

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES



INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

cicad

THIRTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION
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FINAL REPORT

**THIRTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)
FINAL REPORT**

I. BACKGROUND

The Statute of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) provides in Article 21 that the Commission shall hold two regular sessions per year, one an ordinary session, the other to address specific technical topics determined by the Commission or such other matters as may require its special attention. The Statute also provides that special sessions shall be held whenever the Commission so decides, or at the request of a majority of its member states. At its thirty-first regular session, the Commission decided, in accordance with Article 20 of the Statute, to hold the thirty-second regular session in Mexico City.

II. PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION

1. INAUGURAL SESSION

Opening remarks were made by Dr. Mildred Camero, outgoing Chair of CICAD. Dr. Camero highlighted CICAD's accomplishments during 2001-2002, among them the development of additional Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) indicators for the Second Round and, via CICAD Secretariat technical support, the strengthening of the national drug commissions. CICAD Vice Chair Rafael Macedo de la Concha welcomed the delegations and stressed that it was important for cooperation among member states to be expressed in actions.

A. DECISIONS ADOPTED

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

The agenda (CICAD/doc.1190/02 rev.1) and the schedule of activities (CICAD/doc.1191/02 rev.1) were approved without amendment.

2. ELECTION OF CICAD OFFICERS FOR THE 2002-2003 TERM OF OFFICE

In accordance with Articles 22 and 23 of the Statute of CICAD, elections were held for the chair and vice chair of the Commission for the 2003 term of office. Mr. Rafael Macedo de la Concha, Attorney General of Mexico and Principal Delegate to CICAD, was elected Chair by acclamation. Mr. Paul Kennedy, Senior Assistant Deputy Solicitor General of Canada and Principal Delegate to CICAD, was elected Vice Chair, also by acclamation (CICAD/doc.1193/02).

In his remarks, Mr. Macedo de la Concha pointed out that success in the hemispheric fight against drugs requires multilateral dialogue, trust, and commitment in the context of complete respect for the principle of the sovereign equality of states. He voiced concerns about the growing use of synthetic drugs and stressed the need for better cooperation in the maritime area. In his summary, Mr. Macedo focused on the need for CICAD to make decisions on the important questions before it. For his part, Mr. Kennedy challenged the member states to build on the initial success of the MEM, and to assure that their borders were not exploited by international organized crime.

3. APPROVAL OF THE 34 MEM NATIONAL REPORTS FOR 2001-2002

The Plenary reviewed and approved the MEM reports for all 34 member states, making adjustments to take account of comments and new information presented by countries in the case of some national reports. The final reports will be sent to the individual governments prior to their publication on January 30, 2003.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MEM HEMISPHERIC REPORT ON THE SECOND ROUND EVALUTION, 2001-2002

Following a lengthy plenary discussion on the report, the Commission decided to establish a working group to refine and consolidate the report's "Recommendations" and "Conclusions" sections. Following a plenary discussion of the Working Group's proposals and a thorough review of the Hemispheric Report, the Commission approved a preliminary version of the Hemispheric Report, which was released to the press. The report is pending both final editing and 2002 statistics for some graphics, and will be formally published with the 34 national reports in January 2003.

5. SUPPLY REDUCTION: PRESENTATION BY PERU ON VOLUNTARY ERADICATION OF COCA

Dr. Nils Ericsson, Executive President of Peru's National Commission for Development and Life without Drugs (DEVIDA), made a presentation on his country's new strategy to promote voluntary eradication, to be carried out by coca farmers themselves contingent upon simultaneous implementation of agreements with coca growing communities providing for concurrent alternative development programs. Voluntary eradication is to be monitored by CORAH, the Upper Huallaga Coca Reduction Agency. While forced eradication may still be required in areas where coca farmers are unwilling to participate, voluntary eradication programs are Peru's preferred answer to coca cultivation and are designed specifically to reduce social conflict.

6. BORDER MUNICIPALITIES PILOT PROJECT ON DEMAND REDUCTON ACTIVITIES: COORDINATION BETWEEN THE NATIONAL DRUG COUMMISSIONS OF ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY

Gen. Paulo Roberto Yog de Miranda Uchoa, head of Brazil's Anti-Drug

Commission (SENAD), gave a presentation on a pilot demand reduction project that mobilized both the populations and local authorities of Brazilian border cities and their counterpart cities in Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay in a process of institutionalized cooperation. This project was developed in eight bordering municipalities with the financial and technical cooperation of the Executive Secretariat of CICAD. It implemented a methodology to stimulate societal consciousness to educate, inform and prepare citizens for positive, effective and efficient actions to reduce the demand for drugs.

