

**Working Group on the Implementation of the Operational Recommendations of  
UNGASS 2016  
First Meeting  
Tuesday, April 24, 2018, Mexico City**

As a result of the Second Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem, held from 19-21 April 2016 (UNGASS 2016), the document entitled “Our Joint Commitment to Effectively Addressing and Countering the World Drug Problem” was adopted. The document produced 103 operational recommendations in seven thematic areas which have enriched, without precedent, the international drug strategy.

This document, adopted by consensus by the international community, represents a most comprehensive commitment. It is aimed at generating more effective responses, coherent with the constant evolution of this global challenge. Moving, for example, from a solely supply reduction and demand reduction based approach to seven thematic areas which include substantive elements on public health, comprehensive prevention, human rights, gender, and development-focused strategies. It also serves as a guide and an opportunity to update national drug programs, policies and strategies, leaving behind dogmatic positions and encouraging a deep analysis on the causes, consequences and alternative measures with regards to international drug control.

The Hemisphere has been deeply committed to the international drug policy debate, and has addressed new challenges and dynamics from the CICAD framework. The link between the five thematic areas and objectives of the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020 with the seven thematic areas and operational recommendations of UNGASS 2016 is clear. For this reason, the role of this hemispheric forum is of great importance as a point of convergence of experiences aimed at supporting the implementation and follow up of these operational recommendations.

The series of national dialogues held in Mexico with the support of CICAD, between October 2016 and November 2017, included experts from government, civil society and academia and covered best practices and lessons learnt. As a result of this rich debate, a follow up matrix was set up which will be completed by different national authorities including a list of conclusions and a call for action. This will enrich the discussions of international agencies by presenting a set of paths to follow, measures to be strengthened and windows of opportunity for the innovation of drug policies.

It is hoped, therefore, that other countries together with international agencies share their experiences or projects with regards to the implementation of these recommendations.

As input for the working group, each participating government is requested to respond to three initial questions, and share their responses with the participants prior to the meeting:

- Has your country carried out efforts to disseminate the UNGASS 2016 commitments and recommendations? If so, provide details.
- Which actions has your country carried out to specifically implement UNGASS 2016 recommendations?
- Are there any inter-agency dialogues with academia, civil society or other sectors for the implementation of UNGASS 2016?

### **Agenda**

9:00 – 9:30	Registration
9:30 – 10:00	Welcome and presentation of participants
10:00 – 10:30	First round of presentations on the Mexican experience of the implementation of UNGASS operational recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Representative from Mexico</li> <li>- Representative from CICAD-OAS</li> </ul>
10:30 - 11:30	Presentation on findings from the first questionnaire and general discussion
11:30 – 11:45	Break
11:45 – 12:45	Second round of presentations on synergies with other actors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Representative from UNODC</li> <li>- Representative from WHO/PAHO</li> <li>- Representative from INCB</li> <li>- Representative from UNDP</li> </ul>
12:45 - 13:30	General discussion
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 16:30	General discussion on steps to follow to disseminate, implement and include stakeholders in the implementation of UNGASS 2016
16:30 – 17:00	Conclusions

\* The Group will meet in the Jose Maria Morelos y Pavon Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, of the Mexican Foreign Ministry building, Av. Juarez 20, Col. Centro, Ciudad de Mexico.

\*\* Simultaneous English-Spanish interpretation will be available throughout the meeting.