing Hemispheric Security (CICAD/doc.1939/12).

## **6. Report on CICAD activities and the drug situation in the hemisphere**

Ambassador Paul Simons, CICAD Executive Secretary, gave a presentation on key CICAD activities where he referred to activities undertaken since the last regular session and the challenges which lie ahead (CICAD/Doc.1940/12). Along the same lines, he outlined efforts to foster openness and transparency through greater communication with countries, to reach out to civil society, and to work closely with international and regional organizations. He also provided an update on the Professional Exchange Program. Lastly, Ambassador Simons highlighted the goal the importance of the Sixth Round revisions to the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) and the goal of having more productive CICAD Regular Sessions.

Dr. Francisco Cumsille, Coordinator of the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID) provided an analysis of the drug situation in the Hemisphere including the main results and challenges ahead based on the recent publication entitled 'Report on Drug Use in the Americas 2011.' In the future, Dr. Cumsille emphasized importance of maintaining regular data updates for trend analysis and providing information on the emergence of new substances.

The delegation of Brazil and Chile thanked the Executive Secretariat for the information presented and agreed to the necessity of generating quality and trustworthy data to strengthen decision-making. They indicated the need to increase efforts to improve data systems and suggested that the effects of smokable cocaine in the southern cone are not well reflected. Furthermore, they stated the importance of analyzing the ability of member states to respond to new trends in drug consumption and emphasized the need for more resources to confront these challenges. Particularly, the delegation of Chile emphasized the role of the OID in providing assistance to member states and suggested that drug-related data must be collected in order to assist in the measurement of successes and failures. Additionally, the delegation of Brazil stated the need for countries to have strong data systems and regretted that in 2012, references were still being made to data from 2009.

The delegation of Uruguay voiced concern over smokable cocaine in the country and pointed out the differences in consumption within countries. The delegation of Uruguay also stated the need for data systems and data comparability, as well as a focus on basic scientific research such as the effects of drugs on the neurology of the brain. Lastly, the delegation emphasized the importance of advancing in ethnographic studies to compliment epidemiological studies.

The delegation of the U.S. welcomed the CICAD Secretariat's intention to stay abreast of the latest drug trends and highlighted the importance of new CICAD initiatives such as the focus on smokable cocaine in the southern cone and heroin.

The delegation of Colombia thanked the OID for its support of their recent school survey and agreed on the need to strengthen action on demand reduction. In order to find solutions to the global drug problem,

the delegation suggested bearing in mind the dynamics of the demand and supply of drugs in the countries, and the increase in cocaine use, and stated the need to evaluate the impact of a drug legalization strategy. The delegation concluded by stating that legalization alone will not solve the drug problem.

The delegation of Haiti thanked the Executive Secretariat for the report on drug use in the hemisphere, highlighted data from his country which registered the highest level of non-medical use of pharmaceutical products, and indicated the need for the Ministry of Health to deal with this issue. The delegation stated the importance of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between PAHO and the OAS/CICAD, and suggested that there needs to be a greater distinction between licit and illicit drugs especially among school children. Additionally, Haiti has created detoxification and treatment centers with its Ministry of Health, and the delegation suggested the need for more in depth research into the use of drugs by young people and women as well as an examination of the relationship between domestic violence and marijuana consumption, noting that today's marijuana is very different from the substance consumed in the past.

The delegation of Mexico supported the MOU between the OAS and PAHO and thanked the Executive Secretariat for its work in Mexico, particularly in obtaining timely and reliable on-line data resulting in more opportune decision making. The delegation also stated that alcohol is the main problem, particularly among youth, and is found to be linked to accidents, violence and the use of other more harmful substances.

The delegation of Paraguay thanked the presenters and stated the importance of strengthening national observatories and improving its relations with the OID in order to formulate public policy on drugs especially related to consumption. The delegation also considered the disruption of microtrafficking and its influence on drug abuse, particularly in school children, a key issue.

The Chair summarized the session by highlighting the following issues: a) value of the local perspectives (municipalities, parishes, among others; b) the impact of smokable cocaine in the southern cone; c) microtrafficking and central local points; d) the need to strengthen the national observatories for drugs; e) changes in the toxicity of cannabis; f) focus on demand reduction as a priority; and g) the need to clarify the differences between "legalization" and "decriminalization."

