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**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION**

CICAD

SEVENTY-FIFTH REGULAR SESSION

May 7, 2024

Virtual Session 10:00 – 14:00 (Washington D.C. time)

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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 75
TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Good morning.

Rodrigo Ferrés, Secretary to the Presidency and Chair of the National Drug Board, Uruguay, and

Daniel Radío, Secretary General of the National Drugs Secretariat, Uruguay, both representing the CICAD Chair;

Edward Croft, Director, Office of National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy, Antigua and Barbuda, representing the CICAD Vice-Chair;

Ivan Marques, Secretary for Multidimensional Security, Organization of American States;

Honorable CICAD Commissioners and other representatives from our member states; representatives from permanent observer countries, representatives of international and regional organizations, representatives of civil society, ladies and gentleman;

It is a pleasure to address CICAD's 75th regular session. This is the fifth "springtime" session we have held since member states decided, at CICAD 66, to make the "springtime" session a one-day meeting, with the dual primary objectives of approving the annual report from the previous year and approving CICAD's input to the OAS General Assembly's security resolution.

Allow me to update you on CICAD's programming, including several new initiatives:

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism's eighth round is now in its final year, with the focus during 2024 on updating the evaluations of all thematic areas of the OAS Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its corresponding Plan of Action 2021-2025. I thank the experts designated by Trinidad and Tobago and Chile for serving as Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator, respectively, of the Governmental Expert Group this year.

In March, the CICAD Executive Secretariat published its hemispheric brief summarizing the findings from the 2023 MEM evaluation on the thematic areas of Institutional Strengthening; Research, Information, Monitoring and Evaluation; and International Cooperation. Our principal findings showed that much progress has been made in the hemisphere in drafting and updating national drug policies and strategies aligned with the 2020 OAS Hemispheric Drug Strategy; however, a high percentage of countries indicate that there is no provision of adequate financing and other necessary resources for the implementation of national drug policies and programs.

CICAD's Inter-American Observatory on Drugs, or OID, regularly disseminates information on emerging drug threats, and is due to publish in the next quarter of 2024 information bulletins on benzodiazepines, Ketamine, and a summary of information emanating from the Early Warning System of the Americas (SATA, by its Spanish-language acronym). The OID continues to work with member states on establishing and strengthening early warning systems and linking national systems via the SATA. In 2018, there were only two early warning systems in Latin America, while today over twenty Latin American and Caribbean countries have launched or are in the process of developing an early warning system.

Our Supply Reduction Unit continues to provide specialized training and technical assistance to member states to reduce the illicit production of drugs and their trafficking by air, land, and maritime means, as well as to support countries to strengthen mechanisms for controlling synthetic drugs, including NPS and their precursor chemicals. For instance, in April in Bogota, we hosted a Regional Training Course on Illicit Drug Trafficking Control for counterdrug officers from 13 Latin American member states, at CICAD's Regional Counterdrug Intelligence School of the Americas (ERCAIAD), which is run jointly with the Colombian National Police. Similarly, in June, we will conduct the Regional Training Course to Counter the Illicit Trafficking in Synthetic Drugs and New Psychoactive Substances in Port of Spain, in collaboration with CICAD's Caribbean Counterdrug Intelligence Training School (CCITS), run jointly with the Trinidad and Tobago National Police. This collaborative effort with the Global Rapid Interdiction of Dangerous Substances Programme of the International Narcotics Control Board will benefit counternarcotics officers from 14 Caribbean member states.

CICAD's Demand Reduction Unit will be supporting the Global Conference of the International Society of Substance Use Professionals, or ISSUP, to be held in Thessaloniki, Greece, from June 24 to June 28. Eleven representatives of ISSUP national chapters in Latin America and the Caribbean will also participate in this conference. The launch of the Global Women's Network will take place during the ISSUP Global Conference, with our Demand Reduction Unit presenting on CICAD's work in the development of the Women's Treatment Network for Latin America and the Caribbean. The Demand Reduction Unit will also participate in the International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction, or ICUDDR, Global Conference, in our role as the Regional Coordinating Center for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Our Institutional Strengthening Unit is supporting 22 member states in the development and evaluation of drug policies, including facilitating institutional coordination between government institutions and civil society. The Unit has published important documents such as a guide on “How to Develop a National Drug Policy,” available in all four official languages of the OAS, and the “Universal Curriculum for Training in National Drug Strategies.” The Institutional Strengthening Unit continues promoting alternatives to incarceration programs in 14 member states through technical assistance, training, and monitoring and evaluation systems, as well as promoting the inclusion of the gender perspective in the criminal justice system. Likewise, the Unit supports social integration programs like the Case Care Management system and FOCTALI.

All four CICAD experts groups plan to meet in person during 2024:

-- The Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products will meet May 21-23 in Brasilia under the Brazilian chair, with Uruguay as vice chair.

-- The Group of Experts on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development will meet in Peru on September 3-6, chaired by Peru.

-- The Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking will meet September 10-12 in Port of Spain, with Trinidad and Tobago chairing; and

-- The meeting Group of Experts on Demand Reduction will take place September 18-20 in Brasilia, chaired by Brazil with Barbados as vice chair.

I thank all of the aforementioned member states for their leadership roles and look forward to the productive discussions and deliverables from these important groups.

We continue to seek to strengthen cooperation with other international organizations, OAS permanent observers, and civil society. Allow me to provide several examples:

-- The CICAD Executive Secretariat held a side event at the UN Commission on Drugs meeting in March, in which several OAS member states participated.

-- In collaboration with the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction, soon to be relaunched as the European Drugs Agency, together with the Cooperation Program between Latin America, the Caribbean, and the European Union on Drug Policy, CICAD organized a three-day training in Chile on the Analytical Capacity of National Early Warning Systems and National Drug Observatories.

-- Last month, CICAD participated in the 26th Ibero-American Seminar on Drugs and Cooperation in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, organized by the Ibero-American Network of Non-Governmental Organizations working in Drug Addiction.

-- Finally, CICAD plans to train 60 treatment services providers from the Latin American Federation of Therapeutic Communities -- FLACT by its Spanish-language acronym -- on the Universal Treatment Curriculum, as part of its demand reduction programming.

As always, I thank our current donors, who provide both monetary and in-kind donations to CICAD, at the same time standing ready to collaborate with new partners. As listed in the financial chapter of our draft 2023 Annual Report, which will be presented shortly for this

commission's approval, our monetary donors last year were the United States, Canada, Mexico, Italy, and the United Nations Development Programme, while Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, France, Spain, the International Narcotics Control Board, and the Regional Security System provided in-kind contributions.

In closing, I wish to thank Uruguay for chairing CICAD this year, and thank Antigua and Barbuda in its role as vice chair. I thank Secretary for Multidimensional Security Ivan Marques for the strong support he provides to CICAD. Finally, I thank my CICAD Executive Secretariat staff, including Assistant Executive Secretary Angela Crowdy, and unit chiefs Marya Hynes, Jimena Kalawski, Antonio Lomba, Adrian Noble, and Rafael Parada, for their excellent work.

Thank you, Chair.