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**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION
CICAD**

GROUP OF EXPERTS ON CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

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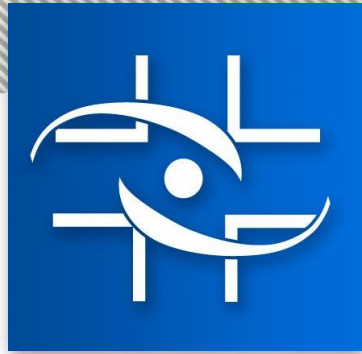
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**Second Regional Meeting on NPS in the Western Hemisphere (Americas)
UNODC/UN**



Second Regional Meeting on NPS in the Western Hemisphere (Americas) UNODC/UN

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Meeting summary

Second Regional Meeting on NPS in the Western Hemisphere (Americas)

15 to 17 May 2018 - Brasília, Brazil

- Organized by UNODC, hosted by ANVISA
- Experts discussed regional and international experiences to address the challenge of NPS.
- Key topics included early warning systems and the role of forensic science, NPS trends, detection and identification of NPS, strategies and regulations as well as legal approaches on NPS.
- First day included presentations and second day working group discussions. Final day was dedicated to reporting of working group activities and a panel on the way forward.
- The meeting provided an opportunity to share experiences on the national and regional NPS situation and identify options for response to address the problems associated with their manufacture, trafficking and use.



Working Group discussions

Working Group 1 - Detection and Identification of NPS

- Technical **equipment** (such as GC/MS, FTIR, etc.) is available - **but capacities need to be supported** (guarantee the proper use of these instruments).
- There is a need **for information and knowledge sharing**, for instance on best practises and new analytical techniques for the detection of NPS.
- Recognition of the benefits of the **use of portable handheld devices**.
- New paradigms to be addresses: **training is required beyond traditional drugs** .
- **Different preliminary investigation methods** to detect concealment practises and the masking of drugs, and the profiling of packages in the **context of international mail delivery** are needed to address the issue of NPS trafficking.
- There is a need for support in **managing clandestine laboratories and seizure sites**.
- **Communication** should be improved - creation of real-time communication networks and the use of **social networks**. To facilitate the sharing of information, the use of existing databases is advised and the option of central database informing on different issues in the region, with images and photos, was suggested.
- International cooperation requires **a change in culture to promote real collaboration and training** of stakeholders.



Working Group discussions

Working Group 2 - Early Warning Systems

- There is **diversity at the regional level in terms of EWS** – Some countries have well developed systems, whilst others are still organising basic information and developing their respective EWS.
- In developing national EWS – **define priorities to reflect needs / their purpose and the target audience**. The focus could be different among countries as it depends on the needs and domestic issues of countries.
- **Effective communication is a challenge**, and establishing how to ask for information for the purpose of EWS also presents an issue.
- The **preparation of guidelines** for the development of EWS was recommended in order to favour standardisation, clearly define objectives, and provide support to countries in the region - Support in assessing data in a comprehensive way in order to identify the threats of specific substances to the country.
- A functional EWS include the provision of support to the forensic community and front-line officers, including customs, border control and law enforcement in detecting and identifying NPS, capacity building for effective monitoring and analysis, the development of proper communication strategies to support the population and protect public health, and the sharing of information on legislative approaches to respond to the threats.



Working Group discussions

Working Group 3 - Legal Approaches on NPS

- **Different approaches** in terms of legislation and regulation: from the scheduling of substances to the responses by law enforcement agents - Scheduling of substances: different options - nominal scheduling, generic or class scheduling, analogue provisions, blanket bans, temporary controls (One model does not fit all countries in terms of effective legal approaches).
- Legal or regulatory response should be supported by evidence: **analysis of the problem before and after taking any decisions in order to improve the understanding of their impact is paramount.**
- **Importance of Early Warning Systems:** inform legislative approaches. Recognized that these systems function where there is formal inter-institutional collaboration.
- Great value in **promoting networks of national authorities**, at the technical level: greater awareness and information sharing.
- Encourage **work-sharing initiatives of national and foreign laboratories** to make better use of limited local resources.
- **Recommendations and guidelines produced** by regional and international organizations and forums (CND Resolutions, UNODC, INCB, WHO, CICAD, etc.): support any necessary changes in national practices and legislation.
- Use of **international resources and platforms**, such as the Global SMART Programme, Project ION and IONICS, PEN Online, should be better explored.



Options for response

- **NPS annual meetings provide platforms for communication** among institutions **and support the creation of partnerships** and collaboration.
- There is an opportunity for **further collaboration of partners such as UNODC, WHO, COPOLAD and CICAD.**
- It will be important **to adapt the ways of responding as EWS are developed.** Manual could greatly benefit countries that do not have alert systems in place. However, the realities and capacities of the different countries need to be considered, as one model does not suit all.



Options for response

- UNODC noticed that progress made since the first regional meeting in Colombia (2017), but **the new drug paradigm requires new approaches** to trafficking and support to customs and law enforcement, analytical methods, and strengthening interagency cooperation. **Forensic science needs to work jointly with law enforcement, customs and border control for an effective response to the NPS issue.**
- UNODC is prepared to offer further **support given to laboratories through the UNODC International Collaborative Exercises (ICE) Programme.** Also, UNODC will be deploying a number of handheld devices and instrumentation to 17 beneficiary countries in 2018 and 2019 to support the detection and identification of substances.
- UNODC encourages Member States to take advantage of **existing chemical information** that is attainable from the **UNODC EWA, SWGDRUG and other platforms.**





Options for response - CICAD

There was an specific recommendation from experts in Working Group 3* for the potential involvement of CICAD expert groups in developing guidelines with the description of best practices that might be adopted in the scheduling of substances.

Proposal:

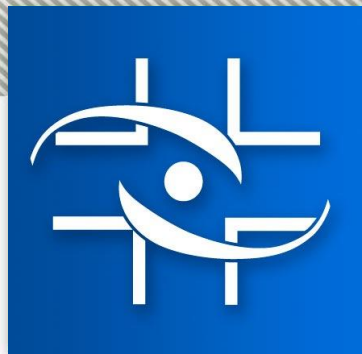
Creation of a small working group to draft a document with the description of models and best practices currently in use for the scheduling of substances, with a focus on NPS.

This type of document might be useful as a reference to those Governments that are revising their national legal or regulatory framework. No model or approach will be suggested, the document will only present the current panorama.

The small working group would work on a draft using e-mail and teleconference.

* Working Group 3 participants included representatives from Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Poland, United Kingdom, United States of America and Uruguay.





**Thank you
¡Muchas gracias!
Muito obrigada**

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