## **7. Security and drugs in the Caribbean**

Professor Ivelaw Griffith, Political Science Department, City University of New York, and Edward Croft, Director, Office of National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy (ONDCP), Antigua and Barbuda, addressed the impact of drug trafficking on security in the Caribbean (CICAD/doc.1941/12/ CICAD/doc.1942/12). Among other points, the presenters indicated the importance of the Caribbean countries' support for the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Regional Security System, in order to sustain the initiative, the full utilization of international financing for regional programs, the relationship between transnational crime and illicit drug trafficking, and the limitations of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) in the process of updating laws on money laundering. They requested the assistance of the CICAD Executive Secretary on this issue.

The U.S. delegation reported that it is working with CARICOM and the Regional Security System. The U.S. reiterated its commitment to the Caribbean and reported that this year, it has contributed \$139 million, and is considering allocating an additional \$69 million in the coming year.

The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago emphasized that the Caribbean should not be considered exclusively a transit region, and urged countries to improve money laundering and arms trafficking controls, in addition to their drug control efforts.

The delegation of Canada reaffirmed its commitment to the region, referring to bilateral cooperation efforts carried out with several countries in the area and stating that despite overall budgetary pressures, the country will not decrease activities in the Caribbean and Central America.

The delegation of Barbados indicated that the varied situations in the Caribbean present a great challenge in this area. The delegate addressed the high THC content of marijuana consumed in the country and reported that slash-and-burn policies for cannabis in neighboring countries have not solved the problem. In addition, the delegation indicated that property crime is a greater problem for the country than violence. Finally, the delegate thanked the Executive Secretariat for the assistance provided through the Drug Treatment Courts project.

## **8. Security and Drugs in Central America**

Monsignor Fabio Colindres, Bishop of El Salvador, Mr. Kevin Casas-Zamora, OAS Secretary of Political Affairs, and Mr. Adam Blackwell, OAS Secretary for Multidimensional Security, addressed the implications of drug trafficking for Central American security.

The Haitian delegation requested support for the establishment of a treatment center, as well as for the improvement of the country's judicial capacities.

The delegation of Colombia addressed the violence that has plagued the country and reflected on the need for innovation in this area, for example, through new models for transnational justice, reparation, legal access and conflict resolution. The delegate also stressed the need to continue efforts to identify varied approaches to resolving this issue.

The delegation of Uruguay expressed its belief that the violence problem is not rooted in security, but in development. The delegate urged additional discussions on health issues, coexistence and development.

The delegation of Mexico reaffirmed that borders allow criminals to evade justice and indicated that Central America suffers the consequences of this situation. Mexico highlighted the importance of the Central American Integration System (SICA) Security Strategy, as well as the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security's MAS program, with which his country is collaborating, reporting that Mexico's overall contribution to Central American security programs exceeds US\$37 million.

The delegation of El Salvador focused on improving inter-agency coordination and integration through regional plans and strategies. The delegate stated that El Salvador had improved its legal and judicial system through revising its drug law, as well as the system for disposing of seized assets, and through the development of a specific law for monitoring and control of chemical precursors.

The delegation of Costa Rica noted that the crime problem in Central America has reached a turning point, and that the deterioration of the situation demonstrates that national resources are insufficient, and the need for international assistance.

The delegation of Panama addressed the challenges of confronting the drug problem, which include

shortcomings in international judicial assistance, the absence of joint investigations and evidence-sharing, and lack of witness protection, among others.

The delegation of Guatemala expressed its satisfaction with the incorporation of a spiritual component in this debate, which must be included in the treatment process.

## **9. The gender perspective in policies, measures and interventions to confront the global drug problem**

Mrs. Carmen Masias, Executive President, DEVIDA; Ambassador Carmen Moreno Toscano, Executive Secretary of Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM); and Dr. Hendrée Jones, adjunct professor, Johns Hopkins University, delivered presentations on gender perspectives in policies, measures and interventions to confront the global drug problem (CICAD/doc.1962/12).

The U.S. delegation reported on the difficulties that women face in accessing treatment programs and presented recommendations to address this issue.

The delegation of Brazil indicated that creating the Ministry of Women helped improve the situation, but recognized the need to improve the design of and women's access to social services, health care services, and, in particular, treatment services.

The delegation of Argentina expressed its commitment to providing women with equal access to health care and treatment services.

