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**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION**

CICAD

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

**SIXTY-THIRD REGULAR SESSION
April 25-27, 2018
Mexico City, Mexico**

**OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.63
CICAD/doc.2407/18
7 May 2018
Original: Spanish**

FINAL REPORT

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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 to address general topics and another 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-third regular session would be held in Mexico City, on April 25-27, 2018.

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

a. Adam Namm, Executive Secretary, CICAD - (CICAD/doc.2380/18)

Ambassador Namm referred to the important commitments reached in the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the Drug Problem (UNGASS 2016) and thanked Mexico for its leadership in creating a working group to address this topic, in order to develop a common approach toward the 2019 meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). The Ambassador also underscored the efforts made by the Executive Secretariat to deliver on those commitments and help the member states meet existing challenges and emerging threats, based on a public health and human rights approach.

b. Claudia Paz y Paz, Secretary for Multidimensional Security, OAS - (CICAD/doc.2379/18)

Dr. Paz y Paz pointed to some momentous changes that define the diversity and multicausality of problems related to drug abuse, such as corruption and impunity, as well as the importance of seeking multidimensional solutions that take into account various actors, including civil society. She also reiterated the commitment of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security to support concrete actions to strengthen the regulatory frameworks and institutional capacity of member states to address the drug problem. Finally, Secretary Paz y Paz mentioned the importance of integrating a gender approach in such actions and constantly evaluating those actions to measure progress being made toward achieving a prosperous and safe Hemisphere.

c. Alberto Elías Beltrán, Acting Attorney General of Mexico, Office of the Chair of CICAD, Mexico - (CICAD/doc.2384/18)

Dr. Alberto Elías Beltrán thanked delegations for coming to Mexico to continue formulating comprehensive balanced strategies to address the drug problem based on CICAD's Hemispheric Drug Strategy, the recommendations from the UNGASS 2016, and the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He also cited the need to increase cooperation among the countries to address new challenges and acknowledged with appreciation the inputs received during the First Meeting of the Working Group on Implementation of the Operational Recommendations from UNGASS 2016, held on April 24, 2018 under the auspices of Mexico. To conclude, Dr. Beltrán emphasized the importance of exploring alternatives and new strategies that help to counteract the production, trafficking, and use of illicit drugs through specific and comprehensive responses that consider human beings the center of such efforts.

d. Miguel Ruiz Cabañas, Under-Secretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, Foreign Affairs Ministry, Mexico

Ambassador Cabañas expressed Mexico's commitment to the world drug problem and the efforts being made by the country at the international, regional, and national level. On this subject, he referred to the work led by the country to achieve important agreements within the framework of UNGASS 2016 and cited some actions being made, in coordination with the CICAD Executive Secretariat, to ensure that all OAS member states are aligned with and adopt the operational recommendations from UNGASS 2016. Ambassador Cabañas also emphasized the importance of continuing to work on the issue and develop a roadmap in 2019 to improve international drug control and underscored the need to utilize CICAD's regular session to share points of view and experiences so as to compile best practices on the issue.

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

The Commission adopted the draft agenda (CICAD/doc.2364/18 rev. 1) and the draft schedule of activities (CICAD/doc.2365/18 rev. 2) without amendment.

3. Draft CICAD Annual Report 2017 (CICAD/doc.2366/18 rev. 1) and Draft Resolution for the forty-eighth regular session of the OAS General Assembly, June 2018 (CICAD/doc.2367/18 rev. 1)

The Chair submitted the CICAD Draft Annual Report 2017 (CICAD/doc.2366/18.rev. 1) for approval by commissioners and allowed delegations until May 4, 2018 to submit additional edits to the document.

The CICAD Chair also called for the formation of a working group to review the draft of the CICAD paragraphs for the omnibus resolution on security for the forty-eighth regular session of the OAS General Assembly (CICAD/doc.2367/18 rev. 1), in order to submit a revised draft during the sixth plenary session of the current regular session.

Decisions

The Commission approved the CICAD draft Annual Report 2017.

4. Follow-up on implementation of the recommendations outlined by UNGASS 2016

Presenters:

a. Miguel Ruiz Cabañas, Under-Secretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, Foreign Affairs Ministry, Mexico

