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**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE  
CONTROL COMMISSION**

**CICAD**

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

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**SIXTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION**  
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**FINAL REPORT**

## I. BACKGROUND

Article 21 of the Statute of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) provides that the Commission shall hold two regular sessions per year, an ordinary session and another to address specific technical topics determined by the Commission or such other matters that require its special attention. The Statute also provides that the Commission shall hold special sessions whenever it so decides or at the request of a majority of its member states.

Pursuant to Articles 20 and 21 of the Statute, it was decided that the sixty-second regular session would be held in Washington, D.C. on December 13-15, 2017.

This report gives a summary of the presentations made during the sessions, including document reference numbers, a list of decisions, and a summary of the most important points raised by the delegations during the deliberations.

## II. PROCEEDINGS

### 1. Opening remarks

#### Speakers:

a. **Dr. Chaswell Hanna, Director, National Anti-Drug Secretariat, The Bahamas, and Chair of CICAD (CICAD/doc.2361/17)**

Dr. Hanna described the work of CICAD during the The Bahamas' term as Chair of the Commission, noting such achievements as the approval of the Plan of Action 2016-2020 of CICAD's Hemispheric Drug Strategy 2010, implementation of which will be evaluated during the next round of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM). He also reported that The Bahamas had developed its National Anti-Drug Strategy for 2017 – 2021.

b. **Ambassador Adam Namm, Executive Secretary, CICAD**

Ambassador Namm provided an overview of the work carried out during his first year as Executive Secretary of CICAD, and noted some of the projects that the Executive Secretariat (ES) will conduct in 2018, including several gender-mainstreaming projects; the new study on opioids that will be conducted by the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID), and the second phase of the program on therapeutic justice in Mexico. He stressed the importance of projects and programs being evaluated using methodologies that have been proven to be effective, highlighting the important role of the MEM and the need for support and collaboration from member states so as to ensure its continuity.

**c. Dr. Claudia Paz y Paz, Secretary for Multidimensional Security, OAS**

Dr. Paz y Paz said that it was important to take a comprehensive approach to the drug problem by implementing the current Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs and taking into account significant inputs such as the operational recommendations made by UNGASS 2016 and the follow-up to them. She considered that there has been a paradigm shift in drug policies, moving to an approach that is centered on people and their rights and that takes a public health, gender-based approach so as to address the drug problem in the Americas in a comprehensive way.

**2. Adoption of the draft agenda and draft schedule of activities**

The Commission adopted the draft agenda (CICAD/doc.2324/17 rev.1) and the draft schedule of activities (CICAD/doc.2325/17 rev. 2) without amendment.

**3. Election of the Chair and Vice Chair of CICAD**

Pursuant to Articles 22 and 23 of its Statute, the Commission elected Mexico as Chair of CICAD for the 2017-2018 term of office, and Argentina to serve as Vice Chair for the same period. Both were elected by acclamation.

**Comments by delegations**

**Ecuador:** The delegate reported that his country had also presented its candidacy for the Vice Chair of CICAD, but, after conversations with Argentina, decided to postpone the candidacy presentation until the sixty-fourth regular session of CICAD, during Argentina's chair.

**4. Remarks by the new Chair of CICAD (CICAD/doc.2362/17)**

Representing the Attorney General of Mexico, Dr. Alberto Elías Beltrán, Deputy Attorney General for Law and International Affairs of the Office of the Attorney General, thanked the Commission for its support of Mexico's candidacy, and said that it was Mexico's intention to build on the progress made under the chair of The Bahamas. He reiterated Mexico's commitment to continue strengthening international cooperation with a view to defining a hemispheric strategy that is the product of open, inclusive debate, both in the region and worldwide, to address the challenge of the drug problem.

Mr. Elías Beltrán presented the priority action guidelines on behalf of the CICAD Chair, including: a public health perspective that privileges and places human beings at the center of attention, taking into account treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration into society; the inclusion of violence prevention as a factor to address the structural causes of the drug problem; consideration of new alternatives to incarceration; and strengthening of international cooperation as an indispensable factor in addressing the drug issue.

## **5. UNGASS 2016 and implementation of recommendations**

**Presenter:** Isaac Morales, Assistant Director General for Multidimensional Security, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, Mexico

Mr. Morales noted the importance of the UNGASS 2016 Outcome Document as a vehicle for developing balanced, effective, and comprehensive drug strategies, and underlined Mexico's commitment to implement it. He also reported on the work that Mexico had done between October 2016 and November 2017 to implement the recommendations made in that document, and noted the support that CICAD had provided for these activities. Mr. Morales said it was important to share experiences throughout the Hemisphere, and proposed the formation of CICAD working group on implementation of the operational recommendations of UNGASS 2016. The working group could meet twice in 2018, with the goal of bringing together the experiences of the countries of the Hemisphere; contributing to aligning efforts to implement the operational recommendations of UNGASS 2016 with the objectives of the Plan of Action 2016-2020 of CICAD's Hemispheric Drug Strategy, and demonstrating to the international community the joint efforts that had been made and the challenges that the Hemisphere is facing.

