



OAS | CICAD



**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION**

CICAD

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

**SIXTY-NINTH REGULAR SESSION OF CICAD
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**AMB. ADAM NAMM, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, CICAD/OAS
OPENING REMARKS FOR CICAD 69**

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FRIDAY, JULY 30, 2021

Good morning.

Wilson Ruíz Orejuela, Minister of Justice, Colombia, representing the
CICAD Chair;

Sergio Rodríguez Fernández, Director of the Costa Rican Institute on
Drugs, representing the CICAD Vice Chair;

Arthur Weintraub, Secretary for Multidimensional Security,
Organization of American States;

Honorable CICAD Commissioners and other representatives from our
member states; representatives from permanent observer countries,
representatives of international organizations, representatives of civil
society, ladies and gentleman;

It is a pleasure to be with you virtually at this 69th regular session of
CICAD. This is the second “springtime” CICAD regular session we have
held since member states decided, at CICAD 66, to make the
“springtime” session a one-day meeting, with the dual primary
objectives of approving the annual report from the previous year and
approving CICAD’s input to the OAS General Assembly security
resolution.

The eighth round of CICAD's Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism, or MEM, is in full swing, with the focus this year on demand reduction; Measures of Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Support, to be exact. That is a timely subject, given that the data indicate rises in alcohol use and drug dependence during the pandemic and its accompanying increased stress and social isolation.

The MEM country reports for this year's evaluation will be presented for approval at CICAD 70, and the CICAD Executive Secretariat will also publish a hemispheric brief on demand reduction. I thank Canada for chairing the Intergovernmental Working Group, or IWG, and thank the experts designated by Colombia and Barbados for serving as Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator, respectively, of the Governmental Experts Group, or GEG, this year. Thanks also to other member states for providing members to the IWG and experts to the GEG. Additionally, Canada, as IWG Chair, will present for approval at CICAD 70 the questionnaires for the remaining evaluations of the MEM eighth round, which will take place in 2022 and 2023.

The CICAD Executive Secretariat is also working on a supply report, as supported by member states. I thank those member states that participated in the Technical Working Group on Supply Indicators, which established the criteria that the forthcoming supply report will cover, and I also thank the 28 member states that provided data for the report. We look forward to presenting the supply report at CICAD's 70th regular session.

I will be sending commissioners and missions the next in my series of periodic newsletters in the weeks following this regular session to update you in more detail on the CICAD Executive Secretariat's work,

but allow me to highlight a couple of new initiatives we have undertaken since our last CICAD regular session in Bogota in December 2020:

-- We held the first meeting of the *Working Group on Aerial Drug Trafficking Control* on June 16, in which 29 member states participated. The working group discussed various aspects of drug trafficking by air in the Americas - including challenges posed by the use of clandestine landing strips – and also discussed initiatives, tools, and good practices to counter this threat and strengthen inter-agency and regional operational cooperation.

-- We are also strengthening our partnership with the International Narcotics Control Board, or INCB, by developing a series of online training courses promoting the adequate access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion to illicit purposes. The courses represent an important collaboration initiative with the United Nations on a critical issue, and will be available in all OAS official languages through INCB's online platform.

As always, and as the vast majority of our funding is made up of specific fund donations, I thank our current donors, at the same time standing ready to collaborate with new partners.

In closing, I wish to thank Colombia for chairing CICAD this year, and to express my gratitude for the presence this morning of Colombian Justice Minister Wilson Ruíz Orejuela as well as Vice Minister Diana Abaunza Millares. It is my privilege, and the privilege of my CICAD

Executive Secretariat colleagues, to serve Colombia and the other OAS member states.

Thank you for your attention.