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**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG
ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION**

CICAD

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 sixty-first regular session would be held in Washington, D.C. on April 24-26, 2017.

This report gives a summary of the presentations made during the sessions, 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. **Ambassador Elliston Rahming, Permanent Representative of The Bahamas to the Organization of American States and Chair of CICAD - (CICAD/doc.2305/17)**

Ambassador Rahming welcomed the delegations, and recalled the words of the Secretary General of the OAS when he urged member states to make significant efforts to reduce or eliminate drug trafficking in the region. He underscored the importance of developing new policies, updating the regulatory framework, and finding effective solutions to the needs of every country in the Hemisphere. He highlighted the importance of the adoption of the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020, which would guide drug control efforts in the region, and reaffirmed Bahamas' commitment to support the work of CICAD and the OAS to effectively address the world drug problem.

- b. **Ambassador Nestor Mendez, Assistant Secretary General of the OAS - (CICAD/doc.2291/17)**

Ambassador Mendez welcomed the broad participation of member states in the current regular session, which was a reflection of the countries' interest and

commitment and the importance they accord to the issues dealt with by CICAD. He recalled the words of Secretary General Almagro at the previous regular session, when he said that it was time to turn words into actions that would produce real change. Ambassador Mendez said he felt this could be achieved by strengthening the Executive Secretariat of CICAD and through cooperation among member states to take on the “next generation” challenges in ways that would be flexible and adapted to each country. These challenges, he said, are not emerging or extraneous issues but have in fact been with us for years. He also felt that the OAS, and CICAD in particular, play an important role in promoting the exchange of information among member states and in building their capacity to address the drug problem in an effective way. He announced that the upcoming OAS General Assembly, to be held in Mexico City, would include panels on the four pillars of the OAS that take on worldwide and hemispheric challenges, including the topic of drugs.

c. Dr. Claudia Paz y Paz, Secretary for Multidimensional Security of the OAS - (CICAD/doc.2292/17)

Dr. Paz y Paz discussed the advances that had been made in the Americas in the debate on drug policy, which had resulted in agreement that the drug problem is a public health problem that requires comprehensive policies. She also referred to the post-UNGASS 2016 process and the Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020, which, given their close timing, had made for greater alignment and coincidence of drug policies and therefore greater efficiency in the use of resources and effort. Dr. Paz y Paz also stressed the need for better indicators to produce evidence to support the development of public policies, and encouraged delegations to continue to work on them in order to be able to conduct more precise evaluations.

d. Ambassador Adam Namm, Executive Secretary, Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the OAS - (CICAD/doc.2293/17)

Ambassador Namm referred to the recent meeting of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, noting that the Hemisphere had taken the lead in addressing drug-related issues. He stated that, as Executive Secretary of CICAD, he would focus on strengthening member states' capacities to address the drug problem, and described the different roles that the various areas of CICAD would play in that effort. Likewise, he highlighted that projects carried out by the Secretariat would have components of public health, human rights, gender, and development. He noted the importance of the participation of civil society, together with the need to have evidence-based policies and to find synergies with other international organizations. In closing, Ambassador Namm underscored the importance of the Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020, which he considered would serve as an excellent roadmap both for member states and for the CICAD Executive Secretariat.

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

The Commission adopted the draft agenda (CICAD/doc.2280/17 rev.1) and the draft schedule of activities (CICAD/doc.2281/17 rev.1) without amendment.

3. Draft annual report of CICAD 2016 and draft resolution for the forty-seventh regular session of the OAS General Assembly, June 2017

The CICAD Chair convened a working group to review the text of the draft resolution for the forty-seventh regular session of the OAS General Assembly (CICAD/doc.2284/17). The Group was to present the revised draft to the final meeting of the present regular session. The Chair also submitted the draft annual report of CICAD for 2016 (CICAD/doc.2283/17 rev.1) to the Commission for approval, and set May 1, 2017 as the deadline for delegations to submit their comments on the document.

Decisions

The Commission approved the CICAD draft annual report for 2016.

