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**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION**

CICAD

Organization of American States

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Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

**GROUP OF EXPERTS ON CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES AND
PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS
July 15-17, 2015
Quito, Ecuador**

**OEA/Ser.L/XIV.4.7
CICAD/SRGE/doc. 2/15
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FINAL REPORT

**GROUP OF EXPERTS ON
CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES AND
PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Group of Experts met at the NH Hotel in Quito, Ecuador from July 15-17, 2015. Forty-one experts from 14 member states (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, , Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC/PRELAC and SMART Program) participated in this meeting. Also present were several key representatives of the chemical industry in Ecuador.

In addition to following the plan of action approved by the CICAD Commission during its fifty-sixth regular session in Guatemala City, Guatemala (November 19-21, 2014) the Group of Experts focused its discussion on the growing problem of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS).

The Group of Experts submits the following recommendations for the Commission's consideration:

- **accept and approve** the following guides and other documents;
 - [Guidelines for controlling ground transport of chemicals that could be used in the illicit manufacturing of narcotics drugs and psychotropic substances](#)
 - [Guide and Self-assessment Tool on New Psychoactive Substances \(NPS\)](#)
- **direct** the Group of Experts to continue its work on the issues initiated for consideration and finalizing at the next meeting;
- **accept** the proposed plan of action for the Group of Experts;
- **direct** the Group of Experts to meet during 2016 and implement the plan as proposed, allowing for the consideration of new or emerging issues

I. BACKGROUND

The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) considered the report of the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products during its fifty-sixth regular session in Guatemala City, Guatemala (November 19-21, 2014). The Peruvian Chair of the Group presented the report from its meeting in Lima, Peru (August 18 to 22, 2014). The Commission approved the report including the products presented and the draft plan of action presented by the Group. The Commission also directed the group to meet in 2015, accepting the nomination and election of Ecuador as host and chair of that meeting.

II. PROCEEDINGS

A. PARTICIPANTS

The meeting included the participation of forty-one experts from 14 member states (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, , Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC/PRELAC and SMART Program). Also present were several key representatives of the chemical industry in Ecuador.

B. SESSIONS AND ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

1. Opening Session

The Group of Experts met at the NH Hotel in Quito Ecuador from July 15-17, 2015. During the opening ceremony Mr. Rodrigo Vélez V., Executive Secretary, CONSEP offered welcoming remarks to the participants and invited guests. Mr. Jofre Jiménez of CONSEP chaired the meeting.

In addition to the plenary session, participants were provided with the time and place to conduct bilateral meetings. These meetings provided an opportunity to address issues of mutual or shared concern regarding the control of chemical substances or pharmaceutical products.

2. Working Sessions

2.1. Roundtable

The custom in this meeting is to provide delegations with an opportunity to identify new threats or challenges that they are facing with respect to the control of chemical substances or pharmaceutical products. Similarly they can share new trends that they are seeing for which they would appreciate receiving assistance or input from those who may have already dealt with these new trends.

The foregoing is undertaken through a round table review during which delegations can share the threats, challenges and trends that they are seeing. Most participants noted the concerns that they had with respect to synthetic drugs with particular emphasis on NPS. They described a range of experiences that highlighted the growing nature of this problem in the hemisphere. Some countries indicated limited exposure to synthetic drugs and NPS while others were more advanced in their experience with and response to the problem. All participants were interested in learning more from such experience and the approaches that others have taken. The importance of sharing and exchanging information and experiences was stressed.

Given the urgency presented by the global problem of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), the current meeting was structured in such a way so as to focus on this issue. Additional selected issues were addressed in the working groups.

Following the roundtable discussion the Executive Secretariat noted the valuable contributions made by the UNODC through the Global SMART program and PRELAC. CICAD has been working with both of these two initiatives. CICAD member states in Latin America have benefited from the work undertaken by SMART and PRELAC.

In addition to the foregoing the Executive Secretariat underlined the importance and utility of the PICS and IONICS programs administered by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). These systems provide useful information on the chemicals used to produce synthetic drugs and the NPS that are being encountered. Both systems can serve as an important resource for CICAD member states helping them to identify and keep abreast of new developments concerning chemicals and NPS. All member states that have not already done so were encouraged to join and use the PICS and IONICS programs.

