



**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION**

CICAD

**SEVENTY-FOURTH REGULAR SESSSION
December 11-14, 2023
Washington D.C.**

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INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

**AMBASSADOR ADAM NAMM
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

OPENING REMARKS

AMB. ADAM NAMM – EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, CICAD/OAS
OPENING REMARKS FOR CICAD 74
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023

Good morning.

Jalil Rachid, Secretary Minister, National Anti-Drug Secretariat of Paraguay, representing the CICAD Chair;

Rodrigo Ferrés, Deputy Secretary of State to the Presidency and President of the National Drug Board, Uruguay, representing the CICAD Vice Chair;

Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the Organization of American States;

Ivan Marques, 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, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen;

It is a pleasure to welcome you to this 74th regular session of CICAD. My thanks to Paraguay for its service as CICAD chair during the past year, and my gratitude to Uruguay, current CICAD Vice Chair, for working closely with the CICAD Executive Secretariat on the organization of this regular session.

I trust many of you had a chance to read my newsletter, which was emailed to member states on November 22. The newsletter presents highlights of the varied programming carried out by the CICAD Executive Secretariat during 2023. For those that have not had a chance to read it, the newsletter – both English and Spanish versions – will be posted to the CICAD 74 website.

Rather than repeating information contained in the newsletter, I want to focus my remarks this morning on CICAD Executive Secretariat collaboration with partner international organizations and civil society. Both are key to an integrated approach to addressing the drug problem in the Hemisphere and beyond. Allow me to highlight examples of this important collaboration during the past year:

-- We signed an MOU with CARICOM in 2023, through which we look forward to strengthening our programming in the Caribbean.

-- We participated as an institutional member in the UN Office on Drugs and Crime's Scientific Advisory Committee for its World Drug Report, providing insights into drug issues in Latin American and Caribbean countries.

-- We held a joint training event and a regional workshop on early warning systems with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction and with the Cooperation Programme between Latin America and the European Union concerning Drug Policies, the latter better known by its acronym, COPOLAD.

-- We worked closely with the International Society of Substance Use Professionals, or ISSUP, and were pleased to attend the opening of the

first Caribbean ISSUP chapter, in The Bahamas, earlier this year. The Bahamas joins ten Latin American ISSUP chapters.

-- The CICAD Executive Secretariat continued to serve as the regional coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction, or ICUDDR by its acronym, which fosters prevention and treatment programming through the academic offerings of universities, such as training based on the Universal Treatment Curriculum and the Universal Prevention Curriculum. There a total of 66 universities from 17 OAS member states in the ICUDDR.

-- We collaborated with the Latin American Federation of Therapeutic Communities (FLACT, by its Spanish-language acronym), and with the Ibero-American Network of Non-Governmental Organizations that Work on Drugs and Addictions (RIOD, by its Spanish-language acronym), regarding prevention, treatment, and recovery, and on implementing international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders.

-- We partnered with the International Narcotics Control Board to offer two sub-regional training activities: a Workshop on the Adequate Availability of Controlled Substances for Medical and Scientific Purposes; and a Training Seminar on the Control of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances, and Precursor Chemicals.

-- We collaborated with San Patrignano, a therapeutic community in Italy that is one of the largest in the world, to explore ways to promote recovery and social integration.

-- We partnered with two civil society organizations – Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities in Chicago and Here's Help in Miami – to enhance our alternatives to incarceration programming.

-- Next week, the CICAD Executive Secretariat will participate in an international capacity building forum entitled, "Addictive Behaviours and Crimes Associated with Internet Use," jointly organized by the Council of Europe's Pompidou Group and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico and the Ministry of Security of Mexico. We sent an invitation to this event to member states in October; it will take place in Mexico City December 19 and 20 and has a virtual attendance option.

Reading this list of collaboration confirms for me, and I trust for you, how much CICAD benefits from partnership with other international organizations and civil society. I look forward to hearing statements from representatives of some of these organizations on Thursday, as well as from permanent observer countries. I also look forward to tomorrow's civil society panel on an integral approach and human rights perspective regarding the drugs issue.

Before I conclude, allow me to mention the four CICAD experts groups, all of which met in person during 2023. I thank Guatemala for chairing the Group of Experts meeting on Maritime Narcotrafficking; Ecuador and Brazil, respectively, for chairing and vice chairing the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products; Peru for its chair of the Group of Experts on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development; and Panama and Brazil for their chair and vice chair of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction.

Finally, I want to express my deep gratitude to our donors. Specific

fund donations account for the vast majority 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, and look forward to presenting CICAD's 2024 Work Plan to the Commission later today.

Thank you for this time, Chair

CICAD NEWSLETTER

Washington, D.C., November 21, 2023

Dear Commissioners,

Greetings from OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C., where we are preparing for **CICAD's 74th regular session**, which will take place here from December 11-14. I thank Paraguay for chairing CICAD since our 72nd regular session last November and thank current CICAD Vice Chair Uruguay for working with the Executive Secretariat on agenda preparations for the forthcoming session next month. Both Paraguay and Uruguay will speak during the opening, as will Secretary General Luis Almagro, Secretary for Multidimensional Security Ivan Marques, and I.

As you know from the convocation, CICAD 74 will be an in-person event with a virtual option. We have an interesting agenda, which includes the **election of officials to chair and vice chair the Commission, as well as CICAD's four experts groups**. In this regard, I thank the member states that have presented their candidacies to chair and vice chair the Commission and CICAD's four experts groups during the period 2023-2024.

I am pleased to let you know that CICAD has a **new website**, which I encourage you to peruse: <https://www.oas.org/ext/en/main/oas/our-structure/gs/sms/cicad>. I ask that you provide us with feedback as the website is primarily for you, our member states. CICAD is the first OAS entity to use a newly designed website template, which we hope will be a useful tool to inform on CICAD's ample programing and many publications.

Allow me to update you on the latest doings in the CICAD Executive Secretariat:

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) Unit

The third year of the **MEM's eighth round** is nearing its conclusion, with members of the Governmental Expert Group (GEG) hard at work preparing the **national reports on three thematic areas: Institutional Strengthening; International Cooperation; and Monitoring & Evaluation**. The national reports will be presented for approval at CICAD 74, with an Executive Secretariat hemispheric brief on this year's thematic areas forthcoming in early 2024. I thank the experts designated by the Dominican Republic and Jamaica for serving as GEG General Coordinator and Deputy General Coordinator, respectively, this year. Next year will be the fourth and final year of the eighth round, during which the MEM will carry out a comprehensive evaluation based on new data that will be collected from member states in order to update the information presented in the first three years of the round.

Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID)

- The OID continues to provide training on **national early warning systems (EWS) and the Early Warning System of the Americas (known by its Spanish-language acronym, SATA)**. The need

for EWS in the region is becoming increasingly clear. For example, over the course of 2023, the SATA has received four alerts concerning the appearance of fentanyl in Latin American member states. While this may appear to be a low number, the SATA only received two alerts about fentanyl in Latin America between 2017 and 2022.

- The OID continues to collect information on new drug research methods, emerging substances, and drug supply and demand. Topics for **papers to be issued in 2024** include an update on data received through the SATA, benzodiazepines and ketamine in the Hemisphere, and gender considerations for access to drug recovery services and other emerging substances in the region.
- **During 2023 the OID published the following information bulletins:** The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Drug Problem in the Americas: A Mixed Method Inquiry; The Emerging Threat of Xylazine in the Americas; Current Trends of Methamphetamine Use and Consequences in North America; Online Sales of Illicit Substances in the Americas; Wastewater-Based Epidemiology for Monitoring Drug Use; and North American Trends in Fentanyl Use, Production, and Supply. The OID also published an information bulletin with a summary of data collected from the SATA.

Institutional Strengthening Unit (ISU)

- The ISU continues working with several member states to bring **national drug strategies, plans of action, and monitoring and evaluation plans** in line with the OAS Hemispheric Drug Strategy and corresponding Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs. The ISU has provided training and technical assistance to 25 OAS member states in 2023, including training of trainers to continue empowering professionals responsible for designing and implementing national drug policies.
- The ISU has finalized the manual, **“How to Develop a National Drug Policy”** and the **“Universal Curriculum on National Drug Strategies.”** These two important documents, with an accompanying toolkit, will be presented at CICAD 74.
- The ISU continues to provide technical assistance to explore, implement, and evaluate **alternatives to incarceration** for adults and juveniles for the pre-trial, trial, and post-trial phases of criminal proceedings in 14 member states. Three countries received training on the Case Care Management (CCM) curriculum during 2023, and a new CCM curriculum for adolescents is the pilot stage and will be finalized in 2024.
- The ISU continues to promote the exchange of good practices on **social integration** for drug-related offenders through strengthening local and community engagement, including the role of therapeutic communities and treatment centers in supporting recovery and social integration in Latin America and the Caribbean.

- The ISU supported the Peruvian Chair for the **CICAD Group of Experts on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development (GEDAIS, by its Spanish-language acronym)**. GEDAIS held its annual meeting in Lima in October, with the participation of 15 member states and directly following the annual Expert Group Meeting on Alternative Development, which was organized by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Germany, Thailand, and Peru.

Demand Reduction Unit (DRU)

- The DRU organized the **First Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting of the International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction (ICUDDR)**, held in Buenos Aires with more than 30 faculty members from Latin American and Caribbean universities in attendance. CICAD is the regional coordinator for ICUDDR.
- The **2nd Caribbean Youth Forum on Drug Use Prevention** took place in Nassau, The Bahamas for 45 participants from 13 OAS Caribbean member states, with the goals of promoting youth leadership in drug demand reduction and supporting youth-led prevention initiatives.
- With the attendance of delegates from 28 member states, the DRU held in hybrid format the **Twenty-Fourth Meeting of CICAD's Demand Reduction Experts Group** in Panama City, chaired by Panama and vice chaired by Brazil. The meeting addressed drug prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, rehabilitation, social integration, recovery, health promotion, and emerging threats related to new psychoactive substances.
- The DRU organized **two subregional workshops on "Women, Drugs, and Stigma"** within the framework of the Women's Treatment Network for Latin America and the Caribbean. The Spanish-language workshop took place in San Jose, organized in collaboration with the Costa Rican Institute on Drugs and with the participation of 15 Latin American member states. The English-language workshop took place at OAS headquarters in Washington D.C. in November, with the participation of 13 Caribbean member states. The DRU plans to publish recommendations on reducing stigma against women with substance use disorders.

Supply Reduction Unit (SRU)

- CICAD's **Regional Counterdrug Intelligence School of the Americas (ERCAIAD, by its Spanish-language acronym) and the Caribbean Counterdrug Intelligence Training School (CCITS)** continue to offer regional and national courses on counterdrug police intelligence for drug control authorities, which were held online and in-person in Barbados, the Dominican Republic, and Chile in recent months. Another regional course is planned for Bogota in December.
- The SRU held two sub-regional meetings of CICAD's **Working Group on Aerial Drug Trafficking Control**, for Caribbean and South American member states, in Bridgetown and

Lima, respectively, to continue discussions on this evolving drug trafficking threat and explore ways to increase bilateral and regional operational cooperation.

- Under the framework of the **Gender in Law Enforcement Agencies (GENLEA)** project, the SRU continues to hold online and in-person technical assistance activities for the development and implementation of action plans for strengthening gender equality in participating counterdrug agencies. Likewise, the SRU has held two capacity-building regional courses in Bogota and Port-of-Spain to increase the capacities of female officers from Latin America and the Caribbean who perform drug control tasks, as well as to promote the implementation of good practices and recommendations contained in the GENLEA Handbook.
- In collaboration with the International Narcotics Control Board, the SRU hosted, in San Salvador, a **regional workshop on the Availability of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances for Medical and Scientific Purposes**, along with a training seminar on the control of psychotropic substances, narcotic drugs, and chemical precursors. Furthermore, the SRU organized a **regional course for chemical experts** from Latin America in Brasilia, focusing on expanding participants' theoretical and practical knowledge regarding the identification and classification of new psychoactive substances, including conducting laboratory tests on seized drugs.
- The SRU organized the meeting of CICAD's **Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products** in Quito, with Ecuador as Chair and Brazil as Vice Chair, during which the Group drafted a *Reference Guide for the Development or Updating of Regulations for the Comprehensive Handling and Final Disposal of Seized or Confiscated Chemical Substances*. The meeting of CICAD's **Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking** is being held in Guatemala City, Guatemala on November 27-29, under the Guatemalan Chair.

CICAD continues to work with civil society and international partners, and I look forward to sharing details about this cooperation at CICAD 74. Best regards to all, and I look forward to seeing you and your delegations in December.