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INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

cicad

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FINAL REPORT

**THIRTY-FOURTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)
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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-third regular session, the Commission decided, in accordance with Article 20 of the Statute, to hold the thirty-fourth regular session in Montreal, Canada.

II. PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH REGULAR SESSION

INAUGURAL SESSION

Opening remarks were made by the Solicitor General of Canada, the Honourable Wayne Easter; the Chair of CICAD, the Hon. Rafael Macedo de la Concha, Attorney General of Mexico (CICAD/doc.1279/03); the Vice Chair of CICAD, Mr. Paul Kennedy, Senior Assistant Deputy Solicitor General of Canada, and the Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Dr. Luigi Einaudi (CICAD/doc.1282/03).

Mr. Easter stressed the importance of collaboration and cross-border cooperation in an increasingly borderless world. Mr. Macedo de la Concha provided an overview of the initiatives and advances made by CICAD during the preceding year, specifically the improvements to the MEM indicators, the Mexican initiative to address transnational organized crime and its links to drug trafficking, the work of CICAD's Expert Groups, and member states' renewed commitment to combating maritime drug trafficking. Mr. Kennedy underlined the need for a collaborative multilateral approach to respond to the problems and challenges that the Commission faces and proposed a greater focus on improving and strengthening cross-border cooperation. He also pointed to the need to better link donors and the needs of recipient countries in a coordinated and strategic fashion. Finally he proposed that the Commission undertake a priority-setting exercise during its next meeting. Dr. Einaudi praised the Commission for its accomplishments but suggested that it was entering into a time of severe challenges, which would test its capacity for multilateral responses. This would generate a need for fresh initiatives and a rethinking on approaches that might be applied. Within this environment, the Commission will have to consider changes and emerging threats, which will require a greater emphasis on priority-setting.

DECISIONS ADOPTED

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

The draft agenda (CICAD/doc.1257/03) and the draft schedule of activities (CICAD/doc.1258/03 rev. 3) were adopted without amendment.

2. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION

In accordance with Articles 22 and 23 of the Statute, the Commission elected Canada, in the person of Mr. Paul Kennedy, as Chair of the Commission, and the Dominican Republic, in the person of Mr. Bonaparte Gautreaux Piñeyro, as Vice Chair, both for the 2003–2004 term of office. Both elections were by acclamation.

3. REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS GROUP (GEG) OF THE MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

The General Vice-Coordinator of the GEG, Mr. Ornel Brooks of Belize, reported on the GEG's drafting session, held in Brasilia, Brazil (November 3-7, 2003), at which the GEG drafted the first versions of the reports evaluating the progress that member states had made towards the implementation of recommendations emanating from the second round of the MEM (2001-2002). He said that these initial drafts were intended to serve as a vehicle for dialogue between the countries and the Commission.

While that meeting yielded a preliminary evaluation, to be followed by a final drafting session in February 2004, the results indicated qualitative advances and progress in responding to the recommendations by countries across the hemisphere. Mr. Brooks reported that 81 recommendations had been completed, 186 were under way, and 53 had not yet been started. He also said that the evaluation shows that the subculture of violence that has been created in the hemisphere is undermining social, political and economic stability. In conclusion, he reaffirmed that the MEM is the "process-facilitator" for the success of the *Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere*, providing for greater and improved cooperation and coordination among countries.

4. FIRST INTER-AMERICAN MEETING ON MECHANISMS FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ORGANIZED CRIME

The Chair of the First Inter-American Meeting on Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Fight against Organized Crime, the Deputy Attorney General of Mexico, Dr. José Luis Santiago Vasconcelos, delivered a report on the discussions that had taken place in Mexico City on October 6-8, 2003 (CICAD/doc.1268/03). He reviewed the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting, including the recommendation to form an ad hoc group, which would meet before the end of April 2004 to consider the issue of organized crime in greater detail. Following a full discussion, the Commission decided to form such a group with open membership, charged with examining the issue of organized crime, its links with the drug problem and the activities of CICAD, and reporting back to the Commission at its thirty-fifth regular session. The ad hoc group would take as its basis the document containing the conclusions and recommendations of the First Inter-American Meeting on the matter.

5. CONSIDERATION OF THE INDICATORS ON TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME ADOPTED AT THE FIRST INTER-AMERICAN MEETING ON MECHANISMS FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ORGANIZED CRIME, FOR THE QUESTIONNAIRE OF THE MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

The delegate of Mexico, as the state that hosted the First Inter-American Meeting on Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Fight against Organized Crime, introduced two proposed MEM indicators relating to transnational organized crime (CICAD/doc.1277/03), which were approved at that meeting and submitted to CICAD for adoption. The first was entitled:

“Prevention, control and repression of Transnational Organized Crime in relation to illicit drug trafficking and related crimes”, and the second, “Enforcement of laws against Transnational Organized Crime in relation to illicit drug trafficking and related crimes.” These indicators, initially proposed by Mexico at a meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) of the MEM, held in Panama in March 2003, were discussed again at the thirty-third regular session of CICAD. They were then referred to the First Inter-American Meeting on Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Fight against Organized Crime, where they were amended and adopted, and were now to be reviewed by the Commission at this thirty-fourth regular session.

Some delegates initially sought to postpone Commission action on the two new indicators until the thirty-fifth regular session, in order that the ad hoc group on Transnational Organized Crime agreed to in point 4 above could have the opportunity to consider them. However, after the Chair explained that the purpose of the ad hoc group meeting was not to deal with the proposed MEM indicators, and that such a delay would mean that the two indicators could not be included in the third round MEM questionnaire, the Commission approved by consensus the two proposed indicators, and decided to refer them to the member states with a view to their inclusion in the set of indicators for the third evaluation round of the MEM.

6. SPECIAL CONFERENCE ON HEMISPHERIC SECURITY

Ambassador Miguel Ruiz Cabañas, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the OAS and Chairman of the Working Group of the Special Conference on Hemispheric Security, introduced a report on the Special Conference on Hemispheric Security, which had taken place in Mexico City on October 27-28, 2003, and the Declaration on Security in the Americas, approved by that conference (CICAD/doc.1268 and 1269/03 respectively). He pointed out that the Declaration on Security in the Americas was significant in that it recognized that member states face a much broader array of threats to their security than those traditionally understood. New threats include corruption, arms trafficking, drug trafficking, money laundering, and transnational organized crime. Significantly, while the Declaration also affirmed the role of the Permanent Council of the OAS, through its Committee on Hemispheric Security, in coordinating the cooperation among various entities and mechanisms of the Organization related to security, it also respected the specific mandates and areas of competence of each, such as CICAD.