2.2. Presentations

The following presentations were delivered to the plenary during the meeting:

2.2.1. The use and application of the products generated by the Group of Experts (ES/CICAD)

During the Group's meeting in 2014 a question was raised regarding the utility of and extent to which documents, guides and other tools were being used by member states. As such, following that meeting the Executive Secretariat undertook a brief study of this question.

Ms. Veronica Alonso, of CICAD's Supply Reduction Section, coordinated this study and reported on the results realized. In presenting the final report of the study Ms. Alonso noted that the survey questionnaire that served as the basis for the study was distributed to the experts that participated in the meetings of the Group of Experts between 2011 and 2014. Of the fourteen member states represented, responses were received from participants representing all but three. Responses were received from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.

The survey generated the following findings:

All responding member states indicated that they have consulted many of the products produced by the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products.

The majority of member states that responded to the questionnaire (90%) indicated that they have used the Model Regulations for the Control of Chemical Substances Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances - 2011. This document was the most consulted by member states.

The majority of member states (82%) also reported having consulted the Information Bulletin on New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) - 2013.

Additionally, 55% of member states reported having accessed the Manual on Chemicals Used in Illicit Drug Production.

The following documents were consulted by 45% of the member states:

- Concept Paper Regarding the Regulation of Equipment Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Synthetic Drugs - 2010
- Guide to Basic Elements to be considered in the Implementation of Mechanisms that will Enable Competent Authorities to Evaluate Estimates of Needs for Controlled Substances Submitted by User Businesses - 2013
- Guide of General Principles for Adopting National Strategies for the Combat of Synthetic Drugs - 2007

Several member states noted the importance of the documents generated by the Group of Experts to strengthen national legislation on chemical control and for the development of proposals for new legislation at the national level. Member states also reported having consulted the documents to support the awareness, education and training of government officers as well as to support the implementation of institutional practices and domestic policy development.

Some states revealed that the documents allowed them to “keep abreast of new developments and issues that need to be addressed” and served to “contribute to the creation of guidance documents on operations, model regulations and inspections.” In addition, it was noted that the work done by the Group of Experts has supported the decision making of national authorities in the area of controlled chemical substances and “was shared with representatives of other federal departments.”

It was also noted that the purpose of some consultations was to verify the current status of activities in Latin America on the control of chemical substances and to identify actions that could be implemented to strengthen the control measures in compliance to the existing regulatory framework.

A member state specifically reported that Model Regulations for the Control of Chemical Substances Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances was consulted in the final drafting of this country's Precursor Chemical Bill, which is currently before Parliament; the Information Bulletin on New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) was used in the preparation of an initiative to brief domestic stakeholders on the NPS threat; the Comprehensive

Training on Issues Relating to Chemical Substances was used in the development of a proposed training regime for domestic stakeholders. Likewise, the Manual on Chemicals Used in Illicit Drug Production was used in awareness efforts among domestic stakeholders.

The majority of member states that responded to the questionnaire (82%) acknowledged that:

- The Expert Group is a technical forum for the exchange of information and to address issues of common concern
- The Expert Group contributes to the identification of new threats and challenges
- the sharing of national, sub-regional and regional experiences and best practices is important for international cooperation
- The Expert Group produces guides, model legislation and other reference materials that contribute to the development of national policies, regulations and/or laws by CICAD member states

2.2.2. New Precursor Chemical Control System in Ecuador (Ecuador)

Mr. Jofre Jimenez of CONSEP delivered a presentation on the Control of Chemical Substances – New preventive approaches in Ecuador to monitor and control scheduled substances. He provided participants with an overview of the precursor chemical control system that is currently in place in Ecuador. The new system follows on the adoption of new chemical control legislation that is currently moving through the legislative process.

The Government of Ecuador refocused its efforts to consider the socio-economic aspects of the problem. The review also considered the distribution of effort between control and administrative/regulatory activities regarding chemicals. It was determined that much effort was assigned to the processes that dealt with “handling paper” such as issuing permits and licenses.

