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Estados Unidos de América

**COMISIÓN INTERAMERICANA PARA EL
CONTROL DEL ABUSO DE DROGAS**

CICAD

Organización de los Estados Americanos

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**FINAL REPORT
(Provisional)**

EXPERT GROUP ON COMPREHENSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT

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I. BACKGROUND

During the Fifty-eighth regular session of CICAD, held in the city of Trujillo, Peru, from the 11th to 13th November 2015, Member States of CICAD approved the reactivation of the Expert Group on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development (GEDAIS) under the presidency of Peru. This was done in order to give Member States specialized technical advice to improve and strengthen strategies and actions for Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development and as appropriate, preventive alternative development in the hemisphere under the Hemispheric strategy Declaration and Resolution of Antigua Guatemala as well as the guiding principles of the United Nations on Alternative Development and the new Sustainable Development Goals.

In accordance with this agreement, the Executive Secretariat convened the Expert Group Meeting on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development (GEDAIS), which was also held in Lima, Peru, as the Government offered to host the meeting from the 18th to 19th May 2016. As a preparatory action to that meeting a working breakfast was held in Washington D.C., USA, on April 26, during the fifty-ninth regular session of CICAD, with the participation of fifteen delegations.

II. EXPERT GROUP MEETING IN LIMA

A. PARTICIPATING AUTHORITIES AND OBSERVERS

The following Member States were represented at the Expert Group Meeting: Argentina, Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, USA Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago.

Also attending as observers were representatives from: the Government of Thailand, the Federal Drug Control Service of the Russian Federation, the Delegation of the European Union, the OAS Office in Peru, the French Embassy in Peru, The Office of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the "Rural Development" Program section of the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ).

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Alberto Otárola Peñaranda, Chairman of the Board of DEVIDA.

The list of participants of the meeting is attached hereto as Annex I.

B. SESSIONS AND ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

1. INAGURAL SESSION

The inaugural session of the Expert Group meeting on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development was held at the Hotel Sol de Oro in Lima, Peru.

The welcome remarks were given by the Ms. Angela Crowdy, Assistant Executive Secretary of CICAD, Mr. Alberto Otárola Peñaranda, Chairman of the Board of the National Commission for Development and Life without Drugs (DEVIDA) who is also the Chair of the CICAD Expert Group on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development and Ambassador Maritza Puertas de Rodríguez, Director General for Multilateral and Global Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Relations, Peru.

2. WORK SESSIONS

A. Presentations

The meeting aimed to establish a coordination mechanism for policy planning on comprehensive and sustainable alternative development and, where appropriate, preventive alternative development that are consistent with the objectives of the development agenda post 2015 and UNGASS 2016. The priority for this process is to promote south-south and triangular cooperation, to strengthen technical assistance, exchange of information, best practices and lessons learned in alternative development that would establish a hemispheric position according to the reality of the countries and to present a solid position at UNGASS 2019.

The Expert Group met in two sessions during which the following presentations were made:

- Alternative Development – The Global Situation and Challenges after UNGASS 2016
- Experiences and realities from the hemisphere regarding comprehensive and sustainable Alternative development
- The Contribution of Alternative Development to the Sustainable Development Goals

The presentations highlighted the relationship between drug policy and the international development agenda: poverty and inequality reduction, as well as human rights, economic development, women's empowerment, governance and rule of law, as well as the environment, and traditional and indigenous practices were highlighted.

Similarly, the commitment of CICAD Member States to integral and sustainable alternative development and, where appropriate, preventive alternative development was strengthened, which represents an effective strategy to protect and care for populations in vulnerable situation against illicit drug trafficking and other related crimes. It was also mentioned, that the diverse national experiences in interventions related to alternative development, provides sufficient time for the expert group to establish and agree on an operational dimension for comprehensive and sustainable alternative development and, where appropriate, preventive alternative development to address the underlying causes such: as poverty, food insecurity, ownership restrictions, market access and the few opportunities to obtain legal income.

Interest was expressed for generating national and hemispheric studies in order to understand the different social, economic and environmental contexts of diverse populations made vulnerable by the presence of illicit crops and drugs trafficking. Similarly, the role of international cooperation and the need to further strengthen that bond with a view to co-generate various funding mechanisms for initiatives related to integral and sustainable alternative development and, where appropriate, preventive alternative development were highlighted.

