



**OEA | CICAD**



**COMISIÓN INTERAMERICANA PARA EL  
CONTROL DEL ABUSO DE DROGAS**

**CICAD**

**SIXTY-FIFTH REGULAR SESSION  
May 8-10, 2019  
Buenos Aires**

**OEA/Ser.L/XIV.1.65  
CICAD/doc.2450/19  
20 September 2019  
Original: Spanish**

**FINAL REPORT**

## I. BACKGROUND

Article 21 of the Statute of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) provides that the Commission shall hold two regular sessions per year, one 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-fifth regular session would be held in Buenos Aires on May 8-10, 2019.

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. Patricia Bullrich, Minister of Security of Argentina**

Minister Bullrich began her remarks by discussing the challenges facing the Ministry of Security in reducing the supply of and demand for drugs. She said it was important to understand the nature of the organizations bringing drugs into Argentina, and to know how much they are bringing in, so as to understand what quantity of drugs is remaining in the country. Referring to the program entitled “Argentina without Drug Trafficking” (*Argentina Sin Narcotráfico*), she said that Argentina had hardened its northern border, and that there was good cooperation between the provincial police and the Federal forces, and between Argentina and the other countries of the region in the fight against drug trafficking. She noted how important it was to stop the violence produced by the drug trade.

##### **b. Carolina Stanley, Minister of Health and Social Development of Argentina**

Minister Stanley highlighted the efforts made jointly by the Ministries of Security and Health working simultaneously on security matters and on treating people who are dependent on psychoactive substances. She said that when the Ministry began its anti-drug plan, it was faced with the challenge of having little information about the problem, and facing the normalization of substance use and easy access to drugs. She said that the Ministry is working in three areas: prevention, in conjunction with the Ministry of Education; treatment of drug dependent persons, and social reinsertion and aftercare. She closed by discussing the government’s efforts and achievements in addressing substance use disorders, and the importance of international cooperation on the subject.

**c. Gustavo Cinosi, Senior Special Advisor to the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) (CICAD/doc.2485/19)**

Mr. Cinosi noted that in 2010, CICAD's policy had turned again to a focus on the person and not on the substance, but that nonetheless, challenges remained as to the practical application of this progress in the Organization's drug policy. He went on to discuss some of CICAD's achievements, notably the implementation in fifteen member states of alternatives to incarceration, and the GENLEA initiative on gender equality. But he also said that member states still faced challenges on the drug issue, such as the increase in the use of psychoactive substances.

**d. Jorge Faurie, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina**

Foreign Minister Faurie thanked all of the delegates and organizations for attending, and looked forward to a good meeting. He stressed the commitment of Argentina and the government of President Macri to fight drug trafficking and the public health problems caused by drugs, adding that it was important to look at the problem from a health and treatment standpoint, as well as from the point of view of prevention and security issues. He added that it was important to strengthen the Argentine Observatory on Drugs, and to shape policies that are of benefit to all citizens.

**e. Farah Urrutia, Secretary for Multidimensional Security, Organization of American States (CICAD/doc.2484/19)**

Secretary Urrutia devoted her remarks to the topic of professionalizing the technical workforce while consolidating drug policies. She recalled that in 2010, the member states had decided that it was necessary to provide the national authorities on drugs with the resources they needed. She said it was important to de-personalize power and to strengthen institutions in such a way that it is the State that has the resources to realize the objectives of drug policy. On the same point, she discussed the duty of those responsible for setting institutional policy in the area of drugs in order to minimize the impact of personnel turnover in government. She concluded by recognizing the commitment and cooperation of all member states.

**f. Adam E. Namm, Executive Secretary, CICAD (CICAD/doc.2483/19).**

Ambassador Namm congratulated Argentina on its chairmanship of CICAD in 2019, and said he appreciated the fact that three government Ministers were present at the meeting. He thanked Secretary Roberto Moro, Special Advisor Gustavo Cinosi, and the Secretary for Multidimensional Security, Farah Urrutia. He said that he would later be presenting the Executive Secretariat's work plan for 2019, and thanked the five countries that were chairing the CICAD Expert Groups. He also thanked the donor countries, and the staff of the Executive Secretariat.

**g. Roberto Moro, Secretary, Secretariat for Comprehensive Drug Policy (SEDRONAR), and Chair of CICAD**

Secretary Moro said he wished to thank the Executive Secretariat of CICAD, the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Security, and SEDRONAR for their efforts in holding the sixty-fifth regular session of the Commission in Argentina, and said he was also grateful to the technical teams of those organizations who had worked for a long time to make the meeting a reality.

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

The Commission adopted the draft agenda (CICAD/doc.2447/19 rev. 1) and the draft schedule of activities (CICAD/doc.2448/19 rev. 2.)

## **3. Draft CICAD annual report 2018 (CICAD/doc.2451/19) and draft resolution for the forty-ninth regular session of the OAS General Assembly, June 2019 (CICAD/doc.2453/19)**

The Chair submitted the draft CICAD annual report 2018 (CICAD/doc.2451/19) and the draft resolution for the General Assembly (CICAD/doc.2453/19) to the Commission for approval. He formed a working group to review the paragraphs in the draft resolution. The changes or recommendations of the working group were to be delivered by May 10 in order to put them to the vote.

## **4. Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) – Presentation of the report of the Governmental Expert Group (GEG) (CICAD/doc.2474/19)**

### **Presenter:**

#### **a. Steve Millington, Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and General Coordinator of the Governmental Expert Group (GEG)**

Mr. Millington outlined the activities carried out by the GEG in 2018-2019, which had included drafting sessions at the two face-to-face plenaries of the GEG as well as the virtual or online meetings of the Thematic Working Groups and of the Sub-group Coordinators. He also discussed some of the challenges that had arisen during the drafting process, and explained how they had been solved along the way, and the final drafts of the national reports of the seventh round of the MEM had been completed. He then introduced the thirty-three national reports for consideration by the Commission.

### **Comments by delegations**

**Haiti:** Thanked all the GEG experts who had worked on the report that evaluated Haiti's drug policies and the activities of the country's national drug council. He said that this evaluation had given them much feedback that will help enhance many areas of work. The country's new strategy would include issues identified by the MEM, such as gender, sustainable development, and human rights.

**Ecuador:** Said that the expert from Ecuador had taken part in a number of meetings of the GEG related to the seventh evaluation round, 2014-2018, and had worked particularly on drafting the paragraphs evaluating member states' progress in the areas of institutional strengthening and supply reduction. She said that the MEM had made observations and recommendations to Ecuador on strengthening its strategies on drug demand reduction and institution-building measures, and that those observations were a key policy instrument in confidence-building, dialogue and cooperation, both with respect to the individual progress made by the country and the collective progress made by all OAS member states. She was therefore grateful to the MEM for all it had achieved.