The national drug control commissions of the five countries jointly planned and coordinated with municipal governments and civic organizations all six phases of the project to:

- Determine local consumption of licit and illicit drugs.
- Identify local leaders and sensitize them to the problem.
- Create a juridical framework that is valid in all border cities.
- Break down barriers to cooperation between local governments and community organizations.
- Execute prevention actions within schools and workplaces and within the general population.
- Institutionalize the project.

7. METHODOLOGY TO CALCULATE THE DEMAND FOR DRUG TREATMENT

The CICAD Secretariat and Mr. Alain Wallon of the European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) briefed the Plenary on a EMCDDA/CICAD project being undertaken to formulate a common methodology to estimate the demand for drug treatment (Treatment Demand Indicator – TDI). The objective is to allow governments to plan and budget on a basis of economic rationality to establish required treatment facilities. The Secretariat requested that two countries serve as volunteers to begin the pilot project. The Dominican Republic and Argentina will participate. (CICAD/doc.1208/02).

8. REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS GROUP (GEG) OF THE MEM

The Plenary approved, after extensive discussion, the report of GEG Coordinator Mr. Alvaro Ahumada on evaluation activities in 2002. The Plenary also discussed at length the GEG Coordinator's proposal to convene the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) early in 2003 to conduct an exhaustive analysis of the MEM Second Round in order to examine the experience gained and address those issues that will make the MEM more effective. Issues include:

- The MEM process itself;
- The continuity and requisite level of experience of GEG members;
- Revisions to some indicators in the MEM questionnaire;

- The development of a methodology to allow the incorporation, into the evaluation process, of reliable sources of information among governments or international organizations to which CICAD member countries belong. The purpose would be to improve the quality of information made available to the GEG for purposes of relevant evaluations;
- What to do when countries do not comply with the MEM recommendations;
- On-site country visits by GEG experts; and
- The responsibility of countries to disseminate the MEM reports to their publics.

It was agreed that the IWG would meet early enough in 2003 so to be able to present its findings and recommendations to CICAD at its thirty third regular session.

9. PHARMACEUTICALS EXPERTS GROUP

Ms. Marta Ballesteros of Colombia, Chair of the Experts Group on Pharmaceutical Products, presented the report on its first meeting. The Group had identified a series of problems concerning the effective control of pharmaceutical products, reinforcing the preliminary work of the Experts Group on Chemical Substances on this issue. The pharmaceutical experts focused their attention on developing guidelines for the control of pharmaceutical products, guidelines for health professionals and guidelines for the pharmaceutical industry. In addition, the Group prepared a preliminary work plan for 2003 to finalize the foregoing and begin to address the other problems identified. The Commission adopted the recommendations of the Group and accepted its proposed draft Work Plan for 2003. (CICAD/doc.1204/02).

10. MONEY LAUNDERING EXPERTS GROUP

The Plenary approved a report by the Chair of the Money Laundering Experts Group, Ms. Luz Nuñez of Mexico, who outlined the work carried out by the Group at its XVth meeting, held in Mexico in July 2002. The reforms to the CICAD Model Regulations on money laundering proposed by the Group (CICAD/doc.1200/02) were approved by the Plenary and will be presented to the OAS General Assembly at its thirty fourth regular session for adoption.

The Plenary also approved a Work Plan presented by the Secretariat and proposed by Argentina, Bolivia, the United States, and Uruguay to convene the Group of Experts on Money Laundering in 2003. The Plenary accepted the US request to defer, until the next Commission meeting, consideration of an Argentine proposal to make the Money Laundering Experts Group permanent. (CICAD/doc.1202/02).

11. FIREARMS

The Plenary approved a 2003 Work Plan presented by the Secretariat to convene an Experts Group on Firearms. The objective will be to review model firearms regulations in the light of developments since 1997, including the development of measures to improve storage and stockpile management and new techniques for

marking, tracing and exchanging information on firearms. The Plenary also approved the US proposal that the Experts Group draft model regulations covering arms brokers. Nicaragua offered to host the meeting. (CICAD/doc.1211/02).

12. DEMAND REDUCTION EXPERTS GROUP

The Plenary approved a proposal by the Executive Secretariat to convene a meeting of the CICAD Experts Group in 2003 on Demand Reduction. The US requested that in its work, the Group take into consideration the outcome of the Counter-Drug Leadership Conference organized by the US Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) in Reston, Virginia, in September 2002 (CICAD/doc.1199/02).

13. CHAIRS OF EXPERT GROUPS TO BE CONVENED IN 2003

The Plenary approved the following Chairs of the Expert Groups to be convened in 2003:

- Pharmaceuticals: Brazil.
- Firearms: Nicaragua.
- Demand Reduction: Argentina.
- Money Laundering: US (The Commission decided that Bolivia will hold the position of vice chair in 2003 and of chair in 2004.)
- Chemical Control: Brazil.

14. RESOURCE GENERATION (OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE) EXPERT GROUP

The Plenary also approved in principle the proposal by Antigua and Barbuda to create a Resource Generation or Technical Assistance Experts Group. The Plenary accepted a proposal by the Vice Chair to defer final action until Suriname and Antigua and Barbuda ascertain which other countries are interested and produce a draft that fleshes out the concept for circulation at the next Commission meeting. Antigua and Barbuda undertook to present a discussion paper for the next Commission meeting.

15. MEXICAN NATIONAL COUNTER-DRUG STRATEGY

Mr. Alejandro Ramos Flores, Deputy Attorney General for Legal and International Affairs, briefed the Plenary on Mexico's Integrated National Drug Strategy. The strategy enlists federal, state and local governments and seeks to combat drug trafficking in all its manifestations, including *inter alia* production, transportation, wholesaling and street dealing, consumption, treatment, corruption, money laundering and exploitation of the legal system and the media.

16. REPORT ON THE POSSIBLE INTEROPERABILITY OF UN AND PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT SOFTWARE TO MANAGE CHEMICALS AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

The Secretariat briefed the Plenary on the question of whether the UN's National Database Software (NDS) and Peruvian Ministry of Production software could be made interoperable to monitor the movement of chemicals and pharmaceutical products. The report concluded that while direct interoperability, and thus commonality, was not practically possible, information could be shared between the two systems via other systems, such as e-mail.

In addition, the Plenary received a report by Brazil on new software being developed by the Federal Police to strengthen control of chemical substances.

17. EVALUATION OF CICAD PROJECTS

In accordance with CICAD's decision at its thirty-first regular session, the Secretariat presented three projects that it recommended for evaluation in 2003:

- Anti-Money Laundering Training for judges and prosecutors.
- GLEAM (Generalized Land-Use Evaluation and Management Tool) to plan alternative development projects.
- Demand Reduction, the project to introduce drug abuse prevention and treatment into the curricula of Latin American nursing schools.

Regarding the RETCOD communications network, the Commission agreed with the evaluation's conclusion that without investment from the recipient countries or from new donors, the project could expand once the remaining project funds are exhausted. The US suggested that if countries required outside support to participate in RETCOD, they could identify their needs in their requests to the NAS in the US Embassy in their capital. However, the US would expect such countries also to contribute to the project from their own resources.

The three proposed projects were accepted for evaluation in 2003 with one (Demand Reduction) to be presented at the spring session.

18. PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 8 OF THE REGULATIONS OF CICAD

The Plenary accepted Argentina's request to defer discussion on its proposed amendment to Article 8 of the CICAD Regulations until the next Commission meeting.

19. PRESENTATION BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENT

Ms. Beatriz Paredes, Chair of the Mexican Chamber of Deputies and past President of the Latin American Parliament, made the following points:

- The Latin American Parliament considers drug trafficking to be a serious threat.

- The drug issue has “political links.”
- There is a need to recognize the international basis of the drug problem.
- It is indispensable to have a direct dialogue between the major producing and consuming countries.
- The issue of gangs is of high priority and needs to be addressed.

Finally, Ms. Paredes requested the dissemination of CICAD reports to national congresses in the Americas for their review and to increase their knowledge base. The Secretariat will meet this request.

20. STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ANDEAN PARLIAMENT

Mr. Mario Arias Salas, Deputy of the Republic of Venezuela and President of the III Commission of the Andean Parliament, presented a proposed project for school-base drug prevention in the Andean Region.

21. STATEMENTS BY PERMANENT OBSERVERS

The Government of Spain presented an update on CICAD activities funded by Spain’s National Plan on Drugs, including Spain’s support to national drug commissions in Central America and the Andes and to the Permanent Central American Commission (CCP); its training programs for judges and prosecutors; and its support for the On-line M.A. in Addictions Studies.

The Russian Federation representative outlined Russia’s counter-narcotics strategy, which includes legislative changes, health and social initiatives, measures to strengthen border and customs controls, and steps to improve international cooperation. Heroin coming from Afghanistan through Central Asia poses a particular challenge for Russia. (CICAD/doc.1212/02).

UNDCP underscored the continuing close and open collaboration between CICAD and UNDCP and noted that UNDCP projects in Latin America and the Caribbean directly or indirectly help countries implement MEM recommendations.

The French representative stated that France wished to further strengthen links between CICAD and the French territories in the Americas in the fight against drugs, and increase its territories’ participation in CICAD activities. A Memorandum of Understanding between France and CICAD to formalize this objective is currently under negotiation. The International Center for Anti-Drug Training in Martinique (CIFAD) is already providing counter-drug and counter-money laundering training to police, judges and customs officials from around the Caribbean, and a French police expert in combating money laundering has been seconded to the Executive Secretariat of CICAD.

22. REPORT ON VENEZUELA’S 2002-2007 NATIONAL DRUG PLAN

Dr. Mildred Camero presented Venezuela’s newly approved National Drug Plan

for the period 2002-2007 and briefed the Plenary on its provisions.

23. THE PARTICIPATION OF NON-OAS TERRITORIES IN THE CARIBBEAN BASIN IN CICAD ACTIVITIES

The Plenary received a report from the CICAD Secretariat on participation in CICAD activities by Caribbean territories that are not members of the OAS. Draft Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) for this purpose are currently being considered by the Netherlands, France and the United Kingdom.

24. THE WORKING GROUP ON THE ANNUAL CICAD REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Plenary received a report from the Canadian Chair of the Working Group on the Annual CICAD Report to the General Assembly. The Working Group requested the Secretariat to restructure the report and its recommendations -- a final draft to be completed by February 2003.

In addition, the Working Group requested that the Secretariat summarize the Annual Report in a shorter format suitable for an outreach program to explain to the general public the work of CICAD. (CICAD/doc.1198/02).

25. PRESENTATION BY PARAGUAY ON MARIJUANA CULTIVATION

The delegate of Paraguay outlined measures his government is taking to confront the problem of increasing cultivation and trafficking of marijuana in his country. Due to the high incidence of rural poverty and unemployment in Paraguay, alternative development has joined law enforcement as a key part of government anti-drug policy. At the same time, it was important for the international community to recognize that Paraguay's considerable efforts to cope with increasing marijuana production will prove inadequate if the consuming nations do nothing about rising demand. He appealed to CICAD members to make marijuana a key part of the overall Hemispheric Anti-drug Strategy. He called for international support for the Paraguay's national anti-drug plan and especially its program for alternative development. (CICAD/doc.1213/02)

Several delegations commended the Paraguayan representative for calling to their attention the need for a greater focus on marijuana.

26. EVALUATION OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE CICAD EXPERT GROUPS

The Secretariat explained that Article 20 of CICAD's Regulations authorizes the Commission to establish such permanent or special subcommittees, expert and working groups, as it deems advisable, while Article 22 indicates that their functions and mandates come from the Commission and that the groups are advisory in nature. Aside from CICAD itself, the Summits of the Americas and the OAS General Assembly have been sources of calls for Expert Group meetings. It is important for participants to be national experts. Expert Groups normally are constituted on an ad hoc, rather than

permanent, basis. Customarily, Expert Group meetings are financed by the host nation, the Secretariat, and by the participating countries themselves. At times, a lack of funding or required national action means that the Expert Groups' recommendations may not be immediately implemented. Nevertheless, the provisions of the model regulations prepared by these groups (in the fields of money laundering, firearms and chemical substances control), have been widely adopted at the national level throughout the hemisphere. The Commission expressed its support for the operation of these Expert Groups.

27. REPORT BY THE CARICOM REGIONAL TASK FORCE ON CRIME AND SECURITY

The delegate from Trinidad and Tobago summarized for the Plenary this comprehensive report, published in September 2002, which placed special emphasis on the interconnected nature of the newer forms of crime involving illicit drugs, firearms, money laundering, general lawlessness, and corruption which threaten the security of the entire Caribbean region. The report, produced by the Task Force and chaired by Mr. Lancelot Selman of Trinidad and Tobago, recommended a broad array of reform initiatives to confront this growing challenge – which included *inter alia* changes to the justice system, the prison system and police, as well as the increased use of technology and the active involvement of civil society.

28. BRIEF BY THE MEXICAN FEDERAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY

The delegation from Mexico shared a video presentation with the Plenary concerning its Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). The presentation profiled the roles and responsibilities of this new law enforcement agency and highlighted its evolution.

The Chair emphasized the importance of the role assigned to this new agency in the context of police reform now being implemented by the Government of Mexico.

29. REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM MEMBER STATES THROUGH THE MEM PROCESS: FIRST ROUND RECOMMENDATIONS ON RESOURCE DECISIONS

The Secretariat requested the Plenary's approval for CICAD to give priority support to projects in the area of drug abuse prevention and statistical surveys on drug use, which represent indicators 8 and 14 of the MEM from the First Round (1999-2000).

The Commission wishes to base its project support decisions on member states' requests for assistance in implementing recommendations contained in the MEM national reports. In the First Round, for example, fourteen member states clearly identified Drug Abuse Prevention or Drug Use Statistics as their highest priorities. About half of these countries had projects either developed or under development. The other half had not begun. While the estimated cost of these projects (\$2,341,000) is

much greater than the sum CICAD is likely to have available, CICAD nonetheless for the first time will apply resources systematically against needs on which all have agreed. If the Plenary approved, the CICAD Secretariat committed to involve the recipient countries directly in the project design process and present the proposed projects to the Commission at its thirty-third regular session in April 2003.

The Plenary approved the Secretariat's proposal that the CICAD Secretariat allocate resources in response to requests from countries arising from the first round of the MEM, assigning priority to requests received from countries under MEM indicators 8 and 14. The Secretariat will work with the 14 countries to further refine their needs for assistance and develop projects proposals for presentation to the Commission in its next regular session. Chile proposed that all projects include provisions for evaluation. The delegation from Colombia indicated that while it was important to concentrate technical and financial assistance efforts in areas where demand was greatest, it was also necessary to maintain a comprehensive vision of the problem; accordingly, the Commission had to continue making efforts to improve the capacity of countries to control supply and produce statistics in this field.

30. PILOT PROJECT TO ESTIMATE THE HUMAN, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC COSTS OF DRUGS

The CICAD Secretariat and Dr. Jeff Merrill of Rutgers University briefed the Plenary on the status of the "costs" project and on meetings which had taken place in Mexico City concurrent with the Commission meeting. The four countries involved in the pilot phase -- Mexico, Uruguay, Barbados and Costa Rica -- were chosen based on a number of factors including the need for regional and size balance, and the existence of broad internal political support to ensure the success of the project. The "costs" study responds to a mandate from the Third Summit of the Americas, held in Quebec City in 2001, and MEM indicator 61 from the First Round, which specifically requires countries to find a means to determine the social and economic costs of the drug problem.

Dr. Merrill, who is consulting with CICAD, pointed out that the study is not just an academic exercise, but is focused on developing useful information for governments and NGOs in planning, programming and budgeting. The pilot countries will develop the tools to do cost estimates and prevalence analysis. He predicted the project could be completed for all member countries in 18-24 months rather than the 3 years initially contemplated.

31. REPORT OF THE SECOND WESTERN HEMISPHERE DRUG POLICY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IN RESTON, VIRGINIA AND THE INTER-AMERICAN COUNTERDRUG FORUM – EXECUTIVE SEMINAR ON REGIONAL COOPERATION AGAINST NARCOTRAFFICKING IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC IN MIAMI

The Director of the US Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), John

Walters, reported to the Plenary on the results of both meetings.

Recommendations resulting from the Inter-American Counterdrug Forum included:

- That studies be conducted to review the counterdrug maritime control, customs control, and port security capacities in countries of the Eastern Pacific.
- That emphasis be placed on expanding the implementation of successful port security programs, drawing on the success of existing models, such as that implemented in Colombia, and emphasizing the role of the private sector in port security.
- That CICAD work with other entities to coordinate links between, and to expand access as widely as possible to, existing communications networks, such as RETCOD and UNICORN, to share operational, tactical, administrative, time sensitive and other information.

Director Walters also asked for the Commission's approval for the Executive Secretariat to take responsibility for coordinating execution of these recommendations.

Reporting on the Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Leadership Conference, Mr. Walters also proposed that CICAD:

- Sponsor a research conference, with the participation of the US National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), as well as the drug research agencies of other countries, to promote sharing of procedures and medications used in drug treatment, and
- Design a concrete project proposal to change the culture of corruption that incorporates anti-corruption topics in the curricula of elementary schools in the hemisphere and enlists community leaders to speak out against corruption.

He concluded by noting that ONCDP had been at the forefront of successful efforts that had recently defeated marijuana legalization or decriminalization referenda in three US states. The passage of those initiatives would have encouraged the culture of acceptance of drugs and resulted in many more addictions.

The Commission accepted the report and recommendations and, in so doing, gave the Secretariat direction to carry out these actions. The Commission also accepted the offer of Honduras to host a conference on port security.

32. PRESENTATION BY MEXICO ON MARITIME COOPERATION (CICAD/doc.1214/02 rev.1)

In her presentation, the Under Secretary for Global Issues of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Patricia Olamendi, expressed Mexico's concern that maritime interception operations alone could not prevent seaborne trafficking in illicit drugs. She also noted that initiatives to promote maritime interdiction in the Caribbean sub-region alone represented a partial approach to the problem of maritime trafficking, which

should, in fact, be combated simultaneously in all coastal regions in the Hemisphere. Any initiative concerned with maritime cooperation should be undertaken within the broader framework of CICAD. She pointed out that at the Miami Forum and at the Reston Leadership Conference, Mexico had proposed the creation, within CICAD's institutional structure, of a mechanism that addresses the issue of maritime trafficking with a specific mandate to respect the international legal framework. She proposed as a first step the preparation by the Secretariat of a study taking an integral approach to maritime drug trafficking along all coasts in the Hemisphere, taking into account current practices and agreements, to be presented to the next regular session of the Commission. The study would serve as a starting point for discussion and include *inter alia* the following points:

- New characteristics and trends in the maritime trafficking in the region;
- National ports and customs controls;
- Analysis of operation procedures stemming from the implementation of Article 17 of the 1988 Vienna Convention; and
- Criteria that permit the preparation of a hemispheric cooperation plan that includes operational measures; best practices; government regulations and self-regulation of businesses on cutting-edge technology that could be used for criminal purposes; exchange of information; and that considers other actors present in the Caribbean region.

The Mexican presentation stimulated a spirited discussion among the delegates. Brazil, Chile, Ecuador and Venezuela supported the Mexican proposal. The US, however, expressed concern that the proposed study could prove duplicative and slow down or undermine ongoing maritime cooperation efforts in the Caribbean. The US suggested that before launching the study proposed by Mexico, the concept be further developed.

The delegates from the Dominican Republic, Belize, Haiti, Antigua and Barbuda, Costa Rica, and Suriname supported the study, but first pointed out that since maritime narcotics trafficking in the Caribbean was a serious problem requiring immediate attention, it needed to be addressed urgently through the Caribbean Maritime Agreement, which had been negotiated and approved for signature in San José, Costa Rica. At the same time, they said that they did not believe that the inclusion of non-Caribbean nations in the study should invalidate existing bilateral maritime cooperation mechanisms.

The delegate from Brazil expressed his country's reservations with respect to the Caribbean Maritime Agreement. While generally supporting the objective of strengthening hemispheric maritime cooperation in the fight against drugs, he said that the Brazilian government would transmit through diplomatic channels to the depository for the Caribbean Maritime Cooperation Agreement, its observations and reservations concerning the excessively broad definition of the Caribbean Sea and the implications of that definition for the rights of Brazil to its exclusive economic zone.

To summarize, CICAD Chair Mr. Macedo de la Concha said he recognized that

there were already bilateral and multilateral maritime cooperation agreements in place or pending and that this fact implied that they would be implemented. He also recognized that Mexico's proposal should be refined and considered in greater depth and then submitted to the Executive Secretariat to conduct the study.

33. PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS BY CICAD TO THE SPECIAL CONFERENCE ON SECURITY (CICAD/doc.1203/02 rev.5)

The Commission approved five proposed recommendations to the Special Conference on Security. Summarized, they are:

- States should reaffirm that CICAD is the competent regional forum and as such governments should endeavor to strengthen it and provide it with adequate financing.
- States should recognize that the MEM is the appropriate tool for guiding hemispheric cooperation on the drug problem.
- In order to better coordinate their activities against drug trafficking, related offenses and transnational organized crime in the hemisphere, and to avoid the duplication of efforts, the different entities in the inter-American system working in related areas should work jointly on a permanent basis under the coordination of the OAS Secretary General.
- States should endeavor, where appropriate, to sign, ratify or accede to and ensure the effective implementation of a series of international and hemispheric instruments related to drug control and trafficking, arms trafficking, money laundering, terrorist financing, corruption and transnational organized crime.
- The Conference should highlight that information exchanges, mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, extradition and improved coordination internally and across the hemisphere are essential to address the new threats to hemispheric security.

34. DECLARATION OF CICAD IN MEXICO CITY (CICAD/doc.1206/02 rev.3)

The Plenary adopted the text of the Declaration of Mexico, which had been proposed by the Mexican delegation, and approved it for release to the press during the closing ceremony of the session. In the Declaration, the countries reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen the MEM and its resolve to comply with the recommendations of the GEG. The Declaration also calls for the strengthening of drug abuse prevention and measures to combat corruption and recognizes the importance of hemispheric cooperation (Annex).

35. REPORT ON THE COORDINATION OF CICAD ACTIVITIES WITH LEGISLATIVE BODIES

The Plenary accepted the CICAD Secretariat's report on the coordination of CICAD activities with legislative bodies. The Secretariat provides, upon request, advice to member states on counter-narcotics and money laundering legislation. CICAD also

is drawing up a list of parliamentary committees with narcotics oversight and will be sending CICAD documents to legislatures regularly.

36. POSSIBLE SUBJECTS AND DATE FOR THE THIRTY-THIRD REGULAR SESSION OF CICAD

The Plenary approved April 28-May 2, 2003, as dates for the next regular session. The Secretariat proposed the following tentative list of topics for presentation at the next CICAD meeting and invited additional ideas from the member states. The Secretariat's proposed topics are:

- Alternative development.
- Intergovernmental Working Group (GTI) report on MEM process and indicators.
- National costs study - Phase 2.
- Evaluation of CICAD projects.
- Promotion of public awareness of the MEM.
- Possible CICAD presentation to the OAS General Assembly.
- CICAD Observatory report.
- Community Policing.
- Development of CICAD with hemispheric parliaments/congresses.
- Chemical control.

37. OTHER BUSINESS

The delegate from the Dominican Republic announced his country's candidacy for the CICAD Vice Chair for 2003-2004.

The Vice Chair, the Executive Secretary of CICAD, and many delegations expressed appreciation for the Mexican Government's superb arrangements for the thirty-second regular session of CICAD.

38. CLOSING SESSION

The President of Mexico, Mr. Vicente Fox, delivered a speech to the Commission delegates and declared the thirty-second regular session of CICAD closed. He referred to the importance of the joint efforts of the countries of the hemisphere to conquer the drug problem in the region and the important advances made in the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism market. He called upon the member states to appoint high-level experts to the GEG and extended his support to the current CICAD leadership with a view to strengthening the Commission's activities.

The CICAD Chair, Mr. Macedo de la Concha, summarized the work accomplished during the Commission's five days of work and read out the Declaration of Mexico City, in the presence of the President of the Republic, the delegates, and the media.

B. PARTICIPANTS

1. CICAD MEMBERS

Representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

2. PERMANENT OBSERVERS

Also attending the thirty-second regular session in their capacities as permanent observers to the Organization of American States (OAS) were representatives of France, the Russian Federation, Spain, the European Union, and the Netherlands.

3. INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL AND SPECIALIZED ORGANIZATIONS

In attendance were representatives from the Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Council (CCLEC), the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), the Andean Parliament, the Latin American Parliament, and The United Nations Drug Control Programme.

4. SPECIAL GUESTS

Jeffrey Merrill, University Research Professor, the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.