



17th St. & Constitution Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
United States of America

Organization of American States

P. 202.370.5000
www.oas.org

INTER-AMERICAN DRUG
ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

CICAD

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

SIXTIETH REGULAR SESSION
November 2-4, 2016
Nassau, The Bahamas

OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.60
CICAD/doc.2279/16
December 6, 2016
Original: Spanish

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 sixtieth regular session would be held in the city of Nassau, The Bahamas, on November 2-4, 2016.

This 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. Carmen Masías Claux, Executive President of the National Commission for Development and Life without Drugs (DEVIDA), Chair of CICAD, Peru (CICAD/doc.2278/16)**

Dr. Masías welcomed the delegations and expressed her appreciation for the support Peru received during the period in which it chaired CICAD. She also stressed the importance of using a broad, balanced, multidisciplinary, and sustainable approach to address the world drug problem and highlighted the problems caused by new psychoactive substances. She then proceeded to describe the changes and benefits derived from the restructuring of CICAD, emphasized the role of the member states in preparing the UNGASS 2016 final document; and explained the steps that Peru is taking to update its 2017-2021 National Drug Strategy, in accordance with CICAD's Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its Action Plan and consistent with the operational recommendations from the UNGASS 2016 final document.

- b. **Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the Organization of American States (CICAD/doc.2268/16)**

The OAS Secretary General thanked the government of The Bahamas for hosting the sixtieth regular session of CICAD and explained that the issue of drugs is currently being addressed from the perspective of public health, human rights, gender, and development, with a focus on people. In this sense, the Secretary General considered it essential to encourage the participation of all those involved in resolving the world drug problem, taking into account the specifics of each country. He highlighted that the 2013 OAS report on the drug problem marked an important milestone in the discussions on this topic in the region and encouraged the member states to turn their discussions into tangible and measurable actions that would produce positive changes. The Secretary General also emphasized the importance of working in conjunction with civil society, finding more efficient ways to address the various manifestations of the drug phenomenon, and strengthening the Executive Secretariat of CICAD.

c. The Honorable Dr. Bernard Nottage, Minister of National Security of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas (CICAD/doc.2277/16)

Minister Nottage congratulated CICAD and the OAS for its efforts to promote regional alliances and coordination among member states to address the world drug problem and described efforts being made by The Bahamas in this regard. Additionally, he highlighted his country's approach to comply with the operational recommendations of the UNGASS 2016 final document, including interdiction activities in cooperation with countries and organizations in the region, drug treatment courts, and drug use prevention efforts targeting youth.

d. His Excellency Perry Christie, the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas (CICAD/doc.2276/16)

Prime Minister Christie congratulated CICAD on its thirtieth anniversary and highlighted the progress made by member states over the last three decades in terms of addressing the world drug problem in the hemisphere. He also explained the specific situation of The Bahamas with respect to interdictions to halt drug trafficking and the challenges faced by the country to prevent drug use among youth, for which it is conducting various programs to prevent drug use and reduce unemployment. Prime Minister Christie concluded by reiterating the commitment of The Bahamas to CICAD.

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

The Commission adopted the draft agenda (CICAD/doc. 2252/16.Rev1) and the draft schedule of activities (CICAD/doc.2253/16.Rev2) without amendment.

3. Election of the Chair and Vice Chair of CICAD

Pursuant to Articles 22 and 23 of the Statute, the Commission elected The Bahamas by acclamation to hold the chair of CICAD for the 2016-2017 term of office and Mexico to serve as Vice Chair during the same period.

4. Commemorative Declaration on the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) (CICAD/doc.2257/16.Rev2)

The government of The Bahamas presented a Commemorative Declaration to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of CICAD, emphasizing and reaffirming the Commission's principles, taking into account the new challenges presented by the drug problem in the hemisphere, and reiterating the member states' firm commitment to this task.

Decisions

The CICAD commissioners approved the document presented with edits suggested by Venezuela.

