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CICAD EXPERT GROUPS

Paper prepared by the Executive Secretariat of CICAD

CICAD Expert Groups

Over the last nine years, the Commission has created a number of Expert Groups to address specific issues related to different drug control topics. The first Expert Group, on Precursor Chemical Control, was constituted in 1989, to draw up Model Regulations in conformance with Article 12 of the 1988 Vienna Convention. The Expert Group on Money Laundering Control was formed in 1990, again with a mandate to draw up Model Regulations to control money laundering, also within the framework of the Vienna Convention. Both of these Groups produced Model Regulations, which were approved by the Commission and recommended to member states by the OAS General Assembly for adoption into national law. The impact has been significant: for example, provisions of the Model Regulations on Money Laundering have been adopted by more than twenty countries, and legislation is pending in several more.

In 1996, new Expert Groups were formed on Arms Control and Demand Reduction and finally, in 1997, the Commission constituted an Expert Group on Alternative Development. Again, these Expert Groups have been productive: for example, the Expert Group on Arms Control produced the implementing regulations for the Inter-American Convention on the Control of Firearms, simultaneously with the approval of the Convention, the first time this has been achieved.

The organization, procedures and financing of these Expert Groups have grown through custom and practice and, while their existence was formally provided for in Article 22 of the amended CICAD Regulations (adopted in 1996),^{1]} the details of their financing have not been established.

The Executive Secretariat of CICAD, at the prompting of several countries members of Expert Groups, thus proposes for discussion by the Commission at its twenty-fourth regular session some common guidelines under which all CICAD Expert Groups would henceforth function, recognizing, however, that each Expert Group shall determine its internal operations. These proposed guidelines draw on, inter alia, the mandate for the Expert Group on Demand Reduction approved by the Commission at its twentieth regular session (Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 1996), the practices followed by the various Expert Groups, the Statute and Regulations of the Commission, the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the OAS, and pertinent resolutions of the OAS General Assembly, including resolutions on the Regular Fund budget, and the availability of funds.

^{1]} **Article 22**

The expert groups of CICAD referred to in these Regulations are advisory bodies of the Commission and their functions and mandates are established, amended and ended by the Commission. Such expert groups, however, shall determine their internal operation and manner of carrying on business provided these are consistent with the CICAD Statute, these Regulations and the Rules of Procedure of the Permanent Council of the Organization.

The expert groups and their members shall be responsible for the expenses they incur for their meetings unless other funds are available for this purpose.

PROPOSED OPERATING GUIDELINES FOR CICAD EXPERT GROUPS

1. An Expert Group shall meet when given a specific task mandated by the Commission, subject to the availability of funds.
2. An Expert Group shall be made up of Government representatives, duly authorized. Such representatives may, at the option of each Government, be serving government officials or not. The representatives shall have recognized subject-matter competence. The representatives may change, depending on the particular issue with which the Expert Group in question is to deal. However, continuity of representation at successive meetings on the same topic is strongly encouraged.
3. Expert Groups are open to all member states wishing to send an expert.
4. Expert Groups shall, at each meeting, make a report to the Commission, including concrete recommendations on the subject at hand, for discussion and possible adoption by the Commission, which shall then decide on the course of action it will adopt.
5. At its first regular session of each year, the Commission shall elect the countries that will chair each of its Expert Groups. The Chairmanship of an Expert Group shall be for one year.
6. The Expert Groups shall meet in the country holding the Chairmanship, unless unforeseen circumstances should intervene. If for any reason, the country holding the Chairmanship of an Expert Group is unable to host the meeting, that meeting shall be held in Washington, D.C., at the headquarters of the Organization.
7. A member state hosting an Expert Group meeting agrees to assume certain costs and provide personnel and equipment as set out in an Agreement to be signed with the General Secretariat of the OAS prior to each meeting.
8. Member states shall assume the cost of sending their own experts to the meetings of Expert Groups.

The draft financial rules proposed above attempt to recognize the financial and budgetary realities faced by member states and by the Executive Secretariat of CICAD in organizing these meetings that are vital to the technical work of the Commission.

The Executive Secretariat recommends that CICAD, at its twenty-fourth regular session, adopt Rules of Procedure for its Expert Groups based on the above proposal, with due regard for the financial implications thereof.