### **Comments by delegations**

**Colombia:** The delegate said that CICAD is the proper forum for reaching agreement among member states on the operational recommendations of UNGASS 2016 and urged participants to work together to that end. Invited member states to carry out a general and final evaluation of the 2009 UNGASS Political Declaration and its Plan of Action for the CND's 2019 ministerial meeting. He supported the proposal made by Mexico, and congratulated the Executive Secretariat of CICAD on having included this topic on the agenda for this regular session.

**Peru:** Said that Peru had decided to approve its drug strategy for 2017-2021. The delegate described the principal features of the strategy and how its objectives are aligned with the operational recommendations of UNGASS 2016. He emphasized the importance of the topic of gender equity, and detailed the activities that the country is carrying out in this area. He said that Peru is developing an early warning system to detect new psychoactive substances.

**Canada:** The Canadian delegate stated her country's support for Mexico's proposal, and discussed the work that Canada has been doing to meet the operational recommendations of UNGASS 2016 on public health and human rights issues, including progress made and challenges encountered in dealing with the opioid crisis.

**United States:** Said his country supported Mexico's proposal, and explained the steps the U.S. has taken to implement the operational recommendations of UNGASS 2016: priority had been given to the subjects of new psychoactive substances; communications systems for drug control; evidence-based standards for drug use prevention and treatment, drug cultivation, and Internet sales of opioids. The delegate also discussed U.S. cooperation with various countries of the region, and said it would

be important for the Hemisphere to present a unified vision to the 2019 meeting of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND).

**Paraguay:** The delegate reported that Paraguay had approved its drug strategy for 2017-2022, along with a plan of action, based on the operational recommendations of UNGASS 2016 and the objectives of the Plan of Action 2016-2020 of CICAD's Hemispheric Drug Strategy. He detailed the progress that Paraguay had made under its new Strategy.

## Decisions

The Commission adopted the proposal by Mexico to form a working group on implementation of the operational recommendations of UNGASS 2016, to meet twice in 2018.

## 6. Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism – Report of the Inter-Governmental Working Group (IWG)

### Presenters:

- a. **Álvaro Ahumada, Advisor, National Service for Prevention and Rehabilitation of Drug and Alcohol Use (SENDA), Chile, Chair of the IWG (CICAD/doc.2341/17)**

Mr. Ahumada explained the work of the Inter-Governmental Working Group (IWG) of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) to draft the proposed evaluation instrument and other documents of the evaluation process for the seventh round of the MEM (CICAD/doc.2328/17), and explained each of the instrument's components. He said that the MEM is an important instrument for monitoring drug policies and it was important to be able to rely on governmental experts with the appropriate qualifications for the next stage of the evaluation process in the seventh evaluation round. He then presented the report and the IWG's proposal for consideration by the Commission.

- b. **Ms. Sofía Kosmas, Chief, MEM Unit, ES/CICAD (CICAD/doc.2348/17)**

Ms. Kosmas made a presentation on the work planned for implementation of the seventh evaluation round of the MEM in 2018 and 2019. The activities include training for the National Coordinating Entities (NCEs), meetings of the Governmental Expert Group (GEG), adoption of reports by the CICAD Commissioners, and publication of the reports.

## Decisions

The Commission adopted both the report of the Chair of the IWG (CICAD/doc.2341/17) and the proposed evaluation instrument and other documents of the evaluation process for the seventh round of the MEM (CICAD/doc.2328/17).

**7. Panel 1: New trends and emerging challenges in the international control of chemical precursors, synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances**

**Moderator:** Justice Tettey, Chief, Laboratory and Scientific Section, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

**Presenters:**

- a. **José de Gracia, Assistant Director for Criminal Networks, INTERPOL (CICAD/doc.2344/17)**

Mr. de Gracia spoke of the concern of the international community over the increase in synthetic drugs, chemical precursors and new psychoactive substances (NPS). He explained how there is a daily increase of these substances, and a greater variety. They are low cost and readily available due, among other things, to Internet sales. He emphasized three areas that should be given priority in the international control of synthetic drugs, chemical precursors and NPS: exchange of information and intelligence; dismantling the financial structures of the transnational criminal organizations, and training of front-line police officers to identify, seize, and handle these substances.