7. LINKS BETWEEN THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS AND CICAD

Mr. Marc Lortie, Assistant Deputy Minister for the Americas and Canadian Coordinator for the Third Summit of the Americas, described the road map to the Fourth Summit of Heads of State and of Government, to take place in Argentina in 2005. A Special Summit of the Americas will be held in Monterrey, Mexico on January 12-13, 2004, to take account of challenges that have arisen since the Third Summit in Quebec in 2001, and to serve as a bridge to the summit in Argentina. The Special Summit will also help reinvigorate the summit process itself, since fourteen of the hemisphere's current heads of state were not in office at the time of the Quebec Summit. The three key themes for Monterrey will be growth with equity, social development, and democratic governance. He concluded by saying that the Special Summit would be a crossroads for the Americas, and urged that CICAD contribute by its work in order to inject impetus into the process.

8. ANTI-TERRORIST COORDINATION BY AGENCIES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Mr. Steven Monblatt, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE), described CICTE's efforts to help member states transform their commitments on anti-terrorist cooperation into practice, particularly since September 11, 2001. CICTE action programs include the establishment of national points of contact on terrorism issues; assistance to countries to rewrite their anti-terrorism legislation; training events on anti-terrorism financing; the development of best practices in border control; and in airport, seaport, and cyberspace security. He emphasized CICTE's close cooperation with CICAD, particularly in the area of money laundering control, and with other OAS units, as well as with International Financial Institutions, in carrying out its programs.

Mexico lauded CICTE's cooperation with CICAD, especially in the area of anti-money laundering training, as a good model of inter-agency coordination in the framework of the new security environment. The Chair invited CICTE to provide an update on its activities to the thirty-fifth regular session of CICAD.

9. CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION INITIATIVES

Canada announced that it would be holding, in cooperation with CICAD and in the context of a broader concept of border concerns, a series of workshops in Latin America and the Caribbean during early 2004 to share with member states lessons learned that might be applicable to the region in the areas of witness protection; priority setting of identified threats; undercover operations; and the employment of cross-border crime regional fora as a vehicles for raising problems of mutual concern and fostering cooperation (CICAD/doc.1270/03). Discussion by the delegates evinced general interest in these workshops, which will be held in the first quarter of 2004.

The delegate of Canada also briefed the Commission on Canada-US cross-border law enforcement cooperation, saying that key to success had been strong, sustained political leadership on both sides of the US-Canadian border; focused agenda-setting based on joint priorities; a strong secretariat and ad hoc working groups to drive the agenda; and the involvement of a broad array of institutional stakeholders.

The Chair invited those member states that wish to participate to so advise the Executive Secretariat, in response to the Executive Secretary's letter to the Commissioners of November 10, 2003.

10. HEALTH, EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT IN PARTNERSHIP (HEP)

Mr. Michel Perron, Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA), and Mr. Barry King, Chairman of the Board of CCSA, introduced Canada's Health, Education and Enforcement in Partnership (HEP) program (CICAD/doc.1270/03). The program, which was established in 1994, has created a critical nexus between health, education and law enforcement officials who work together in drug control and prevention activities. Benefits of the program include an increased understanding among health and law enforcement personnel who frequently have differing perspectives and ideologies, avoiding duplication of services, and better leverage for obtaining resources.

Mr. Perron also described the Canadian-CICAD HEP training program that will take place in the Caribbean in the first quarter of 2004, which will bring together representatives from health, education and law enforcement of participating countries to share information and learn from each other on best practices and specific approaches to bridging the gap between health and law enforcement efforts in the drug field.

11. CICAD MODEL REGULATIONS FOR THE CONTROL OF THE INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT OF FIREARMS, THEIR PARTS AND COMPONENTS AND AMMUNITION

The Executive Secretariat of CICAD outlined the amendments to the Model Regulations proposed by CICAD's Expert Group on Firearms at its meeting in Nicaragua in April 2003, (CICAD/doc.1271/03), and recommended that the amendments, including the new provisions for the regulation of firearms brokers, be adopted. The Commission, after discussion, approved the proposed amendments without change. In addition, the Commission directed that the Secretariat develop and maintain a list of firearms brokers implicated in illicit firearms trafficking for distribution among appropriate authorities in each member state.

The Secretariat also reported that it will be implementing its pilot project to install the Small Arms and Light Weapons Administration System software (SALSA) system in four Caribbean countries: The Bahamas, Jamaica, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago, early in 2004. The system, which is proposed to be in place in all member countries by 2005, comprises a series of integrated databases providing ready information on national laws and regulations on the import, export and trans-shipment of firearms, and on responsible national authorities and other contact points. It will also provide a secure means for exchanging information among appropriate authorities on movements of commercial arms throughout the region. The system is also designed to facilitate applications for licenses and permits for the legitimate export, import and trans-shipment of firearms.

The Commission directed the Secretariat to provide copies of the revised firearms regulations to related OAS bodies such as the Consultative Committee established under the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA) and the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE) and to maintain regular contact and exchange information with them. The Commission further directed the Secretariat to ensure that these bodies were invited to attend all of CICAD's regular sessions, and to participate in other CICAD activities as appropriate.

12. REPORT ON THE SECOND MEETING OF THE CICAD WORKING GROUP ON THE STUDY ON MARITIME COOPERATION ON CONTROL OF DRUG TRAFFICKING

Ms. María Teresa Hart, Chair of the Working Group on Maritime Cooperation, reported on the second meeting of the working group on the study on maritime cooperation, held October 20-24, 2003 in Miami, Florida (CICAD/doc.1267/03), and summarized the thirty-one recommendations to member states on increased cooperation on interdiction of drug shipments by sea. The delegates of The Bahamas, Peru, Mexico, Haiti, the United States, Chile, Canada, Colombia, Honduras, Costa Rica and Antigua and Barbuda took the floor to underscore the vital need for cooperation among all countries to address the serious problem of drug trafficking by maritime means.

The Commission thanked Ms. Hart for her excellent report, adopted the recommendations of the working group on the study on maritime cooperation, and approved the establishment of an [ad

hoc/Expert Group] on Maritime Cooperation, whose first task would be to determine which of the recommendations should take priority and be implemented in the short, medium and long-term.

13. COMMUNITY POLICING PILOT PROJECT

Col. Julio Gautreaux of the National Police of the Dominican Republic, presented a report on the progress made to date in the community policing pilot project currently under way in Santo Domingo with the assistance of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and CICAD. He reported success in crime and violence prevention, improving the general quality of life in the pilot communities, and increasing positive communication between the community and the police force (POLISCOM).

