

# ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES



INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

cicad

**FORTY-FOURTH REGULAR SESSION**  
**November 19 – November 21, 2008**  
**Santiago, Chile**

**OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.44**  
**CICAD/doc.1699/08**  
**19 November 2008**  
**Original: Spanish**

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE**  
**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE CONACE**  
**(National Corporation for Narcotic Control)**  
**MARIA TERESA CHADWICK P.**  
**UPON TAKING ON THE CHAIR OF THE FORTY-FOURTH REGULAR SESSION**

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF  
CONACE, MARIA TERESA CHADWICK P., UPON TAKING ON THE  
CHAIR OF THE CICAD/OAS, 44<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION,  
NOVEMBER 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008, SHERATON HOTEL, SANTIAGO, CHILE**

---

**(TO ALL THE ATTENDANTS)**

Mr. Ambassador Alexandre Addor-Neto, Secretary for Multidimensional Security of the OAS,  
Mr. Ambassador James Mack, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission,  
Mr. Abraham Stein, Assistant Executive Secretary to the OAS Secretariat for Multidimensional Security,  
Your Excellencies, Messrs. Ambassadors,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Dear friends,

On behalf of the Chilean Government and its people, we would like to give you the warmest welcome to our country. It is a huge responsibility for Chile to assume the chair of the CICAD for the 2008-2009 term. We are sure that the multilateral strategies should provide an integral approach to such a complex and multidimensional issue. We would like to express our congratulations and thankfulness to the Government of **Colombia**, most particularly to its Vice-Minister of Justice, Mr. Gilberto Orozco, for the task performed as chair of the CICAD. The forty-second regular session held in Santa Marta in November last year, allowed us to advance in the implementation of cooperative schemes that should now be strengthened. We would also like to congratulate the **United States of America**, which is assuming the vice-chair of this Commission; I am confident that we will work together for the benefit of our countries.

This is a time of revision, analysis and reflection regarding the drug issue worldwide, which requires an active commitment from CICAD. Be certain that we are willing to use our best efforts and energy to the service of this Commission, which must continue to be present in the hemispherical and world discussion regarding drug policies.

This year and the next will be crucial to examine what has been done and to undertake new challenges, within the framework of the UNGASS.

New spaces for cooperation have been opened in our Hemisphere, and the CICAD has influenced this trend. Developments have been made in the discussion of issues and policies, ad-hoc mechanisms have been created, multilateral work has been strengthened and horizontal cooperation has been promoted, all of which encourages us.

Our Hemisphere, however, continues to be an **important part of the global drug issue**. The restraint of the market of illicit drugs is being threatened due to the increase of cultivation in certain specific areas of our continent, as well as to increased drug consumption in our countries, as stated in the 2008 World Report of the United Nations.

This poses a continuous challenge due to its consequences in terms of violence, crime, political destabilization, corruption, social and family disintegration, human grievance and poverty. There are millions of

men, women, youngsters, boys and girls of this Hemisphere whose life quality - and even their survival – are being threatened by drugs.

This reality urges us to reinforce our supply and demand control policies. The natural forum to discuss such policies and reach agreements within the region is the CICAD/OAS.

We are faced to a human development issue. Addressing this issue with clear and adequate policies implies the broadening of individuals' options, ranging from enjoying a long-lasting and healthy life, having access to knowledge and to necessary resources in order to attain a satisfactory life standard, as well as fully exercising political, economical and social freedoms.

Dear friends: as stated here today, this is an issue that affects both our institutions and the quality of our democracies. As stated by President Bachelet, a better and improved state is required in the context of a modern democracy. This is crucial to our reflection.

The persistence of the drug phenomenon in the Americas motivates us to keep working collectively and to look for new ways to become more efficient in our ability to act at a local, hemispherical and world level. It is essential to implement National Drug Strategies, hemispherical mechanisms, UNGASS instruments, as well as International Conventions on this matter.