The delegation of Haiti spoke about domestic violence and the impact of addiction on this issue.

The delegation of Nicaragua addressed the efforts and progress that Nicaragua has made in this area, particularly in increasing women's participation in public service, and expressed its concern that the rate of drug use among school-age children is the same for both genders.

The Colombian delegation spoke on the important role of women in conflict areas as heads of families, and indicated the need for a gender perspective in all health plans. The delegation added that this year, Colombia approved the obligatory inclusion of treatment in health care provider plans. With regard to school-age consumption, the delegate expressed concern that the gender gap has closed, for both drugs and alcohol.

## **10. Preventing the spread of heroin consumption in the Americas**

Mr. Carlos Tena Tamayo, National Commissioner, National Commission against Addictions (CONADIC), Mexico, and Mr. Aldemar Parra Espitia, National Coordinator on Demand Reduction, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Colombia, gave presentations on the use and spread of heroin in Mexico (CICAD/doc.1947/12) and Colombia (CICAD/doc.1949/12).

The delegation of the Dominican Republic spoke about the "Heroin – Dominican Republic" project, which will determine heroin use in the country, through a study on patients in treatment centers, and propose treatment solutions.

## **11. Future operations of CICAD and review of the role and functions of expert groups as advisory bodies of the Commission**

The delegation of Colombia presented a proposal to the plenary to review the functioning of the Commission and its expert groups (CICAD/doc.1961/12).

The delegation of Mexico supported Colombia's proposal, within the framework of a general review of OAS components, in order to re-examine the commission's practices in various aspects. In turn, the delegation proposed the creation of a working group to be coordinated by Colombia, perhaps through an online forum, to present its conclusions at the fifty-second regular session of CICAD. Mexico's proposal was seconded by Bolivia.

The delegation of Brazil supported Mexico's proposal, suggesting that Colombia's document be used as a basis for discussion, and recommended a prudent approach in this task. The delegations of Canada, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Haiti, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela all supported Mexico's proposal. The delegate of Costa Rica agreed with the idea of a virtual forum and urged the Commissioners to commit to actively participating in the online discussions.

The delegation of Canada welcomed the Colombian proposal and indicated they would participate in the working group, but wanted to address additional aspects beyond the functioning of the expert groups, particularly topics related to improving the effectiveness of the Commission's work. The delegation requested that the Commission observe the CICAD statute with respect to the contents of the two plenary sessions: one should be a general meeting and the other focused on the expert groups.

The Executive Secretariat thanked Colombia for its proposal and offered to assist the member states during this discussion as needed.

The Chair presented a list of the agreements reached to that point, as follows:

- The creation of a working group to study the Commission's functioning and the role of expert groups, coordinated by Colombia.
- The use of Colombia's document as the starting point for discussion.
- The use of an online platform to initiate discussions, and ultimately one in-person meeting.

The U.S. delegation proposed that the CICAD Executive Secretary form part of the working group, which was supported by the delegations of Mexico, Panama, Canada, Colombia and Costa Rica.

During the discussion, several mentions of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) raised some procedural issues. An exchange of opinions among the delegates of the United States, Mexico, Venezuela, Paraguay, Brazil, Panama, Canada, Colombia and Costa Rica clarified that UNASUR should be considered as one of the regional sub-groups for the purpose of proposing thematic discussions. In any case, the working group was at liberty to address specifics in more detail during its review.

## **12. Presentation of the Report on the CICAD Executive Secretariat 2012 Work Plan, Ambassador Paul Simons (Hemispheric Drug Strategy Plan of Action)**

Ambassador Paul Simons presented the CICAD Executive Secretariat's 2012 Work Plan to the plenary (CICAD/doc.1943/12 corr.1). Ambassador Simons explained that this presentation is required under



Objective 7 C of the Hemispheric Plan of Action 2011-2015, according to which the Executive Secretariat is tasked with presenting its work plan on an annual basis at the spring meeting of the CICAD commission. The Work Plan was presented to the Commissioners for their approval in accordance with the objectives and actions of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy and Plan of Action.

The delegation of Mexico thanked Ambassador Simons for the effort that was put into the preparation of the 2012 work plan. The delegation indicated its satisfaction with the programmatic framework used and affirmed that the Plan would be useful for the Secretariat as well as the members of the Commission. The delegation also expressed its satisfaction with the Secretariat's efforts to collaborate with other agencies and international organizations, and indicated that Mexico intends to maintain or increase its contribution to CICAD over the coming years. The issue of strategic partnerships was reiterated by the delegation, which indicated that more could be done in this area. With respect to the particular aspects of the plan, the delegation indicated that most of the relevant areas were covered, but that institutional strengthening could be expanded. The delegation expressed its satisfaction with the work plan's emphasis on demand reduction, and thanked Ambassador Simons, indicating its willingness to approve the work plan.

Similarly, the delegation of Canada welcomed the work plan and thanked the Executive Secretariat. The delegation expressed its concern regarding the need to reduce the Executive Secretariat's administrative responsibilities to the Commission, citing as an example the amount of time necessary to organize the two CICAD regular sessions. The delegation suggested that one way to resolve this would be to reduce the number of sessions to one per year. Another concern was the fact that only eight countries currently contribute financially to CICAD, and the delegate suggested that the Executive Secretary should promote the expansion of this list during his travels to the capitals of member states. With regard to the program items on minimum standards of care for prevention, the delegation informed the plenary that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has already completed extensive work in this area and that there should not be a duplication of efforts in this regard. The delegation then requested additional information and clarity regarding the outcomes of the Legislation on Drugs in the Americas (LEDA) project, the incorporation of gender into CICAD's programs, and the potential impact of the additional work that will be done in order to fulfill the mandate issued at the recent Summit.

The Executive Secretary responded to each of the questions posed by Canada in turn, explaining the outcomes of the LEDA project, demonstrating how the OAS works with other agencies and explaining his intent not to divert resources from day-to-day activities in order to fulfill the Summit mandate. In light of the clarifications given, the delegation of Canada expressed its satisfaction with approving the Work Plan.

The delegation of Brazil indicated that it appreciated the care taken to ensure that the work plan reflected the Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its Plan of Action. The delegation indicated that it was pleased to approve the plan, but added three comments. First, that the delegation was pleased to see the efforts made by the Secretariat to collaborate with other agencies; second, that it supported the Mexican delegation's suggestion that the Secretariat increase collaboration with other OAS agencies, such as Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM); and third, that it noted the absence of attention to the issue of best practices. With this in mind, the Brazilian delegation reiterated its satisfaction with the Plan's approval.

With no further questions or objections raised, the Chair declared the plan approved.

### **13. Smokable cocaine in South America**

Dr. Sergio Torres, Federal Judge, Argentina, highlighted the importance of the socio-economic context in Argentina's smokable cocaine problem, as well as the importance of the government's commitment to integrated and inter-ministerial cooperation with all of the entities involved. (CICAD/doc.1950/12)

Dr. Antonio Pascale, Toxicologist from Uruguay and member of CICAD's Network of Latin American Researchers (REDLA), summarized the toxicological aspects of cocaine base paste, and explained the complexity of its chemical composition and its consequences in determining its addiction potential, toxicity and effects on consumers' health. (CICAD/doc.1951/12).

Dr. Paulina Duarte, National Drug Policy Secretariat (SENAD), Ministry of Justice of Brazil, gave a presentation on the national plan to address crack and other drugs, which takes a comprehensive approach to the problem, based on three areas of action: prevention, treatment, and law enforcement.

Mr. César Luiz Busto de Souza, of the Brazilian Federal Police, gave a presentation on the Federal Police's action plan, which includes working along the borders, investments in technology, cooperation at the national and international levels, inter-institutional collaboration, and the control of chemical products. (CICAD/doc.1958/12).

Thereafter, the delegations of Argentina, Antigua and Barbuda, Canada and the U.S. stressed the importance of the presentations, agreeing on the impact of the drug on the most vulnerable populations, as well as on the importance of including scientific evidence when addressing the topic.

The delegations from Canada and the U.S. addressed Bolivia's efforts to bring the issue of the traditional practice of coca leaf chewing to the OAS General Assembly, and suggested that the Commissioners address this topic. The delegation of Bolivia clarified its country's intention to continue to fight narco-trafficking and only cultivate the coca necessary to meet the demand for traditional consumption.

