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INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION

CICAD

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

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CONCLUSIONS OF THE CHAIR

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54TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

The Fifty-Fourth *Regular Session of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission*, in fulfillment of the Declaration of Antigua Guatemala “For a Comprehensive Policy against the World Drug Problem in the Americas,” focused its activities on addressing the health and human rights perspectives of public policies on drugs. The debates held during the event highlighted the following issues:

- The recognition of the need to strengthen the public health approach, through a human rights perspective centered on the individual.
- The importance of continuing to carry out national, subregional, regional, and hemispheric efforts focused on the systematic and progressive reduction of drug production and trafficking and related crimes.
- The relevance of flexibility and respect among states when it comes to novel alternatives for managing the drug problem, as well as the relevance of following up on and evaluating these new alternatives.

Public Health

- The importance for a public health approach to be grounded in a comprehensive, multidisciplinary, and cross-sectoral perspective, one that incorporates prevention, promotion, and treatment programs and ensures opportunities and social inclusion for communities and individuals.
- The need to undertake additional efforts to mobilize economic and human resources; strengthen technical capacities and quality control and monitoring of health-care services provided to drug users; and generate scientific evidence to support policies and policy follow-up and evaluation.

Human Rights

- Respect for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international obligations of the states is essential for the development and application of public drug policies, with human rights being the basis for the implementation of these public policies.
- Respect for drug users as people with human rights and fundamental freedoms when it comes to penalties involving deprivation of liberty; reduction of vulnerability factors; associated criminal activity; a gender perspective; self-regulation; and social control.
- The inclusion of a human rights approach at the first link in the chain of the world drug problem: the growers and the connections around them, in accordance with their national circumstances.
- This starts with a fundamental premise that has led to a hemisphere-wide consensus: a policy focused solely on law enforcement does not solve the drug problem.

Alternatives to Penalties Involving Deprivation of Liberty

- The recognition that the alternative-to-incarceration model for drug offenses may be a valid option because of its social and economic advantages, in accordance with the regulatory and budgetary circumstances of each member state.
- The view that CICAD is the coordinating organization that would enable the Drug Court model to be planned and implemented in states that are interested in this initiative.

Technical and Scientific Evidence

- The importance of research and early-warning systems designed to develop, monitor, and evaluate public drug policies, and the importance that valid methods be created to collect data, define common standards, and exchange relevant information, all of which would serve as input for monitoring and evaluating programs on drugs and related crimes.
- The need for more financial resources and capacity-building for the national drug observatories responsible for producing technical and scientific evidence on the subject.

Strategic Partnerships

- The relevance of strategic partnerships among member states, international organizations, and civil society for the purpose of joining efforts to strengthen the public health and human rights approach, which is why the collaborative effort being carried out by the OAS/CICAD and PAHO is welcomed.
- The importance of strengthening partnerships between the public sector, private sector, academia, civil society, and international organizations so as to share experience and knowledge regarding the design, monitoring, and evaluation of drug strategies.

Civil Society

- The value of civil society's participation in and contributions to the debates on public drug policies, it being of interest to continue the practice, begun at CICAD54, of providing an opportunity for dialogue between the member states and civil society in the framework of CICAD.
- The recognition of the contributions made by civil society organizations as a result of the parallel event that took place the day before CICAD54, contributions which have been put together in an attached document.

Studies on Drug Policies in the Hemisphere

- The interest in advancing dialogue among the member states of the Commission in connection with the "Report on the Drug Problem in the Americas," as well as the importance of disseminating the scenarios methodology at the national and local level, an effort that requires the support of the CICAD Executive Secretariat.
- The recognition that the report constitutes an important contribution that has enriched the debate underway on drug policies.
- The importance of developing impact studies on matters such as the prolonged use of marijuana and the results of regulation policies, among other issues.
- The relevance of asking the CICAD Executive Secretariat to create an Ad-Hoc Working Group to further and expand the analysis and definition of proposals related to drug use, understood as a matter involving public health and human rights.

The Chair recommends that these conclusions, the annex to them, and the reports presented during the *Fifty-Fourth Regular Session of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission* be taken to the special session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States contemplated for 2014, as a contribution to its work.

Finally, the Chair of CICAD respectfully requests that the Executive Secretariat create a working group, headed by the Chair, to analyze and generate proposed alternatives to punitive and correctional

interventions at every link in the chain of the world drug problem, alternatives that include a gender perspective and that incorporate producers and users. The resulting options will be discussed, along with other issues, at a meeting of Ministers of Justice, to be hosted by Colombia, and will later be presented to CICAD.

Bogotá, D.C., December 13, 2013