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CONTROL COMMISSION**

**CICAD**

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**REMARKS BY UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC)**

**CICAD 68**

## CICAD 68 Remarks by UNODC (11 Dec 2020)

Honorable CICAD Commissioners and other representatives from member states; Ambassador Namm; Representatives of permanent observers to the OAS, members of international organizations, representatives of civil society, CICAD colleagues, ladies and gentlemen;

UNODC collaboration with CICAD in many areas and ways. Several of my UNODC colleagues have spoken at panels in the past days on aspects of their work and their collaboration of UNODC with countries in the region and with CICAD through our experts at HQ and our regional and country offices.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how a seemingly well-known situation can change in a matter of weeks with far-reaching consequences on many aspects of life. UNODC recently release the Global Synthetic Drugs Assessment 2020 which investigates the rapidly changing illicit synthetic drug market and includes a regional analysis of the situation in the Americas.

We need systems that are able to capture new developments and emerging threats early on and generate the evidence for national, regional and international institutions to react in timely manner.

The Hemispheric Drug Strategy contains a critical element, early warning systems, which are also referenced in the outcome document of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs in 2016.

UNODC started its global Early Warning Advisory on new psychoactive substances in 2013 and we will continue to work closely with CICAD to support the establishment and strengthening of early warning mechanisms in the region.

Forensic laboratories play an important role in early warning because they are often the first ones to detect newly emerging and potentially highly harmful substances emerging on drug markets such as synthetic opioids.

The UNODC Opioids Strategy provides a comprehensive framework for collaboration with member states to address the challenges posed by opioids.

An important instrument for that collaboration is the Synthetic Drugs Toolkit, a web-based one-stop-shop that contains useful, practice-oriented tools and manuals from organizations across the UN system including INCB, WHO, WCO and UPU. UNODC is very grateful to CICAD for the translation of modules of the Toolkit into Spanish, which will go a long way in making this valuable resource accessible for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Finally, I would like to raise your attention to a growing problem and dilemma. Governments are seizing larger and larger amounts of drugs and their precursor chemicals. This success at the same time constitutes a serious challenge in terms of their safe and environmentally-friendly disposal. This is why UNODC has develop manuals and guidelines for the safe disposal of chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs and is ready to start collaborating with countries in the regional to jointly develop customized solutions.

Let me close by thanking the Chair for the opportunity to speak to you today and the member states which support our work financially and with their expertise.

Thank you very much.