#### **14. Evidence-based national policies: significance and implications**

Mr. John Carnevale, President and CEO, Carnevale Associates; Dr. Karen Segura, CICAD Consultant; and Mr. Alexis Goosdeel, Head of the Reitox and International Cooperation Unit, European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) gave presentations on the significance and implications of evidence-based national policies (CICAD/doc.1944/12/ CICAD/doc.1945/12).

The panel discussed the importance and relevance of evidence-based drug policy with regard to its formulation, monitoring and evaluation, and how this policymaking method is more efficient than methods that do not utilize such evidence.

The delegations of Chile, Argentina, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Peru expressed their appreciation to the presenters for addressing the issue of evidence and indicated the importance of National Drug Observatories in providing information for the design, monitoring and evaluation of drug policies.

#### **15. Civil society contributions in the implementation of the CICAD Hemispheric Drug Strategy and Plan of Action**

Fabian Chiosso, President of the Argentina Federation of Non-governmental Organizations for the Prevention and Care of Drug Abuse (FONGA) and Representative of the Ibero-American Network of

NGOs working in Drug Addiction (RIOD) (CICAD/doc.1960/12); Michel Perron, Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA); Alejandro Vassilaqui, Executive Director of the Information and Education Center for the Prevention of Drug Abuse (CEDRO), Peru; and Graciela Touze, Executive Director of Intercambios Civil Association, Argentina (CICAD/doc.1959/12), addressed the role of NGOs as a factor in the improvement of social structure processes and strengthening, through the development of activities that benefit members of those communities that the state may have difficulty reaching for various reasons.

The panelists agreed that while civil society is able to implement beneficial activities, it should not assume the role of the state, in terms of the policy regulations and norms under which these activities should be carried out, and a means of collaboration should be sought. It is necessary to identify ways in which civil society can contribute in the implementation of national drug policies.

The U.S. delegation indicated that non-governmental organizations made important contributions to the design of its national drug control strategy, and thanked the panelists for their participation, and the chair and the Executive Secretariat for having included civil society on the agenda.

#### **16. Cooperation Programme between Latin America and the European Union on Drugs Policies (COPOLAD)**

Mr. Julio Calzada, Secretary General of Uruguay's National Drug Board, addressed the primary advances made in this Program, and detailed the activities carried out to-date in Consolidation of the European Union–Latin America and Caribbean Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs, Consolidation of National Drug Observatories, Demand Reduction Capacity Building and Supply Reduction Capacity Building (CICAD/doc.1952/12).

The Representative of Spain to the OAS, Ambassador Jorge Hevia Sierra, expressed his satisfaction with the efforts CICAD has made to address the global drug problem. He highlighted the important work of national observatories and the success of the SAVIA program. Lastly, he was pleased with the advances made by COPOLAD and its work with CICAD.

#### **17. Interventions by OAS Permanent Observers, and by International, Regional and Civil Society Organizations accredited to the OAS**

Representatives of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Andean Community (CAN), the Russian Federation, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) addressed the session.

The PAHO representative, Mr. Luis Alfonzo, detailed the drug-related activities the organization carries out in cooperation with member states and with CICAD. He proposed a greater presence of PAHO in CICAD meetings, suggesting that the next meeting should include a working session to consider the topic of treatment from a human rights perspective.

The CAN representative, Mr. Adolfo Lopez, spoke of the progress made by his organization, through cooperation with the European Union (EU) and the PRADICAN project, and reported that CAN and PAHO signed an agreement to implement the “Strong Families” project in member states. Similarly, he

reported that the “II Study on drug use among universities students in CAN countries” will be carried out, in coordination with OID.

The representative of the Russian Federation, Dimitry Kurakov, reiterated the continuing interest in cooperating with the CICAD and addressed the bilateral cooperation being carried out with states in the region, putting forth as an example the upcoming opening of a counter-narcotics training center in Nicaragua.

The representative of the UNODC, Antonio Luigi Mazzitelli, reiterated the importance of taking into consideration the legal framework established by the international conventions on drugs in reviewing current drug policies. In addition, he indicated that the UNODC is prepared to collaborate with the OAS in the study on drug policy to be carried out in fulfillment of the mandate issued at the Sixth Summit of the Americas.

The WOLA representative, Coletta Youngers, indicated several areas in which her organization can provide input for the new debate on drug policy reform: decriminalization of drug use, the reform of legal frameworks, emphasizing violence reduction, alternative development and sustainable cultivation reduction, alternatives to incarceration, and development of new drug policies.

