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**REPORT AND CONSIDERATION OF THE ACTIVITIES
OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
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CICAD/OAS**

CICAD 47

Leveraging Resources for CICAD's Mandates

CICAD can point to many accomplishments since the Commission met in Miami in November, just five months ago. Indeed, many of you have already played a significant role in some of those enterprises:

1. The two big ones are the new the Anti-drug Strategy in the Americas;
2. The start of the fifth evaluation round of the MEM.

I would like to report to you about another accomplishment: CICAD's EU-LAC City Partnership in Drug Demand Reduction project and our meeting 10 days ago in the city of Lugo, in Galicia, Spain. In spite of the volcanic ash that prevented some key people traveling, that event attracted over 200 participants. The participating mayors approved the Declaration of Lugo, which is circulating as a document of this CICAD 47. The Declaration establishes the EU-LAC City Partnership in Drug Demand Reduction, which will be signed in Coimbra, Portugal, in September 2010. The document is geared to promoting public policies, plans and actions to prevent drug and alcohol abuse and to provide treatment and recovery support services for drug-dependent persons. This EU-LAC Partnership also is committed to promoting exchanges of evidence-based experiences in demand reduction, and to the protection of human rights of those undergoing treatment.

The three days of presentations and discussions were a great success in large part because of what preceded it – three years of intense planning, communication and execution of your Executive Secretariat and its partners. What are some of the project's individual accomplishments?

1. For the first time in many countries, the drug issue has been placed on the political agenda at regular meetings that included, at the same time, local, regional and international government institutions, creating an enriched, multi-layered dialogue.
2. Ten cities completed bilateral exchanges as the result of inter-institutional agreements, and another six cities are on the way to concluding similar accords.
3. The EU-LAC project sponsored nine large fora that discussed various issues related to drug treatment, policies and strategies to improve citizen services, and the relationship between drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. Also, the city of San Miguel de Tucumán in Argentina hosted the first EU-LAC training activity in the area of drug treatment policies and the management of treatment services, with fifteen cities participating in the workshop.
4. One of the most promising outcomes was the growing acceptance of drug treatment courts as viable, practical instruments for dealing with drug abuse.

The project saw pilot courts set up in Paramaribo (Suriname) and the State of Nuevo Leon / Monterrey (Mexico), consolidating and exchanging experiences from our events in Ghent, Belgium and Santiago, Chile. As a complement to these initiatives, the first-ever publication on international experiences with drug courts around the world was published by the CICAD Executive Secretariat, the American University, the University of Ghent, and the Office of the Attorney General of Chile. Finally, the EU-LAC project was the catalyst for the creation of the European Association of Drug Treatment Courts, sponsored and supported by the mayor of the city of Ghent, and underwritten by judges, prosecutors and health care professionals of seven European Union countries.

5. During the EU-LAC forums in Montevideo, Montego Bay and Goteborg, 30 cities agreed on new two standardized instruments: a patient treatment admission form, and a city profile as part of defining a needs assessment process. As a result, the project will publish a report about the drug situation in 19 cities in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.
6. Originally, project plans called for the project to reach about 250 people, but almost ten times more participants attended EU-LAC events. And we are not counting those who accessed the project web platform for information and contacts.

The EU-LAC project and its achievements illustrate the significant effort that CICAD's Executive Secretariat invests in organizing events and activities, as well as in pulling together the human and financial resources that make these endeavors feasible. Indeed, it is a trademark of CICAD's approach

At the conclusion of the Lugo summit, I attended as an observer a meeting of the EU-LAC High-Level Mechanism for Coordination and Cooperation on Drugs, in Madrid, April 26-27, as did some representatives from the capitals of our member states. That Mechanism launched a new project funded by the European Commission, entitled COPOLAD, which is geared to strengthening dialogue among national drug commissions in the framework of the Mechanism; to strengthening national observatories on drugs, and to providing training in both demand reduction and supply reduction. The project will be executed by two or more member states of the European Union, and will be open to Latin American states that are members of the Mechanism.

I'd like to speak with you about your Executive Secretariat's finances. Last year, 2009, we brought in \$8.1 million in (both from the OAS regular fund and voluntary cash contributions) plus half a million in in-kind contributions. We spent \$7.8 million, so we actually raised more money than we spent, and carried those funds into 2010.

More important than the funding, we've been able to maintain and even increase our activities over that same time period.

We have been able to do this for a several reasons. Obviously, we have become quite proficient and creative at managing scarce resources. Our program chiefs and staff are required to juggle multiple factors: available in-house expertise, travel scheduling, contracting, and co-sponsors, so that we can maximize the impact of our project activities.

