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**REPORT BY CONTACT GROUP ON THE
MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)**

REPORT BY CONTACT GROUP ON THE MEM REVIEW

In accordance with the mandate received at the forty-eighth regular session of CICAD, which took place in Washington, D.C. in December 2010, the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) Section convoked a contact group, which met April 14–15, 2011. The following countries participated in the session: Argentina, the Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Mexico, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

During deliberations, the Contact Group examined specific elements of the mechanism to be addressed in order to improve the evaluation process for the Sixth Round.

The Contact Group worked on the basis of the Principles, Characteristics and Objectives of the MEM, as approved by CICAD at its twenty-sixth regular session (Uruguay, October 1999). The Group highlighted the validity of the MEM principles, particularly its multilateral and intergovernmental nature. In addition, it reaffirmed that the Hemispheric Drug Strategy 2010 and its Plan of Action would provide the conceptual framework and guidelines for the review and modification of the MEM.

As a result of these deliberations, the Group presents the following for the Commission's consideration:

1. The need to ensure respect for the principles of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism, particularly the multilateral and intergovernmental nature, in any review process that is undertaken.
2. The importance of developing goals, indicators, verification methods and a system that enables the monitoring and evaluation of countries' progress in policy implementation, in accordance with the Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its Plan of Action.
3. The need for an in-depth analysis of public policy monitoring and evaluation systems, in order to identify components, best practices, and dynamics that may be incorporated into the mechanism in order to strengthen the evaluation process, for which a technical online working group is suggested, to carry out this analysis prior to the initiation of preparations for the Sixth Evaluation Round.
4. Keeping in mind the multilateral nature of the MEM, the analysis of the process will consider essential elements such as data collection, the methodology for evaluation, training needs, the role of the Executive Secretariat, the evaluation cycle and the nature of the reports to be published.