This led to a decentralized approach with the creation of 12 centers. Each was then able to adjust the levels of activities in response to their needs and circumstances. This also included a re-engineering of personnel and skills that were required. In addition to the foregoing new information and communication systems required to support the chemical control processes were developed and implemented.

The system included a revised process for regulatory including the inspections that were carried out on-site. The appropriate range of personnel were dispatched to consider the entire production process in a given plant.

The approach to chemical control was also made more focused taking into consideration the key substances required for the production of cocaine. Additional focus was placed on the companies that truly import these chemicals with consideration for the main points of entry into the country. These then became the main control points.

2.2.3. NPS Regulatory or Control Alternatives (USA)

The marketing, trafficking and use of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) are growing global problems that are spreading to the Americas. Increasingly CICAD member states are encountering these substances.

NPS are synthetic drugs that have been designed to mimic existing drugs such as cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy and LSD. In most cases these substances are not scheduled in international drug control conventions or controlled by national legislation. As such they are marketed and sold as “legal” drugs. At the same time these drugs are extremely dangers to the user.

Once on the market officials and police in member states are challenged to identify what these substances are, assess the risks and threat that they represent to the users and take action to minimize this threat through whatever means they can. In most instances there are no provisions in existing drug control legislation to allow them to take action. The process to add substances to control schedules or to amend legislation or regulations takes time. During this typically extended period the NPS in question disappears from the market or replaced by molecularly related substance or an entirely new one.

The process of scheduling drugs, chemicals and other substances that has been traditionally used as the basis for the control system has not been practical or effective when it comes to NPS. As such countries around the world have explored other means to control the NPS that they encounter.

Mr. Harry Matz, a lawyer with the US Department of Justice, delivered a presentation on some of the approaches that these countries have implemented in response to this challenging situation.

The approach adopted by these countries varies based on the legal and judicial framework within which they must function. As such not all of these approaches are appropriate for application in other countries. There are however some that could be applied and at the very least could stimulate discussion and thinking about other ways that could be used.

In his presentation Mr. Matz highlighted some of the approaches that have been taken by countries in Europe, the United States and other parts of the world. These approaches have, among others, included the following:

- accelerated scheduling that allows for an individual substance or class of substances to be scheduled in less time
- analogues legislation that deems substances to be controlled by virtue of the fact that they are structurally similar to substances that are already controlled and have a similar pharmacological effect;
- generic scheduling legislation that deems substances to be controlled by virtue of the fact that they share a common core molecular structure;
- use of broader scheduling terminology, e.g., inclusion of terms such as ester, isomer, salt, etc., in existing scheduling entries

To complement the presentation the ES/CICAD informed participants of a report <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/topics/pods/controlling-new-psychoactive-substances> (available only in English) generated by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Addiction (EMCDDA). The report entitled “Perspectives on Drugs: Legal approaches to controlling new psychoactive substances” provides an overview of approaches that countries around the world have taken with the control of NPS.

A number delegations shared their own experiences regarding steps they have taken to respond to the appearance of NPS. Several participants noted the challenge to balance steps to quickly control NPS and the potential impact such actions might have on legitimate industries (chemical, pharmaceutical etc.). This may result in increased costs and reduced availability of substances required for legitimate purposes. This is particularly true of systems that control based on group or similar structure.

Participants noted that some countries do not have the scientific or related resources to assess scientific aspects (risks etc.) associated with NPS. Much research and other scientific work has already been done by certain countries in their efforts to apply controls to NPS that they encounter. Much of this information is available either on line or directly from the countries in question. At the same additional information could be secured by contacting countries and entities like the UNODC through initiative such as the Global SMART program and IONICS.

2.2.4. Presentation on Ecuador’s Scientific Center for National Reference on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Ecuador)

Mr. Ernesto Cabezas provided an overview of Ecuador’s experience with respect to the control of NPS. The presentation focused on Ecuador’s Scientific Center for National Reference on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. This is an accredited center that was established in Guayaquil. This is the main port of entry of substances arriving in Ecuador. This facilitated the examination and study of substances encountered in the port.

