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**REPORT OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON COMPREHENSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE  
DEVELOPMENT**

## **Overview of the activities of the Group of Experts on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development (GEDAIS) in 2018-2019, as presented by the Chair**

This year, the Group of Experts on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development (GEDAIS), using its Spanish-language acronym), chaired by the Government of Uruguay with the support of the Government of Peru as Vice-Chair, developed a questionnaire for member states to survey the state of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development (DAIS) in the hemisphere. GEDAIS also compared the data from the questionnaire with the results of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM).

In October, Uruguay convened a meeting of GEDAIS in Montevideo to discuss these results, and to share innovative practices for socio-economic inclusion, which seek to provide comprehensive and sustainable alternatives to participating in illicit drug production and trafficking. The following OAS member states participated in this meeting: Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Peru, United States, and Uruguay. For the purposes of the meeting, the Chair identified the following thematic axes of work in relation to DAIS:

- Axis 1: Peaceful Coexistence and Security;
- Axis 2: Social Economy; and
- Axis 3: Market Regulation within the Framework of the Conventions.

To better illustrate the practical application of these concepts, the Chair organized a visit to a local mayor's office where delegates learned about its coordination with departmental and national governments. The October meeting also served as a forum to seek consensus on the reference document "Reference Framework for the understanding of the concept of Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development," prepared by the Chair and Vice-Chair based on the work of GEDAIS in 2017-2018, which is attached to this document.

The Chair is grateful for the support of the Executive Secretariat of CICAD and of all the member states that have contributed to GEDAIS throughout this year.

Lic. Diego Olivera

Chair

Group of Experts on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development (GEDAIS)

Secretary General

National Drug Council

Uruguay

REFERENCE FRAMEWORK FOR THE  
UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONCEPT OF  
COMPREHENSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE  
ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT (DAIS)

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# REFERENCE FRAMEWORK FOR THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONCEPT OF COMPREHENSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT (DAIS)

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## Preamble

1. The Group of Experts on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development (GE-DAIS)<sup>1</sup> of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS), within the framework of the 2010 *Hemispheric Strategy on Drugs* and the *Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020*, has been implementing an approved Work Plan in 2016.<sup>2</sup>
2. The aforementioned Plan contemplates various topics (*e.g.* the design, execution, measurement, monitoring and evaluation and systematization of interventions) which are accompanied by particular action items, including member states' understanding of what DAIS represents in the Americas, considering its peculiarities in the illicit production of drugs.
3. Within this framework, CICAD submitted the draft document, *Framework for the expansion of Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development in the Americas*, to the member states. This document is the result of the work carried out by GE-DAIS in 2017<sup>3</sup> and 2018.<sup>4</sup>
4. At the 64th CICAD Regular Session,<sup>5</sup> the Oriental Republic of Uruguay and the Republic of Peru assumed the Presidency and Vice Presidency, respectively, of GE-DAIS. There, member states discussed the contents presented in the draft document, by virtue of its multilateral character.
5. Taking into account the aforementioned debate, and without prejudice to the experience each member states has accumulated about this issue since the 1980s, GE-DAIS facilitated an internal debate, using responses to a country-by-country questionnaire developed by the President and Vice President as a starting point.

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<sup>1</sup> GE-DAIS was reactivated in the framework of the 58th CICAD Regular Session, held November 11-13, 2015, in Trujillo, Republic of Peru. The Republic of Peru was elected to the Presidency.

<sup>2</sup> The Work Plan was approved during the first meeting of GE-DAIS, held May 18-19, 2016, in Lima, Republic of Peru.

<sup>3</sup> The document was prepared during the second meeting of GE-DAIS, held October 17-19, 2017, in La Antigua, Republic of Guatemala.

<sup>4</sup> GE-DAIS continued the evaluation of the draft document during the third meeting of GE-DAIS, held October 8-10, 2018, in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.

<sup>5</sup> The 64th CICAD Regular Session was held November 19-21, 2018, in the city of Washington, D.C., United States of America.

