



OAS | CICAD



**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION**

CICAD

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Virtual Session**

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AMBASSADOR ADAM NAMM

OPENING REMARKS

AMB. ADAM NAMM – EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, CICAD/OAS
OPENING REMARKS FOR CICAD 70
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2021

Good morning.

Dr. Wilson Ruiz Orejuela, Minister of Justice and Law, Colombia,
representing the CICAD Chair;

Dr. Randall Otárola, Vice Minister of the Presidency and President of
the Directive Council of the Costa Rican Drug Institute, representing the
CICAD Vice Chair;

Dr. Arthur Weintraub, Secretary for Multidimensional Security,
Organization of American States;

Honorable CICAD Commissioners and delegations from our member
states;

Representatives of permanent observers to the OAS, members of
international organizations, representatives of civil society, CICAD
Executive Secretariat and OAS colleagues, ladies and gentlemen;

It is a pleasure to welcome you to this 70th regular session of CICAD,
which marks the 35th anniversary of CICAD. Thank you to Costa Rica,
current CICAD Vice Chair, for working closely with the CICAD Executive
Secretariat in preparing the agenda for this session, and may I take this
opportunity to recognize Colombia for its excellent service as CICAD
chair during the past year.

As you are aware, the fifty-first regular session of the OAS General Assembly took place just last week – my congratulations to Guatemala on chairing the session, as well as for its current and robust chair of the OAS Committee on Hemispheric Security. At the CICAD Executive Secretariat, we take particular note of the General Assembly resolution on advancing hemispheric security, and stand ready to support member states in the implementation of CICAD-related activities.

Despite the continuing pandemic, the five units of the CICAD Executive Secretariat continued to offer a full range of programming via virtual means during 2021, with more than 100 virtual events including meetings, webinars, and trainings. In this regard, I would like to thank Marya Hynes, Jimena Kalawski, Antonio Lomba, Adrian Noble, and Rafael Parada for successfully managing their respective units during this challenging year, and present you with some highlights of our 2021 programming:

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism, or MEM's, eighth round focused this year on demand reduction. The MEM country reports for this year's evaluation will be presented for approval later this morning, and the CICAD Executive Secretariat will publish a hemispheric brief based on the MEM national reports early next year. I thank Canada for chairing the Inter-Governmental Working Group, or IWG, and thank the experts designated by Colombia and Barbados for serving as Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator, respectively, of this year's Governmental Experts Group. Additionally, Canada, as IWG Chair, will today present for approval the questionnaires and corresponding evaluator's manuals for the remaining three years of the eighth round.

As well as strengthening drug information networks and providing training on the establishment of early warning systems, CICAD's Inter-American Observatory on Drugs, or OIAD, prepared the 2021 report on drug supply in the Americas. We shall be presenting the executive summary on Wednesday, with the full report to be published in early 2022.

Our Institutional Strengthening Unit worked with several member states to bring national drug strategies and plans of action in line with the OAS Hemispheric Drug Strategy 2020 and corresponding action plan; provided technical assistance on alternatives to incarceration for adults and juveniles; and is executing the Gender and the Criminal Justice System Project. The Unit also continued to promote local and community engagement in drug policies.

CICAD's Demand Reduction Unit provided much virtual training this year, including training of trainers on the Universal Prevention and Universal Treatment Curriculums; training activities in collaboration with the International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction; and virtual courses on the stigma associated with drug dependency. The Unit also supported the Western Hemisphere national chapters of the International Society of Substance Use Professionals, and continued to work with member states that lack telephone helplines for persons with drug use disorders.

CICAD's Supply Reduction Unit organized the first meeting of the Working Group on Aerial Drug Trafficking Control. CICAD's Regional Counterdrug Intelligence School of the Americas (ERCAIAD), by its

Spanish language acronym) and the Caribbean Counterdrug Intelligence Training School continued to offer virtual courses on counterdrug intelligence. The Supply Reduction Unit is executing the second phase of the Gender in Law Enforcement Agencies, or GENLEA, project, which seeks to sensitize law enforcement to the value of female officers in operational roles. Also, CICAD, – in partnership with the International Narcotics Control Board, or INCB, - developed a series of online training courses promoting adequate access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion to illicit purposes.

CICAD's four experts groups all met virtually during 2021. Allow me to thank the Dominican Republic and Peru for chairing and vice chairing, respectively, the Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking; Chile and Guatemala for chairing and vice chairing the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products; Paraguay and Mexico for their chair and vice chair of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction; and Peru for chairing the Group of Experts on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development. These groups provided valuable forums for discussion, exchange of experiences, and best practices on priority drug-related issues and challenges affecting this Hemisphere and beyond.

We continue to seek to strengthen cooperation with other international organizations, OAS permanent observers, and civil society. As example, during the past year we participated in multiple meetings of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; executed projects funded by Permanent Observers Italy and Spain; and collaborated with more than 70 civil society organizations.

In 2022, we will continue to execute a multitude of projects, continue our wide range of virtual programming, and of course hope to be able to resume in-person programming.

Before I conclude, allow me to express my deep gratitude to our donors. Specific fund donations account for about 85 percent of CICAD's funding, meaning the Executive Secretariat could execute few projects without the cash and in-kind support we receive.

I look forward to a dynamic and productive regular session over the next four days, look forward to addressing the Commission again on Friday to present CICAD's 2022 Work Plan, and thank all of you for your attention.

Thank you Chair.