4. 2017 Work Plan of the Executive Secretariat of CICAD

Presenter: Ambassador Adam Namm, Executive Secretary, CICAD

Ambassador Namm presented the proposed 2017 Work Plan for the CICAD Executive Secretariat (ES/CICAD) (CICAD/doc.2285/17). He described the current structure of the Executive Secretariat based on statutory obligations, and each unit's mission and projects underway. He detailed the activities planned for 2017 in the areas of Institutional Strengthening, Demand Reduction, Supply Reduction, the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID), and the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), and presented the Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020, urging countries to contribute and participate actively in its implementation.

Comments by the delegations

Uruguay: Asked that the Executive Secretary's presentation be distributed to the delegations.

Trinidad and Tobago: Offered support for implementation of the Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020.

Nicaragua: Expressed interest in being in contact, through the OID, with European experts in order to find points of convergence and reference.

Panama: Expressed interest in the work being done with the European Union, since it wanted to step up its cooperation with the EU.

Decision

The Commission approved the Work Plan of the CICAD Executive Secretariat for 2017.

5. Regional Implementation of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS) 2016 Recommendations

Presenters:

a. Eduardo Díaz, Director, Comprehensive Drug Control, Office of the President, Colombia - (CICAD/doc.2304/17)

Mr. Díaz explained how Colombia's national drug strategy is related to the peace process being carried out in the country as well as to the recommendations of UNGASS. He discussed illicit crops in Colombia, which are concentrated in areas that had been most affected by the armed conflict. He said it was important to take a comprehensive approach to tackling the problem of the illicit supply of drugs and at the same time, promote alternative development to prevent economic hardship among the population.

b. Luis Alfonso De Alba, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the OAS

Ambassador De Alba discussed the challenges faced during the drafting of the UNGASS 2016 resolution, and the important role that the Hemisphere had played in the process by focusing debate on putting the individual at the center of public policies, public health, human rights, and gender. He also stressed the challenges that would be involved in negotiating the strategy for 2019, and the importance of conducting more research and evaluations in order to measure the successes and weakness of drug policies. The presenter indicated the Government of Mexico is currently organizing a series of dialogues on the seven thematic areas of the UNGASS 2016, with support from CICAD, in order to implement the operational recommendations within the final document at the national level.

c. **Esther Best, Manager, National Drug Council, Ministry of National Security, Trinidad and Tobago**

Ms. Best highlighted the difficulties that the Caribbean region had experienced in participating in the UNGASS process. She noted that addressing the drug problem from a public health perspective had not yet become firmly established in the Caribbean but that efforts were being made to develop policies in that direction. Ms. Best considered that drug strategies should consider the gender perspective in the issue of alternative development, along with a robust component of monitoring and evaluation.

Comments by the delegations

Peru: Informed that the country had incorporated the Sustainable Development Objectives into its drug strategy, with a robust human rights and public health approach. The delegate highlighted the work being done by the Group of Experts on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development, and reminded member states that the deadline for sending inputs to the Group was May 12.

Bolivia: Congratulated Colombia on its efforts to achieve a comprehensive peace accord, and also congratulated Mexico on the progress it had made in the area of therapeutic justice. The delegate highlighted that Bolivia adheres to the Sustainable Development Objectives, and that the country is committed to implementing the UNGASS agreements.

Canada: Considered that the UNGASS 2016 process had been balanced and comprehensive, and underlined the fact that the UNGASS agreements and CICAD's Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020 complemented each other. The delegate also said that Canadian policy on the opioid crisis was consistent with the recommendations of UNGASS, and reported that the government had introduced a bill which proposes to create a strict legal framework for controlling the production, distribution, sale and possession of cannabis in Canada. The proposed Bill aims to restrict youth access to cannabis, deter criminal activity, and protect public health and safety by providing access to regulated, quality controlled cannabis. The illegal import or export of cannabis will remain a serious criminal offence.