- b. **Verónica España Carbente, Director of Information and Analysis, Use of and Trafficking in Chemical Substances, National Center for the Planning, Analysis and Information for Combatting Crime (CENAPI), within the Criminal Investigation Agency of the Office of the Attorney General (PGR), Mexico (CICAD/doc.2343/17)**

In her presentation, Ms. España described the work that Mexico is doing in the area of control of chemical substances, amphetamine-type stimulants and NPS, both in regulatory terms and on operational aspects. She stressed the importance of stepping up international cooperation and information exchange in order to identify NPS, and also emphasized the need for ongoing training and the need to build the operational capacities of key agents. The presenter highlighted the importance of using the most up-to-date technological tools, redoubling efforts to restrict imports of chemical precursors, and developing policies tailored to the specific needs of each state.

- c. **Richard H. Glenn, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), United States**

Mr. Glenn recalled the UNGASS 2016 recommendations on NPS and detailed the challenges and problems that the United States is facing in dealing with this issue. He highlighted the need to control chemical precursors used in the production of these compounds and the corresponding trafficking in them. He stressed the importance of strengthening the exchange of intelligence among member states, as well as cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other agencies involved in this field, in order to find ways of alleviating the crisis of synthetic drugs in the Hemisphere and diminish their serious consequences.

**d. Joseph Schleigh, Acting Section Chief, Synthetic Drugs and Chemicals Section, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), United States (CICAD/doc.2347/17)**

Mr. Schleigh said that the market for synthetic drugs and precursors has expanded in recent years, and that greater efforts were needed to control the diversion of the chemical precursors used to manufacture synthetic drugs. He explained how the criminal organizations have been able to evade controls in order to produce NPS, and said it was important to coordinate efforts and develop more effective procedures to control synthetic drugs and chemical precursors, and combat Internet sales of these substances.

**Comments by delegations**

**Colombia:** The delegate said that Colombia is the country that has recorded the highest number of cocaine seizures in the region. He highlighted the importance of strengthening controls over the chemical substances used to produce cocaine hydrochloride and heroin, and described factors to be taken into account in strengthening these controls. He expressed concern over the emergence of NPS, and said that the Colombian Observatory has instituted an early warning system to assist authorities in strengthening controls over psychoactive substances and the chemical precursors needed to manufacture them.

**Canada:** The Canadian delegate highlighted the serious challenge the country is facing in dealing with this issue, particularly with regard to Fentanyl, and discussed the measures that Canada is taking to strengthen existing regulatory frameworks to control the substances used to produce NPS. She invited the delegations present to join the efforts of the international community to have Carfentanil, other Fentanyl analogues and opioid-type NPS included in the schedules of substances under international control during the meeting of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in 2018. The delegate reiterated her country's commitment to support the countries of the Americas in strengthening and expanding information needed for the identification and control of chemical substances and NPS.

**Trinidad and Tobago:** Said that a number of chemical substances originally destined for the textile industry are being diverted to the production of synthetic drugs and NPS, and thanked other member states and the Executive Secretariat of CICAD for their support in building Trinidad and Tobago's capacities to identify and control these substances. The delegate requested that training in this area be continued.

**Chair:** Expressed his concern over the issue and its connection with the use of "cryptocurrencies", which are often used internationally to finance the production of synthetic drugs and NPS. The Chair proposed that the confiscation of assets generated by drug trafficking continue to be discussed by CICAD, and that the regulation of virtual currencies in OAS member states be examined.

## **8. Report of the Expert Group on Demand Reduction (CICAD/doc.2331/17)**

### **Presenter: Álvaro Ahumada, Chile, Chair of the Expert Group**

Mr. Ahumada presented the report of the Expert Group on Demand Reduction for approval by the plenary, and discussed the conclusions of the eighteenth meeting of the Group, during which recommendations were developed for the Hemisphere's national drug commissions. He also introduced the products that the Group will develop over the next two years.

### **Decisions**

The Commission adopted the report of the Expert Group on Demand Reduction.

## **9. Science-based evidence and information for the preparation of drug policy**

### **Introduction: Marya Hynes, Acting Chief, Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID), ES/CICAD**

Ms. Hynes introduced the subject of the use of science-based evidence in drug policy and the benefits it brings, and gave examples of where scientific evidence had been useful. She explained how the OID has helped member states improve the quantity and quality of data, by having created drug information networks and epidemiological systems, and by having organized training courses on research methods and analysis. She closed by reporting that the OID, together with partners in the region, has inaugurated an online data gathering system to facilitate data collection, and is working on development of a nationwide early warning system.