Following up the implementation of the recommendations outlined by UNGASS 2016, Ambassador Ruíz Cabañas referred to the conclusions from the first meeting of the Working Group on the Implementation of the UNGASS 2016 Operational Recommendations. He emphasized the hemispheric consensus on commitments and recommendations from UNGASS 2016, to show balance in drug policy, and proposed a second meeting of the Working Group, in addition to maintaining the participation of representatives from international organizations and international experts from civil society. He also considered it important to compile and consolidate the information submitted by the countries and experts participating in the Working Group in order to, with support from the Executive Secretariat of CICAD, make the Group's web page available on the CICAD website, as well as to develop a follow-up matrix on the UNGASS 2016 recommendations and document experiences in the implementation of those recommendations. Finally, Ambassador Ruiz Cabañas considered it necessary to prepare a regional report, with the support of the Executive Secretariat of CICAD, on findings that could be presented jointly at upcoming international discussions, in order to define common positions and joint actions for the 2019 meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

b. Adam Namm, Executive Secretary, CICAD

Executive Secretary Namm emphasized some key elements of the discussion during the opening session, such as progress on the implementation of UNGASS 2016 recommendations, production of scientific evidence and start-up of the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, as well as the promotion of horizontal cooperation. He indicated that the CICAD Plan of Action 2016-2020 has 30 goals and 129 priority actions and is designed to address the multidimensional drug problem with a comprehensive, balanced, evidence-based approach that is fully respectful of human rights. He indicated that the plan is closely aligned with the UNGASS 2016 recommendations and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Decisions

The Commission approved the conclusions from the First Meeting of the Working Group on the Implementation of the UNGASS 2016 Operational Recommendations (CICAD/doc.2401/18).

5. Panel 1: Production of scientific evidence and information for the formulation of drug policies and their indicators

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

Presenters:

a. Óscar Santiago Quintos, National Office of Drug Policy, Mexico

Mr. Quintos underscored the importance of having quality information and the need for updated methods using innovative technologies to improve the collection of information used to support the formulation of drug policies.

b. Carlos Medina, Vice Minister for Criminal Policy and Restorative Justice – (CICAD/doc.2374/18)

Deputy Minister Medina focused his remarks on the subject of using data and information from a multidimensional perspective not only to provide evidence that supports activities intended to reduce drug use and trafficking but also to support governance, public safety, and human rights.

c. Elena Hedoux, Pompidou Group

Ms. Hedoux described the important relationship between drug policies, science, and the role of policy evaluation activities to support the governance of the States. She also explained how these components support the development of consistent and transparent policies.

d. John Esposito, International Policy Analyst, Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), United States - (CICAD/doc.2376/18)

Mr. Esposito emphasized the important role played by the key sources of information on drug use and mortality and explained how information on control of the supply of drugs can be used to fill the gaps in information and the importance thereof in developing solid, evidence-based drug policies.

Comments by delegations

Ecuador: Expressed concern regarding the current drug problem situation. Felt that drug production is increasing, as is drug use; that conditions in the transit countries are getting worse; and that problems related to the emergence of street level “micro-trafficking” of drugs are becoming increasingly more complex, with profound effects on the social fabric.

Honduras: Expressed that drug policies have not been sufficiently focused on the human factor and emphasized the importance of observing the region’s situation, so that subregional hemispheric needs can be identified and given the required priority. Honduras also agreed with Ecuador and urged consistency and balance in addressing the drug problem.

El Salvador: Emphasized the importance of producing scientific information for developing demand reduction and drug supply control policies. Also emphasized that El Salvador conducted a school survey in 2016 and thanked the OID for the technical assistance provided.

Costa Rica: Urged recognition of the need to evaluate drug policies in order to identify and resolve problems encountered in the execution of those policies.

6. Border cooperation: challenges and opportunities for drug policy and security

Presenters:

a. María del Socorro Enrique Juárez, Administrator, Center for Electronic Processing of Data, Mexico

Ms. Enrique Juárez presented the Mexican national perspective with regard to narcotics detection by land and maritime Customs. She also mentioned the results achieved by the customs intelligence center created in 2012 and described the typology most frequently used to conceal and/or transport drugs and chemical precursors, as well as non-intrusive inspection tools used in the country as a method for detecting such substances.

b. Adriana Mazuera Child, Director, Policy and Security Consolidation, Ministry of National Defense, Colombia

Ms. Mazuera Child explained the principal challenges and opportunities in the area of cross-border hemispheric cooperation in Colombia. Regarding opportunities for cooperation with other States, she emphasized the strengthening of agreements on investigation, prosecution, and judicial procedures, the standardization of regional regulations on investigative techniques and cross-border operations, the implementation of maritime traffic control projects, as well as the strengthening of forums for sharing lessons learned and good practices in anti-drug investigation.

Comments by delegations

Ecuador: Referred to the country's situation regarding its borders, emphasizing that this is a very difficult time and that it is taking steps to consolidate the State's presence in those areas to restore peace and tranquility. The delegate also expressed appreciation for the collaboration and solidarity of the countries that are providing their support to the country in various ways, particularly Colombia. Finally, emphasized the need to continue strengthening the ties of collaboration in the region through a comprehensive, multidimensional, and inclusive focus in order to achieve satisfactory and durable results.

Chile: Expressed appreciation for the presentations and asked what the relationship is between peasants and the "cartels," particularly in coca leaf processing. In response, Mrs. Adriana Mazuera Child explained that there is now "outsourcing" and the "cartels" no longer own the entire chain but participate only in the stages that yield the most economic benefits.

