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**Statement by Ambassador Adam Namm
Executive Secretary
Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)**

66th CICAD Regular Session
Miami; November 19, 2019
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- **Roberto Moro**, Secretary of the Secretariat of Integral Drug Policies (SEDRONAR) of Argentina, representing the chair of CICAD
- **Kirsten Madison**, Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the U.S., representing the vice chair of CICAD
- **Farah Urrutia**, Secretary for Multidimensional Security of the OAS
- Commissioners, Chiefs of Delegation, Members of International Organizations, Members of Civil Society, Members of the Press, OAS Colleagues, Friends...

Good morning and welcome to all!

First, I want to thank Argentina for its strong chair of CICAD during the past year. We had a terrific 65th regular session in Buenos Aires, attended by no less than three Argentine ministers. Secretary Moro, thanks very much for your excellent work this past year.

Thanks also to the United States for serving as Vice Chair during the past year, and for working diligently with the CICAD Executive Secretariat on the agenda and schedule of activities for this 66th regular session of CICAD, and of course for hosting.

Thank you, Secretary Urrutia, for being with us today, and for your unfailing support of CICAD. By sharing best practices in fora such as this regular session, the member states of the OAS enhance their ability to take a public health and human rights approach to drug dependency,

while joining forces to address drug trafficking. The Americas truly are in the vanguard when it comes to responding to the drug issue, with, for example, the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism being the only regional peer review tool in the world.

Regarding the MEM, the seventh round national reports were issued in July of this year, and during this regular session countries will be asked to approve the Hemispheric Report. I know, because I have heard it from member states, that you use the MEM reports as a diagnostic to improve your drug policies and programs. I thank MEM Governmental Experts Group General Coordinator Steve Millington and all GEG subgroup chairs and all GEG participants for their excellent work on the MEM seventh round. I also want to acknowledge the dedicated work of MEM Unit Chief Sofia Kosmas and her team: great job.

In the area of Demand Reduction, I am pleased to report that in June of this year we welcomed a new Chief of the Demand Reduction Unit, Jimena Kalawski. Jimena and her colleagues are working hard to deliver training for trainers on the Universal Prevention and Treatment Curricula, as well as on other important initiatives such as the International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction and the Caribbean Youth Forum on Drug Prevention, which I had the pleasure of attending in October in Barbados. I thank Chile for its chair of the Demand Reduction Experts Group, and Colombia for serving as Vice Chair.

Rafael Parada and his Supply Reduction Unit team have been hard at work implementing the Strengthening Gender Equality in Counterdrug Law Enforcement Agencies project, which seeks to sensitize law enforcement throughout the Hemisphere on the importance of gender

mainstreaming, including the value of hiring and promoting female officers. Also within Supply Reduction, CICAD's two counterdrug intelligence schools, in Bogota and Port-of-Spain, continue to train authorities involved in addressing drug trafficking. I thank The Bahamas and Argentina for chairing, respectively, the Experts Group on Maritime Narcotrafficking, and the Experts Group on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products.

CICAD's Inter-American Observatory on Drugs, or OID, led by Unit Chief Marya Hynes, continues to assist member states in strengthening their national observatories and with surveys on drug use. Responding to the need for more data on drug supply, our plan is to have the OID also begin focusing on supply statistics. Doing so, though, will require financial support from donors. I therefore respectfully request that member states consider contributing to the funding of this initiative. Absent a broad base of funding, it will be difficult if not impossible for the OID to report on drug supply.

CICAD's Institutional Strengthening Unit, run by Antonio Lomba, continues to assist member states implementing alternatives to incarceration programs, including assisting in the launch of new drug treatment courts; evaluating existing treatment courts; publishing manuals for monitoring and evaluation; and supporting the development of two new training curricula, one on alternatives to incarceration, and the other on the case and care management system. The Unit also assisted five Caribbean member states in drafting national drug strategies and plans of action during the past year, and is executing the Gender in the Criminal Justice System project, examining ways to improve the ability of member states to track and report sentencing outcomes and recidivism rates for drug-related offenses,

while enhancing their ability to disaggregate by gender. I want to thank Uruguay for chairing the Experts Group on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development during the past year, and Peru for serving as Vice Chair.

Measuring the impact of our programs is important to me and important to our donors. One way of measuring impact is to ask for feedback from participants in our various training courses; however, participants in courses almost always rate the courses highly, in part because they are happy to have been invited to participate in a training course! Another important way to measure impact is to ask for feedback from the supervisors of training course participants, and that is exactly what the CICAD Executive Secretariat is starting to do. I will report to member states on our findings once we have sufficient data.

Communication is vital to our work, and I am confident that the channels of communication between the CICAD Executive Secretariat, OAS member states, permanent observers, international organizations, and civil society is strong. Regarding civil society, I have made it a priority to meet with representatives of civil society whenever I visit a member state; it is important to hear from them.

As you are all aware, our Hemispheric Drug Strategy is now a decade old, and the current Plan of Action will expire next year. Although, as I have said on several occasions, the 2010 Strategy contains many of the principals and concepts discussed at UNGASS 2016, an update is necessary so as to be ready to respond to new challenges – with, of course, the publishing of a corresponding new Plan of Action.

And speaking of UNGASS 2016, a shout out to Jo Dedeayne-Amann, Chief of the Secretariat of Governing Bodies of UNODC, who has crossed the Atlantic to be with us today. We are honored by her presence, which highlights the strong cooperation CICAD enjoys with UNODC and other international organizations like the Pompidou Group and the African Union.

Thanks, as always, to our donors. Only about 15 percent of the CICAD Executive Secretariat's budget comes from the OAS Regular Fund, so specific fund contributions are indispensable to our providing technical assistance and analysis to member states.

Finally, thanks to my colleagues in the CICAD Executive Secretariat – the unit chiefs I've already mentioned, their staffs, and especially Assistant Executive Secretary Angela Crowdy.

I look forward to a dynamic regular session over the course of the next three days, and thank all panelists and presenters in advance for their valuable contributions. Thank you for this time, Chair.