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**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION**

CICAD

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FINAL REPORT

**XVII Meeting of the CICAD Demand Reduction Expert Group
March 7 and 8, 2017
Miami, Florida**

1. OPENING REMARKS

Presenter: Angela Crowdy, Assistant Executive Secretary, CICAD/OAS

Ms. Crowdy greeted the participants, welcomed the delegations, and thanked Brazil for its support during its time as chair of the Demand Reduction Expert Group. She said that the goal of the meeting was to provide a forum for thinking about the development of public health policies with an emphasis on demand reduction, as well as strategies for training health care system professionals in the hemisphere.

Presenter: Cejana Passos, General Coordinator of International Affairs, SENAD/Brazil and Chair of the CICAD Group of Experts

Ms. Passos said that the countries of the Americas are facing great challenges in providing a comprehensive response to the complex issue of drug use and its consequences for the citizens of the region. In accordance with the most recent areas of international consensus, such as UNGASS 2016, demand reduction is an area of the highest priority in fostering greater levels of wellbeing, health and development, with full respect for human rights.

2. CURRENT STATUS OF THE DRUG ISSUE AND THE SUPPLY OF TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION SERVICES FROM THE PUBLIC HEALTH PERSPECTIVE

Presenter: Alexandra Hill, Chief, Demand Reduction, CICAD/OAS

Ms. Hill gave an overview of the current situation in the hemisphere in terms of the capacity to respond to disorders caused by problem drug use, and emphasized that there is an urgent need to incorporate a public health approach, strengthen capacities for response, and integrate coordinated services, particularly given weaknesses in the health care systems' ability to provide an appropriate response to mental health needs. She went on to say that mental health disorders, which include disorders caused by drug use, are one of the principal contributors to the burden of disease worldwide. She said that, according to the most recent analysis by the World Health Organization (WHO), unless solutions are found, by 2030 mental and drug use disorders will be among the top causes of loss of healthy life.

3. PRESENTATION ON THE WORK OF THE SUBGROUP ON DEMAND REDUCTION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP (IWG) OF THE MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

Presenters: Sofia I. Kosmas, Chief, CICAD's Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), and **Roberto Canay**, Undersecretary for Treatment and Prevention Strategies, Argentine National Secretariat for Comprehensive Drug Policies (SEDRONAR)

Following a presentation on the general framework of the MEM process by Ms. Sofía Kosmas of SE/CICAD, Mr. Canay gave a report on the work that had been done on line (March 1-3, 2017) and the

progress achieved by consensus of the countries participating in the Demand Reduction Subgroup of the IWG, in drafting the evaluation instrument that will be used in the Seventh Round of the MEM. He highlighted the most important issues that had been examined and discussed during the meeting in the areas of prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and social inclusion; training and certification of human resources, and accreditation of demand reduction programs.

4. JOINT INL / CICAD PROGRAM IN THE HEMISPHERE

Presenter: Brian Morales, Global Director of the Demand Reduction Division, United States Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)

Mr. Morales said that work was moving forward on INL's Global Demand Reduction Program, which consists of four pillars: developing the labor force in demand reduction; professionalizing drug addiction prevention and treatment services; creating global networks and community coalitions, and addressing people with special needs. He explained that to ensure the success of this initiative, efforts were being made to integrate three programs linked to international organizations, namely, OAS/CICAD, UNODC/WHO and the Colombo Plan.

5. THE PUBLIC HEALTH PERSPECTIVE

Presenter: Marya Hynes, Acting Chief, Inter-American Observatory on Drugs, CICAD/OAS

Ms. Hynes discussed the importance of public health as a very useful tool in addressing the problems associated with drug use. She explained that currently, public health professionals attempt to prevent these problems before they occur by means of policy recommendations, program implementation, management of services, and reduction in health disparities. She stressed that intervention must be based on information and analysis produced with some basic public health tools such as epidemiology and biostatistics, thus working to protect and enhance the health of individuals, their families and communities on the basis of the best available scientific evidence.

6. POLICY CHALLENGES FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH DIMENSION OF THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM IN THE AMERICAS

Presenter: Luis Alfonzo, Regional Adviser on Substance Abuse, PAHO/WHO

Dr. Alfonzo began by discussing world drug policies with particular attention to outcomes in the area of public health and development; he also explained how policies on these issues had evolved to a more balanced and integrated approach worldwide. He said that people who are dependent on psychoactive substances should have access to public health, and if they do not, it is a violation of human rights. He concluded by saying how important it was to develop a solid policy position as an underpinning for the technical proposals that need to be implemented in the member states, such as the different forms of prevention, and the comprehensive treatment of people with psychoactive substance use disorders, by using and optimizing the resources available in the health care systems.

7. MANUAL ON PUBLIC HEALTH POLICIES ON PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE USE

Presenter: Ángel Álvarez, Consultant, Researcher and expert on public policy formulation

Dr. Álvarez said that the purpose of the manual is to provide the countries with a theoretical and practical instrument that can be used to apply a public health approach. He explained the five-step model for formulating public policy: Definition of the problem, policy proposal, adoption of the policy, implementation of plans and programs, and evaluation of the results. He stressed that the most important point in the development of a policy is the moment when the problem is defined, since it has to be important both for technical people and also for policy-makers and society as a whole. It is therefore of priority to sensitize public opinion to the problem and thus ensure that the issue remain on the public agenda and is allocated the necessary human, financial and technical resources.

8. PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND SYSTEMATIZATION OF EARLY DETECTION AND BRIEF INTERVENTION STRATEGIES IN COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PRIMARY CARE SETTINGS

Presenter: Telmo Mota Ronzani, Psychologist, and Professor of the Federal University of Juiz De Fora

Dr. Ronzani indicated that the objective of the research is to build a practical guide that summarizes, consolidates and updates the most effective thematic and methodological content of the brief intervention and early detection programs currently being implemented in the hemisphere. He said that one of the advantages of the Guide is that it can help decide how to adapt these brief interventions to the local context, with the support of the health sector and community services to ensure that the interventions come closer to meeting current needs. Finally, he presented the current status of the different components of the research, which will become the basis for development of the Practical Guide.

9. PROTOCOL FOR MONITORING BRIEF INTERVENTIONS IN THE ADDICTIONS

Presenter: Silvia Morales, Professor and Researcher, National Autonomous University of Mexico

Ms. Morales explained that the School of Psychology of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM-FP) is developing a protocol to monitor brief Interventions as part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with CICAD in the framework of the work of the Demand Reduction Expert Group. The purpose of the protocol is to find tools that can help people to whom a brief intervention methodology had been applied, to remain drug free or else reduce their drug use. Recommendations will be developed as a complement to the protocol, to evaluate variables associated with the suspension of or reduction in drug use by people who had received some form of brief intervention. Use of this protocol will help specialist health professionals working in public and private centers for prevention and treatment of the addictions to implement models of brief intervention, and acquire the skills and tools they need to be successful in helping people suspend or reduce their drug use.

10. TRAINING STRATEGY FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN THE NATIONAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS

Presenter: Luis Torres, Treatment Coordinator, National Counterdrug Commission (CNA) of El Salvador

Mr. Torres said that for treatment to be successful and useful, early detection and referral are important. In the model used in El Salvador, the four main components are the certification of personnel, accreditation of suitable facilities, supervision and monitoring by the Ministry of Health (National Counterdrug Commission), and lastly, training and updating of staff. For the last component, they are using the methodology of the PROCCER Program, which has developed interagency partnerships and formal procedures for trainers, and a significant voice in the development of health policies.

Presenter: José Luis Vázquez, Specialist, CICAD/OAS

Mr. Vazquez began his presentation with an overview of the global context of drug use, indicating that according to the World Drug Report 2016, around 29 million people suffer disorders due to the use of drugs other than alcohol and tobacco, but only one in six receive treatment. The need for treatment and the patterns of use of various substances are very heterogeneous and vary greatly. This represents a major burden of healthy years of life lost due to illness, disability or death, which means large health care costs for the countries. The monetary cost of this reality is significant, given that young people may drop out of school, and reduce their productivity and their capacity to care for future generations, among other things. He also presented a proposed strategy and training materials for non-specialist health professionals who provide care for individuals with drug use problems.

11. QUALITY STANDARDS FOR DEMAND REDUCTION PROGRAMS

Presenter: Eulalia Alemany, Coordinator of the Quality and Evidence Program, COPOLAD

Ms. Alemany discussed the Program of Cooperation on Drug Policy among Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union (COPOLAD). Crosscutting activities have been conducted through this program on the four most important components: consolidation of the National Observatories on Drugs, training in drug demand reduction, training in drug supply reduction, and support for the CELAC-EU mechanism for coordination and cooperation on drugs in order to facilitate bi-regional policy dialogue. The achievements of the first phase of COPOLAD included publication of the document entitled *Quality and evidence in drug demand reduction: Frame of reference for program accreditation*. The document is based on an extensive review of the evidence about effective interventions in the prevention and treatment of the addictions. Based on this information and on the work carried out with focus groups and Delphi over a one-year period, basic and advanced criteria for the accreditation of programs and institutions were developed and published. These criteria are complemented by those generated by the CICAD Demand Reduction Expert Group, which are the essentials needed to open and operate treatment centers.

Presenter: Elizabeth Sáenz, Project Coordinator, Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section of UNODC

Ms. Sáenz said that drug use is one of the twenty principal health risk factors worldwide, and that the cost of drug dependence may be as much as two percent of GDP. She also said that access to treatment is a fundamental problem, since in Latin America, for example, only one person in eleven who needs treatment is able to gain access to it. In conclusion, she said that other problems facing some countries are the lack of professional capacity, the fact that services are concentrated in the cities, that there are no patient registries, and that there is no guidance on long-term recovery or on the patient's reintegration into society.