5. Final draft of the Plan of Action 2016-2020 of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy (CICAD/doc.2255/16) and report of the Working Group to prepare the Plan of Action 2016-2020 (CICAD/doc.2256/16)

Speaker: Christian Espinoza, Guatemala, Chair of the Working Group to prepare the Plan of Action, 2016-2020

In his presentation, Mr. Espinoza described the Working Group's activities to prepare the Plan of Action 2016-2020, which included extensive discussions through online and in-person meetings, with contributions from civil society and other regional bodies. The speaker emphasized that the proposed Plan of Action includes objectives and actions addressing topics found in the UNGASS 2016 final document and in the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, consistent with the Declaration of Antigua, Guatemala "For a Comprehensive Policy against the World Drug Problem in the Americas" (2013) and the Resolution on "Reflections and Guidelines to Formulate and Follow Up on Comprehensive Policies to Address the World Drug Problem in the Americas" (2014). Finally, Mr. Espinoza presented the final draft of the Action Plan for consideration and approval by the delegations.

Decisions

The Commission approved the draft Plan of Action 2016-2020 for CICAD's Hemispheric Drug Strategy.

6. Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) Inter-Governmental Working Group (IWG) in preparation for the Seventh Evaluation Round – Convocation and election of officers

The Commission convened the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism's (MEM) Inter-Governmental Working Group (IWG) to begin its work to prepare for the Mechanism's Seventh Evaluation Round. The delegations were called on to nominate the country that would assume the chair of the IWG.

Observations by delegations

Peru: Nominated Chile to assume the Chairmanship of the Inter-Governmental Working Group.

Decisions

The Commission unanimously agreed to appoint Chile to preside over the work of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) Inter-Governmental Working Group (IWG) for preparation of the Seventh Evaluation Round.

7. The variety of national drug problems and how to choose policies for controlling them (CICAD/doc.2273/16)

Speaker: Peter Reuter, Professor, School of Public Policy and Department of Criminology, University of Maryland

In his presentation, Professor Reuter stressed the importance of recognizing the diversity of drug-related problems in member states and the need to use scientific information to evaluate each country's needs with respect to interventions and drug policies. Additionally, he emphasized that there is no single solution to the drug problem; rather, policies to address this issue should be adapted to the individual

needs of each country. Dr. Reuter also referred to some potential new areas for compiling data that could complement the data used in traditional epidemiology.

Observations by delegations

Argentina: Emphasized that one of the most important factors is the organization of data by regions, given the differences and diversity seen in the countries of the hemisphere. Argentina also underscored the difficulties of making comparisons among countries, not only on issues of illicit drug trafficking but also in terms of social programs and policies, and welcomed the introduction of this topic in the discussions of CICAD.

Guatemala: Noted the importance of recognizing the differences among member states and the fact that policies reflect the nature of the drug problem in each state. Guatemala also considered it important that drug policies take into account the use of technology for a better understanding of the problem.

United States: Commented on the role played by the justice system and how it can be used to promote drug policies, particularly on issues of collaboration with the health sector.

Peru: Commented on how important it is for the region's countries to work together and share experiences. The delegate also emphasized the importance for Peru of the topics of social connectivity, access to services, drug production, and corruption.

Chile: Noted the importance of evaluating policies, recognizing that this may be a complicated subject, given the diversity existing in the region. Chile also emphasized the efforts that are being made in the hemisphere to develop multilateral policies such as the development of the Plan of Action for the Hemispheric Drug Strategy.

Saint Kitts and Nevis: Felt that the scarcity of data is a problem in smaller countries.

8. Beyond UNGASS: Implications for the hemisphere

Speakers:

a. Ms. Angela Crowdy, Assistant Executive Secretary, CICAD

In her introduction, Ms. Crowdy explained how the UNGASS process has allowed countries to reflect on their past policies and reformulate the steps to be taken hereafter at the local, national, and regional level in different topical areas. She also considered it important for the discussions developed in this forum to be translated into concrete actions and welcomed the UNGASS follow-up process to be carried out to achieve this objective. Ms. Crowdy also expressed CICAD's support for the recommendations made in the UNGASS context, particularly in the areas of drug supply and demand reduction and other related measures, and reported on the discussions that the OAS member states have had following the UNGASS and on the work that CICAD is carrying out in terms of compiling evidence to support drug policies and alternatives to incarceration for drug-related crimes.

