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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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FINAL REPORT

I. BACKGROUND

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

Pursuant to Articles 20 and 21 of the Statute, it was decided that the fifty-ninth regular session would be held in Washington, D.C. on April 25-26, 2016.

The present report gives a summary of the presentations made during the meetings, including document reference numbers, a list of decisions, and a summary of the most important points raised by the delegations during the deliberations.

II. MINUTES

1. Opening remarks

Speakers:

a. Dr. Luis Alberto Otárola, Executive President, DEVIDA, Peru, Chair of CICAD

The Chair of CICAD, Dr. Luis Alberto Otárola, opened the fifty-ninth regular session of CICAD, greeting all of the delegations present and outlining the work that would be done during the meeting. Dr. Otárola said that he felt that discussions during this session would strengthen CICAD's institutional prospects and help bring it up to date in line with the consensus agreements arrived at in UNGASS 2016.

b. Dr. Paulina Duarte, Acting Secretary for Multidimensional Security, OAS. (CICAD/doc.2246/16)

Dr. Duarte highlighted the importance of the discussions at UNGASS 2016, and spoke of the need to respond to the challenges presented by the world drug problem in a holistic way. In this regard, she reported that the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS) is developing a new strategic plan in order to improve coordination. Dr. Duarte stated that the CICAD Plan of Action 2016-2020 will cover the various challenges being faced, and described the different issues that the Plan of Action will address. She also expressed that Executive Order 16-01 has modernized CICAD, based on a balanced, multidisciplinary vision that takes into account the concerns and needs voiced by member states.

2. Adoption of the draft agenda and draft schedule of activities

The Commission adopted the draft agenda (CICAD/doc.2241/16) and the draft schedule of activities (CICAD/doc.2242/16.rev1) without amendment.

3. Draft annual report of CICAD 2015 and draft resolution for the forty-sixth regular session of the OAS General Assembly, June 2016

The Chair of CICAD reported that having received observations from the delegations on the draft annual report of CICAD 2015 (CICAD/doc.2244/16. rev. 2), he would present the final draft to the OAS General Assembly at its forty-sixth regular session. The Chair convened a working group to review the draft resolution for the forty-sixth regular session of the OAS General Assembly (CICAD/doc.2245/16 rev.2 corr.1).

Decision

The Commission approved the establishment of a working group to develop three consensus paragraphs on the world Drug Problem to be included in the Resolution on the Promotion of Hemispheric Security, for consideration of the Committee on Hemispheric Security, with the request of incorporating these paragraphs in the Draft Resolution on Security to the OAS General Assembly at its forty-sixth regular session, to be held from June 13-15, 2016, and agreed to the following paragraphs:

1. Recognizing that the world drug problem has implications on public health, the individual and the family, citizen security, justice and the welfare of individuals, which affects development and undermines the rule of law, democratic institutions and political stability. It must, therefore, be addressed in accordance with the principle of a common and shared responsibility, with a comprehensive, balanced and multidisciplinary approach, based on evidence and scientific knowledge and in full respect for human rights; and that the design and implementation of drug-related actions and policies should focus on the health and welfare of humankind, in accordance with the United Nations Charter, the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant international instruments, taking note of resolution AG/RES. 1 (XLVI-E/14) “Reflections and Guidelines to Formulate and Follow up on Comprehensive Policies to address the World Drug Problem in the Americas.”

2. Instruct the General Secretariat to strengthen the Executive Secretariat of CICAD so that it can continue to fulfill its mandates, including, among others, provide technical assistance to member states and facilitate the design and implementation of drug policies based on a comprehensive, balanced, sustainable and multidisciplinary approach; and

encourage member states, permanent observers and other international donors to continue making voluntary contributions for these purposes. [APPROVED]

3. Complete the preparation of the Hemispheric Drug Plan of Action 2016-2020, before the 60th regular session of CICAD, in accordance with the mandate of the Special General Assembly of Guatemala AG/RES. 1 (XLVI-E/14) “Reflections and Guidelines to Formulate and Follow up on Comprehensive Policies to address the World Drug Problem in the Americas,” and taking into account the United Nations outcome document “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem.”

4. Restructuring of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security – Executive Order 16-01

Presenter: Dr. Paulina Duarte, Acting Secretary for Multidimensional Security, OAS

In her presentation (CICAD/doc.2247/16), Dr. Duarte explained that the restructuring of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS) fulfills a mandate received by the General Secretariat at the OAS General Assembly that took place in Guatemala in 2013, through resolution AG/RES. 2809 (XLIII-O/13), which urged the Secretary General to consider the reorganization of SMS, in order to more effectively support member states. The presenter also commented on the different aspects of SMS that require improvement, and highlighted the importance of optimizing the coordination of activities and work processes carried out by the different areas. Dr. Duarte also emphasized the need to develop a strategic plan for SMS in order to adequately address new challenges in the area of security. Additionally, she presented an organizational chart with the new structure for SMS, describing the functions of each of its departments, as well as the sections within them. Finally, she informed that the implementation process of the new SMS structure is expected to be completed in four months.

