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INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION

CICAD

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

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FINAL REPORT

I. BACKGROUND

Article 21 of the Statute of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) provides that the Commission shall hold two regular sessions per year: one to address general issues, and the other to address specific technical topics determined by the Commission or other matters that require its special attention. The Statute also provides that the Commission shall hold special sessions whenever it so decides or at the request of a majority of its member states.

Pursuant to Articles 20 and 21 of the Statute, it was decided that the fifty-seventh regular session would be held in Washington, D.C., from April 29th to May 1st, 2015.

The present report provides a summary of the presentations made during the sessions, and includes the reference numbers of specific documents, a list of decisions and a summary of the most important points made by the delegates during the deliberations.

II. MINUTES

1. Opening remarks

Presenters:

a. Héctor Mauricio López Bonilla, Minister of the Interior, Guatemala, Chair of CICAD

As Chair of CICAD, Minister Bonilla delivered opening remarks for the fifty-seventh regular session, greeting and welcoming each of the delegations present and emphasizing the work that would be carried out during the sessions. Chair Lopez Bonilla highlighted the efforts of the Working Group for the new Plan of Action, 2011-2016, and addressed the importance of promoting discussion at the international level, with different ideas, points of view and approaches, allowing the development of balanced and comprehensive drug policies that are based on scientific evidence as well as respectful of human rights.

b. Michael Botticelli, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, United States of America

Mr. Botticelli welcomed all of the delegations, noted the growing consensus with regard to the importance of utilizing a public health approach in drug policies, and the efforts of the United States to address the issue of over use of prison sentences. In this regard, he highlighted the importance of the alternative sentencing initiative for drug-related offenses and indicated that law enforcement should be trained to investigate leaders of criminal organizations, in order to dismantle the criminal structures behind drug trafficking, protect communities and reduce levels of violence (CICAD/doc.2182/15).

c. José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General, OAS

Secretary General Insulza welcomed all of the delegates and thanked the Commission for its work to minimize the negative impacts of drug production, trafficking and use in its member states, as well as CICAD's Executive Secretary for his outstanding work in support of those efforts. In this regard, the Secretary General highlighted the concrete progress made in developing evidence-based policies and public health approaches to drug use, as well as in exploring alternatives to incarceration, congratulating Colombia for its leadership in this particular area. Finally, he stated that under the leadership of Secretary General-elect Luis Almagro, the OAS will continue to work with member states to deepen alliances and strengthen the Hemisphere's capacity to confront the world drug problem (CICAD/doc.2178/15).

2. Adoption of the draft agenda and draft schedule of activities

The Commission adopted the draft agenda (CICAD/doc.2163/15.rev1) and the draft schedule of activities (CICAD/doc.2164/15.rev2) without amendment.

3. Draft CICAD Annual Report 2014 for the forty-fifth session of the OAS General Assembly, June 2015

The Chair of the Commission reported that, having received comments from member states on the draft Report, will present the final draft of CICAD's Annual Report to the General Assembly (CICAD/doc.2166/15.rev3) during the sixth plenary session. With regard to a Resolution for the forty-fifth session of the OAS General Assembly, he reported that, in accordance with the Permanent Council's agreement, new resolutions will not be adopted, only paragraphs that extend previous resolutions. For this reason, it was decided that related negotiations would not be undertaken.

4. Report on Drug Use in the Americas, 2015 (CICAD/OAS)

Presenter: Francisco Cumsille, Coordinator, Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID), CICAD/OAS

Dr. Cumsille made a presentation on the state of drug use in the Americas (CICAD/doc.2179/15), which primarily covered the prevalence of drug use among minors, the relationship between drug use and drug supply control indicators, trends in drug use and new trends and concerns in this area. In addition, he presented the "Report on Drug Use in the Americas" (CICAD/doc.2180/15).

Comments by delegations

Mexico: Highlighted the relevance of the Report presented and the importance of having baseline information in order to address the drug problem from a public health perspective, in order to implement a multilateral approach and coordinate with other countries.

Ecuador: Expressed interest in the analysis carried out regarding heroin as an emerging drug in Latin America and the Caribbean, and proposed the formation of a working group for in-depth study of the issue.

Paraguay: Expressed concern regarding synthetic drugs, and reported that ecstasy laboratories were found in Paraguay.

Barbados: Requested technical assistance from the OID to carry out a new household survey.

Chile: Noted the importance of the Report that was presented as input for the Plan of Action 2016-2020, particularly in the areas of risk perception and drug availability.

Colombia: Supported Ecuador's proposal to create a working group to study the heroin issue, and confirmed that the OID's analysis, particularly with regard to the topic of heroin, was consistent with its own data.

Brazil: Expressed concern regarding the increased use of smokable cocaine in Brazil and reported that the country will carry out a new study on drug use among students in 2015.

Canada: Indicated that the Report on Drug Use in the Americas would be an important source of key information for the development of the Plan of Action 2016-2020, and highlighted the importance of investing in law enforcement, as well as in drug use prevention and treatment to address threats to public safety from organized crime and drug trafficking. In addition, called for comprehensive drug policies and expressed concern regarding the costs related to and scheduling of the working group proposed by Ecuador, within the CICAD work plan.

Panama: Highlighted the importance of addressing the drug issue from a public health perspective.

Costa Rica: Recognized the importance of multilateral work on the drug issue and the need for human rights to be the foundation of public policy. In addition, emphasized the importance of social integration and reintegration, education, recognition of addiction as an illness and alternatives to incarceration.

Argentina: Highlighted the importance of the human rights issue in health. In addition, expressed interest in opening a debate regarding international conventions on drugs.

Suriname: Requested assistance from CICAD to carry out a new household survey.

Uruguay: Emphasized the important role of human rights in public health.

Venezuela: Highlighted the importance of the relationship between risk perception regarding drug use and drug availability, given that this information permits the identification of the causes of drug use.

5. Hemispheric Report of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)

Presenter: Emilia Ramírez Alfaro, Deputy Coordinator, Governmental Expert Group (GEG), Head of the Precursor Control Unit of the Costa Rican Drug Institute (ICD), Costa Rica

Ms. Ramírez made a presentation on the key results of the Draft Hemispheric Report of the MEM Sixth Evaluation Round (CICAD/doc.2177/15). She addressed the overall fulfillment of the recommendations, as well as the principal findings in each of the thematic areas of the Report. In addition, she emphasized member states' confidence in the validity of the Mechanism and considered that these results will guide the development of policies and programs to address the drug problem in the Hemisphere. In conclusion, she presented the draft report for the consideration of the CICAD Representatives (CICAD/doc.2168/15).

Comments by delegations

Canada: Indicated that the Report should be taken into consideration in the development of the new Plan of Action 2016-2020 and that challenges exist that should be addressed in the Seventh Evaluation Round.

Chile: Indicated that the Report demonstrates the results of the previous years' political development and emphasized that, according to the Report, of the total number of recommendations made to the countries, only 41% have been fulfilled, which represents a call to attention to the work to be carried out in the future. In addition, the information provided in the Hemispheric Report will be key in developing the Plan of Action 2016-2020.

Venezuela: Noted the importance of continuing to carry out actions to comply with the Plan of Action 2011-2015, given that the Report demonstrates that only 41% of recommendation have been fulfilled, and therefore, recommended that additional topics not be included in the next Plan of Action, particularly given budgetary restrictions in all countries.

Barbados: Indicated the country's commitment to continue supporting the MEM and working to fulfill the pending recommendations. In this regard, noted some areas where the country is working to improve its drug policies.

Trinidad and Tobago: Expressed concern regarding the incomplete areas, such as the accreditation of treatment centers, and indicated the country's commitment to support the development of the instruments for the MEM Seventh Evaluation Round.

Jamaica: Indicated that the country has complied with the recommendations in nearly all areas and that it is working on those where weaknesses have been found.

Decision of the Commission

The Commissioners approved the Hemispheric Report of the MEM Sixth Evaluation Round (CICAD/doc.2168/15) without modifications.

6. Panel: Reflections on Alternatives to Incarceration

Moderator: Rodrigo Vélez, Executive Secretary, National Council for the Control of Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances (CONSEP), Ecuador

Panelists:

a. Jennifer Goldstone, Head, National Anti-Drug Strategy, Department of Justice, Canada

In her presentation (CICAD/doc.2183/15), Ms. Goldstone explained that Canada is opposed to the decriminalization of drugs, as set out in its National Anti-Drug Strategy, but offers alternatives to incarceration for minor offenses, including Drug Treatment Courts, diversion measures set out in the Youth Criminal Justice Act and restorative justice measures.

b. Adriel Dermont Braithwaite, Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs, Barbados

In his presentation Minister Braithwaite questioned the effectiveness of incarceration, particularly for juveniles, and explained the challenges faced and solutions found in Barbados regarding alternatives to incarceration for drug-related crimes.

c. Arthur G. Wyatt, Chief, Narcotic and Dangerous Drug Section, United States Department of Justice

Mr. Wyatt gave a presentation regarding the United States' "Smart on Crime" initiative, explaining how it functions and its guiding principles and challenges. With regard to its results, he explained that it is still early to present any conclusions, but believes it is possible to reduce incarceration and improve public security through this initiative.

Comments by delegations

Suriname: Asked whether changes should be made based on efficiency or treatment, and if there was an increase in individual treatment along with the decrease in the number of persons incarcerated. In response, the panelists indicated that exact statistics were not available, but recognized the value of treatment in reducing repeat incarceration.

Peru: Noted that allowing judicial discretion is complicated and asked about measures that can be taken to ensure transparency, taking into consideration the lack of trust among the population in environments where there is still a certain level of corruption. In addition, asked about the

existence of studies on treatment in prisons and its effectiveness in reducing repeat incarceration. In response, the panelists explained how the issue of transparency is addressed in the United States and Barbados, and noted the existence of a UNODC study on treatment and repeat incarceration in prisons.

7. Alternatives to Incarceration for Drug-Related Offenses: Presentation of the Technical Report and Next Steps

Presenters:

a. Javier Andrés Flórez Henao, Vice Minister of Criminal Policy and Restorative Justice, Director of Drug Policy and Related Activities, Colombia

Vice Minister Flores made a presentation on the five key strategies presented in the technical Report on Alternatives to Incarceration (CICAD/doc.2170/15), and emphasized the importance of penalties being proportionate to crimes and of making greater efforts to focus public and law enforcement policies at the highest levels of the chain of crime.

b. Rodrigo Uprimny, Legal Technical Coordinator, Working Group on Alternatives to Incarceration

In his presentation, Mr. Uprimny explained the problem of prison overpopulation and the alternatives found through an exhaustive analysis, which were presented in the Technical Report on Alternatives to Incarceration. In addition, he emphasized that the alternatives found in the Report are in accordance with international drug-related conventions and detailed the manner in which the information in the document was organized.

Comments by delegations

Executive Secretariat: Encouraged member states to provide more information in order to expand the database on alternatives to incarceration on the CICAD web page.

Mexico: Expressed interest in presenting the Report in Mexico and indicated that it should be distributed in other countries. In addition, indicated the importance of continuing the discussions on this issue at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the Drug Problem (UNGASS) in 2016.

Paraguay: Explained some of the challenges the country is facing regarding alternatives to incarceration.

Peru: Indicated that the situation in each country is different with regard to the demand for and supply of drugs, and expressed concern regarding prison overpopulation, as well as the possibility that alternatives to incarceration might be used by drug traffickers to obtain impunity.

Chile: Indicated that the mandate of the Working Group does not include addressing drug traffickers and that the Report has not yet been finalized, and therefore, the country is not in agreement with publishing or distributing it in its current state at the UNGASS in 2016.

Venezuela: Indicated that the group exceeded its mandate, given that the evaluation of criminal justice policies is not a topic that should be addressed by CICAD. In addition, emphasized that the Report is not final.

United States: Emphasized that the ultimate goal is not the legalization of drugs, but rather harm reduction. Highlighted the importance of analyzing the programs carried out in the countries to determine why they are or are not successful. Indicated that alternatives to incarceration are important tools, and that the results will surely contribute positively to the global debate being carried out.

Canada: Indicated that, at present, it is more important to focus on the substance of the Report and not to give undue attention to the process of disseminating this report further. Noted that, having recently received the Report, the country did not have time to make comments and could not, therefore, endorse it or discuss further distribution. Expressed concern that the Report supports alternatives to incarceration for drug traffickers, something Canada could not endorse. Additionally, indicated that there is a growing need to evaluate the results of these measures and offered to take part in any discussions on evaluation.

Ecuador: Indicated that efforts should focus on providing options for the most vulnerable populations, and explained how Ecuador addresses the issue of criminal sentencing for drug use.

Brazil: Explained that the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs unanimously approved a resolution encouraging the exploration of alternatives to incarceration. In this regard, the country indicated that the Report clearly presents alternatives found within international drug-related conventions and that the group did not exceed its mandate, emphasizing that nothing contained in the Report is binding.

Trinidad and Tobago: Reported that the country has initiated some actions in the area of alternatives to incarceration and indicated that, in accordance with the principle of proportionality, microtraffickers and traffickers of large quantities should be treated differently.

Colombia: Emphasized the change of focus toward public health that was agreed to in the Antigua, Guatemala Declaration, and indicated the importance of treatment options in prisons. In addition, explained that the current Report presents facts, not opinions, and that the use of this information is the sovereign decision of each country. Finally, stressed that one of the principal objectives of this Report is to address the most vulnerable sector of the population within the drug trafficking chain.

Jamaica: Emphasized that the Report encourages a flexible approach to the problem and focuses on the groups considered most vulnerable. In this regard, the country encouraged the CICAD Commission to continue the dialogue on this topic, and indicated that all of the information

presented in the Report represents recommendations that each country can choose to follow, or not. Finally, supported the work carried out and the recommendations in the Report.

Guatemala: Emphasized the changes and progress made since the Antigua, Guatemala Declaration. Explained that the Report presents that results of the reforms carried out.

Argentina: Expressed agreement with Colombia and concern regarding the criminalization of the most vulnerable populations. Indicated that the Report does not impose anything on countries and does not go beyond what was agreed to in the international conventions.

Executive Secretariat: Explained the process of developing the Report. In addition, explained that the Report does not suggest that traffickers not be penalized or that such persons go unpunished. Emphasized that the principal issue addressed by this Report is the proportionality of prison sentences.

Venezuela: Indicated that the mandate of the Working Group should not be dismissed and that the sections of the report that are not part of that mandate should not be included. In addition, explained that the international conventions already include many of the concepts being presented as new in this discussion.

Chile: Expressed agreement with Venezuela and indicated that these alternatives should only be applicable to persons with drug dependency problems and that extending them to drug traffickers exceeds the mandate of the group. Indicated that the country did not wish to censure the debate, but that it should be carried out within the established frameworks. Finally, reiterated that the country follows a public health and human rights approach to the drug problem.

8. Asset Recovery Networks: the Importance of Adequate Information Exchange Regarding Asset Forfeiture

Presenter: Mauricio Fernández Montalbán, Co-coordinator of the Asset Recovery Network (RRAG) of the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT)

In his presentation (CICAD/doc.2174/15), Dr. Fernandez gave a brief introduction to the characteristics of the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT) and emphasized the importance of asset recovery networks as informal mechanisms for the exchange of information to identify assets of illicit origin. In addition, he addressed the GAFILAT Asset Recovery Network (RRAG) and the benefits achieved since its creation in 2010.

Comments by delegations

United States: Indicated that the RRAG is a valuable tool to facilitate civil and criminal forfeitures in the Hemisphere and referred to the relationship between RRAG and CARIN. In addition, highlighted the importance of the work carried out by the Group of Experts for the Control of Money Laundering (GELAVEX) and reaffirmed the country's interest in supporting

multilateral initiatives in this area. Finally, encouraged countries to join these types of networks and to modernize forfeiture legislation.

Ecuador: Emphasized the importance of the techniques used to prevent money laundering and the need to further international cooperation to combat this crime.

Barbados: Suggested further collaboration between RRAG and the Caribbean countries that are members of GAFIC but not GAFILAT. In response, Dr. Fernandez reiterated the GAFILAT team's willingness to cooperate with agencies like GAFIC.

Paraguay: Emphasized the importance of information exchange between states and commented on the results obtained through cooperation with Chile, Bolivia, Argentina and Brazil.

United States: Announced that the next GELAVEX meeting will address the issue of asset recovery and expressed interest in increasing cooperation, through information exchange networks among the OAS member states.

Barbados: Revealed some of the challenges that make cooperation among Caribbean states difficult and suggested that informal information exchange also be encouraged, in order to obtain better results. In response, Dr. Fernandez emphasized GAFILAT's interest in strengthening cooperation and invited delegations to contact the GAFILAT Technical Secretariat in order to further collaboration.

9. Panel: New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) –A Growing Challenge in the Americas

Moderator: Justice Tettey, Chief, Laboratory and Scientific Section, Research and Trend Analysis Branch, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Mr. Tettey presented a general overview of the global situation regarding the production, trafficking and use of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), explained how the availability of NPSs has increased in the region, and addressed the problems users of these substances have in obtaining adequate treatment, given that, in many cases, they do not know which substance they have actually used.

Panelists:

a. Javier Andrés Flórez Henao, Deputy Minister of Criminal Policy and Restorative Justice (a.i), Director of Drug Policy and Related Activities, Colombia

Mr. Flórez presented a general overview of the NPS situation in Colombia, and explained how the country's early warning system, established in 2013, works to identify trends in emerging drugs (CICAD/doc.2185/15).

b. Julio Cesar Ayala, Minister, Alternate Representative of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the OAS

Mr. Ayala explained the challenges Argentina faces in addressing NPSs and described the activities of the Secretariat for Programming Drug Abuse Prevention and the Fight against Drug Trafficking (SEDRONAR) in this regard, which include an early warning system and a system to restrict the movement of controlled chemical substances, as well as interventions at events where these substances are known to be used (CICAD/doc.2188/15).

Comments by delegations

Canada: Asked about the training front line officers received in NPS. In response, the panel reported that training was recently implemented in Argentina and Colombia, and that in most countries, there is a need to increase awareness of this issue.

Trinidad and Tobago: Indicated that this issue is a major concern for Trinidad and Tobago and other Caribbean countries, and thanked the CICAD Executive Secretariat for providing assistance in making changes to the country's laws and systems in order to control chemical substances.

United States: Explained the difficulties faced by the U.S. regarding the NPS issue and indicated that, given the complexity of the problem, a mix of strategies is needed to effectively address it. In addition, recognized the work of the UNODC and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) in this area.

Chile: Noted the importance of the emerging NPS problem and explained the evolution of this problem in Chile. Highlighted the importance of comprehensive training programs in this area.

Paraguay: Asked about the availability of standards to analyze NPS. In response, the panel reported that standards for various NPS can be found with the UNODC's Scientific and Laboratories Section.

Executive Secretariat: Reported on the results of the International Conference on Precursor Chemicals and New Psychoactive Substances, held April 21-24, 2015 in Bangkok, where a document was developed with suggestions regarding steps to address the challenges presented by NPSs, which is available for all member states.

10. Panel: Use of Evidence in Designing Regulated Systems

Moderator: Vitore André Zílio Maximiano, National Drug Policy Secretariat (SENAD), Brazil

Panelists:

a. Beau Kilmer, Co-Director, RAND Drug Policy Research Center

Mr. Kilmer made a general presentation on the work the RAND Center is doing (CICAD/doc.2189/15) and presented a roadmap regarding the manner in which marijuana could

be regulated, noting the possible implications for drug policy. In addition, he explained the differences between the concepts of decriminalization and legalization, and described regulatory models other than those used by the United States.

b. Augusto Vitale, Institute for Regulation and Control of Cannabis Representing the National Drug Secretariat, Office of the President, Uruguay

Mr. Vitale made a presentation on the design of marijuana regulation mechanisms under Uruguayan law, explaining the background and challenges faced (CICAD/doc.2191/15). In addition, he emphasized the need to carry out more studies in this area, in order to determine the impact of the measures adopted.

c. Manuel Mondragón y Kalb, Commissioner, National Commission against Addictions (CONADIC), Mexico

Mr. Mondragón addressed the changes that have been observed in countries with less restrictive marijuana laws, where the use of the drug has increased. In addition, he noted the importance of protecting children and youth in the face of new marketing strategies and the rise of new types of drugs.

Comments by delegations

Peru: Expressed interest in having scientific evidence in order to analyze new policies and the belief that regulating the marijuana market would lead to a greater use. In addition, asked Uruguay about the challenges faced in the areas of marijuana use prevention and treatment.

Paraguay: Indicated that the country is not in favor of legalization, but is also not against an open dialogue based on scientific evidence. Asked Uruguay about market studies to establish a price for cannabis, consideration of levels of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in the substance offered, and the control of sales to ensure drugs are not acquired by minors.

Canada: Commented regarding the availability of research on food products containing cannabis and the treatment of drivers found to be under the influence of marijuana.

11. Presentation of Results of the Side-Event with Civil Society

Presenter: Raquel Barros, Executive Secretary, American Network for Intervention in Situations of Social Suffering (RAISSS)

Ms. Barros made a presentation regarding the results of the side event, held April 28, 2015, on “Drugs and Development: Prioritizing a Social Integration Approach” (CICAD/doc.2190/15). Among the opportunities identified, Ms. Barros highlighted the current conditions favorable toward a transition from policy focused on adherence and obedience toward a policy of cooperation between civil society actors and the public sector.

12. Training and Certification of Human Resources for the Treatment of Drug Abuse and Dependency: Advances and Challenges

Moderator: Alexandra Hill, Chief, Demand Reduction Section, ES/CICAD

Presentations:

a. Evaluation of the Training and Certification Program for Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation of Drug Abuse and Violence (PROCCER) in Costa Rica and El Salvador - Georgia T. Karuntzos, RTI International, Vice President of the Behavioral Health Research Division

Ms. Karuntzos presented the results of the PROCCER Program evaluation carried out in two Central American countries (CICAD/doc.2186/15) as a hemispheric model for human resources training and certification for treatment and rehabilitation services for person affected by drug use and related violence. Ms. Karuntzos emphasized aspects related to the evaluation model (implementation, costs and results), concluding that PROCCER has been implemented successfully in El Salvador and Costa Rica.

b. Specialized Training for Drug Treatment Providers Working with High Risk Adolescents in the Caribbean - Esther Best, National Drug Council, Trinidad and Tobago

Ms. Best detailed the specialized training program for addressing the problem of adolescents and drug abuse in the Caribbean (CICAD/doc.2187/15). She addressed aspects related to the training curriculum for adolescents as well as the results of the PROCCER Program pilot project. Regarding further recommendations, Ms. Best proposed that specialized training be offered for the benefit of a broader group of persons in the region, that the observations of the participants be incorporated in the training content and methodology, and that two additional modules for the curriculum be developed.

c. Toxic Adulterants Added to Drugs of Abuse and their Implications for Child and Adolescent Drug Use in the Hemisphere - Thomas M. Browne, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), United States Department of State

In his presentation (CICAD/doc.2167/15), Mr. Browne alerted member states to the public health threat posed by drug adulterants, which are expanding to the entire hemisphere and around the world, and addressed the global issues of drug use among children and crack use among street children. Finally, he proposed some initiatives, such as the study of adulterants at the global level, determining the composition of new drugs, the development of instant field tests for new adulterants and a study of the health effects of multiple adulterants.

Comments by delegations

El Salvador: Expressed satisfaction with the results of the PROCCER evaluation in the country and requested that the Program be expanded to other member states, with the experience acquired in El Salvador available to them.

Chile: Indicated that human resources training is basic and fundamental in the demand reduction area and posed a question regarding the mechanism used to randomly select the centers evaluated. In addition, indicated that it would be very beneficial to include elements related to the impact of the Program in the evaluation.

Honduras: Highlighted the importance of combining knowledge with passion in carrying out these types of initiatives.

Costa Rica: Expressed satisfaction with the results of the PROCCER evaluation in the country and indicated that PROCCER is a methodologically sound program.

Barbados: Reported that the country is implementing the PROCCER Program and that it has made an important contribution to the Program's regional training team.

Canada: Posed a question regarding the existence of up-to-date studies on adulterants in the U.S. In response, the panelists explained that the U.S. has warnings regarding the use of Levamisol and that, although studies on adulterants have been carried out in the U.S., it is necessary to do further research in this area.

Mexico: Indicated that one of the keys to PROCCER's success is respect for cultural differences in each country, highlighting that the adaptability of the Program allows it to respond to the particular characteristics of the drug problem in each country. Finally, indicated that Mexico was in agreement with Chile regarding the importance of a more detailed evaluation of the Program's impact.

13. Medical Marijuana: Highs, Hypes and Hopes

Presenter: Ruben Baler, Health Scientist with the Science Policy Branch, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

Mr. Baler made a presentation on the medical uses of cannabis and the negative effects of its use on the brain (CICAD/doc.2176/15).

Comments by delegations

Uruguay: Expressed the belief that the country is on the right path with regard to the decisions it has made on marijuana, and indicated that it is necessary to do further research on the effects of this substance.

Brazil: Indicated that in Brazil, cases have been reported in which families are using cannabinoids to treat epilepsy with positive results, and for this reason, the country is regulating these products so that people have access to them.

Mexico: Indicated that the country is not opposed to the use of cannabinoids for medical purposes, as long as they do not include substances that are considered harmful. In addition, reported that exhaustive research has been done that shows marijuana offers no advantages over other medicines used to treat similar illnesses. In this regard, the country believes it is preferable to regulate marijuana via prescription, rather than making it available for use based on the claim that it has medicinal properties.

14. Hemispheric Drug Strategy Plan of Action 2016-2020

Presenter: Olga María Aguja, Director of Multilateral Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Guatemala

Through the Report of the First Meeting of the Working Group to Prepare the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020 (CICAD/doc.2184/15), the Group's Chair presented the results of the discussions held on April 27 and 28, 2015. As a result of this meeting, the Group agreed that the Plan of Action 2016-2020 will have a structure that is based on the five thematic areas of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy 2010 and will take into consideration the agreement established in the Antigua, Guatemala Declaration "For a Comprehensive Policy against the World Drug Problem in the Americas" (June 2013); the Resolution "Reflections and Guidelines to Formulate and Follow Up on Comprehensive Policies to Address the World Drug Problem in the Americas" (AG/RES.1 XLVI-E/14.rev.1) (September 2014); and other relevant resolutions. In addition, the Chair highlighted the importance of having the opinions and input of civil society and specialized regional organizations, for which online consultations with those agencies will be carried out.

Comments by delegations

Peru: Indicated that it is important that the September meeting focuses primarily on the member states.

Mexico: Offered a voluntary contribution to finance the activities of the Working Group and called for the other delegations to make similar contributions. Additionally, requested the participation and contributions from civil society organizations for the preparation of the Plan of Action 2016-2020, in accordance with the Guatemala Resolution; and requested the incorporation of actions to better address the new dynamics of the world drug problem, and of possible indicators that are more qualitative and not just quantitative.

Nicaragua: Asked whether in-person meetings would be held prior to the September meeting. The Chair explained that this idea was proposed, but there was no consensus, and therefore it was agreed that work would be done online in order to have a solid foundation for the September meeting.

Decision of the Commission

The Commission approved the report of the Working Group to Prepare the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020 (CICAD/doc.2184/15).

15. Reflections on Drug Consumption Decriminalization Policies

Presenters:

a. Brendan Hughes, Principal Scientific Analyst, National Legislation, ELDD Supply Reduction and New Drugs Unit, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)

Mr. Hughes made a presentation on Portugal's drug regulation model (CICAD/doc.2193/15). The presentation centered on a public health focus as the basis for the development of drug policies, describing the reasons these policies were implemented and their results.

b. Milton Romani, Secretary General, National Drugs Board, Uruguay

Mr. Romani presented the Uruguayan model for drug regulation, emphasizing the need to research and implement consistent drug policies that appropriately address the needs and realities of each country.

Comments by delegations

Brazil: Reported that the Portuguese model has been widely discussed among Brazilian legislators and that the country views the transition from a punitive response to an administrative response favorably. In addition, highlighted that judges do not understand the problem of addictions and should be trained.

Canada: Asked whether other regulation models have been found that work adequately. In response, the presenters reported that there is no one specific model that works better than the others, as it depends on the specific circumstances in each country.

Guatemala: Expressed the country's satisfaction with Portuguese drug policy, which is overseen by the Ministry of Health, implying more humane policies. In addition, indicated that time must be allowed for the policies to mature and reach their objectives.

Nicaragua: Asked how judges in Uruguay determine what a "reasonable dose" is. In response, the presenters explained that Uruguayan law considers a reasonable dose to be 70 grams of cannabis or less.

Panama: Indicated that the objectives of current drug policies are not clearly defined and that a review based on scientific evidence should be undertaken in order to find a balanced solution in this area.

16. Prevention of Social Ills as a Means to Address the World Drug Problem

Presenter: Minister Isaac Morales, Assistant General Director for Development Challenges, Foreign Affairs Secretariat, Mexico

Minister Morales made a presentation on the opportunities for international cooperation to reduce the impact of the drug problem among populations with greater social vulnerability. He explained how the concept of social harms has been evolving over time and the actions that have been carried out to address this problem. In addition, Minister Morales explained that exclusion, violence and the weakening of the social fabric caused by the illicit drug market are the most visible social harms, requiring governments to improve their actions through drug policies in the areas of health, justice and development.

Comments by delegations

Uruguay: Recognized the importance of the concepts presented and encouraged consensus on this issue.

Canada: Indicated that 10 countries with the highest degree of inequality in the world are part of this hemisphere and highlighted the importance of aligning the topics addressed by CICAD with the objectives of sustainable development. However, recommended caution in including all topics related to sustainable development in the Plan of Action 2016-2020, as this would broaden its scope and could create difficulties in implementation.

Colombia: Explained how Colombia has implemented the vision of social harm reduction through alternative development. In addition, expressed the belief that it is fundamental to include civil society and other international organizations in this area.

Guatemala: Indicated that violence is a symptom of much more serious problems, such as exclusion and inequality, and that CICAD is the appropriate forum to further debate these issues.

Chile: Recognized that this is a fundamental issue and should be addressed from three perspectives: human development, public health and citizen security. Indicated that the MEM Sixth Round reports demonstrated the existence of various elements that have not been resolved through the public health approach to the drug phenomena, which should be addressed in a coordinated manner by the various entities connected to the topic of development.

17. Panel: Institutional Developments in Social Integration and Drugs in the Americas

Moderator: Sol de Ena de la Cuesta, Psychologist, Associate, Reinsertion Department of the Madrid Addictions Institute - Madrid Health

Ms. De la Cuesta's presentation highlighted social integration as a comprehensive and fundamental issue, but very specific in its approaches as well. She made a presentation regarding the scope of the topic of social integration and reinsertion in Spain at the health, labor, justice and social services levels. Finally, she described the strategic guidelines and programs being promoted in Madrid.

Panelists:

a. Francisca Oblitas, Advisor, Social Integration Section, National Service for Drug and Alcohol Prevention and Rehabilitation (SENDA), Chile

Ms. Oblitas presented the evolution of SENDA's work in the area of social integration over the last 10 years (CICAD/doc.2171/15), explaining the steps taken to design and implement a specific social integration policy for persons with problematic drug use. In addition, she highlighted the importance of the Seminar and Declaration of Valdivia (December 2014), where best practices in the area of social integration were identified.

b. Rosina Tricánico, Coordinator, Department of Social Integration, National Drugs Board (JND), Uruguay

Ms. Tricánico described the conditions of exclusion historically facing Uruguay and their implications for the drug problem (CICAD/doc.2172/15). In addition, she emphasized the guidelines in the country's national drug strategy related to the social integration program, and the characteristics of the model implemented. Ms. Tricánico concluded her presentation by addressing the results of the evaluations of the Uruguayan model for social integration of persons with problematic drug use.

c. Ana María Cortés, Directorate for National and International Cooperation, SEDRONAR, Argentina

Ms. Cortés made a presentation regarding the social policy that has provided the framework for strategies on social inclusion and drugs carried out by SEDRONAR in Argentina, which seeks to create tools for social inclusion of persons affected by or vulnerable to problematic drug use (CICAD/doc.2192/15). In this regard, she indicated that this vision goes beyond a health perspective and focuses on the concept of social health, including the community, setting and family in the process. Finally, Ms. Cortés explained the lessons learned during this process.

Comments by delegations

Paraguay: Gave a summary of the evolution of the treatment system in Paraguay and the needs identified. In addition, expressed interest in maintaining contact with the panelists in order to gain broader knowledge of the intervention models in each country.

Panama: Offered some reflections regarding the challenges of social integration, a complex issue that requires the participation of multiple actors. In addition, highlighted the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) studies allowing profiling of persons in the rehabilitation process, with the support of the immediate family.

United States: Indicated that this debate is an important complement to the topic of social inclusion and that it is necessary to be careful in addressing these issues, as they demonstrate structural problems and the scope from the drug perspective is limited. In addition, reiterated the importance of coordinating policies with other institutions, and that UNGASS maybe be the best framework for further cooperation, with the participation of civil society organizations and governments.

Brazil: Emphasized the importance of incorporating the social integration focus for increased effectiveness in the development of drug policies, and explained how integration efforts are being carried out in Brazil.

Uruguay: Indicated the country's support of the Valdivia Declaration.

Mexico: Presented examples of risk factors that are addressed through social integration strategies.

Chile: Highlighted the importance of incorporating social integration into national strategies, in accordance with the Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its Plan of Action. Also noted the importance of the Valdivia Declaration on social integration and drugs as a policy guide that can be promoted to the countries.

Colombia: Emphasized the importance of making progress in social reconstruction, promoting development in urban areas, particularly neighborhoods where links in the drug trafficking chain are found, as well as alternative development in the countryside. Indicated that reconstruction of the social fabric is only way to comprehensively address the violence that accompanies this phenomenon.

18. Update on the CICAD Smokable Cocaine Project

Presenter: Marya Hynes, Specialist, ES/CICAD

Ms. Hynes made a presentation on the Southern Cone smokable cocaine project, including its objectives and the agreements reached regarding the project's work plan. In addition, she

reported on activities carried out in each country, highlighting the results obtained in each (CICAD/doc.2181/15).

Comments by delegations

Costa Rica: Indicated that Costa Rica has also detected cocaine base paste and that the information obtained through this project is very useful.

Paraguay: Reported that the problem in Paraguay is very complex, as there's no definition of the substances that make up cocaine base paste.

Brazil: Reported that the establishment of guidelines for treatment of drug users is very important for the country, and that the smokable cocaine project helped identify treatment providers in Brazil.

19. Perspectives from the Vice Chair of CICAD

Presenter: Ambassador Juan Federico Jiménez Mayor, Permanent Representative of Peru to the OAS, Peru

Ambassador Jiménez explained the responsibilities and functions of the National Commission for Development and Life without Drugs (DEVIDA) and presented a general overview of Peru's perspective in addressing the drug issue with a balanced and comprehensive approach, as well as the geographic and cultural difficulties that face the country. He indicated that the actions carried out to address the drug problem should be within the framework of established conventions and that there should be balance between control measures and public health. The Ambassador presented the results of crop eradication activities and alternative development programs carried out in Peru, offering member states assistance in establishing best practices in this area. Finally, he announced that the fifty-eighth regular session of CICAD would be held in Lima, Peru in November 2015.

Comments by delegations

Colombia: Agreed with Ambassador Jiménez regarding the importance of alternative development and social inclusion and highlighted the importance of observing different experiences in this area, explaining the positive experiences the Colombia has had with cacao cultivation. In this regard, it is important to explore the possibility of establishing agreements with large companies that use cacao as raw material. Finally, expressed interest in sharing experiences with Peru to establish horizontal cooperation.

Brazil: Indicated that the country has maintained an important dialogue with Peru regarding cooperation in addressing the drug problem and this dialogue should be expanded in order to be more productive.

Costa Rica: Explained that marijuana production exists in remote areas in the country and, as a result, it has not been possible to implement alternative development programs. In this regard, the country requested more information on best practices used to analyze how such programs could be implemented in its territory.

20. 2015 Work Plan

Presenter: Ambassador Paul Simons, Executive Secretary, CICAD

Ambassador Simons presented the CICAD Executive Secretariat's Work Plan for 2015 to the Commission (CICAD/doc.2194/15). Ambassador Simons explained that this presentation is required under objective 7d of the Hemispheric Plan of Action 2011-2015, according to which the Executive Secretariat must present its work plan annually at the spring meeting of the CICAD Commission. The Work Plan was presented to the members of the Commission for their approval, in accordance with the objectives and actions of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its Plan of Action.

Comments by delegations

Canada: Stated that CICAD should not depend on voluntary contributions to carry out the policy development and committed support of activities included in the work plan, which should be financed by the OAS regular fund. In addition, highlighted the importance of increasing the level of cooperation between CICAD and the other areas of the OAS Secretariat for Multidimensional Security and with international organizations, such as the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). In addition, expressed interest in carrying out online consultations to prepare the Plan of Action 2016-2020.

Decision of the Commission

The Commission approved the CICAD Executive Secretariat's Work Plan for 2015 (CICAD/doc.2194/15).

21. Consideration and approval of the Draft CICAD Annual Report 2014

The Chair submitted the Draft CICAD Annual Report 2014 (CICAD/doc.2166/15rev.3). This document was approved by consensus by the Commission.

22. Interventions from Permanent Observers to the OAS, and International, Regional and Civil Society Organizations accredited to the OAS

Spain: Expressed satisfaction with the framework for collaboration established with CICAD and recounted the progress made in the region since the Sixth Summit of the Americas in Cartagena. In addition, described the contributions made through the Spanish Fund for the OAS, the Health and Life for the Americas (SAVIA) project and the cooperative Training Centers in Latin

America, and reported on the activities proposed for 2015 to strengthen the capacity for local management of drug dependency issues and support the organization of important regional meetings. Finally, detailed the experience gained in social reinsertion through Madrid Health.

Italy: Highlighted the importance of CICAD as a point of reference in the evolution of drug policies in the Americas and emphasized Italy's administration of social policies related to drugs as Chair of the European Union. In addition, explained some of the policies implemented in two problematic regions of Italy, emphasizing the importance of basic productive social work, through NGOs, the church, private businesses and other actors.

Russian Federation: Emphasized the importance of CICAD in the field of drug-related research and expressed concern for the challenges posed by new psychotropic drugs. In addition, expressed interest in having more information regarding the work carried out in conjunction with universities and on alternative development projects. Finally, highlighted some law enforcement initiatives Russia has implemented, as well as police force training.

“Intercambios” Civil Society Association: Described progress made regarding the approach to the drug problem in the region, noting a growing emphasis on health and development. Indicated that the changes the region is undergoing should continue to be encouraged, and the next UNGASS meeting in 2016 will provide a unique opportunity to promote the implementation of comprehensive strategies focused on health.

Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA): Described the work and projects WOLA carries out in the region, which focus on persons incarcerated for minor drug-related offenses, generally associated with conditions of poverty, marginalization, and income generation through microtrafficking. Also emphasized the social stigmas created in this process, particularly in the cases of women and mothers. Finally, indicated that WOLA has formed a group of experts to develop a guide for the application of fairer drug policies.

23. Topics, dates and location of the fifty-eighth regular session of CICAD

The Chair reiterated that the fifty-eighth regular session of CICAD will be held in Lima, Peru in November 2015.

24. Closing Remarks

Minister Hector Lopez Bonilla, Chair of CICAD, together with Ambassador Adam Blackwell, OAS Secretary for Multidimensional Security, thanked the member states and closed the fifty-seventh regular session of CICAD.

III. DECISIONS

The Commission took the following decisions:

1. Approval of the Draft CICAD Annual Report 2014 (CICAD/doc.2166/15.rev3) for the forty-fifth OAS General Assembly in June 2015.
2. Approval of the MEM Sixth Round Hemispheric Report (CICAD/doc.2177/15).
3. Approval of the report of the Working Group to Prepare the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020 (CICAD/doc.2184/15).
4. Approval of the CICAD Executive Secretariat's Work Plan for 2015 (CICAD/doc.2194/15).

IV. PARTICIPANTS

1. CICAD Member States

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, the Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.

2. Permanent Observers

Spain, Italy and the Russian Federation.

3. Specialized International and Regional Organizations

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), World Bank, Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS), International Police Organization (INTERPOL), and Inter-American Defense Board (IADB).

4. Civil Society

Intercambios Civil Society Association (Argentina), Open Society Foundation, Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), Center for Legal and Social Studies (CELS) and Dianova International Network.