



**OAS | CICAD**



**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE  
CONTROL COMMISSION**

**CICAD**

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

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**AMB. ADAM NAMM, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, CICAD/OAS  
OPENING REMARKS FOR CICAD 68**

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2020

Good morning.

Kirsten Madison, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, United States Department of State, representing the CICAD Chair;

Claudia Blum, Foreign Minister, Colombia, representing the CICAD Vice Chair;

Luis Almagro, Secretary General, Organization of American States;

Arthur Weintraub, Secretary for Multidimensional Security, Organization of American States;

Honorable CICAD Commissioners and other representatives from our member states;

Representatives of permanent observers to the OAS, members of international organizations, representatives of civil society, members of the press, CICAD Executive Secretariat colleagues, ladies and gentlemen;

It is a pleasure to be with you at this 68<sup>th</sup> regular session of CICAD. Thank you to Colombia for hosting this important event, and greetings to Colombia's CICAD Commissioner, Vice Minister of Justice Javier

Sarmiento. I hope all joining us today, your families, and colleagues are well during these challenging times.

Despite the pandemic, the CICAD Executive Secretariat has accomplished much during 2020. Under the excellent chair of the United States, member states reached agreement on the drafts of a new OAS Hemispheric Drug Strategy and corresponding Plan of Action. Both of these draft documents will be presented to the Commission for approval later this morning.

Allow me to highlight other achievements the Executive Secretariat has realized during the past year:

Under Canada's strong chair of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism's Intergovernmental Working Group, member states agreed to a methodology for the eighth round of the MEM, which will also be presented for approval at this regular session and would mean the publication of a set of national reports on demand reduction in 2021.

We have continued to train member state officials and others throughout the Hemisphere on topics ranging from counterdrug intelligence, drug prevention and treatment, implementing alternatives to incarceration programs, and drug early warning systems. I should note that much of the counterdrug intelligence training is provided by the Regional Counterdrug Intelligence School of the Americas, known by its Spanish language acronym, ERCAIAD, based in Bogota. I am appreciative of the strong partnership CICAD enjoys with the Colombian National Police in the joint operation of ERCAIAD.

While in-person training has not been possible due to the pandemic, we have been able to reach *more* participants via virtual platforms. I am certain that, even once the pandemic ends, and although there is no substitute for in-person training, CICAD's Executive Secretariat will continue to provide some virtual training, allowing us to continue to reach a wider audience. Webinars have also proven a very useful tool during 2020, and one we will continue to employ post-pandemic.

Just last month, a CICAD working group composed of member states agreed on a set of supply indicators, which will help the Executive Secretariat to produce a report on drug supply during 2021. Marya Hynes, Chief of CICAD's Inter-American Observatory on Drugs, will report on the working group's product on Friday afternoon. As I have stated at previous CICAD regular sessions, it is important that we report on drug supply data, just as we report on drug consumption data.

We have helped several member states implement and strengthen national drug policies and plans of action. In 2020, three member states that previously lacked drug strategies and/or plans of action drafted them.

We continued to execute two projects focused on gender issues:

- First, Gender in Law Enforcement Agencies, or GENLEA by its acronym, which seeks to promote gender equity in law enforcement agencies; and
- Second, Gender and the Criminal Justice System, which is 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.

We have continued to assist OAS member states in the implementation and expansion of alternatives to incarceration for drug-related crimes. As countries seek to reduce prison populations because of the risk of spread of COVID-19 within penitentiaries, alternatives to incarceration such as drug treatment courts and diversion programs -- sound ideas during normal times -- become even more attractive.

As we go forward, the Executive Secretariat will continue to study the effects of the pandemic on drug trafficking and drug use, the latter particularly affected by social isolation and reduced prevention and treatment services, with the poor and those with less education suffering the most. As I mentioned at CICAD 67, we issued a paper early in the pandemic entitled, "COVID-19 and the Treatment of Substance Use Disorders," which provides guidance on treatment strategies during the pandemic. This paper was the result of a collaborative effort with the Pan American Health Organization.

The social isolation caused by the pandemic makes telephone helplines that assist drug dependents and their loved ones even more important. CICAD is working to help member states that do not have such telephone helplines establish them.

For all of our projects and programs, the CICAD Executive Secretariat continues and will continue to conduct monitoring and evaluation, to measure the impact of our work and the success of programs.

Finally, thank you as always to our donors for their strong support of CICAD. Specific fund donations account for about 85 percent of

CICAD's funding, meaning the Executive Secretariat could execute few projects without the cash and in-kind support we receive from our generous donors.

I look forward to a dynamic and productive regular session over the next three days, and thank you all for your attention.

Thank you for this time, Chair.