



OAS | CICAD



**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION**

CICAD

**SIXTY-FOURTH REGULAR SESSION
November 19-21, 2018
Washington D.C., USA**

**OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.64
CICAD/doc. 2437/18
November 19 2018
Original: English**

**Statement by Ambassador Adam Namm
Executive Secretary
Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)**

64th CICAD Regular Session
Washington, DC; November 19, 2018
Statement by Ambassador Adam Namm
Executive Secretary
Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)

Ambassador Jorge Lomónoco, Mexican Ambassador to the OAS;

Dr. Guillermo Fonseca, Coordinator of International Affairs, Mexico
Attorney General's Office;

Secretary General Luis Almagro;

Secretary for Multidimensional Security Farah Urrutia;

Distinguished CICAD commissioners and other delegates from OAS
member states, Permanent Observers, international organizations, civil
society, members of the press, OAS colleagues.

Good morning and welcome to all. As I come up on my two-year
anniversary as the Executive Secretary of CICAD, I am grateful for the
support of OAS member states and my Executive Secretariat staff.

I want to thank Mexico for its strong chair of CICAD during the past
year. As we approach 2019, which is the target date of the 2009 UN
Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation
towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World
Drug Problem, Mexico made UNGASS compliance a particular focus of
its work as CICAD chair, including holding a series of national dialogues
on UNGASS. With Mexico's concurrent chair of the UN's Commission
on Narcotic Drugs, it has truly been a leader on drug policy.

Thanks to Argentina for serving as Vice Chair during the past year, and for working diligently with the CICAD Executive Secretariat on the agenda and schedule of activities for this 64th regular session of CICAD.

Thank you, Secretary General Almagro, for being with us today, and for your unfailing and strong support of CICAD. The work of the Commission and its Executive Secretariat makes the Western Hemisphere a better place. The drug problem is, unfortunately, without end, but, by sharing best practices and working together, CICAD and its member states strengthen their ability to take a public health and human rights approach to drug dependency, while joining forces to address drug trafficking. The Americas truly are in the vanguard when it comes to responding to the drug issue, with, for example, the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism being the only regional peer review tool in existence.

One's boss is key to job satisfaction, and I want to recognize our terrific Secretary for Multidimensional Security, Farah Urrutia. Although she has been on the job for only a few months, Secretary Urrutia has learned CICAD issues with lightning speed, and unfailingly offers sound guidance. Luck counts for a lot in life, and I consider myself very fortunate to work with Secretary Urrutia, as I was fortunate to work with her predecessor, Secretary Claudia Paz y Paz.

During my almost two years at CICAD, I have visited twelve OAS member states, and of course met with many member state representatives here in Washington. Communication is vital to our work, and I am confident that the channels of communication between the CICAD Executive Secretariat, OAS member states, permanent

observers, international organizations, and civil society is strong. Regarding civil society, I have made it a priority to meet with representatives of civil society whenever I visit a member state; it is important to hear from them.

2018 has been a busy year for CICAD, with many programs. As is customary, the CICAD 2018 Annual Report will be presented during the forthcoming spring regular session, so I will refrain from providing a detailed report at this stage; however, I do want to say that everything we do has an evidenced-based approach, which is essential for effective programming.

For example, the deliverable you have before you: the Executive Summary of our forthcoming 2019 Report on Drug Use in the Americas. We will issue the full report in a couple of months. Our aim is to help you, the drug policy makers and practitioners in the Western Hemisphere, craft and implement sound policies based on evidence. You will get a glimpse of the many statistics contained in our forthcoming report during a presentation later this morning.

Let me briefly highlight some of the Executive Secretariat's other work:

- The Inter-American Observatory on Drugs has begun a comprehensive study of New Psychoactive Substances, heroin, fentanyl, and other opioids in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- CICAD's Supply Reduction Unit is at work on the Gender in Law Enforcement Agencies project, designed to promote gender mainstreaming in drug-related law enforcement.

- Our Demand Reduction Unit continues to implement the Universal Prevention and Treatment curricula.
- CICAD's Institutional Strengthening Unit continues to assist member states in implementing and expanding drug treatment courts.
- The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism, or MEM, is completing its seventh round, with reports due to be published in mid-2019.

Just as "Evaluation" is the MEM's middle name, we pride ourselves on making monitoring and evaluation an integral part of all of our programming. It's the best and only way to gauge the impact of our projects, and make changes if needed.

I thank the five countries that have chaired CICAD experts groups for the past year: Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Panama, and the U.S.

Many, many thanks to our donors. Only about 10 to 20 percent of the Executive Secretariat's annual budget comes from the OAS Regular Fund, so we simply couldn't do what we do without specific funds and in-kind contributions.

Finally, thanks to my terrific Executive Secretariat staff. I count myself fortunate every day to work with such excellent colleagues.

I look forward to a dynamic regular session over the course of the next three days, and thank all panelists and presenters for their valuable contributions. Thank you for this time, Chair.