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**REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE CHAIR  
WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES FOR THE DRAFTING OF THE  
HEMISPHERIC PLAN OF ACTION ON DRUGS 2016-2020**

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Distinguished Commissioners:

The Chair of the Working Group responsible for drafting the Hemispheric Plan of Action 2016-2020 welcomes and has the honor to submit for your consideration and approval the final Draft of said Plan, which was approved in its entirety within the Working Group.

The document presented before you is the result of a year and a half of rich and extensive discussions by the various delegations of the member states through in-person and virtual meetings, which also included key input from civil society organizations and other regional entities.

As you may recall, during the fifty-ninth CICAD regular session held this past April in Washington D.C., the continued activities of this Working Group was approved, based on a work plan that resumed discussions and negotiations on a third draft of the Plan of Action, which was drafted by this Chair, supported by the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security and the CICAD Executive Secretariat, which was disseminated to the delegations in May 2016.

In accordance with the work plan, there were 6 virtual meetings from June to September 2016, leading the way in this form of multilateral negotiation, undertaking discussions in real-time on approximately 40 objectives and 190 actions, corresponding to the five thematic areas of the CICAD Hemispheric Strategy on Drugs. As a result of the virtual meetings, there was an updated draft Plan of Action that served as key input for the third and last in-person Working Group meeting in Washington, D.C., September 26-28, 2016. After in-depth discussions and detailed review of approved texts, at said in-person meeting, all the objectives and actions of the five thematic Areas of the Plan of Action were approved, this included a total of 30 objectives and 129 priority actions that were pending from the previous stage.

However, because of time constraints, the introduction and some other pending items could not be discussed. For this reason, an additional virtual meeting was necessary, which took place October 11-12, 2016, where the document was approved as a whole, and now is submitted for your consideration and approval.

The Chair would like to highlight, among the key areas included in the new Plan of Action of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy, be it as objectives and/or as actions, some that were also approved by the member states in the UNGASS 2016 outcome document, particularly emphasizing: the human rights cross-cutting perspective; gender focus; age and cultural criteria of relevance; social inclusion with a development approach; alternatives to incarceration; sentencing proportionality, complementary to the objectives in the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development; alternative, integral and sustainable development; the availability and access to

internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific use; design and updating of national drug policies and strategies based on evidence; strengthening of investigation, monitoring and evaluation, among others.

Therefore, this new Plan of Action is the first regional drug plan drafted after the agreements reached at UNGASS 2016, and in line with the pioneering agreements also reached at the hemispheric level in the “Declaration of Antigua Guatemala” in June 2013 and the Resolution of Guatemala in September 2014. Our region continues to show unwavering signs of progress in this area at the international level and, towards the 2019 global debate process, the challenge remains in leading by example and supporting with actions these hemispheric initiatives related to the world drug problem. In this regard, CICAD has an important role to fulfill in monitoring the agreements in the UNGASS 2016 outcome document towards 2019, and our country will continue constructively participating and contributing in the corresponding processes and initiatives that are decided and driven within this regional framework.

Also, it is key to highlight, that for the Guatemalan State it has been a great honor to chair – through the Foreign Ministry – the collective efforts of the Working Group throughout this process, to which we reiterate our solid commitment and interest that drug policy reforms continue reaching important achievements under a comprehensive, public health and respecting human rights approach, where individuals are placed at the core of such policies.

As a result of the aforementioned process, the Final Draft of the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020 is presented for your consideration and approval.

Nassau, The Bahamas, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016