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**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION**

CICAD

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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 regular session, and one to address specific technical topics determined by the Commission or such 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 sixty-fourth regular session of the Commission would be held in Washington, D.C. on November 19-21, 2018.

This report provides a summary of the presentations made during the sessions, including document reference numbers, a list of decisions, and a summary of the most important points raised by the delegations during the deliberations.

II. PROCEEDINGS

1. Opening remarks

Speakers:

a. Guillermo Fonseca Leal, Coordinator of International Affairs, Office of the Attorney General of Mexico, Chair of CICAD

On behalf of the Attorney General of the Republic, Mr. Fonseca welcomed the delegates of the member states. He acknowledged that the drug problem continues to be a challenge, and noted member states' efforts to tackle it. He described the principles on which CICAD has based its activities, and outlined the work that the Executive Secretariat of CICAD had done in 2018 on the basis of those principles. He discussed in particular the activities of the Working Group on Implementation of the Operational Recommendations of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS) of 2016, the discussions with civil society on the development of comprehensive drug policies, the progress made with the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), the training workshops offered to member states, and the activities of CICAD's Expert Groups.

b. Adam E. Namm, Executive Secretary, CICAD (CICAD/doc.2437/18)

Ambassador Namm outlined the progress on the implementation of the operational recommendations of UNGASS 2016 that had been made under Mexico's chairmanship of CICAD. He noted the importance of keeping channels of communication open with member states and with civil society, and of having evidence-based public policies. He explained the work that the CICAD Executive Secretariat had undertaken in 2018, and stressed the importance of monitoring and evaluation as central components of all of the activities carried out. In closing, Ambassador Namm said he greatly appreciated the specific fund contributions, without which the Executive Secretariat would not be able to fulfill its mandates.

c. Farah Urrutia, Secretary for Multidimensional Security, Organization of American States (CICAD/doc.2436/18)

Secretary Urrutia highlighted the milestones emerging from the Western Hemisphere, which have fostered the current political debate around the world drug problem in recent years. She stressed the importance of taking an approach that focuses on public health and human rights and of developing evidence-based policies. She said she believed that citizen security and corruption were topics that should be addressed along with the drug problem, since they are all closely connected.

d. Luis Almagro, Secretary General, Organization of American States (CICAD/doc.2438/18)

The Secretary General of the Organization of American States spoke about the challenges that member states are facing in dealing with the drug problem, and the importance of turning the words of CICAD's Hemispheric Action Plan and the UNGASS 2016 operational recommendations into concrete action. He noted that the changes that have been occurring in member states' drug policies should be analyzed, particularly those that focus on the individual. The Secretary General recounted how the CICAD Executive Secretariat had supported member states in 2018 on various issues such as encouraging dialogue, training, and development of tools for policy-making and production of information, among others. In closing, he stressed the importance of the fight against corruption, given its relationship to the drug problem, organized crime and related offenses.

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

The Commission adopted the draft agenda (CICAD/doc.2408/18 rev.1) and the draft schedule of activities (CICAD/doc.2409/18 rev.1 corr.1) without amendment.

3. Election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission (Articles 22 and 23 of the Statute of CICAD), (CICAD/doc.2411/18)

Pursuant to Articles 22 and 23 of the Statute, the Commission elected Argentina by acclamation to chair CICAD for the period 2018-2019, and the United States to serve as Vice Chair for the same period.

4. Remarks by the new Chair of CICAD

Roberto Moro, Secretary of State for Comprehensive Policies on Drugs of Argentina said it was an honor for Argentina to hold the Chair of CICAD, and thanked the Executive Secretariat, committing his country to continue the excellent work of Mexico as the previous Chair of CICAD. He stated that one of the main objectives would be to develop strategies to strengthen implementation of the commitments made at UNGASS 2016. These strategies should maintain a global vision while being based on the local realities of member states. Human security and the fight against corruption should also be part of the region's goals. He also said that the role of public health was fundamental, as well as being able to obtain clear and precise information so as to be able to measure program impact. He said it was important to make universities part of the region's response in creating prevention and therapeutic models as well as security. The need to continue to move forward in the area of gender equality was, he said, a subject that was still pending, alongside the continuation and enhancement of models of therapeutic justice that are being implemented in member states. He expressed that he considered of great value the exchanges that take place within the CICAD Expert Groups and in bilateral relations among countries. He closed by thanking the member states, particularly Mexico, for having opened the way, and urged that the work be coordinated and carried out jointly, since transnational crime knows no borders.

Comments by delegations

United States: Thanked Mexico for its leadership as Chair of CICAD, and congratulated the delegation of Argentina on taking up its new office as Chair. The delegate said that the United States was looking forward to working together with Argentina, and to support the realization of its objectives during its role as Chair.

5. Report on Drug Use in the Americas 2018 CICAD/OAS

Presenter: Marya Hynes, Acting Chief of the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID), ES/CICAD (CICAD/doc.2435/18)

The Acting Chief of the OID introduced the executive summary of the Report on Drug Use in the Americas 2019, and discussed trends seen at the regional level in the use of tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, cocaine and other substances. The report shows the importance of having updated data in order to assess drug use in each country. She said that one of the principal findings was the importance of having trend data on drug use in order to produce the evidence needed to develop and evaluate public policies. She also noted that it was important to intervene in the onset and early use of drugs. Incorporating a gender perspective into the study showed that there were differences in drug use according to sex. In order to address new challenges, early warning systems should be created or enhanced in the member states and contribute to the development of the new regional early warning system, which is coordinated by the OID.

In closing, she thanked the government of the United States and the national observatories on drugs, without which this report would not have been possible.

Comments by delegations

Argentina: Thanked the OID for its commitment and professionalism, and reaffirmed its commitment to produce evidence-based information. The delegate also mentioned the need to continue to work on standardizing criteria.

Colombia: Said that this report was much needed, showing the importance of the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs and the national drug observatories. The delegate also stated that it is necessary, given the emergence of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), to promote early warning systems, and also to develop innovative measurement methodologies.

Chile: Congratulated the OID on the report, and suggested that some new subjects be included, such as supply control data so as to produce a more comprehensive assessment. Chile expressed its concern over the increase in drug use trends, as shown in the report.

United States: Thanked the OID for having prepared the report, which the United States considered to be of great importance for the hemisphere. The delegate said that it was a critical moment for the United States given the opioid epidemic and methamphetamine and NPS use. The United States stated that action requires regional and global cooperation, and that combatting drug trafficking is a fundamental task.

Haiti: Asked about gaps in information that make it difficult to obtain trends, and what can be done to fill these gaps.

Mexico: Congratulated the OID, and said it was important to have indicators in order to develop and measure drug policies. Mexico offered its cooperation and experience, and urged countries to share their good practices.

Uruguay: Thanked the OID and congratulated it on its work. The delegate of Uruguay pointed to the importance of obtaining data on drug use among young people, and also to include a gender perspective. The delegate said that public policies must always be based on scientific evidence. Like other countries, Uruguay supports the suggestion that data on supply control are needed.

El Salvador: Congratulated the OID, saying that the report gives an overview of drug use in the region. The delegate of El Salvador reaffirmed the need to be aware of the importance of conducting studies to produce evidence, despite their high cost.

Guatemala: Thanked the OID for its technical support, and supported and recognized the need for data on the subject.

The Bahamas: Thanked CICAD and the OID, and spoke to the importance of gathering data and conducting regular measurements.

Ecuador: Reaffirmed the commitment of the government of Ecuador on the drug issue, despite the changes that had occurred recently. The delegate noted the need for reliable information and said that other indicators, such as supply control data, should be incorporated into this type of report, and said that there was a need for more coordination among countries. He requested specialized assistance on some issues that Ecuador's Ministry of Health had begun to address.

Costa Rica: Thanked the OID for its presentation, and said that there was a need to continue to develop and standardize indicators, and to produce information with a gender perspective.