Col. Gautreaux noted four challenges that must be met in any successful community policing program: the need for political will; a change in police culture; a change in public perceptions, and allocation of sufficient resources.

The presentation was well received by the Commission and generated much discussion and interest. The delegate of Antigua and Barbuda requested that the RCMP revisit its proposal to work with other CARICOM countries and with the Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police to conduct a similar community policing project in the English-speaking Caribbean. The delegate of Haiti expressed interest in participating in a workshop to learn from the experience in the Dominican Republic. The delegate of Chile shared information regarding his country's experience with measuring of levels of violence and the community's perception of security or lack of security, and with a community policing initiative. The delegate of Uruguay noted that the greatest advantage of community policing was that it breaks a cycle of social exclusion formerly generated by the police. The Chairman thanked Col. Gautreaux for his presentation and congratulated him on the success of the pilot.

14. PROJECT EVALUATION: GENERALIZED LAND-USE EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT TOOL (GLEAM)

Mr. William G. Brooner, a CICAD consultant who evaluated the Generalized Land-Use Evaluation and Management Tool (GLEAM) in Peru and Bolivia, reported on the results of his evaluation, and recommendations for the program. He found that the GLEAM system works well when used with high-quality, updated information; however, regular training, updated software and databases are essential to the program's success. He also noted that individual countries are responsible for the full implementation of the program in order to achieve results. He stated that CICAD's funds had been well spent, and that GLEAM is a very valuable tool.

The Commission considered the evaluation, and noted that participating member states were given a period of 180 days within which to design a work plan and demonstrate a use of GLEAM. If there is no clear indication of progress on the specific recommendations identified in the project evaluation, the Secretariat should take steps to reconsider its continued support for GLEAM.

15. MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS

Mr. Pierre-Gilles Bélanger, Coordinator of the OAS Working Group on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, Department of Justice Canada; Ms. Rosario Duaso, Faculty of Law of the University of Montréal, and Mr. Gord Godfrey, also of Justice Canada, introduced the OAS

public web site and the pilot connectivity project on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. This pilot project is being conducted in nine member states under the auspices of the Ministers of Justice of the Americas (REMJA). The principal objective of the project is to enable the central authorities to exchange information and send requests for extradition and criminal assistance in a secure environment. The project's web page and virtual library includes information on each country's legislation, international and bilateral treaties, the requisite request forms, and national contact points.

Mexico thanked Canada for its leadership in this project, which is a practical tool for countries without peer in the world, and hopes to see the pilot expanded to all member states. Brazil expressed great interest in the pilot project, particularly as regards the national police in carrying out their role in mutual legal assistance. Panama also indicated its interest in being part of the project.

16. REAL-TIME ANALYTICAL INTELLIGENCE DATABASE (RAID) AND DOCUMENT EXPLOITATION OF THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL DRUG INFORMATION CENTER (NDIC)

Mr. Michael T. Horn, NDIC Director and Ms. Mary-Lou Rodgers, NDIC Chief of Staff, explained how RAID operates, and demonstrated how the software, which is being made available to interested member states, helps gather timely information pertinent to an investigation, which can subsequently be used as evidence at trial. Chile and Venezuela asked about NDIC's links with the DEA and FinCen (the US financial intelligence agency). Ms. Rodgers explained that the Center has assisted both agencies on various occasions, making the software available for specific cases. The software will be available in Spanish and French in 2004.

The Chair thanked Mr. Horn and Ms. Rodgers for their very useful presentation.

17. CANADA'S DRUG STRATEGY

Ms. Christine Miles, Acting Director General, Policing and Law Enforcement Directorate, Department of the Solicitor General Canada; Ms. Beth Pierson, Director General, Drug Strategy and Controlled Substance Program, Health Canada; and Mr. Paul-Saint Denis, Senior Counsel, Criminal Law Policy Section of the Department of Justice Canada, outlined the updating of Canada's drug strategy, announced in May 2003 and involving an investment of \$245 million Canadian for research, cooperation, intervention, and implementation of legislative reforms.

Mr. Saint Denis explained in detail the provisions of the bill that would amend policy on possession and use of marijuana. However, he noted that the legislation had died when Parliament adjourned in November, and it is unclear whether the bill will be revived in the next session of Parliament. He also described the procedure in place for the medical prescription of marijuana for therapeutic purposes for certain illnesses, a policy that had been largely driven by successful court cases by patients.

Mr. Saint Denis' presentation was followed by a searching exchange of views on the implications of such changes.

The delegates of Mexico, Colombia, Chile, Uruguay, Venezuela, Guyana, Argentina, Bolivia, Costa Rica, United States, Canada, the Vice Chair (Dominican Republic) and the Chair (Canada) took the floor to address the matter. Most of the representatives thanked Canada for

the presentation and for the opportunity it had afforded for debate on the topic among CICAD delegates. The delegate of Costa Rica said that he was not in agreement with the policy behind the proposed legislation.

Delegates from various countries, including Mexico, Colombia, Chile and Venezuela, emphasized the possible implications for other countries' drug control programs of Canada's proposed alternative sentencing scheme for possession of small amounts of marijuana, which some delegates said might be counter to the 1988 UN Convention. The delegate of Mexico stated his concern that Canada's proposed cannabis reform might send a negative signal to other countries that are devoting substantial economic and human resources to combatting illicit drugs.

The representative of Canada underscored that possession and use of marijuana continue to be illicit, and under the bill, would be penalized by fines, and would be in full accord with the United Nations Conventions. He also stressed that criminal penalties for the cultivation of cannabis would be increased if the draft bill were approved. The delegate of Uruguay said that in his country, neither possession nor use was penalized, and he welcomed the stress that Canada was giving to prevention and education in this area. The delegate of Argentina added that alcohol abuse must also be included in prevention, because it is the substance of first use by young people.

The representatives of the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Uruguay and Argentina, among others, stated their doubts about Canada's drug strategy and the use of marijuana for therapeutic purposes. The Delegate of Argentina stated that the World Health Organization has not yet recognized the therapeutic value of marijuana, while the Uruguayan delegate said that it would be most interesting to learn the results of an initiative in Vancouver to establish supervised injection sites. Responding to a question from the Vice Chair as to who produces and exercises quality control over marijuana used for therapeutic purposes, the delegate of Canada said that the government has that responsibility; the Chair said that commercial manufacturers are not interested in this type of production because they do not see its profitability.

