



OAS | CICAD



**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION**

CICAD

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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 regular session, and one 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-sixth regular session of the Commission would be held in Miami, Florida, USA, on November 19-21, 2019.

This report provides 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. PROCEEDINGS

1. Opening remarks

Speakers:

a. **Roberto Moro, Secretary of State for Comprehensive Policies on Drugs of Argentina, Chair of CICAD**

Mr. Moro began his remarks by providing an account of the past year as Chair of CICAD. He described the situation in the Hemisphere as one where drug use has increased and indicated that there is a need for new approaches to confront the problem. He listed examples of the major activities that were implemented by the Executive Secretariat of CICAD such as the demand reduction expert group meeting, chemical precursor expert group meeting, the Inter-American Program for Strengthening Gender Equality in Counterdrug Law Enforcement Agencies (GENLEA) project, and the seventh round of the MEM. Mr. Moro then recommended that important considerations for dealing with the drug problem should include the development of evidence-based policies, monitoring, and the evaluation of their impact. Mr. Moro reiterated Argentina's commitment to multilateral cooperation and thanked delegates for their collaboration and support during the past year.

b. **Adam E. Namm, Executive Secretary, CICAD (CICAD/doc.2511/19)**

Ambassador Namm thanked Argentina and the US for their strong leadership of CICAD as Chair and Vice Chair respectively. He also thanked the OAS Secretary for Multidimensional Security, Farah Urrutia, for her support of CICAD and provided a summary of major activities undertaken by the CICAD Executive Secretariat during 2019 as well as outlining those that are slated to be implemented in the near future. Ambassador Namm also highlighted the priority that the Executive Secretariat has placed on measuring the impact of its training activities, effective communication, and the involvement of civil society. In closing, Ambassador Namm thanked international partner agencies, donors and participants for supporting CICAD 66 and reminded the plenary that the Hemispheric Drug Strategy is ten years old and needs to be updated in the coming year.

c. Farah Urrutia, Secretary for Multidimensional Security, Organization of American States (CICAD/doc.2522/19)

Secretary Urrutia thanked Argentina for serving as Chair of CICAD and wished the US success as the incoming Chair. Secretary Urrutia highlighted the importance of the monitoring of drug policy and reiterated the need for a multidimensional approach to the drug problem while considering public health, gender, and human rights. The Secretary highlighted two of CICAD's programs that focus on gender and stated that these programs also respond to the OAS mantra of more rights for more people. Secretary Urrutia concluded by pledging the continued support of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security to CICAD.

d. Kirsten Madison, Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), US Department of State (CICAD/doc.2521/19)

Assistant Secretary Madison welcomed delegates to Florida and recognized Argentina's successful leadership of CICAD. Assistant Secretary Madison stated that international cooperation is essential to combating narco trafficking and new psychoactive substances (NPS), while information sharing is critical for confronting the world drug problem. In closing, she looked forward to a productive three days and to building on the momentum generated by Argentina.

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

The Commission adopted the draft agenda (CICAD/doc.2488/19corr1) and the draft schedule of activities (CICAD/doc.2489/19rev1) without amendment.

3. Election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission (Articles 22 and 23 of the Statute of CICAD).

Pursuant to Articles 22 and 23 of the Statute, the Commission elected the USA by acclamation to chair CICAD for the period 2019-2020, and Colombia to serve as Vice Chair for the same period.

4. Remarks by the new Chair of CICAD

Kirsten D. Madison, Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, US Department of State

Assistant Secretary Madison said it was an honor for the United States to be elected as Chair of CICAD and highlighted that the Commission is seeking to advance international cooperation against drug threats facing the Western Hemisphere. The Assistant Secretary added that these threats weaken the rule of law, undermine licit economies, threaten citizen security, and drive staggering rates of drug dependence, abuse, and fatalities. She said that in today's globalized and hyper-connected world, criminals operate constantly and under the radar, using the dark web, cryptocurrencies, e-commerce platforms, and diverse trafficking methods and routes to avoid detection. She indicated that this is a common threat and provided examples of the different forms it takes across the Hemisphere. Assistant Secretary Madison described how the United States remains in the midst of a drug epidemic that has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives over the past decade, how the opioid crisis has affected the U.S.

economy in 2018, and how the present administration and Congress are working to help communities in preventing addiction and supporting treatment and recovery. CICAD is an essential partner in the collective efforts to counter drugs and drug trafficking at the regional level, through a balanced approach that includes demand and supply reduction. Assistant Secretary Madison stated that the U.S. goals in the coming year are to operationalize drug control strategies and help establish national early warning systems to strengthen information exchange, and to work together to address the evolving drug trafficking challenges that stem from political instability. She also reiterated political and financial support from the U.S. to enhance collective efforts and committed to drafting a Chair's summary at the conclusion of the meeting.

Remarks by the new Vice Chair of CICAD

Dr. Juan Francisco Espinosa Palacios, Vice-minister of Criminal Policy and Restorative Justice, Colombia

Dr. Espinosa thanked the Commission for electing him Vice Chair for the 2019-2020 term. He reiterated Colombia's firm commitment to address and counter the global drug problem. He added that his country promotes consensus building and the forging of synergies by adopting shared roadmaps, boosting cooperation, and fighting organized crime associated with the drug problem. In addition, he pointed to the need to revive and broaden the principle of common and shared responsibility.

5. Panel 1: Understanding the Evolving Synthetic Drug Threat in Latin America

Moderator: Diego Olivera, Secretary General of the National Drug Office, Uruguay

Mr. Olivera opened the session by highlighting the importance of synthetic drugs in the CICAD/OAS Hemispheric Drug Strategy and Plan of Action and noted that goal five underscores the need to address synthetic drugs. Mr. Olivera observed that synthetic drugs present a major challenge to drug policy and highlighted the need to build capacity in national laboratories and update legal instruments in order to regulate and counter this issue. Mr. Olivera highlighted that along with other approaches, early warning systems on drugs remain an important tool to identifying new psychoactive substances and other emerging phenomena.

Panelists:

a. Kirsten D. Madison, Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, US Department of State

Assistant Secretary Madison described the devastation of the opioid crisis, identifying it as the greatest illicit drug challenge in the United States. She also noted that the United States is not alone in this because the opioid problem is expanding worldwide and is fueled by the illicit trade and enabled by technology and the use of the internet, the dark web, and encryption applications. She explained that the supply chain is becoming increasingly dangerous as traffickers have begun shipping substances through the mail and introducing new risks to the general population. However, opioids have not replaced traditional drugs, and over the past few years, the influx of synthetics and precursor chemicals has increased. Traditional drugs are frequently laced with synthetics, often without the knowledge of the users. Similarly, counterfeit prescription pills including fentanyl continue to proliferate. She

highlighted US/INL's role in developing responses to disrupt trafficking and reiterated that the international community plays an important role. She highlighted the UNODC SMART Programme Toolkit as a practical set of instruments to help countries respond to synthetic drugs. Assistant Secretary Madison ended her remarks with a call to maintain a continuous and collaborative dialogue at CICAD, especially with the diverse array of stakeholders to ensure diplomatic and programmatic engagement, ensure best practices, and share experiences to diminish the threat of synthetic drugs.

b. Dr. Juan Francisco Espinosa Palacios, Vice-minister of Criminal Policy and Restorative Justice, Colombia (CICAD/doc.2506/19)

Dr. Espinosa explained how the drug problem has evolved over the past several years in Colombia highlighting that there has been a decrease in alcohol use and smoking rates while marijuana and cocaine use have increased. He noted that this trend is not unique to Colombia and is seen in both the general population, among secondary school students, and college students. He also explained that marijuana and cocaine use have increased while the THC in marijuana and the purity of cocaine, opioids and their derivatives have also increased. The Vice-Minister expressed his concern that these synthetics and new psychotropic substances bring new forms of consumption. Studies carried out on the chemical composition of substances seized in 2009 showed that only 25% of pills sold as 'ecstasy' actually contained the substance. There is a great deal of adulteration of drugs being sold; an analysis of samples of LSD and ecstasy that were being sold on the street in 2015 revealed that they were actually NPS and clonazepam. The 2015 study also showed that all of the LSD samples were in fact NBOMe and NPS. NPS is increasingly present in Colombia, with a level of contamination larger than previously seen. Vice-Minister Espinosa closed by highlighting that strengthening forensics through capacity building, bolstering early warning systems (EWS), and sharing experiences are essential steps to address the proliferation of synthetics.

c. Gady Zabicky Sirot, National Commissioner against Addictions, Mexico

Dr. Zabicky Sirot provided a summary of drug use in Mexico, focusing on the main problem of the growing methamphetamine epidemic. The national survey on drug use in Mexico shows that methamphetamine use has increased from 0.1% to 0.9% in the general population between 2002 and 2016, but has not replaced marijuana as the main drug of impact for persons seeking treatment. While the country has hospitals and treatment centers, demand for treatment must respond better to the needs of women and youth. In order to address these issues, Mexico must improve hospital registries and services, and strengthen forensic medicine as well as prevention.

While strengthening the public health response is important, supply side issues are also relevant. The geographic region most affected is the area along the Pacific Ocean where cannabis and poppy are cultivated. Narcoculture in this region complicates the situation, increasing insecurity. Moving product through the mail adds new complexities, and seizures of crystal meth have increased. This highlights the need to increase capacity to monitor the movement of chemical precursors across national territories.

d. Asma Fakhri, Chief Programme Management Officer, Coordinator, United National Office on Drugs and Crime

Ms. Fakhri presented the UNODC integrated opioids strategy that provides states with a roadmap to effectively address the synthetic drugs problem. The strategy relies on five pillars 1) early warning and trends analysis, 2) rational prescribing and access to opioids for medical and scientific use, 3) prevention and treatment programs, 4) international law enforcement operations to disrupt trafficking, and 5) strengthening national and international counternarcotic capacity. The strategy helps countries identify the most prevalent, persistent, and harmful substances. UNODC has developed a toolkit to accompany this strategy providing resources for countries to respond to NPS, synthetics, and opioids.

Currently, UNDOC is working closely with partners in Southeast Asia, and is active in Latin America. This year, the UNODC SMART program will work with CICAD to create a Spanish language version of the toolkit. Some new modules will also include EWS, trend analysis, cybercrime, overdose prevention, rational prescribing and others. The website will also include some online learning platforms and interactive apps. Collaboration with international partners is key, for which UNODC is grateful.

Comments by delegations

Mexico: Stated that it has adopted a new strategy to address the lack of public safety that focuses on drug prevention, creating opportunities, and strengthening institutional capacity. The delegate noted that Dr. Zabicky highlighted the prevention pillar, and added other dimensions to the strategy, including violence prevention, the Youth Building the Future Program, scholarships for wellbeing in Benito Juarez, programs to foster participation in the workforce, support to agricultural workers, programs to support the children of working mothers, and other programs by the Mexican government to benefit all individuals. The delegate indicated that ensuring peace and employment are part of the Government's approach to solving crime. As such, Mexico will bolster the National Guard as a law enforcement body across the country and has formalized a new national intelligence sector that seeks to promote investigations. Sharing best practices and strengthening cooperation is a shared responsibility and both the U.S. and Mexico have agreed to create a high-level working group on security to propose bilateral actions and steps to be taken on policies on immigration, cybersecurity, arms trafficking, disaster response, among others.

Ecuador: Addressed the speakers from Mexico and Colombia asking how countries can improve coordination across countries and requested more details on next steps for countries seeking to work together.

Jamaica: Noted that deciding how to approach synthetic drugs raises considerable issues. There has been a rise in Jamaica of some of these substances, while the country continues to struggle with supply. The delegate raised the issue of holding large pharmaceutical companies responsible for the crisis at hand.

Peru: Recognized that synthetic drugs are a concern and present special challenges even though Peru has not borne the brunt of this problem. New strategies to address synthetics in Peru include actions to control supply, commercial changes, and other drugs that could be misused. While Peru is not considered a synthetic drug producer, the delegate acknowledged that some labs have been dismantled, approximately 2,000 pills have been seized, and the ingredients for ecstasy are readily available. Peru is working with Colombia on a strategy for building capacity among civil servants and improving multisector coordination.

Barbados: Recognized the challenges posed by NPS and synthetics and indicated that the country has begun efforts to establish an early warning system (EWS). The EWS will involve strategic partners such as forensics and border protection. The delegate indicated that the EWS would be formally launched on November 20, 2019. To this end, attention will be given to the maintenance and sustainability of the EWS in order to remain abreast of emerging challenges.

Canada: Described the significant challenges that synthetic drugs, and particularly synthetic opioids, have posed to Canada, such as the negative impact on life expectancy. New trafficking patterns and smuggling by air, and other changes in patterns highlight the need for international policy to address these challenges. In order to address these issues, Canada enacted legislation in 2017 to better equip law enforcement. Canada also highlighted the work of UNODC, in particular support of the UNODC laboratory and the SMART Program Toolkit. The delegate indicated that Canada is working with the United States and Mexico through the North American Drug Dialogue in order to bring together officials from law enforcement and health. Canada has also launched a Joint Opioid Action Plan with the United States. Canada has a strong interest in harm reduction, prevention, treatment and enforcement, and is working on a range of policy options to support a comprehensive and balanced approach while embracing multilateral cooperation and seeking international engagement to build policy consensus..

Antigua and Barbuda: Stated that the presentations indicate that an integral national approach, as well as an international approach, is required in order to address ongoing threats and issues posed by synthetic drugs. The delegate noted that despite efforts, there appears to be an increase in use and availability and asked whether more can be done. The delegate pledged his country's continued support but expressed the need to look for ways to improve outcomes.

El Salvador: Noted that while synthetic drugs have not become a significant issue in the country, these substances can be found and the country is conscious of the hazards they pose. Currently, the marijuana market in El Salvador is in the hands of the gangs and the Government is aware of the potential implications should synthetics arrive to the gang structure in the country. The ingredients for a synthetics problem are present in El Salvador such as strong criminal gang activity across the country, the availability of precursor chemicals, and the strategic location of the country. Under President Bukele, El Salvador is trying to develop a plan to retake the areas besieged by violence. This requires strengthening the capacity of institutions, bolstering agencies to put security measures into effect. The delegate stated that the Government is aware of the potential risk synthetic drugs pose to the population and supports any efforts to reduce the problem.

Nicaragua: Noted that the key task for the Hemisphere is to strengthen cooperation on synthetic drug interventions. Changing methods that cross borders, the use of technology, the use of cyberspace, NPS and the use of the internet to market them, and cryptocurrencies all require new methods. Nicaragua concurs with CICAD that approaches should be human centered and include a gender and human rights-based approach, the sharing of best practices, and the transfer of lessons learned. The delegate concluded by stating that the complexity of the problem demands cooperation, and Nicaragua will play an active part to strengthen cooperation in this area.

Gady Zabicky: Noted that changing the language associated with drugs is important. The term "war on drugs" has in effect, become a war against persons. Policy integration has to do with money, for

example in Mexico spending on supply compared to demand is 70 to 1. The speaker noted that enforcement alone fails. He highlighted the importance of revising the conventions to make it easier to act. In Mexico, the coordinated message of the addiction strategy has been essential, but gangs and crime moving from south to north are all things that need to be addressed.

Assistant Secretary Madison: Referred to the pharmaceutical industry stating that it is important to understand that the opioid crisis has different characteristics. She acknowledged that the U.S. regulatory system was slow to respond and was behind the curve on the regulatory side. Therefore, it is important to work with other countries that may have early problems to help them stay ahead. International regulatory frameworks are essential in this regard as well as serious national strategies. Assistant Secretary Madison recognized CICAD and other international organizations as part of the effort to put practical tools on the table.

Vice-Minister Espinosa Palacios: Noted that transparency is key in order to understand the real problem at hand and its consequences, as well as the importance of good governance. In Colombia, intersectoral groups all work together to generate guidelines. When an NPS emerges, they immediately issue an alert. He highlighted the importance of developing EWS in member states as an important first step.

Asma Fakhri: Indicated that for a country, setting up an EWS is an important first step. She congratulated Barbados on launching their EWS, indicated she would be interested in follow-up with Antigua and Barbuda on their interest in the toolkit, and praised Canada for engaging on strategy and sharing lessons learned from the opioid crisis.

6. Panel 2: Countering drug-trafficking and promoting security and regional stability in the Americas

Moderator: Richard Glenn, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, US Department of State

Assistant Secretary Glenn began the discussion, pointing to a number of security challenges the region is facing as a result of the illegal activities of transnational criminal organizations and emphasizing that those challenges, including illicit drug-trafficking, needed to be addressed in a regionally coordinated manner. He also mentioned circumstances that hamper such coordination in the Hemisphere and pointed out how several criminal groups exploit the lack of democracy and the instability found in Venezuela to foster criminal activities, thereby exacerbating corruption and insecurity in the region.

Panelists:

a. Juan Carlos Jiménez Howard, Director, Anti-drugs Division, National Navy, Colombia

Captain Jiménez gave a presentation on recent developments in drug trafficking in the region and on the Colombian Navy's strategies for countering them, highlighting the maritime drug interdiction program ORION, which is now in its fourth phase, with 18 countries participating. He made it clear that ORION focuses on intercepting illicit drugs – mainly cocaine and marijuana – in the Caribbean Sea and along Eastern Pacific Ocean routes. Finally, he mentioned best practices identified by the

Colombian Navy in the course of multilateral operations for dealing with shared challenges, based on cooperation, trust, and acknowledgment of joint responsibility.

b. Armando Armas, Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Vice Chair of the Standing Committee on Domestic Policy and Security of the National Assembly of Venezuela (via Skype)

Mr. Armas commented on the negative impact of failure to observe the principle of the separation of powers in Venezuela on that country's democratic institutions and human rights. He said that the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela was the worst in the Hemisphere and the second worst in the world, and that it was being exacerbated by major political, economic, and social shortcomings. That, in turn, was triggering increased trafficking in gold, fuel, and drugs, as well as other crimes perpetrated by criminal organizations operating inside and outside Venezuela, thereby severely undermining stability in the region and the welfare of its citizens.

c. Elvis Aparecido Secco, Coordinator-General, Office for Coordinating the Suppression of Drugs and Organized Crime of the Federal Police, Brazil (CICAD/doc.2507/19)

Mr. Aparecido Secco explained how the Brazilian Federal Police works within Brazil and with strategic partners in the region to combat organized crime. He outlined the principal strategies his institution is implementing and their successful outcomes, particularly about reducing the financial capabilities of the organizations devoted to illicit drug trafficking in the region. The speaker also mentioned how organized crime takes advantage of the current crises in some countries, such as Venezuela, to perpetrate criminal activities, such as gold smuggling and illicit trafficking in drugs and psychotropic substances.

Comments by the delegations

Mexico: Suggested that on future occasions an effort should be made not to "politicize" CICAD and emphasized that the Commission is a technical body. The delegate also called for increased cooperation among the various oversight institutions devoted to combating drug trafficking and related crimes, including illicit arms trafficking and money laundering.

Peru: Underscored the importance of the drug control treaties of 1961, 1971, and 1998 and the way it was implementing those international instruments through a comprehensive policy rooted in the principle of common and shared responsibility. Those measures include riverine and maritime drug trafficking control operations, as well as illicit crop reduction and actions to foster interagency cooperation.

Paraguay: Commented on successful experiences of cooperation with countries like Brazil and Argentina to combat drug trafficking, especially through joint operations along rivers flowing through those countries. The delegate also mentioned that over the past 12 months Paraguay had confiscated large quantities of illicit drugs, especially cocaine and marijuana, in addition to eradicating extensive areas planted with cannabis.

Honduras: Thanked the speakers for their contributions and described the country's main efforts to combat drug trafficking, including a legal reform enhancing drug control agencies' mechanisms for sharing information and boosting cooperation among them.

Jamaica: Shared data on drug trafficking in that country, including information and statistics on recent seizures of cocaine and marijuana.

Ecuador: Mentioned that CICAD is a political-cum-technical forum open to discussing such issues as the way in which political instability fosters criminal activities, including drug-trafficking, hampers transparency in electoral processes, and obstructs governance and the workings of a constitutional state based on the rule of law.

7. Panel 3: Understanding UN drug control scheduling recommendations, including linkages among and impact on national, regional and international agencies

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

Ms. Hynes summarized the objectives of the panel and reiterated the importance of collaboration among international agencies for this topic.

Panelists:

- a. **Isaac Morales, Coordinator for Multidimensional Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico**

Mr. Morales thanked and congratulated the Chair and Vice-chair of CICAD for having specialists that helped member states understand conventions relating to drugs and underscored the importance of creating synergies among international and regional organizations. He pointed out that there was an urgent need to modify drug control lists due to the abundance of new substances subject to control and the increasing number of recommendations on the subject. He said that it was also necessary to raise the issue of a review of the various approaches to it. Finally, Mr. Morales mentioned that even when international recommendations exist, it is States that make a decision based on the information they possess and their interpretation of the conventions to which they are party.

- b. **Erin Cassidy, Legal Specialist, Criminal, Security, Diplomatic Law Division, Global Affairs Canada (CICAD/doc.2500/19)**

Ms. Cassidy explained the importance of familiarity with the United Nations conventions for steering and scheduling changes to be introduced in member states, as they facilitate comprehensive understanding of their contents. In addition, the speaker pointed out that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) has not voted for years and can use its discretion with regard to consideration of WHO recommendations. She then described the functions performed by the WHO and underscored the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and member states with regard to health, security, and policy implications when recommendations are implemented. Finally, she emphasized that practical solutions can indeed be implemented when member states work together.

- c. **Virginia "Patt" Prugh, Attorney-Advisor, Office of the Legal Advisor, US Department of State (CICAD/doc.2503/19)**

Ms. Prugh began by raising certain legal matters to be taken into consideration when countries decide to start implementing recommendations, especially concerning delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol. She mentioned, too, that certain matters still need to be resolved regarding the impact on implementation of the recommendations at the national level and stressed how important it was for those aspects to be taken into account and understood. For instance, she mentioned that the WHO refers to “pharmaceutical preparations” and the need to grasp what the term implies in countries’ legislations, since what constitutes a “pharmaceutical preparation” is not defined.

d. Jo Dedeyne, Chief, Secretariat to the Governing Bodies, Division for Treaty Affairs, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (CICAD/doc.2501/19)

Ms. Dedeyne gave an overview of drug control lists and provided information on the work of the CND. She also explained what the subsidiary bodies of the Commission are and described the process followed for including substances on the control lists, bearing in mind that each convention contemplates specific procedures in a variety of scenarios. As for the availability of the various substances, the speaker said that they had increased, as had the work of the CND.

Comments by delegations

United States: Asked how CICAD lends support to the CND with respect to differences in the lists.

Ambassador Adam E. Namm: Replied that CICAD’s support consists of helping countries implement the Hemispheric Strategy on Drugs and its Action Plan; providing data via the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID); and working in coordination with UNODC.

Peru: Pointed out that the Government had established an ad hoc Commission specializing in chemical precursors and inputs in coordination with UNODC.

Venezuela: Mentioned that it had no statistical data on the subject and will require considerable assistance from CICAD.

Ambassador Adam E. Namm: Ambassador Namm expressed the ES-CICAD stands ready to work with the Chair, Mexico, and the rest of the member states in fulfilling these goals regarding UNGASS.

Virginia “Patt” Prugh: Pointed out that the WHO recommended taking cannabis off List 4.

Erin Cassidy: Mentioned that that was not so easy, given the complex process of including that substance in List 1 in 1971.

Jo Dedeyne: Thanked CICAD for giving her the opportunity to take part in the panel.

Chile: Said that it had amended its drug law in 2016 and had moved pharmaceutical products derived from cannabis from List 1 to List 2, while keeping the plant and its fruits in List 1.

8. Panel 4: Alternatives to Incarceration

Moderator: Antonio Lomba, Chief, Institutional Strengthening Unit, ES-CICAD

The moderator introduced each of the panelists and provided a brief introduction to the subject matter. He explained that the ES-CICAD has been working for many years on alternatives to incarceration (ATI) in response to requests from several countries and has produced models, tools, manuals, collaborated with other agencies, and provided training to 15 member states. Mr. Lomba concluded by stating that over the past year efforts have been focused on curricula development, case management, and program evaluation.

Panelists:

a. Michele Worobiec, Vice President and Chief Counsel, Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities, United States of America (CICAD/doc.2515/19)

Ms. Worobiec presented a framework that justified the use of alternatives to incarceration and then briefly explained some of the more popular models that are being used. Ms. Worobiec mentioned some of the main reasons for the use of alternatives including drug use among incarcerated persons, perceived need for treatment, lack of addiction treatment within the criminal justice system, and the detrimental effects of time spent in prison. Ms. Worobiec mentioned that in a 2016 report, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) concluded that effective collaboration to promote treatment requires effective coordination between justice, social services, and health sectors. She also mentioned that opportunities for diversion into treatment exist throughout the criminal justice system at pre-arrest, pre- and post-adjudication, and should be based on individual needs and not on criminal charges.

b. Guillermo Araya Camacho, Director of the Instituto Costarricense sobre Drogas (ICD), Ministry of the Presidency, Costa Rica (CICAD/doc.2513/19)

Mr. Araya presented the model of alternatives to incarceration that has been used in Costa Rica since 2011. He explained the role of the ICD and the Costa Rican Drug Strategy in the implementation of alternatives in Costa Rica. Mr. Araya explained the history of the implementation of restorative justice program, the model used for alternatives to incarceration in Costa Rica. He explained that restorative justice responds to the individual, but with a focus on the needs, responsibilities, transformation and reinsertion into society of both the victim and the defendant. Mr. Araya explained the steps of the program in detail and concluded by listing some of its accomplishments and the benefits derived.

c. Christian Hernández Alarcón, Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Ventanilla, Peru (CICAD/doc.2514/19)

Chief Justice Hernández Alarcón described Peru's recent progress on implementing ATI that focuses on therapeutic justice with a restorative approach. He recounted the history of Peru's program and explained the main objective is to determine the causes of criminality rather than focus on just the crime itself. He indicated that the drug treatment court in Peru and the therapeutic justice approach have led to a number of positive outcomes including lower rates of detention, greater commitment from stakeholders, and greater follow up with persons after they have been sentenced.

Comments by delegations

Ecuador: Thanked the panelists and asked about the steps that need to be taken to make the implementation of ATI a viable prospect. The delegate explained that in Ecuador, there is a conservative mindset that makes this approach difficult. At the political level, there is a debate among legislators that characterize ATI as akin to the legalization of drugs. The delegate asked the panel about how to balance restorative justice while not appearing to reduce enforcement efforts. The Delegate concluded by stating that police believe that ATI undermine law enforcement efforts.

Guillermo Araya Camacho: Suggested that scientific evidence will help to justify ATI and will enable legislators to make the leap to implement them. Mr. Araya stated that ATI do not weaken the criminal justice system or law enforcement and there are other strategies for responding to organized crime such as the confiscation of assets and money. Incarceration by itself does not weaken criminal enterprises and there needs to be a balance between law enforcement and prevention.

Christian Hernández Alarcón: Suggested that the target is the juvenile offender. He explained that judges see recidivism and know that at the level of local government, health care needs to be involved. He concluded by stating that if results are shown, policy makers will support the approach.

Trinidad and Tobago: Congratulated the new Chair and Vice Chair of CICAD, and thanked CICAD for the support that has been provided to their own ATI program. The delegate provided a summary of the timeline for the implementation of ATI approaches in Trinidad and Tobago.

Canada: Thanked the panel and explained that Canada's criminal code allows ATI to be implemented through drug treatment courts (DTCs) and complete diversion through alternative measures. The delegate explained that 3.6 million Canadian dollars are provided every year to provinces and territories in Canada to administer DTCs for adults who meet specific criteria to enter a court-supervised program. The delegate added that complete diversion could be applied to minor and non-violent crimes pre- or post-charge. She highlighted that there are no DTC programs for youth aged 12 to 17, but community-based responses and treatment programs are encouraged and used. As a result of this approach, the delegate indicated that a 65% reduction in youth incarceration has been realized in Canada because of the strategy on alternatives to incarceration under the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

Jamaica: Provided statistics from 18 years of the DTC program in Jamaica along with outcomes and impacts on DTC clients. The delegate stated that Jamaica has benefitted from a diagnostic study supported by CICAD and is following up on the recommendations of the report. The delegate concluded by thanking Canada and CICAD for their continued support for Jamaica.

Colombia: Stated that the Government has been working for several years on alternatives for adolescents who commit low-level crimes. The delegate added that Colombia seeks to strike a balance between the punitive side of the criminal justice system and alternatives. He concluded by indicating that more work needs to be done on governance and on quality.

9. Panel 5: Disrupting the Illicit Supply Chain through Financial Intelligence: From Cryptocurrencies to Illicit Trafficking via Mail

Moderator: Maria Isabel Quintana Luna, Representative, Financial Intelligence Unit, Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, Embassy of Mexico to the United States

Mrs. Quintana Luna presented the work being done at the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) of Mexico in relation to drug control, principally in the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing. The moderator highlighted an analysis carried out by the unit on unusual operations linked to the trafficking of cocaine, methamphetamines and opioids, which was very useful in presenting the corresponding complaints associated mainly with health-related crimes. Likewise, she shared the outline of the Law to Regulate Financial Technology Institutions (FINTECH) in Mexico regarding financial operations carried out through electronic platforms, including those carried out with cryptocurrencies, while emphasizing the risk that these operations are related to money laundering and terrorist financing. Finally, Ms. Quintana stressed the importance of financial intelligence for dismantling the financial structures deployed by organized crime and drug trafficking organizations in particular.

Panelists:

a. Sean Evans, Intelligence Research Specialist, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FINCEN), US Department of the Treasury

Mr. Evans spoke about the role of anti-money-laundering measures being implemented in the United States to counter drug trafficking and the illicit use of “new financial technology,” including cryptocurrencies. He also explained how FINCEN works with Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) in other countries to “follow the money” and investigate assets that make it possible to seize assets acquired using the proceeds of criminal activities. Finally, the speaker mentioned the challenges posed by the use of virtual currencies in connection with the financial system and anti-money-laundering efforts. In that context, Mr. Evans stressed that those payment methods are not regulated in all countries in the region and, in some cases, are used in drug-trafficking-related transactions, above all for buying and selling opioids via the Internet as well as trafficking in chemical precursors and synthetic drugs, including fentanyl and its analogues.

b. Richard Sheehan, Inspector in Charge, Contraband Interdiction and Investigations, US Inspection Service (USPIS) (CICAD/doc.2509/19)

Mr. Sheehan explained the changes introduced in recent years in the United States postal service with respect to inspection and interdiction of packages, above all due to the increase in the practice of sending illicit drugs via the mail. He mentioned the importance of observing Universal Postal Union rules and regulations and of drug control agencies working with private carriers and Financial Intelligence Units to identify warning signs and develop rapid and effective responses to the problem. Finally, Mr. Sheehan shared data on synthetic opioid trafficking in the United States, including packages containing fentanyl and its analogues mailed from Asian countries, and emphasized the need for postal services personnel to be trained to combat that series of substances without placing their health at risk.

c. Daniel Randall, Manifest and Conveyance Security Branch Chief, US Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

Mr. Randall explained the CBP's goals and the strategies it deploys to deal with the proliferation of drug trafficking via the Internet, the dispatching of illegal merchandise via postal services, and the use of cryptocurrencies as a means of paying for those substances. One such strategy involves an electronic system that allows the CBP to register interdiction of packages nationwide. He stressed that until just a few years ago there had been no category known as "fentanyl and its analogues", because previously such substances were rarely intercepted. Now the institution was equipped with both advanced technology for identifying such substances and dogs specifically trained for that purpose. Finally, Mr. Randall referred to laws being enacted with a view to reinforcing existing security measures and allowing inspection of packages entering the country without causing excessive delay in licit trade between the United States and other countries.

Comments by delegations

Venezuela: Thanked the speakers for their presentations and expressed interest in learning more about the use of electronic currencies endorsed by central banks, such as the "petro," a cryptocurrency used in Venezuela.

Canada: Talked about some recent changes and proposed amendments to anti-money laundering legislation and regulations to better address, for example, virtual currencies and new financial technology developments. Reported that in Canada there is an obligation to report transactions of a value of over CDN\$10,000 while suspicious transactions of any amount are voluntarily reported.

Colombia: Commented on the status of virtual currencies and mentioned progress being made in the country with regard to regulatory and legal aspects. The delegation's interest in reviewing the spheres of competence of the various institutions and authorities making up Colombia's financial system was also mentioned with a view to tightening existing controls and the delegate asked the speakers if they had any suggestions to make regarding the roles those institutions should play.

Costa Rica: After referring to international regulations on the matter, the delegate mentioned the assessment conducted in Costa Rica by the Financial Action Task Force of Latin American (GAFILAT) in 2015. The delegate reported that Costa Rica would be assessed again in 2021 to gauge the impact of actions undertaken to correct the shortcomings that GAFILAT had detected.

Paraguay: Mentioned that thus far in Paraguay no regulations had been introduced regarding the use of "cryptoassets." The delegation would be interested to learn about measures taken by other member states, with a view to identifying best practices that might be useful for Paraguay.

Jamaica: Cited difficulties encountered in the country with tracing cryptocurrencies and expressed interest in learning more about how the United States deals with the issue and how it goes about preventing their illicit use, for instance, for the buying and selling of chemical precursors and illicit drugs.

Moderator: Explained that, in Mexico, enterprises conducting transactions using cryptocurrencies had to inform the authorities of the volumes and operations involved, but stressed that no single entity had overall responsibility for the matter. She also pointed out that the National Banking and Securities Commission and the Bank of Mexico are the main entities in charge of these regulatory schemes.

Sean Evans: Mentioned that in the United States, too, there was no single entity with overall responsibility for overseeing the use of cryptocurrencies. He stressed the importance of coordination among a variety of agencies that, like FINCEN, are devoted to implementing measures for strengthening the country's financial system and combating money laundering.

Daniel Randall: Pointed out the importance of conducting "risk assessments" to classify enterprises using the Internet as a platform for selling merchandise (e-commerce), so that existing resources could be channeled toward monitoring and overseeing those that may constitute a major risk to international trade.

Richard Sheehan: Said it was difficult to determine what each entity should regulate, since that depended on each country's financial system and regulatory capacity. Nevertheless, Mr. Sheehan emphasized the need for all countries to strive to understand how the new technologies work and how cryptocurrencies are used, as that payment method is expanding and affecting the entire region.

Antigua and Barbuda: Mentioned the challenges it was facing with identifying the users of cryptocurrencies and referred to the national legislation being developed with a view to regulating the use of such virtual currencies and complying with Recommendation 15 of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on the subject.

10. Strategies on evidence-based prevention programs for adolescents in the Western Hemisphere

Introduction: Jimena Kalawski, Demand Reduction Unit Chief, ES-CICAD:

Ms. Kalawski welcomed the presenters and pointed out the need for evidence-based programs that have been duly evaluated given the shortage of resources available for prevention.

Presenters:

- a. **Francisco Sotomayor, Deputy Director of Strategy and Analysis, Department of Drugs and Policy, Ministry of Justice, Colombia (CICAD/doc.2516/19)**

Mr. Sotomayor thanked CICAD for inviting him to give a presentation. He then talked about consumption patterns among school- and university-age populations in Colombia, highlighting the increase in marijuana consumption among secondary school students between 2004 and 2016. Deputy Director Sotomayor presented a study of the variables associated with illegal drug use in the school-age population. That study underscored scant parental supervision and the close ties to peers who also took drugs. Finally, he stressed that such data are vital for crafting policies focusing on risk factors and protection.

- b. **Pablo Montero Zamora, Researcher in Prevention Science, University of Miami (CICAD/doc.2517/19)**

Mr. Montero Zamora presented data relating to risk factors and protection. He noted that drug use is related to the availability of substances, the existence of laws and community standards that favor

consumption, extreme poverty, and a lack of community organization. At the family level, he pointed to parents' benign attitude to drug use, a family history of antisocial conduct, and poor family management. He then showed a map of the various risk factors in different areas, cited some Colombian statistics, and mentioned the important need for a prevention system. As examples, he cited "Communities that Care" and "Companies that take Precautions" (*empresas que se cuidan*) and explained how both programs are structured. The speaker ended by recommending the evaluation of risk and protection factors, as they constitute the basis for prevention programs.

11. Panel 6: Civil society dialogue on reducing stigmatization to promote access to treatment

Moderator: Hendrée E. Jones, Executive Director, UNC Horizons and Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of North Carolina, U.S.A

Ms. Jones introduced the topic and thanked the participation of civil society. She also reviewed the global landscape of people who use drugs in the world and the barriers to treatment particularly for women and members of the LGBTI community. Ms. Jones then asked panelists to introduce themselves and then proceeded to ask them to respond individually to a number of questions on barriers to accessing and staying in treatment, the role of stigma, the role of gender and gender orientation, and strategies and interventions to confront these issues.

Panelists:

a. Carmen Fernández Cáceres, Director General "Centros de Integración Juvenil" (CIJ) México

After greeting the panelists, Dr. Fernández highlighted the lack of a budget for the provision of treatment. Likewise, the presenter indicated that, due to the lack of family support, women had less access to these programs and were frequently criticized and stigmatized by society. In addition, she added that the combination of shame and guilt led to isolation and not seeking treatment. Finally, Dr. Fernández stressed that both prevention and treatment should consider the specific needs of the people to whom they are directed, the context, and the age of each target population.

b. Susana Osorio, Gender Specialist, CARE Peru

Ms. Osorio said that women and LGBTI persons are widely stigmatized and face structural barriers that prevent them from entering treatment programs. She also mentioned that specific gender-sensitive mechanisms were needed to address this segment of the population. She mentioned that in Peru there is scant recognition of sexual diversity and a high level of social violence against the LGBTI community. Finally, Ms. Osorio pointed out that, thanks to support from Plan Colombo, LGBTI activists had received training in this area and some progress had been made with fostering their legitimacy and trust.

c. Sharif Mohr, Epidemiologist, Drug Free America Foundation, United States

Mr. Mohr pointed out that, in the United States, there are economic barriers hampering access to treatment due to a lack of health insurance coverage, as well as long waiting lines, programs that are

incompatible with working hours, long distances, and lack of public funding. The speaker said that stigmatization was more marked in rural areas, where everyone knows each other and people are afraid of being identified as illicit drug users. He also mentioned that substance abuse sometimes occurs as a form of self-medication to alleviate trauma symptoms.

Comments by delegations

Chile: Found the data provided very useful. The delegate pointed to a treatment gap with respect to women and called for countries to work together to overcome it.

Canada: Underscored the importance of civil society organizations that operate with limited resources and help to fill policy vacuums. The delegate stated that Canada recognizes the stigma faced by drug users and their families, and outlined two recent components of domestic policy in Canada that target this problem. The first is the recognition that policies are needed to support women who face barriers to accessing treatment and are often victims of domestic abuse and violence. The second is that Canada has reduced stigma in specialized addiction treatment services providers, but public health service providers also see persons with mental health and drug use disorders and they need to reduce stigma with these providers as well. The delegate mentioned that Canada co-sponsored a resolution at the 61st Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2018 that promoted the reduction of stigma against drug users in health care settings and member states are providing follow up information on this to the UNODC. The delegate closed by informing the plenary of a technical consultation on stigma to take place in Vienna on January 14 to 16, 2020.

Peru: Pointed out that, since 2014, primary health care professionals have been receiving training on gender issues. The delegate also recalled that Peru had co-sponsored the resolution of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna on reducing stigma and assuring access to treatment and commented that a law providing for treatment centers and care for substance users exists. The delegate also mentioned the implementation of the amendment to the mental health law and the joint work being undertaken with civil society.

USA: Reiterated the importance of civil society to drug treatment. The delegate stated that the USA supports a health-centered approach to the provision of quality and effective treatment and long-term recovery. At the federal level, actions are being taken to reduce stigma for persons seeking help for problematic drug use. The delegate stated that the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force recommended that problematic drug use screening should be done in a primary care setting. The delegate informed the plenary that the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) in association with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has developed a treatment locator tool that facilitates online searches for treatment providers. The delegate concluded by asking the panel for examples of the ways in which civil society can help to reduce perceived or real barriers to treatment.

Susana Osorio: Added that there are a number things that need to be in place in order to reduce barriers to treatment including strengthened curricula, protocols for treatment for women and members of the LGBTI community, specialized and certified professionals, wider dialogue between civil society and government, and research on the effectiveness of protocols and lessons learned.

Saint Lucia: Indicated that Saint Lucia is also plagued with stigma and discrimination as it relates to persons seeking help for problematic drug use. This is borne out by statistics coming from the treatment

center in St. Lucia. The delegate advised that there needs to be a local champion to push local strategies, but at the same time care needs to be taken with ‘success stories’ since this may raise curiosity among young persons to try a particular drug. The delegate closed by indicating that the strategies shared here will be taken back for consideration in Saint Lucia.

Dominican Republic: Reminded those present that the Dominican Republic’s National Drug Plan considers this a public health issue that needs to be addressed with respect for human rights and gender equity. It underscored the work done with CICAD through the PROCER Program, during which it was found that the organizations providing treatment lacked human resources trained in that field. It pointed out that, currently, following training, 23 nongovernmental organizations in the Dominican Republic receive State financing and have a treatment protocol. The delegate also mentioned that they are working on treatment for prison inmates and that 14 mental health care centers are soon to be inaugurated. He also stressed that the Dominican Republic is currently achieving promising results in its work with heroin users.

12. Panel 6: Improving National Drug Strategies and Developing Action Plans

Moderator: Antonio Lomba, Chief, Institutional Strengthening Unit, ES-CICAD

The moderator opened the session with a brief statement, noting that approximately half the countries in the Hemisphere do not have national drug strategies or plans of action in place. He noted that this has many consequences for member states and affects the coordination across institutions that need to address different aspects of the drug problem. CICAD endeavors to support countries in the development of these public policies.

Panelists:

a. Edgar Guerrero, General Director General of National Analysis, Office of the Attorney General, Mexico (CICAD/doc.2518/19)

Mr. Guerrero spoke on the importance of developing drug policies based on intelligence and evidence. He noted that coordination cannot occur in isolation and requires a multidimensional approach with coordination across many sectors; this is essential to address a global problem. He noted the importance of aligning the CICAD/OAS Hemispheric Drug Strategy and Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs with the sustainable development goals (SDGs). He described the process of developing Mexico’s national strategy, which forms an integral part of the country-level national plan. The plan includes public health, justice, law enforcement, treatment of illicit drug use, comprehensive and sustainable development, harm and risk reduction, and the generation of structured scientific information and knowledge through the soon to be published National Program for Comprehensive and Differentiated Drug Policies (PNPIDD) 2019-2024. This comprehensive approach allows greater collaboration across different actors in the field, including analysts, experts, and researchers. The speaker described the coordination and operations model, which ensures the involvement of different actors. He further described a wide range of products resulting from this cooperation. Among the products, the speaker highlighted the project to profile substances, noting that this has helped glean a great deal of information on cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin and fentanyl, and the variety of adulterants found in these drugs. Mr. Guerrero noted that the rapid changes in the drug market require data generation and sharing as a fundamental part of a functional strategy.

b. Charmaine Hippolyte, Director, Substance Abuse Advisory Council Secretariat, Saint Lucia (CICAD/doc.2512/19)

Ms. Hippolyte provided an overview of the process for developing Saint Lucia's national drug strategy and action plan on drugs, and that the country is currently working on the 2020-2024 action plan. The speaker noted that in order to begin the process, a consultation was held with the national drug information network (DIN) to get input on the first draft of the strategy. The technical review identified gaps in the current framework that can be addressed in the new strategy and plan of action. The new plan will be aligned with the regulatory framework and provide space to address new psychoactive substances (NPS). The strategy will help to monitor and evaluate programs and will be divided into periods with specific foci that will help evaluate whether goals are achieved. The speaker further described resources, challenges, and potential responses to challenges that were anticipated as they moved forward. In concluding, the speaker expressed gratitude on behalf of the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Wellness for the vast amount of support that OAS/CICAD offers to Saint Lucia particularly for the national anti-drug strategy.

c. Carlos Trujillo, US Ambassador to the Organization of American States

Ambassador Trujillo stated that national drug strategies must be comprised of a variety of tools in order to be multidimensional and successful, noting that we cannot effectively address the drug problem in the Hemisphere, without also combatting transnational crime. The Ambassador described the multifaceted approach taken by the United States to address transnational crime, describing three key types of anticrime sanctions and deterrence tools they employ: 1) the Narcotics Rewards Program and the Transnational Organized Crime Rewards Program, 2) visa restriction actions, and 3) the State Department's Rewards and visa restrictions tools. Ambassador Trujillo noted that these three tools have yielded positive results in deterring future criminal behavior, preventing travel to the United States, preventing bad actors from benefiting from their crimes. He highlighted that the United States stands ready to share best practices and technical expertise with partners. With regard to the Hemispheric Drug Strategy and Plan of Action, Ambassador Trujillo noted that both documents are due for updates. He stressed that both are critical to outlining a hemispheric approach to combatting illicit drugs and drug trafficking, and form a basis for CICAD's multilateral evaluation mechanism (MEM). However, Ambassador Trujillo added that the documents reflect neither today's challenges nor the latest international consensus on the world drug problem. He proposed that the CICAD Commission update both of these documents during 2020. The Ambassador stated that the ES-CICAD has agreed to present OAS member states with an initial revision of the Strategy and Plan of Action to prepare the member state-driven working group process. As chair for 2020, Ambassador Trujillo informed that the United States will convene a series of in-person and virtual meetings to revise both documents at both the working and commissioner level. He further recommended that an in-person meeting be convened on the margins of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in Vienna, in March 2020. The goal will be to present final revised documents at the opening of the 2020 CICAD regular session in November.

Comments by delegations

Panama: Stated that the previous day the delegation had attended the site visit to the Miami Drug Court, which was an eye-opening experience to see how therapeutic justice functions in reality and

thanked CICAD for this experience. The delegate noted that Panama has a new government, and that the current administration is working to develop multidimensional public policies, with strategic actions, including the Program “Encontrando el Camino Correcto” (PEC), which seeks to provide training and help youth rehabilitate and re-integrate into society. The new government also has plans for multiple new programs from the ministry of security, and in the area of prevention.

Guatemala: Stated that the country recognizes the importance of the public health approach that includes comprehensive policy, communication, and socialization of actions while respecting human rights. The Guatemalan drug strategy has three pillars: Demand Reduction, Supply Reduction, and respect for human rights. The delegate thanked the international institutions for sharing their best practices.

Canada: Commended CICAD for the inclusion of this agenda item. The delegate described how Canada has supported programs in Latin America and the Caribbean through the ACCBP program. Canada also noted the importance of the gender approach on all projects they support. The delegate indicated that Canada is pleased to support this initiative by CICAD Institutional Strengthening unit to support drug strategies in the Caribbean.

Mexico: Noted that the Government was working on the creation of a public policy based on health, peace, and sustainable development called the National Program for Comprehensive and Differentiated Drug Policies (PNPIDD) 2019-2024, which is about to be published.. The delegate highlighted information exchange, intelligence, development, and respect for the sovereignty of governments as important elements for international cooperation. In particular, Mexico pointed to the North American dialogue and tri-lateral approaches as important forums.

Trinidad and Tobago: Lauded the inclusion of national strategies and plans in the CICAD agenda, noting the importance of the work to support the development of national drug plans in the Caribbean. The delegate stated that Trinidad and Tobago supports the review of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy and Plan of Action as proposed by the Chair.

Barbados: Stated that the country is committed to fulfilling its hemispheric obligations to fight the drug problem. The delegate noted that Barbados’ national strategy is a tangible example of that cooperation. Barbados has revised its plan of action for 2020-2025 and sees the plan of action as a tool to respond nationally to drugs and drug abuse in the country. The delegate pointed out that the country is set to meet its goals for infrastructure strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction, control, and monitoring and evaluation, noting that they considered this to be essential, and had thus created a section specifically on this.

Costa Rica: Noted that in 2020 the country will draft its first national drug plan with a 10-year outlook. This plan will be subject to periodic evaluations, including impact indicators considered essential to understand the impact on society.

Argentina: Stated that it found the panel to be important and well done. The delegate stated the importance of continuing the good practices of basing strategies and plans on evidence and continuing to seek new indicators and comparable measures to ensure their evaluation. The delegate noted with concern that, as stated by the moderator, half the countries in the Hemisphere do not have current action plans and mentioned the importance of supporting countries with these, based on good evidence and

including indicators for evaluation. In addition, the delegate endorsed the comments from Trinidad and Tobago to support the updating of the strategy.

Canada: Requested the floor a second time to state support for the proposal by the U.S. delegation to update the Hemispheric Strategy and Plan of Action.

Chair: Formally submitted the proposal by the delegation of the United States to update the Hemispheric Drug Strategy and Plan of Action. In order to initiate the process, the Executive Secretariat of CICAD will prepare an initial draft. The draft will then be reviewed through a series of working groups that will be held both in-person and online. The ultimate goal of this proposal is to have a draft ready for approval by the Commission by November 2020. The proposal was approved.

13. Panel 7: Sound regulatory practices for control of chemical and pharmaceutical substances used to manufacture illicit drugs

Moderator: Mauricio Nine, Minister, Human Security Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, Argentina

Mr. Nine mentioned the importance of exchanging best practices for tracking the diversion of, and trafficking in, chemical and pharmaceutical substances, including the pill presses and equipment being used in the illicit production of narcotic drugs and psychoactive substances. The moderator also referred to the leadership being shown by the Ministry of Security in Argentina as the Chair pro tempore of the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products and the main results of its work, including, in particular, the revision and updating of CICAD's "Model Regulations for the Control of Chemical Substances used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances."

Panelists:

a. Rossen Popov, Deputy Secretary, International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) (CICAD/doc.2508/19)

Mr. Popov explained the principal challenges relating to synthetic drugs and mentioned trends regarding the use of chemical precursors in their manufacture. He also mentioned the limitations of control lists, including the fact that it takes a long time to update them and the need to bear in mind that many chemical precursors are used by industry for legitimate purposes, so that at times it is difficult to curtail their use. Finally, Mr. Popov stressed that the "generic approach" is being applied successfully by a number of countries all over the world when it comes to regulating such substances, so that he invited all the delegations to use the INCB mechanism available for sharing information on this matter, such as the Precursor Incident Communication System (PICS).

b. Terry Boos, Section Chief, Drug & Chemical Evaluation Section, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) of the United States (CICAD/doc.2510/19)

In his presentation, Mr. Boos highlighted the United States' regulatory framework for drug and chemical controls at the federal, state, and local levels. The presenter also addressed the efforts made by law enforcement and public health professionals to ensure supplies for medical and scientific use,

while protecting their diversion into illicit activities. He noted that the diversification and expansion of illicit drug markets, to include counterfeit drugs, further challenge the safety of member states' lawful drug supply. Finally, Mr. Boos stated that initiatives to increase sharing of best practices and public-private partnerships would further enhance national and global responses, and highlighted the relevance of the United Nations Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs, which was recently launched by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Comments by delegations

Peru: Mentioned the country's efforts to reduce the diversion of chemical precursors nationwide and to combat the production of cocaine and emphasized police drug control operations in the Apurímac, Ene, and Mantaro river valleys (VRAEM)

Ecuador: Expressed interest in receiving more information about cases in which countries had temporarily included certain substances in their lists of controlled substances, and subsequently those substances were not classified as permanently controlled substance.

Brazil: Referred to the "generic classification system" it used and stressed that thanks to regular cooperation among several institutions it had managed to reduce the length of time it took to have a chemical substance included in the country's control lists.

Trinidad and Tobago: Mentioned the steps being taken to control chemical substances that might be used to manufacture illicit drugs, as well as the support the country was receiving in that area from the INCB. The delegate also thanked CICAD for having revised and updated the "Model Regulations for the Control of Chemical Substances used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances" and underscored the importance of receiving the technical assistance needed for the country to progress in that area.

Canada: Commented that the country had made great progress with respect to the inclusion of chemical substances on both temporary and permanent control lists. The delegate also mentioned the importance of regulations being implemented based on comprehensive strategies for intercepting and seizing illicit drugs and for reducing demand for those substances.

United States: Mentioned the importance of ongoing efforts to control both chemical precursors and the "pre-precursors" used to manufacture illicit drugs. The delegate likewise mentioned that most of the synthetic drugs consumed in the region come from other continents, as is the case with fentanyl and its analogues, and it underscored the importance of international cooperation to tackle existing challenges.

Mexico: Pointed to the important work being done by the INCB and stressed Mexico's commitment to continue working with other countries in this field via use of the PEN online platform and other already existing resources. In addition, the delegate explained that the Office of the Attorney General (FGR) continued working on the sharing of "early warning" information regarding certain substances being seized in the country.

Rossen Popov: Commented on the international community's difficulties with regulating so-called "pre-precursors" and the measures recommended by the INCB regarding them, including the exchange

of intelligence among countries, inclusion of more substances in existing control lists, and controlling the trade in the presses used to manufacture illicit drugs in the form of pills. He also mentioned that in 2020, the INCB will be offering training courses on the subject for OAS member states interested in bolstering their current control measures.

Terry Boos: Mentioned that in the United States “emergency” controls of chemical substances are carried out given the risk they pose to public health, based on the information available at the time. Later on, more information is gathered regarding the substance involved and, depending on the findings of the analysis of that information, a recommendation may be issued for it to be included in a permanent control list. Mr. Boos also referred to “generic classification” of chemical precursors and said it was possible that the United States would shortly adopt it.

14. Presentation of the Hemispheric Report on the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) 2019

Presenter: **Sofía Kosmas, Chief of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) Unit, SE/CICAD (CICAD/doc.2492/19)**

The Chief of the MEM Unit gave a presentation on the main findings of the Draft Hemispheric Report on the seventh round of the MEM. She talked about the MEM process, the structure and contents of the Hemispheric Report, and the overall status of compliance with the objectives of CICAD’s 2016-2020 Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs, as well as about the most notable outcomes in each of the thematic areas addressed in the Report. She also pointed out that those outcomes would help guide the development of policies and programs to address the drugs problem in the region.

The Chair of CICAD submitted the draft Hemispheric Report for consideration. He also proposed convening the Intergovernmental Working Group of the MEM (IWG) to align the mechanism with the new Hemispheric Strategy on Drugs and its Plan of Action, and asked that candidacies be submitted for the position of Chair of the IWG.

Comments by the delegations

Canada: Submitted its candidacy to chair the IWG.

Mexico: Thanked and congratulated the Executive Secretariat of CICAD. The delegate stated that the MEM was still the only multilateral evaluation mechanism with regard to drugs that the Hemisphere had taken care to preserve and that hopefully would continue to grow in strength and impact. He added that the latest MEM evaluation seeking alignment with commitments undertaken at the 2016 UNGASS and within the overall framework of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development is a crucial step for keeping the Hemisphere at the vanguard of these kinds of efforts. He reported that Mexico had recently made a special effort to contribute voluntarily to the MEM’s operating expenses and to ensure the continuity of its work thus far, and Mexico hoped that other countries would follow suit.

Guatemala: Thanked CICAD for the report and for all the effort that had gone into it. The delegate said that Guatemala joined Mexico in congratulating CICAD and said that the MEM had been extremely useful for the member states.

Uruguay: Ratified the usefulness and ongoing relevance of the MEM. It underscored the part that Uruguay had played in developing that tool and the country's commitment to it in all seven MEM rounds thus far and, hopefully, in the future. It acknowledged the leadership of the MEM Unit in making the seventh round possible, in producing an excellent report, and in Ambassador Adam Namm's work from the Executive Secretariat to disseminate and debate its findings. Uruguay was also grateful for his visit to present the report's findings. Uruguay acknowledged the work done by a number of member states in the MEM and encouraged them all to continue defending and further developing this valuable public policy tool in the Hemisphere.

Decisions

The Commission adopted the Hemispheric Report on the Seventh Evaluation Round of the MEM (CICAD/doc.2492/19) without amendments.

In addition, the Commission convened the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) of the MEM to begin in 2020 its review of the MEM process for the eighth process and elected Canada to chair the Group.

15. Analysis of the costs of regular sessions of CICAD

Presenter: Adam E. Namm, Executive Secretary, CICAD (CICAD/doc.2499/19)

During the sixty-fifth regular session of CICAD, the Executive Secretariat was charged with analyzing the costs of the Commission's regular sessions, which are currently held twice a year, with a view to exploring possible savings from alternative formats.

Ambassador Adam E. Namm, Executive Secretary of ES-CICAD, presented an analysis of the costs of CICAD's regular sessions, along with an overview of the status of those sessions, the issues addressed and decisions taken at them, and the dates on which they are held. Taking the 2020 schedule as an example, he pointed out how those dates fit in with the general schedule of meetings convened by the OAS (CICAD and General Assembly) and by the United Nations (UNODC). The Executive Secretary of CICAD proposed, as an alternative to current arrangements, holding a high-level Commissioner's regular session in the fall (four days in the country chairing the Commission) and another regular session in the spring (a one-day meeting with the permanent missions in Washington, D.C.). The Executive Secretary also described the topics that would be addressed at those two sessions. Finally, he listed the benefits of applying this alternative, from both a participation and a costs standpoint, for the member states and for the Executive Secretariat.

Comments by the delegations

United States: Thanked the SE-CICAD for its analysis and for its proposal, which it supported.

Colombia: Pointed out that holding a four-day meeting posed a challenge, but it, too, supported the proposal and appreciated the seriousness of the analysis substantiating it.

Guatemala: Said it agreed with the proposal and supported it.

Jamaica: Thanked the Executive Secretary of CICAD for presenting the proposal and expressed its support, with a view to ensuring as much participation as possible in one of the annual sessions.

Canada: Thanked ES-CICAD for the analysis, saying that it helped ensure evidence-based decisions. It added that the new approach underlying the proposed alternative represented an improvement for the Commission, so that Canada supported the motion.

Thus, the proposal put forward by the ES-CICAD of holding one in-person, four-day high level commissioners' meeting (in the fall) in the country chairing CICAD and a one-day OAS missions-based session in Washington, D.C. was adopted.

16. Reports of CICAD Experts Groups and election of authorities 2019-2020

Report of the Group of Experts on Maritime Drug Trafficking and election of the Chair 2019-2020

In its capacity as Chair of the Group, The Bahamas presented the report on the 2019 Meeting of the Group of Experts on Maritime Drug Trafficking (CICAD/doc.2495/19), which was held in Nassau, The Bahamas, in September 2019.

Decisions

The Commission adopted the Report of the Group of Experts on Maritime Drug Trafficking. It also approved the candidacy by the National Drug Control Directorate of the Dominican Republic to chair the group during the 2019-2020 term.

Report of the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products and election of the Chair 2019-2020.

In its capacity as Chair of the Group, Argentina presented the report on the 2019 meeting of the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products (CICAD/doc.2494/19), which includes the "Model Regulations for the Control of Chemical Substances used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances," which was revised and updated by said Group in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in August 2019.

Decisions

The Commission adopted the Report of the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products. It also approved the candidacy of Chile to chair the group for the 2019-2020 term.

Report of the Group of Experts for the Control of Money Laundering and election of the Chair 2020-2021

In its capacity as Chair of the Group of Experts for the Control of Money Laundering (GELAVEX), Colombia presented the final report of the XLVII meeting of the group and its sub-working groups (CICAD/doc.2497/19), which was held in Bogota, Colombia, in September 2019.

Decisions

The Commission adopted the final report of the GELAVEX and approved the candidacies of Paraguay and Mexico for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair of the Group for the 2020-2021 term. In addition, based on Article 22 of the CICAD Statute, it approved the transfer of the GELAVEX to the Department against Transnational Organized Crime (DTCO) of the OAS Secretariat for Multidimensional Security. That decision is based on the fact that since 2016 and following the publication of Executive Order N016-01 Corr. No. 1, the DTCO has been mandated to conduct the portfolio of activities related to the control of money laundering. Thus, to formalize the process developed in recent years, the Chair proposed that the GELAVEX be transferred to the DTCO and that, to ensure the continuity and relevance of its activities, that it report to the OAS Committee on Hemispheric Security.

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

Colombo Plan: Offered Colombo Plan support to OAS member states wishing to receive training in drug demand reduction and, more specifically, in areas to do with addiction prevention and treatment. The speaker also commented that soon those training opportunities will include social integration issues and some will be tailored to segments of the population with special needs. Finally, mention was made of the importance of the catalogue recently published by CICAD of a series of demand reduction programs and projects being carried out in Latin America and the Caribbean, because it serves as a useful tool for bolstering cooperation among agencies working in that field and for maximizing existing resources.

Dianova International: Mentioned Dianova International's support for a variety of organizations operating in 20 countries on several continents to help persons in vulnerable situations, including those with addiction issues. In that context, she underscored the importance of fostering prevention and treatment services for persons with problematic drug use issues that are public health-based, incorporate a gender perspective, and respect human rights.

México Unido contra la Delincuencia: Expressed its concern regarding two issues relating to the CICAD 66 agenda. On the one hand, it suggested that civil society should continue to be included in dialogues conducted in connection with CICAD's regular sessions. On the other, it emphasized the importance of those meetings reflecting the latest advances achieved in the international system with respect to implementing key documents supporting the promotion of drug policies that are rooted in human rights, human safety, social inclusion, development, and public health.

18. Topics proposed, dates, and venue for the sixty-seventh regular session of CICAD

As Chair of CICAD, the United States proposed that the sixty-seventh regular session of CICAD (OAS mission-based meeting) be held in Washington D.C. in late April in order to prepare the Resolution for the OAS General Assembly. The delegate also mentioned that the United States will be working with

other countries and with the Executive Secretariat of CICAD to determine the final dates of the meeting, which will be announced in due course.

Comments by delegations

Mexico: Suggested that the agenda for the sixty-eighth regular session of CICAD, to be held in the second-half of 2020, should include a substantive dialogue on the new challenges facing the international system for psychotropic substance control, including implementation of the recommendations recently made by the World Health Organization (WHO) Expert Committee on Drug Dependence.

Chile: Proposed that evidence-based programs that have already been evaluated and proven effective be included in the agenda for the sixty-eighth regular session of CICAD,

Colombia: In its capacity as Vice Chair of CICAD, Colombia proposed that the sixty-eighth regular session be held in Colombia in November 2020, with high attendance from Commissioners. The exact dates and venue will be published in the coming months.

Decisions

The Commission adopted the proposal that the sixty-seventh regular session of CICAD be held in Washington, D.C., tentatively toward the end of April 2020.

Closing session

SE-CICAD: Ambassador Namm reiterated his thanks to the delegation of the United States for chairing CICAD and to that of Argentina for chairing it in the previous period. He also congratulated Colombia on taking up its position as Vice Chair. He again welcomed the new Commissioners and thanked the Chairs of the CICAD expert groups, in addition to congratulating Canada on its election as Chair of the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM).

Chair of CICAD: Deputy Assistant Secretary Glenn reiterated Ambassador Namm's words of thanks and referred to the many lessons learned in the course of the meetings held at CICAD's sixty-sixth regular session, as well as during the visits organized in connection with the session. He also stressed the ongoing importance of the member states of CICAD continuing to foster coordinated efforts and cooperation aimed at reducing the demand and supply of illicit drugs in the region.

II. DECISIONS

The Commission took the following decisions:

1. The Commission adopted the draft agenda (CICAD/doc.2488/19corr.1) and the draft schedule of activities (CICAD/doc.2489/19 rev. 1) without amendment.
2. Pursuant to Articles 22 and 23 of the Statute, the Commission elected the United States of America to chair CICAD for the period 2019-2020, and Colombia to serve as Vice Chair for the same period.
3. The Commission approved the Hemispheric Report of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) - seventh evaluation round (CICAD/doc.2492/19).
4. The Commission agreed to review and update CICAD's Hemispheric Drug Strategy 2010 and its Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020, In this regard, the U.S. as Chair of CICAD will convene a series of in-person and virtual meetings to revise both documents and present a draft to Commissioners at the November session in 2020.
5. The Commission convoked the Inter-Governmental Working Group (IWG) to start the 2020 review of the MEM process for the eighth round and Canada was elected as Chair.
6. The Commission decided to have one in-person high level Commissioners' regular session meeting in the Fall (typically November) for 4 days and one OAS mission-based meeting in the Spring (typically April or May) for one day to prepare the resolution for the OAS General Assembly.
7. The Commission approved the report of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction. The Commission also approved the candidacy of Colombia and Paraguay to serve as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, of the Group of Experts for the period 2019-2020.
8. The Commission approved the report of the Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking. The Commission also approved the candidacy of the Dominican Republic to serve as Chair of the Group of Experts for the period 2019-2020.
9. The Commission approved the report of the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products. The Commission also approved the candidacy of Chile to serve as Chair of the Group of Experts for the period 2019-2020.
10. The Commission approved the report of the Group of Experts on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development. The Commission also approved the candidacy of Peru to serve as Chair the Group of Experts for the period 2019-2020.
11. The Commission approved the report of the Group of Experts for the Control of Money Laundering. The Commission also approved the candidacies of Paraguay and Mexico to serve as Chair and Vice Chair respectively of the Money Laundering Expert Group

for the period 2020-2021. The Commission decided that this Group of Experts be moved to the Department of Transnational Organized Crime (DTCO) of the Secretariat of Multidimensional Security (SMS), of the OAS.

12. The Commission approved holding the sixty-seventh regular session of CICAD in Washington, D.C., tentatively in late April 2020.

III. PARTICIPANTS

1. Member states of CICAD

Argentina, The Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.

2. Permanent Observers

Holy See and Russian Federation.

3. International and Regional Specialized Organizations

Colombo Plan, Dianova International, International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), Regional Security System (RSS), Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

4. Civil Society

Consultoría Integral de Servicios, México Unido Contra la Delincuencia A.C., and USA Refugees & Immigrants.