b. Mr. Aldo Lale-Demoz, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

In his presentation, Mr. Lale-Demoz emphasized the UNGASS 2016 final document, which he sees as representing an important starting point for the continued improvement of policies on the world drug

problem, stressing the specific realities of the hemisphere. He also emphasized the importance of salvaging the progress that has actually been made and explained how the document takes into consideration critical aspects such as the right to health based on scientific evidence, the application of the law based on lessons learned, human rights, the gender approach, children's vulnerabilities and rights, the new challenges and realities, and the fundamental role played by comprehensive sustainable development to prevent and reduce the most negative consequences of drug production, trafficking, and use. Finally, he noted that in order to achieve concrete results in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the focus of all policies must be people.

Observations by delegations

Mexico: Considered that the UNGASS 2016 represents the start of a review of international strategy on drugs and reported that it will continue working up to 2019 to ensure that the results and advances achieved in the context of this special session are reflected when the time comes to revise the 2009 plan of action on international cooperation. Mexico also called on CICAD member states to promote the regional implementation of the UNGASS recommendations. Finally, the delegate reported on a series of dialogues conducted in Mexico City between September 2016 and March 2017 for national level consideration of these recommendations and encouraged other countries to duplicate this exercise, and thanked the collaboration of CICAD in this regard.

Colombia: Commented that the discussions regarding the topics addressed in the UNGASS 2016 have only just begun and should be continued, considering that work must still be undertaken to reach global agreements on various aspects related to the approach to the world drug problem. In this respect, Colombia emphasized the importance of establishing a roadmap toward 2019, defining adequate mechanisms for maintaining an open and inclusive discussion within the General Assembly framework, and forming a high-level group to help in developing diagnostics for measuring the degree of progress made compared to current goals, and proposing possible scenarios for the approach to world drug policy beyond 2019.

Bolivia: Emphasized the new realities and approaches in the context of the UNGASS 2016 and considered it important that all actions and policies be based on the principle of sovereignty, non-intervention, and conformity with the states' domestic law. The delegate also explained Bolivia's achievements in the application of drug policies since 2006.

Canada: Expressed its support for the general goals contained in the UNGASS 2016 final document and explained that the great challenge facing Canada is the proliferation of synthetic opioids, for which it is using a comprehensive approach consistent with the UNGASS goals. In this respect, Canada reported that it is supporting a variety of harm reduction initiatives and supervised user sites and has recently launched an Action Plan on Opioid Abuse.

United States: Considered it important to focus efforts on implementing the commitments undertaken in the UNGASS 2016 and explained that the United States developed a non-binding document on domestic priorities when implementing the agreements. The delegate provided details of the document and offered it to the other delegations as a reference.

Argentina: Explained its level of participation and commitment in the context of the UNGASS 2016 and emphasized the importance of the principle of shared responsibility, particularly with regard to controlling demand and money laundering.

Chile: Emphasized the aspects that it feels mark the post-UNGASS 2016 path and explained that Chile will develop its roadmap based on those aspects.

9. Multi-sectoral coordination and policy for regional professionalization of prevention and treatment service providers: The Caribbean experience

Speakers:

a. **Alexandra Hill, Head, Demand Reduction Unit, CICAD/OAS**

Ms. Hill presented an overview of the Training and Certification Program for Drug and Violence Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation (PROCCER) program and explained that this model incorporates the development of various components at both the policy and operational level, and includes the active participation of national drug commissions, public health ministries, universities, and civil society organizations. She highlighted the Caribbean as a regional example to be followed in the context of PROCCER and thanked the United States for its commitment to the PROCCER model, which has been strengthened through collaborative actions with the International Society of Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Professionals (ISSUP).

b. **Esther Best, Director, National Drug Council, Ministry of National Security, Trinidad and Tobago (CICAD/doc.2265/16)**

Director Best presented an overview of the development of the PROCCER program in the Caribbean and explained that this is the first initiative that provides for a regional approach to offer joint training on drug use treatment and prevention services. Additionally, she provided details on the mechanism used to certify the professionals who participate in the program. Finally, Director Best reported on the training program being developed within the PROCCER framework for professionals working with at-risk adolescents and emphasized its importance for the Caribbean region.