**Peru:** Thanked the MEM for its work, and requested a small correction to the information about the legal framework of his country's National Commission for Development and Life without Drugs (DEVIDA), the functions of which are established in Legislative Decree No. 824 as amended by Legislative Decree No. 1241.

**Argentina:** Thanked Steve Millington, who had been responsible for the GEG in this latest phase, and also thanked the Chilean expert who had chaired the GEG, as well as the MEM Unit. He said that it was very important for his country to have a report that had been developed through an objective, multilateral process, and to have a tool that draws attention to the development of drug policy in the countries in both demand reduction and supply reduction. He said that the countries have a heavy responsibility to make use of the MEM tool and enhance drug policy-making in the region. It should also be noted that the MEM instrument is brought up to date by means of processes that are equally objective and controlled. This last round had been notable for the inclusion of a gender perspective and a strengthening of the human rights approach.

**Mexico:** Congratulated the GEG and CICAD on their great efforts and tireless work, and said that the MEM reports help measure progress with the Hemispheric Drug Strategy, and enables the countries and the hemisphere to review progress towards better drug policies.

**United States:** Congratulated CICAD and the GEG on having completed the national reports from the seventh round of the MEM. He said that his country supports the MEM as a process that enables the various national efforts to be examined in depth. These data can identify gaps where technical assistance interventions by CICAD would be helpful. He added that he was concerned over the fact that the MEM is not receiving the consistent, appropriate funding that it needs, and encouraged all member states to make voluntary contributions. Given the current budget environment, this might be the time to consider creative approaches to restructuring the MEM process and bring it into line with the budget available. He indicated that the United States looks forward with interest to finalizing the hemispheric report at the next regular session of CICAD.

**Guatemala:** Congratulated the GEG and the MEM Unit on their work and on the report, which is a tool that will enable his country to identify the next steps and put the recommendations into practice, recognizing where things are going well and improving those areas of opportunity identified in the report.

**Antigua and Barbuda:** Recognized CICAD's contributions to this report, and highlighted the contributions made by the General Coordinator, Mr. Steve Millington, throughout the coordination process. He said that these reports are developed in such a way that the countries feel part of the process, and added that the MEM facilitates interaction with a country, and that even though it an exam, when they receive the report, the countries do not feel that they are being reprimanded. He thanked the United States for its observation about the limited resources available, and said that we live in a world where the threat of drugs is latent and growing. He asked CICAD to redouble its efforts to secure adequate funding.

**Panama:** Supported the different rounds of the MEM and said that the evaluation of the areas of the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs provides an inventory of the activities that a country is carrying out on a multisectoral basis. He added that this is a challenge that requires greater efforts to

systematize and gather information more efficiently, and indicated that technical assistance from CICAD is needed to develop a validated instrument for systematizing information. He added that this regional effort translates into and responds to comprehensive, multidisciplinary and multisectoral methodologies and participation.

**El Salvador:** Thanked the Governmental Experts Group (GEG), noting the importance of the MEM process in the seventh round, and recognizing the hard work the GEG had done over the past sixteen months to conduct the evaluation of attainment of objectives and priority actions in the framework of the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020.

**Nicaragua:** Underscored the importance of the MEM and the hard work by the specialists of the MEM Unit in the Executive Secretariat of CICAD of bringing together all the information. He said that Nicaragua was eager to continue to strive to address the different manifestations of the drug problem and to cooperate with everyone as part of the work of CICAD, this important agency of the Organization of American States. He said he was certain that the results of the reports, which will later be formalized in the countries' plans of action, will contribute to improving responses to the drug problem.

**Colombia:** Thanked the GEG for its presentation of the report, and said that his country values the MEM and emphasizes it as the appropriate instrument for monitoring, evaluation and enhancement of national and hemispheric policies and actions. He said that the Mechanism should continue to have a very important place in CICAD's affairs, and that continual efforts be made to improve and update it so that it is consistent with the changing dynamics of the drug problem. He added that it would be important for the most salient findings of the MEM evaluation to be taken into account in the work of the CICAD Expert Groups. It was important that all countries commit to participating in the preparation of a report that clearly shows the status of the drug problem in the hemisphere.

**Paraguay:** Congratulated the General Coordinator of the GEG and all those who had engaged in the work of evaluation. He said that Paraguay strengthens its commitment to continue to improve on the basis of the evaluation that had been done. He added that the MEM is an invaluable instrument, and was in agreement with the United States and other countries on reviewing the budget, and continuing the Group of Experts at its full potential.

**Venezuela:** Said that no official statistics have been available in his country for many years, and he therefore referred to statistics they were able to obtain from the Observatory on Organized Crime. He said it was important for his country in this forum and others to usher in the transitional government and have free elections that will result in a State able to ensure the control of drugs, citizen security, and international cooperation.

**Ecuador:** Requested a change in wording on page 22 (Spanish version) of the report on Ecuador, to replace *contributores* with *contribuyentes*.

**Chair:** Submitted the MEM reports to the plenary for approval.

He said how important the MEM is for Argentina and for the Chair, noting how the information and data help them to take the right policy decisions. He said that the MEM is a tool that has transformed

government policies based on scientific evidence, and helps the country have more information on which to turn praxis into government policy.

## **Decisions**

The CICAD Commission approved the thirty-three national evaluation reports from the seventh round of the MEM, with the two corrections requested by Peru and Ecuador. The Chair will forward to the Commissioners a request for information about the impact that the MEM has had on the countries' government policies.

### **5. OAS/CICAD Report on Drug Use in the Americas 2019 (CICAD/doc.2460/19)**

Marya Hynes, Acting Chief of CICAD's Inter-American Observatory on Drugs, gave an overview of drug use in the OAS member states as reflected in the findings of the *Report on Drug Use in the Americas 2019*.

### **6. Panel 1: Measures to strengthen strategies/actions on drugs: *in rem* forfeiture, administration of seized assets, and other mechanisms**

#### **Moderator: Mariano Federici, President of the Financial Information Unit, Argentina**

Mr. Mariano Federici stressed the need for appropriate mechanisms for the administration of seized assets, not only to neutralize criminal organizations, but also in order to put those assets to good use. He reminded that the purpose of these mechanisms is not to raise funds; nevertheless, the real power of criminal organizations lies in their economic/financial power. He suggested that the countries should work to strip the criminal organizations of their assets, and take steps to take the property by means of forfeiture, and set up mechanisms that will allow for forfeiture without having to wait for a conviction.

