

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES



INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

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III ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT EXPERT GROUP MEETING

TERMS OF REFERENCE

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES



INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

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**III ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT
EXPERT GROUP MEETING
Lima, Peru**

**OEA/Ser.L/XIV.4
CICAD/ADEX/Info.01/08
February 28th, 2008
Original: Spanish**

This document was presented to the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) in its forty-third regular session, and approved by the Commission with the following notes:

1. Clauses a) and c) of point 4 under the section “Considering”, will not form part of the themes being discussed by the Group of Experts.
2. Clause e) of point 4 under the section “Considering” should read as follows:
 - e) Development of programs that allow confiscated assets from drug trafficking to be used in the areas of prevention, treatment and alternative, integral and sustainable development.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

**Work Group:
Alternative Development Expert Group (ADEX)**

**Source of the Reference Terms:
Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission Executive Secretary (ES/CICAD)**

**Organization:
Organization of American States. (OAS)**

According to:

1. The CICAD regulations

Article 22 Expert Groups

The expert groups of CICAD referred to in these Regulations are advisory bodies to the Commission and their functions and mandates are established, amended and terminated by the Commission.

These expert groups, however, should guide their operations and manner of carrying out business by the CICAD Statute, these Regulations and the Rules of Procedure of the Permanent Council of the Organization.

The expert groups and their members shall be responsible for the expenses they incur for their meetings unless other funds are available for this purpose.

- 2 Extract from the final report of the twenty-fifth regular session of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), held on May 3-7, 1999 in Washington, D.C. (document CICAD/doc.1018/99 rev.1):

FINANCING AND OPERATION OF CICAD EXPERT GROUPS

At its twenty fourth regular session, the Commission considered a paper prepared by the Executive Secretariat (document CICAD/doc.983/98) on the financing and operations of CICAD expert groups and instructed the Secretariat to redraft the paper in light of the observations of member states. Thus, at its twenty fifth regular session, the Commission took up the matter again, and considered document CICAD/doc.1013/99, CICAD Expert Groups: Proposed Operating Guidelines and Criteria for Financing.

A working group, consisting of representatives of Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica and the United States, was formed to refine aspects of the guidelines on expert groups.

After further consideration, the Commission adopted the following **OPERATING GUIDELINES FOR CICAD EXPERT GROUPS:**

1. An expert group shall meet when mandated by the Commission to undertake a specific task or tasks set forth in a draft work plan, which shall include the objectives, the proposed number and schedule of meetings, and the necessary financing.
2. An expert group shall be made up of duly authorized government representatives. Such representatives may, at the option of each government, be serving government officials or not, and shall have recognized subject-matter competence. For more effective follow-through on the assigned work, the continuity of representatives on the same topic is strongly encouraged.
3. Expert groups are open to all member states wishing to send experts.
4. Expert groups shall, at the close of each meeting, make a report to the Commission that shall include concrete recommendations on the subjects at hand and, if necessary, a future work plan.
5. At the appropriate regular session, the Commission shall elect the country that will, in the person of a representative designated by his government for that purpose, chair each expert group. A vice chair, who shall replace the chair in the case of the latter's absence or

impediment, shall be elected in the same way. The term of office for the chair and vice chair shall be for one year; each may be reelected.

6. The expert groups may meet in any member state at the invitation of the government of that country; if no offer is forthcoming from a member state, the meeting shall be held at the headquarters of the Organization in Washington, DC.

On the matter of financing the expert groups, the Commission decided to urge member states to defray the cost of the participation of their own experts to the extent possible. It also encouraged the Executive Secretariat to seek savings wherever possible, through a variety of means and to explore the possibility of teleconferencing.

Considering

1. That the Commission at its forty second meeting on November 27-30 in Santa Marta, Colombia, included as one of the issues of the Agenda a “Thematic Debate on Alternative Development.”
2. That during the discussions on the above-mentioned topic, the Commission approved the creation of an Expert Group on Alternative Development.
3. That the Alternative Development Expert Group, like all expert groups advising the CICAD, should seek the development of policies and projects that tend to maximize existing resources and benefits for the member states, seeking to coordinate bilateral and multilateral efforts that avoid duplication.
4. That in the discussions on Alternative Development the following topics were discussed:
 - a) Approach the World Trade Organization (WTO), through the appropriate existing OAS offices, to promote trade opportunities for Alternative Development products;
 - b) Strengthen the producer’s unions;
 - c) Evaluate the possibility of creating a mechanism for awarding an Alternative Development “seal;”
 - d) Implement biodiversity strategies on Alternative Development programs;
 - e) Development projects that may allow confiscated assets of drug trafficking to be used on treatment, development and prevention actions;
 - f) Develop program that may contain development components in transit countries to prevent traffic of narcotics;
 - g) Conduct a study to analyze the possible application of Alternative Development components in the Caribbean region;

- h) Evaluate the possibility of establishing Alternative Development programs for cannabis producing countries.
5. That the Commission decided at Santa Marta to entrust drafting the terms of reference for the Alternative Development Expert Group, as well as any useful information for the topic selection of the corresponding agenda, to the Executive Secretary.