Observations by delegations

Argentina: Indicated a significant scarcity of experts and professionals specializing in the treatment of addictions in some areas of Argentina, and emphasized the importance of providing an appropriate response to existing needs in the area of demand reduction.

Saint Kitts and Nevis: Emphasized that, thanks to the PROCCER program, Saint Kitts and Nevis was able to train professionals in drug prevention and treatment programs.

Jamaica: Reported that the country has also been one of the beneficiary countries of the PROCCER program and congratulated CICAD for its work in the area of reducing the demand for drugs.

Chile: Indicated that the efforts made by the Caribbean in the area of demand reduction should serve as a model for future actions in the hemisphere on this subject.

10. Panel 1: Cannabis policy discussion – Advances and follow-up

Moderator: Francisco Cumsille, Head, Inter-American Observatory on Drugs, CICAD/OEA

Panelists:

- a. **Karen Clarke-Davis, Technical Director, Ministry of National Security, Jamaica (CICAD/doc.2274/16)**

In her presentation, Director Clarke-Davis explained the process for implementing the amendment to Jamaica's Dangerous Drugs Act (2015), which established a new legal and social context for the application of provisions against illicit drugs and described the impact of these changes on the country's approach to marijuana.

- b. **Diego Olivera, Secretary, Secretariat, National Drug Board, Uruguay (CICAD/doc.2275/16)**

Mr. Olivera described the challenges that Uruguay faces in monitoring and evaluating its regulated cannabis model and explained the details of Law 19172 that was enacted for this purpose and the expected impact of the law. He also reported that Uruguay is developing and putting into operation a monitoring and evaluation system with consensus-based, standardized, comparable, and timely indicators.

Observations by delegations

Honduras: Asked about the impact and effects on public safety of the implementation of the amended law in Jamaica, as there is a close relationship between the crimes committed by gangs and the use of marijuana. In response, Director Clarke-Davis explained the cases in which the possession of marijuana is considered a criminal offense.

Colombia: Explained how the subject of marijuana use is handled in Colombia and the challenges encountered in the application of police controls.

Trinidad and Tobago: Considered that the approaches presented by the panelists have the potential to reduce the number of persons who are prosecuted for less serious drug-related crimes and this may be positive for the justice systems.

Peru: Explained that marijuana is not the main problem faced by Peru and referred to the results of studies the country conducted on the relationship between crimes and drug use and on brain damage caused by marijuana, particularly in adolescents.

Barbados: Reported that Barbados approved the National Drug Plan 2015-2021 in June 2016. In this regard, the country has dedicated significant resources to examining, all matters related to changes in and the current status of national legislation and regulations related to marijuana.

Costa Rica: Expressed that efforts should be continued to evaluate and compile data and references illustrating with certainty the approach to cannabis. The delegate also reported that Costa Rica has been developing ongoing discussions on the medicinal use of cannabis.

Chile: Recognized the complexity of the issue and emphasized the importance of approaching the topic of cannabis as a matter of public health.

11. Panel 2: Interventions for youth affected by alcohol and other drugs

Moderator: Pernell Clarke, Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID), SE/CICAD

Panelists:

- **Beverly Reynolds, Coordinator, Health and Human Development, Directorate of Health and Human Development, CARICOM**

Ms. Reynolds presented key elements for the “Reducing Youth on Youth Violence” Project, which was carried out by CARICOM in partnership with Spain and the Caribbean Development Bank, in order to reduce the use of drugs and violence in schools and communities in CARICOM member states. The presenter also explained the risk factors that were found in participating schools and the measures that were taken to address them,

- **David Allen, Founder of “The Family: People Helping People” program, The Bahamas (CICAD/doc.2272/16)**

Mr. Allen explained the Chronic Violent Drug Syndrome, including its components and effect on socio-cultural fragmentation. The presenter illustrated the dynamics of drug abuse and presented statistics related to drug use in The Bahamas. Additionally, he recounted the efforts that were carried out by the country to address this problem through “The Family: People Helping People” program and presented the results and conclusions derived from it.