At the close of the discussion, the representative of Canada thanked the countries for their honesty in addressing this topic. The Chair echoed that statement, and said that this type of discussion is very important to CICAD, since the Commission covers a broad range of subjects ranging from health to law enforcement, and many different laws and views are involved in the debates.

18. CICAD TASK FORCE ON RESOURCE GENERATION

The Delegate of Antigua and Barbuda, Mr. Starret Green, made an oral report on the Task Force on Resource Generation, which had been approved at the thirty-third regular session of the Commission. The Task Force was designed to serve as a catalyst for attracting financial support for drug control programs in the hemisphere, and help member states to comply more effectively with the recommendations of the MEM. However, to date, the Task Force is not yet operational, but momentum is building at this regular session. He said that the Delegation of Antigua and Barbuda will continue to work with other countries to spearhead the effort to get the Task Force up and running, and noted that it can be a powerful mechanism to help member states to conduct effective antidrug activities.

The Chair thanked the delegate of Antigua and Barbuda for his leadership on this issue, and said that he was hopeful that momentum would continue to build.

19. FORMATION OF CICAD'S SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Executive Secretariat of CICAD presented a proposal to establish a CICAD Scientific Advisory Committee, which would advise the Commission and the Secretariat on the development of new drug-related programs and the improvement of programs already in place, based on cutting edge, scientific evidence. Member states had recommended candidates for Committee membership. It was proposed that the Committee hold its first meeting prior to the Spring 2004 meeting of the Commission, to provide scientific advice on CICAD programs and MEM assistance requests. Members would serve without honoraria, in their individual capacity, not as representatives of member states.

The candidates are: Dr. Arturo Guerra de Andrade, Brazil; Dr. Maria Elena Medina Mora, Mexico; Dr. Eduardo Valenzuela, Chile; Mr. Pernell Clarke, Barbados; Dr. Michael Agar, US, and Dr. Zili Sloboda, US. Alternate members would be: Dr. Alice Abreu, OAS Director of Science and Technology, and Dr. Henrick Harwood, Lewin Group, a health policy group in Washington DC. The US National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the Canadian Center on Substance Abuse (CCSA), and the European Monitoring Center on Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) would be institutional members, to be called on as needed.

A number of delegates said they were concerned about the cost involved in establishing this Committee, its relationship with the Groups of Experts and the Resource Generation Task Force, and the need to ensure adequate geographical representation. The Executive Secretariat explained that the cost was relatively small and could be financed within the existing budget, and agreed to look for synergies with the Expert Groups.

The Commission approved the formation of a six-member Science Advisory Committee, on the understanding that the opinions of the Science Advisory Committee would be purely advisory.

20. CICAD EXPERT GROUPS

a. *Group of Experts on Demand Reduction*

Dr. Wilbur Ricardo Grimson of Argentina, Chair of the Demand Reduction Expert Group, reported on the fifth meeting of the group on October 22-24, 2003, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The final report of the meeting is published as CICAD/doc.1262/03, along with the Executive Summary of the document ***Practical Guide to the Organization of a Comprehensive Drug Treatment System*** (CICAD/doc.1262/03 add.1), which the Expert Group recommends to member states for adoption. The Expert Group proposed to meet during the first half of 2004, with Honduras offering to host (see work plan below, p. 12). Following the discussion in which the delegates of Venezuela, Chile, United States, Dominican Republic, Brazil, Uruguay, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Mexico, Canada, Honduras, took the floor to thank Dr. Grimson and the Expert Group for their excellent work, and agreed the CICAD sessions should give more emphasis to demand reduction and cover more demand reduction topics. The Commission approved the report and its recommendations, requesting that they be prioritized. The Commission also approved the extension of the term of office of the chair to two years. The Delegate of Mexico requested the Executive Secretariat to strengthen the Demand Reduction Program.

b. Group of Experts on Chemical Precursors

Mr. Ronaldo Urbano, General Coordinator of the Anti-Narcotics Police of Brazil, introduced the final report of the Expert Group on Chemical Precursors, held in Brasilia on August 27-29, 2003 (CICAD/doc.1265/03). The delegates of Costa Rica, Antigua and Barbuda, Venezuela, Canada, Peru, Colombia, Belize thanked Mr. Urbano for its leadership of the Group of Experts and stressed the importance of pre-export notifications and a system of secure communications. The Commission approved the report and its recommendations.

The delegate of Colombia requested that the Executive Secretariat undertake studies of the environmental impact caused by chemical substances used in the production of cocaine and heroin. The delegate of Honduras requested the support and cooperation of the Executive Secretariat and other countries in setting up an efficient office in her country for the control of chemical substances. Colombia, Brazil and Peru offered their assistance in doing so.

In a subsequent discussion, the Commission agreed that the Expert Group would meet in 2004, and that a refined work plan with deliverables would be developed. The Commission decided that the Expert Group on Chemical Precursors and the Expert Group on Pharmaceuticals would meet consecutively, and that Brazil would remain as chair for both meetings (see work plan below, p. 13)

c. Group of Experts on Pharmaceuticals

Mr. Kleber Pessoa de Melo, Chief of the Controlled Products Unit of the Brazilian National Surveillance Agency (ANVISA), presented the final report of the meeting of the Expert Group on Pharmaceuticals, which was held in Brasilia on August 25-27, 2003 (CICAD/doc.1266/03).

The delegates of Belize, the United States, Canada and Colombia commended the Group of Experts on its very timely and productive work, which would help member states fulfill the MEM recommendations on the control of pharmaceuticals and prescribed medicines. After full consideration of the matter, the Commission approved the report and its recommendations. Canada is prepared to provide financial support for the drafting and publication of the Guide for Health Professionals for review of the Group of Experts on Pharmaceuticals.

The Commission decided that the Expert Group on Pharmaceuticals would meet in 2004, as noted above.

d. Group of Experts on Money Laundering Control

The Chair of CICAD's Expert Group on Money Laundering Control, the Hon. Mary Lee Warren, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, United States Department of Justice, reported on the Expert Group's meetings on June 24-26 and November 4-7, 2003 in Washington, D.C (CICAD/doc.1260/03), touching particularly on the amendments to the Model Regulations designed to combat terrorist financing. The delegates of Uruguay, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Haiti, Antigua and Barbuda, the United States, Guyana and Jamaica congratulated the Expert Group on the remarkable progress it had made in addressing some very difficult issues. The Commission approved the report and its recommendations, as well as the amendments to the Model Regulations on Money Laundering Control. It noted that this Group of Experts will be chaired in 2004 by Bolivia, as per document CICAD/doc.1260/02.

