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**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION**

CICAD

Organization of American States

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Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

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**A WORD OF WELCOME
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SECRETARY OF SEDRONAR**

A WORD OF WELCOME

A) FIRST OF ALL, AS THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD), I WOULD LIKE TO OFFER THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC'S GREETINGS TO THE DELEGATIONS OF THE MEMBER STATES PRESENT HERE TODAY.

JUST AS IT WAS AN HONOR AND A PERSONAL SATISFACTION TO CHAIR THE COMMISSION DURING THE SESSIONS THAT TOOK PLACE IN WASHINGTON D.C. FROM MAY 9 TO 11, 2012, DURING WHICH SO MANY ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED AND ENRICHED; SO IT IS TODAY TO SAY THESE WORDS, WITH THE HOPE THAT THIS MEETING SHOWS SIMILAR LEVELS OF COMMITMENT AND TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE.

B) AS A RESULT OF THIS YEAR OF WORK, I WOULD LIKE TO PUT EMPHASIS ON SOME PROGRESS INDICATORS OF THE COMMISSION THAT I CONSIDER RELEVANT.

THE FIRST ONE IS THE MODIFICATION OF THE "MODEL REGULATIONS FOR THE CONTROL OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES THAT ARE USED IN THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES".

IN 1990, THE INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD) APPROVED THE FIRST TEXT OF THE MODEL REGULATION; WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED IN 1999 AND IN 2011 FOR THE LAST TIME.

THIS MODIFICATION, THAT TOOK MORE THAN THREE YEARS, WAS THE RESULT OF A TASK FROM THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES AND PHARMACEUTICALS COMPOSED OF VARIOUS PROFESSIONALS (LAWYERS, CHEMISTS, PHARMACISTS, DOCTORS AND PSYCHOLOGISTS), WHOSE LAST WORKING SESSION WAS HELD IN THE CITY OF QUITO IN JULY, 2011.

BY THEN, THE CURRENT DRAFTING OF THE MODEL REGULATIONS SAW THE LIGHT AND IT WAS ADOPTED AT THE 50TH REGULAR SESSION OF THIS COMMISSION HELD IN NOVEMBER 2011 IN THE CITY OF BUENOS AIRES.

THE SECOND PRODUCT IS THE ELABORATION OF THE "PRELIMINARY GUIDE FOR THE TRACKING OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES" THAT BEGAN DURING THE MEETING OF THE PANEL OF EXPERTS ON CHEMICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS OF 2011, AND WHOSE OBJECTIVE WAS TO DEVELOP A GUIDE ON GOOD PRACTICES FOR THE TRACKING OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES WITHIN THE SAME BATCH, ENABLING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHAIN LINK THAT MIGHT BE A POINT OF DIVERT. I HOPE THAT THIS IMPORTANT WORK IS APPROVED DURING THIS 52ND REGULAR SESSION.

BOTH THE "REGULATION MODEL" AND THE "PRELIMINARY GUIDE" ARE KEY INSTRUMENTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INHERENT DAILY TASKS IN NATIONAL SYSTEMS OF CHEMICAL CONTROL. IT IS WORTH POINTING OUT THAT CHEMICAL PRECURSORS LEND THEIR MOLECULAR STRUCTURE TO DRUGS, AND THAT THE ESSENTIAL CHEMICAL ARE INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS OF MANUFACTURING OF SUCH DRUGS AS CATALYSTS OR SOLVENTS. THE "REGULATION" AND THE "GUIDE" OPTIMIZE THE CONTROL OF BOTH TYPES OF SUBSTANCES, WHOSE MONITORING DIRECTLY IMPACTS THE AVAILABILITY OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS AND PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION.

ON THE OTHER HAND, WE UNDERSTAND THAT AN ENVIRONMENT SUCH AS CICAD SHOULD ALSO SERVE AS A PLACE FOR THE EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION OF DIVERSE IDEAS, AS A PREFACE TO THE EVALUATION PROCESS OF ITS OUTCOMES BY THE MEMBER STATES. IT IS WORTH MENTIONING THE WORK DEVELOPED AT THE "BIDAL" PROJECT; WHICH POSTULATES THE DIFFERENT ALTERNATIVES FOR THE TREATMENT OF SEIZED AND CONFISCATED GOODS IN COURT CASES WHICH INVESTIGATE THE CRIMES OF ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES.