United States: Considered that the UNGASS principles should guide the Commission's work, and was pleased that the issue of public health had been raised to the same level of concern as the topic of supply reduction, while warning of the threat of drug trafficking by criminal organizations.

Guatemala: Noted the progress that had been made in the four years since the adoption of the resolution of Antigua, Guatemala, and reported that Guatemala was revising its national drug strategy to reflect a comprehensive approach that includes human rights, alternative

development, and the rights of users. The delegate also thanked civil society for its inputs to the development of new indicators.

Chile: Stated the importance of balanced drug strategies, taking into account human rights, public health, and a gender perspective.

6. The public health impacts of the opioid crisis and policy responses

Presenters:

- a. **Luis Arreaga, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), United States Department of State – (CICAD/doc.2322/17)**

Amb. Arreaga highlighted that the United States is in the midst of an opioid crisis, and provided statistics on deaths associated with the use of fentanyl. He said that the country had been working with its international partners to combat the production of and trafficking in fentanyl and other related products, and that the tools being used to address the problem included prevention, treatment, use of the international drug control conventions and regime, and voluntary international cooperation.

- b. **Frank Cesa, Associate Director, Office of Drug Policy, Controlled Substances Directorate, Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada - (CICAD/doc.2299/17)**

Mr. Cesa gave an overview of the opioid crisis in Canada and described the public health responses to the problem. He presented data from British Columbia, one of the Canadian provinces that has been most affected, and said that Health Canada has backed a comprehensive public health response that focuses on prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and compliance with health laws and regulations.

Comments by the delegations

The Bahamas: Congratulated Canada on having identified the opioid problem early on and on the comprehensive response it was implementing.

Mexico: Considered that the opioid crisis is a very sensitive one, and reported that Mexico has been working on the problem with the United States and Canada. The delegate stated that there should be a balance between health and the availability of pain-management medication, pointing out that Mexico is making an effort to make such medication more

accessible, and stressed the importance of working with international partners to prevent the diversion of pharmaceuticals.

7. Panel 1: The provision of drug treatment services: Challenges and solutions

Presenters:

- a. Patrice Whitehorne-Smith, Drug Treatment Specialist, Jamaica - (CICAD/doc.2300/17)**

Ms. Whitehorne-Smith gave an overview of drug use in the Caribbean, and said that the substances most often used were alcohol, marijuana, tobacco, inhalants and cocaine. She focused her presentation on the great challenges the region was facing in the area of the treatment of psychoactive substance use, which fall into five broad areas: infrastructure, good management of treatment services, access to financial resources, changes in the culture in an effort to end the social stigma of drug use, and governance.

- b. Rochelle Basden, Deputy Director of Psychology Services, Sandilands Rehabilitation Center, The Bahamas - (CICAD/doc.2301/17)**

Ms. Basden gave a broad overview of the drug situation in the Caribbean region, and said that it was necessary to look at the drug problem from a public health perspective. She described the types of treatment used in the Caribbean, and the approaches used, highlighting the important role played by therapeutic communities and self-help groups, particularly for adolescents and adults. Ms. Basden also spoke of the strengths, knowledge gaps, and training needs of staff working in treatment centers, and highlighted the support provided by CICAD through the PROCCER Training and Certification Program.

- c. Luis Alfonzo, Regional Advisor on Substance Abuse, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) - (CICAD/doc.2302/17)**

Dr. Alfonzo explained the challenges involved in providing care for problem users of psychoactive substances. He addressed the issue of the quality of care in the region and the health programs and services available for the delivery of appropriate care. Dr. Alfonzo also referred to the manuals and guidelines available on the subject that are geared to improving the quality of care.

Comments by the delegations

Jamaica: Clarified that Jamaica has not criminalized marijuana use, and explained how the country's laws deal with marijuana use.

Brazil: Reported on the projects that SENAD is conducting in coordination with cities so as to care for drug users directly in their own communities.