## **18. Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)**

### ***a. Report on the Second Session of the Implementation of Recommendations of the Governmental Expert Group (GEG) of the Fifth Evaluation Round of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM).***

Mr. Dave Alexander, General Deputy Coordinator of the GEG, presented the Report of the Second Drafting Session on Implementation of Recommendations of the Fifth Round of the Group of Governmental Experts (GEG) of the MEM, in Washington, DC April 16 - 21, 2012 (CICAD/doc.1948/12).

The delegations of Trinidad and Tobago and Mexico referred to the functioning of the Mechanism. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago requested that there be an adequate selection of experts and that the same should participate throughout the process. Meanwhile the Mexican delegation emphasized the importance of the participation of all experts in order to guarantee the multilateral nature of this exercise.

With relation to the approval of the country reports of the MEM regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the Fifth Round of Evaluation, 2007-2009, the following delegations approved their country reports: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina (with addendum), Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, U.S., El Salvador (with footnote), Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico (with addendum), Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The delegations of the Bahamas, Belize, Dominica, Ecuador, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines were not present, and the reports were considered approved.

### ***b. Report of the General Coordinator of the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) for the MEM Sixth Evaluation Round***

Mr. Mauricio Boraschi, Vice Minister, National Commission, Office of the President of Costa Rica and General Coordinator of the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) briefed the plenary on the main elements discussed in the virtual forum of the pre-IWG (CICAD/doc.1963/12).

The Mexican delegation recognized the work carried out by the IWG, and emphasized that the MEM should be a dynamic tool that contributes to the implementation of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its Plan of Action. In addition, the delegation indicated that the proposals presented by the IWG Coordinator should be analyzed in more detail during the IWG meetings, so that the Group can present a concrete proposal during the 52nd regular session of CICAD. Furthermore, the delegation expressed its satisfaction with the IWG's proposal to incorporate new elements, some of which would be adapted from other mechanisms in which they proved successful. However, the delegate indicated that radical changes to the existing process should not be made during the Sixth Evaluation Round; in contrast, it should serve as a transitional Round in the progression toward a more dynamic mechanism. Finally, the delegation affirmed that it would study the proposals presented in preparation for the upcoming IWG meetings, and stressed the importance of forming a multidisciplinary group, in order to develop a concrete proposal for CICAD 52.

The delegation of Canada expressed that the review should be adapted to the MEM Hemispheric Drug Strategy. Canada will not support a long questionnaire, with many complicated indicators as this places a heavy work load on national focal points. Canada called for the use of the current questionnaire as a base. Canada supports thematic reviews in the process of evaluation and development of manuals relating to the assessment. Canada said it would incorporate various national government agencies into this revision of the MEM.

The delegation of Venezuela agreed with Mexico and Colombia to take note of the proposals presented by the Coordinator, and suggested that the Commission not comment directly on them since they would be discussed at the IWG meeting next month in Costa Rica.

The delegation of the U.S. presented several goals for discussions in preparation for the 6th Round, the delegation: that the questionnaire should be short, simple and user friendly, but still addressing all the issues of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its Plan of Action; that it should not include questions which would limit the information to be provided by countries that it include a more positive rating system to reflect the positive spirit of the MEM. The U.S. delegation also stressed the need to train the evaluators and ensure that the recommendations are relevant; and recommended that the countries provide a sufficient number of evaluators to cover all topics of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy.

The Chilean delegation indicated that the MEM should update and improve its current evaluation indicators, criteria and standards, and further, that these indicators should be scientifically-based and developed by experts in each area. The delegation also added that the number of indicators should be reduced, and that the indicators should be both practical and objective, establishing a balance among the various thematic areas that would be addressed in a drug policy. The delegation further expressed the need to involve experts in each of the topics addressed, as well as methodological experts with knowledge of developing such indicators. The delegate suggested that the IWG's work might be supported by the CICAD Expert Groups, as well as the Observatory.

The Delegation of Argentina stated that supply and demand indicators have been developed in the framework of the COPOLAD program and that the IWG could consider these indicators.

The CICAD Executive Secretary highlighted the commitment of the Executive Secretariat to assist the member states in this review process of the MEM for the Sixth Round. The IWG Coordinator invited the member states to participate in the next Pre-IWG meeting to be held in Costa Rica from June 12 to June 15, 2012.

