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INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

cicad

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PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS OF CICAD TO THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE SPECIAL CONFERENCE ON SECURITY

RECOMMENDATIONS OF CICAD TO THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE SPECIAL CONFERENCE ON SECURITY

Background and conceptual framework

OAS General Assembly Resolution AG/RES. 1882 (XXXII-O/02), adopted on June 4, 2002, assigned a mandate to the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) to the effect that CICAD should: "send such recommendations as it considers pertinent to the preparatory body for the Special Conference on Security as a contribution to its preparations."

By means of OAS General Assembly Resolution AG/RES.1908 (XXXII-O/02), also adopted on June 4, 2002, the Committee on Hemispheric Security, an organ of the OAS Permanent Council, was asked to serve as the body to prepare the Special Conference on Security to be held in Mexico City on May 6-8, 2003.

The link between the international drug problem and security issues was set out in the Declaration of Bridgetown AG/DEC.27 (XXXII-O/02), adopted on June 4, 2002. In that Declaration, the General Assembly recognized that security threats, concerns, and other challenges in the hemispheric context are of diverse nature and multidimensional scope, and that the traditional concept and approach must be expanded to encompass new and nontraditional threats, which include political, economic, social, health, and environmental aspects.

The 1996 Hemispheric Anti-Drug Strategy has been confirmed as an appropriate way to combat the drug problem in our region. The dynamics of the phenomenon and its changing nature require the Anti-Drug Strategy to adapt to new trends, without losing sight of its basic principles, which include shared responsibility, the need to address all aspects of the phenomenon in an integral and balanced manner, respecting the principles of international law, human rights norms and principles, and especially national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and nonintervention in the internal affairs of states.

Illicit drug trafficking and related offenses, such as trafficking in arms and ammunition, trafficking in precursor chemicals, and money laundering, as well as the financing of terrorism and transnational organized crime, do indeed constitute threats to the security of the nations of the Hemisphere and, being transnational, call for more intense hemispheric cooperation.

Threats to security are multi-dimensional and require multifaceted responses by various government institutions, acting in coordination with each other and in accordance with democratic norms and principles.

CICAD agrees with the affirmation in the Declaration of Bridgetown that the new challenges to hemispheric security "are of diverse nature and multidimensional scope, and

that the traditional concept and approach must be expanded to encompass new, nontraditional threats.”

Accordingly, member states should seek to enhance and, where necessary, develop appropriate and relevant mechanisms to deepen cooperation and coordination in order to address in a more focused manner the new multidimensional threats, concerns and other challenges to hemispheric security.

The two successful rounds of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) have provided CICAD-OAS member states and its donor countries, as well as other international bodies, with a clearer understanding of the scope and severity of the threat posed by drug trafficking and use in our hemisphere.

In this regard, CICAD is of the opinion that the development of common approaches to the different facets of hemispheric security will contribute to harmonization within the inter-American security system, and is therefore essential for enhancing confidence and security among member states.

CICAD reaffirms that the global drug problem, as a threat to the security of states, requires new, multidimensional responses by governments to traditional security threats.

To fulfill the mandate assigned to CICAD, the Commission approves the following recommendations as a contribution to the preparatory committee of the Special Conference on Security:

Recommendations

1. In the context of the Special Conference on Security, states should reaffirm that the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) is the competent regional forum, which governments recognize as playing a leading role in this area. To this end, governments should endeavor to strengthen it and provide it with adequate financing.
2. States should recognize that the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), established under CICAD, is the appropriate tool for guiding hemispheric cooperation to deal more effectively and accurately with the various aspects of the drug problem. The MEM fosters closer inter-ministerial coordination at the national level and the exchange of information on best practices in the fight against drugs in all the states of the Hemisphere. Accordingly, CICAD should endeavor to strengthen the MEM so as to enhance its ability to prioritize and develop its programs.
3. States should take a better-coordinated approach to fighting drug trafficking and related offenses as well as organized crime in the Hemisphere. In this regard, in order to expand hemispheric cooperation and render it more efficient, it is recommended the different entities in the inter-American system working in related areas meet periodically under the guidance of the OAS Secretary General.

4. States should endeavor to ensure that the international legal framework in this field is applied universally by signing and ratifying, as appropriate, and effectively implementing the following instruments.
 - In the area of control of drugs and chemical substances: the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs; the 1972 Protocol amending the Single Convention on Drugs, 1961; the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances; and the 1988 United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances;
 - In the area of arms trafficking: the 1997 Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA); the 1997 Model Regulations for Control of International Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts, Components, and Ammunition; and the 1999 Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Arms Acquisitions;
 - In the area of money laundering: the CICAD Model Regulations on Money Laundering; the 40 recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF); the recommendations of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF); and those of the South American Financial Action Task Force (GAFISUD);
 - With respect to the financing of terrorism: the pertinent provisions of the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism; Resolution 1373 of the United Nations Security Council; the 1999 International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the eight special recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) regarding the financing of terrorism;
 - In the area of corruption: the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption
 - In matters related to transnational organized crime: the 2000 United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its three additional protocols on trafficking in persons, trafficking of migrants, and manufacturing of and illicit trafficking in firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition.
5. Finally, the Special Conference on Security should highlight the fact that international cooperation, practiced through exchanges of information, mutual assistance on criminal matters and extradition, and improved internal and hemispheric coordination among the anti-drug authorities, constitute the cornerstone of a successful policy against the new threats to hemispheric security.