Colombia: Explained the features of the National Plan for Health Promotion and the Prevention and Treatment of Psychoactive Substance Use, which adopts a public health and human rights approach and recognizes drug use as a public health problem and drug dependence as a chronic disease. The delegate also discussed drug treatment projects under way, and the training of professionals in this area.

Chile: Said it was important to improve the care given in treatment centers, focusing on accreditation processes and how they are dealt with in Chile.

8. Specialized Training for Drug Control Intelligence in the Hemisphere

Introduction: Rafael Parada, Supply Reduction Unit, ES/CICAD

Mr. Parada gave an overview of the functions and objectives of the Regional Counterdrug Intelligence School of the Americas (ERCAIAD), and highlighted the important role it plays in training, particularly in light of the continuous paradigm changes in the drug trafficking issue.

Presenter: Andrés Pérez Coronado, Regional Counterdrug Intelligence School of the Americas (ERCAIAD), Colombia - (CICAD/doc.2298/17)

Mr. Perez explained in detail the operation of ERCAIAD, including the training strategy used and the process that was adopted to address changes in the drug trafficking system. The presenter also explained the variables that influence drug trafficking and presented the results of knowledge management based training and investigations. Mr. Perez also presented an ERCAIAD strategic intelligence analysis on the different drug problem components faced by the region.

Comments by the delegations

Bolivia: Stressed the importance of training in combatting drug trafficking, and explained the changes that had been introduced into Bolivian law to include special investigative techniques and asset forfeiture. He asked whether ERCAIAD offers training in

counterintelligence. Mr. Pérez replied that the topic is included as a module of one of the courses offered.

Chile: Presented the results of a successful police operation that had been carried out with the participation of ERCAIAD students from a number of countries, and described how the training events offered by the School help combat drug trafficking.

Peru: Stressed the importance of intelligence work in countering drug trafficking, and said it was important for the relevant agencies to have the resources they need. The delegate stated the importance of formulating a doctrine of operational intelligence with new protocols and standards for the management of intelligence information at the international level.

Honduras: Reported on the initiatives it has undertaken in the area of security, together with other Central American countries and with Colombia, and described the successes it has had thanks to the use of intelligence information.

9. Panel 2: Problem-solving courts for juvenile drug-related offenders

Presenters:

- a. **Carlos Quezada-Gomez, Clinical Psychologist, Director of Mental Health, Cermak Health Services, Chicago, United States - (CICAD/doc.2310/17)**

Dr. Quezada-Gomez described his experiences as a clinical psychologist with adolescents who had committed drug-related crimes. He explained why it is important to provide treatment for the addictions at an early age, and said that a person's gender and cultural environment must be taken into account. He also discussed how the effectiveness of treatment improves when it is coordinated among various different agencies, including the community, social workers, the judiciary and the police, since he felt that clinical treatment alone is not sufficient.

- b. **Jovanna Calderón Altamirano, Coordinator of the Juvenile Restorative Justice Program, Judicial Branch, Costa Rica - (CICAD/doc.2308/17)**

Ms. Calderón described Costa Rica's experience with its Juvenile Restorative Justice Program, which has been implemented in five cities. She explained that changes in the law on drug use had significantly reduced the sentencing of juveniles, and described the details of the alternatives to incarceration being used in the country, and the challenges for the future.

c. Paula Blake-Powell, Senior Parish Court Judge, Kingston and St. Andrew Family Court, Jamaica - (CICAD/doc.2309/17)

Judge Blake-Powell explained the new approach that the courts in Jamaica are taking for juveniles who have committed drug-related crimes, in a pilot program. She described the details of the program, and said that more legislative changes were needed, along with resources to improve program effectiveness.

Comments by the delegations

The Bahamas: Expressed that the country was interested in the case management system in Jamaica, and that there was concern over the growing problem of drug use by young people.

United States: Stressed the importance of providing treatment as early as possible, and described the successes in the United States with drug courts.

Costa Rica: Invited interested member states to discuss the programs being carried out in Costa Rica.