6. The objective of the present document is to use each member state's experience to develop a better understanding of the concept of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development, as part of a policy that helps reduce the supply of raw material for the production of illicit drugs, and that strengthens the legal economy as well as the social, institutional, cultural, and environmental improvement of areas affected by the cultivation of illegal drugs and other, illicit activities related to drug production and trafficking.
7. The aforementioned is aligned with the provisions of the *Final Document of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem held in 2016*, entitled *Our joint commitment to effectively address and counteract the global drug problem* (UNGASS Final Document 2016), which states in relevant part: *"Encourage the development of viable economic alternatives, particularly for communities affected by or at risk of illicit cultivation of drug crops and other illicit drug-related activities in urban and rural areas, including through comprehensive alternative development programmes, and to this end consider development-oriented interventions, while ensuring that both men and women benefit equally from them, including through job opportunities, improved infrastructure and basic public services and, as appropriate, access and legal titles to land for farmers and local communities, which will also contribute to preventing, reducing or eliminating illicit cultivation and other drug-related activities[.]"*

## International Framework

8. According to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,<sup>6</sup> the States Parties undertook to adopt measures to prevent the illicit cultivation of plants containing narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances (Article 14.2) and to cooperate to increase the effectiveness of eradication efforts, including, among others, support for integrated rural development to offer substitutes for illicit cultivation that are economically viable (Article 14.3).
9. The *Political Declaration of 1998*<sup>7</sup> reaffirmed the need to adopt a global approach to eliminate illicit crops for drug production, an approach that including alternative development, such as the integration of vulnerable sectors participating in the illicit drug market into legal and viable economic activities (Paragraph 18). In addition, in order to foster cooperation in the fight against the world drug problem, the *Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development* was approved.
10. The 1998 Action Plan recognizes that alternative development, as well as surveillance and eradication measures, is a strategy for effective crop control (Preamble, paragraph 2) and defines it as a *"process to prevent and eliminate the illicit cultivation of plants containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances through specifically designed rural*

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<sup>6</sup> The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances was adopted on December 20, 1988 and entered into force on November 11, 1990.

<sup>7</sup> The Political Declaration was adopted during the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, held June 8-10, 1998, in New York City, United States of America.

*development measures in the context of sustained national economic growth and sustainable development efforts in countries taking action against drugs, recognizing the particular sociocultural characteristics of the target communities and groups, within the framework of a comprehensive and permanent solution to the problem of illicit drugs...*" (Preamble, paragraph 3).

11. Resolution 44/11 of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) of 2001,<sup>8</sup> entitled *International cooperation for the eradication of illicit crops destined for drug production and alternative development* highlighted that measures aimed at eliminating illicit cultivation and promoting alternative development must be "*compatible*" with the rational use of natural resources and environmental protection (Preamble, paragraph 6). In addition, states are urged to continue reducing illicit crops in order to "*reintegrate affected population groups into the lawful economy*" (Paragraph 1).
12. According to Resolution 45/14 adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in 2002,<sup>9</sup> entitled *The role of alternative development in drug control and development cooperation*, alternative development is identified as a medium and long-term process for which "*an illicit economy is replaced by a lawful economy*" (Preamble, paragraph 8). Likewise, it specifies that alternative development also includes "*preventive alternative development,*" where appropriate, and includes the social and physical infrastructure to develop a productive and competitive economy (Preamble, paragraph 9).
13. According to the *Political Declaration on International Cooperation in Favor of a Comprehensive and Balanced Strategy to Counteract the World Drug Problem* of 2009,<sup>10</sup> alternative development programs (and where appropriate, alternative preventive development, together with eradication and law enforcement measures) are sustainable strategies for controlling illicit crops used to make narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. These strategies require international cooperation, based on integrated and balanced approaches, and the principle of shared responsibility (Paragraph 24).
14. The *CICAD Hemispheric Drug Strategy* of 2010<sup>11</sup> contemplates, with respect to issues related to supply reduction, the need for member states to consider certain guidelines (including the adoption of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development and law enforcement measures, according to each country's particular situation) due to their importance to reducing illicit crops cultivation (Guidelines 29 and 30).
15. The 2013 Antigua Declaration, *For a Comprehensive Policy against the Global Drug Problem in the Americas*,<sup>12</sup> encourages member states to promote measures of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development and, "where appropriate, preventive alternative development—aimed at eliminating the factors that cause poverty,

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<sup>8</sup> Resolution 44/11 was adopted during the 44th session of the CND, held March 20-29, 2001.

<sup>9</sup> Resolution 45/14 was adopted during the 45th session of the CND, held March 11-15, 2002.

<sup>10</sup> The Political Declaration was approved during the High Level Session of the CND, held March 11-12, 2009.

<sup>11</sup> The Hemispheric Drug Strategy was adopted during the 47th CICAD Regular Session, held from May 3-5, 2010.