C) THE THIRD ITEM WHICH I WOULD YOU LIKE TO EMPHASIZE IS FROM THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON DEMAND REDUCTION IN WASHINGTON D.C. IN SEPTEMBER 2011. IN IT, MEMBER STATES AGREED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN FOUR AREAS, NAMELY:

- 1) PREVENTION OF THE ABUSE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS;
- 2) DRIVING VEHICLES UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS;
- 3) STRATEGIES OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT; AND
- 4) INFORMATION SYSTEMS AS ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS FOR THE PLANNING OF ACTIONS AND POLICIES IN DEMAND REDUCTION.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE TOPICS TO OBTAIN RELEVANT DOCUMENTS RELIED ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF 49 EXPERTS FROM 16 COUNTRIES, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE CIVIL SOCIETY, AS WELL AS PERSONNEL FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT OF THE CICAD.

THE FIRST TWO DOCUMENTS –PREVENTION OF ABUSE AND DRIVING OF VEHICLES– WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL DURING THIS PLENARY SESSION. THE REMAINING TWO – STRATEGIES AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS– WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE 53RD SESSION OF 2013.

THE TASKS CARRIED FORWARD IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC POLICIES OF SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND DRUGS ARE NOT LESS IMPORTANT. PARTICIPANTS OF VARIOUS MINISTRIES FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES MET ON TWO OCCASIONS DURING THIS YEAR AND ADVANCED ON THE SEARCH FOR CONSENSUS TO HOMOGENIZE GOOD PRACTICES RECORDS IN DIFFERENT JURISDICTIONS.

THE FOURTH RELEVANT EVALUATED ISSUE OF WHAT HAPPENED OVER THE YEAR IS THE PROPOSAL TO THE COMMISSION BY THE "INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP" OF THE "MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM" (MEM) CONSISTING OF A NEW INSTRUMENT OF EVALUATION FOR THE SIXTH ROUND. IN ESSENCE, SUCH TOOL IS INTENDED TO FORWARD EVALUATE BASED ON 27 RECOMMENDATIONS; WHICH WILL END UP IN A MORE HOMOGENEOUS RESULT AND GOAL IN MULTILATERAL EVALUATION, THIS IS, A GROUP OF COUNTRIES - EVALUATED COUNTRY.

IN THIS ORDER OF IDEAS, I BELIEVE THAT THE BELIEF ABOUT THE NEED FOR SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE HAS STRENGTHENED AS A STEP PRIOR TO THE ADOPTION OF PUBLIC POLICIES, AS WELL AS NEW DESIGNS FOR THE METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH OF NEW PROBLEMS. THIS HIGHLIGHTS THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF NATIONAL DRUG OBSERVATORIES.

D) THE COMMISSION IS ALL THIS BUT NOT JUST ALL THIS. THE UPS AND DOWNS RESULTING FROM THE ABUSE OF DRUGS HAVE BEEN PLACED IN FRONT OF THE MANDATE OF THE HEMISPHERIC CONTEXT THAT EMERGED AT THE VI SUMMIT OF PRESIDENTS IN CARTAGENA DE INDIAS, WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SUBMITTING SCENARIOS AND REPORTING ON THE DRUG PROBLEM IN THE AMERICAS. THE TWELVE LABORS THAT HERCULES FACED AT THE

PELOPONNESUS WERE EASIER, THAN THE REQUEST FROM THE LEADERS TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES.

HOWEVER, THE COMMITMENT OF THE ACTORS INVOLVED, THEIR TECHNICAL CAPACITY AND THE ARTICULATING AND ORGANIZING TASK OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ARE OPTIMAL RESOURCES THAT ALLOW THE SPONSOR OF AN OPTIMAL RESULT TO MEET THE CHALLENGE.

E) THAT BEING SAID, AND ONCE THE STATUTORY STEPS ARE MET, WHAT REMAINS FOR ME IS TO WISH THE BEST OF LUCK TO THE UPCOMING PRESIDENT OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC AND ASSURE HIM OR HER THE COLLABORATION OF THE MEMBER STATES WILL BE THERE AS A SUPPORT, JUST THE WAY MY COUNTRY ALSO RELIED ON IT. I WANT TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE THANKS.