Observations by delegations

Paraguay: Noted with concern the restructuring process, as it relocates CICAD sections. The delegate considered that interaction between the pillars of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy will be more effective if the sections of Anti-Money Laundering, Supply Reduction, and the OID are located in the same structure. In addition, Paraguay proposed that the organic and functional structure of CICAD be retained.

Colombia: Spoke of the changes observed in the area of drugs in the last thirty years, and referred to the challenges that the Hemisphere still faces in ensuring that the vision of human rights, public health and development are more deeply embedded. Additionally, the delegate explained that his country is not opposed to a restructuring of CICAD geared to better approach the challenges ahead. However, he voiced concern for the reengineering that SMS has undergone, and how it could diminish the progress made. The delegate expressed that

Colombia welcomes the creation of the Department against Transnational Organized Crime, but underscored that the restructuring process was conducted without consulting member states, and caused surprise. The delegate also considered that the Institutional Strengthening and Demand Reduction Sections should not be combined, and that the Supply Reduction Section would lose focus if it is transferred to the Department against Transnational Organized Crime, which would constitute a setback. Likewise, the delegate described the contributions made by the OID, and noted that the Plan of Action 2016-2020 is not aligned with the new structure. Furthermore, Colombia requested additional information on the scope of the expert groups which operate under the areas that have been relocated outside of CICAD. Finally, the delegate proposed the creation of an addendum to Executive Order 16-01, which reincorporates the Supply Reduction Section and the OID into CICAD; and in addition that all member states' opinions on this matter be collected to be formally transmitted to the OAS Secretary General.

Chile: Highlighted the developments made by the region, as well as the leadership of CICAD in the last decade, as a reflection of the regional consensus on the approach to the drug problem. The delegate noted that the Executive Order does not reflect this consensus, by limiting supply reduction issues exclusively to the field of security, and puts various supply reduction topics on hold that are not manifestations of transnational organized crime. The delegate also expressed the concern of his delegation regarding Institutional Strengthening becoming part of the Demand Reduction section, and the possible weakening of the OID by being subsumed into a broader project with a central focus on security rather than public health. The delegate highlighted the importance of strengthening, not weakening, CICAD as a result of this restructuring process. Chile also noted with concern a decline in the participation of CICAD at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (UNGASS) forum. Finally, the delegate requested member states to present their concerns regarding the restructuring to the Secretary General, to enable a dialogue for the design of CICAD's new structure.

Trinidad and Tobago: Expressed concerns about the proposed restructuring of the Executive Secretariat of CICAD and agreed with the comments made by the delegates of Colombia and Chile. The delegate also expressed reservations about the criteria used to measure the effectiveness of CICAD and its organizational structure. The delegate refuted the description of the data being produced by the OID as fragile and subject to doubtful interpretation and highlighted their capacity to collect reliable data and deliver sound documents that demonstrate comparable analyses. The delegate expressed strong disagreement with the proposed restructuring of CICAD and argued that it will only serve to diminish the role of its Executive Secretariat. The delegate placed on record that Trinidad and Tobago does not support the restructuring of the Executive Secretariat of CICAD and requested that it be halted until there is full discussion among member states and an agreement on the way forward.

Mexico: Considered it necessary that response mechanisms to address drugs be strengthened and, recognized positive aspects of the Executive Order, such as the creation of the

Department against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Drug Policy Section within CICAD. However, the delegate expressed support for the proposals presented by Colombia and Chile to reintegrate the Supply Reduction Section into CICAD, in order to maintain a comprehensive approach to the problem. Finally, the delegate expressed that this proposal should not be interpreted as a desire to return completely to CICAD's previous structure.

Venezuela: Congratulated the openness expressed by the Acting Secretary for Multidimensional Security to review the Executive Order, and recalled the decision made by the Permanent Council against changing the organizational and functional structure of CICAD. The delegate expressed that his delegation does not share the reading made by the Acting Secretary with regard to the sections that make up CICAD, according to EO-16-01. Furthermore, the delegate expressed that the structure presented in the EO is not entirely precise. Venezuela requested that, where applicable, the contents of Annex E of Executive Order 08-01 rev.7 regarding the functions of CICAD be revived, particularly in order to bring back the topic of supply reduction, the OID and institutional strengthening. Lastly, the delegate requested that concerns expressed by member states be submitted to the Secretary General so that he can make the necessary corrections to the Executive Order.

