



New Drug Strategy Guides Efforts to Consolidate Regional Approach to Drug Control



Turning Strategy into Action:

After the OAS General Assembly approved the Hemispheric Drug Strategy in June in Lima, the Commission set to work on a Plan of Action to define core policy guidelines and recommendations in key policy areas: institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, and international cooperation. A working group got underway, with Mexico serving as chair. Following up on extensive online consultations, the High Level Group met in Washington in November for four days of discussion on the first two sections of the Plan of Action. A final draft is expected by the second quarter of 2011. In the photo (left), Mexico's Gabriel Morales led the discussion as general coordinator at the High Level Group's meeting.



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Peru To Serve As Regional Center for Anti-Money Laundering Training: Peru's Superintendence of Banking, Insurance and Retirement Funds and the CICAD Executive Secretariat joined together to set up a training center that will focus on preparing financial compliance officers to detect suspicious operations, as well as help judges and prosecutors understand criminal enterprises that profit from trafficking. First focusing on Peru, the center will eventually broaden its scope by inviting other countries to send participants.

In 2010, CICAD's Anti-Money Laundering Section organized 17 seminars and workshops in 14 countries, training nearly 700 judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, financial intelligent unit analysts and assets administration officers, among others.



Follow-up to EU-LAC Alliance on Drug Treatment:

At a final EU-LAC city forum in Coimbra, Portugal in September, mayors and delegates from 27 cities in Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean agreed to meet in Chiclayo, Lambayeque, Peru in 2011 to continue collaboration on dealing with drug treatment and public policy, that was initiated through the now completed City Partnership Alliance project. They designated the regional government of Lambayeque (Peru) as the chair and the cities of Gothenburg (Sweden), Coimbra (Portugal), Lugo (Spain), San Miguel de Tucuman (Argentina) and Paramaribo (Suriname) as members of the Steering Committee.

A new publication, *Court-Supervised Treatment Alternatives to Incarceration for Drug-Dependent Offenders: The Drug Policy Agenda*, is being edited by the Justice Programs Office, School of Public Affairs, American University. The publication, planned for late 2011, will bring together articles by experts from Belgium, Canada, Chile, Jamaica, Mexico, Scotland and the United States.

The CICAD Executive Secretariat is working with the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP, USA), the Canadian Association of Drug Treatment Courts (CADTC) and the International Association of Drug Treatment Courts (IADTC) to support growing interest in setting up innovative judiciary-led therapeutic approaches to dealing with drug dependent criminal offenders.



CICAD's James Mack and EMCDDA's Wolfgang Götz put their signatures to the work plan, while OID coordinator Francisco Cumille and EMCDDA international cooperation coordinator Alexis Goosdeel look on.

CICAD and EMCDDA share goals for better information on trends

CICAD and the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) defined their work plan for collaboration over the next three years (2011-2013). Strategic objectives include: strengthening regional and international monitoring systems; harmonizing and developing indicators in the areas of drug supply and demand; and supporting the establishment of national drug monitoring centers and drug information networks.

CICAD's Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID) published the first comparative study of drug use among secondary school students in the Caribbean (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago) in December.

SEDRONAR, the Argentinean drug control agency, posted a staff member at the OID office for five months, updating the methodological manual for the study of social and economic costs of the drug problem.

The OID supported two specialized population studies: Grenada completed a study of drug use among adult prisoners, and Guyana completed a study of drug use among juvenile offenders. The final reports of both studies are available online (only in English). To make these studies possible, existing OID methodologies and manuals were translated from Spanish to English and adapted culturally and linguistically to each country. The methodologies are available online for use by other Caribbean governments.

CICAD Broadens Efforts to Prepare and Certify Drug Treatment Specialists

Costa Rica's newly formed national certification and training commission (COCERTRAD), which includes representatives of 80 NGOs as well as the government, conducted an assessment of the existing regulatory framework to determine the best course of action to set up a new certification system and develop a curriculum. COCERTRAD carried out a study of 400 drug treatment counselors nationwide to determine their levels of education, competencies, and years of professional experience. It identified 140 Costa Rican drug treatment counselors qualified for training. With support from the University of Costa Rica, the IAFA and others, COCERTRAD delivered the first 100 hours of training for those counselors.

El Salvador's National Antidrug Commission (CNA) approved the certification mechanism, including the protocols and regulations for training and certification, in early August, culminating three years' work in El Salvador. A new curriculum and materials was prepared, reviewed with the participation of 150 professionals, and published. A technical assessment was made of 59 treatment centers nationwide. The University of Central America and others will be delivering training and evaluation services.

Nicaragua's National Council against Drugs (CNLCD) completed a diagnostic assessment of counselor and client profiles at 39 treatment centers nationwide. Training of 32 treatment counselor/trainers from 19 institutions (160 hours) took place, following the standard curriculum developed for the program.

Therapeutic Communities: CICAD is cooperating with the Medellin-based Latin American Federation of Therapeutic Communities (FLACT) to provide training and certification mechanisms to FLACT-affiliated organizations. It has members in 19 Latin American countries. Therapeutic communities deliver drug treatment in a highly structured, long-term residential setting. FLACT developed and published six training modules based on CICAD's course work, and delivered advanced training for 71 counselors.

CICAD-University Partnership: A meeting in Panama, September 15-17, drew 230 participants from 83 universities, plus 23 other institutions, from 22 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Participants displayed more than 120 research posters that portrayed the results of curriculum development with drug content and findings from research studies on drugs. The National Drug Commission of the Dominican Republic laid out its strategy to apply the CICAD approach to the entire national university system (33 universities and 9 specialized institutes).

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism Country Reports (2007-2009): The MEM's Governmental Expert Group (GEG) delivered 33 country reports for the Fifth Evaluation in Washington in December. The GEG plenary had met in April, June and October of 2010 to hammer out the report content and policy recommendations.



Mexico's First Lady, Margarita Zavala de Calderón, witnessed the signing of the Mexico-OAS agreement and praised the initiative.

OAS-Mexico Training & Certification Plan Makes History

The OAS General Secretariat and Mexico signed an agreement in October to help the National Council Against Addictions (CONADIC) adapt CICAD's training and certification program for drug treatment professionals to Mexico's needs.

"This is a historical act, not only because it is the first time that our Organization signs an agreement of this kind with the Government of the United Mexican States," OAS Secretary for Multidimensional Security Adam Blackwell said, "but also because this agreement will contribute to the solution of one of the greatest threats facing our Hemisphere: drug abuse, which is directly tied to violence and organized crime."

A pilot phase with six states (Chihuahua, Baja California, Jalisco, the State of Mexico, Mexico City, and Campeche) will eventually expand to a nationwide program to prepare treatment counselors. The first state assessment of treatment needs and inventory of treatment centers, administrators and counselors was completed in the state of Jalisco in September. In addition to the five other states, a full national survey was also underway. Mexico has 2,000 treatment centers nationwide.

Building a national drugs observatory: a joint handbook

Partners issue manual on drug observatories

Building a national drug observatory: a joint handbook is an effort of CICAD's Inter-American Drug Observatory and the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). It gives the key ingredients to making a drug monitoring system a success in public administration. Available in English, Spanish and French.

Spanish handbook on drug policy making

Cómo Desarrollar una Política Nacional sobre Drogas: Una Guía Para Responsables Políticos, Técnicos y Expertos is the Spanish sequel of *How to Develop a National Drug Control Policy*, a CARICOM-CICAD joint publication. The methodological approach was adapted to Latin America through two regional seminars, one in Argentina in March and a second in Costa Rica in September, thanks to the governments of those countries, and also incorporates CICAD's experience in advising member states.

Both publications are available at the CICAD website.

How to Develop a National Drug Policy
A GUIDE FOR POLICYMAKERS, PRACTITIONERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS