

# ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES



INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

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**FORTY SECOND REGULAR SESSION**  
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Santa Marta, Colombia

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**GROUP OF EXPERTS ON CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES**



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## **1. OPENING SESSION**

The opening session for the meeting of this Group of Experts took place at the room José María Morelos y Pavón of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs Building in Mexico City on September 17, 2007. This was a joint opening session for this meeting and the meeting of the Group of Experts on Pharmaceutical Products - Dr. Noé Ramírez Mandujano, Deputy Attorney General of Specialized Investigation in Organized Crime (SIEDO) from the office of the Attorney General of Mexico, Ambassador Ernesto Cespedes, General Director for Global Issues of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Marcela Madrazo Reynoso, General Coordinator of the Federal Sanitary System, from the Ministry of Health and Ambassador Oscar Maurtua de Romaña Representative of the OAS National Office in Mexico offered welcoming remarks.

## **2. WORKING SESSIONS**

### **A. Presentations**

The Group of Experts on Chemical Substances met in four working sessions during which the following presentations were delivered:

#### **Fee for Service in the control of chemical substances (Argentina)**

- Mr. Julio de Orué of Argentina presented the Fee for Service in the Control of Chemicals Guide, which describes the system and procedures that the Government of Argentina has in place for the control of chemical substances. Within this program, private sector companies pay a fee as part of their registration. The proceeds from this fee are used to pay for the regulatory and administrative activities that the Government puts in place including inspections, investigation and issuing licenses and permits. After considering the document, the Group decided to submit it to a sub-group for further review and analysis.

### **Synthetic Drugs: establishing a national control program (Mexico)**

- Mr. José Antonio Albiter of Mexico presented the Guide to Establish a National Synthetic Drugs Control Program. The guide describes the system and procedures that a country must put in place to counter the growing problem of synthetic drug production, distribution and use. In some countries this problem is well established with the production and availability of chemical-based drugs such as methamphetamine, Ecstasy and others. The document presented highlights the importance of a comprehensive inter-institutional approach involving law enforcement and regulatory agencies, as well as the private sector. After a review of the document, the Group decided to adopt the Guide and instructed the Secretariat to post it on the OAS web page.

### **Private sector administrative control of chemical substances (Colombia)**

- Mr. Hector Hernan Bernal of Colombia briefed participants on the "PRECAN" project, which is a UN sponsored Andean Region initiative aimed to provide the chemical industry with an awareness mechanism designed to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals used in illicit drug production in the region. This reference guide is a web based tool that shows administrative personnel in the chemical industry the necessary procedures and techniques to prevent their companies from being utilized by drugtraffickers in their efforts to obtain controlled substances. The briefing was well received by the Group, which considered the Guide to be very useful for all the member states, and instructed the Secretariat to consider the possibility of posting this web based tool in the OAS web page.

### **Control of chemicals in free trade zones**

- The movement of chemicals through free trade zones and similar facilities present unique challenges for CICAD member states. While the provisions of international conventions related to the control of chemicals apply equally in these areas, countries are encountering certain problems in doing so. At last year's meeting of the Group, the Chilean delegation committed to drafting a reference guide on this issue. Mr. Edmundo Jorquera and Mr. Pedro Moya of Chile presented the Guide for the Control of Chemicals in Free Trade Zones, which describes the system and procedures that a country with free trade zones

that handle chemical shipments should establish to prevent the smuggling of controlled substances. The Guide was very well received by the participants and was adopted by the Group without modification. The Group instructed the Secretariat to post the document on the OAS web page.

## **B. Working Groups**

During the round table introduction of participants, experts identified the challenges and issues of concern that they are facing with the respect to the control of chemicals. These issues served as the basis for discussions during this meeting or for inclusion in the plan of action for future proposed meetings. The Group identified the following issues for further discussion by working groups:

### **Fee for Service in chemical control**

The delegation of Argentina led this working group, whose objective was to further review and finalize the “Fee for Service” draft guide previously prepared and presented by Argentina to the plenary. This guide is intended to serve as a reference tool for countries interested in implementing some form of “fee for service” in relation to their administrative and/or regulatory control of chemical substances. Based on the input by the working group members, various sections were added to the Guide in order to cover legal, administrative and financial issues in a more general and comprehensive manner, with consideration to the special circumstances that might exist in other member states. The delegation of Argentina agreed to include the additional sections and forward the revised guide to the Secretariat for its posting on the OAS web page.

### **Chemical control training**

The delegation of Colombia led this working group, which considered the regional needs for comprehensive chemical control training in the areas of “technical” interdiction, operational and administrative monitoring, and judicial investigations. The working group decided to conduct an assessment of the regional training needs in coordination with CICAD and, based on the results of the study, design a multi-dimensional training program with the goal of delivering 2 training seminars in 2008 in collaboration with the CICAD. The delegation of Colombia will lead the regional training needs study and will report the results to CICAD, to jointly coordinate the implementation of the program. Preliminary results of this effort will be presented at the next meeting of the Group by the delegation of Colombia.

