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INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION

CICAD

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

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**REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENTAL EXPERT GROUP (GEG)
OF THE MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)
TO THE FIFTY-FIFTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)
29 APRIL TO 1 MAY 2014**

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Distinguished Officials, Members of the Commission, and delegates to this fifty-fifth regular session of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, I greet you on behalf of the Governmental Experts Group (GEG), within the Sixth Evaluation Round of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), in the capacity as General Coordinator of the GEG.

At the fifty-fourth regular session of CICAD, the Commission approved the continuation of the GEG Plenary to complete the evaluation of the 34 draft national reports, which took place in February 24 – March 1, 2014, in Washington, D.C. The Experts from all the Thematic Working Groups did further drafting and edits to the national evaluation reports via online during December 2013 to February 2014. In addition, the Supply Reduction Thematic Working Group met in Washington, D.C. January 8 to 9, 2014, and reviewed the 34 national draft evaluations pertaining to the supply reduction recommendations (11-15). The Group addressed and discussed the issue of how to assess those countries that are not major producers of illicit drugs. Therefore a “not applied” was given to all those countries that do not have “significant illicit crop areas.”

Commissioners, on behalf of the GEG, I am pleased to report that the review of the draft reports of the thirty-four (34) countries was completed, at the Continuation of the First Plenary Session. Experts and Alternates from thirty-two (32) countries met and concluded review of the 34 draft national evaluation reports. Such task was accomplished with extensive work carried out during the six days of Plenary, including additional hours spent by various Experts to work out some thematic issues. El Salvador and Nicaragua were absent. The excellent work done by the five (5) thematic working groups prior to the Washington Plenary, laid the foundation for a successful meeting.

Following the conclusion of the Plenary Session, the MEM Section worked closely with all the Experts to ensure that all 34 draft national evaluation reports were ready to transmit in their respective original language to all member states. As such, all draft reports were sent on April 1st and confirmation was received from member states. Countries are expected to update and submit any required information to said reports by the June 1st deadline.

The national reports evaluate the level of countries’ implementation of a standard set of 27 recommendations, based on the Plan of Action (2011-2015) of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy of 2010. In total, there are nine hundred and eighteen (918) recommendations for thirty-four (34) countries (27 per country), which cover the areas of Institutional Strengthening; Demand Reduction; Supply Reduction; Control Measures, and International Cooperation.

As part of the MEM Work Plan for 2014, Thematic Working Group meetings are expected to take place at the end of July or beginning of August 2014. Thereafter, the Second GEG Drafting Session towards the end of September 2014 to review and finalize the reports. Said reports will be available for approval at the Fifty Sixth Regular Session of CICAD at the end of 2014.

On behalf of the GEG, I wish to thank CICAD, and in particular the MEM Section of the Secretariat, for its sterling support and immense contribution to the GEG. I also wish to thank the members of the GEG for their unequivocal support in this process.

Distinguished Commissioners, I wish to thank all member states for their continuous support for this valuable multilateral process. Thank you.

I now invite our colleague Mr. Adrian Noble, from the MEM Section to present the preliminary results of the status of compliance of the recommendations.

Dave Alexander
General Coordinator
Governmental Experts Group