Peru: Thanked the OID for the report, and stressed that this type of report is important for Peru, since it provides information on the national and regional reality of the drug problem, and reaffirmed the recommendation made by other countries that innovative intervention strategies be developed.

6. Report on the results of sub-regional meetings of Caribbean and Latin American Observatories

Presenter: Pernell Clarke, Specialist, Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID), ES/CICAD (CICAD/doc.2422/18)

Mr. Clarke gave a summary of the results of the meetings of the Caribbean and Latin America National Observatories on Drugs held in 2018.

He said that the findings of the household surveys of drug use were presented and discussed during the meeting of the Caribbean National Observatories on Drugs, and the manual of standardized indicators for the national drug information systems in the Caribbean was distributed. The participants also examined the status of the Report on Drug Use in the Americas 2019, and prepared a research agenda for the National Drug Information Systems for the next two years.

The Latin American observatories addressed the implications for drug research of the new regulatory frameworks; identified alternative research methods for studying difficult to access populations; examined the status of indicators on supply reduction for the national drug observatories and identified emerging drug problems in the Americas. The participants also had the opportunity to examine the first draft of the Report on Drug Use in the Americas 2019. They stressed the need for improving capacities in epidemiological research and information systems, and said it was important to highlight supply reduction indicators. They also supported the development of a regional early warning system for the Americas.

Comments by delegations

Argentina (Chair): Said it would be important for the observatories to meet and work together to plan new strategies for studies on difficult to reach populations, as well as indicators in the region.

The Bahamas: Asked for feedback on the use of studies to identify populations to be studied, particularly secondary school students. The presenter responded by referring to Jamaica as an example of good practice in the use of questionnaires for gathering information, identifying populations to be studied, and the use of information systems to detect prevalences, high crime areas, and treatment centers.

Jamaica: Thanked CICAD and the OID in particular for their leadership and for the support they provided to advance the identification of prevalences and trends in Jamaica and in the Caribbean as a whole. The delegate said that in Jamaica success stories do not end with the publication of a national report or questionnaires, but rather, significant efforts are made to convert these reports and evidence into action.

7. Follow-up on UNGASS 2016 and preparations for the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) 2019

Presenters:

a. Esther Best, Manager, National Drug Council, Ministry of National Security, Trinidad and Tobago

Ms. Best provided an overview of the post UNGASS 2016 environment within the Hemisphere, and principally the various drug-related necessities and efforts in Trinidad and Tobago. Among them, the need for preventive and alternative sustainable development, more focus on urban areas, and improving standards of treatment. Also, the country's draft precursor chemicals legislation and partnering with Uruguay in an Early Warning System on New Psychoactive Substances (NPS). Ms. Best emphasized the link between micro-trafficking and related crimes and willingness to collaborate with foreign partners to counter it. In terms of research, the Drug Information Network is a major contributor to analysis and to data collection on NPS. Ms. Best also highlighted the presence of juvenile drug treatment courts in the country, together with a new drug plan which Trinidad and Tobago is drafting taking into account the UNGASS Outcome Document. Additionally, the delegate relayed that Trinidad and Tobago supports keeping the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, and the 2014 United Nations (UN) Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) Joint Ministerial Statement as they currently are, while focusing on implementing UNGASS 2016 operational recommendations through 2029, leading to the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development.

b. Isaac Morales, Deputy Director General for Multidimensional Affairs, General Directorate for the UN, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico

Mr. Morales presented three joint initiatives for consideration and approval: 1) a post-UNGASS 2016 working group meeting prior to the March 2019 Plenary Ministerial Segment of the CND 62nd regular session; 2) holding an event similar to a CICAD session parallel to the deliberations during said Ministerial in Vienna; and 3) creating a document reflecting national and regional priorities to be used during the 2019 CND meeting. A recap of key causes and consequences of the drug problem was outlined, including the new dynamics of trafficking and public health policy. Mr. Morales highlighted the series of post-UNGASS dialogues during 2018 led by the Government of Mexico with the support of CICAD providing for more civil society participation, and brought to the forefront drug-related crosscutting issues. He also stressed the need to note national and regional challenges posed by the illicit

drug market along with any results through regional bodies, such as CICAD, to garner regional support. Mr. Morales raised the importance of taking into account age, gender and human rights in the development of policies. Moreover, he underscored the importance of using the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) as the means for regionally advancing international cooperation and assistance, including post-UNGASS recommendations and the UN Sustainable Goals (SDGs) leading to the 2019 Ministerial Segment.

c. Roberto Moro, Secretary of Comprehensive Policies on Drugs of the Argentine Nation (SEDRONAR), Argentina

Mr. Moro thanked Trinidad and Tobago and Mexico for what was outlined and echoed said remarks with emphasis on some key points, including the following: merit and recognizing more the MEM and its work; working regionally in a collective effort particularly in addressing the human rights issue; countering transnational criminal groups from a non-isolationist stand and having local policies contribute to national policies. Using UNGASS 2016 as a starting point for the region to share progress and remaining challenges in the drug issue. Moreover, he reiterated the need for more awareness of the UNGASS 2016 recommendations through the Hemisphere and having the pertinent mechanism to tackle the world drug problem. Furthermore, Mr. Moro supported Mexico's three proposals and mentioned his willingness to serve as host for said endeavors.

Comments by delegations

Canada: Canada congratulated the Government of Argentina and the United States for taking on the chair and vice chair of CICAD, and thanked the presenters for their insights and the Government of Mexico for hosting UNGASS implementation meeting in early 2018. The representative also pointed out that the region is well underway in implementing the recommendations of the UNGASS Outcome Document and that there is a need for continued momentum towards 2019 in facing the world drug problem. The Canadian representative also relayed that the Outcome Document contains most of what is outlined in the 2009 UN Political Declaration and Plan of Action, as well as in the 2014 UN CND Ministerial Statement, and that it includes new and important commitments to human rights, health, vulnerable populations and NPS. The representative then stated that although all three documents are equally important, the recommendations in the Outcome Document align with the CICAD Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020 which is the framework that the region should adopt beyond 2019.

United States: The United States appreciated the continued discussion on the implementation of UNGASS during CICAD regular sessions. The delegate also reiterated commitment to implement the operational recommendations of the UNGASS Outcome Document, the 2009 UN Political Declaration, the Plan of Action, and the 2014 UN CND Joint Ministerial Statement. There was a call for national action to implement the UNGASS recommendations. In doing so, the United States recognized CICAD's invaluable work to implement the UNGASS recommendations as well as addressing the new drug threats in the Hemisphere, particularly the new realities of the world drug problem that the region is experiencing, such as the misuse of synthetic drugs, NPS, and in exploring more effective ways to address this 21st century threat. The delegate also informed that the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs has a new comprehensive strategy to address the 21st century drug trafficking threat which includes the following five strategic goals: reduce diversion and illicit production of synthetic drugs; strengthen capacity to detect and interdict illicit synthetic drugs in transit; target online sales and financial flows; reduce global demand for drugs; and expand global partnerships. Likewise, the representative acknowledged UNODC's Toolkit initiative to respond to the new realities and Canada's support in this undertaking. The delegate emphasized the importance of standing by the three international drug conventions, the 2009 Political Declaration, the 2014 Ministerial Statement, the UNGASS Outcome Document, as well as the roles of the CND, International Narcotics

Control Board (INCB) and World Health Organization (WHO). Furthermore, in preparation for the 2019 CND, the delegate pointed to the importance of having agreements to ensure efforts are clear and commitment to drug policies, as well as the need for enhanced information sharing.

Chile: The Chilean representative thanked the Government of Argentina as chair and Mexico for previously chairing and highlighting all the work on UNGASS and for spearheading the issue despite varying inter-regional views on addressing the world drug problem. Also, Chile stated its commitment to the key drug international instruments, as well as the newer documents that put at the center the well-being of persons. However, some aspects needing further review such as: a realistic balance drug demand strategies, supply and international cooperation, a crosscutting view of human rights and gender in drug policies, public health and monitoring of new drug trends.

