



**OAS | CICAD**



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

**CICAD**

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**SEVENTY-FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
**June 28, 2022**  
**Virtual meeting, 10:00 - 14:00h (Washington D.C. time)**

**OEA/Ser.L/XIV.1.71**  
**CICAD/doc.2663/22rev1**  
**16 August 2022**  
**Original: Spanish/English**

**FINAL REPORT**

## I. BACKGROUND

The Statute of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), at Article 21, stipulates that the Commission shall hold two regular sessions per year, one to address general matters, the other to address specific technical topics determined by the Commission or such other matters that require its special attention. The Statute also envisages holding special sessions whenever the Commission 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.

In accordance with Article 21 of the aforementioned Statute and in view of the current circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the seventy-first regular session of this Commission was held virtually on June 28, 2022.

This report provides a summary of 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. Inaugural session

#### Speakers:

#### a) Adam E. Namm, Executive Secretary, CICAD (CICAD/doc.2661/22)

Ambassador Namm welcomed attendees and noted that the 2022 eighth round evaluation of "Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their Causes and Consequences" within the framework of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism is underway. Similarly, he noted that the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs had been updating quantitative data for CICAD's Executive Secretariat Report on Drug Supply in the Americas, and highlighted that the OID has trained over 700 people on topics related to early warning systems in the region so far this year.

The Executive Secretary referred to CICAD's Supply Reduction Unit's meeting on aerial drug trafficking control for Spanish-speaking member states noting that a future meeting is planned for English-speaking states for the second half of 2022. He noted the International Society of Substance Use Professionals conference in May 2022 in Abu Dhabi, which was supported by CICAD's Demand Reduction Unit, and highlighted the continued training on monitoring and evaluation of national drug strategies and plans of action, as well as the implementation of an evaluation of alternatives to incarceration with an emphasis on gender carried out by CICAD's Institutional Strengthening Unit.

Ambassador Namm conveyed that three of CICAD's four experts' groups plan to meet in person during the second half of 2022 and invited any member state with interest in chairing the Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development Experts Group to present its candidacy for election at CICAD 72. The CICAD Executive Secretary underscored strengthening cooperation with international organizations, OAS permanent observers, and civil society. In that same spirit, he recognized the United Nations' International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, and concluded by recognizing current donors and welcoming new and future partnerships. Ambassador Namm expressed his thanks to Costa Rica for chairing CICAD during 2022 and thanked Paraguay in its capacity as vice chair.

**b) Luis Fernando Lima Oliveira, Secretary, Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS/OAS) (document CICAD/doc.2662/22)**

Secretary Luis Fernando Lima Oliveira welcomed member states and introduced himself as the new OAS Secretary for Multidimensional Security. The Secretary complimented countries for their constant commitment to the multilateralism required for a tangential and transnational issue such as the drug problem. The Secretary reiterated that the security of people must remain a priority and that, despite the considerable advances made in recent years, there are still many challenges facing the region.

Secretary Oliveira stressed the importance of the commitment agreed to by member states through the OAS Hemispheric Drug Strategy and the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2021- 2025, where countries commit, through concrete actions, to prioritize a public health approach, protect human rights, promote evidence-based policies, continue working hand in hand with civil society, as well as safeguarding and promoting gender perspective in drug policy.

Secretary Oliveira closed by thanking member states for their institutional commitment and collaboration and acknowledging the financial support of all donors. He also thanked CICAD's Executive Secretary, Ambassador Adam Namm, and his entire team for their commitment to ensuring security in our hemisphere.

**c) Sergio Rodríguez Fernández, CICAD Chair, Executive Director, Costa Rican Institute on Drugs (ICD)**

Mr. Sergio Rodríguez Fernández, in his capacity as Chair of CICAD, extended a greeting to all the delegations of member states, permanent observers, international organizations and civil society, as well as to the CICAD Vice-chair, Minister Zully Rolón, Executive Secretary of the *Secretaria Nacional Antidrogas* (SENAD) of Paraguay.

He stated that Costa Rica was pleased to chair this CICAD session, and recognized the commitment of all member states towards making the region safer by forming a common bloc against organized crime and the drug problem. He thanked the CICAD Executive Secretariat for its support and leadership, as well as those accompanying this process from Costa Rica.

## **2. Adoption of the draft agenda and the draft schedule of activities**

The Commission adopted the draft agenda (CICAD/doc.2557/22) and the draft schedule of activities (CICAD/doc.2658/22corr.1) without amendment.

