

PREPARATORY PROCESS FOR THE SIXTH EVALUATION ROUND OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION'S (CICAD) MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

CICAD,

HAVING SEEN resolutions AG/RES. 2538 (XL-O/10) Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission; AG/RES. 2556 (XL-O /10) "Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its Plan of Action;" AG/RES. 2621 (XLI-0-11) Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2011-2015;

REITERATING the importance of having current strategies and mechanisms to facilitate hemispheric cooperation to address all aspects of the world drug problem;

REAFFIRMING that the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) is the appropriate instrument to measure member states' progress in drug control in the hemisphere, and to assign recommendations that strengthen their capacity to address the world drug problem;

TAKING NOTE OF the decision to carry out a study to identify alternatives to strengthen the evaluation process and bring it into accordance with the Hemispheric Drug Strategy and Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2011-2015, in preparation for the MEM Sixth Evaluation Round;

BEARING IN MIND the creation of an Online Technical Working Group, which worked through an online platform, with the participation of focal points designated by the member states, to review the MEM; and

BEARING ALSO IN MIND that the Online Technical Working Group presented the report and analysis during the 50th CICAD regular session;

RESOLVES:

1. To acknowledge the work of the Online Technical Working Group for the review of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism and to note with satisfaction the report and analysis presented to the Commission during its fiftieth regular session held November 2-4, 2011 in Buenos Aires, Argentina (CICAD/doc.1907/11). Likewise, to acknowledge the technical support provided by the CICAD Executive Secretariat's MEM Section.

2. To convene the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism Inter-governmental Working Group (IWG), to commence preparations for the Sixth Evaluation Round and present the proposal and components of the evaluation at the fifty-second regular session of CICAD.

3. To entrust the IWG to begin its work and consultations in December 2011, via an online platform, in order to prepare an in-person session during the first half of 2012.

4. Likewise, to entrust the IWG with the development of a draft proposal for the evaluation, considering the following points:

- a. Revise the current evaluation system (MEM) developing a new assessment instrument to replace the current MEM Questionnaire in a FATF-like Methodology Document, taking into consideration the working document that was produced by co-coordinators of the On-line Technical Group mandated to review the MEM process where the strengths of each system were examined and compared, arriving at a consensus based on the group's inputs, that some elements and best practices of the FATF methodology would be considered in developing this new/revised assessment instrument. Since Member States agreed that the Hemispheric Drug Strategy (HDS) sets the framework for their individual and collective efforts in drug control, the IWG would have to translate the objectives of the HDS into recommendations that would be used as evaluation criteria. Information requested from the countries would support the collection of data to evaluate the implementation of the HDS and avoid the gathering of information for information sake. The revised instrument would contain a set of indicators, based on the HDS and its Plan of Action, that appropriately address the nature of the actions recommended to countries by the CICAD Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its Plan of Action.
- b. Creating a Handbook on Evaluation Criteria that should be considered in evaluating a country's progress. The Handbook would be more focused on substantive issues than on procedure and style. The Handbook would describe how a recommendation is to be considered unfulfilled, partially met, mostly met, completely met, etc. Drafting of this Handbook will be initiated at the IWG, recognizing that the time required to develop a suitable document may exceed the time allotted at this meeting, an on-line working group could be created to meet this objective.
- c. Assessing the possibility of implementing a thematic focus for each round of evaluation, which would help to address the fact that, after five MEM rounds, most countries have reached a high level of compliance with the fundamental aspects of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy.
- d. Organizing the experts according to thematic area and specialty, as is done with FATF and MESICIC. Subgroups with specialties in different thematic areas of drug control policy could review the country reports and then discuss the final reports in plenary.
- e. Reassessing the length of each evaluation cycle. Simplification of the mechanism as described in the previous recommendations might allow for a return to the shorter, two-year cycle used in previous evaluation rounds.
- f. Identifying those elements of the current MEM process that should be retained in subsequent evaluation rounds.

5. To invite member states to continue to participate actively in the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism.

6. To request the CICAD Executive Secretariat to provide all the necessary support to facilitate the IWG's work.