United States of America: Noted that, at UNGASS, the drug problem remains a high priority for member states, and summarized the specific topics that were discussed during that session which included the need to emphasize public health approaches to drugs, and support for innovative sentencing reform initiatives and proportionate sentencing, among others. The delegate highlighted that, based on the UNGASS discussions, CICAD should adopt a plan of action and structure that reflects those commitments. He applauded efforts to streamline and optimize OAS operations by seeking to establish a more harmonized SMS and welcomed the establishment of a new Department against Transnational Organized Crime. The delegate urged for the consensus based UNGASS outcome document to be taken into account, which calls for an integrated approach to tackling the drug problem, expressing that it is essential for public health, law enforcement and statistics collection and analysis entities to work hand in hand to formulate evidence-based international drug policy and thus report directly to the CICAD Executive Secretary. The delegate expressed that the US looks forward to the selection of a new CICAD Executive Secretary to direct CICAD's important work.

Peru: Highlighted the importance of improving the coordination of activities to address the drug problem, and expressed that the changes presented could reduce the capacity of an agency as important as CICAD. The delegate consulted whether the restructuring is in agreement with the CICAD statute, and considered that the reorganization of the Secretariat could upset the balance of topics covered. In this regard, the delegate stressed the importance of giving the same treatment to the topics of demand and supply reduction. Peru also considered that, with the elimination of the Institutional Strengthening Section, alternative development programs--which are not mentioned in the new Executive Order--would be set aside. The delegate considered that the Supply Reduction and Institutional Strengthening areas, as well as the OID, should be reincorporated into CICAD, and voiced agreement with

the Money Laundering Section becoming part of the new Department against Transnational Organized Crime. Finally, the delegate requested that the opinions of member states regarding the restructuring be compiled.

The Bahamas: Noted the significant work played by CICAD in assisting the Bahamas to address the multifaceted challenges of the drug problem. Requested clarification and information on the consequences derived from the new SMS structure with regard to programming, financial and human resources, as well as on how the topics in the Plan of Action will be managed, given that some will no longer be covered by CICAD. The delegate additionally enquired when the Executive Secretaries for CICAD and SMS will be appointed. The Bahamas also voiced the expectation that the restructuring of SMS would have been a consultative process and requested a written rationale for the restructuring of SMS, including programmatic, financial and human resources implications.

Canada: Supports OAS reform in the interest of making the Organization more efficient. The delegate stated Canada's support for CICAD and the belief that the present organization and structure has allowed it to meet its objectives, recognizing that one of its success factors is its cooperation with other OAS bodies, such as CICTE. Furthermore, the delegate stated that Canada believes, such as many delegations, that an integrated CICAD would be able to meet the concerns of member states and take a fully integrated approach to the issue of drugs in the Hemisphere. The delegation encouraged the appointment of an Executive Secretary for CICAD.

Nicaragua: Expressed agreement with the positions stated by previous delegations, and voiced concern in the sense that the restructuring of CICAD would fragment the activities that it has been conducting. The delegate also expressed concern regarding the development of the Plan of Action, taking into consideration that some topics have been moved outside of CICAD. The delegate also stated that financial constraints should not lead to the weakening of the institution. He considered that the restructuring could negatively impact CICAD, because its fragmentation would diminish its effectiveness, considering that some of the issues previously under CICAD would now be moved to other structures. In this regard, Nicaragua stressed the importance of giving supply and demand reduction the same treatment, and to keep the former within CICAD.

Barbados: Thanked CICAD/ES for assistance over the years in its response to the challenges faced by the world drug problem, highlighting the support received for the development of national drug databases and the development of evidence based interventions. The delegate expressed support for comments made by other delegations, acknowledging that it is the purview of the Secretary General to restructure the CICAD/ES, but voicing concern regarding the continuity of CICAD's support to Barbados. The delegate requested clarification as to the implications of the restructuring to future programming support to small island states.

Brazil: Highlighted the progress made in the approach to the drug problem, which was reflected in the UNGASS output document, as well as in its structure, which includes an area on human rights. The delegate considered that this document highlights the need for CICAD to reflect this evolution, without one thematic area predominating over the others. Likewise, the delegate considered CICAD has made great progress, and that it is important for it to maintain its leadership role. The delegate voiced support for proposals that respond to the need for optimizing resources. Furthermore, he expressed that resistance to change is natural, and highlighted the importance of moving forward to a situation that more adequately reflects the challenges ahead.

Bolivia: Considered that the restructuring should be carried out with a comprehensive approach. The delegate stressed the importance of dealing with the issues of supply and demand under a single Secretariat. Otherwise, coordination problems could arise.

Argentina: Applauded the search for mechanisms to improve the efficiency of CICAD, however, highlighted the importance of ensuring participation and input from member states in these processes. The delegate highlighted the need to maintain consensus as to the comprehensive nature of the approach, the balance between supply and demand, taking care of human rights, public health, gender issues, and backing up public policies with evidence. Finally, the delegate considered that Executive Order 16-01 raises questions, and in this regard requested further information.

Panama: Highlighted that observations made by delegations must be taken into account, and that the restructuring of CICAD should be consulted with member states. In this regard, the delegate requested the integration and centralization of all areas of drugs in CICAD, and to return to the previous organic structure.

Uruguay: Considered that the restructuring should be addressed as a challenge. The delegate stated the importance of reflecting on what the best structure for CICAD is, so that it can adapt to new challenges in addressing the drug problem in the hemisphere. The delegate highlighted points of consensus by delegations, such as the creation of the Department against Transnational Organized Crime. Uruguay stressed the importance of identifying positions shared by delegations, so that a document with a unified position can be presented to the Secretary General. Finally, the delegate requested further information on the Drug Policy and Supply Reduction sections.

Dominican Republic: Voiced support for the comments made with regard to maintaining the balance within CICAD, and to strengthen the Commission institutionally.

Jamaica: Expressed profound gratitude for the continuous support that the CICAD/ES has provided Jamaica, understanding the severe financial constraints that the Secretariat is operating under. The delegate highlighted that the world drug problem is a complex, multifaceted and complicated issue, requiring a concerted effort so as to effectively address the problem. Jamaica expressed agreement with the sentiments of other Commissioners,

looking forward to strengthening the CICAD/ES and urging the Secretary General to rethink the Executive Order.

Ecuador: Supported the restructuring of CICAD to make it more effective. However, the delegate expressed concern, as the current restructuring is more focused on optimizing resources than on technical aspects. In this sense, the delegate requested a more thorough and technical explanation on the reasoning behind the restructuring process.

Haiti: Shared observations made by delegations regarding the restructuring of the CICAD/ES, in which certain CICAD competencies had been diluted. The delegate highlighted that Haiti had benefitted greatly from CICAD, notably the Haitian Observatory on Drugs, as well as the demand reduction sector. The delegate expressed support for any reorganization that contributes to making CICAD stronger and more efficient.

Honduras: Expressed support for the proposal made by other delegations of reintegrating the Supply Reduction Section into CICAD. The delegate considered it important to analyze new challenges facing member states in addressing the drug problem prior to making changes to the CICAD structure.

Guyana: Expressed support for the comments made by other delegations, particularly those from Caribbean states. The delegate expressed satisfaction with the inclusion of defense issues into multidimensional security.

Chair of CICAD: The Chair proposed that a written communication be transmitted to the Secretary General covering the opinions and suggestions expressed by the States, as inputs for debate and stressing the need to strengthen CICAD institutionally. The draft will be prepared by the Chair, including comments by member states, and later transmitted to the Secretary General.

Venezuela: Proposed that the Working Group to revise the draft resolution for the General Assembly prepare a consensus paragraph on the Executive Order.

Colombia: Considered that the document should include the different positions of member states on the Executive Order, instead of being a consensus document.

Mexico: Supported the position of Venezuela.

Chile: Supported the position of Colombia.

Costa Rica: Supported the position of Colombia.

Venezuela: Clarified that his delegation is not opposed to a communication to the Secretary General prepared by the Chair, and that their proposal is to prepare a consensus paragraph

that clearly reflects the Commission's position on the Executive Order. This paragraph could be included in the letter to the Secretary General, or in the Final Report of CICAD 59.

Colombia: Clarified that there are two different products: one is the document prepared by the Chair summarizing the debate, and the other is the consensus paragraph. The delegate proposed the establishment of a working group to develop the consensus paragraph.

Decision

The Commission approved the establishment of a working group to prepare a consensus paragraph on Executive Order 16-01, as shown below. Likewise, the Commission agreed on sending a formal communication, prepared by the Chair, to the Secretary General on this matter.

“To recommend to the Secretary General that he amend Executive Order 16-01 corr. 1, in discussion with the member states and in light of their statements at the fifty-ninth regular session of CICAD.”