## **3. Presentation of the draft 2021 CICAD Annual Report (document CICAD/doc. 2659/22 rev. 1)**

Angela Crowdy, CICAD's Assistant Executive Secretary, presented the draft 2021 annual report of CICAD, noting that it had been prepared by the CICAD Executive Secretariat. This report includes work undertaken by CICAD units and includes CICAD's regular sessions held in 2021: CICAD 69 and CICAD 70, as well as a financial chapter. The draft report was sent to the delegations on June 3, and comments were received through June 17. Three annotations were received from member states: Colombia, Mexico and Paraguay, which were incorporated in the text of the report and the final revised version was sent to member states on June 23.

The Chair presented the draft 2021 Annual Report (document CICAD/doc. 2659/22 rev.1) for approval by the Commission.

### **Comments by delegations**

**Canada** - The delegation expressed its appreciation to the Chair, Vice Chair, Commissioners, and the Executive Secretariat of CICAD. Canada referred to the collective work carried out during the pandemic and stated that it was a priority for its delegation to continue to support the OAS. The delegation also noted Canada's participation over the last two years as Chair of the Intergovernmental Working Group of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (IWG/MEM). Finally, the delegate noted that Canada was currently financing five projects with 7.5 million Canadian dollars.

**Chile** - The delegation took note of the report adopted and expressed its appreciation. The delegation highlighted the work of the CICAD Executive Secretariat and of the Chair. The delegate highlighted the problem posed by drug use and its consequences and said that addressing drug trafficking was a top priority for this member state. The delegation noted that all CICAD units had mainstreamed a gender perspective in all their activities. This delegation also proposed that CICAD's report be transformed into a citizen-friendly document highlighting the drug-related challenges facing the region. It also highlighted the collaborative work carried out in Chile thanks to CICAD and other countries.

**Mexico** - The delegation supported adoption of the annual report and expressed its satisfaction with the results of the collaboration that the CICAD Executive Secretariat had provided to Mexico. The delegation highlighted the strengthening of the Mexican Drug Observatory and the second stage of the therapeutic justice consolidation program. It thanked the U.S. government for specific funds to implement the aforementioned projects. Mexico also underscored the value of CICAD's Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism for all OAS member states. To conclude, the delegate stated that Mexico supported the work of CICAD, both politically and financially.

## Decisions

The Commission adopted the draft 2021 Annual Report, (document CICAD/doc.2659/22 rev.1).

### 4. Presentation of the draft resolution for the fifty-second regular session of the OAS General Assembly (CICAD/doc. 2660/22)

Mr. Sergio Rodríguez Fernández, Director General of the Costa Rican Institute on Drugs and Chair of CICAD, presented to the Commission, for its approval, the draft CICAD paragraphs for the resolution, "Promotion of Hemispheric Security: A Multidimensional Approach" of the OAS General Assembly (CICAD/doc.2660/22).

The Chair thanked the member states for their comments. However, he pointed out that, after the deadline for sending final comments, new texts had been received from the delegations of Chile, Mexico, and the United States regarding paragraphs 2, 3 and 5. In this regard, the Chair proposed reaching consensus in the plenary and approving paragraphs 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, given that no additional comments had been received on those paragraphs, and, in line with the approach adopted for CICAD 69 in 2021, to leave paragraphs 2, 3, and 5 open for consideration and approval within the framework of the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CHS).

## Comments by delegations

**United States:** The delegation of the United States expressed its agreement with leaving paragraphs 2, 3, and 5 open for consideration and approval in the framework of the CHS, but also adding paragraph 9 to that list, where the United States proposed to add a mention of the CICAD Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking. The delegation agreed with the changes proposed by Mexico to paragraph 3 but requested additional time to review the changes suggested by Mexico and Chile to paragraph 2.

**Mexico:** The Mexican delegation presented its comments on paragraphs 2 and 3, where he suggested including a mention of the public health approach and a reference to international commitments on drugs, respectively. Mexico also noted that there was sufficient time on the agenda of the session to review the observations presented.

**Chile:** The delegation of Chile presented its comment on paragraph 2, requesting the inclusion of regulatory measures establishing quality criteria for the accreditation of demand reduction programs. In addition, the country agreed with Mexico's proposal to review the observations during the session.

**Colombia:** The delegation of Colombia suggested following the agenda envisaged for the session, but proposed taking advantage of the time available on the agenda to review the observations proposed by the member states, if possible at the end of the session, projecting the resolution on screen in one language so that all member states could view it during the review process.

**Brazil:** The delegation of Brazil agreed with Colombia's proposal and expressed its agreement to proceed with the review of the Spanish or English version, despite not having a Portuguese version of the resolution at this time.

**Canada:** The delegation of Canada agreed with Mexico's suggestion to review the comments at that time, as well as with Colombia's suggestion to project one of the versions of the resolution on screen for consideration by all member states. Canada also agreed with the comments of the United States, while recommending a slight modification to the language used in paragraph 9 regarding participation in the CICAD Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking, to bring it into line with that of the previous paragraph which "encourages active participation" in the CICAD Working Group on the Control of Drug Trafficking by Air.