### **Presenter: Oscar Aarón Santiago Quintos, Director General of Analysis, Criminal Investigation Agency, Office of the Attorney General (PGR), Mexico (CICAD/doc.2346/17)**

Mr. Santiago gave a general overview of the use of scientific evidence and information in the development of drug policy. He highlighted the systematic process improvement being implemented and explained the tools that Mexico is using for information exchange and analysis aimed at providing input for the design and formulation of public policies. In this regard, the National Drug Policy Office was designed, whose main objective is to coordinate and provide comprehensive monitoring of the national drug policy in Mexico. He concluded with some recommendations for improving the strategic exchange of information.

### **Comments by delegations**

**Colombia:** Reiterated that it is important to use evidence to develop drug policies, and explained the essential role of the Colombian Observatory on Drugs in studying the drug problem. The delegate informed that Colombia has an early warning system, which enables it to identify NPS and highlighted that, together with Uruguay, Colombia is leading a working group on this subject under

the COPOLAD project. He acknowledged the work of the OID and said that Colombia wishes to participate in the work that it is doing.

**Bolivia:** Gave an overview of Bolivia’s drug strategy 2016-2020, which was developed on the basis of the international conventions and was evidence-based, and detailed the results that had been achieved as a result of the activities carried out under each of the pillars of the strategy.

**Chile:** Said he agreed on the need to improve the availability of evidence for developing drug policies, stressing the importance of the national drug observatories and of the evidence they produce. The delegate observed that the Hemisphere is not yet at the level it should be in terms of gathering scientific evidence, and provided recommendations for improvement in this area.

## **10. Panel 2: Access to opiates and other controlled substances for medicinal purposes**

### **Presenters:**

- a. Eric L. Krakauer, Director of Global Programs, Center for Palliative Care, Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School, United States (CICAD/doc.2354/17)**

Mr. Krakauer said that a global agreement on the use of opioids and other controlled medicines for medical uses is imperative, and described the principle of “balance” in the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, which speaks to the importance of achieving a balance to prevent the abuse and diversion of narcotics and at the same time ensure the availability of narcotic drugs, especially liquid morphine, which he said is inexpensive, for legitimate medical purposes. He then described the World Health Organization’s approach to the issue of access to and control of opioids.

- b. Alberto Miguel Guzmán, Executive Director, Regulation of Narcotics, and Psychotropic and Chemical Substances, Federal Commission for Protection against Health Risks (COFEPRIS), Mexico (CICAD/doc.2350/17)**

Mr. Guzman explained the situation with regard to access to controlled substances for medical purposes in Mexico. He detailed the country’s strategy for pain management and palliative care and how it is being implemented in a regulatory framework, the purpose of which is to ensure the availability of internationally controlled substances while maintaining a balance between control measures, availability, and accessibility. He further stressed the need for training of health care professionals to make them aware of the appropriate use of such substances.

- c. Rossen Popov, Deputy Secretary, International Narcotics Control Board, and Chief of the Precursors Control Section, International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) (CICAD/doc.2340/17)**

Mr. Popov discussed the trends in access to various opioids in the region between 1997 and 2016, the worldwide consumption of Fentanyl and the average Defined Daily Doses for Statistical Purposes (S-DDD) in the Americas. He also discussed the availability of opioids for pain management between

2001 and 2013, providing recommendations for working on this topic. In closing, Mr. Popov discussed the relationship between access to controlled substances for therapeutic purposes and the activities of organized crime, and offered some recommendations on how to deal with this issue.

### **Comments by delegations**

**Colombia:** Reported that Colombia is working on the issue of access to and control of opiates for medical purposes by building the capacities of health care personnel. It is conducting a diagnostic study of supply and demand that covers the availability of these medications, in order to develop a more precise plan tailored to the country's real needs.

**Peru:** The delegate reported that Peru had adopted a law on the therapeutic use of medicinal cannabis, which both addresses the field of palliative care and the right to quality of life, and also promotes scientific research on the topic.

**United States:** Stated its commitment to continue to work on topics related to the controlled use of these medications, given that the use of opioids and opioid overdoses are considered to be a public health emergency. The delegate discussed the work that the United States is doing to address this problem, and said it was important for other member states to be able to draw on recommendations so that they can prevent a crisis caused by overdoses and addiction to opioids.

**Uruguay:** Considered that more attention and greater priority continue to be given to policies based on regulation, education, prevention, and awareness, which should be given the same level of importance as control and repression policies. The delegate also said it was important to engage healthcare professionals who prescribe these medications in control activities, as well as the pharmaceutical companies. He said that emphasis should be placed on prevention strategies, and that research into other methods of pain management should be encouraged.

**Ecuador:** The delegate stated that in Ecuador, opioid abuse is affecting younger people in particular, and described the strategies being employed to address the problem. A new law on the therapeutic use of cannabis was being discussed by the National Assembly, and legislation on asset forfeiture was in the process of being approved to dismantle the economic structures of organized crime.