Presenter: Luis Alfonzo, Regional Advisor on Substance Abuse, WHO/PAHO

Dr. Alfonzo spoke of the importance of the application of standards--a recurring theme in discussions of demand reduction. He said that standards reflect what the ideal model of care should be, but have also become a strategy for monitoring and control rather than a mechanism for improving care. He recommended that these strategies should have evidence-based mechanisms for verification.

PARTICIPANTS

1. MEMBER STATES OF CICAD

Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, and the United States.

2. SPECIALIZED INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), Program of Cooperation among Latin America and the European Union on Drug Policy (COPOLAD.)

3. CICAD

Angela Crowdy, Alexandra Hill, Sofía Kosmas, Marya Hynes, Adriana Montana, José Luis Vázquez, and Andrea Escobar.

ANNEX A

| Presenters | Presentations |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Alexandra Hill | Current status of the drug issue and the supply of treatment and rehabilitation services |
| Sofia I. Kosmas | Multilateral Evaluation of Drug Control Policies in the Americas - MEM |
| Roberto Canay | Multilateral Evaluation of Drug Control Policies in the Americas - MEM |
| Brian Morales | INL – CICAD, Hemispheric Program |
| Marya Hynes | The Public Health Perspective |
| Luis Alfonzo | Policy Challenges for the Public Health Dimension of the World Drug Problem in the Americas |
| Ángel Álvarez | Public Health Policies on Psychoactive Substance Use: Manual on five-step policy formulation: from problem identification to evaluation of results |
| Telmo Mota Ronzani | Description of the implementation of early detection and brief intervention programs in the Americas |
| Silvia Morales | Protocol for monitoring psychoactive substance users |
| Luis Torres | Training Strategy for Health Professionals in the National Health Care Systems |
| José Luis Vázquez | Training of Health Care Personnel for treatment of Drug Use Disorders |
| Eulalia Alemany | COPOLAD Strategy of Institution-Building – Adoption of Evidence-based quality standards |
| Elizabeth Sáenz | “Each Person is Important” – Drug use disorders in a global context: International standards for the treatment of drug use disorders |

ANNEX B

| List of Participants | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Name | Country/Agency |
| Dr. Roberto Canay, Ph.D. Undersecretary for Prevention and Treatment, SEDRONAR Government of Argentina | Argentina |
| Dr. Chaswell Hanna Assistant Superintendent of the Royal Bahamas Police Force Director, National Anti-Drug Secretariat Ministry of National Security | Bahamas |
| Dionnie Bowie Betty Hunte | Barbados |
| Jorge Rodriguez Deputy Minister of Social Defense and Controlled Substances, Ministry of the Interior | Bolivia |
| Cejana Brasil Cirilo Passos General Coordinator of International Affairs Chair of the Group of Experts - SENAD/Brazil | Brazil |
| Maria Jimena Kalawski Isla Chief of Programs Division, SENDA | Chile |
| Jenny Fagua Ministry of Justice and Law Bureau of Strategy and Analysis Juan David Moncaleano Prado Ministry of Foreign Affairs Third Secretary Internal Counter-drug Working Group Vice Ministry of Multilateral Affairs | Colombia |
| Rita Porras Valverde Prevention Projects Unit Costa Rican Institute on Drugs Ministry of the Presidency | Costa Rica |
| Galo Palacios Ortiz Undersecretary General for Comprehensive Drug Prevention | Ecuador |
| Luis Torres Coordinator of Treatment, CNA | El Salvador |
| Brian Morales Susan Ball Jullion Moore U.S. Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) | United States |

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| Mauricio Benard Third Secretary Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the OAS | Guatemala |
| Rocío Padilla | Mexico |
| Vielka Montes Drug Demand Reduction National Executive Secretariat, CONAPRED | Panama |
| Luis Carlos Escobar Counter-Drug Trafficking and Economic Crimes Group Ministry of Foreign Affairs | Paraguay |
| Federico Infante Devida | Peru |
| Luis Alfonzo Regional Adviser on Substance Abuse, PAHO/WHO | Pan American Health Organization |
| Telmo Ronzani Juiz de Fora University. Psychologist, professor | Juiz de Fora University |
| Silvia Morales National Autonomous University of Mexico | National Autonomous University of Mexico |
| Ángel Alvarez International Consultant on Public Policy | Consultant |
| Elizabeth Sáenz Project Director | UNODC |
| Eulalia Alemany Coordinator of the Quality and Evidence Program | COPOLAD |
| Angela Crowdy | CICAD |
| Alexandra Hill | CICAD |
| Sofia Kosmas | CICAD |
| Marya Hynes | CICAD |
| Jose Luis Vazquez | CICAD |
| Adriana Montana | CICAD |
| Andrea Escobar | CICAD |

ANNEX C

