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SMS/CICAD-106/20

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The Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (ES/CICAD) presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions to the Organization of American States and has the honor to convene the Twenty-First Meeting of CICAD's Demand Reduction Experts Group. The two-day virtual meeting, chaired by Colombia with Paraguay as Vice-Chair, will be held on Monday, November 23 and Wednesday, November 25, 2020, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Washington, D.C. time.

The meeting will address the challenges currently facing the region with regards to drug demand reduction issues, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the group will explore the development and implementation of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation strategies for people affected by the drug problem. Additional information, including the draft agenda, will be posted on the following webpage in due course:

http://www.cicad.oas.org/Main/Template.asp?File=/reduccion_demanda/grupoexperto/s/ge_demanda_eng.asp

ES/CICAD kindly requests governments to appoint experts with the necessary technical skills and experience in the development of drug demand reduction programs and public policies. Member states are requested to kindly transmit contact details of designated experts to Demand Reduction Unit Chief, Jimena Kalawski, at jkalawski@oas.org, with copy to Demand Reduction Unit Specialist, Alfonso Abarca, at aabarca@oas.org no later than **October 16, 2020**.

The Executive Secretariat takes the opportunity to reiterate to the Permanent Missions the assurances of its highest consideration.

October 6, 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Abarca', is located below the date.