## **11. Control, legislation, and regulation of access to cannabis**

### **Presenters:**

- a. **Diego Martín Olivera Couto, Secretary General, National Drug Secretariat, Office of the President of the Republic del Uruguay - (CICAD/doc.2349/17)**

Mr. Olivera described the goals, strategy, and history of Uruguay's Law 19.172 to regulate access to cannabis for recreational, medical, and industrial purposes, and discussed the work of the Cannabis Regulation and Control Institute (IRCCA) to set up regulations. He outlined the three ways in which

users of recreational cannabis can obtain a supply, and explained the country's efforts to monitor the health and social effects of the legalization of cannabis.

- b. Alberto Miguel Guzmán, Executive Director of Regulation of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Chemical Substances, Federal Commission for Protection against Health Risks (COFEPRIS), Mexico (CICAD/doc.2338/17)**

Mr. Guzmán described Mexico's recent experience with medicinal cannabis, and explained that, following the issuance of some special licenses to use medical marijuana, a debate had begun on regulation of cannabis. He explained how the debate had evolved in different national forums, and the work being done by the Federal Commission for Protection against Health Risks (COFEPRIS) to develop a regulatory framework to control access to medical cannabis.

- c. Krista Apse, Director, External Relations, Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Branch, Health Canada - (CICAD/doc.2334/17)**

Ms. Apse explained Canada's recent efforts to regulate cannabis, and discussed why her country believes that the regulation of cannabis is a domestic priority. She also described consultations the Canadian Government undertook to understand how best to regulate cannabis in Canada. Director Apse described the regulatory measures that Canada is contemplating to legalize and regulate recreational cannabis and discussed the challenges involved.

#### **Comments by delegations**

**Colombia:** Described Colombia's most recent laws and regulations on the production and use of cannabis for medical and scientific purposes.

**Mexico:** Discussed the efforts of the World Health Organization to study cannabis and its potential rescheduling in the international conventions.

#### **12. Panel 3: Integral prevention programs to address the drug problem**

**Moderator:** Alexandra Hill, Chief, Demand Reduction Unit, ES/CICAD

#### **Presenters:**

- a. Esther Best, National Drug Council, Trinidad and Tobago (CICAD/doc.2345/17)**

Ms. Best discussed the comprehensive approach to drug demand reduction from the Caribbean perspective, and touched on the regional demand reduction strategy approved by the CARICOM Heads of Government. She noted that historically, CICAD had cooperated in the development of national drug commissions and national plans, and with development of an online training program in cooperation with the University of the West Indies. Ms. Best discussed the achievements of the Program for Training and Certification of Human Resources providing Treatment and Rehabilitation

Services (PROCCER), and how international partners had increased their participation in the Program.

**b. Silvia Morales, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) (CICAD/doc.2351/17)**

Ms. Morales described the current situation with regard to drug use problems, and suggested some areas for action, such as competency-based continuing education programs. She presented the cross-platform training tool developed by UNAM in coordination with CICAD, which will enable professionals in national health systems who are not specialists in the drug issue to be trained, utilizing an ad hoc curriculum based on the Universal Treatment Curriculum (UTC). In closing, Ms. Morales presented the most significant results and conclusions from the pilot test of the Moodle-based online training tool in six member states.

**c. Ana María Peñuela, Ministry of Health, Colombia (CICAD/doc.2339/17)**

Ms. Peñuela described Colombia's experience institutionally with knowledge management and national and local capacity building in the prevention and treatment of psychoactive substance use based on a public health approach. She also outlined the goals and strategies of Colombia's drug policy and the prevention and treatment methods currently being used. The presenter shared some of the lessons learned and the new challenges being faced in the area of demand reduction in the context of the peace accords in Colombia.

**d. June Sivilli, Division Chief for Public Health and Public Safety, ONDCP, United States (CICAD/doc.2353/17)**

Ms. Sivilli gave an overview of prevention based on U.S. data, and discussed the sources of drug surveillance data. She presented various types of drug prevention interventions, namely, universal, selective, and indicated prevention, and discussed steps in developing a strategic prevention plan. In closing, she spoke about the importance of investing in surveillance systems to address the problem, and of utilizing evidence-based programs, policies and practices.

### **Comments by delegations**

**Mexico:** Considered that demand reduction systems should work in complementary ways, from a conceptual and operational point of view, and should focus their efforts on the efficient use of resources and capacity building based on exchanges of experiences. The delegate indicated that Mexico's national prevention policy had produced a preventative culture in both the health sector and the security and justice sector.

**Argentina:** Stressed the importance of having political support at the highest level for drug demand reduction, and felt that prevention models should be established in the region, based on the recommendations made by the panel, so as to avoid the errors that had been committed in the past.

**Uruguay:** Underlined the importance of working on this issue on the basis of a shared agenda in the Hemisphere, and felt there were good opportunities for looking further into the matter and for exchanging information on the topic.

### **13. Panel 4: Alternatives to incarceration and proportionality of sentences**

**Moderator:** Antonio Lomba, Chief, Institutional Strengthening Unit, ES/CICAD

**Presenters:**

- a. Luis Toledo Ríos, Director, Unit on the Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, National Prosecutor’s Office, Chile (CICAD/doc.2333/17)**

Mr. Toledo discussed the negative impact of the high rates of incarceration in Chile, and described how his country had adopted a therapeutic justice approach by instituting drug treatment courts. He discussed the challenges involved in implementing these courts, and showed the results since 2004.

- b. Geoffrey Henderson, Judge of the International Criminal Court, The Hague**

Mr. Henderson discussed the drawbacks of disproportionate sentencing for drug-related crimes, and recommended that clear guidelines be adopted in order to avoid this problem. He said that it was important for member states to review their laws on a regular basis to ensure that they conform to the principle of proportionality, reserving the most severe sentences for people who operate at the highest levels of drug production and sales.

- c. Brendan Hughes, Principal Legal Analyst, European Legal Database on Drugs (ELDD), European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) (CICAD/doc.2355/17)**

Mr. Hughes said that the international conventions do not require member states to incarcerate people or penalize petty offenses related to the sale or use of drugs; rather, they allow states to provide treatment or social reinsertion and aftercare measures as alternatives to incarceration. He provided recommendations as to how to determine proportionate sentences, stressed the importance of monitoring the outcomes of the application of drug laws, and discussed some of the difficulties encountered in Europe because of differences among the laws of the countries of the region.

- d. Martha Paredes Rosero, Deputy Director, Strategy and Analysis, Drug Policy Directorate, Ministry of Justice and Law, Colombia (CICAD/doc.2356/17)**

Ms. Paredes recognized the importance of having drug policies that take a human rights and public health approach in line with the UNGASS recommendations, and explained the drug treatment courts operating in Colombia, including the challenges they had posed and the successes achieved.

### Comments by delegations

**Mexico:** The delegate reaffirmed Mexico's support for programs of alternatives to incarceration, and discussed the work being done in the country on this subject. The delegate said it was important to evaluate this type of program in order to monitor outcomes.

**United States:** The delegate noted that the operational document of UNGASS 2016 includes alternatives to incarceration, and praised CICAD's work in this area. He urged that these programs should operate on the basis of evidence-based practices, and that they gather data in order to be able to monitor and evaluate the outcomes. He considered that interventions by first aid personnel or emergency medical technicians offer a low-cost alternative, and should be looked at more closely.

**Colombia:** Discussed the challenge involved in finding alternatives to incarceration that were in accordance with the law, and said that his country was ready to share lessons learned and to promote data collection in an effort to formulate better policies that are evidence-based.

**Barbados:** The delegate presented the outcomes of the drug treatment court in Barbados.

### 14. Report of the Expert Group on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development (GEDAIS) (CICAD/doc.2342/17)

**Presenter:** Karla Yalile Martínez Beltrán, General Secretariat of DEVIDA, representative of Peru, Chair of the Expert Group

Ms. Martínez, Chair of the Expert Group on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development, presented the Group's report and described the activities that had been carried out in 2016 – 2017.

### Comment by delegations

**Ecuador:** The delegate presented Ecuador's candidacy to chair the Expert Group.

**Mexico:** Reiterated his country's commitment to the Group to continue to cooperate on the issue, and seconded the candidacy of Ecuador.

**Colombia:** Supported the candidacy of Ecuador, reiterated that this is a topic of priority for Colombia, and said it was important for the Group to carry out specific activities.

**Chile:** The delegate stated his country's support for the candidacy of Ecuador.

**Guatemala:** Noted the importance and quality of the expert group meeting held in Guatemala.

**United States:** Stated his country's support for the candidacy of Ecuador, and recognized the importance of the process of formulation of the Reference Framework for the Expansion of

Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development in the Americas based on the declarations of UNGASS 2016. The delegate also agreed with Colombia that it was important for the Group to conduct specific activities.

## **Decisions**

The Commission adopted the report of the Expert Group on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development and elected Ecuador to chair the group in 2018.

### **15. Report of the Expert Group on Money Laundering Control (CICAD/doc.2332/17)**

**Presenter: Minister José Eduardo Pereira Sosa, representing the Permanent Mission of Paraguay to the OAS and the Chair of the Expert Group on Money Laundering Control (GELAVEX)**

Minister Sosa presented the report of the XLIV meeting of the Expert Group on Money Laundering Control (GELAVEX) and its working subgroups (CICAD/doc.2332/17), which was held in Asunción, Paraguay in September 2017.

## **Comments by delegations**

**Mexico:** Underscored the comment by the Chair of CICAD regarding the importance of looking at the subject of “cryptocurrencies” and proposed that a meeting be held on the use of cryptocurrencies by drug trafficking networks in the Hemisphere.

**Colombia:** Reiterated his country’s request to serve as Vice Chair of GELAVEX for the period 2018-2019.

**Bolivia:** Said that it was important to continue to strengthen existing measures to counter money laundering in the region.

## **Decisions**

The Commission adopted the report of GELAVEX for the period 2016-2017, the strategic plan 2018-2020, the work plan for 2017-2018, and the Group’s recommendations to CICAD. The Commission also approved the candidacies of Bolivia and Colombia to serve as the Group’s Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, for the period 2018-2019.

On the proposal put forward by Mexico, the Commission decided to consult with the Chair of GELAVEX to determine the possibility of holding a working meeting in 2018 on cryptocurrencies, as part of the work plan approved by the Commission.

## **16. Expert Group on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products**

**Presenter:** Mr. Alejandro de León, representing the Permanent Mission of Panama to the OAS and the Chair of the Expert Group on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products

Representing the Chair of the Expert Group on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products, Mr. de León thanked the Commission for the confidence placed in Panama to serve as Chair of the Group, and said that the Group's next meeting would be held in Panama City, Panama in 2018. He added that the notice of convocation would be sent out by the Executive Secretariat of CICAD at the appropriate time, and invited all the delegations to participate actively in the meeting.

## **17. Expert Group on Maritime Narcotrafficking**

**Chair:** Informed the Commission that it was necessary to elect a Chair for the Expert Group on Maritime Narcotrafficking, and offered the floor to delegations that wished to express interest in chairing the Group.

### **Comments by delegations**

**United States:** Stated its interest in chairing the Group, and presented a list of the main topics it proposed should be included in the Group's work plan. The delegate also proposed that the next meeting of the Group be held in June 2018.

**Colombia:** Seconded the candidacy of the United States, and said that his country was interested in serving as Vice Chair of the Group. He also underlined Colombia's interest in following up on progress achieved since 2016.

**Panama:** Seconded the candidacy of the United States.

**Mexico:** Supported the candidacies of the United States and Colombia, and invited all member states to participate actively in the next meeting of the Expert Group on Maritime Narcotrafficking.

### **Decisions**

The Commission approved the candidacies of the United States and Colombia to serve as Chair and Vice Chair respectively of the Expert Group on Maritime Narcotrafficking for 2018.

## **18. Remarks by Permanent Observers to the OAS, and by international and regional organizations and civil society organizations accredited to the OAS**

**Russian Federation:** The delegate discussed the importance of cooperation with its partners in CICAD on all aspects of the world drug problem, and listed the bilateral agreements the country had

signed with various countries of the Hemisphere and other cooperative measures. He stated the Russian Federation's interest in working with the member states of CICAD at the sixty-first session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs to develop resolutions to urge compliance with the operational document of UNGASS 2016 and the Political Declaration and resolutions of 2009. The delegate explained how the Russian Federation has been implementing the recommendations of the outcome document of UNGASS 2016, and stressed the importance of the international conventions as the basis for addressing drug issues. The delegate noted the challenge posed by the growing production of drugs in Afghanistan.

**Asociación Costarricense para el Estudio e Investigación en Drogas (ACEID), on its own behalf and representing Mexico Unido contra la Delincuencia, the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) and the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC):** The speaker said that the social society events, such as the "Dialogue on Harm Reduction: best practices, areas of opportunity and new conceptual approaches," held parallel to the regular sessions of CICAD were important as a means of exchanging ideas about approaches to the drug issue, and that, following up on the operational recommendations from UNGASS 2016, the civil society session had formally included for the first time in its discussions the topic of harm reduction, and various strategies, alternatives, and tools had been presented. He detailed the different topics that had been covered in the civil society dialogue, and explained the role that harm reduction plays in addressing the world drug problem and its various components. The civil society organizations asked that the dialogue with civil society be conducted during the regular sessions of CICAD as part of the formal agenda, and that related costs be part of CICAD's budget.

