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**DRAFT**

**FINAL REPORT OF THE CICAD**  
**EXPERT GROUP ON DEMAND REDUCTION**

**(October 3-5, 2000, Santiago, Chile)**

**THIRD MEETING OF THE  
EXPERT GROUP ON DEMAND REDUCTION  
October 3-5, 2000  
Santiago, Chile**

**OEA/Ser.L/XIV.4.2  
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**DRAFT**

**FINAL REPORT**

(Preliminary document. The delegations are requested to send their comments to the Executive Secretariat within 30 days)

## I. BACKGROUND

The establishment of a Group of Experts on Demand Reduction was approved at the twentieth regular session of CICAD. During its twenty-first regular session, the Commission convened the first meeting of the CICAD Group of Experts, to be held, in conjunction with the Argentine Secretariat of Programming for the Prevention of Drug Addiction and to Combat Drug Trafficking (SEDRONAR) and under the chairmanship of Argentina, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on July 29 - August 1, 1997.

The twenty-first regular session of CICAD established the following mandate for the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction:

“The aim of the Group of Experts is to provide technical expertise, facilitate cooperation among countries and submit recommendations to the Commission on the execution of the lines of action stemming from the **Antidrug Strategy in the Hemisphere**.

The Group is made up of national experts on different aspects of demand reduction and may therefore vary depending on the topic to be addressed.

The priority topics of demand reduction include, among others>

- (a) Preparing diagnoses on drug use, epidemiological studies, surveillance and monitoring information systems (such as SIDUC); biomedical, clinical, psychosocial, epidemiological, ethnographic and anthropological research.
- (b) Prevention and education models and programs, aimed both at the general population and at specific groups at high risk of use, incorporating the community in these actions.
- (c) Models and programs to approach and address the adverse consequences to health and society stemming from illicit drug use.
- (d) Measures for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers and their reincorporation into society.”

The second of the group of Experts was held in Mexico on March 3-6, 1998. One of the most important recommendations made by the experts was the need to establish minimum requisites and standards of care in drug treatment centers, in order to improve the quality of care and respect for the human rights of users.

During its twenty-sixth regular session, CICAD elected Chile as Chair of the Group for the October 1999 – October 2000 period.

The Executive Secretariat of CICAD proposed that, with the consent of the countries, the subject of Minimum Quality Standards in Prevention Programs should be the key topic of debate at the third meeting of experts. The Executive Secretariat also suggested raising the subject of new drugs and the community mobilization topic proposed by the Government of Chile.

The Third Meeting of the Group of Experts was chaired by Dr. Claudio Molina of the National Council for Narcotics Control (CONACE). The meeting was held in Santiago, Chile on October 3 – October 5, 2000.

## II. PROCEEDINGS

### A. PARTICIPANTS

#### 1. MEMBER STATES OF CICAD

Delegates from Argentina, Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela took part in the third meeting of the group of Experts on Demand Reduction. (List of Experts, Annex I).

### B. SESSIONS AND ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

#### 1. OPENING SESSION

The opening session took place at 9:30 a.m. on October 3, 2000 in the Hotel Neruda in Santiago, Chile. The opening ceremony was attended by Dr. Jorge Burgos Varela, Under-Secretary of the Interior of Chile; Dr. María Teresa Chadwick Pinera, Executive Secretary of CONACE; Mr. Alberto Hart, Assistant Executive Secretary of CICAD, and Dr. Anna McG. Chisman, Director of Demand Reduction of CICAD. Dr. Jorge Burgos Varela inaugurated this third meeting of the Group of Experts.

#### 2. WORKING SESSIONS

Each country's participants introduced themselves at the first working session. Dr. Chisman stated the aims of this CICAD Group of Experts and the agenda and schedule of events were adopted (CICAD/GREX/doc.2/00 and CICAD/GREX/doc.3/00, attached to this final report as Annexes II and III, respectively).

A panel of experts on new drugs in the Americas was introduced, consisting of Dr. Leocadio Martín of Spain's National Drug Plan, Dr. Michael Agar of the University of Maryland, United States, and Dr. Luis Angel Parra of the RUMBOS project in Colombia. An open discussion was held on the implications and challenges posed by new drugs for prevention and treatment, what the emergence of these drugs indicated, and what consequences were to be drawn with respect to governmental demand reduction policies.

During the second session, a panel composed of Chilean government representatives -- Ms. Teresa Izquierdo Walker from the Prevention and Treatment Techniques department of CONACE, Ms. Estela Ortiz Rojas from the regional Development department of CONACE, and Mr. Eduardo Zúniga Carrillo of the Project Unit of CONACE -- gave a presentation on community-level prevention and mechanisms to heighten the awareness of social organizations and stir them to action. They touched on topics such as investment funds for community prevention, community prevention systems, and local promotion services.

the third session, Dr. Alberto Calabrese, of the Argentine Secretariat of Programming for the Prevention of Drug Addiction and to Combat Drug Trafficking (SEDRONAR) and Ms. Maria Eugenia Perez, of the Executive Secretariat of CICAD, gave a presentation on Quality Criteria in Prevention and Treatment.