The center has the most current equipment and scientific personnel to examine narcotics, psychotropics, precursors and chemicals as they appear in the law. The center also provides analytical services and training for various agencies in Ecuador including the police, customs and others.

Mr. Cabezas provided a case study related to the consideration of a new substance called “La H”. This substance had never been seen and was being used by youth in Ecuador.

The Center also provides other services. Specialists provide outreach support to the laboratory centers located around Ecuador. Further to requests by the judiciary the Center also analyzes drugs prior to destruction. Drug samples are analyzed to note characteristics (chemicals used to produce them etc.) that will allow identification of sources and connect with other seizures in Ecuador and elsewhere. The Center has also been considering psycho-social aspects of illicit drugs being used in Ecuador.

Mr. Cabezas noted that the Center is available and willing to help other countries in the region.

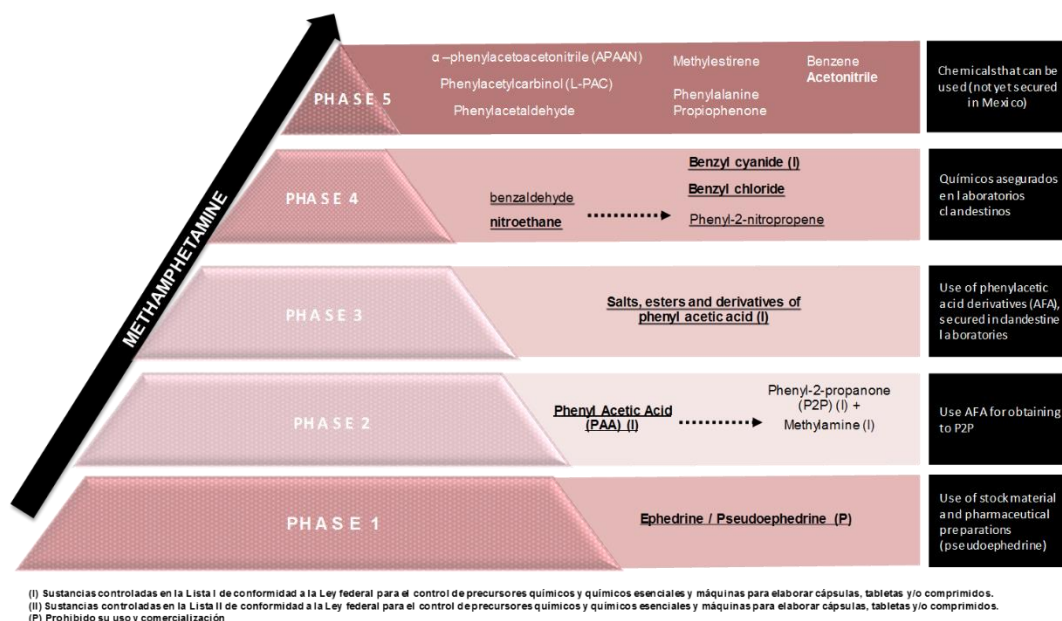
2.2.5. Non Scheduled Chemicals used In Illicit Drug Manufacture (Mexico)

Mr. David Cortes of COFEPRIS discussed Mexico's experience in controlling non-scheduled chemicals. Mexico has been presented with many challenges and specific situations regarding chemical diversion and use in then illicit production of drugs. Mr. Cortes provided an overview of COFEPRIS and its responsibilities and activities related to the control of chemicals, precursors and psychotropics. In doing so he noted the inter-sectoral cooperation that is in place to control these substances.

Clandestine laboratories with large quantities of non-scheduled substances have been discovered. The substance Nitroethane was discovered in a large and sophisticated methamphetamine lab which had 60 workers.

Based on this information, officials examine trends regarding importations of these substances. The information showed a spike in imports in 2014. This is used to increase octane levels in "dragsters" for which the legitimate need is limited. In the clandestine laboratories the nitroethane is combined with benzaldehyde to produce 1-fenyl-2-propanone used in the production of methamphetamine. In this way a non-scheduled substance is used to bypass control in place.

Mr. Cortes outlined the various phases or changes in control that Mexico has implemented in response to new chemicals (non-scheduled) used by traffickers to produce methamphetamine. In controlling these new chemicals the psychotropic laws are applied recognizing that technically these chemicals do not fall into this scientific class of substances.



Data on the seizure of chemicals in various regions

of Mexico show the evolution of non-scheduled substances used in illicit drug production. These changes correspond to the phases noted above. Other data show that methamphetamine availability continues without significant change.

This reflects the dynamic nature of the drug situation in Mexico. It underlines the various opportunities for using non-scheduled chemicals as pre-precursors or substances to covert other substances in illicit drug production. This requires Mexico respond quickly to these strategies

2.2.6. Global Assessment of Synthetic Drugs – 2015 – Amphetamine-Type Stimulants and NPS (UNODC)

Juan Carlos Araneda, Project Coordinator, Global SMART Programme Latin America, (UNODC/CICAD) reported on the global situation and trends with respect to NPS.

Following an overview of the Global SMART program Mr. Araneda talked about the problems that currently exist with respect to synthetic drugs such as amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) and New Psychotropic Substances (NPS) as wells as information on UNODC Early Warning Advisory on NPS (EWA) and the Synthetic Drugs and NPS challenges for Latin America.

At the implementation of SMART in Latin America it was determined that many countries in the region lacked the information, training and technology to deal with synthetic drugs. The Global SMART program serves to enhance the capacity of countries to gather and report information on synthetic drugs including NPS. The SMART program for Latin America is implemented by UNODC through a coordinator that works out of the CICAD's headquarters in Washington.

To have a common understanding regarding NPS Mr. Araneda examined the definition of NPS and the various categories of these substances. Often there is no Spanish term for some of these categories for which the English must be used.

There are 234 substances controlled by international Conventions. By mid-2014 there have been 541 NPS noted. Mr. Araneda provided more detailed information on the NPS that have been encountered and in which countries in the region. This information is contained in reports generated by CICAD.

Mr. Araneda presented data on NPS prevalence for selected CICAD member states in Latin America. Similar data is not available from most other countries in the region. It has been noted that NPS are being sold in the existing illicit market. Often they are presented as another synthetic drug. For example "stamps" sold as LSD were actually MBOM. This can cause a misinterpretation of interpretation of consumption levels.

The emergence of NPS have resulted in the following problems:

- Drug users: They may not be aware that they are taking a NPS instead of LSD, ecstasy or 2C-B, risking possible overdose and serious negative health effects as the effects on the body are not yet completely understood.
- Health services: They may not be aware of the scope of NPS in the market, its pharmacology and toxicology, how to identify them, or the best way to help in emergencies.

- National drug labs: They may not be able to identify the wide range of NPS that are already available to users.
- Police: They may not have the means to detect NPS with current methods.
- Legal systems: It may not provide sufficient tools for interventions.

The UNODC Early Warning Advisory provides a means for countries to report on or learn about new substances that are appearing in the illicit market. This is extremely important information for all member states to have.

UNODC also has a program to provide CICAD member states with a portable device to analyze substances encountered. There is also technical support from The UNODC labs in Vienna for forensic and analytical labs in member states

The conclusions and recommendations that can be derived from the experience to date of the SMART program in Latin America include the following:

- While marijuana is the most popular drug, the use of ATS along with cocaine play an important role in Latin America's youngest population.
- The tools for collecting data in many countries need to be improved to reflect the real use of ATS and NPS.
- The drug-testing procedures in specialized forensic laboratories should include synthetic drugs and NPS.
- Query: The low level of ATS seizures in most countries is due to: the absence of ATS, the lack of enforcement capacity or a difference of priorities (cocaine)
- It's happening now -NPS are emerging in several countries, pointing to markets of existing synthetic drugs.
- Addressing the drug problem in Latin America requires approaches that include ATS and NPS.
- ATS/NPS require identification and awareness

During the last meeting the Group discussed the idea of developing model regulations concerning NPS. Recognizing that the technical expertise was not present to undertake such an initiative the Group proposed that the Commission direct a special meeting or series of meetings be convened with the appropriate technical expertise to develop model legislation and/or guidelines with appropriate alternatives that anticipate or respond with quick scheduling of NPS when they appear. While the Commission approved the creation of such a group funding for the meetings that would be required was not available. Further there questions raised as the feasibility of actually developing such model regulations given the complexity of the issue and the different factors, considerations and requirements in each country. The second part of the task described above was feasible. It would build on both the presentation delivered by Mr. Matz and the report by the EMCDDA. As such a working group was formed to create a guide or best practices manual on alternative approaches that countries could consider in their efforts to control NPS.

2.2.7. Recommendations on the Draft Plan of Action 2016-2020 to the Hemispheric Drug Strategy on Chemical Control and Pharmaceutical Products (ES/CICAD)

Mr. Ziggy Malyniwsky, Chief of Supply Reduction Section, CICAD, reported on matters related to the drafting of a new Plan of Action for the Hemispheric Drug Strategy.

During the last meeting the Group discussed the anticipated process to develop a new plan of action to the Hemispheric Drug Strategy. The Group proposed that it could contribute to this process in those matters related to the control of chemical substances and pharmaceutical products. The recommendation in this regard was accepted by the Commission. There was also a more expanded discussion on the approach that would be taken to develop the plan of action under Guatemala's leadership. The Commission agreed on a specific plan and time-line that were given to the group formed to deal with the preparation of the plan of action.

Before and during the meeting the CICAD's Executive Secretariat received comments from Argentina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago and United States. The comments were forwarded to the Group that is developing the plan of action 2016-2016.

2.2.8. Request for Input by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) on the control of chemicals (ES/CICAD)

The INCB has on occasion called on the Group of Experts for input to various activities and initiatives they were pursuing. Most recently the INCB asked for input regarding possible changes in the controls of chemicals. A questionnaire prepared by the INCB was posted to the web page related to the meeting. Delegations were invited to consult and complete the questionnaire and return it to CICAD. Input will be shared with then INCB.

2.3. Working group (2014) documents to be finalized/approved:

The chairs of working groups formed during the meeting in 2014 presented the finalized versions of the following documents for review, discussion and approval by the Group.

[2.3.1. Guidelines for controlling ground transport of chemicals that could be used in the illicit manufacturing of narcotics drugs and psychotropic substances \(Argentina\)](#)

The delegation of Argentina presented the draft document on this issue for the consideration of the experts. Further to additional input from Canada and the United States the document was finalized and is submitted for the Commission's consideration and approval.

[2.3.2. Guide and Self-assessment Tool on New Psychoactive Substances \(NPS\) \(USA\)](#)

The delegation of the United States presented a revised version of the document "Information Bulletin on NPS" including a self-assessment component for member states. In doing so he

provided a context for approach taken with the document and the self-assessment portion that was added to the original bulletin.

The delegations of Canada and Argentina noted changes that could be considered for the self-assessment guide. In the end the document can serve as a point of departure for countries wishing to use this self-assessment guide. In doing so they may adjust the document to suit their needs or respond to their circumstances. The finalized document is submitted for the Commission's consideration and approval.

2.4 Bilateral/Multilateral Discussions

As has become the practice at this meeting delegations were provided the opportunity to meet on a bilateral or multilateral basis to address or discuss issues of common concern. These are informal discussions for which no record is made.

2.5. Working Groups – 2015

Working groups considered the following issues:

2.5.1. Best Practices Guide on Alternative Approaches that Member States Could Consider in the Control of NPS (USA)

Further to the presentation and discussion on the issue of alternatives for the control of NPS a working group was formed to develop a guide concerning these possible approaches.

2.5.2. Update of the Best Practices Guideline for Investigations of Chemical Substances (Ecuador)

During its 2014 meeting the Group discussed the importance of Experts have on a number of occasions raised the importance of regulatory controls regarding chemical substances. This includes chemical inspection and investigation. In 2005 the Group developed a best practices guide regarding these aspects of chemical control.

The Group decided to review and update the 2005 guide. At same time the delegates from Uruguay and Brazil reported that the MERCOSUR was in fact using this document as the basis for the development of a "guide of minimum inspection requirements" for use by their member states. During that meeting it was agreed to wait for this process to be finalized. Unfortunately this revised guide has not yet been approved by the MERCOSUR Group. In view of the foregoing the Group decided to proceed with its own review of the 2005 guide. Based on its experience in this area Ecuador was named to lead a working group to undertake this review to be finalized when the Group next meets in 2016.

3. Plan of Action

The Group of Experts chaired by Ecuador has prepared the following plan of action from which the assigned products will be presented when the Group next meets:

Preparation of guides, manuals or other papers associated with the following:

- Best Practices Guideline on Alternative Approaches that Member States Could Consider in the Control of NPS (USA)
- Update of the Best Practices Guideline for Investigations of Chemical Substances (Ecuador)

4. Closing Session

The meeting of the Group of Experts ended on July 17, 2015. Mr. Jofre Jimenez spoke at the closing session thanking delegates for their participation and contributions. He noted that every country has their own issues and circumstances but we are all on the same page in our efforts to address this common problem that we face.

The delegation of the United States encouraged countries to seek out the analytical standards for NPS and other substances available through the UNODC. In addition countries should increase efforts to identify NPS, working with other countries and international and regional bodies as necessary. Countries should also participate in and contribute information to the systems maintained by the UNODC and INCB like Global Smart, IONICS, PICS and others concerning chemicals, synthetic drugs and NPS.

CICAD should provide training and other support required by member states in matters related to NPS including awareness, training, control and laboratory capacities.

Countries should include NPS in prevention and treatment programs as necessary.

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS

The Group of Experts submits the following recommendations for the Commission's consideration:

- **accept and approve** the following guides and other documents;
 - [Guidelines for controlling ground transport of chemicals that could be used in the illicit manufacturing of narcotics drugs and psychotropic substances](#)
 - [Guide and Self-assessment Tool on New Psychoactive Substances \(NPS\)](#)
- **direct** the Group of Experts to continue its work on the issues initiated for consideration and finalizing at the next meeting;
- **accept** the proposed plan of action for the Group of Experts;
- **direct** the Group of Experts to meet during 2016 and implement the plan as proposed, allowing for the consideration of new or emerging issues

ANNEX – SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

**GROUP OF EXPERTS ON CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES AND
PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS**
July 15 to 17, 2015
Quito, Ecuador

**OEA/Ser.L/XIV.4.7
CICAD/SRGE/doc. 1/15
22 May 2015
Original: Spanish**

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, July 15

08:30 **Registration of Participants**

INAUGURAL SESSION

09:30 **Welcome remarks by:**

- Mr. Rodrigo Vélez V., Executive Secretary, CONSEP

10:00 Break

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

10:15 **Introduction and Review**

- Background
- Objectives of the Meeting and CICAD Commission expectations
- Proposed work methodology

10:45 **Round Table:** Presentation of participants and discussion of topics of interest

11:15 **Presentation:** Report on the responses by Member States to the questionnaire on use, application and effectiveness of the products generated by the Group of Experts Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products

- Veronica Alonso, CICAD

12:00 Lunch

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

Presentation of Documents Developed in Working Groups during the 2014 Meeting

14:00

[Guidelines for controlling ground transport of chemicals that could be used in the illicit manufacturing of narcotics drugs and psychotropic substances](#) (Argentina/Peru) – Document 1

- Gabriela Sosa, Argentina

Briefing: The international Conventions provide a framework for the control of chemical substances. While diversion still takes place it has been significantly reduced over the years. Initiatives by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and by CICAD through its Group of Experts as well as by sub-regional Groups and individual countries have helped to minimize diversion.

At the same time chemicals continue to be diverted for use in the illicit production of drugs. It has been suggested that one source of this diversion may be through the domestic movement or transport and sale of chemical substances. While some countries have in place comprehensive controls over such domestic trade or movement it is not the case in many others.

During the meeting in 2014, a working group initiated the development of a guide of best practices regarding the domestic movement of chemical substances.

The working group led by Argentina and Peru finalized the document in 2015 and submits for consideration of this Group of Experts.

The document will be submitted for approval by the CICAD Commission during its 58 Regular Session in Nov. 2015, then will be posted on CICAD's website

14:45

[Guide and Self-assessment Tool on New Psychoactive Substances \(NPS\)](#) (USA/Colombia) – Document 2

- Harry Matz, USA

Briefing: The Group of Experts focused a great deal of attention on the issue of NPS. In doing so it was clear that countries are at different stages both in terms of the prevalence of the problem and their ability to respond effectively. To more clearly define the preparedness of member states in this regard the Group of Experts proposed to establish a working group to update the information bulletin with a self-assessment analysis. This could be used as a tool for member states to compile the results into a national "snap shot".

The working group began to consider this task using a questionnaire

developed by the G-8 for a similar analysis as a point of departure. In the process members of the working group learned that the UNODC developed a very comprehensive questionnaire some time ago. Some 17 OAS/CICAD member states had responded to this questionnaire. Rather than duplicate efforts in this regard the working group decided to update the information bulletin on NPS that was prepared in 2012, selectively adding self-assessment items at appropriate points in the document. In addition to strengthening the existing text and information the working group proposed to add recommendations regarding steps that member states could take to better prepare to deal with the growing problem of NPS.

In 2015, a working group led by U.S. and Colombia finalized the document and submits for consideration of this Group of Experts.

The document will be submitted for approval by the CICAD Commission during its 58 Regular Session in Nov. 2015, then will be posted on CICAD's website

15:30

Break

15:45

Update of the Best Practices Guideline for Investigations of Chemical Substances – Document 3

- Ziggie Malyniowsky, CICAD

Briefing: *Experts have on a number of occasions raised the importance of regulatory controls regarding chemical substances. This includes chemical inspection and investigation.*

Back in 2005 the then Group of Experts on Chemical Substances developed a best practices guide regarding these aspects of chemical control.

During the meeting in 2014 the importance of the inspection and investigation function was once again raised. The delegations of Uruguay and Brazil reported that the MERCORSUR was in fact using this document as the basis for the development of a “guide of minimum inspection requirements” for use by their member states. This guide has not yet been approved by the MERCOSUR Group.

It is proposed that during this meeting the Expert Group work on updating the guide under the leadership of Ecuador for its expertise on “inspection process”

16:15

Presentation: New Precursor Chemical Control System in Ecuador

- Jofre Jiménez, CONSEP, Ecuador

17:00

End of the working day

Thursday, July 16

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

- 09:00 **Presentation:** NPS Regulatory or Control Alternatives
- Harry Matz, USA
- 09:30 **Presentation:** NPS – Presentation on Ecuador’s Scientific Center for National Reference on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances
- Ernesto Cabezas, CONSEP, Ecuador
- 10:00 Break
- 10:15 **Presentation:** Non Scheduled Chemicals used In Illicit Drug Manufacture
- David Cortes, COFEPRIS, Mexico
- 10:45 **Presentation:** Global Assessment of Synthetic Drugs – 2015 – Amphetamine-Type Stimulants and NPS
- Juan Carlos Araneda, Project Coordinator, Global SMART Programme Latin America, UNODC/CICAD
- 11:30 **Presentation:** Recommendations on the Draft Plan of Action 2016-2020 to the Hemispheric Drug Strategy on Chemical Control and Pharmaceutical Products
- Ziggy Malyniowsky, CICAD
- 12:00 Lunch

WORKING GROUPS SESSION

The plenary is divided in two working groups

- 14:00 **Working Group 1** - Best Practices Guide on Alternative Approaches that Member States Could Consider in the Control of NPS
- Working Group 2** - Update of the Best Practices Guideline for Investigations of Chemical Substances
- 15:30 Break
- 15:45 Working Group Session – cont.
- 17:00 End of the working day

Friday, July 17

09:00 Working Group Session – cont.

10:30 Break

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

10:45 **Presentation of the Working Group Session Results**

Objective: *Representatives of each working group report on the status of their work to the plenary for comments and inputs from the other members of the meeting. The working group coordinator would take note of the inputs to further refine the framework or scope of the document being prepared to finalize it during the next meeting of the Group of Experts in 2016*

11:15 Conclusions, commitments and recommendations for action by the Working Group to be submitted to the CICAD Commission for approval, during its Regular Session, in November 2015

12:00 Closing ceremony