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PERU PROPOSAL
BASIS FOR THE FORMATION OF AN EXPERT GROUP ON COMPREHENSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE
ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT

CICAD GROUP – Basis for the formation of an Expert Group on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development

Alternative development is considered one of the three pillars of the international policy approach to address the drug problem.¹

In this regard, the recent World Drug Report 2015, as well as Resolution 68/196 of the United Nations General Assembly – approved on December 18th, 2013 – indicate that the promotion of alternative development as a global policy to reduce the availability of the supply of drugs and to control the underlying causes of illicit trafficking in narcotics constitutes as global responsibility which transcends the so-called “producing countries.”²

As such, and taking into consideration the important changes to the illicit economies around the world related to narcotics, the aforementioned Resolution 68/196 approves the Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, and encourages Member States and the international community to keep them in mind when implementing programs and policies.³

The Declaration of Antigua, Guatemala, “For a comprehensive policy against the world drug problem in the Americas,” encourages Member states to consider, as part of their national policies, comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs and measures – including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development – aimed at eliminating the factors that cause poverty, social exclusion, and environmental degradation in order to avert the involvement of vulnerable populations in activities connected with illicit drug production and trafficking.

Similarly, the Sustainable Development Goals for 2015-2030, which the United Nations approved in September 2015, reference the drug problem in the 16th objective: “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.”

For these reasons, the Government of Peru proposes for the consideration of the Member States of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), the creation of an Expert Group on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development (DAIS), so as to constitute a high-level technical forum to address – according to the realities and needs of each country – the different experiences, principles, new trends, threats, and problems facing comprehensive and sustainable alternative development in the hemisphere, all with an approach based on human development.

¹ UNODC (2015). *World Drug Report 2015*. New York: UNODC.

² United Nations General Assembly. (2014) Resolution 68/196. New York: UN. /196

³ Resolution 68/196 of the United Nations General Assembly, in Article 1, “Welcomes the outcome of the high-level International Conference on Alternative Development, held in Lima from 14 to 16 November 2012, including the adoption of the Lima Declaration on Alternative Development and the International Guiding Principles on Alternative Development.” (Res. 68/196, 2014: 3/11).

This space for exchange does not currently exist within the CICAD framework. The creation of this group is relevant because it will allow for more in-depth analysis of common problems and initiatives linked to the different interested states. In this sense, it will also allow Member States to address and discuss public policy responses which could potentially be adapted to the heterogeneous social and political realities which characterize the hemisphere.

Creating an Expert Group on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development could also promote studies on alternative development and its applicability to Member States, keeping in mind their particular realities, the magnitude or relevance of illicit cultivation, the different discussions of the issue, as well as a variety of interpretations and conceptualizations among countries. The creation of an Expert Group on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development would also be useful in that it would allow for the establishment of solid criteria for evaluation during the next rounds of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM).

Following these considerations, a tentative list of potential topics which could be raised for the consideration of the Expert Group has been proposed:

- Establish solid standards and technical criteria for the next round of MEM evaluation of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development.
- Evaluate and recognize good practices in comprehensive and sustainable alternative development and analyze their applicability, keeping in mind the reality of each country.
- Propose minimum parameters which allow for the evaluation of programs proposed by the members in order for them to be considered interventions within the framework of the Expert Group.
- Evaluate the incorporation of new interventions in the framework of the Expert Group, which, based on evidence, countries have presented as effective alternatives which discourage the involvement of the population in the different criminal levels of the international drug trafficking chain.
- Evaluate success factors of the different interventions in the Expert Group and propose mechanisms for their proper dissemination within member countries, which would allow them to consider these interventions in the implementation of their respective strategies.
- Propose mechanisms for technical assistance and multilateral technology transfer for comprehensive and sustainable alternative development.
- Evaluate and propose alternatives which strengthen the social fabric as the basis of sustainability of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development.
- Propose interventions aimed at strengthening local and regional institutions as a mechanism of sustainability in member countries.
- Construct and propose standardized indicators for results and impact in comprehensive and sustainable alternative development at the hemispheric level for the Member States consideration.
- Evaluate new issues affecting the processes of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development, proposing actions which reduce their negative impacts.

Establish potential beneficiary populations of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development, taking national realities into consideration.
Propose guidelines for the strengthening of the gender perspective in comprehensive and sustainable alternative development interventions.

The budget required for the first operating year of this Expert Group will be assumed by the Government of Peru, which will cover the logistic and operating costs of the meeting. Each Member State will assume the cost of the travel and per diem of its representatives.

In conversations with the Executive Secretariat of CICAD, it was agreed that this new Expert Group, should it be approved by the Member States, will have as its counterpart in ES-CICAD the Institutional Strengthening and Policy Coordination Section, and through this, make use of necessary synergies with other CICAD sections, as well as other institutions which can support the efforts of the Expert Group in a transversal and comprehensive manner.