Bolivia: Emphasized the need to collect data and develop indicators for measuring the effectiveness of drug control policies and described the benefits of using technology and geo-referenced

information. The delegate, also announced the creation of a regional intelligence center in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, in order to increase drug identification and interdiction efforts at the regional level.

Colombia: Felt that the phenomenon occurring on the Colombian border must be studied and taken into consideration so that other States in the region will be prepared and able to respond effectively to similar criminal activity that may occur in different idiosyncratic and political contexts. In this regard, the delegate invited the other delegates to incentivize the analysis of certain key variables in their countries to enable the region to make progress in providing comprehensive responses in combating transnational organized crime based on collaboration and solidarity.

7. Responses to ensure the availability and prevent abuse of controlled medications - (CICAD/doc.2377/18)

Presenter: Alberto Miguel Guzmán, Executive Director, Narcotics, Psychotropics and Chemical Substances Regulation, Federal Commission for Protection against Sanitary Risks (COFEPRIS), Mexico

Mr. Guzmán made a presentation on the importance of access to controlled medications, emphasizing that the principal challenge in Mexico on this issue is the lack of access, unlike the excessive access seen in other parts of the Hemisphere. The presenter emphasized the activities carried out by COFEPRIS to encourage the appropriate use of controlled medications and prevent the improper use thereof and recognized the need to strike a balance by providing increased access to controlled medicines for palliative care while simultaneously being careful not to create conditions for the improper use of these substances.

8. The opioid crisis

Ambassador Namm presented an introduction on the opioid crisis affecting the region given that the diversion of these substances, including heroine, fentanyl, and analogous substances, presents a growing problem throughout the Hemisphere. He also noted that these substances appeared, not only in North America, but in Latin America as well, and emphasized the countries' need to control medications used for palliative care.

Comments by delegations

Canada: Presented a general view of the opioid crisis in Canada, emphasizing the approach the country uses at the federal level and the priority actions that the country is developing to address this problem. It also noted that opioid use in Canada is increasing and that the legal supply has been compromised by illicit trafficking. The delegate also mentioned the high mortality rate associated with opioids, which it feels requires an emergency response in areas related to reducing both the demand for and the supply of these substances. Finally, the delegate stated that Canada's priority is to increase access to treatment and support innovative approaches to address the stigmatization of drug users.

United States: Explained that the dramatic increase in the improper use of synthetic drugs, particularly synthetic opioids, is a region-wide epidemic. In this sense, the delegate emphasized

mortality in the United States due to drug overdoses related to prescribed or illicit opioids, including fentanyl. The delegate also described efforts being made by the country to address this problem and noted the need for a coordinated international response.

Colombia: Reported that the country is facing a considerable increase in drug use and that the greatest concern is due to the increased use of heroin and injectable cocaine. The delegate mentioned the actions Colombia is carrying out in the area of harm reduction and welcomed the signing of a cooperation agreement between the International Narcotics Control Board and the Universal Postal Union to halt the unlawful flow of synthetic opioids and promote technical assistance and training to strengthen capacities for detecting and seizing such substances.

Barbados: Explained that the country is also facing challenges due to the entry of medicines in different forms purchased over the Internet, creating a black market of pharmaceutical services, and described the measures Barbados is developing to address this problem. The delegate requested training and technical assistance in this area.

9. Trends in the sale of synthetic drugs and NPS through the Internet: darknet, cryptocurrency and postal systems

Presenters:

a. Nadia Levy Popp, Federal Police, Mexico - (CICAD/doc.2386/18)

Ms. Levy Popp explained the importance of seeking solutions to combat the increase in new psychoactive substances (NPS) as well as their sale via the Internet and transport through postal systems. She also expressed her concern regarding the lack of information related to the risks that use of these substances entails for health, the ease with which they are being produced and purchased, and the lack of adequate regulations internationally. She also referred to the principal challenges affecting Mexico due to these problems, as well as the principal activities being carried out to address them.

b. Óscar Eduardo Gómez Lara, Chief, Counterdrug Investigations Group, Criminal Investigations Division (DIJIN), Colombian National Police - (CICAD/doc.2378/18)

Mr. Gómez Lara described growth in the use of synthetic drugs and NPS in Colombia and emphasized the need to strengthen the country's existing legal frameworks. He also explained the technological tools that organized crime uses to market these substances through the "Darknet" and described the blocking of the "colombiaconnection.com" website through the use of special investigative techniques, such as undercover agents, controlled deliveries, intercepted communications, and surveillance/monitoring.

c. Brian Harris, Director, Office of Policy, Planning, and Coordination, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), United States Department of State

Mr. Harris expressed his concern over the new drug trafficking method whereby criminal organizations evade international controls by creating NPSs that are very similar to substances that

are controlled. He also mentioned that drug traffickers are taking advantage of the on-line market through the darknet and open sites to later traffic these substances in small amounts through the international mail system, making detection and interception difficult.