#### **Panelists:**

##### **a. Luis Alfonso Petri, National Deputy, Argentina**

Representative Petri said that UNODC's "model law" on the subject, together with the countries' experiences, were important for the decree on the matter that had been approved in Argentina in 2019. He described the process Argentina had gone through to arrive at responses that criminal law could not provide. Previously, forfeiture had been confined to instruments to determine the guilt or innocence of the person, but did not touch the property. Deliberations began in the House of Deputies in 2016 to make forfeiture proceedings autonomous and focused on the asset. He described the four main problems they had had to address, namely: lack of familiarity with the concept; lack of confidence in the justice system, apathy on the part of the judicial system, and lack of interest on the part of the political leadership.

##### **b. Jenny Sandoval, Vice President for Corporations, Special Assets Corporation, Colombia (CICAD/doc. 2471/19)**

Ms. Sandoval described the legal nature of a special account set up for assets involved in forfeiture proceedings; the funds in that account are allocated to financing a number of areas in the public sector. She described the variety of types of assets administered by the Special Assets Corporation, and said the topic of *in rem* forfeiture was an important one for Colombia. Colombia had had the advantage of having tried out a number of different strategies and gained experience with them. Ms. Sandoval gave an overview of the two constitutional provisions underlying the concept of forfeiture in Colombia, and the different laws that had been passed to enact those provisions. In Colombia, it is the assets that are pursued, in proceedings that are independent of the criminal proceedings. This autonomy has been key to progress in this area. It is the owner of the assets subject to forfeiture who must prove their origin.

**c. Dennis Cheng, Specialist in the forfeiture and administration of seized assets, and former Director of the Project on Asset Forfeiture in Latin America BIDAL/OAS (CICAD/doc.2463/19)**

Mr. Dennis Cheng discussed the development of the concept of *in rem* forfeiture in the hemisphere and its impact on several countries. He gave the historical background to the BIDAL project, and discussed the outcomes in the beneficiary countries, as well as the impact that the various studies had had on the member states of the Organization. He said that the BIDAL project should continue, and that the document on Best Practices in Asset Forfeiture Systems should be revised and brought up to date. He added that the hemisphere needs to conduct a study in order to develop a Model Law on the administration of seized and forfeited assets, which should bring together the experiences of agencies in the hemisphere.

**Comments by delegations**

**Haiti:** Thanked the panel, and asked the Deputy whether he could explain the mechanism of shifting the burden of proof.

**Luis Alfonso Petri:** Responded with several examples, but summarized by saying that the burden of proof lies initially with the State (or government) to prove the apparent ownership of the asset, but that it then rests with the individual to prove the origin of the asset. If he cannot demonstrate that, the property reverts to the State.

**United States:** Thanked the panelists, and appreciated the international experiences that had been shared. He said that the number of countries that have *in rem* forfeiture laws and mechanisms has increased, and encouraged countries to examine these mechanisms closely in order to make the best use of those assets. In essence, there are three ways of using these funds: one is to set up a separate account designed to support law enforcement bodies; another is to direct the monies to supplement the budgets of various Ministries or government departments, and the third is to put them in a common account in the overall general budget. In many cases, the decision on the use of those funds is up to the legislature. For the past thirty years, the United States has been sharing part of these assets with other partners in recognition of the efforts they had made.

**Mexico:** Congratulated the panelists and asked whether in their experience, money laundering is included within the criminal offenses applicable to asset forfeiture, and if national laws provide for the repatriation of assets with other countries.



**Luis Alfonso Petri:** Responded that yes, money laundering is included, as is the repatriation of assets.

**Antigua and Barbuda:** Congratulated the panelists, and asked CICAD whether it might explore an initiative geared to the Caribbean that would take into account the particular aspects of the law in Caribbean member states.

## **7. Panel 2: Local approaches to drug use prevention programs**

**Moderator:** Juan Carlos Mansilla, Director of Territorial Development, SEDRONAR, Argentina

### **Panelists:**

**a. Javiera Astudillo, Cabinet Advisor, National Service for Drug and Alcohol Use Prevention and Rehabilitation (SENDA), Chile (CICAD/doc.2475/19)**

Ms. Astudillo made a presentation on the Chilean experience with implementing a prevention program called “Choose to Live without Drugs” (*Elige Vivir sin Drogas.*) She explained that the program draws upon an Icelandic model, which is evidence-based, affordable and collaborative. She said that the three phases of the model were: 1) assessment; 2) activities and intervention, and 3) monitoring and evaluation of outcomes.

**b. Brian Morales, Foreign Affairs Officer, Office of Policy, Planning and Coordination, , Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), United States Department of State (CICAD/doc.2462/19)**

Mr. Morales presented a model of community coalitions, which is based on one of the seven dimensions of the science of prevention. He described the various ways in which USINL is working to provide training and capacity-building, and made a detailed presentation on the community coalition model that is being implemented in twenty-six countries. He added that the model being implemented in Chile and the community coalition model are very complementary.

**c. Father Carlos Olivero: Federación Familia Grande del Hogar de Cristo, Argentina (CICAD/doc.2479/19)**

Father Olivero presented the program of Community Care and Support Homes (*Hogares Comunitarios para el Cuidado y Apoyo*) being implemented in Argentina. The reasoning behind this model is that the traditional medication-assisted treatment was providing only part of the continuum of care and social assistance. From the individual’s point of view, there was a lack of consistency and cooperation among disparate agencies. The community home or shelter model helps establish the ties that are needed, because no agency can provide all the services that people need.

### Comments by delegations

**Guatemala:** Thanked the panelists for their presentations, and referred to the case study provided by Father Olivero as representative of similar cases in Guatemala. He said that there are some community coalitions in Guatemala that need help, and are trying to adopt the Argentine model.

**Uruguay:** Expressed his appreciation of the diversity of the panel presentations, and said that Uruguay is guided by the Social Determinants of Health, with a reform of health care and ensuring that the community is a significant interested party.

**Argentina:** Said that the main responsibility for implementing counter drug policies lies with SEDRONAR, but that it is also important to work with and strengthen ties with the community.

### 8. Panel 3: New dynamics and challenges of narcotrafficking in the Americas, including use of the Internet, maritime ports and postal systems

**Moderator:** Martin Verrier, Under Secretary for countering Drug Trafficking, Ministry of Security, Argentina

#### Panelists:

**a. Luis Ignacio García Sigman, Advisor, Under Secretariat for countering Drug Trafficking, Ministry of Security, Argentina (CICAD/doc.2480/19)**

Dr. García Sigman discussed the new dynamics of drug trafficking in the region, and noted the proliferation in the Americas of synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances. He discussed how crypto-markets and the growing use of the open web and the deep and dark web to market illicit drugs and chemical precursors are having an impact on the various links in the drug trafficking chain. He said it was important for countries to make an effort to increase information-sharing among control agencies, and cited some successful examples where, thanks to international cooperation, law enforcement had been able to dismantle criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking.

**b. Edward Croft, Director, Office of National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy (ONDCP), Antigua and Barbuda (CICAD/doc.2482/19)**

Colonel Croft described the principal routes and *modus operandi* being used most frequently by drug trafficking organizations in the Caribbean. He noted the increase in exchanging arms for drugs (and vice versa) as a means of payment among various criminal groups, and also discussed the alarming presence of fentanyl and its analogues in the region, a rise in cocaine flows, and the increasing use of postal systems to distribute synthetic drugs. He said that marijuana, Ecstasy, cocaine, crack, methamphetamines and medications such as benzodiazepines were being consumed in the Caribbean. In closing, Col. Croft highlighted the important role that the Executive Secretariat of CICAD plays in supporting OAS member states in their efforts to counter the new dynamics of drug trafficking and related offenses.

**c. James T. McNamee, Section Chief, Synthetic Drugs and Chemicals Section, United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) (CICAD/doc.2473/19)**

Mr. McNamee began his presentation by describing the threat that maritime trafficking in drugs and chemical substances poses for the region, and discussed the efforts that the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is making to prevent, detect and investigate the production, movement and distribution of controlled substances and listed chemicals. He said that the use of containers to transport large quantities of illicit drugs, as well as go-fast boats, fishing vessels, and cruise ships, are very common. Mr. McNamee concluded by saying that cooperation between the public and private sectors was important in helping strengthen the chains of supply and ensure the integrity of the cargo to prevent its being “contaminated” with illicit substances such as drugs and precursor chemicals.

**9. Panel 4: Scientific evidence for the use of cannabinoid-based medicine**

**Moderator: Pernell Clarke, Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID), Executive Secretariat of CICAD**

**Panelists:**

**a. Bertha Madras, Scientific researcher, Harvard University, United States (CICAD/doc. 2468/19)**

Dr. Madras described the effects of cannabinoids on the body, the criteria for determining cannabinoid compounds, and evidence as to the effectiveness of marijuana as medication. Medicines authorized for the treatment of any disorder must meet the basic criteria of purity, safety and effectiveness. Medical marijuana is not a pure compound, and has not been demonstrated to be safe or effective. There is evidence about the cannabidiol (CBD) found in marijuana, but tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) shows harmful effects. Dr. Madras said that if marijuana were to be used as a medicine, it must be held to the same medical standards as any other medication, with regulated dosage, purity and route of administration.

**b. Diego Sarasola, M.D., Psychiatrist, Director of the Alexander Luria Neurosciences Institute, Argentina (CICAD/doc.2476/19).**

Dr. Sarasola discussed how important it was that medicines meet proper quality standards. The gold standard for determining the quality and efficacy of medicines is through clinical trials. Current research on cannabis does not support its effectiveness as a medication. The sources of evidence are not uniform, the evidence is controversial, and the plant extracts are not standardized. The evidence pyramid (hierarchy of the evidence) must be adhered to in the process of reviewing medicines, and real, objective data must be sought.

**c. Gabriel Rada, President, Epistemonikos Foundation, Chile (CICAD/doc.2456/19)**

Dr. Rada presented a summary of the research conducted by the Epistemonikos Foundation. His presentation underscored the need for transparent, high quality data from independent sources. Randomized controlled trials are the gold standard for research to prove the safety and effectiveness of medicines. The Foundation is building a database that will form a body of evidence and resources

that will provide clear summaries about illnesses for which it is claimed that cannabis has a therapeutic effect, with summaries for each condition, including systematic reviews and abstracts for decision-making. According to available evidence, there is no condition for which the benefits of cannabis use outweigh the risks.

### Comments by delegations

**Antigua and Barbuda:** Congratulated the presenters on the large amount of information they had provided, and asked how this information is being passed on to the community so that people can learn about the dangers associated with cannabis use. Interest groups are broadcasting their own messages, but the messages are not balanced.

**Mexico:** Thanked the presenters, and said that there was a court case in Mexico where it was said that marijuana was useful in the treatment of Lennox-Gastaut syndrome (LGS). Mexico invited the Commissioners to play an active role in the work of the World Health Organization on programming recommendations.

**Dr. Sarasola:** Replying to Mexico's comments, he said that the consequence of the case of Lennox-Gastaut syndrome had been refractory epilepsy. In that sense, marijuana does not treat the disease, but rather the symptoms. All the scientific societies, including epilepsy associations, were called on to review the data. That is the appropriate course of action. Politics sometimes puts pressure on science.

**Dr. Madras:** Said that in the United States, the greatest problem with cannabis is public perception. Public opinion tends, for complicated reasons, to support the use of cannabis; cannabis is being put into food, drinks, skin lotions and other things. False statements are of concern. Although the agency that is responsible for approval of medicines has begun to monitor producers over false claims, government regulation and oversight do not always work. Regulation is not enough; public education is critical.

**United States:** Congratulated the panelists on their presentations, which had reinforced the idea that policy should be based on science. He said that in the United States, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is responsible for ensuring the safety and efficacy of medicinal products. Although the FDA has approved cannabidiols for the treatment of epilepsy, it has not authorized cannabis for any therapeutic intervention. The delegate emphasized that the use of cannabis and cannabis-based products without conclusive evidence of their safety and effectiveness exposes individuals to potential risks and adverse side effects without necessarily offering any clinical benefits for the condition and the drug approval process represents the best way to ensure that safe and effective new medicines, including any drugs derived from cannabis, are available to patients.

**Chile:** Congratulated the members of the panel, and said that the conclusions about the medical use of marijuana were fairly clear. He said that in Chile, one of the problems is that the general population think of marijuana as innocuous, and noted the need for greater dissemination of information on possible uses for medical purposes.

**Uruguay:** Congratulated CICAD on having included this panel, since the contribution that science can make to the debate is important. Uruguay stated that they do not believe that prohibition is the

answer, and they want to see responsible deregulation of cannabis as a function of public health criteria.

**Dr. Rada:** Dr. Rada closed the discussion by saying that the most important message, scientifically speaking, is that if unprocessed, non-standard cannabis is considered as a plant, the science is clear. Marijuana plants do not, in and of themselves, have any medicinal use, but it is possible to produce medicines derived from cannabis compounds by complying with scientific standards for the development of medicines.

## **10. Regional efforts to implement and follow up on the operational recommendations of UNGASS**

### **Presenters:**

**a. Oscar Santiago Quintos, Officer in Charge, National Drug Policy Office, Investigative Methods Coordination Branch, Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, Mexico (CICAD/doc.2478/19)**

Mr. Santiago stressed the need for scientific evidence in the formulation of national public policies. He applauded the excellent work that CICAD is doing in the region through the Observatory and the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), which enable decisions to be taken on the basis of evidence. He added that it is important that people have access to high-value medication to live healthier lives, and that the risks associated with the use of certain substances must be publicized. He highlighted the proposal by the delegation of Mexico to use evidence as the reference point for public policy and to present a document for consideration as a follow-up to the meeting of the implementation group, preferably before the next regular session of CICAD. He stressed that the countries should strive for a strategic solution that is focused on the person as the center of the debate.

**b. Juan Rafael Sánchez, Executive Secretary, Executive Secretariat of the Commission against the Addictions and Drug Trafficking (SECCATID), Guatemala (CICAD/doc.2461/19)**

Mr. Sánchez discussed the progress made and the challenges faced in implementing the recommendations of UNGASS 2016 and the Agenda 2030. He indicated the progress that Guatemala had made, with a drug policy that dated back to 2009 but that had now been updated according to UNGASS 2016. Thanks to UNGASS, the country increased the number of its prevention programs from five to eight. On the issue of alternative development, the country had been working on the topic of value chains so as to take comprehensive development into the interior of the country. In the area of treatment, Guatemala is working on developing minimum standards of care and on revising protocols. Progress is also being made in the area of training. He said that two months earlier, they had presented their first national report on drugs. He underscored the fact that one of the greatest challenges they are facing is trying to narrow the gap between policy and practice.

### **Comments by delegations**

**Ecuador:** Thanked Mexico and Guatemala for their observations, and shared her own country's experiences. She said it was important to follow up on the 103 operational recommendations under

the seven thematic areas of UNGASS 2016, and asked that any progress on the matrix for follow-up on implementation of the UNGASS recommendations be circulated. She also asked the Chair to include in the final report of the meeting three interventions that could not be delivered.

**Argentina:** Congratulated the two panelists on their presentations. He seconded the point made by the delegation of Mexico, that the MEM instrument should be borne in mind when following up on or evaluating the proposals from UNGASS 2016. He said that it is a tool that is available to all of the countries, which takes CICAD's Hemispheric Action Plan on Drugs as its reference point, along with the recommendations from UNGASS, and should be taken advantage of.

**United States:** Said that when implementing UNGASS 2016, actions should be adapted to the drug control threats that the hemisphere is facing. The number of new psychoactive substances on the market is unprecedented. These drugs are filtering into criminal markets and affecting human health and wellbeing, and since the countries find it difficult to keep up, more effective ways of dealing with this threat need to be explored. He said that the United States is working to advance this nationally, and particularly to stop the problem of synthetic drugs using a multidisciplinary approach that involves all government agencies.

**Canada:** Thanked the two panelists for their excellent presentations. Canada continues to be a firm supporter of the Outcome Document of UNGASS 2016 and is committed to implementing its recommendations. A key priority for his government has been the current crisis that has seen a significant increase in overdose and death from synthetic opioids. Canada's balanced approach also includes a major drug control component. The country is also targeting activities on the dark web where many of these synthetic opioids continue to be sold. He said that his country continues to be committed to its public health drug policy and will continue to share its experiences with the international community as it moves forward.

**Peru:** Thanked Mexico and Guatemala for their presentations. With regard to the operational recommendations of UNGASS 2016, she said that Peru has been conducting drug use prevention activities in the schools as well as in the community, with citizen participation. These programs are designed to strengthen and optimize community organization, and promote the active participation of the community. The country also provides outpatient and residential treatment and therapeutic care for drug users and drug-dependent persons, with psychiatric and psychotherapeutic care.

**Mexico:** Welcomed all of the examples that had been brought to the table and the ways in which the international commitments to UNGASS 2016 would be implemented. He reiterated the proposal by the Mexican speaker that it be agreed to hold a follow-up meeting, prior to the next regular session of CICAD, to set a date and place. He asked that the proposal by the delegation of Ecuador to update the matrix on follow-up of commitments with the experiences that each country wished voluntarily to share with the OAS on how they are implementing these commitments.

## **Decisions**

The CICAD Commission approved the proposals by Mexico and Ecuador to hold a meeting to follow up on the operational recommendations of UNGASS 2016, prior to the next regular session of CICAD, at a date and place still to be determined, and to update the matrix on follow-up on commitments with the voluntary experiences of each country.

## 11. Panel 5: Innovative responses to emerging trends in the region

**Moderator: Richard Glenn, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, United States Department of State (CICAD/doc.2457/19)**

### **Panelists:**

**a. María Verónica Brasesco, National Director, Argentine Observatory on Drugs (CICAD/doc.2467/19).**

Ms. Brasesco discussed the overall relationship between scientific evidence and policy and the implications for the development of evidence-based drug policies. She then gave examples of some Latin American countries that are using alternative methods of gathering or producing evidence about new or emerging trends.

**b. José Marín, Chief of the Chilean Observatory on Drugs (CICAD/doc.2458/19)**

Mr. Marín provided some details about a national roundtable that had been held in Chile on NPS, and described the use of synthetic drugs in the country's metropolitan region. He also presented a summary of the findings of a descriptive study of the use of cocaine base paste in the metropolitan region.

**c. Diego Olivera, Executive Secretary of the National Drug Board, Uruguay (CICAD/doc.2459/19)**

Mr. Olivera gave a description of Uruguay's early warning system on drugs, and explained how it operates in response to NPS.

### **Comments by delegations**

**Peru:** Thanked the panelists, and reported that as a country that is a producer of cocaine, Peru has created a multi-sector group to examine the problem of cocaine. The Peruvian Observatory on Drugs provides technical support for the early warning system on NPS, and provides technical assistance, with the support of the Colombian Drug Observatory. He also discussed the approaches that Peru is taking to the issues of alternative development, prevention, and data collection.

**Argentina:** Welcomed the work being done by the national drug observatories in the region, and the high degree of communication among them. In the past, there had been a lack of data on mental health and substance use disorders, but in the last twenty years many more data and information have become available on the subject, along with several studies backed by the OID. Researchers and policy-makers are different must communicate with each other in an effective way so as to establish a link between evidence and policy.

**Ecuador:** Described Ecuador's approach to addressing drug problems, such as early onset of drug use, trends in drug use, gender differences in drug use, and new emerging trends. Geospatial analysis

has been very useful in Ecuador. Use of and access to opioid analgesics is also a matter of priority concern for Ecuador.

**Colombia:** Said that some substances are short-lived and difficult to detect. Thirty-three NSP from Asia and Europe have been found in Colombia. He said it was a challenge for young people, parents and teachers to identify them, and hence the importance of forensic laboratories. People sometimes report that they are using a particular substance when in fact they were using something else. This has caused problems in hospital emergency rooms when the hospital was unable to identify the substance that had been used.

**Bolivia:** Supported Argentina's suggestion that solid ties be established between researchers and policy-makers. He reported that the country has an early warning system, and described the crop monitoring systems used in his country. He also discussed responses by the police, cooperation on intelligence with neighboring countries, and the new legal framework and investigative tools that were being used.

**Mexico:** Highlighted the evolution of the traditional approach of the drug observatories that now not only collect consumption data. The delegate reported that Mexico has a crop monitoring system that can quantify illegal crops in the Mexican territory. The country is also identifying poppy plantations. The delegate expressed his appreciation for the panel and requested more information on types of places with high incidence of consumption among the population and how to address them.

## **12. Panel 6: Local civil society interventions with people who use drugs: challenges and lessons learned**

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

### **Panelists:**

**a. Tania Ramírez, *México Unido Contra la Delincuencia (MUCD)*, Mexico (CICAD/doc.2472/19)**

Ms. Ramírez thanked CICAD and Argentina for having organized the meeting, and spoke of the impact that the most recent international resolutions had had regionally and locally, including UNGASS 2016 and the evaluation on drugs to be done in 2029, and a WHO publication on a program related to HIV and drug policy. She said that in 2020, a vote will be sought in WHO on reclassifying cannabis; fifty-three countries, including some countries from the region, will take part in the voting.

**b. Gustavo Barreiro, *Casa Masantonio Project*, Argentina (CICAD/doc.2470/19)**

Mr. Barreiro described the program to help young users of coca paste (*paco*), which began in the city of Buenos Aires. The program grew over time, and they realized that one of the drawbacks of the program was that the young people who participated in it ended up in prison because of crimes they had committed to finance their use of *paco*. In addition to the facility for young people, another facility had been set up to help transgender and disabled people who were dependent on *paco*. He said that it has been shown that the use of *paco* worsens some conditions associated with HIV,



tuberculosis and syphilis, and therefore treating both conditions at the same time is difficult. Users can receive treatment and support in this facility. He said that the outcomes are good, and that the idea is replicable.

**c. Isabel Pereira, *DeJusticia*/International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), Colombia (CICAD/doc.2465/19)**

Ms. Pereira began by discussing heroin in Colombia, and the medication available in the country for opiates. In Colombia, health insurance programs and health care programs are supposed to cover treatment for substance use disorders, but that is not always the case. She said that some international instruments recognize substance use disorders as a public health problem, and said that prohibition of the use of medicines that include opiates causes a problem. Prohibiting access to such medicine forces people who need it to go into highly dangerous areas, and also exposes them to cruel and degrading treatment. While such medication is not expressly prohibited, there are administrative barriers that make access impossible, and in addition, physicians tend to stigmatize opioid drugs.

**d. Jasmine Tyler, Human Rights Watch (HRW), United States (CICAD/doc.2466/19)**

Ms. Tyler noted that one out of every nine arrests in the United States is drug-related. She said that simply applying punitive criminal sanctions would mean negating the fact that a substance use disorder is a medical condition. Even so, she said that in some jurisdictions, alternative models such as drug treatment courts still have room for improvement. She also believed that it is impossible to talk about the war on drugs without discussing the dynamics of race, and said that incarcerating people for drug-related crimes merely worsens the problem.

**e. Joanna Travis, Executive Director, International Society of Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Professionals (ISSUP) (CICAD/doc.2481/19)**

Ms. Travis described the work of drug research that ISSUP is doing, and said that it hopes to be a focal point for research on drugs and for those who work in the field. She discussed the work that ISSUP has been doing with other international organizations, and said that this cooperation was very important. ISSUP uses information technology to disseminate information and provide online training, and its digital fora allow experts and all types of people to connect. ISSUP's annual meeting brings together the community of experts on drugs, and offers training and networking opportunities. In closing, Ms. Travis mentioned the work that ISSUP is doing in countries of the region, and invited more member states to join this initiative.

**Comments by delegations**

**United States:** Said it was important to have civil society organizations participate in and be concerned about the drug problem. The message about the treatment of drug use disorders should be a positive one: Tools are available for treating this disorder, and more professionals need to be trained in their use. He said that developing such a group of professionals is a priority for the United States, and recognized the efforts of ISSUP in this regard, and called on all member states to enhance their capacity to deal with the problem.

**Mexico:** Joined the United States in thanking the panel, as well as *México Contra la Delincuencia* and the *Centros de Integración Juvenil* (CIJ). He said it was important to make use of existing resources.

**Uruguay:** Congratulated the panel, which he said had been of high quality. He said that the conclusion is that discussions must take place about harm reduction and respect for human rights. As to the topic of the panel, he noted that there is a network of civil society stakeholders in Uruguay that, hand in hand with the government, are making significant efforts.

**Canada:** Thanked the panel, and said that cooperation with civil society is important in improving national policies and ensuring that they include all points of view. There is agreement in Canada that work with civil society must be enhanced.

### **13. Implementing alternatives to incarceration: Maximizing existing resources**

#### **Presenter:**

- a. **Igor Koutsenok, MD, Professor of Psychiatry, School of Medicine, University of California San Diego, and Director, Center for Criminality and Addiction Research and Training (CICAD/doc.2452/19).**

Dr. Koutsenok noted that the figures show a direct correlation between the severity of the drug use disorder and the severity of the criminal sanction. He said that studies have shown that dependent drug users tend to die from overdose or violent causes within two weeks of their release from prison. He argued that interventions on drug use disorders must not focus only on the pathological condition but also on drug dependent people with a history of criminal involvement. However, criminal prosecution is not sustainable in the long run, since there will be a high rate of recidivism, and it was therefore important to look at each variable affecting people with a drug use disorder. Different individuals have different levels of risk and differing degrees of drug use disorder, conditions that tend to reappear. No single organization can do everything, and the work must therefore be interdisciplinary if progress is to be made.

#### **Comments by delegations**

**Ecuador:** Noted that substance use disorders are a public health matter and should not be criminalized. A new health law is currently being discussed in Ecuador, which must be related to the current legislation on drugs. He invited member states to develop evidence on which to implement good practices. He thanked the Executive Secretariat of CICAD and the Argentine chair for their openness and willingness to include other interventions.

**United States:** Supported the work of CICAD on this issue, and welcomed the document on monitoring and evaluation by Dr. Douglas Marlowe, which he hoped would contribute to improving the drug situation in the hemisphere. He also congratulated CICAD on its work on drug treatment courts (DTCs) and said it was important to develop alternatives to incarceration: substance abuse is a chronic disease that should be treated as a public health matter, but the problem lies with crimes committed in relation to this disorder. A successful model in the United States, which is supported by evidence, is that of drug treatment courts.

**Peru:** Thanked CICAD for its cooperation in this area, and recalled that an agreement was signed in 2018 on a pilot project on juvenile courts. He said that therapeutic justice was needed for people in conflict with the law who have substance use problems, and that projects are currently under way in the areas of Lima Norte and Ventanilla, in cooperation with the judiciary and other stakeholders.

**Panama:** Said that, with the help of the government of Canada, Panama is studying CICAD's recommendations, and is working to apply them and make adjustments based on the recommendations made in that assessment.

**Argentina:** Announced that Argentina has started down this road, and that no legal reforms had been necessary. A program is currently operating in the city of Buenos Aires, and it is hoped to expand the model to other cities. The judiciary and SEDRONAR worked together to develop a protocol that would not conflict with current law. Alternatives must be found in order to reduce the high rate of incarceration.

**Colombia:** Said that Colombia had worked with therapeutic communities to have them serve as better alternatives to incarceration, and they offered great opportunities. He joined Panama in saying that the Ministries of Health must be involved. The juvenile criminal justice system can be a platform for work in this area from the point of view of prevention.

#### **14. Legislative responses to the proliferation of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) in the region**

##### **Presenters:**

##### **a. Moema Macedo, Specialist in Regulation and Health Monitoring, National Health Monitoring Agency (ANVISA), Brazil (CICAD/doc.2469/19)**

Ms. Macedo discussed the situation in Brazil with regard to the proliferation of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS). She described the good practices that the country is implementing in order to address the problem, and cited some of the advantages of using generic substance classifications in the country. And said how important it was to have more toxicology and epidemiological data so that decisions can be taken on the basis of up-to-date, reliable information on the subject.

##### **b. Juan Francisco Espinosa Palacios, Vice Minister for Criminal Policy and Restorative Justice, Ministry of Justice and Law, Colombia.**

Mr. Espinosa explained that large volumes of new psychoactive substances (NPS) and synthetic drugs have been detected in Colombia in recent years, and said that the country has created an Early Warning System (EWS) in response. He said that the EWS information system is made up of various government and educational institutions that work together to mitigate and reduce the impact of these substances by timely detection and assessment of the risk that they each pose. He also said that the country is implementing a comprehensive strategy to develop more effective responses to the proliferation of NPS, namely, i) production of knowledge; ii) inter-agency coordination, and iii) regulations.

**c. Deborah Maestre, Coordinator, National Registry of Chemical Precursors, Under Secretariat for Countering Drug Trafficking, Ministry of Security, Argentina (CICAD/doc.2454/19).**

Ms. Maestre said that Argentina uses various systems to control NPS in accordance with the international treaties on the control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and cited the substances that are being found most often in the country. She said that the schedules of substances that are individually controlled in Argentina are updated by means of Executive Decrees, and cited some cases that exemplify the fact that the system of individual scheduling has certain limitations. The country had derived some advantages to using different approaches to monitoring certain NPS.

**d. Terrance Boos, Section Chief, Drug and Chemical Evaluation Section, United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) (CICAD/doc.2477/19)**

Mr. Boos discussed the legislative responses being implemented in the United States to counter the proliferation of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), and spoke of the numerous challenges that these substances pose to public health throughout the country and the modification of data collection tools to inform regulatory decisions. He said that in the United States, controls are implemented at the Federal, State and local level, including temporary (emergency) controls, through a streamlined approach that has enabled controls to be issued on 68 substances since 2011. He also reported on successes in prosecuting cases related to NPS by utilizing temporary controls and the United States analogue provision. These efforts have reduced the supply of illicit new fentanyl analogues. This reduction is directly attributable to the temporary class control on fentanyl- related substances.

**15. Presentation of the 2019 work plan of the Executive Secretariat of CICAD (CICAD/doc.2455/19)**

**Presenter: Adam Namm, Executive Secretary, CICAD**

Ambassador Namm presented the proposed 2019 work plan for the Executive Secretariat of CICAD (CICAD/doc.2455/19). He described the current structure of the Executive Secretariat, which is derived from its statutory obligations, the mission of each of its units, and the main projects they are executing based on the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020. He discussed the activities planned for 2019 in the areas of Institutional Strengthening, Demand Reduction, Supply Reduction, the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID), and the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), and encouraged member states to participate actively in these efforts to ensure favorable and sustainable results.

**Comments by delegations**

**United States:** Recognized the high quality of the programs and technical assistance that CICAD is conducting in the area of drug control, and said that they play a critical role in providing technical assistance, promoting best practices, and building capacity in the OAS member states. He also said that it was important that resources be used in the most effective way possible, and to that end, asked the Executive Secretariat to undertake an analysis of the costs of holding two regular sessions per year. Such an analysis could help determine whether savings could be made if, for example, the

Commission were to hold one high-level meeting per year, and a technical level meeting in Washington, D.C., instead of two regular sessions.

**Mexico:** Said he was appreciative of the wide variety of activities and programs carried out by the Executive Secretariat of CICAD, emphasizing the importance and value of the MEM. He said that his country continues to be committed to strengthening the work of the MEM and to contribute resources that will allow it to function appropriately. He urged the Executive Secretariat of CICAD to continue to seek out and strengthen synergies with other international organizations, as well as with academia and civil society stakeholders.

## Decisions

The Commission approved the work plan of the Executive Secretariat of CICAD for 2019.

### 16. Schedule for CICAD Expert Group meetings in 2019

The chair invited those countries chairing the Expert Groups to forward the schedules of their meetings to the Commissioners.

### 17. Consideration and approval of the draft CICAD annual report 2018 (CICAD/doc.2451/19) and draft resolution for the forty-ninth regular session of the OAS General Assembly, June 2019 (CICAD/doc.2453/19)

In his capacity as chair of the working group to prepare the draft resolution for the forty-ninth regular session of the OAS General Assembly, the delegate of Argentina presented the paragraphs that had been agreed, and thanked the delegations for their invaluable contributions. He offered the floor to any delegation that wished to address the topic.

## Comments by delegations

**Uruguay:** Congratulated the Executive Secretariat of CICAD on the progress made in the MEM evaluation round, and on the publication of the *Report on Drug Use in the Americas 2019*. He said that his delegation supported the text submitted for approval. He then spoke of the interest of his delegation in preserving the technical, specialized nature of the CICAD forum, so that it not be affected by political issues beyond its competence or functions. He closed by referring to a resolution adopted by the Permanent Council of the Organization on April 9, 2019 on the situation in Venezuela, to which Uruguay had entered a reservation concerning the legal validity and binding effects that may ensue therefrom.

**Guatemala:** Thanked the Executive Secretariat of CICAD, the government of Argentina, and SEDRONAR for the successful organization of this regular session, and reiterated his country's commitment to continue to participate in the various efforts being implemented by CICAD, and recognized its great importance in the drug field.

## Decisions

The Commission approved the paragraphs in the draft resolution for the forty-ninth regular session of the OAS General Assembly.

#### **18. Interventions from Permanent Observers to the OAS, international and regional organizations, and civil society organizations accredited to the OAS**

**Russian Federation (CICAD/doc.2487/19):** Recognized the importance of the Ministerial Declaration of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which focused on give impetus to implementation of the commitments to counter the world drug problem. He discussed the most pressing challenges that his country was facing in this area, particularly with regard to the proliferation of new psychoactive substances as one of its main concerns. He discussed some of the measures that his government was carrying out to deal with current challenges, and said there was a need for increased information-sharing and better international partnerships with OAS member states.

**Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe (CICAD/doc.2464/19):** Stressed the importance of the drug policy cooperation between the Council of Europe through the Pompidou Group and the Executive Secretariat of CICAD, mainly since the publication of the UNGASS Outcome Document. This year, the Pompidou Group started its Work Program 2019-2022, which is focused on developing strategies for achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. She said that there had been useful discussions between the Presidency of the Pompidou Group and the Executive Secretariat of CICAD with a view to organizing joint activities in order to achieve the commitments made at UNGASS and implement effective models of prevention of drug use.

**DeJusticia:** Said that she was speaking on behalf of DeJusticia and the following civil society organizations: *Intercambios Asociación Civil*, *Intercambios Argentina*, *México Unido contra la Delincuencia*, the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) and the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC). She emphasized the key role of civil society in resolving drug-related problems, paying particular attention to harm reduction measures. She stressed the importance of the leadership by hemispheric organizations in implementing measures such as decriminalization of the personal use of drugs, financing of community organizations, and removing the stigma attached to drug users.

**International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction (ICUDDR):** Explained that ICUDDR works with universities around the world to develop a sustainable infrastructure for developing a workforce with the knowledge, attitudes and skills to effectively carry out drug policies in the region. She offered the Consortium's services to OAS member states, and invited them to participate in the next ICUDDR conference, which will be held in Cuzco, Peru on July 21-23, 2019.

#### **19. Topics, dates and location of the sixty-sixth regular session of CICAD**

The Vice Chair of CICAD informed that the sixty-sixth regular session will be held in the United States, tentatively in the third week of November 2019 in the city of Chicago. Next, the Chair offered the floor to the member states that wished to propose topics for said regular session.

#### **Comments by delegations**

**Honduras:** Proposed the topic of chemical precursor control, and subregional efforts going forward on the issue, particularly in the Northern Triangle of Central America.

**Canada:** Proposed two topics for consideration: 1) addressing and reducing stigmatization, and 2) drug treatment in rural areas.

**United States:** Said that as chair of CICAD, the United States' priority will be to promote and follow up on the 2019 Ministerial Declaration of the CND and activities to implement it at the national level. He also said that his country is interested in having a discussion at the next regular session of the Commission about how to respond to the new forms of drug trafficking, including the use of the Darknet and the postal service. He said it was important that the Executive Secretariat of CICAD cooperate with other OAS departments, and with other international and regional agencies.

**Mexico:** Proposed the following topics for the next CICAD meeting: 1) the use of financial intelligence in the prevention and fight against money laundering to dismantle criminal organizations engaged in illicit drug trafficking and 2) the analysis of trends in illicit markets associated with drug trafficking.

## Decisions

The Commission decided to hold its sixty-sixth regular session in the United States, tentatively during the third week of November 2019 in Chicago.

## 20. Closing session

The Chair of CICAD offered the floor to delegations that wished to speak to the topics that had been discussed or to raise other matters.

**Venezuela:** Congratulated the chair of CICAD and the Republic of Argentina on their leadership of the meeting. She said that Venezuela had followed a policy of isolation and had had very limited international cooperation on the drug problem, and said that her country's participation in this CICAD meeting was important in reinserting Venezuela into the region's efforts on drugs. She said she was grateful for the solidarity shown toward her country, and reiterated Venezuela's intention to increase cooperation in the fight against drugs and to work closely with international and regional organizations on the issue.

**Antigua and Barbuda:** Thanked the Chair of CICAD and the Executive Secretariat for having organized the meeting and noted the high level of the presentations and the diversity of the topics that had been addressed.

**Colombia:** Seconded the topics proposed by Mexico for the November meeting, particularly the topic of the use of financial intelligence as a tool to counter drug trafficking. He thanked the government of Argentina for having organized the meeting, and stated Colombia's support for the Venezuelan people in the situation they are facing.

**General Secretariat of the OAS:** Thanked Argentina, and SEDRONAR in particular, for having been an excellent host. He also thanked the delegates, permanent observers, and representatives of civil society, as well as the diplomatic representatives of Venezuela for attending the meeting.

**Executive Secretariat of CICAD:** Ambassador Namm thanked Argentina for having organized the sixty-fifth regular session of CICAD, and said that he appreciated the warm welcome. He also thanked the presenters, panelists, moderators, Permanent Observer countries, representatives of civil society, and the staff of the Executive Secretariat of CICAD. He particularly appreciated the participation and support of the member states, and recognized the MEM as a process unique in the world for evaluating drug policies.

**Chair of CICAD:** Thanked Ambassador Namm and the staff of the Executive Secretariat of CICAD, as well as the teams from the Foreign Ministry and SEDRONAR for having organized the event. He also said he was grateful to the presenters and to the member states, and thanked the civil society organizations for their participation.

### III. DECISIONS

The Commission took the following decisions:

1. The Commission adopted the draft agenda (CICAD/doc.2447/19 rev. 1) and the draft schedule of activities (CICAD/doc.2448/19 rev. 2) without amendment.
2. The Commission approved the draft annual report of CICAD 2018 (CICAD/doc.2451/19).
3. The Commission approved the paragraphs on CICAD for the omnibus resolution on Multidimensional Security for the forty-ninth regular session of the OAS General Assembly, June 2019 (CICAD/doc.2453/19).
4. The Commission approved the national reports of the seventh round of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM).
5. The Commission decided to hold a follow-up meeting on the operational recommendations of UNGASS 2016, prior to the sixty-sixth regular session of CICAD (date and place to be determined).
6. The Commission decided to update the matrix on compliance with the operational recommendations of UNGASS 2016 based on the voluntary experiences of each country.
7. The Commission approved the Work Plan 2019 of the Executive Secretariat of CICAD (CICAD/doc.2455/19).
8. The Vice Chair of the Commission announced that the sixty-sixth regular session of CICAD would be held in the United States in November 2019 (tentatively during the third week of November)



#### IV. PARTICIPANTS

##### **1. Member states of CICAD**

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.

##### **2. Permanent Observers**

Russian Federation.

##### **3. Specialized International and Regional Organizations**

Colombo Plan, INTERPOL, and the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe.

##### **4. Civil Society**

DeJusticia/International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), Dianova International, Intercambios Asociación Civil, International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction (ICUDDR), México Unido Contra la Delincuencia, International Society of Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Professionals (ISSUP).