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CONTROL COMMISSION**

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Conclusions Working Group
on the Implementation of the UNGASS 2016 Operational Recommendations

CICAD-Working Group on the Implementation of the UNGASS 2016 Operational Recommendations

Conclusions of the First Meeting Mexico City, April 24, 2018

The representatives of the CICAD member states participating in the Working Group, and experts of international organizations and civil society in attendance had a rich and interactive dialogue that reached the following conclusions:

1. There is a hemispheric consensus that the commitments and recommendations of UNGASS 2016 represent vast progress, comprehensiveness and balance for drug policies.
2. It is important to have ongoing dialogue and the exchange of concrete experiences on the progress of those commitments and recommendations in the countries of the Hemisphere.
3. Hold a second meeting of the Working Group, date and location to be determined.
4. Continue the participation of experts of international organizations and civil society. Also, invite representatives from other institutions and regional mechanisms, to foster coherency and synergies.
5. Collect and consolidate the information from countries and experts participating in the Working Group, so that, with the support of the CICAD Executive Secretariat, an electronic page is made available on the CICAD webpage.
6. Distribute a working matrix on the following-up of the progress of the UNGASS 2016 recommendations, which is filled out by all, and contributes to painting a better picture of the hemispheric efforts, as well as persons in charge.
7. The CICAD Executive Secretariat will present the matrix with all the specialized work and the areas of development of its different units.
8. Use the outcomes of the matrix to identify opportunities for cooperation or technical assistance projects that strengthen the national capacities and contribute to advancing the commitments of UNGASS 2016.
9. In order to avoid duplicating efforts during the work of the Group and of during the consolidation of the matrix, annual reports presented to international organizations should be considered, the information submitted to the Multilateral

Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) process and the fulfillment of the Agenda 2030 goals.

10. At the regional level, the CICAD Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020 is in line with the seven UNGASS recommendations, so its fulfillment and follow-up will contribute to achieving common goals.
11. The timely follow-up of the UNGASS 2016 recommendations, from an on-the-field perspective, could assist CICAD members in international discussions on developing new drug-related questionnaires, statistics and indicators.
12. It is timely to make the hemispheric experiences and efforts in other regions visible, in order to enhance the international dialogue and in hopes that those best practices and innovative policies are replicated.
13. Therefore, and for the identification of said practices, it is still priority to emphasize having monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for drug policies, in order to have scientific evidence on which to base such policies.
14. Participation could be fostered, as a hemisphere, in sub-regional meetings of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and with dissemination events in the CICAD regular sessions and the specialized bodies of the UN.
15. It is important to keep documenting the experiences of the progress of the UNGASS 2016, including innovative measures on topics such as new psychoactive substances, access to controlled substances for medical use, gender, human rights, alternatives to incarceration, social aspects and development, measures to control risks and harm, and a broad concept of prevention.
16. In order to achieve concrete actions that materialize the commitments at a national, regional and global level, it is also important to work at the local level.
17. It is advisable to draft a regional report with the support of the CICAD Executive Secretariat on these findings which could be jointly presented in future international discussions.
18. It is essential to take advantage of upcoming Working Group meetings and the regional consensus in favor of the implementation of UNGASS 2016, to define common positions and joint actions towards the 2019 Commission Narcotic Drugs.