- **Lidia Saya, Under-Secretary, SEDRONAR, Argentina (CICAD/doc.2270/16)**

Ms. Saya explained how the new Argentinian government has addressed drug issues and reorganized SEDRONAR. The presenter informed that national drug use studies had been discontinued since 2011, but that these were resumed in 2016 and presented the studies that were carried out during that year as well as those planned for 2017. Ms. Saya also provided details on the drug use prevention programs carried out, specifically in the areas of education, sports and culture, as well as in night life environment.

12. Working Lunch: Civil Society Engagement & the Basis of Drug Policy for Sustainable Development & Criminal Justice Reform

During this event, two panels were set up to discuss two important topics. The first panel addressed drug policies and sustainable development objectives, where the need to adopt a comprehensive development approach to surpass the limitations of the alternative development model was impressed upon member states. The second panel discussed effective drug policy approaches to criminal justice reform, which emphasized the need to rethink the impact that punitive responses to drug offenses have on the prison population and the deterioration of conditions of detention in the hemisphere. The panel also discussed working experiences with the community related to the social inclusion of people related to drug-related offenses. Member States had the opportunity to listen to the experiences of non-governmental organizations in countries such as Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, United States, Argentina and The Bahamas.

13. Current state of the use of heroin, fentanyl, and other opioids in the hemisphere: a challenge for drug policy

Moderator: Marya Hynes, Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID), CICAD/OAS

Speakers:

- a. **Kara McDonald, Director, Office of Policy Planning and Coordination, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), U.S. Department of State (CICAD/doc.2266/16)**

Director McDonald informed that the threat represented by the abuse of heroin and synthetic opioids in the United States is growing, and provided statistics on the number of deaths related to these substances. She also reported that the use of fentanyl and carfentanyl is exacerbating this problem, because combining these substances with low-quality heroin produces high and possibly lethal toxicity levels. Finally, Director McDonald presented some of the strategies related to the supply and demand of these drugs that could be adopted for addressing this problem and emphasized the importance of working together with other countries through multilateral organizations such as the OAS.

- b. **Antonio Guzmán, Associate Section Chief, Synthetic Drugs and Chemicals Section, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), United States Department of Justice**

Mr. Guzmán presented statistics on heroin and fentanyl trafficking in the United States and on the consequences of their use. He also presented information on the prevalence of use, overdose deaths, seizures, and sales prices for these substances. Finally, Mr. Guzmán felt that prevention, education, and treatment are as important as efforts made in the field of law enforcement.

Observations by delegations

Argentina: Asked for clarification regarding the source of the statistics on heroin in the United States, as it thought that the main source of heroin was Afghanistan and Southeast Asia. In response, the speakers reported that the heroin used in the United States comes from south of the US border and not from Afghanistan and that the substances that come from China are synthetic, and for this reason the United States decided to dedicate significant efforts with respect to chemical precursors.

Canada: Explained that the country is also facing a crisis related to opioids, as evidenced by the increase in the number of deaths due to fentanyl use and increased seizures of this substance in various provinces. The delegate also explained that the country is addressing this problem in the context of its plan of action.

Brazil: Explained the similarities between the phenomenon of smokable cocaine in Brazil and the problem of heroin use in the United States. The delegate also described the approach to the problem in Brazil, which began with studies conducted to determine the magnitude of the problem. Finally, the delegate explained some of the studies' findings regarding the relationship between drug dependency, vulnerability, the price of drugs, and the demand for drugs.

Peru: Noted that Peru sees the poppy plant as a threat and reported that the country will soon begin a study on the plant.

Argentina: Expressed interest in updating the list of chemical precursors and drugs in Argentina and considers that fentanyl has not yet affected the country. The delegate also asked whether the two principal chemical precursors of fentanyl have any lawful industrial application. In response, the speakers

explained that only one of these chemical precursors has industrial applications and that controlling it has a minor impact on the lawful industry.

14. Counterdrug maritime cooperation: regional interdiction model

Presenter: Chief Superintendent Samuel Butler, Counterdrug Enforcement Unit, Royal Bahamian Police Force

In his presentation, Superintendent Butler provided background on and described Operation Bahamas, Turks and Caicos (OPBAT), an international cooperation effort that involves multiple agencies responsible for anti-drug interdictions. OPBAT was developed to help The Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands impede the flow of drug traffickers through their territories, by means of the identification and dismantling of criminal organizations, and is conducted jointly with U.S. law enforcement agencies.

15. Panel 3: Drug market intervention and its impact on at-risk youth and communities

Moderator: Dr. Chaswell Hanna, Director, National Anti-Drug Secretariat, Ministry of National Security, The Bahamas

Panelists:

- **Laurel Boatright, Assistant US Attorney, Northern District of Georgia**
- **Major Paul Guerrucci, Atlanta Police Department**

The panel made a joint presentation, during which they provided details on an intervention carried out in 2014 at an outdoor drug market in a high-risk neighborhood in the city of Atlanta, Georgia in the United States. The presenters explained how this location was gradually abandoned by law-abiding citizens and was taken over by the drug trade. They also provided several examples of how rampant crime and violence had become. The panel explained that the main goals of the intervention were to eliminate the open-air nature of the drug market, turn over the neighborhood to law-abiding citizens by increasing safety and quality of life and to reduce crime by targeting violent low-level drug dealers, and provide alternatives to incarceration to non-violent offenders. The presenters reported that the intervention was a local effort that had a positive impact and was presented as a model that offers alternatives to the incarceration for drug-related offenses.

Observations by delegations

Peru: Emphasized the importance of the levels of cooperation among the agencies involved in the intervention and the institutional task force that was formed to carry out this task successfully. The delegate asked the panel about measures used to protect those who try to escape the drug trafficking chain. The panelists reported that although this aspect is not part of the original program, a parallel program is being developed to address this issue.

United States: Explained that drug market interventions provide an important solution for two growing trends in the United States: the intention to move away from the incarceration model and the massive epidemic in the use of heroin and opioids. The delegate also indicated that the drug market intervention program is a positive initiative that seeks to resolve problems without having to resort to mass incarceration.

16. Cooperation program on drug policies among Latin America, the Caribbean, and the European Union (CICAD/doc.2262/16)

Speaker: Mrs. Teresa Salvador, Director of the Cooperation Programme between Latin America, the Caribbean, and the European Union on Drug Policies (COPOLAD)

Mrs. Salvador provided an overview of the COPOLAD program, emphasizing its consistency with the European Drug Strategy (2013-2020), and described the actions that will be developed during the second phase of the program (2016-2019) based on areas of consensus reached during the first phase (2011-2015). She also reported that this phase incorporated the Caribbean countries and described both the objectives to be achieved by the program and the challenges faced.

Observations by delegations

Argentina: Emphasized COPOLAD's importance for Argentina and indicated that it assumed the role of co-chair of the EU-CELAC mechanism. The delegate also reported that the Second Annual Meeting of COPOLAD II and the High-Level Meeting of the mechanism will be held in Buenos Aires in May 2017.

Brazil: Felt that COPOLAD has increased the vitality of the EU-CELAC relationship.

Chile: Emphasized the contribution that COPOLAD has made in the area of training and development of documents.

Honduras: Indicated that COPOLAD represents an important opportunity for Honduras.

Peru: Emphasized the importance of continuing to work with COPOLAD.

Uruguay: Recognized COPOLAD's contribution to encouraging dialogue and emphasized the human resources training that has been carried out in the context of this program.

17. Update report of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction and election of Chair (CICAD/doc.2263/16)

Speaker: Cejana Passos, Coordinator, National Drug Policy Secretariat (SENAD), Brazil, Chair of the Group of Experts

In her presentation, Mrs. Passos emphasized that the activities recently carried out by the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction have been directed to consolidating an approach to drug policies centered on health and human rights. In this context, she presented a summary of the manual "Public Health Policies on Psychoactive Substances: Manual for Health Planning" and indicated this is the first result of three outputs, based on their practical application consistent with the realities of countries. Finally, Mrs. Passos reported that the delivery of the results from other activities the group is carrying out has been planned for early 2017.

Observations by delegations

Chile: Expressed the country's interest in assuming the Chair of the Group of Experts.