Uruguay: The Uruguayan delegation provided a listing of actions that Uruguay undertook during 2018 in line with the UNGASS operational recommendations. Some of these actions included: penal reform including improving alternatives to incarceration; development of a guide for incarcerated women with CICAD support; seized and forfeited assets; two drug use studies; early warning systems including academia and civil society; increased government presence in urban areas; having 23 health and drug-related training centers; panel of experts convoked as an initiative of the President of Uruguay with medical and science academia to provide recommendations for drug policies; extensive universal prevention program through South-South work with Argentina on best practices on human rights in policies and with Costa Rica on human rights in drug policies. Also, the Uruguayan delegation supports Mexico's three proposals.

Executive Secretariat of CICAD: Ambassador Namm expressed the ES/CICAD stands ready to work with the Chair, Mexico, and the rest of the member states in fulfilling these goals regarding UNGASS.

Argentina (Chair): Expressed the Chair's agreement with the three proposals put forward by Mexico, and the willingness of his country to move forward in this sense.

8. Panel 1: National drug strategies: aligning actions in accordance with international commitments

Moderator: Terrance Fountain, Director, National Anti-Drug Secretariat, Ministry of National Security, The Bahamas

Panelists:

a. Richard H. Glenn, Acting Assistant Deputy Secretary, Bureau of International Narcotics Affairs and Law Enforcement (INL), United States

Mr. Glenn reaffirmed the United States' commitment to continuity of the international treaties to which it is party, indicating that they are the cornerstone of efforts to combat the problems caused by the sale and use of drugs. He said that the United States is deploying a number of strategies supported by President Trump to reduce supply and demand and to provide support for rehabilitation. The U.S. is taking action to deal with the opioid crisis, improve access to treatment services, closely controlling prescription drugs and support research on overdose and the addictions, among other things. He also indicated that the U.S. had invested in prevention programs that focus on reducing risk factors, promoting community activities, control of fentanyl, and a review of the list of drugs with potential for abuse. He closed by saying that the preliminary data on these actions show that the number of deaths had fallen, and stated his country's interest in continuing to learn by means of joint experiences. The United States announced the UN Office

on Drugs and Crime would make available a toolkit of legislative remedies and policy and programmatic best practices to support countries in the fight against illicit synthetic drugs.

b. Juan Francisco Espinosa Palacios, Vice Minister of Criminal Policy and Restorative Justice, Ministry of Justice and Law, Colombia (CICAD/doc.2428/18)

Mr. Espinosa stressed the importance of combatting drug trafficking and organized crime together, since we cannot fight the one without fighting the other. He said that work still needs to be done on issues of public health, alternatives to incarceration, localized approaches, and a response to the topic of money laundering. He discussed the current situation in Colombia, where there are high rates of deforestation due to coca cultivation, an increase in drug use trends, with marijuana being the drug most often used. He emphasized the need to provide treatment and rehabilitation. In terms of supply, he said it was important to control precursors and pre-precursors and prevent diversion of chemicals into the manufacture of drugs, and emphasized that greater efforts are needed on the production issue. He proposed strategies such as taking away drug traffickers' assets and illicit finances, and closed by inviting countries to work together transnationally to address the world drug problem.

c. Guillermo Araya, Director of the Costa Rican Institute on Drugs (ICD), Costa Rica (CICAD/doc.2432/18) - Presentation via videoconference

Mr. Araya discussed the work being done in Costa Rica, particularly legislative reforms to reduce sentences for vulnerable women. It was important to provide proper recovery support services and comprehensive social reintegration where people can develop their life goals, and social inclusion from a human development perspective. He said that Costa Rica is still dealing with significant challenges, and has partnered with Guatemala, Colombia and Mexico in an effort to establish a new paradigm for intervention in four areas: drugs and health, drugs and alternative development, gender approaches, and human rights.

Comments by delegations

Chile: Thanked the presenters for their work, and said that Chile is moving forward with a policy on drug trafficking control. The delegate reported that around 3,500 kilos of drugs had been seized leaving Colombia or Ecuador for European countries.

Brazil: Ratified Brazil's participation in the three drug conventions, which give priority to control of supply and demand, and supported the adoption of evidence-based public policies that deliver results.

Mexico: Congratulated the panelists, and said that Mexico is working with all stakeholders involved in the drug phenomenon, since the country adopts a comprehensive approach to address the diversity that exists between the country's regions. The delegate also stated that Mexico implements a multisectoral perspective, which facilitates knowledge sharing, and indicated that decisions from this meeting will be shared with the new administration.

Honduras: Said it was important to mount a frontal attack on the issue of the handling of chemical precursors, and that Honduras is trying to develop an early warning system, working on different types of intelligence matters. The delegate said that Honduras has had good experiences working with NGOs in prevention, which enabled them to have access to data. The delegate further emphasized that in addressing this problem, resources are important, but the main thing is the desire to do so. The delegate expressed Honduras would share the 2017 report on demand reduction, supply and controlled substances.

Ecuador: Said that Ecuador is party to all of the conventions, and indicated that a participatory process had begun with educational institutions, international organizations and representatives of industry to develop lines of work on which national policy will be based, with various areas of demand and supply reduction, such as social responsibility, scientific evidence and knowledge, communications and documentation, specifically the development of laws and regulations, among other things.

Bolivia: Said that Bolivia has a law on proportionate sentencing that allows for the payment of informants. Strategies to combat drug trafficking include increasing the number of operations, reducing coca growing areas, and enhancing international agreements. The delegate said that Bolivia has developed joint committees with a number of countries, notably Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay, to promote a regionalization of the fight against drug trafficking. It has also developed three memoranda of understanding with UNODC, and has strengthened bilateral agreements.

Colombia: Said that like Costa Rica, the country has been addressing the problem from a gender perspective, helping vulnerable women, such as the so-called “mules”. On the question of drug use, the delegate pointed out that strategies should be directed toward new types of education, as well as education for parents and teachers, to help them prevent and deal with drug use. The delegate also stated it was important to work on the exchange of financial intelligence.

9. Panel 2: The growing threat of micro trafficking in the region: challenges and good practices from the perspective of drug supply reduction

Moderator: Prefect Inspector Leonardo Torres Ramírez, National Director of Counternarcotics and Organized Crime, Investigations Police (PDI), Chile

Panelists:

a. Martín Verrier, Under-Secretary for Drug Trafficking Control, Ministry of Security, Argentina (CICAD/doc.2439/18)

Under-Secretary Verrier explained the important challenges that micro trafficking poses for Argentina, which today represents the most violent face of drug trafficking in the country, and discussed the efforts the country was taking to deal with the problem. These included working in networks and task forces, which, among other things, makes for greater flexibility and interaction between law enforcement agencies, the judiciary and the Public Prosecutor’s Office. He discussed some significant results of these efforts, including the “Safe Neighborhood” program, which is enabling the country to move forward to identify and deal with criminal organizations involved in micro trafficking, reduce homicides, and improve people’s quality of life.

b. Eduardo Palma Fuentes, Chief of Operations Support, O.S. 7 Anti-Drug Department, Carabineros of Chile (CICAD/doc.2429/18)

Mr. Palma said it was important to have appropriate legislation to facilitate the work of dealing with micro trafficking, including, for example, undercover agent and informants. He said that a good practice that had been identified in Chile was the program “School without Drugs,” which is designed to reduce the availability of drugs in areas around schools, as a response to the community’s request for measures to increase security in those areas, and gave examples of the results obtained within the program, such as a recent case that resulted in the dismantling of a criminal organization that was selling illicit psychoactive substances to adolescents.

c. **Tito Yesid Castellanos Tuay, Deputy Director, Counternarcotics Directorate, National Police, Colombia (CICAD/doc.2430/18)**

Colonel Castellanos provided some background on the problem of drug trafficking and explained the strategy to counter micro trafficking of drugs that is currently being implemented in Colombia. He also discussed plans currently being developed such as intervention in and around schools, and the take-over and demolition of buildings being used as drug warehouses. He said that it was important to address micro trafficking by means of initiatives in the community, including visits to schools, families and municipalities, management of controlled deliveries and the work of undercover agents, noting that the success of counternarcotics investigations into this form of trafficking requires significant community support.

Comments by delegations

Canada: Spoke of the challenges Canada is facing given the proliferation of synthetic opioids, including in particular fentanyl and its analogues, and also mentioned the increasing Internet sales of “micro-quantities” of these substances, and the use of the postal system to distribute them to the end user. The delegate noted that although the effects of the opioid crisis have so far been felt mainly in North America, the trend could expand rapidly to other parts of the hemisphere, and therefore she urged all member states to take steps to enable them to have an effective response to this worrisome problem.

Mexico: Said that Mexico’s national public security system regularly organized conferences with public prosecutors on the topic of micro trafficking, and that it had recently been decided to create a database on the issue so that all of the State prosecutors and attorneys general will be able to centralize the information they have and thus make comprehensive and more effective plans for dealing with it.

Brazil: Said that micro trafficking is also a matter of concern to Brazil and that local programs are being conducted to deal with it. The delegate added that the country is looking for good practices and measures, based on the experience of other member states, that can maximize the results obtained thus far, and congratulated Argentina on its “safe neighborhoods” initiative.

United States: Shared data from a successful model implemented by *Community of Anti-Drug Coalitions of America* (CADCA), a non-governmental organization. The delegate said that access to information and technology have given rise to new forms of micro trafficking such as, for example, the Internet sale of synthetic drugs, which are sent in small quantities through the postal service, which means that innovative ways need to be found to provide an effective solution to these new challenges.

Trinidad and Tobago: Said that micro trafficking is a matter of concern both in Trinidad and Tobago and in the Caribbean region as a whole. The delegate expressed interest in the program presented by Chile on control of micro trafficking around schools, and referred to the worrisome increase in gangs in her country and their links to the micro trafficking problem. The delegate said that Trinidad and Tobago was interested in receiving specialized training so that the various law enforcement agencies could enhance their capacity to address micro trafficking of drugs.

Costa Rica: Said that Costa Rica also is making a significant effort to address micro trafficking in the community; they include prevention measures directed at young people, since drug trafficking in schools threatens the students’ health, wellbeing and life. The delegate also said that Costa Rica is interested in participating in technical assistance and training programs on the subject.

Honduras: Discussed a number of problems that Honduras is facing as a result of the use of illicit drugs, including the problem of gangs that are fomenting the issue. While the country has managed to reduce the number of homicides, there remain major challenges in the areas of drug trafficking and related offenses, such as money laundering, which are being addressed by enforcement of existing law, such as the legislation on forfeiture.

Moderator: Closed the discussion by stressing the importance of working in inter-agency networks, and of ongoing training of enforcement agencies to respond to the growing threat of micro trafficking. He also said it was important to have community participation, chiefly in relation to citizens reporting crimes, and stressed that member states needed to have legal tools such as that of undercover agent and informant, as well as the importance of having law enforcement work closely with the Public Prosecutor's Office and the judiciary.

10. Report of the Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking, and election of the Chair 2018-2019

The United States, in its capacity as Chair of the Group, presented the report of the meeting of the Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking (CICAD/doc.2414/18), which was held in Miami, United States in September 2018.

Decisions

The Commission approved the report of the Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking. The Commission also approved the candidacy of The Bahamas to serve as Chair of the Group of Experts for the period 2018-2019.

11. Panel 3: The role of universities in supporting national drug commissions

Moderator: Juan Rafael Sánchez, Executive Secretary, Executive Secretariat of the Commission against Addictions and Drug Trafficking (SECCATID), Guatemala

Mr. Sánchez spoke of the importance of CICAD's University Consortium for the member states of the OAS, and said that the role of academia in the development of nations throughout history has been crucial to progress in different areas of human knowledge. The topic of drug dependence is no exception, and the interest in studying such a complex subject from various viewpoints is illustrated by the formation of the Consortium. CICAD's Consortium of Universities in OAS member states currently has twelve participating universities in a number of countries of Latin America.

Presenters:

a. Kim Johnson, Executive Director of the International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction (ICUDDR) (CICAD/doc.2420/18)

Ms. Johnson said that the ICUDDR currently has 133 members in forty-five countries. One of its principal objectives is to offer universities the possibility of learning from others and sharing knowledge and good practices, planning strategies, and workforce development. Another of its functions is to help develop academic content for a degree course in demand reduction. She said it was important to view addiction as a chronic condition, particularly when developing treatment programs. In closing, she reiterated that one of the Consortium's goals is to encourage transnational research, and support the

treatment of drug use disorders. She thanked CICAD for the work it is doing with universities in the region.

b. Roberto Moro, Secretary of State, Secretariat of Comprehensive Policies on Drugs of the Argentine Nation (SEDRONAR), Argentina (CICAD/doc.2421/18)

Mr. Moro said that SEDRONAR was partnering with nine universities, and expects to continue to increase that number. These universities have developed twenty-three diploma courses in nine provinces, which were well received by the human resources working in substance use treatment and prevention. He noted that SEDRONAR has signed an agreement with the National University of Rosario to conduct field study and surveys, given that it has a strong structure of research and scientific evidence. He said that the focus in prevention is to develop models for primary and secondary schools, and work in conjunction with seventeen universities. This far, they have trained approximately 6,000 people—this initiative is directly related to the recommendations of UNGASS 2016 and the National Plan of Argentina. They will continue to work very closely with CICAD and with the World Health Organization.

Comments by delegations

United States: Stated that there is now scientific backing for the idea that addiction is a chronic, relapsing disease of the brain, and that addiction should be addressed using a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach that meets international standards for treatment. The delegate noted the importance of member states to encourage universities to explore the development of a degree on addictions, since at the moment, only diploma courses are available, or courses within another degree program. Professionalization of human resources in this field is fundamental to achieving the desired objectives. The delegate reported on the meeting that will take place in Cuzco, Peru on July 22-23, 2019, and invited countries to encourage universities to become members of ICUDDR.

Paraguay: Said that Paraguay is participating actively in a process of training in the prevention and treatment of the addictions with four universities. One of the universities implemented a diploma course in treatment, due to the high demand for professionals in the area of substance. The country is working with the academic sector to offer undergraduate and graduate university fellowships to help strengthen this discipline, and thanked CICAD for the links with universities in Paraguay.

Chile: Said that the support for the development of public policies received from the departments of scientific research of universities in Chile is fundamental. The delegate explained her concern over some information that is circulating on the drug issue, since not all of the information meets the same standards of quality and scientific backing.

El Salvador: The delegate highlighted the important role that universities play, and expressed the need for them to work in conjunction with the national drug commissions. The delegate mentioned three successful experiences with universities in El Salvador, including one university that developed a training curriculum at three different levels: a diploma, a technical qualification, and a graduate degree for social and health care workers. In closing, he said that El Salvador was interested in continuing to work to enlist other prestigious universities in the work of drug demand reduction.

Costa Rica: Discussed the Costa Rican National Drug Strategy and Plan, which include cooperation with universities, since their contribution is fundamental. The country currently has more than fifty academic institutions, and has worked with the University of Costa Rica on the training and certification of human resources providing treatment services for people with drug use problems. With the support of CICAD, they have strengthened the effectiveness of treatment programs for people with problem drug use. One of the objectives is to develop a strategy for reaching all generations of students.

12. Report of the Group of Experts on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development, and election of the Chair 2018-2019

Mr. Oscar Santiago Quintos, head of the National Drug Policy Office attached to the Criminal Investigation Agency of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic of Mexico, presented the report of the Group of Experts on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development entitled *Framework for the Expansion of Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development in the Americas* (CICAD/doc.2415/18), and discussed the background, overall framework, objectives and principal conclusions and recommendations made by the Group of Experts.

He discussed how the alternative development approach had evolved and expanded to different areas of action, always maintaining a comprehensive and systemic people-centered view of development and bearing in mind specific local realities, so as to strengthen social capital and innovation, involving and supporting local governments and other institutional and civil society stakeholders.

Comments by delegations

Peru: Expressed the Peruvian delegation's appreciation of the work of the Expert Group, and thanked Mexico for having coordinated it. He said that the topic of alternative development was important and coincides with Peru's National Strategy. Bearing in mind the definitions and principles established by the United Nations, he said it was necessary to continue to work and perfect the Framework document to ensure that it includes specific strategies for each context and link in the chain.

Chile: Said that Chile appreciated the exhaustive work done by the Group of Experts. The delegate commented on the expansion of the concept of alternative development, and said that the basis for it should continue to be the declarations and guiding principles established by the United Nations, centered on crop substitution through rural development strategies where there was still much work to be done. The delegate noted the difficulty of proposing different meanings of the concept in different forums, and therefore asked the Group of Experts to consider these points in the future.

United States: Agreed with what Chile had said about the framework establishing existing definitions and principles, which should serve as guidelines for the Group of Experts.

Mexico: Thanked the Expert Group for its efforts, which had brought development policies down to the regional level, with a very significant advance in the Framework document presented, and very particularly its linkage to the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations Agenda 2030) and to the specific local and urban levels in order to address the structural causes of the drug phenomenon.

Brazil, Honduras, Bolivia and Paraguay addressed the meeting to say that they were in agreement with Peru's proposal that work should continue on the Framework document.

Ecuador: Referred to the proposal that the focus be on preventive alternative development, which is not confined to production areas, and that can cover all of the social vulnerabilities found in different contexts, including supply reduction aspects that go beyond the question of security. He thus supported the ideas and proposal of Mexico, in the sense of expanding the concept of alternative development.

Guatemala: Said that Guatemala maintains an active role in alternative development, incorporating it as a crosscutting element of public policy that goes beyond supply reduction, and creates comprehensive and balanced opportunities for the communities affected. The delegate thanked CICAD for its support.

Presenter: Said that CICAD's Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020 itself incorporates this broader vision in an introduction to the document, and its introduction of the urban perspective, seeking more comprehensive approaches that encompass the multisectoral, multidimensional nature of the drug problem.

Decisions

To leave open and continue working on the *Framework for the Expansion of Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development in the Americas* on the basis of the comments and observations made.

The Commission approved the candidacies of Uruguay (CICAD/doc.2412/18) and Peru to serve as Chair and Vice Chair respectively of the Group of Experts on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development (GEDAIS) for the period 2018-2019.

13. Panel 4: National drug policy implementation at the local/municipal level within the framework of development

Moderator: Diego Olivera, National Drug Secretary, National Drug Board, Uruguay

Panelists:

a. Lidia Saya, Under Secretary for Integral Policies, SEDRONAR, Argentina

SEDRONAR is implementing the Comprehensive Territorial Approach Units (DIAT) model in 63 regional centers to prevent the problematic consumption of psychoactive substances in a single space, strategically located to respond to the local demands of each region, as well as 32 community treatment centers. DIAT works together with community networks, educational institutions and health centers to strengthen its prevention mission. Another initiative is Argentina Prevents, which finances civil society organization prevention projects, such as sports and arts.

b. José Manzur, Secretariat of Mental Health and Addictions, Province of Jujuy, Argentina (CICAD/doc.2441/18)

The Province of Jujuy in northern Argentina has implemented mobile mental health units that complement the work of permanent centers in rural areas where patients have lower access to mental health services. Coordinating federal, provincial and local efforts has resulted in the decrease in the suicide rate and higher patient consultations for mental health services, the highest of which corresponds to drug abuse.

c. Oscar Santiago Quintos, Responsible for the National Office of Drug Policies attached to the Criminal Investigation Agency of the Attorney General's Office, Mexico (CICAD/doc.2426/18)

The local level is ultimately where countries see the results of national plans, as it is the closest level to citizens. The national office of drug policies provides leadership and congruence between Mexico's national priorities and international commitments, as well as providing local governments with strategic information and programmatic follow-up. As resource scarcity is a problem at all levels, local governments have the opportunity to innovate, prioritize, and optimize their human resources. It is important to stress the need to gather data to analyze trends and measure impact of policies. This is strengthened when data collection is coordinated across government levels to avoid duplication and ensure quality across the board.

d. Carlos Paul Valenzuela Astudillo, Delegate of the Ministry of Public Health of Ecuador

Ecuador's National Drug Plan seeks to coordinate the work of at least six government ministries to provide a comprehensive approach to the drug problem. The national government expects that local plans mirror that of the national plan, while at the same time aiming to decentralize specific interventions and strategies. This is done by establishing regional committees for each province, chaired by their governors, to adapt national goals with the realities of each province and aligning the different institutions in the province at the municipal, provincial, and national levels.

e. Eric Siervo, Vice President of International Programs, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America

The mission of CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) is to strengthen the capacity of community coalitions to create and maintain safe, healthy and drug-free communities globally. This is accomplished by providing technical assistance and training, public policy advocacy, media strategies and marketing programs, training and special events. Through its twelve key sectors approach, the CADCA model leverages resources already present in local communities, including their understanding of the problem, with national priorities to develop and implement drug plans and strategies.

Comments by delegations

Guatemala: Guatemala is getting ready to implement its national drug plan, which includes fostering community coalitions as a way to promote bottom up initiatives. Guatemala currently has at least three active community coalitions that need to be strengthened and receive further training to ensure their sustainability.

14. Panel 5: Looking ahead: Perspectives of civil society by 2019

Moderator: Lisa Sánchez, *México Unido Contra la Delincuencia* (MUDC), Mexico

Panelists:

**a. Ann Fordham, International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), United Kingdom
(CICAD/doc.2427/18)**

Ms. Fordham gave an overview of the “shadow report” that the IDPC had prepared, and of progress made since 2009 in relation to the adoption of the Political Declaration, and civil society’s contribution to the global drug policy. The report also makes recommendations on the next ten years of drug policy, focusing on implementation of UNGASS and the Sustainable Development Goals. She also discussed the changes that have occurred in the drug market, such as the development of new substances, new patterns of use, and new trafficking routes.

b. David Murray, Co-Director of the Policy Research Center on Drug Use of the Hudson Institute, United States

Mr. Murray’s presentation focused on enhancement of institutional drug treatment programs and the new strategies, evaluations and plans that it is hoped to create in order to have a greater impact on the people needing treatment. He stressed that there was a lack of proper scientific evidence, and said that it was a problem when new drug policies were developed that permit greater regulation and decriminalization,

losing sight of the efforts devoted to the health and the human side of the people affected in order to really attack the problem of the addictions at its roots.

c. Tania Ramirez, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC) (CICAD/doc.2425/18)

Ms. Ramirez made a presentation on the progress, research and work being conducted by the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNOGC) throughout the hemisphere. She discussed the structured and balanced participation of civil society in UNGASS 2016, and said that they had been a major factor in bringing about progress and results on specific topics such as prevention, treatment, alternative development and criminal justice. She highlighted the results achieved from the broad-based consultation at UNGASS 2016, where there was recognition of the important role played by civil society and the need for it to exercise a role of participation in the formulation and implementation of drug policies. She said that civil society remains involved and committed, and that civil society interventions have to some extent been able to guide and inform drug policies, giving them a grounding in reality, and discussing policy from different personal, community and professional perspectives and experiences from different points in the hemisphere.

d. John Walsh, Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)

Mr. Walsh gave an overview of the challenges being faced in regulating the drug market, bearing in mind that the hemisphere is in the vanguard in regulating drugs, particularly marijuana. He discussed the reforms taking place in various countries in an effort to find better alternatives. However, in order for them to be sustainable over time, these reforms must achieve their goals. He looked at the three main risks: monitoring and flexibility, justice and inclusion, and compliance with the international drug treaties and international law, and said that at the same time, these risks offer opportunities by modernizing the framework for discussion of drug policies, of how the new reforms connect with broader trends in society, and of how the drug control treaties can be understood in the context of the State's broader obligations, particularly human rights.

e. Cyndee Clay, Executive Director, Helping Individual People Survive (HIPS) (CICAD/doc.2434/18)

Ms. Clay reaffirmed the commitment of HIPS to implement programs to reduce the heavy use of synthetic and non-synthetic drugs, focusing chiefly on improving the area of public health, security and rights of drug using persons. She said that the United States is facing a crisis caused by excessive drug use, that is, an epidemic of drug-related deaths that had increased between 2014 and 2018 to what is now 160 deaths per day. She said that her organization has been working to create a response group that specializes in compliance with the law, harm reduction, public health, and all matters related to drug addiction. She heavily emphasized the need to educate users and show them the different factors that can lead to overdose, which can be the main trigger in beginning a rehabilitation process. The basic goal of HIPS is to keep people alive so that they can be given care and can receive the treatment they need to deal with their principal problem, which is drugs.

Comments by delegations

Mexico: Applauded the quality of the presentations, and the effort to include civil society in the agenda of the CICAD meeting, and said that his country appreciated the important contributions, perspectives and experiences brought by civil society.

Canada: Said that Canada welcomes the inclusion of different voices in the development of drug policies, including civil society and drug users, and said that it was important to reduce the stigma associated with problem drug use.

Uruguay: Said that inclusion of civil society in CICAD's agenda is a practice that should continue.

15. Panel 6: Gender perspective in the design and implementation of drug policies and programs

Moderator: Jennifer Loten, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Canada to the OAS

Panelists:

a. Roberto Moro, Secretary of State, Secretariat of Comprehensive Policies on Drugs of the Argentine Nation (SEDRONAR), Argentina (CICAD/doc.2431/18)

Secretary Roberto Moro made a presentation on a study that had been conducted on drug use at the Federal level in Argentina, in which data were broken down by gender. It showed that use of tobacco and alcohol among women is on the rise, as is also the case with marijuana and cocaine, chiefly among the population aged 12 to 17. He went on to say that in light of this study, the government had formed an inter-agency group to develop gender-focused public policies. He also said that SEDRONAR had conducted training events with the National Institute on Women, and has begun to create specific programs for transgender people and for pregnant women as some of the measures they are taking to enhance policies on gender equality in the country.

b. María Cristina Barrios, Colonel of the Army (R), Colombia (CICAD/doc.2446/18)

Colonel Barrios reported on the efforts being made by the defense sector in Colombia (Army, Navy, Air Force and National Police) to promote gender equity in those institutions, saying that women often bring specific skills and strengths to anti-narcotics intelligence operations. These initiatives included the Office on Gender, which the Army created in 2016 in order to promote the inclusion of a crosscutting gender approach. She added that these measures are in accordance with the decisions of UNGASS 2016, and stressed the difference between merely including women in these institutions, and recognizing them as equals. It was not simply a question of meeting a quota or promoting an agenda, but rather of dealing with drug trafficking more effectively by retaining the best talent, promoting equal opportunities, and having zero tolerance for violence or discrimination against women, and developing and strengthen an inclusive institutional structure.

c. Uki Atkinson, Research Analyst, National Council on Drug Abuse, Jamaica (CICAD/doc.2443/18)

Ms. Atkinson began by mentioning a study that will be conducted with CICAD support in four member states, in an effort to determine the number of women, men and LGBTI people arrested for drug-related crimes. It would study offenses such as micro trafficking, theft and robbery, destruction of property, and domestic violence. The findings of the study will be used to develop and apply guidelines on good practices for incorporating a gender perspective into alternatives to incarceration. The data will also be very useful in addressing circumstances related to the economic vulnerabilities of perpetrators, social marginalization, pregnancy-related issues, and other issues that affect primarily the members of the LGBTI community. Ms. Atkinson noted that Jamaica currently has seven drug treatment courts (five for adults and two for juveniles), and that the study will be very important in evaluating the outcomes of

these courts, and continuing to develop national gender-focused policies that can produce results in the effort to counter the world drug problem.

Comments by delegations

Chile: indicated that a national workshop to strengthen gender equity in agencies responsible for combatting drug trafficking was held recently in Santiago, Chile, organized by CICAD as part of the Inter-American Program for Strengthening Gender Equality in Counter-Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (GENLEA). The delegate of Chile said that the workshop had been very successful in that it enabled participants to identify good practices and measures that can improve the fight against drug trafficking by incorporating a gender component in control agencies. He underlined his country's commitment to working towards greater gender equity and applauded the efforts that CICAD is making in this direction, which have been very helpful in enabling Chile to move forward with its commitment.

Costa Rica: Said that Costa Rica has a long tradition of democracy, and thus, gender as a crosscutting issue is one of the country's basic policies. The delegate underscored the work of GENLEA in strengthening gender equality and improving the fight against drug trafficking. Additionally, the delegate recognized that since women are participating more and more in criminal organizations, it is becoming essential to link them to law enforcement institutions.

Canada: Stressed the importance of producing data broken down by sex, so as to understand current trends and optimize the effectiveness of interventions conducted in the framework of the world drug problem. She said that Canada operates policies on alternatives to incarceration that have a gender component, which is crucial to all of the projects that Canada finances, including the implementation of gender programs in law enforcement agencies to improve the effectiveness of those agencies' work. Canada welcomed the results of the GENLEA Program, and was interested in continuing to support the next phase of the program.

Mexico: Said that one of the most important contributions of UNGASS 2016 was the consensus on the importance of incorporating a gender approach into drug policies. The delegate said that data must be broken down by gender, in order to understand the realities of each region and territory, and added that judges and prosecutors should be trained to ensure that a gender approach is taken into consideration in the justice system.

United States: Said that the United States is working closely with women, and particularly mothers involved in minor drug-related crimes, to develop programs that can provide them with treatment without separating them from their children. The delegate added that a gender perspective is being incorporated into treatment for women and girls involved in narcotics use. The United States offered to share its experiences and know-how with all member states interested in the topic. The delegate stressed the importance of alternatives to incarceration, given that such programs protect public safety and minimize the negative effects of prison.

Trinidad and Tobago: Said Trinidad and Tobago was looking forward with interest to the study that Jamaica is conducting, and indicated that the country is in the process of developing a new national drug policy, and wants to include gender as a separate component. The delegate asked Secretary Moro whether Argentina has a specific budget for policies that include drugs and gender.

The Bahamas: Mentioned that The Bahamas was interested in participating in CICAD's programs on gender mainstreaming, particularly GENLEA.

Uki Atkinson: Said that the international community advocates to include a gender perspective in all of its policies, and that Jamaica is advancing toward that goal. She added that partnerships between governments and civil society organizations were an important factor in this process.

Maria Cristina Barrios: Following the delegates' remarks, she commented that inclusion of gender in Colombia is reflected in its public policies. The panelist highlighted the importance of these policies be turned into concrete actions, and that it is therefore necessary to develop indicators and continually assess these policies. Colonel Barrios said it was important to set up a governing body for this strategy, such as the Office on Gender of the Colombian Army, which would organize and gather data on the subject and monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the gender equality measures in drug policy.

Argentina (Chair): Said that work needs to be done on indicators and the sources of information need to be strengthened. Replying to the question from Trinidad and Tobago, he said that gender equality should indeed appear in a national drug policy as an independent or separate item, so as to give it the importance it deserves, and underlined that given that drug and gender policies are a priority for his government, they receive a significant budgetary allocation.

Moderator/Canada: Finally, Ambassador Loten mentioned that in 2019, CICAD will organize the First Regional Conference of GENLEA, and urged the countries to identify those national policies that could be considered as good practices and share them with the hemisphere at that time. Ambassador Loten also noted that it was important that gender mainstreaming be understood not only as a human rights issue but also as a factor that helps the governments' anti-narcotics agencies become better and more effective.

16. Panel 7: Access to prevention, treatment, and HIV care services for drug users in the Americas: Recent experiences

Moderator: Carola Lew, Director of International Relations, SEDRONAR, Argentina

Panelists:

a. Nara Araujo, Ministry of Health of Brazil (pre-recorded video presentation)

In her video presentation, Ms. Araujo explained the different actions that the government of Brazil is currently taking to detect, prevent and treat sexually transmitted diseases. She also discussed the status of people who use drugs and are living with HIV in Brazil, noting the attention paid to the most vulnerable groups, known as "key priority" populations. Brazil is dealing with important challenges such as how to reduce stigma and discrimination against people who use drugs; strengthen structural interventions (creation of jobs and income, housing, education, legal framework, and so on); create alternatives to incarceration for people who use drugs; include those who use drugs in the development, implementation and evaluation of public policies; improve partnerships between sectors, and encourage field work, dissemination, and peer education. In an effort to deal with this situation, Brazil has developed a combined prevention model based on an intersectoral agenda and enhanced through many partnerships, with particular emphasis on relations with nongovernmental organizations.

b. Pedro Mateu-Gelabert, National Development and Research Institutes, USA (CICAD/doc.2445/18)

Dr. Mateu-Gelabert discussed the risk of HIV among people who inject drugs (PWID), and said that as part of the harm reduction approach to preventing HIV and providing care to people who inject drugs, needle exchange programs and opioid substitution therapy are evidence-based interventions supported by the World Health Organization (WHO). On the other hand, the criminalization of drug use, and the stigma

and discrimination against persons who inject drugs are contributing to the current epidemic of HIV. Harm reduction programs are not available in many countries of the Americas or are extremely limited. HIV infection rates continue to climb among those who inject drugs in many low and middle-income countries. The program called '*Atención VIH (A! VIH)*' is an integrated strategy of Seek, Test, Treat and Retain (STTR) to reach people who inject drugs and who are living with HIV, that seeks to involve and retain this population in comprehensive HIV treatment and methadone maintenance treatment (MMT). It also offers a unique opportunity to halt and potentially reverse a growing HIV epidemic in a highly vulnerable population.

c. Diego Olivera, National Secretary Drugs, National Board of Drugs, Uruguay (CICAD/doc.2444/18)

Secretary Olivera presented the findings of two studies on cocaine base paste in Uruguay that used a quantitative and ethnographic approach. Utilizing a response driven sampling (RDS) methodology, the researchers were able to collect information on 373 cases (users of cocaine base paste, crack or another form of smokable cocaine who had used for at least 25 days during the six months prior to the survey, and/or individuals who had injected any of those substances at least once in the same period, residents of Montevideo and the Metropolitan Area). The conclusions showed that in the population studied, there was a more significant proportion of males, socially isolated in the urban environment. A substantial percentage lived on the streets. More than half had not completed secondary school, had no access to public services, and suffered stigma and social fear. In the sample of the population studies, the prevalence of people living with HIV was twenty times higher than in the general population.

Comments by delegations

Argentina: Congratulated the panelists on their excellent presentations, and asked whether information was available on the population groups studied in Uruguay on the pattern of use between cocaine and coca paste.

Canada: Thanked the panelists for their presentations, and said that harm reduction initiatives are a priority for the Canadian government as an integral part of its new drug strategy launched in 2016, which is comprehensive and evidence-based. Evidence has shown that harm reduction strategies help to mitigate the adverse consequences of drug use. This is seen clearly in the situation with opiate use in Canada, where the response has been supervised injection rooms, which help to prevent death from overdose. Work is also going forward to increase access to treatment services and to reduce stigma. The Canadian delegate asked the speaker from Uruguay about measures they were taking to reduce stigma.

United States: The delegate highlighted that supporting prevention, treatment and recovery is a critical component of the U.S. strategy to counter the world drug problem, with a solid component of drug demand reduction both nationally and internationally. By means of different initiatives and programs, the United States is profoundly committed to continuing to expand non-discriminatory access by key populations to quality HIV prevention and treatment services, which are saving lives in clinics and communities. These initiatives have also supported medically assisted treatment (MAT) in many countries. The U.S. National Institutes of Health are supporting research into new integrated interventions to improve the treatment of HIV and substance use. Recent studies have shown that evidence-based interventions can improve health, and, by removing barriers to entering and remaining in treatment, can greatly improve HIV suppression.

Chile: Thanked the presenters, and said how important it was to include this topic in the training programs on the treatment of people who use drugs. Although injecting drug use is still new in Chile,

there are other risk factors, particular for sex workers. It is necessary to continue to work on the prevention and treatment efforts already being made.

17. Report of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction and election of the Chair 2018-2019

Presenter: The government of Chile, in its capacity as Chair of the Expert Group, presented the report of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction (CICAD/doc.2418/18). The Chair of the Expert Group also presented a video on the status of products being developed within the framework of the group.

Comments by delegations

Chile: Presented the candidacy of his country to continue as Chair of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction for another year, for the period 2018-2019.

Costa Rica: Proposed Colombia as Vice Chair of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction.

Decisions

The Commission approved the report of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction. The Commission also approved the candidacies of Chile and Colombia to serve as Chair and Vice Chair respectively of the Group of Experts for the period 2018-2019.

18. Report of the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products, and election of the Chair 2018-2019

The delegate of Argentina, as Chair of CICAD, presented the report on the 2018 meeting of the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products, which was held in Panama City, Panama in May 2018.

Comments by delegations

Mexico: Announced that Mexico would circulate, via the Executive Secretariat of CICAD, a draft “Handbook on good practices in the control of unregulated chemical precursors, essential chemicals and chemical substances that may be used in illicit drug manufacturing,” which was prepared by the National Drug Policy Office, attached to the Criminal Investigation Agency of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, so that it could be considered by the Group of Experts.

Argentina: Expressed the country’s interest in serving as Chair of the Expert Group for the period 2018-2019.

Uruguay: Supported the candidacy of Argentina.

Decisions

The Commission approved the report of the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products. The Commission also approved the candidacy of Argentina to serve as Chair of the Group of Experts for the period 2018-2019.

19. Report of the Group of Experts on Money Laundering Control, and election of the Chair 2019-2020

Bolivia, in its capacity as chair of the Group on Experts on Money Laundering Control (GELAVEX) presented the report of the XLV meeting of the Group of Experts on Money Laundering Control (GELAVEX) and its working groups (CICAD/doc.2416/18), which took place in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia in October 2018.

Decisions

The Commission approved the report of the Group of Experts on Money Laundering Control (GELAVEX) for the period 2017-2018, the work plan 2018-2019, and the Group's recommendations to CICAD. The Commission also approved the candidacies of Colombia and Panama to serve as Chair and Vice Chair respectively of GELAVEX for the period 2018-2019.

20. Report of the Governmental Expert Group (GEG) of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) – seventh round

Presenter: Steve Millington, Manager, Ministry of Health and the Environment, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, General Coordinator of the GEG (CICAD/doc.2419/18)

Mr. Millington presented an overview of the work of the Governmental Expert Group (GEG) of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) to draft the national reports for the seventh round of evaluation (CICAD/doc.2419/18). He discussed the GEG's meeting held in June 2018 in Antigua, Guatemala, to organize a drafting schedule, exchange best practices, establish initial guidelines, and divide the experts into five thematic groups. Mr. Millington reported on the GEG's virtual thematic meetings which took place in July and August of 2018, culminating in the Plenary Session in Washington, D.C., in September 2018, to review first drafts of national evaluation reports, update guidelines, and make decisions on the content to be included. He highlighted that the MEM is an important instrument for monitoring drug policies and it was important to be able to rely on governmental experts with the appropriate qualifications for the next stage of the evaluation process in the seventh evaluation round. He announced that the GEG aims to present 33 national reports at CICAD 65, and the hemispheric report at CICAD 66, both in 2019.

Decisions

The Commission adopted the report of the General Coordinator of the GEG (CICAD/doc.2419/18).

21. Interventions by Permanent Observers to the OAS and international, regional and civil society organizations accredited to the OAS

Russian Federation: The Permanent Observer from Russia underscored the importance of the sixty-fourth regular session of CICAD, which is being held on the eve of the 62nd Session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), which will conduct a comprehensive examination of the international community's strategic line in the fight against drugs. He reported that the Russian Federation's policy is focused on the transition to a drug-free world, and in this regard, will continue to advocate that no change be made in the three main international drug control conventions of the United Nations, which are the basis of the international drug control system and are models for anti-narcotics cooperation. He said his country was opposed to any revision of the international legal instruments in

force to counter drug trafficking. He also stated his country's serious concern over the recently adopted policy of one of the CICAD member states to legalize the recreational use of cannabis. He reiterated that his country stands ready to cooperate closely with its partners in the western hemisphere, and hopes to enjoy close and fruitful cooperation with CICAD countries to draft resolutions focusing on implementation of the Outcome Document of UNGASS 2016 and CICAD's Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020.

Spain: Acknowledged the valiant effort that the OAS and its member states are making to confront the complex problem of drugs in the hemisphere, and noted that Spain has supported CICAD and the OAS for more than twenty years in the development of the Hemispheric Strategy on Drugs by supporting a variety of projects, programs, program funds, strategies and cooperation mechanisms. He underscored Spain's commitment as an active collaborator of the ES/CICAD in its initiatives and projects to address the drug problem in the Americas.

DIANOVA International (Civil Society): Thanked the Commission for time in which to discuss some of the topics addressed over the last three days from the point of view of civil society. Also thanked the countries for listening and for acknowledging civil society as an essential element in providing qualified drug treatment, and also as a tool for gaining a better understanding of the reality of people affected by drugs in order to be able to take decisions and set drug policies that are more effective. She was gratified by the effort to advance further in the region on the concept and activities of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development, and was pleased to participate in the dialogue with civil society that was being held in the context of the CICAD meeting. She noted the desire of civil society to have more joint panels between civil society and the member states in order to continue to advance cooperation among them. In closing, she shared some of the challenges, opportunities and recommendations on the topic of a gender approach to treatment, based on experiences in Chile and in Uruguay.

Canada: requested the floor to respond to some of the comments made, and to present the reasons for the approval of Canada's new domestic framework for the legalization and regulation of cannabis that came into force on October 17, 2018. The delegate also reiterated Canada's commitment to work with CICAD's partners to advance the objectives of the international drug control framework of promoting the health and welfare of their citizens, including through the exchange of information on new and emerging drug threats, sharing expertise to mitigate the harms of problematic substance use, and supporting capacity building to combat drug trafficking.

Uruguay: Said that Uruguay welcomed the remarks by Canada, and said that his country would follow with great interest and attention the results that Canada is seeking with its valuable alternative approach to cannabis policy. He said that he hoped that in future sessions of CICAD there would be formal opportunities to share this vision to mitigate many of the harms produced by the "preventionist" approach, in particular the regulation of the cannabis market.

22. Topics, dates and place of the sixty-fifth regular session of CICAD

The Chair proposed that the next regular session of CICAD be held in the last week of April 2019 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He then asked member states to present the topics they wished to propose for the next regular session of the Commission.

Comments by delegations

Chile: Proposed the following topics as suggestions for discussion during upcoming regular sessions of CICAD: trafficking of drugs at sea in containers; structures of criminal organizations involved in micro trafficking; drug trafficking and the use of information technology (social media and use of WhatsApp); development of local initiatives, and scientific evidences on the therapeutic use of cannabinoids.

United States: Since the next regular session of CICAD will take place shortly after the United Nations meeting on drugs, the United States suggest that the Commission continue to address regional efforts to implement the operational recommendations of UNGASS. She also proposed that CICAD address changes in drug trafficking patterns with innovative responses to emerging trends in the region. The United States also acknowledged the work done by the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products and urged the CICAD Commissioners to take advantage of this initiative to continue to discuss the challenges associated with the handling and prevention of the diversion of these chemical precursors throughout the hemisphere, and promote cooperation with international suppliers.

Decisions

The Commission approved holding the sixty-fifth regular session of CICAD in Buenos Aires, Argentina in the last week of April 2019.

23. Closing session

The Chair of CICAD thanked the Executive Secretariat of CICAD, the Permanent Mission of Argentina and Mexico as the former Chair, and the countries present for their participation. He said it was important to continue to evaluate UNGASS and to implement its recommendations. The Chair added that there was a need to go further with work based on scientific evidence, and therefore improve and share the information available. He proposed developing a guide to good practices in information gathering. He also said that it would be important to explore local public policies in order to enhance drug policy since local policies are adapted to the realities of each location and may last over time (independently of the politicians of the moment. He also proposed further examination of alternatives to incarceration and gender-based policies. In closing, he said it would be useful if the countries could also share efforts that had not been successful, as lessons learned for other countries.

II. DECISIONS

The Commission took the following decisions:

1. The Commission adopted the draft agenda (CICAD/doc.2408/18 rev.1) and the draft schedule of activities (CICAD/doc.2409/18 rev.1 corr.1) without amendment.
2. Pursuant to Articles 22 and 23 of the Statute, the Commission elected Argentina by acclamation to chair CICAD for the period 2018-2019, and the United States to serve as Vice Chair for the same period.
3. The Commission approved the report of the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products. The Commission also approved the candidacy of Argentina to serve as Chair the Group of Experts for the period 2018-2019.
4. The Commission approved the report of the Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking. The Commission also approved the candidacy of The Bahamas to serve as Chair of the Group of Experts for the period 2018-2019.
5. The Commission approved the report of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction. The Commission also approved the candidacies of Chile and Colombia to serve as Chair and Vice Chair respectively of the Group of Experts for the period 2018-2019.
6. To leave open and continue working on the *Framework for the Expansion of Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development in the Americas* on the basis of the comments and observations made by member states. The Commission also approved the candidacies of Uruguay and Peru to serve as Chair and Vice Chair respectively of the Group of Experts on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development (GEDAIS) for the period 2018-2019.
7. The Commission approved the report of the Group of Experts on Money Laundering Control (GELAVEX) for the period 2017-2018, the work plan 2018-2019, and the Group's recommendations to CICAD. The Commission also approved the candidacies of Colombia and Panama to serve as Chair and Vice Chair respectively of GELAVEX for the period 2018-2019.
8. The Commission approved the report of the Governmental Expert Group of (GEG) of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)—seventh evaluation round (CICAD/doc.2419/18).
9. The Commission approved holding the sixty-fifth regular session of CICAD in Buenos Aires, Argentina during the last week of April 2019.

III. PARTICIPANTS

1. Member states of CICAD

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

2. Permanent Observers

France, Italy, Russian Federation, and Spain.

3. International and Regional Specialized Organizations

Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

4. Civil Society

Centros de Integración Juvenil A.C., Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA), Dianova International, *Fundación El Sol*, Helping Individual People Survive (HIPS), International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction (ICUDDR), International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), *México Unido Contra la Delincuencia* (MUCD), National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP), National Development and Research Institutes, Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC), and Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)