

CICAD Chairman's Statement

At the thirty-fourth regular session of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS) meeting held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, November 17-20 2003, I, as CICAD Chairman, note the following issues, in order to inform the Special Summit of the Americas, which will meet in Monterrey, Mexico, January 12 to 13, 2004:

- That the Commission has renewed its commitment to a balanced approach to address the supply of and the demand for illicit drugs, as reflected in the Hemispheric Anti-Drug Strategy of 1996;
- That the Commission has re-affirmed the commitments made by the elected Heads of State and Governments of the Americas in the Quebec City Summit of the Americas, 2001, to fight the global drug problem and organized crime;
- That the Declaration on Security in the Americas adopted at the Special Conference on Security held in Mexico City, in October 2003, affirmed the necessity of multilateral co-operation to address the global drug problem and related crimes that threaten security in the region;
- That the global drug problem necessitates addressing the related issues of money-laundering, terrorist financing, illicit trafficking in arms, the diversion of precursor chemicals and other transnational organized crime activities;
- That sustainable development, institutional stability, and the rule of law and security are interlinked;
- That new threats to governance and the safety of persons, related to drugs and drug-related international crime, are emerging;
- That the OAS and its member states have increasingly limited financial, technical, and human resources;
- That air, land and sea borders between CICAD members are critical points in the drug control regimes of the member states of the OAS.

The Commission agreed:

1. To encourage efforts at improving co-ordination and communication at borders between CICAD member states to strengthen national, sub-regional, regional, and hemispheric efforts to address the problems related to illicit drugs and related aspects of transnational organized crime;

2. To encourage improved co-ordination and communication among officials in the hemisphere working in public safety and security, and those active in other areas of economic and social development and governance, to develop comprehensive, innovative, and integrated approaches to the drug problem and to drug-related international crime;
3. To renew the Commission's commitment to the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), and underscore the need for countries and organizations to use the MEM to improve hemispheric drug control regimes and allocate resources dedicated to the drug problem within the Americas in a more strategic, coordinated and effective fashion;
4. To undertake a priority-setting exercise at the thirty-fifth regular session of CICAD in May 2004 to rationalize CICAD's work with a view to addressing both the core mandate of CICAD and the emerging threats regarding drugs and drug-related international crime more effectively.

In light of the above, I very much welcome the decision of the Commission to:

- Continue the work of Expert Groups during 2004-2005 to address the issues of Money Laundering, Chemicals, Precursors, Demand Reduction;
- Establish ad-hoc working groups to address the issues of Transnational Organized Crime and Maritime Narco-trafficking Cooperation;
- Approve and update the provisions for the control of arms brokers contained in CICAD's Model Regulations on Firearms;
- Approve amendments to the Model Regulations on Money Laundering to integrate terrorist financing measures and develop next steps;
- Establish criteria for prioritizing the CICAD Commission's work in light of fiscal constraints.