d. Antonio Guzmán, Associate Section Chief, Synthetic Drugs and Chemicals Section, United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) - (CICAD/doc.2387/18)

Mr. Guzmán explained cases studying sales of synthetic drugs via the Internet, such as Operation “Killer Whale” operation, and how it was possible to seize a large quantity of these substances and their chemical precursors, as well as the traffickers’ assets. He also explained the difference between the various types of systems used to sell illicit substances via the Internet, the increasing use of digital currencies to conduct such transactions, and difficulties encountered by control agencies in responding to such challenges.

e. Roberto Fernández Alonso, Chief, Open Networks Section, Technological Investigations Unit, Spain’s National Police - (CICAD/doc.2388/18)

Mr. Fernández Alonso described how traditional crimes are being committed with the support of new technologies, including the onion router and sandbox as well as their connection with the use of cryptocurrencies. He also mentioned the various types of existing black markets and explained the details of the “Torre” operation as a successful operation that dismantled a major criminal network in Spain dedicated to the import, sale, and illegal distribution of medications via the Internet.

Comments by delegations

Costa Rica: Recognized the importance of the information provided both to understand the challenges faced by the region and to seek solutions, including measures for combating drug trafficking networks and drug use prevention policies targeting young people in particular.

Canada: Described the opioid crisis affecting Canada and increased Internet sales of fentanyl and analogues, which are transported through postal services and mentioned the measures the Canadian government is implementing to counteract this phenomenon, including those related to international cooperation in this area. Finally, the delegate asked about the utility of the tools that are being designed to combat cybercrime in multinational forums to promote international cooperation and mutual legal assistance to combat the sale of synthetic drugs via the Internet. In response, the presenters explained the measures Europe is taking on this issue, under the leadership of Germany and the Netherlands.

Honduras: Mentioned that there is a lack of specialized training in Honduras in the various agencies facing this phenomenon, particularly on the identification and dismantling of clandestine laboratories in which synthetic drugs are produced. The delegate also reported on the recent creation of an inter-agency technical commission to improve the detection, interdiction, and handling of chemical precursors and synthetic drugs in the country. Finally, the delegate requested for technical assistance from CICAD’s Supply Reduction Unit to support strengthening of the commission and training in the area of investigation and intelligence for police agents, as well as to increase knowledge of the issue among prosecutors and judges.

10. Panel 2: Local markets of illegal drugs: Social impact, trends and new responses

Moderator: Isaac Morales, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico

Presenters:

a. Carlos Medina Ramírez, Vice Minister for Criminal Policy and Restorative Justice, Colombia - (CICAD/doc.2375/18)

Mr. Medina explained the proposals promoted by the Colombian Ministry of Justice and Rights in the implementation of actions to address the problem of the sale of drugs in small quantities. In this regard, he emphasized that, in order to counter said phenomenon, it is necessary to carry out coordinated actions among all relevant public entities, strengthening the tools used for criminal investigation processes to bring down criminal structures and their high-level leaders and optimize policy resources. He highlighted the need for focus on results with greater impact and to avoid the concentration of force among vulnerable populations. The Vice Minister also described the important role of the early warnings system of the Drug Observatory of Colombia, which contributes to the formulation of intervention policies, plans and strategies. Finally, Mr. Medina noted that other preventive actions, such as improvement in employment opportunities, education and health make a positive contribution to addressing this phenomenon.

b. Martín Verrier, Under-Secretary for Narcotrafficking Control, Argentina - (CICAD/doc.2395/18)

Mr. Verrier explained the implementation and results of the “Price/Purity” program that measures the effectiveness and behavior of the market with the implementation of drug policies. He also described the “Barrios Seguros” program that found a correlation between reduced homicide rates and the improved perception of safety, and explained that a housing development plan is being designed with the assistance of the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB).

c. Cyllan Gillead, Police Officer, Trinidad and Tobago - (CICAD/doc.2392/18)

Mr. Gillead presented a general overview of the use and consumption of drugs in Trinidad and Tobago, describing the actions the government has taken in this regard, such as the restructuring of the police department, the creation of youth clubs, and training of the Organized Crime and Intelligence Unit. He also commented about the legislative amendments that have been proposed to address the issue of gangs and about preventive development strategies.

d. Alejandro Ivelic, Director, Specialized Unit on Illicit Trafficking of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances, Attorney General’s Office, Chile - (CICAD/doc.2389/18)

Mr. Ivelic highlighted the importance of the principle of shared responsibility in the area of international cooperation on drug policies and described the details of the “Northern Border” Plan, which increases customs and police control. He also explained the international cooperation activities being carried out by Chile and the investigative techniques it is using.

11. Measuring the progress of alternatives to incarceration in the Americas

Presenters:

- a. Suvi Hynynen Lambson, Senior Associate Researcher, Center for Court Innovation (CCI), United States - (CICAD/doc.2396/18)**

Ms. Hynynen emphasized the importance of monitoring and evaluating components in alternatives to incarceration programs as support for the achievement of their objectives. She also explained how process and impact evaluations are developed for these programs and indicated that evaluation processes should help in making decisions among various possible alternatives.

- b. Kim Ramsay, Senior Research Officer, Criminal Justice Research and Planning, General Prosecutor's Office, Barbados - (CICAD/doc.2383/18)**

Ms. Ramsay explained the challenges Barbados is facing in implementing drugs policies and described the implementation of community services orders as alternatives to incarceration, considering it important to monitor and evaluate them so as to ensure that the expected results are being achieved.

- c. Ana María Figueroa, Researcher of the Criminological Social Studies Program, Institute of Sociology, Pontifical Catholic University of Chile - (CICAD/doc.2381/18)**

Ms. Figueroa emphasized how important it is for Drug Treatment Courts to have political and financial support. She also noted that evaluations of these courts should be performed by an external agency and explained the advantages of conducting this process in this way.

12. Towards a broader concept of prevention of drug abuse and related crimes

Presenters:

- a. Manuel Mondragón y Kalb, National Commissioner against Addictions (CONADIC), Mexico - (CICAD/doc.2382/18)**

Mr. Mondragón presented a general overview of public comprehensive policies for addressing drug abuse in Mexico. He described drug use trends in Mexico and presented statistics related to this issue. Mr. Mondragón also felt there was an imbalance between supply reduction policies and drug demand, noting that the budget assigned to supply reduction significantly exceeds the budget assigned to demand reduction. In this regard, he called for placing greater emphasis on drug use prevention policies, particularly among minors.

- b. Eugenia Mata, Costa Rican Institute on Drugs (ICD)**

Ms. Mata explained Costa Rica's national drug prevention strategy, which emphasizes efforts in the country's most vulnerable communities, highlighting the importance of strengthening communities and families. She also indicated that this strategy was designed based on Bronfenbrenner's paradigm, which considers families to be the primary preventive cell and explained its principal objectives.

c. Irving Israel Jaime Lizárraga, Minister-Counselor of the Embassy of Peru in Mexico

Mr. Jaime described the “Strong Families: Love and Limits” program implemented in Peru to improve adolescent health and development, the objective being to reduce drug use risks through improved communications between parents and adolescents. In this regard, he explained the scope of the program as well as the mechanisms used to evaluate it over time.

d. Roberto Moro, Commissioner, SEDRONAR, Argentina

Mr. Moro described a program of community-level interventions that was implemented in areas highly vulnerable to drug use in Argentina, with the support of the Argentine Observatory on Drugs, in order to identify those locations with the greatest need for services. He also emphasized the need to produce local public policies to address issues at that level, so they can be adapted to the specific reality of each community based on respect for individuals.

Comments by delegations

Honduras: Supported the idea of creating a broader concept of drug abuse and related crimes and underscored the importance of development as an integral part of drug use and crime prevention.

United States: Highlighted the importance of involving families, civil associations, and communities in drug use prevention.

El Salvador: Explained the implementation of the third phase of the “Safe El Salvador” program, the objective of which is to reduce violence.

13. Panel 3: Drug policy and civil society: Global challenges and local realities

Moderator: Pablo Cymerman, Intercambios A.C., Argentina

Presenters:

a. Ann Fordham, Executive Director, International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), United Kingdom - (CICAD/doc.2394/18)

Ms. Fordham recounted the road traveled since UNGASS 1998, where the concept of “a drug-free world by 2008” was developed and emphasized the importance of having held another UNGASS in 2016, in view of the urgent need to revise the focus in the area of drugs. She also described the challenges faced during the process of revising the operational recommendations and explained that the resulting UNGASS 2016 document is more directed to health and development. Ms. Fordham also explained that there is increasing polarization in terms of approaches in national drug policies.

b. Kenya Cuevas, Casa de las Muñecas Tiresias, Mexico - (CICAD/doc.2393/18)

Ms. Cuevas emphasized the vulnerable situation of transsexual women, as well as the major problems faced by this group. In this regard, she presented statistics on drug use, deprivation of liberty, and the

incidence of HIV in transsexual women and stressed the importance of investigating the causes leading to drug use. She also emphasized the need for rehabilitation centers as an alternative to incarceration and prevention programs for female sex workers or women in vulnerable situations.

c. Ana Pecova, Equis Justicia para las Mujeres, Mexico

Ms. Pecova noted that punitive drug policies in Mexico represent one of the major causes for women's incarceration. She also considered it important to include women in the discussion regarding drugs and to evaluate the structural causes that lead women to commit crimes.

d. Aura María Puyana, Observatory of Crops and Growers Declared Legal (OCCDI), Colombia

Ms. Puyana referred to the criminalization of those involved in illicit crops in Colombia. She explained the various factors affecting the illicit drugs situation in the country and considered the need to suspend forced rehabilitation, to build non-binding agreements with the communities, and maintain the democratic spirit of Colombia's peace agreement so as to achieve comprehensive community development.

e. Lisa Sánchez, México Unido Contra la Delincuencia (MUCD), Mexico

Ms. Sanchez referred to the legal regulation of cannabis and recounted the scenarios depicted in the 2013 "Caminos" document that analyzed the future of the drug situation in the Americas up to 2025. Based on one of the scenarios depicted in that document, she explained the scenario that she considers most suited to the current situation, which suggests a change in drug policies, beginning with cannabis, and described the different recommendations outlined in the document for addressing this aspect of the drug problem.

Comments by delegations

Colombia: Mentioned the positive results of the drug policies implemented in Colombia and emphasized that the UNODC is implementing a program to monitor families involved in illicit crops. The delegate explained the details of the program, and offered to present the results shortly.

Mexico: Sub-secretary Miguel Ruiz Cabañas, highlighted the importance of strengthening the dialogue between the governments of the hemisphere and civil society organizations. He pointed out how the work done by civil society organizations on the ground can enrich drug policies, for example, by showing the link between human rights and drug policy. He welcomed the fact that the panel of civil society organizations has been incorporated into the official program of the CICAD plenary meetings, which could be considered already as a good practice to be shared by our Hemisphere.

14. Panel 4: Strengthening of measures to address the problem of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

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

Presenters:

a. Juan Carlos Araneda, consultant - (CICAD/doc.2372/18)

Mr. Araneda gave a presentation on the monitoring of NPS in which he explained the different substances that were detected and their similarities with controlled drugs. He also described the measures adopted by the international community and the need to strengthen early warning systems and noted that the principal challenges related to NPS are health sector ignorance regarding the approach to intoxication, the failure to update legislation to account for the speed with which these substances appear, and the strengthening of precursor control mechanisms and monitoring systems.

b. John Esposito, International Policy Analyst, Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), United States

Mr. Esposito presented a general overview of the emergence of NPS in the United States and described the complexities these threats pose for different sectors responsible for drug control and public health. He also described the crisis experienced in the United States due to the high mortality level from overdoses of these substances and listed the various measures the country is implementing to address this problem.

Comments by delegations

Canada: Explained the challenges that this topic represents for the international community and noted that there are no studies on the effects of NPS on short- and long-term health. The delegate also described the control, regulatory, and health measures that Canada has implemented to address this problem and emphasized the importance of improving communication on the risks of these substances for the general population.

Mexico: Commented on the importance of continuing to analyze the phenomenon and the need for more in-depth regional responses to the phenomenon of NPS.

Honduras: Noted that justice operators need greater knowledge and training on the phenomenon of NPS and emphasized the importance of using a systematic approach to the problem.

Argentina: Commented that the greatest challenge is being able to anticipate the maneuvers of the drug traffickers, who take advantage of the fact that various NPS are not controlled in the countries' legislation.

15. Panel 5: Link between the Sustainable Development Goals and drug policy: focus from international organizations' perspective

Moderator: Ann Fordham, Executive Director, International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), United Kingdom

Ms. Fordham explained the content of the document “Aligning Agendas: Drugs, SDGs and the Drive for Policy Coherence,” which was developed on the basis of discussions undertaken regarding the Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG) to provide data for measuring the impact and effectiveness of drug policies using the SDG framework. She also emphasized the importance of designing drug policies in coordination with other relevant agencies in order to ensure that results in one area do not undermine results achieved in another.

Presenters:

a. Rebecca Schleifer, Office of Policy and Program Support, United Nations Development Program (UNDP) - (CICAD/doc.2400/18)

Ms. Schleifer described some of the activities carried out within the UNDP framework to encourage consistent drug policies and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She also explained the details of the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan recently approved by the United Nations and emphasizing the importance of having integrated and multisectoral development responses. Ms. Scheifler also described the challenges of achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the approach to issues like illicit crops, proportionality in sentencing for drug-related crimes, gender and human rights.

b. Salomé Flores, Coordinator, Center of Excellence, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), National Institute for Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI)

Ms. Flores stressed the importance of aligning efforts in the approach to the drug problem with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and noted that a development agenda must link the 17 goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She also emphasized goals 3, 5, 8, and 16 as the principal pillars for developing comprehensive drug policies. Finally, Ms. Flores also noted the need to establish collective actions, with the participation of governments, civil society, and the private sector to promote investment projects that make it possible, through fair trade practices, to promote alternative development and social reinsertion.

c. Miguel Malo, Consultant, Noncommunicable Diseases, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Mexico - (CICAD/doc.2399/18)

Mr. Malo referred to the topic in the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development context, emphasizing the importance of adopting a multisectoral approach for acting on the social, environmental and economic factors related to health. He also underscored the need to change the focus from addressing individual drug use to action on social determinants and risk factors, in order to reduce individual and collective vulnerability underpinning the public health approach. Finally, he urged the countries to strengthen their drug use prevention policies.