The fourth session dealt with the Work Plan for 2001 and the conclusions and recommendations to CICAD on the priority topics for the following period that were mentioned in the last section of the above mentioned report.

### 3. CLOSING SESSION

The closing session was held at 3:00 p.m., on Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, in the Gabriela Mistral Room, of the Hotel Neruda. Dr. Anna Chisman addressed the meeting on behalf of the Executive Secretariat of CICAD and Dr. Claudio Molina, in his capacity as Chair of the Group of Experts, closed the meeting.

### III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS

The Third Meeting of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction agreed to submit the following recommendations to the Commission for consideration and possible adoption>

#### NEW DRUGS

1. To request the Executive Secretariat of CICAD to implement without delay the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs, bearing in mind the experience acquired by various member countries and the progress made in Venezuela and the subregional group composed of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Peru, and Uruguay and to report to the Group of Experts on progress in this field.
2. To request the Observatory:
  - To foster the exchange of instruments and compatible methodologies designed to facilitate gathering of up-to-date, qualitative and quantitative, timely, valid, and reliable information.
  - To optimize epidemiological surveillance systems on drug consumption.
  - To promote the creation and development of national observatories in countries where they do not already exist.
  - To systematize successful experiences acquired in other contexts in order to facilitate effective local interventions.
  - To promote the creation and strengthening of alarm systems to make it possible to determine trends in output, distribution, and consumption of the new drugs, as well as consumption patterns and tendencies.
  - To insure that the information, once it has been processed, is disseminated in a timely fashion, taking into account the needs and characteristics of different types of users.
3. To recommend that countries train prevention agents (in education, health, communications, NGOs, inter alia) and community leaders in prevention and treatment strategies with respect to new drugs.

## **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND PREVENTION**

**In order to facilitate and sustain community-level preventive programs, projects and strategies, it is recommended that the Executive Secretariat of CICAD:**

1. Provide technical assistance to member states to facilitate community participation and mobilization, bearing in mind that the community should plan and execute preventive actions tailored to its own circumstances.
2. Attach due importance to validation of community-level participation and mobilization models in prevention activities. These models should give rise to reliable indicators with which to evaluate and measure the impact, growth, and effectiveness of such community initiatives. The member states should make every effort to implement and evaluate pilot programs adapted to each environment.
3. Support member states' efforts to help their communities to develop mechanisms that will allow them access to funds, financing, and self-management of their prevention projects on a self-sustaining basis.

## **QUALITY CRITERIA IN PREVENTION AND TREATMENT**

**The Group of Experts recognizes the need for absolute respect for the fundamental human rights of persons undergoing treatment, bearing in mind their status as patients.**

1. Foster the implementation of guidelines and quality standards in prevention and treatment services and evaluate the appropriateness of developing accreditation programs for such services.
2. Request CICAD to provide, at the request of the countries, technical and financial assistance, as well as legal assistance, in establishing the aforementioned quality criteria.
3. Request CICAD to compile and systematize experience acquired by countries in implementing quality criteria with the view to improving those criteria.
4. Define the basic concepts involved in the different forms of treatment, distinguishing among different therapeutic goals depending on the types of patients, forms of treatment, types of substances, and degree of addiction.
5. Include evaluation as a natural component of treatment activities, both in order to gauge the effectiveness or success of the treatment and to facilitate comparison of the results.

## **HUMAN RESOURCE TRAINING**

**The Group of Experts on Demand Reduction recognizes the importance of training human resources to insure the continuity and further development of preventive programs.**

To that end, it is recommended that member states:

1. Attempt to ascertain what training courses in drug addiction are available and to advise the Executive Secretariat of CICAD thereof.
2. Identify the training needs of human resources working in the fields of prevention and treatment.
3. Promote the incorporation of drug issues in undergraduate and graduate curricula in health, education, social services, nursing, social communication, and law faculties, among others.
4. Attempt to include promotion and training of human resources working at different levels in prevention treatment and research in their national plans.

It is recommended that the Executive Secretariat of CICAD:

5. Maximize the funds to be used to carry on with planned courses on drug addiction using new distance education technologies.
6. Systematize the information on the specialized training courses available for professionals in this field, disseminate it to the countries, and continue supporting such training by awarding fellowships.

## **FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

To request the Executive Secretariat of CICAD to report at the next meeting of this Group of Experts on progress made in implementing the contents of this Work Plan and to examine the following topics:

- Evaluation of the effectiveness of the different forms of treatment.
- Generation of information on drug consumption in prisons and evaluation of the degree of awareness of alternative treatments.
- Diagnostic assessment of prevention and quality criteria used in prevention.
- Success in using appropriate technology and available data to create an electronic record of models and treatment results.
- Inclusion of drug issues in curricula at the universities and higher education centers for the training of professionals, as well as the inclusion of prevention programs.
- Facilitate dialogue with the Caribbean countries in order to insure that they participate fully and are better represented in the Group of Experts.