Peru: Expressed the country's support for the candidacy of Chile.

Paraguay: Expressed the country's support for the candidacy of Chile.

Bolivia: Expressed the country's support for the candidacy of Chile.

Brazil: Expressed the country's support for the candidacy of Chile.

Decisions

The Commission adopted the report of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction and appointed Chile as the new Chair of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction.

18. Report of the Group of Experts on comprehensive and sustainable alternative development and election of Chair (CICAD/doc.2267/16)

Speaker: Dr. Carmen Masías Claux, Executive President of the National Commission for Development and Life without Drugs (DEVIDA), Peru

Dr. Masías referred to the document prepared by the government of Peru as the Final (Provisional) report of the Group of Experts on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development (CICAD/doc.2267/16), indicating the importance of strengthening CICAD member states' commitment to providing a comprehensive, multidisciplinary, balanced and sustainable approach to anti-drug policies through comprehensive and sustainable alternative development and, as appropriate, alternative preventive development.

Observations by delegations

Chile: Proposed that Peru continue to chair the Group of Experts on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development.

Paraguay: Expressed support for Chile's proposal.

Bolivia: Expressed support for Chile's proposal.

Colombia: Expressed support for Chile's proposal.

Decisions

The Commission approved Peru's continued role as Chair of the Group of Experts on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development.

19. Report of the Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking and election of Chair (CICAD/doc.2259/16)

Speaker: Captain Orlando Grisales Franceschi, Director of the Anti-Drug Office of the National Navy of Colombia and Chair of the Group of Experts

Captain Grisales presented the report of the Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking, which held its most recent meeting in Cartagena, Colombia. He provided an overview of the topics discussed and the threats and trends identified by the experts and working groups, and presented the group's plan of action for consideration and approval by the Commissioners. Among the recommendations submitted, he emphasized approval of a guide for the member states on designing and developing judicial/operational seminars for the personnel involved in anti-drug maritime operations.

Observations by delegations

United States: Emphasized the importance of regional cooperation as a key factor for obtaining successful results in combating transnational narcotrafficking and urged member states to participate in CICAD's Group of Experts.

Decisions

The Commission adopted the report of the Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking, its recommendations, documents, and plan of action and called on the group to meet in 2017. The CICAD Chair also invited member states interested in chairing the expert group to submit their candidacy to the CICAD Executive Secretariat.

20. Report of the Group of Experts for the Control of Money Laundering (CICAD/doc.2260/16)

Speaker: Wendy Lora Pérez, Executive Director, Financial Analysis Unit, National Anti-Money Laundering Committee, Dominican Republic

Mrs. Pérez presented an account of the activities carried out during 2015 and 2016 by the Group of Experts for the Control of Money Laundering (GELAVEX) and its subgroups (CICAD/doc.2261/16). She also reported that GELAVEX met in Washington and in the Dominican Republic during 2016 and she presented the documents prepared during the period 2015-2016 and the work plan for the period 2016-2017 for consideration and approval by the Commissioners.

Decisions

The Commission approved the 2015-2016 GELAVEX report, including its recommendations and the documents and work plan for the period 2016-2017. The Commission also approved the candidacy of Paraguay to chair the Group and Bolivia to serve as Vice-Chair during the period 2017-2018.

21. Remarks by OAS Permanent Observers and by International, Regional, and Civil Society Organizations accredited to the OAS

Russian Federation: Underscored the importance of the UNGASS 2016 final document and felt that this document will be highly useful for achieving the targets outlined for 2019 on the subject of drugs. In this respect, the delegate explained that efforts should now be made to implement the decisions agreed upon in the UNGASS 2016 and emphasized the importance of international cooperation, for which Russia has developed training courses in Latin America, and which the country will continue to conduct in future.

Finally, the delegate expressed its concern on the issue of new psychoactive substances and felt that this new threat should be addressed by the international community.

Igarapé Institute: Emphasized the importance of institutionalizing opportunities for the participation of civil society and submitted recommendations for continued strengthening of civil society's participation within CICAD. The representative also called upon the governments of the Americas to recognize that imprisonment affects those incarcerated for drug crimes in different ways according to their gender, sexual identity, ethnicity, and socioeconomic situation.

Intercambios Civil Association: Described the efforts made by civil society to share ideas and experiences with member states in the context of CICAD. In this respect, the representative provided details of the working lunch held on November 3, with the participation of civil society organizations and CICAD Commissioners, and reported on the conclusions from that event.

Latin American Federation of Magistrates: Reiterated its commitment to the decisions adopted at UNGASS 2016 and the innovative policies being developed by CICAD. The representative also emphasized the importance of including in CICAD's work both the dissemination of information for magistrates, as well as training for them, particularly on the subjects of therapeutic justice, rehabilitation, and social reintegration, and underscored the need to have drug use treatment programs directed by the courts.

Pan American Health Organizations (PAHO): Emphasized the importance of using a public health perspective when addressing the world drug problem and, in this respect, described the key aspects that should be taken into account, which are included in the PAHO Strategy and Plan of Action.

22. Suggested topics, dates and location for the sixty-first regular session of CICAD

The Chair proposed that the next regular session of CICAD be held in late April 2017 in Washington, D.C. The Chair of the Commission and the CICAD Executive Secretariat will inform the Commissioners of the exact date when that session will be held.

Observations by delegations

Canada: Asked for continued discussions during the next CICAD meeting on the synthetic opioids crisis, particularly with respect to new trends in the prevalence of opioid use in the hemisphere.

Mexico: Suggested discussion of best practices in regional implementation of the UNGASS recommendations.

Trinidad and Tobago: Requested an evaluation of the actions taken by the member states with respect to the 2013 Study on the Drug Problem.

United States: Seconded the proposals made by Canada and Mexico.

Brazil: Suggested discussions be held on the monitoring of emerging consumption trends and early warnings.

Chile: Suggested discussion of how drug policies are being implemented in the member states.

Argentina: Suggested discussion regarding sharing information from the observatories in order to generate a possible plan of action or research for the next two years.

Guatemala: Supported the proposals made by Chile, Mexico, and Argentina.

Costa Rica: Supported the proposal made by Argentina.

Uruguay: Supported the ideas of discussing the gender perspective, the application of alternative measures to incarceration for drug-related crimes, and community-level approaches in urban contexts.

23. Closing session

The chair of CICAD thanked the member states, reiterated the commitment of The Bahamas to CICAD, and declared the sixtieth regular session of CICAD concluded.

III. DECISIONS

The Commission took the following decisions:

1. Adopted the draft agenda (CICAD/doc.2252/16.Rev1) and the draft schedule of activities (CICAD/doc.2253/16.Rev2).
2. Elected The Bahamas and Mexico as Chair and Vice-Chair of CICAD for the 2016-2017 term.
3. Approved the Commemorative Declaration to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of CICAD.
4. Approved the draft 2016-2020 Plan of Action of CICAD's Hemispheric Drug Strategy.
5. Elected Chile to Chair the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) for preparation of the Seventh Evaluation Round.
6. Approved the report of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction.
7. Elected Chile as the new Chair of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction.
8. Approved Peru's continued Chair of the Group of Experts on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development.
9. Approved the report of the Working Group on Maritime Narcotrafficking, its recommendations, documents, and plan of action.
10. Approved the 2015-2016 GELAVEX report, including its recommendations, and the documents and work plan for the 2016-2017 term.
11. Elected Paraguay and Bolivia as Chair and Vice-Chair of GELAVEX for the 2017-2018 term.

IV. PARTICIPANTS

1. CICAD member states

Argentina, The Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.

2. Permanent Observers

France, Russian Federation.

3. Specialized International and Regional Organizations

COPOLAD Program, Center for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), World Bank, The National LEAD Institute, United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

4. Civil Society

Airport Workers Labor Federation, Kojo Andy Enterprise, Organic Farming Promotion and Child Care Organisation, King Boakye Enterprise, Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFTAF), Intercambios Civil Association (Argentina), Espolea A.C., International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), Civil Society Bahamas Organization, Bahamas Association for Social Health, Youth Integration Centers, El Sol Foundation, Latin American Federation of Magistrates (FLAM), Igarapé Institute.