Barbados: Noted that Barbados had successfully conducted a pilot program with assistance from CICAD, and is currently trying to establish a drug court for adults. The delegate also said that the country has alternatives for drug-related juvenile offenders that incorporate restorative justice, as well as a network of public health centers.

Colombia: Reported that the country has a pilot criminal liability program for juveniles, based on the drug treatment court model but adapted to the situation in Colombia.

Panama: Informed that Panama is evaluating its treatment program, and invited member states to exchange best practices in the field. Panama asked for assistance in setting up early warning systems, particularly those geared to young people.

10. Panel 3: Training of Professionals Within the Public Health System in Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment

Presenters:

a. Nora Leticia Frías Melgoza, Director General of Prevention and Treatment of the Addictions, National Commission against the Addictions (CONADIC), Mexico - (CICAD/doc.2295/17)

Ms. Frías presented information on the problem of addictions in Mexico, and CONADIC's response, which was the creation of the National Addictions Treatment Network. She also discussed the main achievements of the Mexican Program for Training and Certification of Addictions Counselors (PROCCER), and said that the next phase of the program would include an impact evaluation, and training of professionals, as well as extending the program to the rest of the country.

b. Luis Antonio Torres Sánchez, Coordinator of the Treatment and Rehabilitation Area, Office of the Executive Director of the National Antidrug Commission of El Salvador (CNA) - (CICAD/doc.2289/17)

Mr. Torres reported on the achievements of the Training and Certification Program for Drug and Violence Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation (PROCCER), using the implementation model proposed by CICAD, which includes national diagnostics, the design of training curricula adapted to the needs of the country, strategic alliances with universities, and a state certification mechanism. He indicated that now that the first two phases of the PROCCER program have been completed in El Salvador, a new phase of training is being designed, in coordination with CICAD, geared to generalists in the National Health System and the Integrated Health Services Network.

c. Brian Morales, Director of the Global Drug Demand Reduction Division, Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), United States Department of State - (CICAD/doc.2294/17)

Mr. Morales discussed INL programs in the Hemisphere, which are based on the four pillars of INL's demand reduction program. He also gave a historical overview of knowledge management in the area of drugs, which was the basis on which the Universal Treatment Curriculum (UTC) and the Universal Prevention Curriculum (UPC) as well as other specialized curricula had been developed. Mr. Morales highlighted the work done in cooperation with international organizations, and noted the delivery of the UTC/UPC curricula in the Hemisphere in coordination with CICAD.

d. Bridgette D. Rolle, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Bahamas National Drug Council - (CICAD/doc.2306/17)

Ms. Rolle made a presentation on drug prevention and treatment training in the Caribbean, highlighting the work done with the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), the Caribbean Observatories on Drugs and the PROCCER program, and stated the interest of Caribbean member states in continuing the model provided by that program in 2017, with emphasis on training for adolescents. Ms. Rolle also

discussed the work carried out in cooperation with INL, the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI), the European Union, and UNODC.

Comments by the delegations

Trinidad and Tobago: Asked that Mr. Morales explain how INL views the transition from the PROCCER program to the UTC/UPC, and whether the specialized PROCCER curriculum for adolescents would continue to have the support of INL. Mr. Morales replied that the transition means that the UTC and the UPC will be adopted as training curricula within this model. He added that INL will continue to support the PROCCER curriculum for adolescents, and that CICAD will work as needed to revise it.

11. Early Warning Systems (EWS): Importance of Taking Action at a National Level

Presenters:

- a. **Diego Olivera, Secretary General, National Drug Board, Uruguay - (CICAD/doc.2296/17)**

Mr. Olivera gave a comprehensive overview of the early warning system in Uruguay, which had been implemented in November 2014. The system, which is administered by the Uruguayan Observatory on Drugs, focuses mainly on monitoring new psychoactive substances and other drugs. Mr. Olivera explained that the main purpose of the system is to reduce the risks and harm to health of emerging drugs, provide evidence to legislators, and contribute to efforts to reduce the supply of drugs. The system produces nationwide bulletins and notifications when new psychoactive substances and other emerging drugs are detected and analyzed to determine their chemical composition and health risks.

