



ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

cicad

THIRTY-SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION
April 26-29, 2005
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.37
CICAD/doc.1434/05
28 April 2005
Original: English

PRESENTATION OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

TO THE THIRTY-SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION OF CICAD

BY

Col. Fairbairn Liverpool

April 2005

**PRESENTATION OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM) TO THE
THIRTY-SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)**

By

Colonel Fairbairn Liverpool

Mr. Chairman, Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen: Before presenting my brief report, permit me to join the voices of Congratulations firstly to you, Mr. Chair, on your ascendancy to the Presidency of CICAD. From the quality of your leadership and skill at chairmanship, there is no doubt that CICAD is in the most capable hands. Secondly, Chair, we in CARICOM in general and Guyana in particular, have known Mr. Mack in a previous carnation and it is therefore with a certain sense of fraternity and camaraderie, that I convey, on behalf of the Secretary General of CARICOM, Dr. Edwin Carrington and on my own behalf our sincere congratulations and best wishes for all success as CICAD's Executive Secretary.

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Mr. Chair, has given, at its highest level, priority to the fight against illegal drugs across the Region because it is the source of concern, manifested in the higher levels of violence associated with crimes being committed, the increasing use of firearms and more sophisticated machinery for committing criminal acts, the increased incidence of kidnappings in some Member States; a growing population of young people using and abusing drugs and the emerging problem of HIV/AIDS positive substance abusers.

Our efforts to address the threat posed by illicit drugs seek to reduce both the supply of and demand for such drugs. This report provides a synopsis of strategies and action undertaken or which have been identified as priority in CARICOM countries.

Supply Reduction Initiatives

As you are most probably aware, in 2001, so concerned were CARICOM Heads of Government with the escalating crime and violence, that they established the special Regional Task Force on Crime and Security to examine the fundamental causes of crime and violence and make recommendations for a coordinated response at the regional and sub-regional levels. The report of the Task Force, submitted to the Conference of Heads of Government in July 2002, made a series of recommendations and launched a new initiative in the regional approach to crime and security, which takes cognisance of all previous bilateral and multilateral security arrangements.

The Heads of Government of CARICOM, demonstrating a serious commitment to addressing regional concerns, established a **Ministerial Sub – Committee on Resource Mobilisation for Crime Prevention and Security Initiatives** to mobilize resources from regional, bilateral and multilateral sources to support the implementation of the Task Force recommendations and the **regional crime and security agenda**.

Among the Priorities for the Regional Crime and Security Agenda are:

1. Implementation of the CARICOM/ UK Security Cooperation Plan

On October 20, 2004, at a meeting held in Kingston, Jamaica the Regional Ministerial Sub-Committee finalised the adoption of the CARICOM/ UK Security Cooperation Plan (Cooperation Plan), which focuses on four priority areas for action:

- **Border Security**
- **Maritime Cooperation**
- **Establishing a Regional Information and Intelligence Sharing Regime**
- **Training of Security and Law Enforcement Officials**

While initiatives in these areas are at various stages of implementation, I am pleased to report that we have just completed the first Senior Command Training Course of 24 Officers drawn from the Police, Military, Customs, Immigration and Prisons. Instructors were drawn from the UK and Caribbean including the University of the West Indies.

2. Revision of the regional Management Framework for Crime and Security:

Consideration of approaches to **implementing** the regional crime and security agenda has highlighted the need for institutional arrangements for management and coordination. Consideration is now being given to a CARICOM regional governmental management framework, which will provide for the development of regional policy and strategy, the formulation of collective responses, the mobilisation of resources and the implementation of the agreed initiatives.

3. Preparation of a Regional Crime and Security Strategy;

This is considered an essential pre-requisite for the sustainability of the crime and security agenda and the foundation for the negotiation of Cooperation Agreements with international partners.

4. Review of the Regional Drug Policy.

The objective is to explore policy options for higher levels of success in addressing the problem, recognizing that in addition to the traditional problems of a transit corridor, the region is now subject to a rapidly increasing drug addicted population and its attendant ills.

Demand Reduction Initiatives

In 2001, the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) at its 7th meeting endorsed the Regional Drug Demand Reduction Strategy (RDDRS), which was developed with the very generous assistance of CICAD, spear-headed by Dr. Anna

Chisman. Priority areas include: Research, Policy Development; Prevention Education; Management and Coordination and Treatment and Rehabilitation. These areas remain relevant for the Region.

While many CARICOM countries have established National Drug Councils (NDCs) to implement demand reduction programmes, and elements of the RDDRS are being implemented at national levels, a coordinated, region-wide implementation of the Strategy has posed quite a challenge. Factors impeding implementation include lack of resources and in some cases, the necessary institutional capacity.

A strengthened, targeted and coordinated approach is critical in moving the drug demand reduction agenda forward in all CARICOM and CARIFORUM Member States, which include the Dominican Republic. As such, priorities for the CARICOM Secretariat's current work agenda include:

1. Establishment of a Regional Management and Coordination Body to provide technical oversight and monitoring of the implementation of the RDDRS and to make representation to COHSOD on demand reduction issues;
2. Strengthening and or establishment, where necessary of NDCs in Member States;
3. Advocating for Governments and partners to adopt and support a more integrated, balanced approach to demand and supply reduction programmes.

CARICOM has noticed, with appreciation, the continued support by CICAD in areas that have been identified priority areas for the region: Maritime Cooperation, border security, demand reduction initiatives and the evaluation of socio-economic impact of drugs. We consider that it is advantageous to continue pursuing avenues for collective action against the constantly evolving problem of substance use and abuse, drug trafficking and organized crime.

Consequently, the CARICOM Secretariat:

1. Supports and is prepared to facilitate the integration or establishment of the International Masters On-Line Programme in Addiction Studies within the Caribbean Community;
2. Requests the inclusion of CARICOM for the Training of Trainers Workshop for the Evaluating Prevention Initiatives;
3. Will advise CICAD's Secretariat of the CARICOM Country for the piloting of the Culture of Lawfulness Project; and
4. Requests the inclusion of CARICOM as an Observer in the deliberations of CICAD's Maritime Group of Experts in light of the complementary role of the Caribbean Sub-regional Maritime Agreement.

In closing I wish to reiterate CARICOM's commitment to the goal of reducing both the supply and demand of illicit drugs in the Hemisphere by the forging of closer collaboration and cooperation at the bilateral, sub-regional, regional and hemispheric levels.

I thank you!