

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES



INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

cicad

THIRTY-THIRD REGULAR SESSION
29 April – 2 May, 2003
Washington, D.C.

OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.33
CICAD/doc.1230/03
28 April 2003
Original: Spanish

**PROPOSAL BY MEXICO THAT AN INTER-AMERICAN MEETING BE HELD,
IN THE FRAMEWORK OF CICAD,
ON MECHANISMS FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ORGANIZED CRIME**

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Over the past 10 years, illicit activities have given increasing cause for concern, as they become ever more complex, versatile, and global. The vigorous regional expansion of certain groups dedicated to transnational organized crime is more and more worrying as it poses a serious threat to the normal development of our peoples and inflicts huge social, economic, and political costs on States.

Drug trafficking has long been associated with, above all, weapons smuggling, money laundering, and the diversion of chemical substances. However, current trends indicate that drug traffickers have devised other forms of criminal behavior to boost their illicit activities and create infrastructure that allows them to operate at any level, under any circumstances, and in any State, establishing a network with enormous potential for corruption, with economic and technical underpinnings that are a match for many a government department.

That being so, this phenomenon needs to be addressed from a wider perspective capable of encompassing the different facets of organized crime and forcing us to ponder the new challenges the Hemisphere faces.

It is important, in this new approach, to point out that efforts to combat the different manifestations of organized crime require coordination among states and institutions, as well as new working methods to combine the efforts of the different national agencies involved. Multilateral cooperation, with due respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each state, is essential.

The countries in our Hemisphere have repeatedly asserted our determination to combat organized crime and impunity. Accordingly, and worried by this increasingly pervasive phenomenon, the Government of Mexico feels there is a need to complement our efforts to attain our common goal, based on the principles of co-responsibility and mutual trust.

Therefore, the Government of Mexico proposes holding, in the second half of this year, a First Inter-American Meeting to share experiences with the efforts we have made and to identify the mechanisms needed to strengthen cooperation in this field.

Recognizing that CICAD has proved to be the natural forum for discussion of the drug trafficking problem and has helped us to make headway in designing strategies to combat it, Mexico proposes that the conclusions reached at the Inter-American Meeting be submitted to the Commission at its 34th regular session.

The Government of Mexico is pleased to offer to host this First Meeting and invites member states of the Commission to participate in it, sharing their experience and contributing with their proposals, thereby enriching this hemispheric effort.