**19. Consideration and approval of draft CICAD 2011 Annual Report and corresponding draft Resolution for the forty-second session of the OAS General Assembly in June 2012, in accordance with dispositions in Articles 54(f) and 91(f) of the OAS charter**

Ms. Patricia D’Costa, of the Canadian delegation, reported on the results of the Working Group on the CICAD 2011 Annual Report (CICAD/doc.1937/12rev.2), which approved the report in its entirety, with the exception of pending financial data to be provided by the Peruvian delegation. Ms. D’Costa also suggested that future reports should include a more detailed overview of the Commission’s activities.

Regarding the CICAD paragraphs for the Resolution on the Promotion of Hemispheric Security, a Multidimensional Focus, which is to be presented to the 42<sup>nd</sup> session of the General Assembly (CICAD/doc.1939/12), Ms. D’Costa informed the plenary that, this year, a single resolution on Hemispheric Security would include the decisions made with regard to the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM); the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID); the CICAD 2011 Annual Report to the General Assembly; the Executive Secretariat 2012 Work Plan; and the Professional Exchange Program.

The Commission approved the draft Annual Report and the draft Resolution

**20. Topics, dates and location of the fifty-second regular session of CICAD**

The Commission did not propose any topics, dates or locations for the next regular session and agreed to follow the usual administrative procedure for the presentation of proposals.

**21. Other business**

The Delegation of Peru announced that it would distribute a bulletin regarding the international conference on drug policies, which will take place June 25–26 in Lima, Peru; they expressed the hope that all member states would participate.

**22. Closure**

Ambassador Adam Blackwell, OAS Secretary for Multidimensional Security closed the 51st regular session of CICAD.

### III. DECISIONS

The Commission took the following decisions:

1. Approval of the CICAD 2011 Annual Report (CICAD/doc.1937/12 Rev.2) and its resolution (CICAD/doc.1939/12) for the forty-second session of the OAS General Assembly in June 2012.
2. Approval of the 33 national reports on the implementation of the recommendations from the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) Fifth Evaluation Round, 2007-2009.
3. To take note of the Inter-governmental Working Group (IWG) Coordinator's Report on the revision of the MEM process for the Sixth Round.
4. Approval of the CICAD Executive Secretariat 2012 Work Plan, presented by Ambassador Paul Simons (Hemispheric Drug Strategy Plan of Action).
5. Approval of the creation of a working group to study the contents of Colombia's proposal on the Future Operation of CICAD and to review the role and functions of the Expert Groups. In this regard, the following agreements were reached:
  - The creation of a working group to analyze the Colombian proposal, coordinated by that country.
  - The use of the Colombian document as the basis for discussion.
  - The use of a virtual platform to initiate discussions, followed by one in-person meeting.

#### **IV. WORKING LUNCHES**

Supplementary to the agenda, two working lunches were organized to encourage broad and open discussions among the Principal Representatives of the Commission, governed by Chatham House Rules. Dr. José Miguel Insulza, OAS Secretary General, attended the first lunch and addressed the follow-up to the mandate from the Sixth Summit of the Americas (Colombia, 14-15 April, 2012), which entrusts the OAS to prepare a report analyzing the results of the current drug policy and exploring new approaches to improve its effectiveness. Dr. Peter Reuter, Professor at the University of Maryland, participated in the second lunch and briefed representatives on current and developing trends in public drug policy, emphasizing the region, but also taking into account emerging policy innovations in other parts of the world.

#### **V. PARTICIPANTS**

##### **1. Member states of CICAD**

Representatives from Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Suriname, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela attended the fifty-first regular session of CICAD.

##### **2. Permanent Observers**

Spain, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom also attended the fifty-first regular session of CICAD as permanent observers to the Organization of American States.

### **3. Specialized Inter-American Organizations and International Agencies**

Also attending the meeting were representatives of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF), the Andean Community, the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB), the Cooperation Programme between Latin America and the European Union on Drugs Policies (COPOLAD), the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCCDA), the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Andean Parliament.

### **4. Civil Society**

Representatives from the *Intercambios* Civil Association (Argentina), the National Administration of Drugs, Food and Medical Technology (ANMAT, Mexico), *Centros de Integración Juvenil, A.C. (CIJ, Mexico)* and the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA, United States) also attended