Experience shows that the most successful policies should include some of the following key elements:

- Firstly, a political direction, an authority to design, implement and evaluate changes;
- Secondly, an integral focus able to combine prevention and rehabilitation policies along with trafficking control and impunity reduction;
- Thirdly, there must be a necessary institutional system, and its corresponding legal, framework.
- All of these policies must be sustainable and persist over time, and should have an appropriate funding.

This strategic design calls for a timely response to a phenomenon evidencing continuous mutation. Both responsiveness and innovation are essential to become efficient.

The above requires a permanent analysis enabling us to make decisions based on real time evidence. We - as a Hemisphere and as individual countries - deem it necessary to assess the ***applied policies and their impact. This should become a constant practice so as to rectify the direction and to adjust to the present time.***

Within this context, we reaffirm the validity of our Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) as a follow-up tool of the individual and collective progress made. The MEM should be able to undertake new challenges, delivering timely information for decision making. Our job is

to keep updating it through the use of new technologies, thus strengthening its technical abilities and simplifying procedures and instruments. We are confident in the efforts made in this sense by the Intergovernmental Working Group and by various Expert Groups of CICAD.

I do not want to miss this opportunity to point out some ***new subjects on the drug issue*** detected from our country point of view, which we deem relevant to include in the discussion and in the mutual collaboration within our Hemisphere.

The first one relates to the use of **new technologies** in order to reduce drug supply and demand. The Internet is being used by organized crime and by some cultural sectors to promote the cultivation and consumption of illicit substances. The study and discussion of possible regulations regarding this type of cybernetic crime is essential. On the other hand, governmental programs and civil society are using the Internet in order to heighten public opinion, train prevention assistant agents through “e-learning” tools, and to orient problematic consumers. New technologies are both an opportunity and a risk. Let’s discuss them.

Another issue that poses a challenge is the consideration of the **gender** perspective in public policies on drugs. From the reduction of demand point of view, advances in this treatment area are evident. Programs should be separated by gender, taking into account the social roles and demands being attributed to each, since this

influences consumption motivation and addiction, the will to undergo therapy and its success. This challenge is equally valid in the prevention arena. Masculinity is being duly studied in order to define which social and cultural requirements are in the root of the consumption among men, so as to perfect prevention and drug rehabilitation programs. Our concern is also focused on knowing what gender conditionings make men and women adopt different roles in large-scale trafficking and micro-trafficking.

The **relation between the drug problem and the commission of crime** is another huge topic which challenges us. A methodological exactness should be employed in approaching how both phenomena are linked, and treatment programs should be applied to allow people who commit crimes under the influence of drugs or moved by the urge of obtaining them, to overcome their addiction and to reinsert in society, thus reducing the risk of recidivism. This calls for the design of policies that help to simultaneously reduce drug demand and commission of crimes, including reformation of penal institutions and prisons.

As regards prevention –along with improving the quality of universal programs– the search for adequate responses to specific needs should be reinforced, establishing focused programs and selective interventions that allow us to deal with the demands of certain territories or groups, such as various ethnic groups, specific age groups or youngsters who consume drugs in the context of recreational activities. It is urgent to develop a secondary prevention scheme within

our Region, aiming at assisting young people who have started to consume drugs without having become problematic consumers yet.

The “**active commitment**” undertaken by Chile upon assuming the Chair of CICAD/OAS lies in the promising conviction that our working together and jointly sharing experiences, the countries of the Americas can create better life conditions for our people, aiming at an integral human development by establishing hemispherical policies.

Upon taking on the responsibility of chairing the CICAD this year, we will make our best efforts to advance in this path. However, this is a shared responsibility of each one of us, not only of governments, but of society as a whole. The support of the Executive Secretariat is in the essence of this hemispherical agenda. I urge you all in this sense. We are faced to one of the biggest ethical challenges ever, and indifference here is not acceptable.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.