5. Analysis of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS) 2016 and its Outcome Document

Speaker: Ms. Angela Crowdy, Assistant Executive Secretary, CICAD

Ms. Crowdy discussed the hemisphere's leadership in making contributions to the final UNGASS document, with the resolutions of Antigua, Guatemala and Asunción. She noted that the UNGASS Outcome Document considers human rights as a fundamental basis and includes a gender perspective, which represents a significant advance. She therefore believed that the UNGASS Outcome Document should not be seen as the final goal, but rather as a starting point for moving forward through open debate and without fear of taboos.

Observations by delegations

Guatemala: Recalled that it was Mexico, Colombia and Guatemala that had asked the United Nations to convene UNGASS 2016, the outcome of which he viewed as positive. He said that the debate was open and pluralist, and produced a comprehensive, balanced approach that rather than focusing exclusively on a punitive approach, mentioning the importance of taking into account health, human rights and the wellbeing of society. He recognized, however, that a number of topics did not get included in the final document.

Uruguay: Stressed the fundamental role played by the countries of the hemisphere in the preparations for UNGASS, and noted that the document deals with topics such as human rights, proportionality of sentencing and public health. It also recognized that the

international treaties were flexible in addressing the drug problem in accordance with the needs and problems of each country.

Colombia: Considered that even though the final UNGASS document is the most advanced document on the drug issue globally, it continues to be timid. He said that from his point of view, there were still topics that were pending, such as a moratorium on the death penalty, and decriminalization of drug users, and felt that alternatives to incarceration should have been investigated further. He said that the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs should capture the spirit of what was agreed at UNGASS.

Chile: Said that this hemisphere should continue to demonstrate the leadership it had shown during the preparations for UNGASS. However, he invited the countries to be leaders not in words only but also in implementing policies adopted on the world drug problem.

Ecuador: Recognized that UNGASS 2016 represented an achievement, since its final document addresses topics such as human rights and recognizes the new challenges and realities that are being confronted. He felt, nonetheless, that the UNGASS Outcome Document did not adequately acknowledge the failures of the current prohibitionist model.

Peru: Noted that the final document of UNGASS acknowledges that there is no single model for solving the world drug problem, and noted the express inclusion of the importance of alternative development. He urged the countries to redouble their efforts in this post-UNGASS stage.

Brazil: Considered that one of the most important legacies of UNGASS was the very active participation of civil society. Nonetheless, he acknowledged that the final document is missing some important topics, such as a moratorium on the death penalty. Brazil therefore invited the member states of CICAD to develop a leading position that goes beyond the UNGASS Outcome Document, which should be viewed as one more step in efforts to address the drug problem.

Canada: Considered that the final UNGASS document was a positive one, and noted that it discusses some significant issues, such as the availability of medication, and proportionality in sentencing. Also recalled that the world drug problem can have devastating effects on society, protection of which must be a priority.

United States: Noted that the final UNGASS document represents significant advances at the global level, such as recognition that the Conventions are flexible enough to address the drug problem based on each country's context. He also noted that the document makes reference to the coordination there must be among all of agencies of the United Nations system on the multiple factors of the world drug problem.

Mexico: Noted that the UNGASS Outcomes Document shows a balance between the thematic areas of supply reduction and demand reduction, and makes reference to subjects

such as public health, access to justice, human rights, gender perspective, development and prevention of the negative social consequences of drugs (violence, exclusion and weakening of the social fabric). He urged countries to come to an agreement on the Hemispheric Plan of Action on the basis of UNGASS.

Panama: Invited member states to ensure coherence between what was achieved at UNGASS and decisions taken within CICAD.

Venezuela: Highlighted the document approved at UNGASS, and said that it dealt with some very significant issues that set aside fifty years of failed drug policies, and is people-centered, with an important focus on human rights.

6. Plan of Action 2016-2020 of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy 2010

Speaker: Ambassador Christian Espinoza, Chair of the Working Group to prepare the Plan of Action

Ambassador Espinoza presented a proposed schedule of activities for the Working Group to prepare the Plan of Action 2016-2020 (CICAD/doc.2249/16), which calls for development of a document that reflects the thematic areas of the Hemispheric Strategy on Drugs and includes the countries' positions as stated at the Group's most recent meeting, and adding the agreements reached at UNGASS. He said that an on-line platform would be used for thematic discussions over a period of three months, with a specific length of time allocated for each area. He also said that a short face-to-face meeting would be held in order to refine the details of the proposed final draft, which will be submitted to the sixtieth regular session of CICAD for approval.

Observations by delegations

Chile: Expressed concern over the delay in preparing the Plan of Action 2016-2020 and said that the main problem with the previous plan was not its design but its implementation. He requested that the resources offered by the Executive Secretariat of CICAD, such as the expertise of the section chiefs, be used to assist in the process of preparing the document. He also urged the countries to name capable, suitable people to participate in the process.