But that alone would not have been sufficient. The following additional factors have been important:

- We have forged much more productive, flexible alliances with other international organizations that work in our hemisphere.
- We have encouraged increased support from our member states through in-kind contributions, cost sharing, and horizontal cooperation, as well as cash contributions.

As you know, 100% of CICAD's current project funding comes from voluntary contributions from about a dozen governments and international organizations. The Executive Secretariat has varying degrees of autonomy to allocate these funds, but all CICAD projects fall squarely within CICAD's drug mandate. For instance, the EU-LAC project is a strictly budgeted and programmed activity that must be executed as planned, and which requires discipline, attention to detail, and constant communication with all the participants.

On the other hand donors like France and Greece have provided unrestricted voluntary contributions to the CICAD General Fund, which means that we can allocate these funds as needed. These contributions can serve as startup investment for a new initiative or an emergency response to a need that had not been foreseen in the Executive Secretariat's original annual budget.

These unrestricted donations are important because they give us the flexibility to plan and execute efficiently, and to respond to opportunities quickly until other funds become available. In 2009, CICAD received cash contributions from nine member states, which are three more than in 2008. For 2010, we expect that these member states will maintain their contributions and others will join this shared effort to provide the CICAD Executive Secretariat with the resources required to comply with its mandates.

Both the governments of the United States and Canada, our two largest contributors, have demonstrated a long-term commitment to CICAD's core programs over the years. Because of our long-standing working arrangement, we have been able come to depend on these funding sources to sustain key projects over time. In the past six months, we have received new invitations from both governments to develop long-term proposals, primarily for the countries of the Caribbean basin. These opportunities have required us to think creatively and ambitiously about how we can respond to the challenge.

In another variation of funding, Spain's significant cooperation with CICAD has focused on multi-year, multi-country capacity-building initiatives that included the posting of a Spanish national on the Executive Secretariat's staff.

In the case of Canada, we now have the possibility to win substantially increased support for certain programs. At the same time, this exciting possibility comes with the requirement to compete with other international agencies for those funds, along with the uncertainty that a competition necessarily brings. I am nonetheless confident of our attractive proposals and our proven track record of capacity to implement large and complex projects will, in the end, earn greater support from Canada.

The EU-LAC project and its achievements illustrate the significant effort that CICAD's Executive Secretariat invests in organizing events and activities, as well as in pulling together the human and financial resources that make these endeavors feasible. Indeed, it is a trademark of CICAD's approach. Finally, and importantly, a number of our member states are assuming more local costs to support projects aimed at their own countries as well as multi-national training events held in their country. And it's not only the central governments; for example, many participating cities in the EU-LAC city partnerships initiative used their own resources to underwrite events, or to participate in meetings – so much so, that the city contributions amounted to over 40% of the initial contribution from the European Commission of 1.4 million Euros.

This trend has allowed the Executive Secretariat to significantly stretch our limited funds. A case in point is the regional seminar on developing public policies on drugs held in Buenos Aires in late March. This course was based on the handbook on which that CICAD and CARICOM partnered to develop last year for the Caribbean region. SEDRONAR, the Argentine National Drug Commission, has taken charge of translating the guide into Spanish for the Latin American region.

As I mentioned earlier, last year, CICAD received a half a million dollars of in-kind contributions from 12 countries. Our program directors tell me that those figures do not accurately reflect your contributions because OAS regulations for registering in-kind contributions are quite narrow in their application. Your willingness to cover local costs and make in-kind contributions has helped us considerably.

What I am trying to point out here is that with your critical help, your CICAD Executive Secretariat has taken advantage of multiple forms of funding, and we will probably explore others going forward. I remember the words of Mabel Feliz, who heads the Dominican Republic's national drug council. She said: "No hay nadie tan pobre que no puede dar, ni tan rico que no necesita." "Nobody is so poor that they can't give or so rich that they don't need." In other words, our member states are finding different ways to contribute and participate in CICAD initiatives.

We are now wrapping up our three days of work here in Washington (though for some of you, we should perhaps start counting from April 19, when the GEG started); you will probably ask what you can take home with you from this session? Our member states have just completed the significant task of updating the Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere after 15 years.

Now you face the challenge of translating those 52 paragraphs into meaningful actions in each member state and in the region as a whole. That challenge will require all of us to muster financial and human resources from your government budgets, from international organizations, and from other donors and partners. So I urge all our member states to find ways to provide your Executive Secretariat with the resources we need to accomplish this goal.