**Open Society Foundations:** Noted that, despite existing international laws and a strong consensus to establish alternatives to penal sanctions for some drug-related offenses, there is no requirement for court-mandated treatment or court supervision as alternative measures. The presenter cited that evidence suggests coercion and mandatory treatment for abstinence are not effective, and highlighted important issues to consider when developing alternatives to incarceration. She also explained that, despite good intentions, no alternative to incarceration can be considered effective if it undermines the health and human rights of offenders. Finally, she affirmed the need for a broader selection of alternatives to incarceration, such as pre-arrest referrals, health and social services interventions, as well as legal reforms to eliminate these offenses from the penal code.

**Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) (CICAD/doc.2357/17):** Described the work of PAHO and the documents it has published in order to support member states in complying with the operational recommendations of UNGASS 2016 related to public health, and explained some of the challenges that had been encountered in this work. The representative also reported on the projects that PAHO is implementing as lead agency, and the activities it is carrying out in conjunction with other international organizations and countries of the region. In closing, he offered PAHO's support for the working group to follow up on the operational recommendations of UNGASS 2016, proposed by Mexico during the first plenary session of CICAD 62.

## 19. Suggested topics, dates, and location for the sixty-third regular session of CICAD

The Chair proposed that the next regular session of CICAD be held, tentatively, during the last week of April 2018 in Mexico City. The Chair of the Commission and the Executive Secretariat of CICAD will advise the delegates of the exact dates for that session. The Chair then requested member states to present topics that they would like to propose for the next regular session.

### Comments by delegations

**Guatemala:** Proposed inclusion of the topic of new indicators for drug policies.

**Canada:** Proposed continued discussion of opioids and new psychoactive substances.

**Chile:** Proposed continued discussion of the search for evidence in drug demand and supply programs that have been evaluated.

**United States:** Proposed continued discussion of implementation of the operational recommendations of UNGASS 2016, and of the opioid crisis. The delegate also supported the proposal by Chile.

**Colombia:** Proposed addressing the topics of women in prison and drug mules; hidden networks and cryptocurrencies; local drug markets and drug dealing; and mental health and the use of psychoactive substances.

**Trinidad and Tobago:** Proposed inclusion of the topic of the link between young people, drug use, and the formation of gangs.

**Uruguay:** Proposed inclusion of the topic of interventions in vulnerable family settings and gender relations in the context of the topic of drug dealing.

**Honduras:** Proposed including the topic of chemical precursors.

**Argentina:** Supported Uruguay's proposal, and thought the idea of formulating public policies in light of local contexts to be an important one.

**Ecuador:** Proposed the topics of inclusion of a gender perspective in drug policy; analysis of vulnerable groups such as adolescents and minors, and analysis of groups adversely affected by drug trafficking bands. Also supported the proposal by Colombia.

## 20. Closing session

The Chair of CICAD thanked the member states, reiterated Mexico's commitment to CICAD, and declared the sixty-second regular session of CICAD closed.

### **III. DECISIONS**

The Commission decided as follows:

1. Adopted the draft agenda (CICAD/doc.2324/17 rev. 1) and the draft schedule of activities (CICAD/doc.2325/17 rev. 2) without amendment.
2. Elected Mexico as Chair of CICAD for the 2017-2018 term of office, and Argentina to serve as Vice Chair for the same period.
3. Adopted the proposal by Mexico to form a working group on implementation of the operational recommendations of UNGASS 2016.
4. Adopted the report of the Chair of the IWG (CICAD/doc.2341/17).
5. Adopted the documents of the evaluation process for the seventh round of the MEM (CICAD/doc.2328/17).
6. Adopted the report of the Expert Group on Demand Reduction.
7. Adopted the report of the Expert Group on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development (GEDAIS).
8. Elected Ecuador to chair the Expert Group on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development.
9. Adopted the report of GELAVEX for the period 2016-2017, the strategic plan 2018-2020, the work plan for 2017-2018, and the Group's recommendations to CICAD.
10. Elected Bolivia and Colombia to serve as the Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, of GELAVEX for the period 2018-2019.
11. Elected the United States and Colombia to serve as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, of the Expert Group on Maritime Narcotrafficking for 2018.

## IV. PARTICIPANTS

### 1. Member states of CICAD

Argentina, The Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela

### 2. Permanent Observers

France, Russian Federation, and Spain

### 3. International Organizations and Specialized Regional Organizations

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Inter-American Defense Board (IADB), International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

### 4. Civil Society

Youth Integration Centers (CIJ); Open Society Foundations; Ombudsperson of the Province of Buenos Aires; Instituto de Investigación Sobre Jóvenes, Violencia y Adicciones (Chamber of Deputies of the Province of Buenos Aires); International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC); Asociación Civil Intercambios (Argentina and Puerto Rico); International Centre for Science in Drug Policy; Fundación Jesús Luz de Oportunidades, Audience Development Drug Policy Alliance; San Francisco Drug Users Union; International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care, and Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA).