



**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION**

CICAD

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

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CICAD 66 Inauguration Ceremony
Opening Remarks

Good morning everyone, and welcome to Florida. I'm sure everyone is happy they did not have to travel to Chicago, as previously proposed, because they have already had record-breaking cold and snow.

I would like to begin by acknowledging Argentina's successful chairmanship of OAS/CICAD, under Secretary Moro's excellent leadership. As the United States set out to plan this year's meeting, we learned quickly that it takes a small army to get every detail right. Argentina set the bar high last year and we will do our best to achieve similar strong results.

Over the past year, we – as OAS members – have had several opportunities to discuss how international cooperation is essential to furthering our efforts to combat illicit drugs and drug trafficking. Most recently in Buenos Aires, we examined the new evolving dynamics of narcotrafficking in our hemisphere – from evolving maritime trafficking routes to the proliferation of new psychoactive substances. The continued exchange of information and coordinated action among OAS members remains critical to our collective efforts to combat the world drug problem.

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We will continue and dive deeper into many of these conversations this week, under the U.S. chairmanship of CICAD. I look forward to a productive three days – and continuing the momentum from Argentina's chairmanship.