- b. **Jenny Fagua Duarte, Early Warnings Systems, Colombian Observatory on Drugs, Ministry of Justice, Colombia - (CICAD/doc.2297/17)**

Ms. Fagua reported on the early warnings systems used in Colombia, the purpose of which was to reduce the impact of new psychoactive substances and other emerging substances by means of early detection, evaluation of risks, and the production of reliable information for the authorities and the community at large. She informed that the system is administered by the Colombian Observatory on Drugs.

Comments by the delegations

Trinidad and Tobago: Said that the country was interested in early warning systems, and that it will head a working group that will focus on the subject, within the framework of the COPOLAD program.

Canada: Reported that as part of Canada's new drug strategy, a bill has been introduced to provide police officers and health care personnel with better tools that will allow them to respond to new psychoactive substances, and provided details of the initiative.

12. Strengthening Coordination and Promoting Cooperation among Supply Reduction Agencies in the Hemisphere

Introduction: David Ramsey, Supply Reduction Officer, National Anti-Drug Secretariat, Ministry of National Security, The Bahamas

Mr. Ramsey described a case of regional interdiction cooperation that had been conducted in the framework of Operation "Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands" (OPBAT), an international cooperative effort involving many counterdrug interdiction agencies. It was designed to help Bahamas and Turks and Caicos prevent drug trafficking and to identify and dismantle criminal organizations. He highlighted the support received for this operation from United States law enforcement agencies.

Presenter: Roger W. Bencze, Director J9, International Affairs, Joint Inter-agency Task Force South, United States - (CICAD/doc.2290/17)

Mr. Bencze described the structure and mission of the Joint Inter-agency Task Force South (JIATFS), which operates as a multilateral and regional interdiction operations center to detect and monitor the trafficking of drugs by air and sea by exchanging information and operational intelligence in real time. He also provided information about "*Operación Martillo*" and other joint maritime interdiction initiatives, which had been carried out in collaboration with the governments of France and Holland.

Comments by the delegations

Colombia: Expressed interest in establishing a mechanism whereby CICAD could participate as an associate agency of the International Maritime Center for Counterdrug Analysis (CIMCON) that had been set up by the Colombian Navy. The delegate also explained the joint initiative of the Colombian Navy and CICAD to give seminars for

personnel involved in counterdrug maritime operations, as part of the plan of action of the Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking.

13. Panel 4: Transforming National Drug Policies into Local Level Policies

Presenters:

a. Roberto Moro, Secretary of State, SEDRONAR, Argentina - (CICAD/doc.2312/17)

Mr. Moro described the changes that Argentina had made to its drug policies, including the creation of the Argentine Observatory on Drugs, which provides data to support the coordination of policies at the national level. He highlighted the importance for strategies to be tailored to the context of the different regions of the country, and to continue to invest in the regions so that each could have its own observatory. Mr. Moro also gave details of the “Cities in Action” program, which provides assistance to provincial governments for this purpose.

b. Patricio Bustos Streeter, National Director, SENDA, Chile - (CICAD/doc.2314/17)

Mr. Bustos discussed the steps he thought should be taken to transfer the responsibility for the drug issue from the central government to the regional governments so that they can develop policies designed to understand and deal with the drug problem at the local level, without fear of political interference. He described the comprehensive model of “SENA Prevents,” which serves as the national coordinating theme.

c. Diego Olivera, Secretary General, National Drug Board, Uruguay - (CICAD/doc.2313/17)

Mr. Olivera explained the process whereby Uruguay had created departmental and local drug councils, and described how this new government structure had allowed local drug policies to be reviewed in a participatory process that included both government institutions and also civil society. He said that implementing these decentralization processes had been challenging, but stressed the importance of international cooperation in the process.

Comments by the delegations

Peru: Explained how the presence of the State in the Monzón Valley had brought order to the place, and stressed that *campesinos* and the local economies affected by the production of drugs must be taken into account.