<sup>12</sup> The Antigua Declaration was approved during the 43rd session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), held June 4-6, 2013. The Declaration was approved at the fourth plenary session on June 6, 2013.

social exclusion, and environmental degradation in order to avert the involvement of vulnerable populations in activities connected with illicit drug production and trafficking” (paragraph 19). The Antigua Declaration emphasizes the issue of development, but does not mention its connection to public security matters.

16. The *United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development* of 2013<sup>13</sup> is based on the idea that alternative development policies are part of development initiatives and policies in affected states, or are policies that may be harmed by illicit crop cultivation (Principle 1) and that these policies are fundamental to efforts to drug supply reduction through the prevention, elimination, or reduction of such illicit crops, insofar as they contribute to combating poverty and providing legal economic opportunities (Principle 2).
17. The 2014 *Joint Ministerial Declaration*<sup>14</sup> highlights the approval of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development (paragraph 19). It also presents alternative development, together with crop eradication and law enforcement, as measures included in sustainable strategies for the reduction and control of illicit crop cultivation (paragraph 32). In addition, it refers to rural development in terms of strengthening governance, improving access to legal markets and infrastructure, and stimulating the participation of local communities in the formulation and implementation of alternative development policies and programs (paragraph 34).
18. The *2030 Agenda*, published in 2015<sup>15</sup> is an action plan composed of seventeen (17) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and one hundred sixty-nine (169) related goals, based on the premise that poverty eradication is the major challenge facing the world, as well as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. These objectives and goals are integrated and indivisible, and fuse the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental.
19. The UNGASS Final Document 2016<sup>16</sup> reiterates, through Operational Recommendation 7,<sup>17</sup> the commitment to address socio-economic issues related to the production of illicit drugs through policies and programs aimed at sustainable development, including alternative development programs that are part of crop control strategies that stimulate development in rural areas (Operational Recommendation 7.b).

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<sup>13</sup> The *United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development* were approved via Resolution No. 68/196, approved by the United Nations General Assembly on December 18, 2013. The *Guiding Principles* were derived from the International High Level Conference on Alternative Development, held November 14-16, 2012, in Lima, Republic of Peru. The *Guiding Principles* appear as an appendix to the *Lima Declaration on Alternative Development*.

<sup>14</sup> The Joint Ministerial Declaration of the 2014 High-Level Review for the implementation of the Political Declaration and the 2009 Plan of Action was adopted during the 57th session of the CND, held March 13-21, 2014.

<sup>15</sup> The 2030 Agenda is entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” approved by General Assembly Resolution A / RES / 70/1, on September 25, 2015.

<sup>16</sup> The Final Document was adopted during the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, held April 19-21, 2016, in New York City, United States of America.

<sup>17</sup> Operational Recommendation 7 is entitled “Operational recommendations on alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation to achieve a balanced and development-oriented drug control policy; socio-economic issues.”

20. The *Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020*<sup>18</sup> states that the objective of strengthening programs in favor of “*development*” includes alternative and comprehensive sustainable development and, where appropriate, alternative preventive development. (Objective 3). To this end, it outlines several priority actions, such as: design and implementation of programs; exchange of experiences and good practices; dissemination of the results achieved; design and/or improvement of monitoring and evaluation systems for programs aimed at reducing illicit crops and improving the well-being of communities, via indicators that measure effectiveness in the medium and long term; strengthening the presence of the state; promotion of the participation of local communities and relevant organizations; and promotion of cooperation initiatives with the private sector, civil society, and international financial institutions.
21. Area 3, Objective 3 of the *Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020* underlines the need to “[d]esign, implement and/or strengthen long-term programs which are broad and aimed at development that includes rural and urban alternative, integral and sustainable development programs, and, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, in accordance with the policies, legislations and needs of each country, as appropriate.”
22. The 2019 *Ministerial Declaration on the strengthening of our actions at national, regional and international levels to accelerate the implementation of joint commitments to address and counteract the global drug problem*<sup>19</sup> aims to encourage states to focus on the practical implementation of the joint commitments they have assumed at international level, in particular those in the 2009 Declaration and Plan of Action and the UNGASS 2016 Final Document, as well as the treaties for the control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (particularly the 1988 treaty).
23. Likewise, during the UNGASS 2016 process, participating states agreed to implement the operational recommendations on alternative development approved by the United Nations Resolution, “We reiterate our joint commitment to effectively address and counteract the global drug problem in what refers to the illicit cultivation of plants used for the production of narcotic drugs and the manufacture, production and illicit drug trafficking” and to address related socio-economic issues, with special emphasis on the causes and related consequences of cultivation, production, manufacturing, and trafficking of illegal drugs, in rural and urban settings, via the implementation of comprehensive, balanced policies and programs aimed at sustainable development.
24. The conference room document presented jointly by Germany, the Republic of Peru, Thailand, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), entitled *The future of alternative development*<sup>20</sup> in which “participants recognized the changing trends of the world drug problem, specifically a change in the illicit crop cultivation of plant-based drugs to the production of illicit synthetic drugs. These drugs can be produced in urban environments and have different patterns of use.”