## Decisions

The plenary reached consensus and approved paragraphs 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10, accepting the additional comments received in the days prior to CICAD 71 from the delegations of Chile, Mexico, and the United States. Due to time constraints and lack of consensus regarding the changes suggested by Chile and Mexico to paragraph 2, in addition to the changes proposed by the United States and Canada to paragraph 9, these two paragraphs were kept open for consideration and approval in the Committee on Hemispheric Security.

## 5. Topics, dates, and venue for the seventy-second regular session of CICAD

In her capacity as Vice Chair of CICAD, Minister Secretary Zully Rolón of Paraguay congratulated Costa Rica for its work as Chair of CICAD during the 2021-2022 period and ratified her country's willingness to hold the seventy-second regular session in Paraguay from November 8 to 11 of this year. The Commissioner highlighted the importance of the first year of the eighth round of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism, which focused on demand reduction. She said its recommendations were vital for strengthening this area. She highlighted the work being carried out with the Inter-American Program to Strengthen Gender Equality in National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (GENLEA) and the Regional Counterdrug Intelligence School of the Americas (ERCAIAD) as being of special relevance. She also indicated the importance of seeking alternatives to incarceration for drug and gender offenders. Other topics mentioned included respect for human rights, integral alternative development, and the valuable technical assistance provided by the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs. Finally, she reiterated that prevention and treatment are two important issues, and that work will continue on the training of national professionals, as well as strengthening work with civil society.

The Chair of CICAD offered the floor to delegations wishing to present possible topics to be discussed at the seventy-second regular session of CICAD.

**Peru:** (Commissioner's video) Peru stressed the importance of addressing the issue of controlling riverine drug trafficking and its increased prominence. The Commissioner noted that this issue had been discussed at length at the Virtual Meeting on Riverine Drug Trafficking Control of the Expert Group on Maritime Narcotrafficking held on June 13, 2022 and mentioned the importance of continuing to address and seek solutions to the drug problem in the Hemisphere.

**Mexico:** The Mexican delegate emphasized that recent trends in the illicit availability of drugs and weapons around the world offer new evidence of the complexity of these criminal markets and the harm and challenges they pose to society, security, and the rule of law, and proposed addressing the topic of the links between illicit drug trafficking and illicit firearms trafficking.

**United States:** The delegate of the United States highlighted that according to the 2022 U.S. National Drug Control Strategy, there are five priority topics: First, expanding high impact harm reduction interventions like naloxone, drug test strips, and syringe services programs. Second, ensuring that those at highest risk of an overdose can access evidence-based treatment. Third, improving data systems and research that guide drug policy development. Fourth, obstructing and disrupting financial activities of transnational criminal organizations that manufacture and traffic illicit drugs. Fifth, reducing the supply of illicit drugs smuggled across the borders. The delegate also mentioned that the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs voted unanimously in placing international controls on three fentanyl precursors, a decision that will save lives by reducing access to these chemical precursors for criminal endeavors. Finally, the delegate informed that the U.S. will take proactive measures to address the manufacturing of synthetic drugs by preventing the diversion of uncontrolled precursor chemicals and designer precursors into illicit traffic.

**Canada:** The Canadian delegate highlighted the importance of identifying opportunities to continue engaging with civil society organizations because they provide instrumental knowledge and expertise in problematic substance use. Canada indicated that their participation helps ensure a broader perspective on key drug policy issues being discussed at CICAD.

**Peru:** The Peruvian delegation reiterated the importance of addressing the impact of the illicit drug production and trade chain on the environment and the response of States.

**Jamaica:** The Jamaican delegate supported the topic proposed by Peru and indicated the importance of continuing discussions on alternative development. Jamaica also mentioned the successful capacity building workshop on monitoring and evaluation conducted in collaboration with CICAD's Institutional Strengthening Unit. Finally, the delegate reiterated that based on local findings, there is an increase in the amount of new psychotropic substances and suggested including discussions about "Molly".

## **6. Interventions by permanent observers, international and regional organizations, and civil society organizations accredited to the OAS**

### **a) Permanent Observer Mission of Spain to the OAS**

The delegate pointed out that this year Spain commemorates 50 years as the first permanent observer country to the OAS. She also highlighted the extensive and close collaboration between Spain and the Executive Secretariat of CICAD, especially in the area of drug policy and other institutional strengthening initiatives. The delegate said that Spain is at the forefront of comprehensive drug policies and that innovations in its policy come from the grassroots work of local governments and communities. In addition, she emphasized that Spain has not only made financial contributions to the region but has also made Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) training centers in the region available to CICAD. The delegate referred to Spain's role within the framework of the EU-LAC bi-regional cooperation programme on drug policies (COPOLAD III), where it will continue to promote technical cooperation and political dialogue in order to support the region in implementing more effective drug policies with results that will, in particular, improve the lives of those in the most vulnerable circumstances. In this regard, the delegate stressed the need to develop such policies with a gender perspective and a feminist and human rights approach in a comprehensive and inclusive manner, geared towards combating stigma and promoting social inclusion.

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

The delegate thanked the OAS for the opportunity to participate in CICAD 71 and highlighted the long history of cooperation between the OAS and her organization in various areas, drug policy being one of the most notable. In addition, the delegate indicated that the presidency of the Pompidou Group expresses its solidarity with Ukraine, its newest member state. In this context, she also pointed to the negative effect of the Russia-Ukraine war on drug policy, not only because of the interruption of access to treatment services, but also because of the growing number of post-traumatic stress-related disorders due to the armed conflict and the change in the modus operandi in drug production and trafficking. The delegate reported that this year the Pompidou Group was finalizing its four-year work program under the presidency of Portugal and that the new work program will be adopted at its eighteenth ministerial conference to be held on December 13-14 in Lisbon, to which CICAD had been invited. Finally, the delegate reported on joint activities of CICAD and the Pompidou Group, including the conference entitled "From Stigma to Dignity" to be held in Ottawa, Canada on October 25-26, 2022, in coordination with the United Nations and the Government of Canada.

**c) INTERPOL**

The delegate highlighted that transnational illicit drug trafficking remains a significant threat as one of the only crime areas that connects every country in the world. He noted that 2021 saw record levels of cocaine seized in Latin America, Europe and West Africa, over 100,000 overdose deaths in North America related to synthetic opioids, and a significant increase of methamphetamine and heroin seizures in and around Southwest Asia. In this context, he reiterated that INTERPOL will continue to work with member countries to identify emerging threats, new drugs of abuse and the ever-changing trafficking routes used by criminal organizations to smuggle drugs around the globe. Likewise, it will continue to leverage its law enforcement capabilities in partnership with member countries. Lastly, the delegate emphasized that INTERPOL acts as a hub for trusted actionable information and analysis. In this context, he shared examples of several systems and data analysis tools, with the purpose of enhancing global security by helping law enforcement agencies extend their reach and target criminals across the globe more effectively.

**d) International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care**

The delegate highlighted the importance of including, in CICAD's 2021-2025 Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs, the objective of ensuring adequate availability and accessibility of internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion for illicit purposes, in accordance with the international drug control treaties. She also emphasized inequality in the Hemisphere regarding access to medicines for pain relief and the mitigation of other symptoms. The delegate stressed that the response to the opioid crisis in the United States and Canada had affected other countries, further reducing their limited access to these drugs. Finally, the delegate shared the experiences of countries such as Costa Rica, Colombia, Mexico, and Argentina regarding access to pain management drugs.

**7. Closing remarks**

Mr. Rodríguez Fernández closed the event by thanking the CICAD Executive Secretariat for its constant support, under the leadership of Ambassador Adam Namm and Angela Crowdy. He also



thanked all delegations for their flexibility, patience, and understanding of the agreements reached today. Mr. Rodríguez Fernández thanked Minister Secretary Zully Rolón for her remarks in which she shared her vision for the seventy-second regular session of CICAD, which will be held in Asuncion, Paraguay, in November of this year. Mr. Rodríguez Fernández extended his thanks to the member states, international organizations, missions and Permanent Observers and civil society representatives, as well as to all those who participated in the session, including the team representing Costa Rica, Ambassador Alejandra Solano, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the OAS and her entire team, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Costa Rica for their support. The session was declared closed, with an appeal for continuity in the joint fight against the transnational drug phenomenon.

### **III. DECISIONS**

The Commission made the following decisions:

1. Adoption of the Draft Agenda (CICAD/doc.2557/22)
2. Adoption of the Draft Schedule of Activities (CICAD/doc.2658/22corr.1).
3. Approval of the draft 2021 CICAD Annual Report (document CICAD/doc.2659/22 rev.1).
4. Approval of paragraphs 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10 of the draft resolution for the fifty-second regular session of the OAS General Assembly (CICAD/doc. 2660/22). Paragraphs 2 and 9 remain open for discussion and approval by the Committee on Hemispheric Security.

### **IV. PARTICIPANTS**

#### **1. CICAD Member States**

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, The Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States.

#### **2. Permanent Observers**

Spain, Morocco.

#### **3. International and Regional Organizations**

Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF), Colombo Plan, INTERPOL, Pompidou Group.

#### **4. Civil society organizations**

International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care, Industrial Unit Iztapalapa, AC