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**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION**

CICAD

Secretariat for Multidimensional
Security

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**Address by Ms. Carmen Masias Claux, Executive President,
DEVIDA, Peru, to the Sixtieth Regular Session of CICAD**

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November 2, 2016

- His Excellency Perry Christie, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas;
- The Honorable Bernard Nottage, Minister of National Security of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas;
- Mr. Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the Organization of American States;
- Ms. Angela Crowdy, Assistant Secretary of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission;
- Distinguished commissioners and heads of delegation;
- Esteemed observers and special guests;
- Ladies and gentlemen:

I am honored to address this meeting and to extend to you all the cordial greetings of the Government and people of Peru. I would also like to note my gratitude and appreciation toward each of you, distinguished commissioners, for your contributions and for the support received from your states during the time that my country served as Chair.

It has been a great honor for Peru to serve as Chair and lead CICAD's work during a period marked by discussions and debates on the nature of drugs and drug policy with a view to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the Global Drugs Problem (UNGASS 2016), by the joint

drafting of the 2016-2020 Plan of Action of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy, and by hemispheric engagement to ensure the relevance of CICAD during the restructuring of the OAS General Secretariat.

Ladies and gentlemen:

We are all aware that the global drugs problem is a worldwide challenge that affects our hemisphere as an increasingly complex, dynamic, and multicausal phenomenon — one that poses enormous challenges through its impact on health, citizen security, the environment, and the wellbeing of our people and one that it is increasingly necessary to address through the principle of common and shared responsibility, with a comprehensive, balanced, multidisciplinary, and sustainable approach based on evidence and scientific knowledge and full respect for human rights.

Illegal drug trafficking and its connections with other crossborder crimes — such as illegal logging, trafficking in persons, illegal mining, and others — provide the foundation for that painful reality. In addition to this, there is also another side to the coin: the problem of consumption and the vulnerability of individuals who become dependent on drug abuse. This second aspect leads to suffering for thousands of people —users, their families, and the people around them — and has serious repercussions not only on health but also for human dignity and wellbeing.

For some time, we have been witnessing an unprecedented globalization of the drugs problem. This situation is made worse by the spread of new psychoactive substances, the expansion of crossborder trade

and the new routes it uses, and the harm inflicted on the environment. In light of those circumstances, addressing the global drugs problem demands the unity of all our countries under the principle of common and shared responsibility in order to deal with this scourge, through strengthened organizations and efficient multilateral mechanisms.

Ladies and gentlemen:

The organizational restructuring of the CICAD Executive Secretariat — which began in January of this year under the OAS General Secretariat's Executive Order No. 16-01 and which restricted CICAD functions to the Demand Reduction Section and the Drug Policy Section — triggered a hemispheric dialogue from which we have all emerged strengthened. The comprehensive, balanced, multidisciplinary, and sustainable approach that CICAD has adopted toward the global drugs problem has been endorsed as the way ahead in addressing this problem.

That organizational restructuring of the CICAD Executive Secretariat required Peru, as Chair, to embark on a series of negotiations to reach consensus among the member states in coordination with the OAS Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, so that within the process undertaken by the General Secretariat, CICAD would be equipped with a structure that could strengthen the performance of its duties and respond to the member states' expectations for strengthened human and institutional capacities in their commitment toward addressing the global drugs problem in the Hemisphere.

Thanks to the combined efforts of all the member states, as of last July the Executive Secretariat of CICAD now comprises the Section for Strengthening the Capacity for Drugs Control and Technical Assistance and the Section for Evidence-based Drug Policies: Information, Design, Implementation, Supervision, Evaluation, Data Collection, and Analysis. As a result, we can now celebrate the existence of a renewed Executive Secretariat that can continue supporting the member states in the development of effective policies for dealing with problems created by drugs.

At the same time, I would like to showcase the essential role played by the Hemisphere's countries in the preparations for the UNGASS, together with their leadership in making contributions to the final document adopted on that occasion through the Declaration of Antigua Guatemala and the resolutions of Guatemala City and Asunción, which see human rights as the foundation for our actions and acknowledge the new challenges and realities that exist. UNGASS 2016 represents a major step forward at the global level that must be seen as a starting point for continued progress in a frank and open debate.

I would therefore like to highlight the successful result of the multilateral consensus set down in the final UNGASS 2016 document, which recognizes that this problem remains a common, shared responsibility that has to be tackled in a multilateral way that encourages closer and more effective international cooperation and that demands an integrated, multidisciplinary, balanced, and broad approach, based on the scientific evidence and equipped with mutually reinforcing measures.

Similarly, I would like to extend my recognition to the Working Group which, under the leadership of Guatemala, drafted the 2016-2020 Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs. That document offers an invaluable guide for the continued implementation of the guidelines set forth in the Hemispheric Drug Strategy and the commitments assumed by the states in the Declaration of Antigua Guatemala, the resolution of Guatemala City, and the final document adopted by UNGASS 2016.

In spite of the difficulties encountered during this period, we should be pleased that we were able to maintain our region's leadership role in the discussions to identify more effective and more humane policies for tackling the global drugs problem. All the member states must therefore reiterate their commitment toward continuing to fight this scourge with a comprehensive, balanced, multidisciplinary, and sustainable approach and, above all, with a clear vision of social inclusion that places people at the center of attention in this problem, in strict compliance with the principles of respect for the rule of law, human rights, social inclusion, citizen participation, and environmental sustainability and conservation.

Ladies and gentlemen:

Before concluding this address, I would like to inform the distinguished delegates here this morning that Peru has begun updating its National Anti-Drug Strategy for the 2017-2021 period. That document is being prepared with the participation of all the agencies of the government and civil society, and it is being structured in accordance with the guidelines set down in the

Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, in the Hemispheric Strategy and the 2016-2020 Hemispheric Plan of Action, and in the operational recommendations contained in the final document of UNGASS 2016.

I am certain that our work over the coming days will lead to the continued strengthening of our joint action, since this global scourge cannot be fought without the engagement of other states. All of us here today make up a team. Together, with our respective responsibilities and realities, we fight this global scourge. Together we can meet the emerging challenges that demand determined action and the forging of strategic alliances to strengthen our regional drug agenda. Peru is convinced that hemispheric unity can make a major difference in overcoming those challenges.

Finally, please allow me to congratulate and wish every success to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas as it assumes the Chair of CICAD for this period, and may it be assured of all our support in pursuing the Hemisphere's objectives. In addition, I would like to note my gratitude for the support and generous hospitality extended to us by the people of this beautiful country during this regular session.

Thank you very much.