Bahamas: Suggested a date different from that mentioned by the Chair of the Working Group for the sixtieth regular session of CICAD.

Brazil: Proposed that given the great complexity of the process, the structure for analysis of the proposals should be clearer, and he therefore offered his cooperation in identifying central ideas based on the new agreements reached at UNGASS, that should be included in the Plan.

Venezuela: Voiced its concern over the time that the process of preparing the Plan of Action has taken, and said he thought that the on-line review and the restructuring of the Executive Secretariat of CICAD might be factors delaying the process. He therefore proposed extending the Plan of Action 2011-2015 for one additional year.

Colombia: Said that it was urgent to have a Plan of Action that contains the consensus agreements arrived at the global level in UNGASS. He felt that the online review method would be interesting but complicated, and therefore invited the countries to meet the deadlines established in the work plan.

Trinidad and Tobago: Stated her support for the use of the online platform, and said that had a Plan of Action been ready, it would have contributed to reaching agreements at UNGASS. She asked whether the document agreed at UNGASS would be reviewed along with the Plan of Action, whether the work plan presented would enable the Seventh Round of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) to begin, and whether it would be possible to receive the final draft of the Plan of Action prior to the deadline suggested in the event the dates for the sixtieth regular session of CICAD were brought forward.

Mexico: Stated his appreciation and support for the proposal presented by the Chair of the Working Group, and felt that long negotiations to obtain an approved Plan of Action were not viable. He said that the document that came out of UNGASS would greatly facilitate the structure, agreements and lines of action of the new Plan of Action. He also noted that one of the agreements that had come out of UNGASS was that efforts should be made at the regional level to implement, follow up on, monitor and evaluate the extent to which commitments acquired were met. He thought that the Plan of Action should be agreed on the basis of the topics that were considered at UNGASS, and that having a Plan is an obligation on the countries, and should not therefore depend on a redefinition of the structure of CICAD.

Argentina: Said it was necessary to have a Plan of Action as soon as possible. He thanked the Chair of the Working Group for his presentation, and stated his country's commitment to comply with the deadlines proposed. He felt that, as Mexico had said, the agreements arrived at in UNGASS provide a framework and guidelines for this new Plan.

Chair of the Working Group: Considered that following UNGASS, the conditions are better for concluding the process of preparing the Plan of Action. He said that it was important that the countries should send in their inputs by the dates indicated, and considered it important to use the human resources and capacities that exist in the Executive Secretariat in order to develop the Plan. He noted that the Plan of Action 2011-2015 has now expired, and therefore believed that an extension of the Plan of Action 2011-2015 could be approved until such time as a new Plan is approved. He invited the countries to engage in an open, frank, productive and concrete dialogue during the negotiation of the new Plan, and suggested that the Seventh Evaluation Round of the MEM be addressed later in the agenda.

Lastly, he stressed that it was important that the countries be represented by suitable people during the negotiation of the Plan of Action.

United States: Stated its support for the work plan presented by the Chair of the Working Group and for the proposal to extend the Plan of Action 2011-2015 through 2016, until the negotiations for the new Plan were completed.

Venezuela: Asked whether the previous Plan of Action would be extended.

Mexico: Asked for clarification of the decision on extending the Plan of Action 2011-2015, and said that he did not think it was necessary to do so.

Chile: Felt, like Mexico, that an extension was not necessary and would simply create distortions.

Colombia: Said he was in agreement with the observations of Mexico and Chile against an extension of the Plan of Action 2011-2015.

Jamaica: Indicated his support for the observations by Mexico, Chile and Colombia against an extension of the Plan of Action 2011-2015.

Decision

The Commission approved the schedule presented by the Chair of the Working Group to prepare the Plan of Action 2016-2020.

7. Analysis of Hemispheric Drug Policies – Hemispheric Strategy: Perspectives and Challenges

Speakers:

a. Mariano Montenegro, National Director, National Drug and Alcohol Consumption Prevention and Rehabilitation Service (SENDA), Chile

Dr. Montenegro made a presentation on the most serious problems that Latin America and the Caribbean face in dealing with the drug problem, and said that among the most serious are the lack of institutional capacity, the low level of investment in prevention and treatment programs, and the [low] level of implementation of the central principles of CICAD's Hemispheric Drug Strategy. He stressed how important it was that the Strategy had adopted an approach focused on public health and the need to recognize the progress made in the area of human rights. Lastly, he regretted the reduced presence of CICAD at UNGASS, and urged the Commission to maintain continuity and leadership on the topics on which it has been working.

b. Isaac Morales, Assistant Director General for Development Challenges, Foreign Affairs Secretariat, Mexico

In his presentation (CICAD/doc.2248/16), Mr. Morales explained that the hemisphere has reached a stage of maturity in its drug policies, which came about as the result of a process of learning from errors and successes. However, he thought that there were still some unresolved problems, and therefore it was necessary to make a change in the way of approaching the drug problem, in order to develop public policies that are more comprehensive, and discussed the advances to that that were made at UNGASS. He also stressed that it was important that member states implement the commitments entered into at UNGASS, and explained some of the issues where progress could be made.

Observations by delegations

Paraguay: Described Paraguay's efforts to develop multidisciplinary responses to the drug problem, and described how one of its treatment programs operates.

Honduras: Said it was important to have the media show successes in the areas of treatment, health and social integration. He also explained the activities that the Government of Honduras has been conducting in coordination with NGOs.

Venezuela: Reaffirmed his country's commitment to CICAD's Hemispheric Drug Strategy, and stressed the value of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) as the appropriate tool for evaluating the countries' drug policies.

Colombia: Considered that there is evidence that what has been achieved thus far to deal with the drug problem has been insufficient, and it is therefore necessary to do away with the idea of a drug-free world. He said that words such as "producer country" and "consumer country" should be set aside, but recognized that Colombia has internal inconsistencies in its policies but is committed to sorting out this problem.

Trinidad and Tobago: Acknowledged the support provided by the Executive Secretariat of CICAD for the development of balanced drug policies in Trinidad and Tobago.

Jamaica: Spoke of the initial achievements with drug treatment courts and offered to share the lessons learned from this experience with other member states.

Peru: Considered that organized crime is at the base of the drug problem, and should be the basis of CICAD's work. He said that the main concern for Peru is the supply of drugs.

Haiti: Spoke of the importance of strengthening institutions, particularly the culture of lawfulness in the justice system, and for this purpose, is considering creating special courts with judges trained to handle drug-related cases. He said that developing new policies

requires major changes and considered that CICAD could provide support for achieving that goal.

Barbados: Said that it has included NGOs in its drug policies, and explained that Barbados is developing a project on social integration for drug dependent persons, which will be launched shortly.

Nicaragua: Said that, in relation to the drug issue, Nicaragua's main problem is related to drug trafficking and the violence associated with it. He said that the realities in his country are different, and therefore his country's policies are focused more on the prevention of violence than on public health.

Argentina: Believed that the apparatus of the State is important in implementing commitments undertaken, and that it is important to engage in dialogue with the different stakeholders when designing and implementing drug policies.

Panama: Said that his country is focusing on interdiction, but also conducts drug use prevention activities. He spoke of his interest in preventing the harms associated with drug use by young people and in exploring certain alternatives to incarceration for drug use, including decriminalization.

Uruguay: Considered that UNGASS has contributed to a rethinking of the outcomes of drug policies, and indicated that it is important not to separate the idea of security from policy reform, and that reforming drug policies in line with human rights and public [security] [health] bring benefits in the area of security.

Guyana: Said that Guyana is making efforts to improve local and international cooperation on issues related to drug policies.

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

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO): Considered that the countries of the region had played an important role in the recent UNGASS 2016 process, achieving a new balance in drug policies and giving more significance to public health, social rights and human rights. He spoke of the critical elements in which specialized public health agencies had made efforts to develop comprehensive, balanced and inclusive drug policies, and said that PAHO provides technical assistance to countries to implement the Strategy and Plan of Action on the Use of Psychoactive Substances and Public Health. He made available to member states a number of reports produced by PAHO.

Russian Federation: Said that Russia supports the final document adopted at UNGASS. He said it was necessary to support the role of international agencies in promoting discussion worldwide on the drug issue, and thought it important that control of the proliferation of new

psychoactive substances be improved. In closing, he stressed the importance of joining forces to address the drug problem more effectively.

Organization “Smart Approaches to Marijuana”: Stated its support for the three United Nations international drug conventions, and said it is opposed to the legalization and sales of psychoactive drugs, since it considers that there are better alternatives that protect public health. He asked member states to consult the most recent report on cannabis of the World Health Organization.

Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA): Highlighted the participation of civil society organizations in some of CICAD’s events, and made some suggestions as to how to increase cooperation among member states and civil society.

Espolea: Stated its support for the new approach to drug policies that are centered on public health and human rights. Also said that it is not the best thing for the objectives of public health to be restricted to the area of demand reduction, and appealed for transparent mechanisms to establish smooth communications between civil society and CICAD.

Igarapé Institute: Stated its support for the development of a new plan of action, and said that it was important to renew the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) with indicators that can measure achievement of the goals established at UNGASS.

Organization “Jesús Luz de Oportunidad”: Was gratified that civil society participates in CICAD meetings, and urged that this practice continue in order to enrich the discussions in this forum. He recalled that the challenge is to have these debates result in the creation of real opportunities for young people in each of the member states.

Note: Within the framework of the fifty-ninth regular sesión of CICAD, on Monday, April 25, the event with Civil Society: “Women, Drug Policies, and Incarceration in the Americas”, took place. This event was organized in coordination with the OAS Inter-American Commission of Women, WOLA, International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), Dejusticia and ACEID. The event discussed how the use of prison as a response to drugs has a disproportionately negative impact on women, who are being incarcerated at an alarming rate, as well as the role that policymakers can play to address this situation. Likewise, the publication “Women, Drug Policies, and Incarceration: A Guide for Policy Reform in Latin America and the Caribbean” was presented. The guide offers a roadmap for officials and reform advocates for implementing policy changes that could benefit the thousands of women incarcerated on drug charges across the Americas.

9. Consideration and approval of the draft resolution for the forty-sixth regular session of the OAS General Assembly, June 2016

Peru, the elected Chair of the working group to prepare the draft resolution for the forty-sixth regular session of the OAS General Assembly, reported that it had agreed on presenting three paragraphs for the resolution, instead of the ten normally drafted. These paragraphs were submitted to the Commission, which approved them unanimously.

10. Topics, dates and location for the sixtieth regular session of CICAD

The delegation of The Bahamas proposed that the sixtieth regular session of CICAD be held on November 1-4, 2016 in Nassau, The Bahamas. The Commission approved the motion.

The delegation of The Bahamas proposed that the following topics be addressed at the next regular session of CICAD: youth at risk; drugs, gangs and illicit firearms; the causes of the drug problem; adoption of the new Hemispheric Plan of Action, and the impact of drug treatment courts on reoffending. The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago proposed that the PROCCER project in the Caribbean be included in the agenda.

11. Other business

The Chair submitted the candidacy of Paraguay for the vice chairmanship of the Group of Experts on Money Laundering Control, and the candidacy of Colombia to become Chair of the Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking. Panama proposed its own candidacy to chair the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products. The Commission approved the three motions.

The Chair announced that the First Meeting of the Alternative Development Expert Group would take place in Peru, from May 18-19, 2016. In this regard, the Chair of the Expert Group organized a working breakfast session on April 26, as a preparatory meeting, with the participation of 15 delegations. The Chair likewise highlighted the importance of CICAD maintaining leadership in the coordination of the Expert Groups, as stated in its mandate: Demand Reduction, Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development, Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products, Maritime Narcotrafficking, and Money Laundering Control. Finally, the Chair underscored the importance of involving specialized international organizations, NGOs, academia and civil society in the implementation of CICAD activities.

12. Closing session

Dr. Luis Alberto Otárola, Chair of CICAD, together with Ms. Paulina Duarte, Acting Secretary for Multidimensional Security of the OAS, thanked the member states, and declared the fifty-ninth regular session of CICAD closed.

III. DECISIONS

The Commission took the following decisions:

1. Adopted the draft agenda (CICAD/doc.2241/16) and the draft schedule of activities (CICAD/doc2242/16. rev1)
2. Approved the draft annual report of CICAD 2015 (CICAD/doc.2244/16.rev2)
3. Approved the draft resolution for the forty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly of the OAS (CICAD/doc.2245/16 rev.2 corr.1)
4. Approved sending a formal communication to the Secretary General concerning Executive Order 16-01 corr. 1 and the following consensus paragraph: “To recommend to the Secretary General that he amend Executive Order 16-01 corr. 1, in discussion with the member states and in light of their statements at the fifty-ninth regular session of CICAD”
5. Approved the schedule of work presented by the Chair of the Working Group to prepare the Plan of Action 2016-2020
6. Approved holding the sixtieth regular session of CICAD in Nassau, The Bahamas on November 1-4, 2016
7. Elected Paraguay Vice Chair of the Group of Experts on Money Laundering Control
8. Elected Colombia Chair of the Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking
9. Elected Panama Chair of the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products

IV. PARTICIPANTS

1. Member states of CICAD

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, The Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela. (CICAD/doc.2243/16)

2. Permanent Observers

France, Russian Federation, Spain.

3. Specialized International and Regional Organizations

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

4. Civil Society

Organization “Jesús Luz de Oportunidad”, Red Dianova Internacional, Espolea, Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), International Drug Policy Consortium, Organization “Smart Approaches to Marijuana”, Convivir Foundation, Igarapé Institute.