Also discussed was the concept of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development and, where appropriate, preventive alternative development as a strategy for social integration to build human and social capital, integrating groups facing vulnerable situations taking into consideration the realities, characteristics and priorities of each country.

3. WORK PLAN

The Chair of the Expert Group submitted for consideration by delegates a Work Plan to organize CICAD's activities around four themes: design, implementation, systematization of interventions, monitoring and evaluation; and to strengthen the capability of experts on alternative development through participation in technical spaces of dialogue and coordination, exchange of experiences and analysis of the problems facing by populations under situations of vulnerability as a result of the drug problem.

In the elaboration process Member States participated with comments and timely observations that were incorporated into the document. Four countries took the lead in each thematic area of the work plan:

DesignPERU
MeasurementMEXICO
SystematizationCOLOMBIA
ExecutionPARAGUAY

A video conference is pending to agree on the methodology and steps to take after its approval.

The Work Plan for Expert Group on Integral and Sustainable Alternative Development is structured according to the following topics:

- Design intervention programs for comprehensive and sustainable alternative development and, where appropriate, preventive alternative development.
- Development of standardized formulation and measurement of indicators of outcome and impact of the programs of Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development and, where appropriate, preventive alternative development methodologies.
- Establishment of a hemispheric methodology for the documentation and systematization of relevant experiences related Sustainable Alternative Development and preventive alternative development.
- Measures to improve the implementation of assistance programs for comprehensive and sustainable alternative development and preventive alternative development, under a comprehensive, balanced and multidisciplinary long term approach.

4. FIELD ACTIVITIES

The Government of Peru invited delegations to site visits of Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development projects that are being implementing in the area of Tingo Maria (high jungle of Peru).

The delegates observed the work being performed in the cacao plots of some producers, as well as coffee and cocoa processing of Bella Durmiente Cooperative. They also participated in the opening ceremony of the National Forum of Agricultural Producers, where they saw the exhibition of products produced as part of alternative development programs and participate in a business roundtable.

5. OUTSTANDING ISSUES FROM THE EXPERT GROUP MEETING:

A first task to be addressed by the Panel in the coming period is the adoption of the text for the Expert Group Work Plan on Alternative Development and Sustainable developed with the inputs from the Member States. Also it is required to conduct a videoconference with the aim of agreeing on the methodology and steps for the implementation of the Work Plan.

6. CONCLUSIONS

At the end of its work, the Expert Group agreed to present to the Commission for consideration and approval the following conclusions:

Strengthen the commitment of CICAD Member States to provide a comprehensive and sustainable policy approach to combat drugs through comprehensive and sustainable alternative development and, where appropriate, preventive alternative development, since, as shown by the different experiences of the Member States, this represents an effective way to protect and care for populations subject to vulnerable situations as a result of illicit drug trafficking.

Development of strategies to address the drug problem based on diverse national experience as this provides important evidence for the Expert Group to establish and agree upon strategies for comprehensive and sustainable alternative development and, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, which can address the challenges faced by Member States in this area.

To generate national and hemispheric studies to understand the social, economic and environmental situations of diverse vulnerable populations directly or indirectly linked to the illicit drug market, and which should be directed to comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs and, where appropriate, preventive alternative development.

To highlight the role of international cooperation in the various alternative development models, highlighting the desirability of further strengthening such a link with views to co-generate various financing mechanisms among the member States.

7. EXPERT GROUP RECOMENDATIONS

The Expert Group has the following recommendations for the Commission's consideration:

That the Commission:

- **Instruct** the Panel to continue work on the approval of the Work Plan for 2016 - 2017.
- **Providing** that, the Work Plan 2016-2017 is approved, implementation begins, taking into consideration the complementarity of actions with the cooperation program between Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union on Drug Policies (COPOLAD) and compliance with the operational recommendations contained in the final document of the UNGASS 2016 and the perspectives for the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

ANNEX 1**MEETING OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON COMPREHENSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE
DEVELOPMENT****May 18-19, 2016****LIST OF MEMBER STATES DELEGATES**

Country	Name of Participants	Contact Information
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Observer

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