21. CONSIDERATION OF THE WORK PLANS FOR 2004-2005 OF THE GROUPS OF EXPERTS ON MONEY LAUNDERING, PHARMACEUTICALS, DEMAND REDUCTION, CHEMICAL PRECURSORS, AND FIREARMS, THE NEW AD HOC GROUP ON TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AND THE NEW [AD HOC/EXPERT] GROUP ON MARITIME COOPERATION

The work plans for these groups were discussed twice: on November 19, the Chair led a general discussion on the work of the Expert Groups, priorities, and the need for precision, budgets and personnel availability. On November 20, the Commission took up the matter again, and the Executive Secretary of CICAD discussed the limited financial resources available to execute these plans. Some delegates also said that their countries had also experienced budget cuts. Delegates suggested that the Chairs of the Groups send the agenda items and documentation to the countries in advance; that the meeting not exceed three days; that videoconferencing be used, and meetings be held only when necessary and at lower cost, with each country paying its own expenses. On this occasion, the Chairs of the various Expert Groups presented further refinements to their work plans for consideration, as follows:

a. Expert Group on Demand Reduction

The Chair of the Demand Reduction Expert Group, Dr. Wilbur Grimson of Argentina, said that he had brought together that morning a working group of representatives of some delegations present in Montreal to review the work plan deriving from the meeting of the Expert Group in Buenos Aires (CICAD/doc.1262/03).

The working group proposed the following, based on the abovementioned document:

1. A modus operandi of working together, based on the use of e-mail, electronic fora, and videoconferencing, of interest groups specializing in different demand reduction issues. A regular newsletter would be produced on the latest advances in drug abuse prevention, treatment and research. A meeting would be held in the first half of 2004, in Honduras, to which country delegates would pay their own expenses.
2. The Expert Group's important objective of establishing or strengthening comprehensive national drug treatment systems integrated into a continuum of care with adequate patient matching and referrals, to include Ministries of Health, National Drug Commissions and non-governmental organizations is unchanged. However, the Montreal working group suggested that rather than convening a meeting of Ministers of Health, heads of National Drug Commission, NGO treatment providers and parliamentarians, it should be indicated to member states that they approach their national Ministries of Health, as well as the Ministries of Education and Justice, to advise them of the need for drug treatment services to be fully integrated into national health care systems, providing a continuum of care. In order to ensure that this topic is not sidelined, as often happens at the national level with demand reduction issues, these discussions should be backed by the CICAD Executive Secretariat and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). The support of the OAS Permanent Council would be sought to place the topic on the agenda of the Meeting of Ministers of Health of the Americas, which would in turn include the matter on the agenda of the Special Summit in Monterrey. Venezuela would coordinate this issue. Dr. Grimson thanked Dr. Luis Alfonzo, MD, of Venezuela, for his significant work in developing the guidelines on drug treatment services, and invited the Executive Secretariat to fund publication of the document.

3. Standards of care in drug treatment: While the goal remains as in the original work plan, the Executive Secretariat would provide only technical assistance in helping countries establish such standards, but not financial assistance. A study would need to be done of the degree to which these standards have been applied in member states, to determine progress.
4. Exchange of information: no change from the original work plan.
5. Patient monitoring software: no change from the original work plan.
6. Drug abuse prevention: working groups, open to all, would be established to address the following topics discussed at the Expert Group meeting in Buenos Aires:
 - a. School-based prevention, coordinated by Chile.
 - b. Community-based prevention, coordinated by Argentina, based on the model presented at the Buenos Aires meeting.
 - c. Drug prevention and treatment in prisons, and alternatives to sentencing for minor offenses, coordinated by Belize,
 - d. Workplace and family prevention, coordinated jointly by Honduras and Mexico.
7. Professional training in addictions studies (MA on line and nursing schools): no change from the original work plan
8. MA on line in Peace and conflict resolution, coordinated by Venezuela,
9. Uruguay will coordinate a workshop on the evaluation of demand reduction programs.

The Commission approved the work plan without change.

b. Expert Groups on Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals

The Executive Secretariat presented a revised version of the 2004–2005 work plan of the Expert Group on Chemicals and the Expert Group on Pharmaceuticals. The Commission decided that the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and the Group of Experts on Pharmaceutical Products will remain as two separate groups. To take advantage of cost savings, they will meet consecutively during the same week in the same venue. Building on the experience gained in 2003, the Commission agreed that Brazil would host and chair the two meetings in 2004.

These two Groups will follow the plans of action presented by the Chairs during this thirty-fourth regular session. The Chairs and Executive Secretariat will work with experts from participating member states to do as much in advance of the meeting to prepare for the discussions to take place.

c. [Ad Hoc/Expert] Group on Maritime Cooperation

The delegate of Honduras offered to host the first meeting of the [ad hoc/Expert] Group in 2004, and suggested that, as proposed for the Expert Group on Demand Reduction, each country should pay the airfares and per diem of its own participants. The delegate of The Bahamas offered to host a subsequent meeting of the Maritime Group. The delegates of Honduras, Bahamas, Canada, Colombia and Brazil stated that their countries would be interested in participating in the [ad hoc/Expert] Group. The Executive Secretariat said that it would develop short- and long-term work goals. At the end of the discussion, the Chair indicated that the recommendations of the working group on maritime drug trafficking would be taken into account by the [ad hoc/Expert] Group on Maritime Cooperation as it proceeded with its work.

d. Ad Hoc Group on Organized Crime

The Executive Secretariat recalled that on the first day of the current regular session, the Commission had approved the recommendations of the First Inter-American Meeting on Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Fight against Organized Crime, including a meeting of an ad hoc group to examine the following points: CICAD's mandate, institutional strengthening in the subject, development of model laws, and establishment of contact points in each country. These points represent a framework agenda for the meeting of the ad hoc group.

The delegate of the United States said that this topic requires development of model legislation, as a practical means of determining what needs to be done and what can be done. The delegate of Mexico said that this is an ad hoc group, not a CICAD Expert Group, and its task would be to conduct an initial review of the topic. He added that while his country would provide financial support for the meeting, Mexico would not host it, and proposed that the first meeting be held in Washington, DC. The delegate of Uruguay said that organized crime was a priority topic, and agreed with the Mexican proposal that the meeting be held in Washington, DC. He added that given the expertise of the members of the Expert Group on Money Laundering Control, they should work closely with the ad hoc group on organized crime. Canada supported the formation of the ad hoc group, and said that her country was interested in participating and would endeavor to contribute funds for the meeting. A number of delegates emphasized that e-mail should be used as much as possible for the exchange of documents prior to the meeting.