d. Raúl Martín del Campo, Member of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) - (CICAD/doc.2402/18)

Mr. del Campo explained the congruence between international treaties, the UNGASS 2016 recommendations, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He also described the activities carried out by the INCB to support the implementation of international treaties related to drugs. Mr. del Campo also provided the INCB point of view regarding the various goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

e. Adriana Henao, Specialist, Institutional Strengthening Unit, ES/CICAD

Ms. Henao emphasized the need to apply an approach to the drug phenomenon that is comprehensive, balanced, multidisciplinary, evidence-based, respectful of human rights, and takes into account the causes of the problem. She explained the connection between CICAD's 2016-2020 Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs and the 17 goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and offered examples related to the topic of alternative development. Ms. Henao highlighted how important it is for countries to receive support from international organizations so they can evaluate their policies to ensure they are aligned with the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and she presented examples of initiatives that have been carried out in this regard.

Comments by delegations

Colombia: Felt that achievement of the SDGs will directly support compliance with the commitments made in the UNGASS 2016 and that alignment of drug policies with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will contribute to achieving more effective drug policies and the effective inclusion of public health and human rights approaches therein. Also indicated that progress needs to be made in designing new indicators for drug policies so as to incorporate the issues of human rights, public health, and human safety. Finally, the delegate explained the efforts being made by Colombia to align its policies with the recommendations in the UNGASS 2016 operational document and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mexico: Reported on the creation of the National Council on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, an agency that will remain independent of the government in power. The delegate also recognized the mentions made of Goal 16 and the approach to the problem of violence from a public health perspective and not from the traditional perspective of security and indicated interest in the results of the next WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence, where evidence will be presented on the effectiveness of policies on cannabis in the countries of the region.

16. Presentation of 2018 Work Plan of the ES/CICAD

Presenter: Adam Namm, Executive Secretary, CICAD

Ambassador Namm presented the proposed 2018 Work Plan for the Executive Secretariat of CICAD, (CICAD/doc.2269/18). Based on the statutory obligations, he described the current structure of the ES, as well as the mission of each unit and the projects it is executing. He also detailed the activities planned for 2018 in the areas of institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction, the

Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (IOD), and the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) and based on the Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020, encouraging the countries to contribute and participate actively in its implementation.

Comments by delegations

Guatemala: Recognized and expressed appreciation for the work carried out by the Executive Secretariat of CICAD and expressed the country's support for the implementation of activities to strengthen the capacities of the member states to address the world drug problem, based on international agreements such as those achieved within the UNGASS 2016 framework.

Decisions

The Commission approved the Work Plan of the Executive Secretariat of CICAD for 2018.

17. Schedule for CICAD Expert Group meetings 2018

Presenters:

a. Chile, Chair, Group of Experts on Demand Reduction

The Chair of the Expert Group on Demand Reduction reported that the group is currently working on three products that it will present to the Commission and that its next meeting will be held July 25-27 in Santiago, Chile.

b. Panama, Chair, Expert Group on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products

The Chair of the Expert Group on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products announced that the next meeting of the group will be held May 29-31 in Panama City.

c. Ecuador, Chair, Expert Group on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development

The Chair of the Expert Group on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development reported that the group will hold its next meeting October 2-4 in Cartagena, Colombia.

d. United States, Chair, Expert Group on Maritime Narcotrafficking

The Chair of the Expert Group on Maritime Narcotrafficking announced that the group will meet in Miami, Florida on September 25-27, 2018. He also indicated that the convocation for the meeting will be sent shortly by the Executive Secretariat of CICAD, to provide information on its date and location.

e. Bolivia, Vice Chair, Expert Group on Money Laundering

The Vice Chair of the Expert Group on Money Laundering (GELAVEX) reported that the group will meet in Bolivia this year. He also indicated that the convocation will be sent shortly by the CICAD Executive Secretariat to provide information on its date and location.

18. Consideration and approval of the CICAD draft annual report for 2017 (CICAD/doc.2366/18 rev. 1) and draft resolution for the forty-eighth regular session of the OAS General Assembly, June 2018 (CICAD/doc.2367/18)

Mexico, as Chair of the working group preparing the draft resolution for the forty-eighth regular session of the OAS General Assembly, submitted the paragraphs agreed upon during the discussions of that group to the Commission for comments and thanked the delegations for their flexibility in the discussions and in the agreed text.

Decisions

CICAD approved the paragraphs of the draft resolution for the forty-eighth regular session of the OAS General Assembly.

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

Russian Federation: Expressed interest in maintaining constructive interaction with OAS member states on drugs and related activities. The delegate reiterated commitment to address the subject of drugs within the context of international conventions and agreements and expressed concern regarding suggested revisions to conventions and legalization of certain drugs. Finally, the delegate emphasized both the importance of providing training to the antidrug police and the challenges represented by new psychoactive substances.

Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights: Expressed concern regarding the military nature of drug control in Mexico and emphasized importance of respect for human rights in this context. The representative also considered it necessary to use measurable indicators to evaluate policies and interventions and made recommendations for the future, such as demilitarization of current models for addressing the issue of drugs and decriminalization of drug use.

Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA): Recognized that civil society's dialogue with CICAD is an important process and felt that this dialogue had an impact on the development of the UNGASS 2016 operational recommendations and the CICAD Plan of Action on Drugs. The representative also emphasized the challenges mentioned by the civil society panel and advocated for more progress on the issues described therein.

International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC): Highlighted that the year 2019 presents an opportunity to change the direction of policies on drugs. The representative also observed that the objectives of reducing the trafficking and growing of drugs are not being achieved and that, in some cases, current drug policies result in unanticipated consequences.

20. Suggested topics, dates, and location for the sixty-fourth regular session of CICAD

The Vice Chair informed that the sixty-fourth regular session of CICAD would be held November 6-8, 2018 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The Chair suggested addressing the issue of gender during that regular session and asked member states to present topics for the agenda.

Comments by delegations

Colombia: Requested that the schedule of activities be sent more in advance to avoid administrative problems related to the procedures for authorizing travel for officials representing Colombia during the sessions and for the preparation of the appropriate instructions.

United States: Offered to collaborate with Argentina on the next regular session and recognized the work of the Experts Groups that helped to implement efforts made on the subject of drug policy. The delegate also recognized the existence of new drug trafficking methods, and thus felt that new control measures should be conceived. Finally, the delegate emphasized the need to solidify a regional posture in preparation for the 2019 Commission on Narcotic Drugs meeting and suggested including this topic in the CICAD agenda.

Decisions

The Commission approved holding CICAD's sixty-fourth regular session in the city of Buenos Aires, November 6-8, 2018.

21. Closing session

The Chair of CICAD thanked the delegations, international organizations and civil society for their participation, commended the seriousness of the presentations, and emphasized the need to use a comprehensive approach with full respect for the rule of law of the countries to address the phenomenon of drugs. He also stressed that, for the first time, and by Mexico's initiative, during CICAD 63 a panel of civil society organizations was incorporated in an official session and not as a side event, that was welcomed member states and encouraged the continuation of this good practice in future ordinary sessions. He emphasized the consensus adoption for the omnibus resolution on multidimensional security that would be adopted at the next General Assembly of the OAS. The Chair also reiterated Mexico's commitment to the Commission and concluded the sixty-third regular session of CICAD.

III. DECISIONS

The Commission decided as follows:

1. Approved the draft agenda (CICAD/doc.2364/18 rev. 1) and the draft schedule of activities (CICAD/doc.2365/18 rev.2) without amendment.
2. Approved the draft annual report of CICAD 2017 (CICAD/doc.2366/18.rev. 1)
3. Approved the draft of the CICAD paragraphs for the omnibus resolution on security for the forty-eighth regular session of the OAS General Assembly (CICAD/doc.2367/18 rev.1)
4. Approved the conclusions of the First Working Group on the Implementation of the Operational Recommendations of the UNGASS 2016 (CICAD/doc.2401/18).
5. Approved the Work Plan of the Executive Secretariat of CICAD for 2018.
6. Approved holding the sixty-fourth regular session of CICAD in the city of Buenos Aires, November 6-8, 2018.

IV. PARTICIPANTS

1. Member states of CICAD

Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, and Uruguay.

2. Permanent Observers

Spain, Russian Federation.

3. Specialized International and Regional Organizations

Council of Europe – Pompidou Group, International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), Bureau for Policy and Programme Support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Liaison and Partnership Office in Mexico for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), National Institute for Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) of the UNODC, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

4. Civil Society

Amnesty International, Centre for Justice Innovation (CJI), Centers for Youth Integration (CIJ), Collective for an Integrated Drug Policy, Mexican Commission for Defense and Promotion of Human Rights, Center for Legal Studies Dejusticia, Students for a Sensible Drug Policy Mexico A.C. (EPSD), Equis – Justice for Women, BASAK Foundation, Sea Change Foundation A.C., Gonzalo Río Arronte IAP Foundation, Toward a Dignified Life for All, Reverdeser Collective A.C., Institute of Legal Investigations of the Autonomous University of Chiapas, Mexican Social Security Institute, Ramón de la Fuente Muñiz National Psychiatry Institute, Institute for the Treatment and Prevention of Addictions in Mexico City, RIA Institute, Intercambios A.C., International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), Mexico United against Crime (MUCD), Nierika – Multidisciplinary Association for Preservation of Indigenous Traditions or Sacred Plants A.C., Observatory and Crops and Growers Declared Legal (OCCDI), Open Society Foundations, Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA).