



17th St. & Constitution Avenue N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
United States of America

Organization of American States

P. 202.458.3000  
[www.oas.org](http://www.oas.org)

**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE  
CONTROL COMMISSION  
CICAD**

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

**FORTY-SIXTH REGULAR SESSION  
November 18 - 20, 2009  
Miami, Florida**

**OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.46  
CICAD/doc.1770/09  
13 November 2009  
Original: English**

**HOW TO DEVELOP A NATIONAL DRUG POLICY  
A GUIDE FOR POLICYMAKERS, PRACTITIONERS AND STAKEHOLDERS  
BY JAMES F. MACK**

**How to Develop a National Drug  
Policy: *A Guide for Policymakers,  
Practitioners, and Stakeholders***

**Amb. James Mack**

***Executive Secretary CICAD/OAS***



Organization of  
American States

# Background

- Since 1995, the ES/CICAD has provided technical assistance in developing National Anti-drug Strategies and Plans to 22 of our 34 OAS Member States.
- In 2004, the Commission requested an outside evaluation of the impact of the Executive Secretariat's technical assistance to member state national drug commissions, with a particular emphasis their national drug plans.

- Countries who have received assistance from the Executive Secretariat were using their national drug plans, at least partially, as a guide to making some decisions.
- Also, from the process of developing their National Drug Strategies, the National Drug Commissions/Councils were increasingly aware of what measures were required to exercise overall coordination of these strategies.
- However, Commissions/Councils, as well as the ES, needed to pay greater attention to monitoring and evaluating progress in implementing the National Drug Strategies.

# Development of the Guide

- Early in 2009, CICAD's Institutional Building Section decided to develop a *workbook* to be used as the basis for the Caribbean Regional Training Workshop to be held in St. Lucia in April 2009 on how to develop, implement, manage, monitor and evaluate drug policy.
- Partnership with CARICOM (Caribbean Community Secretariat).
- Regional Workshop in Development of National Drug Strategies and Plans in St. Lucia.

# Common problems in the Member States

- The absence of inter- and intra-agency collaboration and coordination
- Problems with data collection,
- Lack of expertise on policy development, monitoring and evaluation
- Paucity of skilled persons to work in demand and supply reduction areas,
- Widespread abuse of pharmaceutical drugs
- Trafficking of chemical precursors used in the manufacture of illicit drugs, and sale of drugs via the Internet.

## Stakeholders

- Policy approvers
- Government Ministries
- Customers and users
- Service Providers
- Others

# What is this Guide offers

- Not only the latest sophisticated methodologies and evidence-based approaches for Policy formulation and implementation, but also a straight-forward, practical, didactic hands-on manual to create, implement, and refine policies in a logical way.

## What this Guide provides

- A shift in how your Executive Secretariat will provide Institutional Building support
- More consistency in How the Executive Secretariat will help Member States Prepare their National Drug Strategies
- An effective partnership



# What this Guide contains

- A series of steps, tools and methodologies that will allow a member state to:
  1. Undertake **Strategic Planning**,
  2. Use the *Logic model* for the development of an *operational action plan*; and
  3. *Monitor and Evaluate* both the process and the results.

# What this Guide contains (cont)

*Chapter 1.* Covers the ***theoretical and conceptual*** framework upon which a Drug Policy is built.

# What this Guide contains (cont)

**Chapter 2.** Explains the specific steps in developing a National Drug Strategy that include the *mission, vision, major goals and objectives*.

So that the country understands **why** it is doing what it is doing.

# What this Guide contains (cont)

**Chapter 3.** Demonstrates how to **implement** National Drug Policy by using important tools such as the *logic model*, and by referring to examples of best practices.

# What this Guide contains (cont)

***Chapter 4.*** Deals with an often overlooked part of a the National Drug Policy.....**monitoring and evaluation.**

# What this Guide contains (cont)

**Chapter 5.** Is about **reinforcement**. It provides in simple graphical format an explanation to the reader of *how to translate Drug Policy theories and concepts into practical reality.*

- The Guide aims to be *required reading* for persons responsible for conceptualizing, developing, implementing and evaluating National Drug Policy.
- The guide will serve as *useful tool* for countries in the process of developing or reviewing their National Drug Strategies. It will enable Member States to do more on their own and be less dependent on external assistance.
- CICAD will continue to provide technical assistance to member states in preparing their National Drug Strategies when required and when resources permit. But the guide will serve as a *training tool*, and will allow your Secretariat to provide support in a more efficient way.

**Thank you.**

*Amb. James Mack*

Executive Secretary CICAD/OAS

[jmack@oas.org](mailto:jmack@oas.org)