

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES



INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

cicad

FORTIETH REGULAR SESSION
November 29 – December 1, 2006
Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia

OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.40
CICAD/INF. 4/06
1 December 2006
Original: Portuguese

SPEECH OF GENERAL PAULO ROBERTO YOG DE MIRANDA UCHÔA

CHAIRMAN OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL
COMMISSION (CICAD)

**President' Speech at the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission's
(CICAD)**

**Organization of the American State (OAS)
General Paulo Roberto Yog de Miranda Uchôa**

**Fortieth Regular Session of the CICAD
Santa Cruz de La Sierra, Bolivia, November 30th, 2006**

On behalf of the Brazilian Government, I have the honor to assume the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission's presidency – such important agency of the Organization of the American States (OAS).

The election of which we just participated in, closes the process that was once initiated, in April of 2005, during the Thirty-seventh Regular Session of CICAD, that began in Santo Domingos, Dominican Republic, when Brazil asked for the support of other countries of the hemisphere for the Vice-Presidency candidature. The support seen in that meeting was unmeasurable.

I can recall that, in that occasion, Brazil had already at its disposal a solid institutional structure in the Demand and Supply Drug Reduction, as well as the political commitment with the narcotrafic combat and related activities, being one of the main priorities. We felt the moment in which we would assume an active position, seen the possibility to preside CICAD for our first time.

Today, I have the satisfaction of expressing my sincere recognition of the deposited faith and trust in my Country in order to perform this high responsibility job.

We are fully conscious of what the accepting of this commitment involves, as well as full conviction that we shall direct our efforts in search of stronger bonds integration and cooperation in the interamerican scenario, establishing of the protection of our people against the use and abuse of drugs, and also against narcotrafic.

We believe that the Fortieth Regular Session of CICAD comes in a very special occasion, in which challenges and opportunities make themselves present among the Inter-American community in general and, in particular, in the anti-drug hemispheric agenda.

This is the scenario. We assume this presidency in a moment in which CICAD has so much to commemorate, for so much has already been done. We shall also be aware that much needs to be done.

Yesterday, in the inaugural session event and during CICAD's 20th Birthday "homage", our history was remembered and the main aspects that were brought

upon our attention. It would not be fair, for me, to make yet another comment on the great work done over the past two decades.

It is impossible to escape the notion that Brazil's the 20th country to occupy this seat. During these years, we have constructed a chain of countries with great social, economical, cultural and political diversity that together built a history filled with accomplishments. A history, that is known for the accomplishment of associative responsibilities and for the renewed capacity to interpret the moment and to also foresee the future and analyze new scenarios.

We reach the Presidency filled with past experiences of those that have preceded us and supported by a group of sovereign States with political responsibilities arisen by the drug issue.

This is why we feel most comfortable to ask of You a joint-reflection.

After yesterday "homage" to CICAD, we realize that the Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere has just completed its 10th Birthday. In the other hand, new regional and hemispheric scenarios are being shaped under the influence of global conjectures that involve all countries in our planet.

Our brainstorming shall observe that in the United Nations Committees the Member-States of this Commission are making advances in new analysis phases in the drug phenomenon area. For instance, we fully endorse the 20th Special Session of the General Assembly Declarations, from June of 1998.

I recall, with realism and faith, the classic thinking of the writer and philosopher, John Schaar, in the sense that "The future is not some place we are going to, but one we are creating. The paths are not to be found, but made, and the activities of making them, changes both maker and destination".

Will we, the representatives that seem to be the new generation of a new time, be up to the challenge?

The answer can most definitely be affirmative if we have the courage to look to the unknown, and, without prejudice search, together, for real alternatives to diminish the drug consumption and to intensify combating drug trafficking in the hemisphere. Our actions will be effective and grandiose if we know how to transform the solitary effort in solidarity effort.

It is in this sense that I request the attention of all delegates to the presentation "Ten Years of the Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere and the implementation of its Action Plan: Discussion on its revision", such important theme that the Executive-Secretariat of CICAD shall present, scheduled for the third plenary session tomorrow.

As I have already referred to, we are entering a new generation, we are transforming our Country's relationship to a mature level, strengthening the respect and horizontal cooperation bonds that unites us.

We are challenged daily by the knowledge of new drugs, new consumption manners and primarily for the boldness and globalized actions of the criminal organizations that dedicate themselves to drug trafficking.

In this sense, it is time to think of the future in the same manner in which we thought of it ten years ago.

Strengthening CICAD, this Commission that pointed to us towards the early directions, as well as, the continuance of our hemispheric countries, depending on global conjecture, mostly depends on us, on our capacity to constantly work in partnership and solidarity, amplified in various Cooperation Agreements, conceived on the basis of scenario analysis and each countries reality.

At this time, I would like to congratulate the Colombian Delegation, our neighboring Country, that has just been elected CICAD's Vice President. Hence, I have the absolute confidence that together our work will be of great value to this commission.

To my dear friend Ambassador Mauricio Dorfler Ocampo, of whom I have the honor of receiving this position, my compliments in this year's laborious work and many thanks for his legacy and for his friendship.

As the President, it is my obligation to set the example of a short speech, but not before thanking once more the confidence entrusted in my Country. I am confident that the joint effort that has been made, continuous to make, and certainly will make a difference in the quality of life of our people.

May God shine on our new path that we now initiate in this hospitable and beautiful city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

Thank you very much!