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INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION

CICAD

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

FIFTY-EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION
November 11 - 13, 2015
Trujillo, Perú

OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.58
CICAD/doc.2200/15rev.4
13 November 2015
Original: English

PERU PROPOSAL
BASIS FOR THE FORMATION OF AN EXPERT GROUP ON INTEGRATED AND SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE
DEVELOPMENT

CICAD GROUP – Basis for the formation of an Expert Group on Integrated and Sustainable Alternative Development

Alternative development is considered one of the three pillars of the international policy approach to address the drug problem.¹

In this regard, the recent World Drug Report 2015, as well as Resolution 68/196 of the United Nations General Assembly – approved on December 18th, 2013 – indicate that the promotion of alternative development as a global policy to reduce the availability of the supply of drugs and to control the underlying causes of illicit trafficking in narcotics constitutes as global responsibility which transcends the so-called “producing countries.”²

As such, and taking into consideration the important changes to the illicit economies around the world related to narcotics, the aforementioned Resolution 68/196 approves the Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, and encourages Member States and the international community to keep them in mind when implementing programs and policies.³

The Declaration of Antigua, Guatemala, “For a comprehensive policy against the world drug problem in the Americas,” encourages Member states to consider, as part of their national policies, integrated and sustainable alternative development programs and measures – including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development – aimed at eliminating the factors that cause poverty, social exclusion, and environmental degradation in order to avert the involvement of vulnerable populations in activities connected with illicit drug production and trafficking.

For these reasons, the Government of Peru proposes for the consideration of the Member States of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), the creation of an Expert Group on Integrated and Sustainable Alternative Development (DAIS), so as to constitute a high-level technical forum to address – according to the realities and needs of each country – the different experiences, principles, new trends, threats, and problems facing integrated and sustainable alternative development, and preventive alternative development as appropriate, in the hemisphere, with an approach based on human development.

Alternative development, and preventive alternative development as appropriate, as a social integration strategy should build human and social capital through the implementation of productive projects that incorporate economic, environmental, political and social sustainable criteria. In short, what is understood by these analyses is that

¹ UNODC (2015). *World Drug Report 2015*. New York: UNODC.

² United Nations General Assembly. (2014) Resolution 68/196. New York: UN. /196

³ Resolution 68/196 of the United Nations General Assembly, in Article 1, “Welcomes the outcome of the high-level International Conference on Alternative Development, held in Lima from 14 to 16 November 2012, including the adoption of the Lima Declaration on Alternative Development and the International Guiding Principles on Alternative Development.” (Res. 68/196, 2014: 3/11).

alternative development implies the need to create institutional strengthening strategies. It is from the perspective of the presence of the State, that these initiatives can find the fertile basis for a balance co-participation of state institutions, communities, family environment, and other actors of civil society.

Even though the concept of traditional alternative development explicitly refers to a rural context, a wider concept of alternative development should integrate, not only those actors linked to drugs in each of the phases (production, consumption, and traffic), but also all types of production (including traffic and use of chemical precursors), and not limited only to the agricultural context, but also the urban.

At the same time, there is no doubt that the lack of opportunities and the issue of problematic use are strongly interrelated. Sometimes, poverty could be the cause and/or effect of problematic use -when drugs are used as a way to reduce the suffering and the consequences of poverty-. From this perspective, consumption would need to be seen with an alternative development approach.

With the goal of searching for “integrated solutions” in the area of drug policies, and more concretely, about integral and sustainable alternative development, we should think of cross cutting strategies. They should promote integral and sustainable development that could offer the population at risk, including youth, opportunities to maintain and generate a dignified income in their own communities. This would contribute to reducing massive unemployment among youth that today constitutes the seed for the recruitment for narco trafficking, organized crime, and illegal migration.

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This new approach recognizes that the solution to this problem of illicit cultivation requires governability and social structures of those areas affected by the production, trafficking and consumption of drugs. Even if the results of alternative development are not immediate, these could be sustainable.

This space for exchange does not currently exist within the CICAD framework. The creation of this group is relevant because it will allow for more in-depth analysis of common problems and initiatives linked to the different interested states. In this sense, it will also allow Member States to address and discuss public policy responses which could potentially be adapted to the heterogeneous social and political realities which characterize the hemisphere.

Creating an Expert Group on Integrated and Sustainable Alternative Development could also promote studies on alternative development and preventive alternative development as appropriate, and its applicability to Member States, keeping in mind their particular realities, the magnitude or relevance of illicit cultivation, the different discussions of the issue, as well as a variety of interpretations and conceptualizations among countries. The

creation of a Group of Experts on Integrated and Sustainable Alternative Development would also be useful in that it would be able to propose solid criteria for evaluation for use in the next rounds of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM).

Following these considerations, a tentative list of potential topics which could be raised for the consideration of the Expert Group has been proposed:

- Propose solid standards and technical criteria for the next rounds of the MEM evaluation of integrated and sustainable alternative development and preventive alternative development as appropriate.
- Evaluate and recognize good practices in integrated and sustainable alternative development and preventive alternative development as appropriate, and analyze their applicability, keeping in mind the reality of each country, both in producing and transit, in urban and rural areas.
- Propose minimum parameters which allow for the evaluation of programs proposed by the members in order for them to be considered interventions within the framework the area of development alternative and preventive alternative development as appropriate.
- Evaluate the incorporation of new interventions in the framework of the Expert Group, which, based on evidence, countries have presented as effective alternatives which discourage the involvement of the population in the different criminal levels of the international drug trafficking chain.
- Evaluate success factors of the different interventions in development alternative and preventive alternative development as appropriate, and propose mechanisms for their proper dissemination within member countries, which would allow them to consider these interventions in the implementation of their respective strategies.
- Propose mechanisms for technical assistance and multilateral technology transfer for integrated and sustainable alternative development, and preventive alternative development as appropriate.
- Evaluate and propose alternatives which strengthen the social fabric as the basis of sustainability of integrated and sustainable alternative development and preventive alternative development as appropriate.
- Propose interventions aimed at strengthening local and regional institutions as a mechanism of sustainability in member countries.
- Construct and propose standardized indicators for results and impact in integrated and sustainable alternative development and preventive alternative development as appropriate at the hemispheric level for the Member States consideration.
- Evaluate new issues affecting the processes of integrated and sustainable alternative development, proposing actions which reduce their negative impacts.
- Establish potential beneficiary populations of integrated and sustainable alternative development and preventive alternative development as appropriate, taking national realities into consideration.
- Propose guidelines for the strengthening of the gender perspective in integrated and sustainable alternative development interventions.
- Promote debate to enrich the guiding principles of the United Nations regarding sustainable alternative development.

- Analyze the issue of alternative development product markets.

This Expert Group will be presided by the Government of Peru for the first year. The budget required for its first operating year will be assumed by the Government of Peru, which will cover the logistic and operating costs of the meeting. Each Member State will assume the cost of the travel and per diem of its representatives.

In conversations with the Executive Secretariat of CICAD, it was agreed that this new Expert Group, should it be approved by the Member States, will have as its counterpart in ES-CICAD the Institutional Strengthening and Policy Coordination Section, and through this, make use of necessary synergies with other CICAD sections, as well as other institutions which can support the efforts of the Expert Group in a transversal and comprehensive manner.