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<sup>18</sup> The Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020 was approved during the 60th CICAD Regular Session, held November 2-4, 2016, in Nassau, The Bahamas.

<sup>19</sup> The Ministerial Declaration was adopted in the CND Ministerial Segment, on March 14-15, 2019, in Vienna, Republic of Austria.

<sup>20</sup> The conference room document E / CN.7 / 2019 / CRP.2 was adopted during the 62nd session of the CND, held March 14-22, 2001.

25. Resolution 62/3 of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) of 2019<sup>21</sup> “[e]ncourages the development of viable economic alternatives, particularly for communities affected by or at risk of illicit cultivation of drug crops and other illicit drug-related activities in urban and rural areas, including through comprehensive alternative development programmes, and to this end encourages the consideration of development-oriented interventions, while ensuring that all individuals benefit equally from them, including through job opportunities, improved infrastructure and basic public services and, as appropriate, access and legal titles to land for farmers and local communities, which will also contribute to preventing, reducing or eliminating illicit cultivation and other drug-related activities[.]”

## Development and evolution of the DAIS Concept

26. Without prejudice to the existence of illicit synthetic drugs, most of the illicit drugs currently use as raw material the leaves (e.g., coca) and/or flowers (e.g., poppy) of plants cultivated for illegal drug production. In this sense, in the early 1980s, illicit crops in certain countries of the region increased significantly, mainly as a result of the increase in international demand for drugs.<sup>22</sup>

27. In response to the aforementioned development, the affected states in the region resorted to a strategy based solely on the physical substitution of illicit crops with alternative crops that could generate similar economic income for the farmer.<sup>23</sup> However, this strategy had economic limitations (the products offered as alternatives were not as profitable as illicit crop) and technical limitations (local conditions were not favorable for cultivating the substitute crops).<sup>24</sup>

28. In order to overcome these limitations, the states in the region adopted measures aimed at strengthening rural development. Subsequently, during the 1990s, the strategy evolved towards “income substitution”<sup>25</sup> or “substitution of the economy of illicit crops,”<sup>26</sup> focused on increasing productivity. Thus, the strategy focused not only on eliminating illicit crops, but also ensuring that licit production was more profitable than illicit production. This was accomplished mainly through the implementation of productive infrastructure (e.g., establishment of processing plants and warehouses), transportation infrastructure (e.g., roads, bridges and paths/horse trails), and through technical assistance to farmers and farming organizations.

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<sup>21</sup> Resolution 62/3 was adopted during the 62nd session of the CND, held March 14-22, 2019.

<sup>22</sup> Paul Gootenberg, “Entre la Coca y la Cocaína. Un siglo o más de las paradojas de la droga entre Estados Unidos y el Perú, 1860 – 1980”, Instituto de Estudios Peruanos, 2003, pp. 38-39.

<sup>23</sup> Fernando Hurtado, “Estrategia de Desarrollo Alternativo en el marco de la Lucha contra las Drogas en el Perú”, in: Reflexiones sobre el Desarrollo Alternativo en los países del área andina, 2004, p. 83.

<sup>24</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Alternative Development in the Andean area. Technical Guide, 2010, p. 2.

<sup>25</sup> Andean Community, Decision 614: Andean Strategy for Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development, approved during the 15th Meeting of the Andean Council of Foreign Ministers, July 15, 2015, Lima.

<sup>26</sup> Fernando Hurtado, “Estrategia de Desarrollo Alternativo en el marco de la Lucha contra las Drogas en el Perú”, *Op. Cit.*, p. 83.

29. During the 1990s, as the strategy approach evolved towards a vision based on development, context in which the term "*alternative development*"<sup>27</sup> became more common. In this regard, measures to improve marketing and sales of alternative products, and to generate employment opportunities, were incorporated. Additionally, institutional support was provided for policies that supported farmers and farmers' organizations.
30. From the beginning of the 21st century onwards, alternative development was identified as the substitution of illicit economic activities for lawful economic activities. It also included {,when applicable,} the concept of "*preventive alternative development*," which can be understood as the set of measures that a state implements in areas potentially affected by illicit crop cultivation.<sup>28</sup>
31. The efforts made by GE-DAIS to create a framework for understanding the concept of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development, illustrated in greater detail *infra*, stems from three (3) premises:
- I. Without prejudice to the complexity of their understanding of the issue, the terms, titles, or denominations that the different member states employ to describe alternative development do not predetermine or define its nature.
  - II. Without prejudice to the history of the concept, DAIS interventions must always take rural areas into consideration, since a large part of illicit crop cultivation that forms the basis of DAIS interventions takes place in rural areas.
  - III. The rapid growth of new psychoactive substances (NSP) reinforces the need to consider urban centers of drug production and trafficking, as appropriate, where DAIS interventions are relevant.
  - IV. Without prejudice to the development approach *per se*, DAIS is understood as a strategy of to control and/or debilitate illicit economies, which in turn contributes to decreasing illicit drug supply.

### Results of the development of the DAIS Concept

32. At present, the term "*comprehensive and sustainable alternative development*"<sup>29</sup> is generally used, defined by the following premises:
- I. It is a strategy that is usually understood as a mechanism to control illicit drug supply via, on the one hand, the reduction of illegal crop cultivation and, on the other, the

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<sup>27</sup> See paragraph 8 *supra*.

<sup>28</sup> See paragraph 11 *supra*.

<sup>29</sup> See paragraph 13 *supra*.

encouragement of sustainable rural development and poverty reduction in areas where illicit crop cultivation takes place.<sup>30</sup>

- II. By its nature, this strategy requires integrating approaches aimed at developing public institutional capacity, so that states can ensure adequate provision of public services in the affected localities.
  - III. Area 3, Objective 3 of the *Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020*, defines the following objective: “Design, implement and/or strengthen broad, long-term programs which are and aimed at development that includes rural and urban alternative, integral and sustainable development programs, and, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, in accordance with the policies, legislations and needs of each country, as appropriate.
33. Throughout the international platform, there has been some confusion about the terms “*Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development*” and “*Sustainable Development*” (or simply “*Development*”).<sup>31</sup> The aforementioned terms cannot be considered synonymous, however. Instead:
- I. The term “*Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development*,” which addresses specific, problematic situation (rural areas affected by illicit crop cultivation), seeks to generate a progressive transformation (economic, social, institutional, cultural and environmental) aimed at reducing the material conditions and weak institutions that facilitate the production of illicit drugs.
  - II. The term “*Sustainable Development*” implies a comprehensive, systemic, complex, and sustainable process, whose overarching objective will be to improve the quality of life in general, without any distinction as to the nature of the development in question, demographics, territory, or time. Thus, refers to actions promoting economic development, equitable social development, citizen participation, the conservation of natural resources, and the preservation of environmental quality, among other things.<sup>32</sup>
  - III. Therefore, member states must promote, according to their territorial realities, visions and priorities, that actions taken with respect to “*Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development*” do not run contrary to the “*Sustainable Development*” of the communities affected, respecting human rights and with a gender approach.

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<sup>30</sup> Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, “Reformulando el enfoque de desarrollo alternativo: Principios y estándares de desarrollo rural en zonas de cultivos de drogas, Op. Cit, p.4.

<sup>31</sup> See, the title of Objective 3 as well as priority action 3.7 of Area 3 relating to the “*Reduction of Supply*” of the *Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020*. See also, subsections (j) and (k) of the “*Operational Recommendations on alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation to achieve a balanced and development-oriented drug control policy; socio-economic issues*” in the 2016 UNGASS Final Document.

<sup>32</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Alternative Development in the Andean area. Technical Guide, Op. Cit., p. 3.*

34. In accordance with the practice carried out by the states with areas affected by illicit crop cultivation, the term “*Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development*”, implies two multi-sectorial and multidisciplinary components:

- I. Economic, social, cultural and environmental development at a local level, including the creation of diversified economy based lawful products and services that create value and have commercial potential.
- II. The consolidation of the effective presence of the State to ameliorate the existing basic needs in the affected communities and the inadequate provision of public services (e.g., health, sanitation, electricity, etc.), through local institutional strengthening (e.g., collaborative actions with local governments), among others. It should be remembered that, at the local level, “*Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development*” activities are sometimes the only (or principal) institutionalized intervention in isolated or marginalized rural, suburban, and urban areas. These areas lack sufficient economic infrastructure and basic services and, therefore have a high level of vulnerability.<sup>33</sup>

#### Key aspects identified from the DAIS Strategy:

35. The important elements of a strategy of “*comprehensive and sustainable alternative development*” should:

- I. Require, in order to guarantee a reduction in the production of illicit drugs, the coordination of other complementary strategies (e.g., drug interdiction and crop eradication)<sup>34</sup>, as well as the establishment of common long-term objectives.<sup>35</sup>
- II. Consider additional aspects (e.g., the empowerment of women, establishment of conditions for peace and the rule of law, and strengthening of lawful economic organizations),<sup>36</sup> as well as the leadership of the local community in the planning, direction, and evaluation of the measures taken for addressing the different challenges.
- III. Includes the principle of common and shared responsibility, which involves international cooperation for the benefit of public institutions and lawful economic organizations through, among others, the transfer of technical assistance and capacity building in the relevant fields.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> *Ibid*, p. 6.

<sup>34</sup> See paragraph 9 *supra*.

<sup>35</sup> See paragraph 11 *supra*.

<sup>36</sup> See paragraph 21 of the 2009 Political Declaration; part, A, 7, 13 of the 2009 Action Plan; and Operational Recommendation 4, item 4, a-i of the UNGASS 2016 Final Document.

<sup>37</sup> See paragraph 16 and paragraph 33 *supra*.

- IV. The recognition and incorporation of the Key Dimensions in the DAIS Strategy, from an integral perspective, give way to a dynamic operational concept of wide scope, effectiveness, local adaptability and temporal flexibility thereof.

## Conclusions

- A. OAS member states, according to their territorial realities, are increasingly aware of the need to promote development and social, economic, cultural, and environmental integration strategies for affected vulnerable groups so as to avoid their involvement in the production, transformation, distribution, trafficking, and consumption of drugs respecting human rights and incorporating a gender approach.
- B. DAIS is a strategy that forms part a policy to control and/or reduce illicit crop cultivation that produces raw materials for the production of illicit drugs in member states. In turn, it helps decrease the supply of illicit drugs.
- C. DAIS has, among others, the following components: local development (economic, social, cultural, and environmental) and strengthening the presence of the state to ameliorate the inadequate provision of public services.
- D. DAIS is not only based on physical substitution of illicit crops with alternative crops that could generate similar economic output, nor is it the mere replacement of income.
- E. DAIS also includes “*preventive alternative development*,” which is understood as the measures that a state may implement in the areas potentially affected by illicit {in the cases that apply} drug crops and trafficking.
- F. DAIS requires coordination with complementary strategies (e.g., drug interdiction and crop eradication, and prevention and entrepreneurship programs for vulnerable urban communities). It also needs the participatory role of the local community in its implementation.
- G. DAIS follows the principle of common and shared responsibility, which involves cooperation for the benefit of member states, their public institutions and lawful economic and social organizations through, among other measures, the transfer of technical assistance.
- H. DAIS is a strategy that focuses on “*Sustainable Development*.” DAIS refers to a response to a particular problem, and seeks a transformation of areas affected by illicit crop cultivation. “Sustainable Development” implies a comprehensive, systemic, complex, and sustainable process that seeks the welfare and to improve the quality of life of the population in general. DAIS must not run contrary to sustainable development measures.
- I. DAIS strategies require continuous monitoring and evidence-based evaluation to measure their impact, and to identify lessons learned and good practices.

- J. OAS member states have taken a fundamental step advancing in the recognition of the new dimensions of DAIS, based on a comprehensive perspective that places the human being at the center of all policies, and consolidate the address of economic, social, educational, health, environmental, and political aspects of the problem, established as the key dimensions of this challenge.
  
- K. These key dimensions are the transversal axes of the DAIS Strategy, which aim to realize their objectives, through multisector activities focused on social inclusion, environmental management and sustainable use of natural resources, prioritize a focus on development and human rights, gender equity, ethnicity, age, and the needs of the affected populations by the drug problem, taking into account inherent local and regional particularities.