

## 4ª CICAD SIDE EVENT - CIVIL SOCIETY -

*ON THE OCCASION OF THE 57 REGULAR SESSION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD), SECRETARIAT FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL SECURITY, ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)*

### **Drugs and Development, Prioritizing a Social Integration Approach**

28 April 2015

Ruben Darío Room  
Organization of American States  
1889 F Street NW  
Washington DC

The Side Event was first celebrated at the 54th Ordinary Session of CICAD / OAS held in Bogotá, Colombia in 2013. Since then, CICAD has continued to host a Side Event at subsequent CICAD Meetings. Although these side-sessions are not a part of the CICAD Ordinary Session and are not binding for the Commission, they serve as a mechanism for learning about civil society's experiences, practices, and promising research, as well as a method for generating an exchange of ideas and feedback. The Side Event is expected to promote and strengthen the relationship between Commissioners and civil society, enhancing the relevant discussions and subsequent actions in the framework of CICAD. The content of these sessions do not necessarily reflect the position of the OAS, or the two governments and institutions that sponsor these sessions.

# Drugs and Development: Prioritizing a Social Integration Approach

## Introductory Reflections

Every facet of the drug problem—production, trafficking, and consumption—impacts development prospects for countries in the hemisphere. Despite this link, drug and development policies tend to be formulated in isolation. For example, the drug problem is not included in the Millennium Development Goals, despite the negative impact of drugs on its key goals, such as health, life expectancy, education, employment, human rights, and poverty reduction. Beyond the toll on health and family structure, the drug problem exacts high social and economic costs, affecting the economy, the environment, political processes.

These sessions are designed to facilitate future research and deepen dialogue and collaboration between different state and civil society actors by promoting awareness about the relationship between drugs and development and placing a particular emphasis on social integration and a constant search for solutions. Above all, these Sessions are intended to advance concrete actions that exemplify this collaboration.

A vicious cycle of exclusion hinders the prospects of social reintegration and resilience. The stigma of drug addiction or a criminal record for use, trafficking or production of drugs adversely affects access to a legal and permanent employment and various social services and public benefits. The degree of social cohesion - understood as a sense of belonging to a community of shared rights and responsibilities, and community recognition of the intrinsic value of the people who constitute it - is a true barometer of the health of a society. When society is fractured by a lack of cohesion, the likely consequence is a multitude of problems. Undoubtedly, those problems related to drugs are highly visible. Social exclusion is not only an indicator of an unjust and inequitable system which fails to provide opportunities for development, but its effect is also doubled through the stigma of being a potential problematic consumer or trafficker of illicit drugs. In these situations of tension and conflict, the different elements of the drug phenomenon intersect. It is imperative to use a wide and comprehensive approach that takes into account the multiple factors involved and to search for solutions that preserve social integration and the quality of life of all citizens.

The participation and leadership of civil society is essential for drug policy progress. Socially integration efforts for citizens who have drug problems can be hindered by a lack of social cohesion and effective coordination of the different actors involved, both from government and civil society. On this occasion, we hope to hear the voices of pioneers in this debate.

## Agenda

- 02:00-2:30 pm **Opening Remarks**
- **Raquel Barros**, Executive Secretary of the American Network for Intervention in Situations of Social Suffering, RAISSS
  - Ambassador **Paul E. Simons**, Executive Secretary CICAD/OAS
  - **Héctor Mauricio López Bonilla**, Ministry of Governance of Guatemala  
Ministro de Gobernación de Guatemala
- 02:30-02:45 pm **Introduction to the debate and brief explanation of the rules for engagement.**
- 02:45-03:20 pm **Session I. The Link between the Drugs and Development**
- Moderator: **Francisco Thoumi**, Researcher and member of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).
- Presenters:
- **Deborah Alimi**, PhD Candidate, Department of Political Science, Université Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne.
  - **Efrem Milanese**, Psychoanalyst and International Consultant
  - **Carlos Antonio Mendoza Alvarado**, National Coordinating Committee for the Reform of Drug Policy, Guatemala.
- 03:20-03:45 pm **Questions and Answers**
- 03:45-04:00 pm **Coffee Break**
- 04:00-05:00 pm **Session II. Promising responses of different approaches that promote the social integration of people with different relationships to drugs.**
- Moderator: **Rosina Tricanico**, Social Insertion Department, National Drug Council, Uruguay.
- Presenters:
- **Rodrigo Hoyos Mancilla**, Fundación Paréntesis, Chile.
  - **...Pending Confirmation.....** Organización del Caribe
  - **Pedro Arenas**, Colombian Observatory for Illicit Growing and Growers, Colombia
- 05:00-05:30 pm **Questions and Answers**
- 05:30-06:45 pm **Working Groups. Debate**
- Moderator: **Raquel Barros**, Executive Secretary of the American Network for Intervention in Situations of Social Suffering, RAISSS
- 06:45-07:00pm **Closing remarks**
- **To be confirmed.**
- 07:00-08:00 pm **Reception**

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