



OAS | CICAD



**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION**

CICAD

**GROUP OF EXPERTS ON CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES AND PHARMACEUTICAL
PRODUCTS**

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GROUP 1 WORKING DOCUMENT:

**Enhance OAS member states' forensic technical capacity to strengthen the control of
synthetic drugs, including NPS and its chemical precursors**

IDENTIFY THE CURRENT OAS MEMBER STATES TECHNICAL FORENSIC CAPACITY

- With the goal of supporting OAS member states in its efforts to control New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), the working group requests the ES/CICAD to make arrangements to obtain financial support, which will allow to assess the current technical capacities of OAS member states forensic laboratories.

STRENGTHEN THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AMONG OAS MEMBER STATES FORENSIC LABORATORIES

- With the goal of enabling the sharing of information on the control of chemical precursors and illicit drugs among forensic laboratories in the region, the working group requests that ES/CICAD focuses its efforts on creating a **regional directory of national focal contact points** (stored on an online repository) that will allow the exchange of information on forensic findings and related themes. The working group requests the ES/CICAD to send a concept note through OAS missions, in order for each country to designate two (2) focal contact points from forensic laboratories responsible for the analysis of synthetic drugs and NPS. The concept note will suggest that focal contact points shall be the main person responsible for the laboratory (chief), and a chemical expert designated by the chief. The working group requests ES/CICAD to consult strategic partners in order to explore options on possible platforms where the repository could be stored.

IMPLEMENTATION OF MECHANISMS AIMING TO GUARANTEE THAT SPECIALIZED EVENTS, SUCH AS THIS GROUP OF EXPERTS, ARE ATTENDED BY QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS WITH AN ADEQUATE TECHNICAL PROFILE

- The working subgroup proposes that, when possible, invitations sent by ES/CICAD include desirable prerequisites and profiles of participants, as well as proposed responsibilities that each participant will have to undertake during the meeting.
- The working subgroup proposes to ES/CICAD to update its databases with contact information of experts and to share the data with other international organisms also dedicated to strengthening capacities of forensic laboratories in the regions, such as UNODC.

INCREASE THE ROLE OF FORENSIC LABORATORIES IN THE STRENGTHENING OF LEGAL FRAMEWORKS AT AN INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL

- Incentivize the creation of national groups/commissions composed by representatives of public institutions responsible for demand and supply reduction (customs, Public Ministry, Ministry of Health, law enforcement, judicial system, etc.) including forensic chemists, in order for these groups to provide advice during discussions and provide necessary information on NPS to the multidisciplinary groups.
- According to the need of each country, incentivize awareness raising meetings among experts and/or forensic laboratories personnel, and decision-makers (executive, legislative and judicial powers) including, when possible, the press and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and that such experiences can be shared among other member states through the ES/CICAD.
- Incentivize forensic laboratories to support justice administrators and regulative institutions in their legislative efforts on the control of NPS, including their classification, keeping in mind possible different strategies, such as generic and analogue components.

SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT TRAINING COURSES/CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES OFFERED BY OAS MEMBER STATES

- The working group suggests that members provide the ES/CICAD with information about courses organized domestically in order to strengthening capacities to detect synthetic drugs, including whether or not the course is financed; and request ES/CICAD to disseminate this information among relevant points of contact to maximize the impact of capacity-building opportunities.
- Furthermore, the working group suggests that members of the expert group inform the ES/CICAD on capacity building activities held in other regions which could represent capacity building opportunities for OAS Member States.

INCENTIVIZE MEMBER STATES TO CREATE DRUGS INVESTIGATION CENTERS

- Incentivize member states to create drugs investigation centers with forensic experts and specific funds for advancing the elaboration of studies and investigations on this subject matter.
- The working group requests ES/CICAD to explore, along with UNODC, the possibility of reactivating the forensic training center for the countries of the Caribbean, dealing not only with natural drugs, but also NPS and synthetic drugs.
- The working group requests ES/CICAD to explore the possibility of creating a forensic training center for Latin America, with the support of other international organisms.

MAINSTREAMING OF PROPOSALS IDENTIFIED BY THIS WORKING GROUP

- The working group proposes that suggested measures to increase *OAS member states' forensic technical capacity to strengthen the control of synthetic drugs, including NPS and its chemical precursors*, be shared with the plenary with the purpose of serving as a model for strengthening other topics under the competence of the Expert Group, such as the control of plant-based drugs and chemical precursors.