



**OAS** | **CICAD**



**COMISION INTERAMERICANA PARA EL  
CONTROL DEL ABUSO DE DROGAS**

**CICAD**

**SEVENTIETH REGULAR SESSION  
November 16-19, 2021  
Virtual Session**

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**FINAL REPORT**

## I. BACKGROUND

Article 21 of the Statute of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) provides that the Commission shall hold two regular sessions per year, one to address general topics and another to address specific technical topics determined by the Commission or other matters that require its special attention. The Statute also provides that the Commission shall hold special sessions whenever it so decides or at the request of a majority of its member states.

At its sixty-sixth regular session, held in November 2019 in Miami, Florida, (CICAD/doc.2491/19 rev. 1), the Commission agreed to have one in-person high level Commissioners' regular session meeting in the fall (latter half of each calendar year; typically November) for four days, and a one-day, OAS mission-based meeting in the spring (first half of each calendar year; typically April or May) to approve CICAD's resolution language for the OAS General Assembly and approve the CICAD Annual Report for the previous calendar year.

Pursuant to Articles 20 and 21 of the Statute, and due to the current circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the seventieth regular session was held virtually, from November 16-19, 2021.

This report provides a summary of the session, including document reference numbers, a list of decisions, and a summary of salient points raised by the delegations during the deliberations.

## II. MINUTES

### 1. Opening remarks

#### Speakers:

- a. **Wilson Ruiz Orejuela, Minister of Justice and the Law, Colombia, Chair of CICAD (CICAD/doc.XXXX/21)**

Minister Ruiz welcomed the participants to the seventieth regular session of CICAD. He noted that a number of significant activities had taken place during the Colombian chair of CICAD 2020-2021, such as the approval of the OAS Hemispheric Drug Strategy 2020 and corresponding Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2021-2025. He was appreciative of the rigorous work done during the eighth round of the MEM to evaluate specific thematic areas, with a focus on the topic of drug demand reduction. He noted the commitment of member states to share their experiences of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, and noted the different means of addressing the drug problem at this difficult time. On behalf of the Government of Colombia, he said he was grateful for the opportunity to take the chair of CICAD. He noted that the Forum on Synthetic Drugs, which had taken place on November 3, 2021, had enabled participants to reflect on the major challenges posed by synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances, among other emerging drugs. In closing, he reiterated Colombia's firm commitment to continue to tackle the world drug problem.

**b. Adam E. Namm, Executive Secretary CICAD/OAS (CICAD/doc.2625/21)**

Ambassador Namm thanked and recognized CICAD Chair Colombia and CICAD Vice Chair Costa Rica as they had worked closely with the CICAD Executive Secretariat (ES-CICAD) during the past year. He also noted the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CICAD's founding, and Guatemala's leadership during the fifty-first regular session of the OAS General Assembly and the OAS Committee on Hemispheric Security. He further noted that ES- CICAD had carried out over 100 virtual events during 2021. He said that the national evaluation reports of the eighth round of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism had focused on demand reduction in 2021, as well as on the questionnaires and corresponding evaluator's manuals for the next two years of the eighth round. He also noted the upcoming release of CICAD's Inter-American Observatory on Drugs 2021 report on drug supply in the Americas. Ambassador Namm highlighted the Institutional Strengthening Unit's work on national drug strategies and plans of action, alternatives to incarceration for adults, and advancing gender in the criminal justice system. He noted the ongoing training-of-trainers in the Universal Prevention and Universal Treatment Curricula by the Demand Reduction Unit and supporting the International Society of Substance Use Professionals. He also noted the Supply Reduction Unit's continued work in regional counterintelligence training in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the second phase of the Gender in Law Enforcement Agencies (GENLEA) project. Ambassador Namm also highlighted that CICAD's four experts groups had met virtually during 2021. He called for strengthening cooperation with international organizations, permanent observer countries, and civil society, and closed by saying that the aim was to execute a multitude of projects, continue with a wide range of virtual programming, and be able to resume in-person programming.

**c. Arthur Weintraub, Secretary, Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, OAS (CICAD/doc.2619/21)**

Secretary Weintraub thanked the Government of Colombia for its leadership as chair of CICAD and the Government of Costa Rica as vice chair. He detailed the work of the CICAD Executive Secretariat during 2021, saying how important it was in helping address the various dimension of the drug problem. He noted that drug trafficking is an increasingly complex threat that is being leveraged by advances in technology. Secretary Weintraub noted that drug trafficking is increasingly being linked to other branches of organized crime, such as corruption, money laundering, terrorism, piracy, trafficking in persons and in arms, illegal mining and cybercrime, as well as with other destabilizing factors such as the health and migratory crises. He described the principal efforts being made by the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS) to help countries address the traditional and hybrid security threats affecting the region, which weaken institutions, destabilize legitimate economies and markets, create alternative forms of governance, and have an adverse impact on people's wellbeing. He reiterated his commitment to continue to promote adoption of comprehensive, coordinated strategies to combat all facets of transnational organized crime, to prevent violence and homicides, promote police cooperation, and strengthen the justice and prison systems. Secretary Weintraub closed by underscoring the importance of the OAS Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its Plan of Action 2021-2025 as fundamental tools that will enable innovative, effective responses to be conducted, based on cooperation.

**d. Randall Otárola Madrigal, Vice Minister, Presidency of the Republic, President of the Directive Council, Costa Rican Drug Institute (ICD), Costa Rica, CICAD Vice Chair (CICAD/doc.2618/21)**

Mr. Otárola noted that people must be at the center of all interventions, with countries' policies based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030, and on the outcome document of the special session of the 2016 United Nations General Assembly (UNGASS) on the world drug problem. He reported that the Costa Rican National Money Laundering Risk Assessment had been updated as a means of preventing crimes associated with drug trafficking. He indicated that a priority of the national drug policy was prevention of drug use and harm reduction and a reduction of adverse health consequences.

He said that Costa Rica has a Court-Supervised Drug Treatment Program, which forms part of the Restorative Justice Program headed by the Judiciary. The Costa Rican Institute on Drugs (ICD) and the Institute on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency (IAFA) also participate in this program. He indicated that Costa Rica had made progress in the area of human rights and gender equality with the implementation of the Inter-American Program for strengthening Gender Equality in Counterdrug Law Enforcement Agencies (GENLEA).

Mr. Otárola closed by inviting member states and CICAD to continue to work to strengthen drug policies and action plans, as well as to increase their work in the region and the hemisphere.

**2. Adoption of the draft agenda (CICAD/doc.2593/21) and the draft schedule of activities (CICAD/doc.2594/21.rev1.corr.1)**

The Commission approved the draft agenda (CICAD/doc.2593/21) and the draft schedule of activities (CICAD/doc.2594/21 rev. 1 corr. 1) without amendment.

**3. Election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission (Articles 22 and 23 of the CICAD Statute)**

Pursuant to Articles 22 and 23 of the Statute, the Commission elected Costa Rica and Paraguay by acclamation as the CICAD Chair and CICAD Vice Chair, respectively, for the period 2021-2022.

**Remarks:**

**a. Arthur Weintraub, Secretary, Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, OAS.**

Secretary Weintraub thanked Colombia for its accomplishments while serving as CICAD Chair and indicated that it was an honor to have worked with them. He emphasized that drug trafficking, transnational organized crime, and terrorism are interrelated issues that affect all countries. He congratulated Costa Rica on its election as the new chair of CICAD.

**b. Adam E. Namm, Executive Secretary, CICAD/OAS**

Ambassador Namm thanked Colombia for its leadership over the past year and virtually presented them with a memento from CICAD in recognition of the Colombian chair during the period 2020-2021. He congratulated Costa Rica and Paraguay on their election as the new chair of CICAD and vice chair of CICAD, respectively.

**c. Wilson Ruíz Orejuela, Minister of Justice and Law, Colombia**

Minister Ruíz stated that it was an honor to receive the gift and thanked the entire CICAD team, member states, and Commissioners for having facilitated efforts and ensured success over the past year. He congratulated Costa Rica and Paraguay and wished them much success.

**4. Remarks by the new CICAD Chair**

**Randall Otarola Madrigal, Vice Minister, Presidency of the Republic, President of the Directive Council, Costa Rican Drug Institute (ICD), Costa Rica.**

The Vice Minister thanked Ambassador Namm, the CICAD Commissioners, and civil society, and reiterated Costa Rica's commitment to strengthening drug policies and to continue working on inter-institutional and inter-sectoral coordination within the framework of international conventions and hemispheric practices. He reiterated the need for drug policies that focus on people and mentioned the four pillars upon which drug policy should be built: drugs and public health, drugs and human rights, drugs and crime, and drugs and human development. He indicated that Costa Rica would like to promote these practices at all levels during its time as CICAD Chair. He thanked Colombia for its leadership over the past year and congratulated Paraguay on its election as CICAD Vice Chair. The Vice Minister concluded by thanking Ambassador Namm and the CICAD team for their efforts during a challenging period.

**Remarks by the new CICAD Vice Chair**

**Zully Rolón, Minister, National Anti-Drug Secretariat (SENAD), Paraguay.**

Minister Rolón congratulated Costa Rica on its election as chair of CICAD, wished the new chair success and pledged to give its full support. She indicated that Paraguay was honored to have been elected as CICAD Vice Chair and reiterated Paraguay's commitment to fighting drug trafficking. She thanked the previous CICAD Chair, CICAD Vice Chair, and the Executive Secretariat of CICAD for their tireless work during the pandemic. She noted that CICAD is the reference point for drugs in the Hemisphere and recommended the continuation of the work done by the Demand Reduction Expert Group chaired by Paraguay during the previous term. She indicated that demand reduction, international cooperation, and supply reduction are the pillars of CICAD's work, and said that she was proud to be the first female minister in Paraguay to work at the executive level to coordinate national anti-drug efforts and will work to move the CICAD agenda forward. The Minister also underscored the importance of the control of criminal groups, the promotion of sustainable development, and the preservation of the environment. The Minister concluded her remarks by wishing for a successful seventieth regular session of CICAD.

## 5. Presentation of reports and election of 2021-2022 authorities for CICAD Expert Groups

### a. Report of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction (CICAD/doc.2606/21) and Election of the Chair for 2021-2022

#### Paraguay:

Paraguay, as chair of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction, presented a summary of the Group's activities during 2021. The delegate reported that the work plan that had been developed included conducting a study on patterns of psychoactive substance use during the COVID-19 pandemic. The proposed methodology includes a baseline questionnaire, and two technical meetings to be held on August 10 and September 1, 2020. Responses to the questionnaire on COVID-19 and drugs were received from 52,000 people in 33 countries; the revision and cleaning of the database was carried out with the support of the Executive Secretariat of CICAD, and the relevant data were sent to each participating country. She said that, during the twenty-second meeting of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction, which was held virtually in October 2021 and was attended by 25 member states and one permanent observer country, Colombia presented the final report of the study. She added that an event entitled "From the pandemic to prevention: the road to more demand reduction in the Americas" was held in April 2021 on the margins of the sixty-fourth session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The event was coordinated by the National Anti-Drug Secretariat of Paraguay in its capacity as Chair of the CICAD Group of Experts on Demand Reduction. The event had focused on the impact that the pandemic had had on mental health and drug use. Presentations were also made by the African Union, the Colombo Plan, and the Ukrainian International Addiction Technology Transfer Center. A panel was also held on the results of the systematic review of prevention interventions on the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Latin America and the Caribbean. Civil society organizations participating had included the Ibero-American Network of NGOs working in drugs (RIOD), and the Latin American Federation of Therapeutic Communities (FLACT). Paraguay proposed developing a paper with recommendations on treatment for drug use and mental health geared to health care personnel, in cooperation with Mexico and other member states.

#### Comments by delegations

**Paraguay:** The delegate of Paraguay supported the candidacy of Mexico for Chair of the Expert Group on Demand Reduction.

**Mexico:** The delegate of Mexico thanked Paraguay and the other member states for their support. The delegate said that he would forward the list of proposed activities, focusing on prevention, treatment, harm reduction, prevention standards, production of evidence-based information, and the mental health component.

**Panama:** The delegate of Panama asked that her country's request to be named as Vice Chair of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction be ratified.

**Mexico:** The delegate of Mexico welcomed Panama as the Vice Chair of the Group of Experts.

#### Decisions

The Commission approved the report of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction (CICAD/doc.2606/21). The Commission approved the candidacy of Mexico (CICAD/doc.2598/21) to serve as Chair of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction for the 2021-2022 term of office, and also approved the candidacy of Panama (CICAD/doc.2626/21) to serve as Vice Chair of the Group of Experts for the same period.

## **b. Report of the Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking (CICAD/doc.2607/21) and Election of the Chair for 2021-2022**

### **Dominican Republic**

As Chair of the Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking, the Dominican Republic informed that in May 2020, the Executive Secretariat of CICAD had circulated a questionnaire to gather up-to-date information on the principal challenges facing Latin America and the Caribbean, and efforts to address maritime narcotrafficking. Twenty-six agencies from 21 member states had responded to the questionnaire, and three major points were identified. The first was to identify the principal challenges the region faces in dealing with maritime narcotrafficking. The second was to identify good practices in the area of maritime interdiction of drugs, and, third, to describe the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on maritime narcotrafficking. The delegate said that his candidacy for re-election as Chair of the Group of Experts for the 2020-2021 term of office had been approved. He provided a summary of the activities that had been carried out. A meeting of the Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking was held in February 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was attended by 150 participants from 29 member states, four permanent observer countries, two regional organizations and four international organizations. The meeting focused mainly on moving forward with effective, innovative responses to the emerging challenges, including those that had arisen during the pandemic. A virtual meeting was held of the Group of Experts in September 2021, in which 119 experts from 26 member states participated, along with one permanent observer country, two international organizations, and one regional organization. Participants stressed the importance of multilateral drug interdiction operations, as well as international regulatory instruments to facilitate cooperation on the issue.

### **Comments by delegations**

**Peru:** The delegate of Peru congratulated the Dominican Republic on the work that had been accomplished as Chair of the group, and confirmed Peru's commitment to chair of the Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking, noting the importance of international cooperation in combatting drug trafficking.

**El Salvador:** The delegate of El Salvador said he appreciated the trust deposited in his country to hold the position of Vice Chair of the Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking for the 2021-2022 term of office.

### **Decisions**

The Commission approved the report of the Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking (CICAD/doc.2607/21). It also approved the candidacy of Peru (CICAD/doc.2601/21) to hold the chair of the Group of Experts for the 2021-2022 term of office. The Commission also approved the candidacy of El Salvador (CICAD/doc.2602/21) to serve as Vice Chair for the same period.

**c. Report of the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products (CICAD/doc.2608/21) and Election of the Chair for 2021-2022**

**Chile**

As chair of the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products since 2019, Chile reported that the 2020 meeting of the Group of Experts could not be held because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and explained that in April 2020, the Executive Secretariat of CICAD in coordination with Chile's Investigative Police, circulated a questionnaire. Responses were received from 28 agencies from 19 member states. The responses were very important in that they provided up-to-date information on the challenges involved in the control of chemical precursors, and identified the good practices being implemented to address difficulties in this area. The results of the questionnaire were presented to a virtual meeting held in October 2020, which was attended by 122 representatives of 24 member states, five permanent observer countries, and four international organizations. The Chair shared recommendations on preventing the distribution of chemical precursors in the time of COVID-19. The Supply Reduction Unit presented CICAD's Model Regulations as a useful tool in strengthening the control of chemical precursors in the region based on the international standards issued by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and the United Nations. The Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products held a virtual meeting in October 2021, attended by more than 70 experts from 24 member states, one permanent observer country, and two international organizations. The central focus of the session was a discussion of the main trends noted during the pandemic in the use of chemical precursors, the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and the strategies being used to address the problem. Chile presented technical guidelines on the collection of evidence in the criminal investigation of the diversion of controlled chemical substances, which was available to member states.

**Comments by delegations**

**Guatemala:** The delegate of Guatemala highlighted the work accomplished during 2020-2021 as vice chair of the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products, and stated his commitment to continue to work to combat drugs.

**Nicaragua:** The Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the OAS had sent a note to CICAD to support the candidacy of Guatemala to chair the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products.

**Ecuador:** The delegate of Ecuador reaffirmed their commitment to work with Guatemala during the 2021-2022 term of office.

**Decisions**

The Commission approved the report of the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products (CICAD/doc.2608/21). The Commission also approved the candidacy of Guatemala (CICAD/doc.2605/21) for election as Chair of the Group of Experts for the 2021-2022 term of office, and also approved the candidacy of Ecuador (CICAD/doc.2617/21) to serve as Vice Chair of the Group of Experts for the same period.



**d. Report of the Group of Experts on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development (CICAD/doc.2611/21) and Election of the Chair for 2021-2022**

**Peru**

As Chair of the Group of Experts on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development, Peru discussed the work that had been done in 2020-2021. The delegate noted that one of the main objectives was to promote dialogue and coordination for the sharing of experiences on policies, strategies, and good practices in alternative development, in an effort to build the technical capacities and skills of the experts. He said that during Peru's Chair, three virtual meetings were held with an average of 86 participants from 16 member states and international organizations. The first meeting, which was held in May 2021, addressed successful experiences with comprehensive and sustainable alternative development in areas where illicit crops were grown, and discussed the causes and determinants. The second dialogue was held in June 2021, during which the successes with alternative development in the region of San Martin were discussed. The third dialogue, which took place in September 2021, discussed strategies for strengthening the chains of production and commercialization of alternative development products. A meeting of the Group of Experts was held virtually in October 2021, at which a report was delivered on the activities carried out by the chair. The topics discussed included commercial regulations, and progress made in achieving the alternative development priorities of the Hemispheric Plan of Action. One of the meeting's conclusions was that the rural focus of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development should be adapted to the realities of countries that are facing the problem of illicit crops, both to control or reduce the economic dependence and vulnerability of poor populations, and the exploitation of the affected ecosystems. The delegate concluded that international cooperation was very important to complement national efforts.

**Decisions**

The Commission approved the report of the Group of Experts on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development (CICAD/doc.2611/21). No member state presented its candidacy to chair or vice chair the group. Interested countries were asked to send a note to the Executive Secretariat of CICAD and to the Chair so that it could be submitted for consideration

**6. Report of the Chair of the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (CICAD/doc.2603/21) and presentation/approval of the questionnaires and evaluator manuals for the eighth round MEM evaluations in 2022 (Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking and Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their Causes and Consequences) (Annexes I and III), and in 2023 (Institutional Strengthening; Research, Information, Monitoring and Evaluation; and International Cooperation) (Annexes II and IV)**

**Panelist: Bobby Chauhan, Chair of the IWG, Manager, International Unit, Health Canada**

Mr. Chauhan, as Chair of the IWG of the MEM, presented the Group's report, which described the work that had been done in 2021. He described the meetings that had been held to agree on the questionnaires and evaluator manuals for the eighth round MEM evaluations in 2022 (Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking and Distribution of Drugs, and to

Address their Causes and Consequences), and in 2023 (Institutional Strengthening; Research, Information, Monitoring and Evaluation; and International Cooperation). He provided these documents for consideration and approval by the Commission.

#### Comments by delegations

There were no comments.

#### Decisions

The Commission approved the report of the Chair of the IWG as well as the questionnaires and evaluator manuals for the evaluations of the eighth round of the MEM, to take place in 2022 (Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking and Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their Causes and Consequences), and in 2023 (Institutional Strengthening; Research, Information, Monitoring and Evaluation; and International Cooperation) (CICAD/doc.2603/21 and annexes I, II, III and IV).

#### **7. Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) - Report of the Coordinator of the Governmental Experts Group (GEG) (CICAD/doc.2604/21) and presentation/approval of the national thematic evaluation reports of the eighth MEM round on Measures of Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Support (CICAD/doc.2600/21)**

**Panelist:** Jenny Fagua, General Coordinator of the Governmental Experts Group (GEG), Advisor to the Directorate of Drug Policy and Related Activities, Ministry of Justice and Law, Colombia

Ms. Fagua, in her capacity as General Coordinator of the GEG, described the work that the GEG had done in 2021 in evaluating the area of measures of prevention, treatment, and recovery support. She explained that the GEG had held two meetings at which the information presented by member states in the evaluation questionnaire, and in their comments on the first draft report was analyzed. She then presented the national evaluation reports for the consideration and approval of member states.

#### Comments by delegations

**Mexico:** The representative noted that the MEM continues to be the only valid mechanism for evaluating drug policies. She stressed that the two principal features of the MEM are its multilateral nature, and evaluation for cooperative purposes and not to issue judgments. She said it was important to continue to construct a broader vision of justice and health, including, *inter alia*, science-related topics, integral development, and a gender perspective. She also said that it was important to share experiences and good practices and stated Mexico's commitment to the MEM. The delegate of Mexico announced a contribution of US\$100,000 towards MEM activities.

**United States:** The representative congratulated the IWG and the GEG on the work they had done, and encouraged member states to continue their efforts in the area of demand reduction. He also urged the Executive Secretariat of CICAD to provide member states with technical assistance based on the findings of the MEM evaluation reports.

**Uruguay:** The representative highlighted Uruguay's support for and commitment to the MEM. He welcomed the candidacies of countries to chair the CICAD expert groups, and said that Uruguay's technical experts would participate in Panel 3 on the formulation of national and subnational drug policies using a social inclusion and gender approach, and in Panel 6 on wastewater studies as a tool for estimating drug use. The delegate also said that Uruguay had approved its National Drug Strategy, 2021-2025, which confirms the country's commitment to strengthen communications and information exchange with other countries to address the drug issue.

## **Decisions**

The Commission approved the report of the General Coordinator of the GEG (CICAD/doc.2604/21), and also the national thematic evaluation reports of the eighth MEM round on Measures of Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Support (CICAD/doc.2600/21).

## **8. Panel 1: Aerial drug trafficking control**

**Moderator: Colyan M. Benn, Customs Officer attached to the Joint Airport Interdiction Task Force Unit (JAITF), Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP), Barbados**

In her introduction to the panel, Ms. Benn said that aerial drug trafficking is a frequent issue in the Hemisphere and is a matter of increasing concern for the countries of the region. She said it was therefore important that new trends and challenges be identified, including its impact on the environment. She also spoke of the importance of exchanging information and good practices as a means of countering aerial drug trafficking.

### **Panelists:**

#### **a. Luis Ignacio García Sigman, Consultant, Supply Reduction Unit, CICAD**

Mr. García Sigman described the nature of aerial drug trafficking in the Americas as listed in the responses by OAS member states to the questionnaire on the matter administered by CICAD's Supply Reduction Unit. He indicated the principal means used with illegal flights in the Hemisphere, such as light aircraft, private jets, and drones, and described the techniques used by organized crime to "camouflage" such flights, including altering registrations and falsifying flight plans. He described the different types of clandestine landing strips, and the environmental impact caused during construction of the landing strips, and when they are dismantled by law enforcement. He discussed the principal air routes being used both within the Hemisphere and outward to other parts of the world, and described the strengths and weakness identified by the agencies responsible for countering aerial drug trafficking in the countries of the Americas. In closing, Mr. García Sigman spoke of the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on this issue, and gave some examples of actions that would help respond to the challenges, such as increasing public-private cooperation, acquisition of technology, training of personnel, and exchanging information among control agencies.

#### **b. Juan Carlos Guerrero, Director of the Aerial Surveillance Service, Ministry of Public Security, Costa Rica.**

Mr. Guerrero began by explaining the mission of the Aerial Surveillance Service as the agency responsible for safeguarding Costa Rican air space, as well as providing humanitarian assistance and providing security and surveillance at the country's airports. He described some of the features of clandestine flights coming in from South America to the countries of Central America, and the principal routes that are used across the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean to traffic drugs to the North American market. He then discussed some of the tools that Costa Rica uses to counter drug trafficking by air, among them the establishment of air bases at strategic points, constant air patrols, and international cooperation, including the sharing of counter-drug information and operational intelligence. He described the process of issuing a court order under the law to allow the destruction of landing fields, landing strips, and heliports used illegally. In closing, he shared some of the results achieved by the Aerial Surveillance Service in 2018-2021, such as the seizure of a number of illegal flights, and seizures of drugs in Costa Rica's main airport, all of which were accomplished thanks to the joint action of a number of the country's domestic agencies as part of the AIRCOP Program of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

**c. Alex Humberto Ladino Téllez, Director of Aerial and Anti-Missile Defense of the Air Force, Colombia**

Lieutenant Colonel Ladino Téllez discussed the main air routes used by organized crime to traffic drugs from the Americas to other regions of the world, and showed the number of illegal flights detected in recent years in Colombia and onward to other countries. He then showed the accomplishments of the Colombian Air Force in terms of impact on aircraft, inspection of aerodromes, dismantling of clandestine laboratories, and the destruction of clandestine landing strips. On the last point, he devoted part of his presentation to explaining the significant environmental impact that clandestine landing strips are having, particularly due to the deforestation of forests and protected areas where they are generally constructed. He said that the Zeus strategy had been a successful international cooperation initiative in which a number of countries of the region are participating to combat aerial drug trafficking by means of exchanging operational intelligence in real time, georeferencing landing strips, surveillance and interception of aerial targets, and training exercises. In conclusion, he described some of the results of that strategy from 2019-2021, and reiterated Colombia's commitment to continue to cooperate with other countries to counter aerial drug trafficking, impact the economy of criminal organizations, and strengthen procedures for the analysis and exchange of information.

**d. Javier Sánchez, Project Officer, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)**

Mr. Sánchez referred to organized crime's creativity and capacity to adapt in trafficking drugs, particularly cocaine, by air in the Americas. He said that aircraft had been modified to improve their cargo capacity and autonomous flight, the cloning of number plates, alteration of means of aircraft identification (such as logos and registration numbers), the use of false flight plans and alternative routes, and adaptation of unloading procedures. He described the different "air corridors" used for cocaine trafficking in the region, and gave some recent cases that occurred in some countries. He discussed hypothetical scenarios that illustrate the difficulties that the law enforcement tracking and navigation systems of law enforcement face in intercepting illegal flights. He also discussed how criminal organizations are able to rapidly rehabilitate some clandestine landing strips that had previously been destroyed by law enforcement. He spoke of the important role that INTERPOL plays in building the capacities of the competent authorities to investigate cases of drug trafficking by air,

and stressed the importance of international cooperation and parallel financial investigation in prosecuting such cases and thus combat transnational organized crime.

#### **Comments by delegations**

**United States:** The delegate stressed that it was important that countries cooperate among themselves and exchange information to counter drug trafficking by air. He then referred to the Cooperative Situational Information Integration System (CSII), which allows countries to strengthen their aerial interdiction cooperation.

**Trinidad and Tobago:** The delegate thanked the presenters, and stressed the importance of continuing to work on this issue, identifying good practices in preventing the use by organized crime of clandestine landing strips, particularly in forest areas and protected territories.

#### **9. Panel 2: Challenges for evidence-based drug prevention in pandemic times**

**Moderator: Eugenia Mata Chavarría, Chief of the Prevention Programs Unit of the Costa Rican Institute on Drugs**

In introducing the panel, Ms. Mata discussed the challenge that the COVID-19 pandemic was posing for the continued work of the prevention and treatment of drug use in the Hemisphere, and said that this panel was important in sharing good practices in carrying out prevention programs in the region in the context of the pandemic.

##### **Panelists:**

**a. Novia Carter, Director, National Drug Council, Bahamas (CICAD/doc.2629/21)**

Ms. Carter began by saying that the pandemic had brought great challenges for the field of substance use prevention, and emphasized that novel prevention strategies need to be developed to deal with the impact of the pandemic. Effective prevention interventions, she said, should be based on a clear understanding of the nature and extent of substance use in the community. She discussed the challenges that impacted prevention interventions in the family, the school, and the community during the pandemic in the Bahamas, and touched on solutions to these challenges. She also spoke of the lessons learned, and stressed the need for comprehensive needs assessments, making use of available community resources, involving interested parties in the communities, developing media-based prevention programs for young people, and working both in person and virtually.

**b. Cláudia Leite, Director of Prevention, Care and Social Reinsertion, Ministry of Citizenship, Brazil (CICAD/doc.2620/21)**

Ms. Leite began by introducing the new National System for the Prevention of the Use of Alcohol and Other Drugs, which has an information platform that is grounded in international guidelines and scientific evidence. It is geared to the public at large, as well as policy makers and professionals working in the area. She also mentioned the various prevention projects being implemented by the Federal Government during the pandemic, including the DARE program in association with the military police and the fire department; the transit prevention project in association

with the National Department of Transportation; the suicide prevention project in association with the Brazilian Psychiatric Association (ABP); the family prevention project in association with the Ministry for Women, the Family and Human Rights; and the project entitled “Walking through Brazil” [*Caminando por Brasil*], in partnership with the National Confederation of Independent Truck Drivers (CNTA), among others.

**c. Evalinda Barrón Velázquez, Director General, National Commission against the Addictions (CONADIC), Mexico (CICAD/doc.2614/21)**

Ms. Barrón Velázquez presented the National Standards for the Prevention of Drug Use and the National Addiction Prevention Strategy (ENPA) of Mexico “Together for Peace”. She made a schematic representation of a national drug prevention system, based on the model of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). On the other hand, she indicated that the ENPA constitutes the transition reference framework towards a prevention model based on scientific evidence, with a public health approach, which respects the free development of the personality and considers substance use as a multifactorial problem, therefore, it must take into consideration that preventive and comprehensive care efforts must be national and local, and that such actions must fully respect human rights, incorporate the non-binary gender perspective, the perspective of youth and inclusion of cultural diversity. She presented the processes on the organization and coordination between the different federal, state and municipal institutions to carry out the transversal cooperation necessary for the implementation of the ENPA. Likewise, she pointed out the importance of a comprehensive approach between supply control and demand reduction. She continued with a presentation on the contingency plan established to implement prevention actions during the pandemic, which included the expansion of Life Line services, the intensification of mental health information for children, youth, adults and the elderly; online training actions on mental health and substance use; and the maintenance and strengthening of the supply of services in care units, including telemedicine actions. At the end of her presentation, she shared the lessons learned during the pandemic for actions to prevent the use of psychoactive substances.

**d. Karen Helmer, Chief of the National Observatory on Drugs, National Service for Prevention and Rehabilitation of Drug and Alcohol Use (SENDA), Chile (CICAD/doc.2628/21)**

Ms. Helmer began her presentation by discussing the results of the on-line surveys conducted in Chile to assess the effects of COVID-19 on the use of alcohol and other drugs in 2020 and 2021. More specifically, she outlined information on the changes that had occurred in Chile in the use of alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, non-prescribed medications and LSD/Ecstasy as the result of the COVID-19 restrictions, as well as the changes in the demand for treatment, and access to these substances during the pandemic. Ms. Helmer also discussed the changes and improvements in the agency to enhance service to people, and discussed some of the drug use prevention and health promotion programs during the pandemic. She noted that all of the SENDA treatment and rehabilitation centers throughout the country had continued to operate without interruption, providing ongoing support centers for clients as well as telemedicine and in-person care. Among other things, she said that the online courses on prevention were increased for those participating in the various programs in the area of prevention and promotion. Twelve parenting handbooks were published as a means of giving practical guidance on strengthening protective factors.

**10. Panel 3: Preparation of national and subnational drug policies with a focus on social and/or gender inclusion**

**Moderator: Fredy Anzueto, Executive Secretary, Executive Secretariat of the Commission against the Addictions and Drug Trafficking, Guatemala**

By way of introduction, Mr. Anzueto said that the panel's goal was to present experiences, challenges, and good practices on how to integrate social inclusion and the gender perspective when formulating and developing national drug policies, and how to coordinate them with subnational policies. He said that the panel would address some fundamental aspects of the OAS Hemispheric Drug Strategy 2020 and its Plan of Action 2021-2025, and that he hoped that lessons learned would also be discussed.

**Panelists:**

**a. Edward Croft, Director, Office of National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy, Antigua and Barbuda**

Lt. Col. Croft said that Antigua and Barbuda is taking steps to close the gender and social exclusion gaps, and that as a result the national drug strategy now takes both approaches. He also said that it was important to have gender-sensitive indicators and disaggregated data. These are enabling Antigua and Barbuda to effectively plan and evaluate its programs and interventions. He explained that gender-appropriate care and treatment is offered in the country. He noted the growing number of girls who are using drugs, and that there is concern over substance use by young people as a whole. A number of measures were being taken to empower young people and enhance their self-esteem and values in an effort to prevent and reduce drug use. He added that Antigua and Barbuda is working to set up a national drug treatment court, which will take specific needs into account and minimize the impact of incarceration on women, which often has devastating effects on the family nucleus and on communities. He said that the expansion of prevention and treatment services in the country would help ensure a better level of recovery and social integration. In closing, he said the country was interested in continuing to move forward with specific concrete actions in order to overcome existing barriers and to become an inclusive and egalitarian society.

**b. Gabriela Olivera, Adviser on Gender, and member of the Comprehensive Health Division, National Drug Secretariat, National Drug Board, Uruguay**

Ms. Olivera explained that the development of the new national policy is taking into account the evaluations of previous policies, as well as good practices and current challenges. She said that policies cannot be neutral: they must include gender and human rights approaches, among others, and in particular must adopt an intersectoral approach so that the programs and interventions can fully take account of the various dimensions of the different population groups. She said that the National Drug Secretariat, as an inter-ministerial agency, had approached other ministries as well as the regional managers, and is thus being able to include gender and social inclusion approaches into different sectors and regions of the country. Uruguay is strongly in favor of decentralization of policies to take national policy interventions and programs to the local level. In closing, she said that over the last ten years, Uruguay has conducted research and has developed guidelines and offered specialized training to enhance the work of the services and the teams to enhance the gender and social inclusion approaches,

and has thus built partnerships and agreements with the principal agency directing gender policies in Uruguay.

**c. Hilary Anderson, Senior Gender Specialist, Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM/OAS)**

Ms. Anderson congratulated CICAD on the work it is doing to include a gender and equality perspective into policies and programs on drugs. She discussed some of the efforts that have been made, such as research, forums, and technical meetings at which the status of women had been discussed, the drug-related incarceration of women, and the responses of drug policies in terms of gender. Thanks to these efforts, the region has better data and information and a greater understanding of the situation, with more good practices in policies and programs, and more guidelines and tools to support policy formulation including a gender, diversity, and inclusion approach. However, she said that more effort is needed to understand the processes of victimization and incarceration, and a differentiated approach to show the impact of drug policies that do not take a gender approach. In closing, she noted that the inclusion of a gender approach goes beyond analysis, and should include women in the policy formulation process, and in the technical teams responsible for implementation.

#### **Comments by delegations**

**United States:** The representative noted that one of the priorities of the Biden Administration's drug policies is to promote racial equality to facilitate access and ensure that the specific needs of different communities are met equally. In line with this priority, the Administration is identifying and implementing good practices that are culturally sensitive to different ethnic groups, with the goal of ensuring racial equality during the entire continuum of care, from treatment to social integration. In closing, he noted that the Federal government, and state and local governments, have an important role to play in supporting treatment and care systems, and in promoting racial equity at all state levels.

**Canada:** The representative recognized the work that civil society organizations do to address and promote gender and social inclusion in national and subnational drug strategies. He said that progress had been made in incorporating evidence on gender diversity and sex in Federal research, policies, and programs, and that an improvement in outcomes had been seen. In closing, he stressed the effort to include a gender approach in the execution of programs, by means of sensitization, capacity building, and analysis of this approach.

**Mexico:** The representative said that CICAD's Hemispheric Drug Strategy 2020 and its Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2021-2025 reflect the understanding of the region's challenges with regard to inclusion of a gender approach, and social inclusion and human rights, as well as drug control. He said that the two documents promote the recommendations of UNGASS 2016, the goals of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030, and other commitments made by the international community.



**11. Panel 4: Synthetic drugs and non-scheduled chemical precursors**

**Moderator: Heide Fulton, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Western Hemisphere Programs, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, United States Department of State**

Ms. Fulton said that the control of synthetic drugs and non-scheduled chemical precursors is one of the greatest challenges in the area of drug control, and said that in the United States, overdose deaths, particularly from synthetic opioids, are on the increase. It was therefore important that the substances used in the manufacture of synthetic drugs be scheduled soon, and said how important it was that countries exchange information, complete the questionnaires sent out by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), participate in international investigations and research, and have in place appropriate, secure systems for the final disposal of seized chemical precursors. She closed by saying that the delegation of the United States had asked the INCB to assess three chemical precursors of fentanyl in order to determine the advisability of bringing them under international control.

**Panelists:**

- a. Óscar Ángel Talledos, Assistant General Director, National Center for Planning, Analysis, and Information to Combat Crime (CENAPI), Mexico (CICAD/doc.2636/21)**

Mr. Talledos said that the broad availability of non-scheduled chemical precursors represents a challenge for the entire international control system. As far as Mexico was concerned, he explained that at the end of 2018 there was a substantial change in the trends in seizures: seizures of synthetic drugs, particularly of methamphetamines, began to be more frequent than seizures of plant-based drugs such as cocaine and cannabis. He said that this upward trend was continuing, and that greater numbers of clandestine laboratories that manufacture or prepare synthetic drugs in the country were being discovered. He explained that based on the results of the Drug Profiling Program, which enables emerging trends in the manufacture, trafficking, sales, and use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to be analyzed, four chemical precursors had been introduced into the national control schedules. Alerts had been sent to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) on some precursors of fentanyl. A Technical Group on Control of Synthetic Drugs had been set up, along with a national list for surveillance of non-scheduled chemical substances that could be used in the manufacture of synthetic drugs.

- b. John Farmer, Senior Program Analyst, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), United States (CICAD/doc.2637/21)**

Mr. Farmer began by stating that one of the greatest challenges for the control of precursors is the use of chemical substances not under international control to manufacture drugs. He said that the United States controls 47 substances that are found in two schedules or lists: Schedule I lists a total of 36 substances, and it may only be used by those who are registered with the DEA. Schedule II lists 11 substances. The users of this schedule are required to keep the history of the transactions that exceed the threshold amounts established in the law. He went on to say that the increase in deaths caused by overdose of synthetic opioids being recorded in the United States is related to the increase in the manufacture of these drugs, and to the fact that organized crime is using non-scheduled substances to replace scheduled precursors. Mr. Farmer outlined some of the actions the United States government

is taking to respond to this situation, including strengthening cooperation at the national level with the private sector, and the proposal that three precursors of fentanyl (4-AP, ter-Boc-AP and norfentanyl) be included in Tables I and II of the 1988 Convention.

**c. Michael Van Linn, Drug Science Specialist, Drug and Chemical Evaluation Section, Diversion Control Division, DEA, United States**

Mr. Van Linn described the National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS), which is a program of the Drug Enforcement Administration that collects drug identification results analyzed by federal, state, and local forensic laboratories. He said that since synthetic drugs are designed to evade controls, one of the objectives of the NFLIS is to determine whether the substances sold on the illicit market are included in the U.S. control schedules, and if not, to assess whether they should be brought under control nationally. Since 2015, more and more analogs fentanyl and other synthetic opioids have been appearing, such as brophine and isotonitazene, which were found in the United States for the first time in 2019. He then went on to discuss the recent detection of the synthetic opioid metonitazene and of various other substances with a similar chemical structure. To conclude, he also commented on recent seizures of synthetic cannabinoids, designer benzodiazepines and synthetic cathinones.

**d. Barbara Remberg, Senior Technical Advisor, Precursors Control Section, International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) (CICAD/doc.2638/21)**

Ms. Remberg began by mentioning the INCB's four main pillars of chemical precursor control, and said that the pace of inclusion of substances in the international control schedules had stepped up in recent years: between 2014 and 2020, seven substances were scheduled, five of which are considered to be "designer" precursors. She said that three out of four chemical substances seized are not under international control, and that this is a worldwide problem involving the manufacture of synthetic drugs, as well as the production of plant-based drugs. She said that in response to this challenge, the INCB is drafting a document setting out a variety of options for dealing with the use of non-scheduled chemical substances and designer precursors, which will be submitted for approval at the 2022 meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). In closing, Ms. Remberg described the tools that the INCB makes available to member states to help them control trafficking in and the diversion of chemical precursors.

**Comments by delegations**

**Canada:** The delegate noted that the problem of synthetic drugs is a challenge around the world, and a priority for Canada. He said that dealing with this issue, and with the opioid crisis in particular, requires using comprehensive approaches that take account both the health perspective and the security perspective.

**Jamaica:** The delegate asked how countries can learn of the latest trends in synthetic drugs and chemical precursors. He said he was concerned over both issues, given that the speed with which these substances are detected tends to outstrip the regulatory responses.

**United States:** The presenters responded to the delegation of Jamaica that one option for dealing with this challenge is to implement generic control measures, which enables groups of chemicals to be controlled rather than individual substances.

**INCB:** Ms. Remberg noted the importance of the early warning systems offered by international organizations, which permit the countries to share the most recent trends in substances being utilized in their countries to manufacture synthetic drugs.

**Mexico:** The delegate of Mexico indicated that a possible solution was to address the issue of synthetic drugs broadly to include both supply reduction and demand reduction, to take into consideration public health and sensitize the general population to prevent an increase in rates of drug use.

## **12. Dialogue with civil society: Strategic Public-Private Alliances and the Identification of Good Practices in the Integration of Persons with Problem Drug Use**

### **1. Moderator: Paula Picado, Coordinator of the Psychology Section, Center for Minors, Institute on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (IAFA), Costa Rica**

Ms. Picado introduced the topic and discussed the work that IAFA had been doing during the pandemic. She said that there are strategic alliances in Costa Rica between civil society organizations and the ICD (Costa Rican Institute on Drugs), IAFA, and the Costa Rican Social Security Fund to address the challenges posed by the COVID-19 health emergency. She specifically noted the development of outpatient care in a mobile unit for on-site interventions. She then introduced the panelists and the subject of the session, which was public-private synergies.

#### **Panelists:**

#### **a. Lauren Diaz, Director, *Nuevas Oportunidades [New Opportunities] Foundation, Costa Rica (CICAD/doc.2644/21)***

Ms. Diaz explained that the goal of the New Opportunities Foundation is to provide services for incarcerated persons. She recalled that in Costa Rica, there are more than 16,000 people incarcerated in 16 penitentiaries, with heavy links to drug-related crimes. The purpose of the Foundation's intervention is to change the way in which prison time is served in Costa Rica, by using an empowerment approach that focuses on entrepreneurship and employability, with business opportunities that have a social impact. In 2020 and 2021, the Foundation provided on-line work guides on life planning and employability, so that the incarcerated person could complete the coursework at his or her own pace. The goal is that substance use and trafficking should not be seen as more attractive than life as an employed worker.

#### **b. Esteban Blanco, Director, *Lloverá Comida Foundation, Costa Rica (CICAD/doc.2643/21)***

Mr. Blanco said that the foundation he directs began to operate in 2012 to provide basic necessities for street people. It has grown throughout the country since that time, and has changed its approach, which at the beginning was a type of welfare assistance but is now on the production side, which is more sustainable. He said that since 2018, the Foundation has been receiving funds from the IMAS (Institute for Social Assistance) and from IAFA. In other words, it partnered with the state in order to provide a second chance for its clients. More than 600 people have been trained since 2017,

who were able to become productive citizens based on a reinsertion approach. They began as volunteers, and with help from government institutions, have been able to help the street population. Mr. Blanco said that the greatest challenge is to develop a methodology for the reinsertion of a very specific population – street people who use substances. They have a pilot plan for a shelter, and are working to document activities with data so that an effective methodology can be developed.

**c. Gabriela Arias, Director of Programs, *Acción Joven* [Youth Action] Foundation, Costa Rica (CICAD/doc.2630/21)**

Ms. Arias said that the Youth Action Foundation is a nongovernmental organization operating for 15 years in Costa Rica. Its goal is to prevent student drop-out. Together with the Costa Rican Institute on Drugs (ICD), they work with young people on the model of criminal liabilities and alternative sentences. They are supported in four ways: follow-up (individual and group), skills development, violence prevention, and support network. At the beginning, profiles and needs are described, and the areas that need more work are identified. She stressed the importance of encouraging adolescents to work in groups so that they can learn assertiveness skills, a sense of belonging, and leadership. The Foundation works with the young people to develop their skills and leadership, conflict resolution, team work, and group relationships.

**13. Presentation of the Executive Summary of CICAD Executive Secretariat Report on Drug Supply in the Americas 2021 (CICAD/doc.2634/21)**

**Presentation: Marya Hynes, Chief, Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID)/CICAD**

Ms. Hynes began with a brief description of the functions of the OID. Its work is linked closely to the OAS Hemispheric Drug Strategy 2020 and its corresponding Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2021-2025. She said that the Executive Summary of the Report on Drug Supply in the Americas gives subregional trends for the period 2016-2019, and that the detailed breakdown will be covered in the complete report, which will be distributed in 2022. The information analyzed derives from official data provided by 28 member states, which met in four technical meetings. A Technical Working Group on Drug Supply Indicators (GTTIOD) was formed and held its first meeting in July 2019.

Ms. Hynes noted that the report is based on quantitative data as well as qualitative information that provided a context for the data. She discussed the principal findings, which indicate that there is no single drug that defines drug supply in the Americas. Generally speaking, cannabis eradication declined over the period under study (2016-2019) and the average weight of cannabis seizures was larger than that of any other drug. Seizures of cocaine rose, and more efficient processing methods were noted. All of the production and supply of heroin is intra-regional, with a market concentrated in North America. Fentanyl and its analogues continue to be drugs of greatest concern for the countries of North America, and although the number of seizures is low, its high potency makes it a lethal drug, which should signal concern for other countries of the region. While the market for methamphetamine is also concentrated largely in North America, production has moved to the south, a worrying trend. In closing, she said that the explosion of synthetic drugs and other emerging substances should encourage member states to develop or strengthen their early warning systems in order to respond to these drugs.

**Comments by delegations**

**The Bahamas:** The delegate of The Bahamas congratulated CICAD and the OID on producing this report, and wondered whether any connection could be found between the increase in seizures of cannabis and the legalization of marijuana in some countries.

Ms. Hynes replied that there might indeed be an association between the changes in the law and the increase in seizures of cannabis, but that was a subject that should be analyzed by each country.

#### **14. Treatment Systems with a Focus on Public Health**

##### **Introduction – Jimena Kalawski, Chief, Demand Reduction Unit, Executive Secretariat, CICAD**

Ms. Kalawski said that under the Hemispheric Drug Strategy 2020, drug treatment systems in the Americas are very important and are currently facing the challenge of how to incorporate a public health perspective, base their programs on scientific evidence, and incorporate civil society and academia.

##### **Presenters:**

**a. Oswaldo Aguirre Retana, Director General of the Institute on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency (IAFA) (CICAD/doc.2612/21)**

Mr. Aguirre presented IAFA's experiences, its legal framework, and the topics it covers. He explained the JAGUAR model, which is especially beneficial for young people, and described the comprehensive nature of drug treatment in Costa Rica, which is complemented by health promotion and prevention. Training the staff who provide clinical and social services is one of IAFA's principal tasks. IAFA also conducts research to understand better the characteristics of drug use in Costa Rica and act accordingly. It also seeks to ensure the quality of drug treatment by approving programs offered by different service providers, including by non-governmental organizations.

**b. Luis Alfonzo Bello, Advisor on Substance Abuse, Department of Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) (CICAD/doc.2639/21)**

Mr. Alfonzo said it was important to frame the topic of treatment as part of the health field, but incorporating the public health perspective into the treatment of substance use disorders is still lagging. The treatment gap is evidence of this: worldwide, only one of every eight people who need treatment have access to the necessary services. The countries recognize the importance of addressing this situation and taking action to implement the 2030 Agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals. Dr. Alfonzo discussed how PAHO's Strategy and Plan of Action on Psychoactive Substance Use and Public Health addresses these issues. Touching on current challenges, he underlined that achieving the goal of health for all, dealing with the particular needs of people with substance use disorders, since they face more significant health risks, including physical and mental comorbidity, added to social disadvantage and discrimination.

## Comments by delegations

**United States:** congratulated the presenters on their comments on including public health in the area of prevention, treatment and recovery, to ensure greater integration of demand reduction initiatives into the public health sector. The United States delegation invited OAS member states to join the International Society of Substance Use Professionals (ISSUP) and register for self-paced online courses that cover the contents of the Universal Treatment Curriculum (UTC).

### 15. **Panel 5: Strengthening Gender Equality in Law Enforcement and the Inter-American Program for Strengthening Gender Equality in Counterdrug Law Enforcement Agencies (GENLEA)**

**Moderator: Terrance Fountain, Director of the National Anti-Drug Secretariat, Ministry of National Security, The Bahamas**

In his introduction to the panel, Mr. Fountain stressed the importance of using a human rights and gender approach to the drug problem, as set out in the OAS Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its Plan of Action 2021-2025. He referred specifically to the Inter-American Program for Strengthening Gender Equality in Counterdrug Law Enforcement Agencies (GENLEA) as an important CICAD initiative to help OAS member states to strengthen gender equality in their counterdrug agencies to build their capacity to combat drug trafficking.

#### **Panelists:**

**a. Vaughn Charlton, Director General, Action, Innovation and Modernization, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Canada (CICAD/doc.2647/21)**

Ms. Vaughn Charlton described the Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) tool, which is used by Canadian security agencies to strengthen gender equality. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) uses it to identify possible barriers that applicants may face in staff recruitment procedures, and in the design of police facilities. She said that Canada recognizes the category of third gender, and that the RCMP took a number of actions on the matter, such as adapting the manual on uniforms going from a binary approach to an approach that allows the officers to choose the uniform that best suits their needs and preferences. The results of the GBA+ include having helped promote changes to enhance staff morale, and having set up more efficient and effective multidisciplinary teams. In closing, she described some of the good practices of the GBA+, including sensitization and training (an on-line course is available on the GBA+ tool), and the designation of a Gender Focal Point, the responsibilities of which include ensuring that the outcomes of the tool are taken into account in decision-making at the highest levels of the institution.

**b. María Esther Isoardi, Coordinator, Institutional Liaison and Training, National Directorate of Gender Policies, Ministry of Security, Argentina (CICAD/doc.2648/21)**

Ms. María Esther Isoardi discussed the progress that the police and security forces in Argentina are making to enhance gender equality, in coordination with the Ministry for Women, Gender and Diversity. She said that since the passage of the Micaela Law (2019), training exercises have been

conducted on gender and rights in all security sector agencies. She said that 2021 marks the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Comprehensive Gender Centers in the National Gendarmerie, the Naval Prefecture, the Federal Police, and the Airport Security Police. To commemorate the anniversary, an Institutional Strengthening Plan is being developed, along with an assessment and a document on good practices. Ms. Isoardi said that the forces' gender focal points are receiving ongoing training. She added that a "café of focal points" had been created: it is an online space for discussion and sharing of information involving more than one thousand people. She also said that a Federal Task Force had been created on Security, Gender and Diversity to encourage dialogue and cooperation among the security portfolios in the provinces and at the Federal level that specialize in gender and diversity issues. In closing, she said that a program had been rolled out on masculinity, and that co-responsibility for child care is being encouraged, and action is being taken to help women in the security forces develop in their professional careers.

**c. Yorleny Ferreto, Chief, Office on Gender and Access to Justice, Judicial Branch, Costa Rica (CICAD/doc.2649/21)**

Ms. Ferreto discussed the Judicial Investigation Agency, which since 2016 has had a Unit on Gender and Access to Justice, 27 percent of whose staff are female (39 of them are in senior positions). She said that a gender assessment or audit had been conducted, a plan of action had been developed, and training provided: these were all good practices being carried out within the agency to prevent sexual harassment. She also discussed some actions that are being taken to achieve a balance among male and female personnel, such as recruitment policies, the purchase of bulletproof vests designed for women, as well as policies for pregnant and lactating officers. In the future, she said that training will continue to be provided, and gender sensitization will be conducted. Female leadership will continue to be promoted, as well as the promotion of women to more senior command positions.

**d. Kerly De Los Ángeles León Alfaro, Chief, Office of Gender Equality and Equity, Ministry of Public Security, Costa Rica (CICAD/doc.2649/21)**

Ms. Kerly De Los Ángeles discussed the actions that Costa Rica's Ministry of Public Security had taken to enhance gender equality. These included: the Policy on Gender Equality and Equity, training exercises on the issue, the creation of a protocol against sexual harassment, policies on pregnancy and lactation, as well as adjustments to the equipment, infrastructure, and uniforms of female staff. She said that the GENLEA Manual had been extremely useful to the Ministry, and that ever since it had been published, a non-sexist language guide had been developed, and a group of female police mentors had been formed. A checklist had been developed and for the first time, Ministry offices were reporting their progress in the area of gender. She said that work was currently going forward on an action plan in the framework of the GENLEA program. It calls for a number of training events on gender issues, sensitization campaigns, and the holding of a National Congress on Gender Equality in the Police Agencies of Costa Rica.

**Comments by delegations**

**Paraguay:** Said it was important to share experiences and good practices in the region to strengthen gender equality in counterdrug agencies. She thanked CICAD and the GENLEA Program for the work they had done and were doing in this area.



**Jamaica:** Spoke of the progress that her country had made in the area of gender equality, and said that although a woman had been appointed for the first time as head of the Jamaica Defense Force (she will take up her post in 2022), although they are still struggling with the under-representation of women in the security sector.

**United States:** Said that a strategy and plan had been developed in recent years, and that these documents had been very helpful in implementing the Law on Women, Peace and Security, which had been adopted in 2017. Its goals included giving priority to bringing women on board into the country's security agencies. She also referred to the recently-created National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality, which emphasizes the importance of the participation of women in the military and the police, as one of the factors that helps improve their effectiveness. In closing, she thanked the speakers, and said again that she was interested in continuing to work closely with other countries in the region on this important issue.

## **16. Strengthening Production Chains and Commercialization of Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development Products**

### **Introduction: María Cecilia Rozas Ponce de León, Director of Drug Control, Office of Multilateral and Global Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Relations of Peru**

Ambassador Rozas stressed that it was important to take into account good practices and strategies to strengthen the commercialization of sustainable alternative development products. She said Peru, as chair of the Group of Experts on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development (GEDAIS) organized discussions, with the support of the Executive Secretariat of CICAD, on strengthening the commercialization of alternative products as a strategy for improving the economic situation of vulnerable groups. She commented on the strategies, such as the designation of origin, that had been developed in order to be able to establish alternative development products in international and national markets. She ratified Peru's commitment to fighting drugs, from the point of view particularly of alternative development as a defense of vulnerable groups.

### **Panelists:**

- a. Mauricio Campos, Coordinator of the Technical Team of the Office on Illicit Crop Substitution, Agency of Territorial Renovation, Colombia (CICAD/doc.2651/21)**

Mr. Campos began by introducing the National Comprehensive Substitution Program (PNIS), which came about as the result of the signing of the agreement between the Government of Colombia and the FARC guerillas. He said that the PNIS is operating in 14 of Colombia's 32 departments, and that a total of 99,907 families are registered with the program. Ninety-eight percent of them have achieved substitution of their crops, and have eradicated 45,002 hectares of illicit crops under the present government. With regard to alternative development, he said that in addition to the United Nations Multi-Donor Trust Fund, other entities, both public and private, have been key in this area. In order to market and sell alternative development products, the goal is to build capacities in the community, and some tools had been offered to them. He said that the goals of the program are to enter into 600 commercial partnerships, obtain health registration for 10 businesses, certify 500 agricultural holdings, have 20 businesses operating with trained personnel, conduct interventions in a total of 20



towns, conduct two field schools for each line of production, train 400 producers in commercial and business practices, and support the development of a brand for 10 agro-industrial products. He said that the PNIS has different lines of production in seven departments in the country. He said that the next steps in the program include strengthening businesses, building business models and consolidating the technical components and business management capacities. He said that the second project, *Colombia Sustituye* (Colombia Substitutes), has three models for the eradication of illicit crops: payments for environmental services, replacing crops with lawfulness, and formalization of substitution.

**b. José Isla Zevallos, Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development Specialist, Technical Directorate, National Commission for Development and Life without Drugs (DEVIDA), Peru (CICAD/doc.2640/21)**

Mr. Isla discussed how Peru had started developing alternative products in areas where coca is grown. The two most important products here are cacao and coffee, production of which had increased recently, but they have been impacted by a drop in demand. He said that strengthening production chains in Peru focuses on strengthening the production infrastructure, certification, the post-harvest process, and the design of packaging, and marketing. He said that the program offers products such as land titling, and the financing of innovative projects, among other things. He said that one of the current certifications is designation of origin, which has the advantage of ensuring assurance of quality assurance, food safety, and product excellence. He also explained that in certifying the quality of the aroma and flavors of the coffee, baristas and tasters are trained to ensure the necessary quality, such that some Peruvian brands have won international awards. Efforts are being made to promote the fair-trade seal, and the goal is to have that seal associated with the alternative development seal of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). He closed by saying that one of the challenges that countries are facing is to promote consumption of alternative products as a business strategy.

**c. M.L. Dispanadda Diskul, Chief Executive Officer, Mae Fah Luang Foundation under Royal Patronage, Thailand (CICAD/doc.2631/21)**

Mr. Diskul began by saying that, 30 years ago, the Doitung region in Thailand was barren land, with problems of deforestation and the presence of drug trafficking groups. He said that thanks to the Mae Fah Luang Foundation, changes had been made in people and communities using a three-pronged model: survival, sufficiency, and sustainability. The project has five businesses in Doitung: foodstuffs, coffee shops, handicrafts, horticulture, and tourism. He said that 60 percent of total expenditure goes directly to employing local people, and that profits go back to the community in the form of scholarships and support for local businesses. He said that Doitung has focused on building a “brand” with different high-quality products and creating experiences that are based on local customs. He discussed some of the efforts being made to give added value to the products, to make them socially responsible and innovative, which has enabled them to enter different cities and countries in Asia. Environmental issues had been addressed, with efforts to reduce the carbon footprint, the increased use of renewable energy, and the manufacturing of upcycling products in the circular economy. He said that in the future, they intend to upscale their initiatives to urban development in communities affected by the sales of synthetic drugs. He noted the peer-to-peer consultations with partners around the world.

**Comments by delegations**

**United States:** The delegate appreciated the efforts being made in different countries to develop alternative crops. He said that illicit crops in the Andean region continue to be a problem for

the United States, but that the country maintains its commitment to support crop substitution. said the delegate added that a better outcome might be achieved by approaching alternative development in a holistic way, adding that better results might be achieved by working on citizen security, strengthening governance, adequate financing, land titling, and particularly enhancing digital connectivity. He noted the work of DEVIDA in Peru, and the high-level dialogue with Colombia. He said that the Government of the United States, with its *Build Back Better* initiative, continues to be committed to alternative development.

## **17. Panel 6: Wastewater Studies as a Tool for Estimating Drug Consumption**

**Moderator: Ronald Chase, Chair, Subcommittee on Projects and Finances, National Substance Abuse Council, Barbados**

Mr. Chase highlighted in his introduction that the studies analyzing drugs in wastewater are performed by means of chemical analyses that are able to detect the metabolites of particular substances. He added that the studies are relatively low cost, and can detect substances by geographical area and by main trends.

### **Panelists:**

**a. Viviane Yargeau, Professor and Chair, Department of Chemical Engineering, McGill University, Canada (CICAD/doc.2616)**

Professor Yargeau said that wastewater-based drug epidemiology differs from conventional approaches to obtaining information about drug use in a population, such as general population studies, toxicology analysis of individual samples, and data on drug seizures. She explained that in 2008, a group of Italian researchers for the first time used a method to analyze drug metabolites excreted in wastewater. This made it possible to detect a number of drugs, including opioids such as fentanyl and New Psychoactive Substances. In this Hemisphere, studies of this type have been conducted in Barbados, Canada, and Mexico, among other countries. She said that the method has been shown to be a very sensitive one: for example, it was found that methamphetamine use rises on the weekend in certain cities. It had also been possible to compare the results of wastewater analyses with the data published by UNODC in the World Drug Report, with similar results, thus confirming the reliability of the method. She said that the method was helpful in allowing for collaboration between researchers from several countries, allowing for comparison of data when comparable methodologies are used. She concluded by saying that the method is sensitive in determining trends, and offers the possibility of obtaining information by geographical area. It is a fast, non-invasive approach that avoids under-reporting, and allows monitoring of emerging drugs.

**b. Leticia Keuroglan, National Drug Board, Uruguay (CICAD/doc.2613/21)**

Ms. Keuroglan noted that this area of research in Uruguay forms part of the work done by the country's Drug Early Warning System. She said that the first such study, called "Synthetic Trips," was conducted in 2015. The study sought to find out more about the use of synthetic drugs in the country using different approaches, including an ethnographic approach, as well as the analysis of samples of drugs provided by users. She said that in the period prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, between 2015 and 2020, the number of rave parties in Uruguay increased, which added to the international context of

the surge in synthetic drugs, led to the need to investigate the situation further using the wastewater analysis method, which can detect new substances and those where the rate of use is low. Wastewater studies were conducted in Uruguay in 2016, 2017, and 2019 thanks to an agreement with the School of Chemistry of the University of the Republic, with financing from the Uruguayan National Drug Board. She explained that 25-28 samples were collected for each study, each of which represented a pool of five people on average. The analyses showed very large and diverse amounts of drugs found at most of the rave parties, such as NSPs, opioids, ketamine, LSD, and amphetamine-type stimulants. Some of these substances were identified in Uruguay for the first time thanks to studies of this type. She concluded by saying that the wastewater studies had alerted the emergency services to the possible presence of psychoactive substances that pose a risk to health. These studies produce new information by detecting drugs that other research has not revealed, thus complementing epidemiological surveillance of drugs.

**c. Copytzy Cruz, Professor/Researcher, Autonomous Metropolitan University of Mexico ((CICAD/doc.2632/21)**

Ms. Cruz explained wastewater-based epidemiology, and the challenges involved in setting up a drug monitoring system. This is a method different from the traditional systems of drug monitoring such as surveys, data on seizures, and overdose deaths. The method has had success internationally, as with the Spanish wastewater network, and the program to monitor wastewater in Australia. She noted that the first experience in Mexico was in 2015, with a pilot project to identify and quantify drugs using unique samples in prisons and schools, among other places. She said that it was found that cannabis and cocaine were the drugs most frequently used, even in schools. Amphetamine and methamphetamine were also detected. In a 2017 study conducted with the support of CONADIC and financing from INL, drugs were monitored in 15 cities in Mexico. A wide variety of drugs were identified, including amphetamine-type stimulants, cocaine, cannabis, and even fentanyl and acetylmorphine. This study was able to geo-reference drug use, and it was found that substance use is greater in the north of the country, in the cities of Tijuana and San Luis Río Colorado. Higher rates of substance use were found on the weekend. She concluded by saying that wastewater analysis is easy to implement, it can set up a continuous drug monitoring system, and assists with early warning systems. She said that its main limitations and challenges include the fact that it is not yet possible to differentiate between medical use and illicit use, or to pinpoint the origins of the wastewater, to find out whether it comes from residential homes or from businesses or industry.

**d. Andre Noor, Head of Sector – Trends and Analysis, Public Health Unit, European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) (CICAD/doc.2633/21)**

Mr. Noor said that the method of analyzing drugs in wastewater is one out of several indicators used to monitor drugs in the countries of the European Union, but it is very widely used given the increasing numbers of drugs on the market, including New Psychoactive Substances. He explained that every indicator has its strengths and its limitations. For example, surveys are not available to the entire population, and the analysis of the survey data may take some time. It can be determined from an examination of syringes which drug a particular person is using, but that information cannot be generalized. He said that wastewater analysis is a method of determining the concentration of drug metabolites that are excreted by the body. Like all back-calculation methods, the results are not always accurate, but they are constantly improving and can obtain a complete chemical picture of the substances used. He explained that this method cannot be used to determine the prevalence of the use

of different drugs; nor can it yield national data, only city data, but it has the advantage of being a relatively cheap method. This method has been used, for example, to detect an increase in the use of methamphetamines in a number of countries in the European Union. It also found increased cocaine use following the lockdown period set in place because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The limitations include the fact that it cannot be determined whether the increase in drugs in a city under study is due to the fact that more people are using them or whether the same people are using a greater variety of drugs. Specialized equipment and personnel are also required. He concluded by saying that in Europe, the average cost of analysis is approximately 200 Euros per sample.

**18. Panel 7: Alternatives to Incarceration for Drug-Related Offenses: Treatment Under Court Supervision, Therapeutic Justice, Gender in the Criminal Justice System**

**Moderator: Jeffrey Zinsmeister, Institutional Strengthening Unit, Executive Secretariat of CICAD**

Mr. Zinsmeister thanked everyone present for their interest in the topic, expressed appreciation to the panelists for their participation in the panel, and noted the engagement with alternatives to incarceration of their respective member states more generally. He expressed the CICAD Executive Secretariat's appreciation for the donor support it has received to provide technical assistance for alternative to incarceration initiatives throughout the region, and the positive changes that this assistance had helped catalyze.

**Introduction: Heide Fulton, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Western Hemisphere Programs, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, Department of State, United States**

Ms. Fulton thanked the delegates for attending the session, and for the opportunity to make a presentation. She began by underscoring the importance of emphasizing substance use treatment and mental health throughout all phases of criminal proceedings, and in the wide variety of alternatives to incarceration programs that are under way, including drug treatment courts, conflict resolution teams, and social integration programs that help prevent future involvement with the judicial system by people who have substance use and/or mental health disorders. She said it was important to have in place evidence-based treatment programs in the community. She said that the United States is proud to support the OAS, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the Colombo Plan as they focus on treatment for people with substance use disorders.

**Panelists:**

- a. **Gerardo Rubén Alfaro Vargas, Magistrate, Third Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice. National Coordinator of the Program for Drug Treatment Under Judicial Supervision, Costa Rica (CICAD/doc.2642/21)**

Judge Vargas said he was grateful for the opportunity to share the case of Costa Rica with its program of drug treatment under court supervision (PTDJ). He said that Costa Rica has a strong democratic tradition of human rights, and that the drug treatment program is part of this history. The program began in 2013 in San José, and starting in 2019 it expanded to become national with the new judicial code. The PTDJ may be used as a pre-trial suspension or as an alternative to sentencing. The

person receives therapy for drug and alcohol addiction if the crime is related to drug use and a proactive course of behavior is established. The victim, the offender, and the community participate as volunteers to help in the process. They currently have 120 active cases, 74 graduations, and only 17 withdrawals. The main goal is recovery and return to the family and the community. Future actions include: 1) Achieve full expansion nation-wide; 2) training; 3) completing the study of gender in alternatives to incarceration, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the impact.

**b. Crescencio Jiménez Núñez, Head, Justice System Support Unit, Secretariat of the Interior (SEGOB), Mexico (CICAD/doc.2646/21)**

Dr. Núñez shared his report on the therapeutic justice program. The institutionalization of therapeutic justice as public policy coincided with the constitutional reform of 2008, and the 2011 human rights reforms. The National Development Plan takes a new people-centered approach. They are seeking to implement the therapeutic justice program in 22 Federal entities, with the support of the Secretariat of the Interior (SEGOB) and the National Commission against the Addictions of the Secretariat of Health, as well as other Mexican agencies and the Executive Secretariat of CICAD. The experience in Durango, Chihuahua, Morelos, Nuevo León and the State of Mexico has been that these programs are applied to crimes such as non-violent property offenses, family violence, and even simple possession. Therapeutic justice is used in a number of different procedural practices, such as compensation agreements, the suspension of the proceedings, and when the alternative sentence is being executed, in an effort to reduce recidivism. He thanked CICAD for the technical assistance it had provided, and its support in developing guidelines for nation-wide implementation of the program. He reported that a protocol for on-line care is being developed, and another one on the use of biological testing, and they are exploring a mechanism to expand the execution of the sentence. Four hundred and fifty-nine professionals are now being trained virtually, with support from CICAD. An in-person workshop will be held in December 2021 to reinforce the online program for the employees of the multidisciplinary teams. He reiterated the commitment to continue to support implementation and consolidation of the therapeutic justice program in Mexico.

**c. Terrence Walton, Chief Operating Officer, National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP), United States (CICAD/doc.2650/21)**

Mr. Walton said that the NADCP is a U.S.-based nongovernmental organization that implements programs for people involved in the criminal justice system as the result of mental disorders, substance use or similar conditions. He gave a presentation on alternatives to incarceration for men, women, and young people in such a situation, and discussed how decisions are made about the type of treatment and the type of court supervision needed to ensure the security and wellbeing of the person and the community. He stressed the importance of assessing risk factors, and reviewing the nature of the crime, the needs of the person involved, and his or her treatment. He said that if the program is used as a pretrial proceeding, it is best not to speak of culpability or innocence, but rather about how to help the persons. In order to decide on the extent of intervention and supervision, it is important to assess the risk, the possibility of offending, and the capacity to respond. Mr. Walton introduced the risk quadrant model as a tool to help the community and develop options for people at different levels of intervention. Risk assessment is one of the first steps that should be followed when determining which alternatives to be offered.

**19. Panel 8: Good Practices in Social and Work Integration in the Americas for Drug-Related Offenders: The Case Care Management Model (CCM)**

**Moderator: Viviana Boza, Deputy Minister of Justice of Costa Rica**

Deputy Minister Boza welcomed the three panelists. Following their remarks, she discussed some of the elements of the social insertion model used in the judicial system in Costa Rica, and underscored three of the basic elements that the various models presented had in common: inter-agency coordination, a people-centered approach, and public-private partnerships. She asked the panelists a few questions, and then offered the floor to delegates for their comments.

**Panelists:**

**a. Kenya Scarlett Romero Severino, Presiding Judge of the Seventh Court of Instruction and Interim Coordinator of Courts of Instruction in the National District, Dominican Republic**

Judge Romero began by saying that implementing alternatives to incarceration for drug-dependent offenders requires a paradigm shift to a more humanized or humane justice, focused not merely on the act itself, but on the individuals. The model program of treatment under court supervision in the Dominican Republic began as a pilot program in 2013, and is currently in an expansion phase. On the question of social integration, Judge Romero said that some of the challenges include low levels of education, and the social stigma attached to people in trouble with the law. She remarked that in order to overcome these challenges and provide the individuals with the appropriate support, coordinated multidisciplinary, inter-agency work is needed, bringing together the court system and the health and social systems, together with a significant sensitization effort. She spoke of the importance of technical and professional training and the role of public-private partnerships in facilitating the social and work integration of offenders. In closing, Judge Romero said it was important that the diversion of people with drug use disorders to alternatives to incarceration become an established policy of the judicial system.

**b. Marcela Ponce, Advisor, Drug Treatment Court Section, National Office for the Prevention and Rehabilitation of Drug and Alcohol Use (SENDA), Chile (CICAD/doc.2653/21)**

Ms. Ponce presented Chile's experience with the social integration of offenders with drug use disorders. She explained that since 2004, Chile has had an extensive program of drug treatment courts for adults, and had been one of the pioneers in the region on the subject. But it was only in 2017 that a program been set up for adolescents. Regarding the social integration model, she stressed the central role of the psycho-social teams as case managers who are responsible for organizing the necessary coordination between the legal, health, and social services. The process begins with an assessment of the individual's needs, and on that basis, an individualized intervention plan is drawn up. This plan is updated as the person makes progress. In the case of adolescents, educational needs are paid particular attention, since many of the younger participants are significantly behind in school. In response to a question about good practices used in Chile, Ms. Ponce highlighted the work of the inter-agency working groups. She said that the frequency of the meetings and the fact that these working groups have the support of the most senior officers of the agencies, were two key elements that helped them respond effectively and in a coordinated way to the need for the people participating in the drug treatment court programs to return to society.

**c. Sintra Maharaj, Chief Probation Officer, Ministry of National Security, Trinidad and Tobago (CICAD/doc.2645/21)**

Ms. Maharaj presented the experience of Trinidad and Tobago in setting up a Case Care Management model, or CCM, as the first Caribbean country to do so. She explained the various stages of the process of implementation since 2019 until the pilot project was launched in September 2021, which included: training for the agencies involved, both governmental and nongovernmental, analysis of the regulatory framework, selection of the agency that would coordinate the services, identification of a Multisectoral Oversight Team, preparation of an operations manual and mapping of services, selection and training of operating teams, and development of a monitoring and evaluation system. She said that the project is now at the point of identifying users, and that a mentoring component is being developed. Ms. Maharaj stressed that one of the basic elements in ensuring the success of this type of initiative is raising the awareness of the interested parties, particularly the authorities, whose support and buy-in had been key to the experience in Trinidad and Tobago. In closing, she thanked the Executive Secretariat of CICAD and the INL Bureau of the United States Department of State for their support for this initiative.

**Comments by delegations**

**United States:** The delegate thanked the three countries for their presentations, and also thanked the CICAD Executive Secretariat for its leadership in this area. She said that the Case Care Management model is used in the United States as one of a variety of alternatives to incarceration programs in order to deal with the immediate recovery needs of offenders with drug use disorders, using a public health approach. She stressed the importance of monitoring and evaluation, and the need to gather data in order to design and implement evidence-based alternatives to incarceration.

**Jamaica:** The Jamaican delegate thanked the panelists and recalled that Jamaica had been the first country in the Caribbean to set up a drug treatment court with the passage of the Drug Court Act in 1999. He said that key to this process had been inter-agency cooperation, with the signature of a memorandum of understanding among the agencies involved. He then asked two questions: the first was addressed to the panelist from the Dominican Republic on the challenges of managing the expectations of the stakeholders involved, particularly the victims. His second question was to the panelist from Trinidad and Tobago, on the results of the pilot project on case care management.

Judge Romero replied that under the new paradigm of justice and alternatives to incarceration, the victim is seen as a party or subject, and care is taken to ensure that he or she participates and has a full understanding of the process.

With regard to the results of the case care management project, Ms. Maharaj responded that the pilot program had begun only in September, and that therefore no data exist on re-offending, but added these data would be requested from the Prison Service.

**20. CICAD Executive Secretariat Work Plan 2022 (CICAD/doc.2609/21)**

**Presenter: Ambassador Adam E. Namm, Executive Secretary, CICAD**

Ambassador Namm summarized the work that each unit of the Executive Secretariat of CICAD plans to carry out during 2022. He submitted this work plan to CICAD for consideration and approval.

## Comments by delegations

**United States:** The delegate congratulated the Executive Secretariat of CICAD on the work it had accomplished given the challenging situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and thanked Ambassador Namm for his presentation of the work plan. The delegate then said that the United States supported the plan and highlighted the Institutional Strengthening Unit's program providing technical assistance to support and strengthen the development of national drug plans. The delegate said that the U.S. supported a comprehensive array of drug demand reduction activities, especially prevention among youth, promotion of evidence-based treatment practices, and the implementation of evidence-based standards. The delegate noted the importance of alternatives to incarceration programming like training, technical support, and evaluation, and said that the United States is pleased with the emphasis that the Executive Secretariat of CICAD is placing on supply reduction activities, especially those relating to precursor chemicals and new pharmaceutical products. The delegate noted the OID Early Warning Systems as a remarkable activity in the area. In closing, he voiced the United States' strong support for the MEM and its reports, and noted the challenges in applying technical assistance in times of pandemic. He thanked the Executive Secretariat for adapting its programs to the virtual format, and concluded by affirming the United States' support of the work plan.

**Mexico:** The delegate communicated their thanks for and recognized the work of the Executive Secretariat of CICAD. The delegate reaffirmed Mexico's commitment to CICAD's work, particularly that of the MEM and the peer evaluation system, noted how it has benefitted from that work. The delegate concluded by affirming Mexico's support of the 2022 work plan.

**Spain:** The delegate recognized Latin America and the Caribbean as areas of priority for both cooperation and a source of lessons learned and good practices. The delegate then noted Spain's drug plan and its recognition as a benchmark for Europe. The delegate commented on the need to improve national drug observatories as well as drug information systems, particularly through technical and financial support to these and other programs in Latin America and the Caribbean. In closing, the delegate congratulated CICAD on its work, and looked forward to further cooperation between Spain and CICAD.

## Decisions

The Commission approved the work plan of the Executive Secretariat of CICAD for 2022 (CICAD/doc.2609/21).

## 21. Remarks by OAS permanent observers and by international, regional, and civil society organizations accredited to the OAS

### a. Russian Federation (CICAD/doc.2652/21)

The delegate of the Russian Federation thanked the various agencies for addressing the drug problem in the midst of the pandemic. He said that this crisis has seen an increase in drug trafficking, which has adapted to the new circumstances. He thanked Colombia for its success in its counter-drug operations. He highlighted a seminar that Russia had held in Managua, Nicaragua on September 16, and the port training events with countries of Latin America in December 2021. He said that the omnibus resolution in the United Nations General Assembly was important in developing a



comprehensive, coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He said that at the next meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Russia would present new technologies for combatting drug trafficking. He stated his country's support for the establishment of a stable government in Afghanistan, given that the drug trafficking risk had risen exponentially in that country, requiring a timely response by the various states. He concluded by saying that the Russian Federation is preparing for the meeting of the Paris cooperation group, to be held in December, with the goal of stopping drug trafficking.

**b. Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe**

The Secretary General of the Pompidou Group, Mr. Denis Huber, said he appreciated the opportunity to participate in CICAD 70. An agreement had just been signed extending the cooperation between the Pompidou Group and CICAD. He noted the work plan presented by the Executive Secretary of CICAD for 2022, and the possibilities for cooperation between the two agencies in a number of areas, including addressing maritime narcotrafficking. He said that the Pompidou Group wishes to strengthen cooperation among the two agencies, as well as the partnership between the Americas and Europe, and hoped that it could be expanded once the current health crisis allows.

**c. PAHO (CICAD/doc.2654/21)**

The PAHO representative discussed the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on the drug problem, and that it had made it more difficult to provide better health services and increased the burden of disease. He said that PAHO, like other agencies, had had to adjust its normal work practices, had increased its tele-work, while experiencing a cut in funding. He said that the drug issue had adapted to the current circumstances and had become diversified. He referred to the disinformation campaigns, and said that the drug-using population continued to be invisible, and the possibilities of care for them were being compromised. He stressed that PAHO will continue to work to bring universal health to all people. This effort is strengthened by its cooperation with CICAD, UNODC, COPOLAD and the Colombo Plan, and other international organizations. He confirmed PAHO's commitment to UNGASS, and its ongoing cooperative partnership with CICAD.

**d. RIA Institute (CICAD/doc.2655/21)**

The speaker discussed the good practices implemented in the area of regulation of the drug market, as in Uruguay, Canada, and 10 states in the United States. He said that Uruguay has been regulating cannabis since 2013, resulting in safer use, and had set up a national regulatory agency. He said that this model makes it possible to find out where the drug came from, making for safer use. He said that Canada had implemented similar regulations and that as a result, more than four hundred people had been released from prison, thus improving people's quality of life. He also said that studies in the United States had shown that drug regulation had enabled incarceration rates to be reduced, and that use of cannabis, particularly by young people, had not increased. He said that in Mexico, arbitrary detentions for drug possession are frequent, and suggested that regulation might improve the situation. He concluded with an overall criticism of punitive drug control policies, and indicated that decriminalization of drugs is moving forward in some countries, all of which also helps reduce discrimination.

**e. Dianova International (CICAD/doc.2656/21)**

The representative discussed the strategic alliances that Dianova International Uruguay had entered into in a public-private effort to address the drug problem. She said that currently, nine health programs are being implemented in a number of the country's departments. She highlighted the work of the Chanaes Center, which is a level III public residential center, which addresses dual diagnosis/pathology from a human rights perspective. She also spoke of the work of the *Aleros* program, the goal of which is to improve the quality of life of people with problem drug use, and make it easier for them to have access to other facilities in the treatment and care network. She said that both programs are excellent examples of good practices in public/private cooperation. She concluded by saying that civil society organizations make fundamental contributions to the implementation of drug policies, and stressed their role as strategic partners of government agencies.

**f. International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care (CICAD/doc.2615/21)**

The representative said it was important the drug policies take into account that the general population needs to have access to medicines that are controlled because they can be abused. She cited the opioid crisis as an example: it has restricted access to a large number of analgesic medications that are essential to pain management. She said that in Colombia, 67 percent of patients do not have access to fentanyl for the treatment of pain, and she therefore called on the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNODC to revise their joint declaration so as to allow for access to medication for palliative care.

**g. Group of Argentine Women (GMAF) – HIV Forum Women and Families (CICAD/doc.2641/21)**

The representative explained that the GMAF seeks dialogue in order to develop effective public policies and prevent discrimination, emphasizing the need for the commitment of all and the use of good practices. She said that there are networks that use vulnerable people to traffic drugs, people who are then convicted for drug trafficking. She said that drug users are also discriminated against inside prisons. She urged drug regulation, and that support be given to people who grow crops for their personal use. She concluded by saying that the human rights of all people must be defended, without discrimination of any kind.

**h. Global Life Safety Alliance (GLSA)**

The representative said that his foundation was founded in the United States to foster innovation and share experiences. He stressed the importance that should be given to safety in all areas and in communities, and that it was important that all agencies coordinate with civil society. He said that drug use is a pandemic and should be treated as such. He stressed the importance of government and private sector commitment to civil society, in a full value chain to strengthen all of the efforts being made.

**i. Latin American Federation of Therapeutic Communities (FLACT)**

The representative began by saying that he appreciated the link with CICAD and the working being done together with the Demand Reduction Unit. He noted that FLACT includes 15 countries in Latin America, where FLACT works with people who have difficulty accessing treatment for drug use. He said that the focus of FLACT's work is quality, human rights, and scientific evidence. He reported that a refresher course on good practices is being conducted for therapeutic communities, together with CICAD, and shared with therapeutic communities in Latin America. He reported that a number of on-

line training seminars had been organized together with RIOD, providing the work teams with new experiences, and developing the coordination needed to develop effective policies for treating the population. He concluded by saying that FLACT's relationship with CICAD is essential, and impacting drug policies with strategic partnerships between the public sector and civil society organizations.

**j. Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)**

The representative said that her agency's objective is to promote drug policies that are centered on human rights. She said that prohibition-based drug policies had been counterproductive, inasmuch as drug use, drug production, and drug supply have proliferated throughout the region in the past fifty years. She added that the pandemic is having a negative impact on prisoners in particular, and rural populations had become more isolated as a result of the lockdowns. This has placed indigenous communities at greater risk, since they are more exposed to exploitation by drug traffickers. She urged CICAD to work to reform repressive policies based on ethical principles, increasing policies on alternatives to incarceration using a public health approach, expanding the number and quality of services, chiefly in the areas of treatment and rehabilitation. She concluded by saying it was essential that OAS member states continue and expand their dialogue with civil society.

**22. Seventy-first regular session of CICAD**

On behalf of the chair of CICAD and the delegation of Costa Rica, Ambassador Alejandra Solano, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the OAS, thanked all the delegations for their participation and contributions to the session. Ambassador Solano referred to the decisions of the Commission at its sixty-sixth regular session held in Miami, Florida in November, 2019, which determined that a four-day high-level regular session of the Commission would be held in the autumn of each year, generally in November, with the Commissioners physically present, and another regular session lasting for one day, to be attended by the permanent missions accredited to the OAS, to be held in the spring of each year, generally in April or May, in order to approve the text of the resolution that would be submitted to the OAS General Assembly, as well as to approve the annual report of CICAD for the previous year. In line with those decisions, Costa Rica as chair of CICAD, would shortly set a firm date for the regular session to be held in the first quarter of the year, depending on the dates of the fifty-second regular session of the General Assembly.

**Closing remarks**

**Chair of CICAD:** The chair summarized the activities and the main topics discussed during the seventieth regular session of CICAD, and thanked the member states for their participation. He also thanked the OAS technical staff, as well as Executive Secretary Adam Namm, and the staff of the Executive Secretariat of CICAD for their support in holding the session.

**CICAD Executive Secretariat: Ambassador** Adam Namm thanked Costa Rica for having organized the seventieth regular session of CICAD, and wished the new chair a successful year ahead.

**Uruguay:** Thanked CICAD for having organized a fruitful session. The delegate expressed Uruguay's commitment to implement the OAS Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs.

**Chair of CICAD:** Costa Rica thanked Uruguay for its comment, and adjourned the seventieth regular session of CICAD.

## II. DECISIONS

The Commission adopted the following decisions:

1. The Commission approved the draft agenda (CICAD/doc.2593/21) and the draft schedule of activities (CICAD/doc.2594/21 rev. 1 corr. 1) without amendment.
2. Pursuant to Articles 22 and 23 of the Statute, the Commission elected Costa Rica to chair CICAD for the period 2021-2022, and Paraguay to serve as Vice Chair for the same period.
3. The Commission approved the report of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction (CICAD/doc.2606/21). The Commission approved the candidacy of Mexico (CICAD/doc.2598/21) to serve as Chair of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction for the 2021-2022 term of office, and also approved the candidacy of Panama (CICAD/doc.2626/21) to serve as Vice Chair of the Group of Experts for the same period.
4. The Commission approved the report of the Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking (CICAD/doc.2607/21). It also approved the candidacy of Peru (CICAD/doc.2601/21) to hold the chair of the Group of Experts for the 2021-2022 term of office. The Commission also approved the candidacy of El Salvador (CICAD/doc.2602/21) to serve as Vice Chair for the same period.
5. The Commission approved the report of the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products (CICAD/doc.2608/21). The Commission also approved the candidacy of Guatemala (CICAD/doc.2605/21) for election as Chair of the Group of Experts for the 2021-2022 term of office, and also approved the candidacy of Ecuador (CICAD/doc.2617/21) to serve as Vice Chair of the Group of Experts for the same period.
6. The Commission approved the report of the Group of Experts on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development (CICAD/doc.2611/21). No member state presented its candidacy to chair or vice chair the group. Interested countries were asked to send a note to the Executive Secretariat of CICAD and to the CICAD chair so that interest in chairing or vice chairing the group could be submitted to the Commission for consideration.
7. The Commission approved the report of the Chair of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)'s Inter-Governmental Working Group (IWG), as well as the questionnaires and evaluator manuals for the evaluations of the eighth round of the MEM to take place in 2022 (Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking and Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their Causes and Consequences) and in 2023

(Institutional Strengthening; Research, Information, Monitoring and Evaluation; and International Cooperation) (CICAD/doc.2603/21 and annexes I, II, III and IV).

8. The Commission approved the report of the General Coordinator of the MEM's Governmental Expert Group (GEG) (CICAD/doc.2604/21), and also the national thematic evaluation reports of the eighth MEM round on Measures of Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Support (CICAD/doc.2600/21).
  
9. The Commission approved the work plan of the Executive Secretariat of CICAD for 2022 (CICAD/doc.2609/21).

### III. PARTICIPANTS

#### 1. CICAD member states

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, and Uruguay.

#### 2. Permanent Observers

Russian Federation, Spain, Thailand

#### 3. Specialized International and Regional Organizations

Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, INTERPOL, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), CARICOM Secretariat.

#### 4. Civil Society

Instituto RIA, Intercambios Asociación Civil, Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), Dianova International, Asociación Cuidados Paliativos de Colombia (ASPCUPAC), Advocacy Focal Point Colombia (IAHPC), Global Life Safety Alliance, Federación Latinoamericana de Comunidades Terapéuticas (FLACT), Fundación Nuevas Oportunidades, McGill University, Canada, National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) Forjando Futuro para Todos, Grupo de Mujeres de la Argentina Foro de VIH Mujeres y Familia, Instituto sobre Alcoholismo y Farmacodependencia (IAFA), Kevoy Community Development Institute and Red Iberoamericana de ONG que Trabajan en Drogas y Adicciones (RIOD)