## **Inspection and handling of chemical transshipments in port facilities**

The delegation of Bahamas led this working group as it considered drafting a guide for port inspectors in the identification and procedures in handling and processing transshipments of chemical cargos. Each country in the working group indicated its existing procedures in how to deal with such transshipments and, based on that input and expertise, the group decided to assign specific tasks to various group members, including Brazil, United States, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica and Suriname. The delegation of Bahamas, in collaboration with CICAD, is to receive and coordinate the respective information from each country and prepare the draft Guide for presentation at the next meeting of the Group.

### **C. Other issues**

In addition to the foregoing, the Group identified a number of other issues of concern related to the control of chemicals to be included in the agenda of the next meeting of the Group:

- The delegation of Mexico expressed its concern about the increasing use of chemical derivatives by narcotraffickers in the production of methamphetamine type drugs and requested that the issue be included at the next meeting of the Group in an effort to identify and harmonize the control of these substances.
- Several delegations, including Brazil, Ecuador and Antigua, expressed their desire to include the issue of documentation analysis due to the “significant” increase in the smuggling of chemical precursors using falsified documentation.
- Finally, the Group suggested that, due to the converging of several “cross-issues” with the Pharmaceutical Experts Group, next meeting’s agenda be designed such that these issues can be covered by both groups at the same time with all the participants from both groups present, if possible.

### **3. PLAN OF ACTION**

Further to the discussions in plenary and in the working groups, the Group of experts has prepared the following plan of action from which the assigned products will be presented when the Group next meets:

**Hemispheric training needs assessment in the control of chemical substances (Colombia and Executive Secretariat)**

**Comprehensive chemical control training program in the areas of “technical” interdiction, operational and administrative monitoring, and judicial investigations (Colombia and Executive Secretariat)**

**Draft guide on the inspection and handling of chemical transshipments in port facilities (Bahamas)**

#### **4. CLOSING SESSION**

The Group of Experts concluded its work at 17:00 on September 18, 2007. Lic. Jose Luis Herrera closed the meeting and in doing so, thanked the members for their participation.

### **III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS**

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS TO CICAD IN ITS FORTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION:**

1. Consider and accept the guide or documents and direct the Executive Secretariat to post them to the CICAD web page:
  - **“Guide for the Control of Chemicals in Free Trade Zones”**
  - **“Guide for Private sector administrative control of chemical substances”**
  - **“Guide to Establish a National Synthetic Drugs Control Program”**
  
2. That the Commission consider and accept the plan of action proposed by the Group of Experts and direct that the Group meet in 2008 to consider the issues in the plan as well as other new trends or threats identified in the area of chemical control.

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**MEETING OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS  
CONCERNING CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES  
September 17-19, 2007  
Mexico City, Mexico**

**SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES**

**Monday, September 17**

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>08h30 – 09h00</b> | <b>Registration</b>   |
| <b>09h00 – 09h30</b> | <b>Opening Remarks</b>  |
| <b>09h30 – 10h00</b> | <b>Introduction and Review<br/>Background<br/>Objectives and CICAD Commission expectations<br/>Schedule of work<br/>Proposed work methodology<br/>Status report on Recommendations<br/>Other issues</b> |
| <b>10h00 – 10h30</b> | <b>Roundtable introductions and identification of issues of concern</b>   |
| <b>10h30 – 10h45</b> | <b>Break</b>  |
| <b>11h00 – 11h45</b> | <b>Guide for establishing a “Fee for Service” approach in chemical control (Argentina)</b>  |
| <b>11h45 – 12h30</b> | <b>Guide for establishing a national program concerning synthetic drugs (Mexico)</b>  |
| <b>12h30 – 14h00</b> | <b>Lunch</b>  |



- 14h00 – 14h30      Presentation by Mexico**
- 14h30 – 17h30      Discussion by Working Groups of Issues of Concern**

**Tuesday, September 18**

- 09h00 – 9h45      Information overview on the use of chemicals in the production of illicit drugs (Colombia / Trinidad and Tobago)**
- 9h45 – 10h30      Training needs assessment (Argentina/Colombia/Ecuador)**
- 10h30 – 10h45      Break**
- 10h45 – 11h30      Guide for the control of chemicals in free trade zones (Chile)**
- 11h30 – 12:30      Strategies to address differences in chemical control (Mexico)**
- 12h30 – 14h00      Lunch**
- 14h00 – 17h30      Working group discussions (con't)**

**Wednesday, September 19**

- 09h00 – 10h30      Presentation by Working Groups**
- 10h30 – 10h45      Break**
- 10h45 – 12h00      Conclusions, issues, commitments and recommendations for action by the Expert Group**
- 12h00                  Closing**