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FINAL REPORT

(Provisional version)

**OF THE MEETING OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS TO
CONTROL PRECURSOR, CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES,
MACHINES AND MATERIALS**

April 29 - May 1, 1998

Washington, D.C.

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I. BACKGROUND

The Expert Group last met in Fort de France, Martinique from June 24 to 27, 1997, with the objective of analyzing the tables of the Model Regulations to Control Diversion of Precursor Chemical, Machines and Materials. The Expert Group made a number of recommendations to CICAD, including: that the regulations have to include other substances to address current Regional needs and problems; that Tables I and 11 of the Model Regulations have to be modified; to adopt definitions of mixtures, to add a new table (111) for surveillance of substances that while not controlled have been seen to be used in the region for illicit drug production; and, finally to propose a mechanism for how substances may be moved between tables where countries identify the need to do so.

During the twenty-second regular session of CICAD, in Lima, Peru, from November 4 to 7, 1997 the Commission decided to reconvene the Expert Group during first quarter of 1998, to bring the Model Regulations up to date. The Expert Group's mandate was to review proposals for further amending the regulations, to follow-up on the progress by countries on the recommendations of the Martinique meeting, in particular, progress on the development of a directory of relevant companies, to engage industry in the process of preventing diversion, to review the progress on a software system to harmonize controls over movements of these substances, and to develop training programs in accordance with the needs and priorities of countries and at their request.

II. OPENING SESSION, WORKING SESSIONS AND CLOSING SESSION

The opening session of this meeting was held in the morning of April 29th, 1998 in the Padilha Vidal Room of the General Secretariat of the OAS. Mr. David Beall, Executive Secretariat of CICAD gave welcoming remarks and the meeting was opened by the Chair, Mr. Michel Diban.

During the meeting, five working sessions were held in accordance with the Schedule of Activities. The various items of the Expert Group's mandate were considered at these sessions, as well proposals, suggestions, observations and recommendations made by participants, in arriving at the decisions adopted, which appear in this final report.

The first two days of the meeting were devoted to revisions to the Model Regulations. As the Experts considered the provisions in depth, it was realized that a further meeting would be needed to complete the exercise of up-dating, because, since the regulations were first adopted in 1990 many changes and new needs have been identified. The Experts were asked to bear in mind in preparing the amendments how they could be effectively applied to control and prevent the diversion of substances to the illicit production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Thereafter the Group held discussions on other items of the Agenda. In particular, the Chief of CICAD's Supply Reduction Section made a brief summary on the current status of projects relating to chemical control. These projects include: the development of a uniform software for chemical control, the directory of authorities responsible for controlling precursors and other chemical substances, the Inter-American Drug Control Telecommunications System (SITCOD/Precursors), and the Mechanism for the Control of Chemical Substances and Precursors.

III.OFFICERS, PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS

The following member countries designated experts for the Meeting: Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, the Dominican Republic, the United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Also attending this Meeting as Observers were Aruba and Russia and INTERPOL.

The names of the experts, observers and officials of CICAD's Executive Secretariat, who participated in the Meeting are listed in Appendix I to this Final Report.

IV. DOCUMENTATION

The documents taken into account in the work of this meeting are listed in Appendix II to this Final Report

V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

After holding five working sessions, the group of Experts reached the following conclusions and recommendations:

- 1 . In accordance with its mandate, the Group continued to revise the Model Regulations, on the basis agreed to at the previous meeting in Martinique and the suggestions subsequently presented by several countries, the United States, Peru, Venezuela and Colombia.

This review revealed the need to make significant changes and adjustments to the regulations, in light of the experience acquired by member states since 1990 when the regulations were first prepared.

Considering that this work needs to continue, it was agreed to proposed to the Commission at its meeting next week that it extend the mandate of the Group and authorize it to meet again to complete its revisions work for these to be presented to the next following meeting of the Commission.

The Group agreed that countries would make their comments on the amendments to the text agreed to at this meeting and make any other observations before June

30, so that the Executive Secretariat of CICAD could prepare a compilation of the remarks received in sufficient time for the next meeting of the Group. To ensure that the next meeting will achieve its goals comments received after the above-mentioned date will not be considered at the meeting.

The Group also agreed to request the Commission to recommend to countries to the extent possible to designate the same delegates to the next meeting of the Group for the purpose of maintaining continuity in its work.

2. In view of the inherent complexity of the subject, the Experts were requested in anticipation of the next meeting to give special attention to offences in relation to the subject of precursor chemical diversion, taking into account the Chilean proposal presented to the meeting.
3. The member states of CICAD shall advise the Commission of the applicable 10-digit tariff classification code under the Harmonized System (H.S.). The Executive Secretariat shall convey this information to all member countries.

The competent authorities shall advise the Executive Secretariat of any changes in the classification code of controlled products.

4. For the ingress and egress or transit of precursor chemicals and other chemical substances, that the number of customs points through which such substances could be processed be reduced to the extent that an individual country's needs and realities as well as their national laws permit.
5. To recommend to the Commission that this Group of Experts be authorized to meet twice a year.
6. To recommend that the Executive Secretariat review with, the Executive Directorate of the International Narcotics Control Board its computer software system with a view to its simplification and harmonization with that of CICAD.
7. To request the Executive Secretariat of CICAD to approach countries of Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe for the purpose of reaching cooperation agreements for the control of precursors and other chemical substances with the countries of this hemisphere.
8. To recommend to countries that they provide to the Executive Secretariat a prioritized list of their three highest training needs.
9. To request Argentina to present to the next meeting of the Group of Experts a report on the subject of ensuring security of customs and related documents.

10. To accept with thanks the offer of the Government of BOLIVIA to host the next meeting of the Group in the city of Santa Cruz at the earliest possible date consistent with CICAD's schedule of activities.