The Executive Secretariat submits to the Commission the following:

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Group Functioning

- I. The Alternative Development Expert Group will be integrated by duly authorized government representatives. Such representatives may be, at each government's discretion, serving government officials or any other functionary and they shall have recognized expertise on the matters in question. For the effective follow-through on the entrusted tasks, we urge member states to maintain the continuity of representatives on a same topic. (See experts profile)
- II. The Alternative Development Expert Group is open to all member states that wish to send experts.
- III. Upon conclusion of a meeting, the Alternative Development Expert Group will submit a report to the Commission, which will include concrete recommendations on the topics under study and a work plan if necessary.
- IV. The Alternative Development Expert Group shall have a chair elected by the Commission at the forty third meeting to take place from April 30-May 2, 2008 in Washington, D.C. Likewise, a vice-chair will be elected to substitute the chair in case of absence or impediment. The term of the chair and vice chair shall be of a year, and each may be reelected.
- V. The Alternative Development Expert Group will meet in Peru. The date and place the meeting shall be determined by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chair.

Delegate Profile before the Expert Group:

1. To be a representative of a member state of the OAS, except for those from observer members.
2. Desirable qualifications of delegates: experts in rural development, international cooperation and development, agricultural economy and sociology.

The following countries and international organizations and/or entities may participate as observer members so that they may, among other goals, give their feedback on forms of cooperation with CICAD and achieve synergies in the area of technical assistance: Andean Community of Nations (CAN), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), European Commission (EC) and World Trade Organization (WTO).

Delegate Application Instructions:

Instructions will be provided when the Executive Secretary distributes the Informative Bulletin of the third meeting of the Alternative Development Experts Group.

Topics and Agenda

Taking into account the identified topics referred in this document at number 3 of the ‘Considering’ section, the Commission will decide the topic list of the III Alternative Development Experts Group meeting, from which the Executive Secretary will draft the agenda in consultation with the Chair.

Executive Secretary comments on the Identified Topics

With regard to:

Number 3 in the “Considering section”

The commission should decide the mandates and action plan for the Alternative Development Expert Group. In this respect, the Secretariat underscores that the topics listed in number 4 of the “Considering” section are of broad scope and long range; in that sense, it will be important to take into account the efforts of other organizations and countries in this area, avoiding duplications, seeking strategic alliances and applying available funds by the Secretariat for projects with a good cost/benefit ratio.

Item a) number 4 of the “Considering” section

The Executive Secretariat has already made the necessary contacts with the OAS Department of Trade, Tourism and Competitiveness requesting its assistance with the World Trade Organization with the goal of identifying possible opportunities for improving the marketing of Alternative Development products. Once the information is obtained from the Department mentioned above, the Secretariat will make it available to the Commission.

Item b) Number 4 of the “Considering” section

The Executive Secretariat, through its Alternative Development program, participates in the creation of a Best Practices Marketing Plan for hemispheric communities living in mountainous and/or illegal drug crop production regions of the hemisphere, drawing on information related to Alternative Development marketing schemes already underway in Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, China, Afghanistan, Peru, Bolivia and Colombia. These

organizations decided to work together with under the collective umbrella of the Alternative Development Knowledge Network (ADKN). The network established a website (www.adkn.org) that contains an electronic version of the plan, as well as additional information and is also a way for its members to keep in touch.

Item c) Number 4 of the “Considering” section

The topic was addressed by the Executive Secretariat during the Santa Marta meeting; on that occasion, it informed the Commission that the OAS Department of Trade Tourism and Competitiveness had collaborated with the Executive Secretary to draft possible strategies. Having heard several member states during the consideration of this point unable to reach a consensus with regard to the Executive Secretariat including this item as part of its duties, several countries requested that the Secretariat lend its technical assistance in advancing this idea while other member states, having found the proposal attractive, noted that there were obstacles that impeded its realization from a practical point of view.

Item d) Number 4 of the “Considering” section

Illegal farming and the production of illicit drugs can potentially degrade protected environments, forests and zones dedicated to legal farming, among others, which causes severe environmental damage. The application of biodiversity strategies to Alternative Development projects is a reality and the lessons learned in this field can be transformed into best practices handbooks directed to legal farm producers in illegal farming zones.

Item e) y f) of Number 4 of the “Considering” section

Because of their similarity the comment of these two items are grouped in a single point. The CICAD Executive Secretariat, through its Money Laundering Control and Institutional Development sections and with the CICAD expert group’s advice, has started a technical assistance project to assist the governments of member states in the seizure and management of confiscated assets. This program may help to increase national capacity to recover money from drug trafficking and related crimes and to direct it into development projects related to anti-drug activities.

Item g) Number 4 of the “Considering” section

In this item, Trinidad and Tobago offered its cooperation to the Executive Secretariat and to the Caribbean countries to further the study. However, a methodology or plan has not been established.

Item h) Number 4 of the “Considering” section

This point was not dealt with at the plenary session of CICAD 42, the Executive Secretariat, nevertheless, is taking into account a request made by Paraguay. Cannabis is acknowledged worldwide as one of most frequently used drugs. The Executive Secretariat points out the importance of analyzing the characteristics of cannabis production in Paraguay and its impact in the region in order to establish concrete plans.

