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cicad

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CICAD Declaration in Mexico City

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In the framework of the thirty-second regular session of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS), the member states of the OAS, meeting in Mexico City on December 2-5, 2002,

ACKNOWLEDGING the important work undertaken by CICAD, since it was founded in 1986, as a guiding forum for dialogue and cooperation on combating drug issues among the states of the Hemisphere;

REAFFIRMING their political will to ensure that decisions are taken in a transparent institutional framework, with clear rules and democratic procedures;

RECALLING that the Hemispheric Anti-Drug Strategy is the basis on which the CICAD member countries agreed to strengthen their comprehensive national policies to prevent drug consumption, contribute to the rehabilitation of drug addicts, ensure through appropriate legal and penal measures the non-availability of illicit drugs, and to sanction persons responsible for committing illegal acts and related offenses;

ACKNOWLEDGING ALSO that, despite the progress achieved as a result of the actions undertaken, drug production, trafficking, and consumption still represent grave threats to public health, social and economic development and national and hemispheric security, that affect societies and undermine the stability of countries in the region and the strength of their institutions, to the extent that member states are committed to redoubling their efforts to confront this problem and to respond to the demands of our societies and the international community; and

CONCERNED about the new trends and patterns in the traffic and consumption of drugs, in particular designer drugs, as well as the increase in transnational organized crime and corruption, and agreeing on the importance of strengthening national policies and international cooperation efforts, as evidenced in the Hemispheric Report and the national reports of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) approved during the XXXII regular session of CICAD,

CONCLUDE:

1. To enhance integral preventive actions with special emphasis on supply and demand reduction, while combating corruption and transnational organized crime in all its forms,

- i) Renewing their commitment and political will in combatting the world drug problem, corruption, transnational organized crime and related offenses, in the light of the new trends, based on the principles and objectives contained in the Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere, with full respect for the sovereignty and juridical equality of States and their domestic capabilities.

ii) Recognizing that the fight against supply of and demand for drugs, corruption and transnational organized crime and related offenses, require that countries face the problems with a comprehensive, equitable, balanced and shared-responsibility approach, with international cooperation being an effective tool to counteract these problems.

2. To renew their commitment to the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)

Encouraged by the results obtained during the first two evaluation rounds of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism, they

i) Reiterate their conviction that this mechanism is an important means of identifying strengths, weaknesses, progress, and deficiencies in the current situation with respect to this problem in the Hemisphere, as well as for identifying areas that may enhance cooperation between States;

ii) Recognize that the MEM is a dynamic process, which adapts to social, economic and security changes in the region as well as allowing for the modification of its own methodology and stress that the ongoing commitment and participation of governments are necessary to consolidate the MEM as an objective evaluation instrument;

iii) Recognize that the MEM is a viable and effective mechanism to combat the drug problem with full respect for the sovereignty of States;

iv) Reaffirm the usefulness of implementing the recommendations made in the national and hemispheric reports, and express their gratitude and appreciation for the work done by the Governmental Experts Group (GEG) of MEM, which evaluates governments' efforts and issues specific recommendations to strengthen national anti-drug policies to address the global drug problem.

v) Stress that the evaluation exercise must be objective and commit to continue to provide the Governmental Experts Group the highest political importance and authority to issue critical and constructive opinions regarding the information presented by governments, to which end the governments shall designate qualified experts and ensure their continuity in the aforementioned Group.

3) To acknowledge that hemispheric cooperation is the path to be pursued

Convinced of the need to find real solutions, they

i) Commit themselves to increasing technical and financial assistance, within the capabilities of each country, and to improving the exchange of experiences, training and dialogue to combat the global drug problem, corruption, transnational organized crime, and related offenses;

ii) Reiterate their firm and lasting commitment to adopting effective strategies that make it possible to take specific cooperative activities designed to implement the recommendations arising out of the national and hemispheric reports of the MEM;

iii) Thank the Government of Mexico, as Chair of the CICAD assembly, for its offer to hold meetings in the near future to explore and define specific hemispherical cooperation actions on these issues;

iv) Agree that CICAD and the Executive Secretary focus their efforts on:

- 1) developing and improving systems of statistical information and analysis;
- 2) supporting institution-building activities in order to address the global problem of drugs and corruption and strengthen cooperation against transnational organized crime and related offenses;
- 3) reactivating the demand reduction group, in order to improve and facilitate cooperation and coordination among members States on prevention, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and training;
- 4) enhancing alternative development for illicit crops, and promote its incorporation in public policies;
- 5) promoting market access where appropriate for the products of Alternative Development Programs in order to enhance the sustainability of those programs;
- 6) implementing cooperative measures to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and corruption;
- 7) enhancing actions to control the diversion of pharmaceutical products and controlled chemical substances and the illicit production of synthetic drugs;
- 8) strengthening cooperation to combat the threat posed by the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in firearms, ammunitions and explosives within the provisions set forth in the Inter-American Convention on Illicit Manufacture and Trafficking in Weapons, Munitions, Explosives and Related Materials (CIFTA);
- 9) promoting cooperation to combat illicit maritime trafficking; and
- 10) developing a strategy for continuous promotion to consolidate the work of CICAD and the MEM, so that all organs and institutions of the States, as well as the media, opinion leaders, and society as a whole, are aware of their work.

Mexico City, December 5, 2002