The Commission decided to convene the ad hoc group on organized crime in Washington, DC, working in conjunction with the Expert Group on Money Laundering Control, to meet prior to the thirty-fifth regular session of CICAD.

22. CICAD/EUROPEAN COMMISSION MEETING ON THE DIVERSION OF CHEMICAL PRECURSORS

Dr. Jorge Lopez of Argentina introduced the report on the CICAD/European Commission meeting on the diversion of chemical precursors, held on October 6-9, 2003, in Valencia, Spain (CICAD/doc.1272/03). CICAD and the Spanish National Drug Plan co-hosted a portion of this meeting concerned with enhancing the implementation of the Pre-Exportation Notification (PEN) process.

Participants included representatives from ten CICAD member states, the countries of the European Union as well as Hungary, Poland, Rumania, Slovakia and Turkey. Also present were representatives from Interpol, the European Commission and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).

Representatives from Colombia, Mexico, and the United States had made presentations on their chemical control systems and their experiences with the use of PENs. While the PEN process can serve to minimize the diversion of chemical substances, Dr. Lopez reported that the process is not working as well as it should. Participants identified problems of implementation, including a lack of current information on points of contact for PENs, and failure of countries to reply to PENs.

Participants made a series of recommendations to CICAD, the European Commission, INCB and countries exporting or importing chemical substances. These recommendations focused on enhancing the quality and availability of information required for PENs and promoting the efficient and effective implementation of the process.

The United States said that the pre-export notification process was not working, but would be helped by keeping the list of contacts up to date, which should be put on the Internet. Dr. López said that responsibility for updating the contact list lay both with the INCB and the member states. Brazil said that industry and the private sector should participate in these meetings.

The Commission took note of the report and its recommendations.

23. PROJECT EVALUATION: MONEY LAUNDERING CONTROL WITHIN THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Dr. Rosina De Souza, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), delivered a presentation on the evaluation of the joint CICAD-IDB project on Money Laundering Control within the Judicial System, which had provided training in seven South American countries to improve the capacity of judges and prosecutors to try money laundering cases (CICAD/doc.1280/03). The evaluation showed that the participants valued the courses, trainers and teaching materials very highly indeed, but noted that it was premature to measure the impact on the very few actual money laundering cases that have come to trial in the South American countries. The delegates of Uruguay, Venezuela and Chile all reported on the success of this unique course in their countries, and said they would replicate it, and share their experiences with other member states. The delegates of Antigua and Barbuda and Honduras asked that similar programs be conducted in Central America and the Caribbean.

The Commission thanked Dr. De Souza for both the IDB's funding, and for the evaluation, and approved the report's final recommendation that CICAD continue to sponsor this training program, and as a future project, that the materials be incorporated into law school curricula, and also put on line.

24. MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES AND FRANCE, THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, AND THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS, IN THEIR CAPACITY AS PERMANENT OBSERVER STATES, REGARDING THE PARTICIPATION BY THEIR TERRITORIES LOCATED IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)

The Executive Secretariat of CICAD introduced the topic (CICAD/doc.1273/03 and 1274/03 rev.1), and reported that two Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) had recently been signed: one with France on November 14, 2003 concerning its overseas departments in the Caribbean, and the other with the Netherlands on November 17, 2003, by the Prime Minister of Aruba as the authorized representative of the Netherlands, for increased participation of these entities in CICAD meetings and activities. Still awaiting signature were the MOU with the Netherlands concerning the Netherlands Antilles, and with the United Kingdom concerning all of its Caribbean dependencies, and the Secretariat was hopeful of completion in the near future.

The Commission thanked the Permanent Observers for their cooperation in signing these MOUs and in joining the fight against drugs in the hemisphere.

25. STATEMENTS BY PERMANENT OBSERVER COUNTRIES TO THE OAS AND BY OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Commission heard statements by the Permanent Observer of France, who reported with satisfaction on his country's cooperation with CICAD through training courses in the French anti-drug training center (CIFAD) in Martinique, the secondment to the Executive Secretariat of a French money laundering expert, and France's cooperation with the RETCOD project.

The Permanent Observer of the Russian Federation discussed the increase in heroin production in Afghanistan, and the threat it posed to his country and Central Asia, and stressed the bilateral agreements being signed and negotiated with Western Hemisphere partners, as part of an important multilateral effort against drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and arms trafficking worldwide. He noted the practical value of his country's participation as a Permanent Observer.

The representative of the CARICOM Secretariat reported on his organization's actions to meet the security threat of rising drug crime and drug use in the Caribbean, challenges that are undermining the fabric of society in the subregion, and looked to increasing assistance from hemispheric partners. He expressed gratitude to the Executive Secretariat of CICAD for its assistance and efforts in helping CARICOM develop its demand reduction strategy.

26. CICAD PROGRAM TO ESTIMATE THE HUMAN, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COSTS OF DRUGS IN THE AMERICAS

Dr. Augusto Pérez Gómez, Principal Research Specialist of the Research Group at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, and consultant to CICAD, gave a progress report on CICAD's pilot program in four countries (Barbados, Costa Rica, Mexico and Uruguay) to estimate the human, social and economic costs of drugs in the Americas (CICAD/doc.1263/03), and presented the Manual that CICAD has developed on this subject.

As a means of demonstrating the operational impact of precise knowledge of drug-related costs, Ms. Wendy Thamani Salaam, Chief of the Office of Public Policy of the Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration of Washington D.C., gave a presentation entitled ***From Cost Studies to Drug Abuse Reduction***, concerning the practical application of cost studies on drug abuse in the creation of antidrug strategies and policy.

The delegates of Canada, Argentina, Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica and the United States congratulated the presenters and the Executive Secretariat on their very useful work, which demonstrates the value of informed investment in drug control. Canada said that it will make available a peer-group review and expertise to the project.

The Chair thanked Dr. Perez, and Ms. Salaam for their presentations, and noted that a completed methodology, as well as some results from this program will be presented to the Summit of the Presidents and Heads of Government of the Americas in 2005.

27. INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK-CICAD PROJECT TO STRENGTHEN FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNITS (FIUs)

Dr. Rosina De Souza, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and Dr. Rodolfo Uribe of the Executive Secretariat of CICAD, delivered a status report on the joint IDB-CICAD project to establish and strengthen Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) in seven countries of South

America. She said that the project covers three groups of countries: those that have no FIUs, those that have FIUs but need infrastructure, and the third that have FIUs but do not have them fully developed, and includes training for personnel, and assistance with communications technology. Citing the scarcity of non-reimbursable IDB resources, the report emphasized the need for member states to commit to co-financing of this project. The project will be expanded next to Central America.

The delegates of Colombia, Peru, Costa Rica, the United States and Venezuela thanked the Inter-American Bank for its financial support of this project, and commended the Executive Secretariat of CICAD for its significant support of the FIUs throughout the hemisphere.

The Commission emphasized the importance of horizontal cooperation that member states are receiving in this matter, and addressed some of the legislative impediments to full functioning of their FIUs, which are in the process of being resolved.

28. MARITIME COOPERATION AMONG THE BAHAMAS, TURKS AND CAICOS AND THE UNITED STATES

The delegate of The Bahamas made a presentation on maritime cooperation on patrols and interdiction among his country, Turks and Caicos and the United States (CICAD/doc.1286/03). The delegate of the United States said that his country was very satisfied with their cooperative efforts with The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos, which were creating an organized regional response.

29. REPORT ON TRAINING FOR THE NATIONAL COORDINATING ENTITIES (NCEs) OF THE MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM

The Executive Secretariat of CICAD reported on the training provided for representatives of the MEM National Coordinating Entities on October 2-3, 2003 in Washington, DC. The training included:

- 1) Analysis of each indicator of the questionnaire for the third round of the MEM;
- 2) Presentation of the new software that the National Coordinating Entities will use to enter the responses to the questionnaire and their comments on the draft national reports; the software allows for secure data transmission, requires less connection time to the Internet, and will make the work of the National Coordinating Entities easier and more efficient;
- 3) A hands-on exercise in which the participants practiced evaluating information that the countries provided in response to the indicators; and
- 4) Importance of dialogue between the Governmental Experts Group (GEG) and the member states via the National Coordinating Entities as a means of obtaining clear and precise answers.

The Commission expressed its appreciation for this training, which would help the National Coordinating Entities improve the efficiency of their work.

The delegate of the United States presented a proposal to expand MEM indicators 43 and 44 (CICAD/doc.1289/03). The rationale was that policies on possession for personal use, and therefore statistics on drug treatment and incarceration, vary from country to country as a result of differing domestic laws. MEM evaluations should take these differences into account.

After an exchange of views, the Commission decided to approve in principle the additions to the two indicators, for inclusion in the MEM questionnaire for the third evaluation round, on the understanding that member states should forward any comments on the expanded indicators to the Executive Secretariat within thirty days. The Secretariat would make the necessary adjustments, and send the adjusted indicators out to the countries, which would indicate their approval by e-mail.

30. PRESENTATION ON THE BINATIONAL SEMINAR ON EXPERIENCES WITH PROCEDURAL AND JUDICIAL PRACTICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROBLEM OF DRUG TRAFFICKING IN CHILE AND PERU

Ambassador Arturo Montoya, Director of Drug Control of the Foreign Ministry of Peru, and Mrs. Gladis Muñoz, Deputy Chief, Transnational Organized Crime and Drugs of Chile, made a presentation on a binational seminar at which the two countries exchanged experiences regarding procedural and judicial practices vis-a-vis the drug trafficking problem. Among other topics, the presenters discussed the approval of Chile's National Drug Strategy 2003-2008; the use of investigative techniques in Chile and Peru, and the successful outcome of cross-border counterdrug cooperation.

31. FINANCIAL REPORT OF CICAD

The Assistant Executive Secretary of CICAD, Mr. Abraham Stein, made a presentation on CICAD's financial situation, including cash and in kind contributions in 2003 for project execution; and staff costs in the Regular Fund and external sources. He noted the increase in external funds received in 2003, and the decrease in the OAS Regular Fund overall, and the appropriation to CICAD in the 2004 budget.

32. REPORT ON THE OAS REGULAR FUND: EFFECTS ON STATUTORY MEETINGS OF CICAD

The Executive Secretary of CICAD, Mr. David Beall, reported that for 2004, the OAS Regular Fund budget for CICAD had been reduced, as one result of a long-term OAS budgetary crisis. The General Assembly had cut the funding for one of CICAD's two statutory meetings in 2004, and had also eliminated two posts, by attrition.

He said that the Executive Secretariat will provide a viable, short-term solution for the two regular sessions in 2004, namely, that since the Commission's spring session is to review the MEM recommendations, MEM Specific Fund monies can be used to finance the meeting, thereby allowing the Regular Fund monies to be used for the fall regular session. He stressed, however, that this was merely a temporary solution, and that the Commission would need to set careful priorities for spending.

He also discussed the findings and recommendations of a management study of the General Secretariat of the OAS, mandated by the Permanent Council, which was conducted by the consulting firm of Deloitte and Touche, the Executive Summary of which was distributed to all delegations.

Member states expressed their great concern over the decreased OAS funding for CICAD, an area so critical to the hemisphere. The Commission agreed that fiscal prudence was in order, that funds should be carefully and efficiently focused, and where possible, the length of CICAD meetings cut and the agendas streamlined. However, it stressed that it was essential that the

Commission should continue to hold its two statutory sessions per year, in order to make for policy cohesion and maintain a high level of cooperation. The delegate of the United States, among others, proposed that the Executive Secretariat prepare a list of CICAD accomplishments and future needs, to be presented to the Special Summit in Monterrey

33. PRESENTATION ON FUND-RAISING VIA TAXES ON ENTERPRISES WITH OVER 200 EMPLOYEES.

The delegate of Venezuela made a presentation on the mechanisms that her country had put in place for raising funds for counter-drug programs, including donations, and forfeitures. In addition, as laid down in Venezuela's Organic Law on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, corporations with over 200 employees must contribute 1% of their annual net profits to comprehensive programs to prevent drug trafficking and use among their workers. This program is supervised by the Ministry of Labor, and corporations not in compliance are fined, and all workplace prevention programs must be approved by the National Drug Commission (CONACUID).

The Chair thanked the delegate of Venezuela for her presentation.

34. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT OF CICAD TO THE THIRTY-FOURTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The delegate of Colombia, chair of the working group formed earlier in the session to consider the draft annual report of CICAD to the General Assembly (CICAD/doc.1264/03), said that the members of the group (Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Canada, Chile, Mexico and the United States) had approved the report in principle, with some changes and a general editing of the entire document. The Commission asked the Secretariat to distribute the final draft to the member states in the last week of January 2004. Draft recommendations to the General Assembly had also been drafted by the group.

35. DATE, PLACE AND PROPOSED TOPICS FOR THE THIRTY-FIFTH REGULAR SESSION OF CICAD

In accordance with Articles 20 and 21 of the Statute, the Commission decided that the thirty-fifth regular session would be held in Washington, DC, at OAS headquarters, in the spring of 2004, at a date to be determined by the Chair of the Commission and the Executive Secretary of CICAD.

The Executive Secretary suggested some possible agenda items for the thirty-fifth regular session of the Commission, namely: consideration of the draft progress reports on the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM); the Expert Group on Demand Reduction on alternatives to sentencing and prevention of drugs in the workplace; institution-building (decentralization of drug control and prevention efforts); Money Laundering Control on training, Central American FIUs, and consideration of financial intelligence analysis software, reports from the ad hoc group on organized crime and the [ad hoc/Expert] Group on Maritime Cooperation, family-based prevention, and youth gangs. The delegate of Uruguay proposed that the agenda also include a joint presentation by Uruguay and the Ibero-American Network of NGOs working in Demand Reduction (RIOD).

The delegate of Brazil proposed harm reduction strategies, and community-based drug treatment services, while the delegate of the United States proposed a focus on youth, to

include prevention, gangs, and culture of lawfulness, and secondly, the relationship of drugs to rising violence in the hemisphere. Venezuela proposed an agenda item on violence and organized crime.

The Commission decided to request member states to forward their suggestions on agenda items to the Executive Secretariat.

36. OTHER BUSINESS

The Delegation of Bolivia officially presented its candidacy for the vice chairmanship of the Commission for the 2004-2005 term of office, at the elections to be held at the thirty-sixth regular session of CICAD.

The delegate of Colombia stated his country's intention to present its candidacy for Vice Chair of CICAD at the elections to be held in the fall regular session of the Commission in 2005, and said that Colombia supports the candidacy of Bolivia for Vice Chair in November 2004. The delegate of Peru also said that his government was assessing the possibility of presenting its candidacy for Vice Chair of the Commission.

CLOSING SESSION AND CONCLUSIONS

In closing the thirty-fourth regular session, the Chair of CICAD noted the significant progress that the Commission had made in a large number of areas, such as:

- rationalization and prioritization of the work of the Expert Groups;
- the formation of two new groups to address strategic issues: the ad hoc group on organized crime, and the [ad hoc/Expert] Group on Maritime Cooperation;
- the approval of amendments to the Model Regulations on Firearms to cover arms brokers, and to the Model Regulations on Money Laundering Control to address terrorist financing;
- the interest of a number of countries in the topic of cross-border cooperation on drugs and crime;
- the consensus achieved that given the fiscal and organizational constraints in the OAS and member states, it was important for the Commission to set priorities, and review the mandate at the thirty-fifth regular session, in terms of what must be done and what could be done at a time of economic constraints.

He thanked all the delegates for their participation.

Several delegations voiced their appreciation and congratulations to the Chair and Vice Chair for the work accomplished, and thanked the Government of Canada for its hospitality.

PRESS CONFERENCE

The Chair read out a Chairman's Statement, attached hereto as Annex 1.

B. PARTICIPANTS

1. CICAD MEMBER STATES

Representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, The Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil,

Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela attended the thirty-fourth regular session of CICAD.

2. PERMANENT OBSERVERS

Also attending the thirty-fourth regular session in their capacity as Permanent Observers to the Organization of American States were representatives of France, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and the Russian Federation.

3. INTER-AMERICAN SPECIALIZED ORGANIZATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

Representatives attended from the Andean Parliament; CARICOM; the Central American Permanent Commission to Eradicate the Illicit Production of, Trafficking in and Use of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (CCP); the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); Inter-American Defense Board (IADB); the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC);

4. CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Representatives of the Mentor Foundation, and the Ibero-American Network of NGOs working in Drug Addiction (RIOD) also attended, as civil society organizations duly accredited to the Organization of American States.

The list of participants in this regular session is published separately as document CICAD/doc.1259/03 rev.2.

CICAD CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

At the thirty-fourth regular session of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS) held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, November 17-20 2003, I, as CICAD Chairman, note the following issues, in order to inform the Special Summit of the Americas, which will meet in Monterrey, Mexico, January 12 to 13, 2004:

- That the Commission has renewed its commitment to a balanced approach to address the supply of and the demand for illicit drugs, as reflected in the Hemispheric Anti-Drug Strategy of 1996;
- That the Commission has re-affirmed the commitments made by the elected Heads of State and Governments of the Americas in the Quebec City Summit of the Americas, 2001, to fight the global drug problem and organized crime;
- That the Declaration on Security in the Americas adopted at the Special Conference on Security held in Mexico City, in October 2003, affirmed the necessity of multilateral co-operation to address the global drug problem and related crimes that threaten security in the region;
- That the global drug problem necessitates addressing the related issues of money-laundering, terrorist financing, illicit trafficking in arms, the diversion of precursor chemicals and other transnational organized crime activities;
- That sustainable development, institutional stability, and the rule of law and security are interlinked;
- That new threats to governance and the safety of persons, related to drugs and drug-related international crime, are emerging;
- That the OAS and its member states have increasingly limited financial, technical, and human resources;
- That air, land and sea borders between CICAD members are critical points in the drug control regimes of the member states of the OAS.

The Commission agreed:

1. To encourage efforts at improving coordination and communication at borders between CICAD member states to strengthen national, sub-regional, regional, and hemispheric efforts to address the problems related to illicit drugs and related aspects of transnational organized crime;
2. To encourage improved coordination and communication among officials in the hemisphere working in public safety and security, and those active in other areas of economic and social development and governance, to develop comprehensive,

innovative, and integrated approaches to the drug problem and to drug-related international crime;

3. To renew the Commission's commitment to the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), and underscore the need for countries and organizations to use the MEM to improve hemispheric drug control regimes and allocate resources dedicated to the drug problem within the Americas in a more strategic, coordinated and effective fashion;
4. To undertake a priority-setting exercise at the thirty-fifth regular session of CICAD in May 2004 to rationalize CICAD's work with a view to addressing both the core mandate of CICAD and the emerging threats regarding drugs and drug-related international crime more effectively.

In light of the above, I very much welcome the decision of the Commission to:

- Continue the work of Expert Groups during 2004-2005 to address the issues of Money Laundering, Chemicals, Precursors, and Demand Reduction;
- Establish an ad hoc group to address the issue of Transnational Organized Crime and an [ad hoc/Expert] Group on Maritime Narco-trafficking Cooperation;
- Approve and update the provisions for the control of arms brokers contained in CICAD's Model Regulations on Firearms;
- Approve amendments to the Model Regulations on Money Laundering to integrate terrorist financing measures and develop next steps;
- Establish criteria for prioritizing the CICAD Commission's work in light of fiscal constraints.