Argentina: Stressed the importance of having local institutions address the drug problem.

14. Report of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction

Presenter: Nara Santos, Project Director, SENAD, Brazil, Chair of the Expert Group

Speaking on behalf of SENAD, Ms. Nara Santos presented the report of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction (CICAD/doc.2287/17), which was chaired by Brazil and had held its sixteenth meeting in Miami, United States on March 7-8, 2017. She reported that during Brazil's chair, the Expert Group had focused its work on a variety of products in the context of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy, which gives priority to the public health approach to the treatment of drug use and its consequences. These included the Manual on Public Health Policies on Psychoactive Substance Use, the Practical Guide for Implementation and Systematization of Early Detection and Brief Intervention Strategies in Community and Primary Health Care Settings, and the Protocol to follow up on those people who have received some type of brief intervention to stop or reduce their drug use. She also explained the features of the *Portal Aberta*, which was designed to be an open access source of up-to-date training materials on policies and strategic actions in prevention, harm reduction, and treatment of problems related to drug use.

Decisions

The Commission approved the report of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction.

15. Report of the Inter-Governmental Working Group (IWG) of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)

Introduction: Sofia Kosmas, Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism Unit, ES/CICAD

Ms. Kosmas gave an overview of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) process, and explained the features of the Inter-Governmental Working Group (IWG), which was reviewing the process for the Seventh Evaluation Round. She outlined the IWG's activities for the remainder of the year, and urged member states, particularly those that had not yet nominated a representative to the IWG, to participate actively in the MEM process.

Presenter: Mila Francisco, Alternate Representative, Permanent Mission of Chile to the OAS, Chair of the IWG - (CICAD/doc.2315/17)

Ms. Francisco explained the IWG's mandate, its specific objectives, and the make-up of its thematic sub-working groups. She described the first stage of the Group's work, which was

to draft interpretive notes for evaluation of completion of the priority actions of the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020, and detailed the activities that are planned for the next stages of the MEM review process.

16. Topics, dates and location for the sixty-second regular session of CICAD

The delegate of Mexico informed that the sixty-second regular session of the Commission will take place on November 6-10, 2017 in Mexico City, Mexico, and proposed the following topics for discussion during the next regular session of CICAD: The Inter-American Observatory on Drugs as the central node for monitoring drug policies; access to pain-management medication; inclusion of a gender perspective in drug policies; international cooperation as a key factor in dealing with drug issues; and the strengthening of communication channels with civil society.

17. Other business

The delegate of Panama presented the country's candidacy for Vice Chair of CICAD (CICAD/doc.2288/17). The election will take place during the sixty-second regular session of the Commission.

18. Consideration and approval of the draft resolution for the forty-seventh regular session of the OAS General Assembly, June 2017

The Bahamas, as chair of the working group to prepare the draft resolution for the forty-seventh regular session of the OAS General Assembly, presented the paragraphs that had been agreed upon during the Group's discussions for consideration by the full Commission.

Comments by the delegations

Colombia: Asked how the paragraph labeled "*ad referendum*" at the request of the delegation of Nicaragua would be treated. The Chair responded that Nicaragua wished to maintain that wording, and that the document would therefore be presented in that way to the Committee responsible for reviewing the draft resolution.

Ecuador: Suggested deleting the first three lines of the title of the document, since the document as presented was not, in Ecuador's view, a draft resolution.

Decision

The Commission approved the draft resolution paragraphs for the forty-seventh regular session of the OAS General Assembly, as amended in accordance with the suggestions from the Ecuadorian delegation.

19. Remarks by Permanent Observers to the OAS, international and regional organizations, and civil society organizations accredited to the OAS

Russian Federation: Highlighted the importance of training, and how the Russian Federation had provided assistance for the training of personnel of Latin American counterdrug agencies in its specialized training centers. The delegate also expressed support for the UNGASS recommendations on projects and programs in the area of alternative development. (CICAD/doc.2316/17)

Spain: Highlighted the importance of national drug abuse control policies being supplemented with solid international cooperation; stressed the importance of addressing drug abuse problems from a public health perspective, and reported on the CICAD projects the Spanish Government has supported. (CICAD/doc.2317/17)

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO): Referred to the memorandum of understanding signed in 2012 between PAHO and the OAS on technical cooperation in the area of demand reduction, and highlighted the importance of cooperation between the two international agencies.

Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA): Highlighted the main points of the report entitled “Irrational Punishment: Drug Laws and Incarceration in the Americas”, which described the prison crisis in Latin America that has resulted from the adverse effects of current drug laws on the countries’ prisons. She explained that the report put forward public policy recommendations with the objective of achieving a more just drug policy that is respectful of fundamental rights and focused on protecting public health in societies across the Americas.

Dianova International: Presented the main aspects of the Declaration of Mallorca, adopted in December 2016 in the celebration of the 5th Institute of the World Federation of Therapeutic Communities (WFTC). The Declaration made recommendations on issues related to primary care, prevention, treatment, recovery and social reintegration of drug-dependent persons.

Bahamas Association for Social Health: Stated that punitive approaches to dealing with the drug issue are counterproductive, and urged governments and civil society organizations to revise their current indicators or develop new metrics to measure the results of their drug policies.

20 Report on the Dialogue with Civil Society. Drug Policy Indicators: Measuring Progress with a Focus on Individuals

Presenter: Ms. Coletta A. Youngers, Senior Fellow, Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) - (CICAD/doc.2319/17)

Speaking on behalf of the group of civil society organizations participating in the current regular session of CICAD, Ms. Youngers referred to the dialogue entitled “Drug Policy Indicators: Measuring Progress with a Focus on Individuals”, during which they discussed issues that were key to determining the success or failure of current policies, such as the use of the criminal justice apparatus to prosecute drug crimes, criminal investigation and punishment of organized crime, and effective care for communities exposed to social vulnerabilities. She informed that they had also discussed crosscutting issues of gender, public health and development, and added that in recent years, significant areas of cooperation had opened up and enabled a fruitful exchange of views to take place. However, she considered that it was still necessary to institutionalize formal mechanisms for participation that would include the voice of civil society in discussions within CICAD.

21. Closing session

Ambassador Elliston Rahming, Chair of CICAD, thanked the member states, and closed the sixty-first regular session of the Commission.

III. DECISIONS

The Commission took the following decisions:

1. Adopted the draft agenda (CICAD/doc.2280/17 rev.1) and the draft schedule of activities (CICAD/doc.2281/17 rev.1).
2. Approved the draft annual report of CICAD 2016 (CICAD/doc.2283/17 rev.1).
3. Approved the draft resolution paragraphs for the forty-seventh regular session of the OAS General Assembly (CICAD/doc.2284/17 rev.1).
4. Approved the Work Plan of the Executive Secretariat of CICAD for 2017.
5. Approved the report of the Expert Group on Demand Reduction (CICAD/doc.2287/17).
6. Approved the report of the Inter-Governmental Working Group (IWG) of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM).

IV. PARTICIPANTS

1. Member states of CICAD

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, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.

2. Permanent Observers

France, Russian Federation, and Spain.

3. Specialized International and Regional Organizations

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Inter-American Defense Board, and the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF).

4. Civil Society

Centro de Información y Educación para la Prevención del Abuso de Drogas (CEDRO), Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum, Defensoría Del Pueblo of the Province of Buenos Aires, Red Dianova Internacional, Fundación Argentina de Jóvenes, Instituto de Investigación Sobre Violencia, Adicciones y Jóvenes, Intercambios Asociación Civil, Bahamas Association for Social Health (BASH), Equis Justicia para las Mujeres, International Drug Policy Consortium, Jóvenes Contra la Violencia Guatemala, México Unido Contra la Delincuencia, Myrna Mack Foundation, Smart Approaches To Marijuana (SAM), USA Refugees & Immigrants, VOCAL-NY, Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA).