



**OAS | CICAD**

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

**CICAD**

**SEVENTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
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Washington, D.C.**

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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 the other to address specific technical issues the Commission may identify or other matters requiring its special attention. The Statute also provides that the Commission shall hold special sessions when 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 hold a regular high-level in-person session of the Commissioners in the fall (the second half of each calendar year, usually in November) for four days, and a one-day OAS permanent mission-based meeting in the spring (first half of each calendar year, usually in April or May) to approve the language of the CICAD resolution for the OAS General Assembly and to approve the CICAD Annual Report for the previous calendar year.

In accordance with Article 20 of the Statute, the seventy-second regular session was held on November 8–11, 2022, in Washington, D.C.

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

## II. MINUTES

### 1. Opening Remarks

#### Speakers:

**a. Fernando Ramírez Serrano, Director, Costa Rican Drug Institute (ICD) Costa Rica - Chair of CICAD (CICAD/doc. 2708/22)**

Mr. Ramirez Serrano began by welcoming all participants to the opening session and greeting the head table. Mr. Ramirez Serrano highlighted how, since its establishment in 1986, CICAD and its Executive Secretariat have responded to constant and evolving challenges related to the drug problem, as well as its efforts to promote regional cooperation and coordination among member states. He continued his intervention by summarizing the actions that Costa Rica has carried out as Chair of CICAD for the 2021-2022 period and concluded by thanking the member states and the CICAD Executive Secretariat for their support in achieving the objectives set during that period.

**b. Adam E. Namm, Executive Secretary CICAD/OAS (CICAD/doc.2714/22)**

Ambassador Namm welcomed participants to the seventy-second regular session and thanked Costa Rica for its service as CICAD Chair over the past year, as well CICAD Vice-Chair, Paraguay, for working closely with the Executive Secretariat of CICAD (ES-CICAD) on organizing this session. He presented highlights of the session's agenda and of ES-CICAD's work in 2022 in the different areas of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its Plan of Action. He underscored the presentation, during this regular session, of the national evaluation reports on drug supply from the Eighth Evaluation Round of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) and indicated that the 2023 evaluation process would focus on the areas of institutional

strengthening, international cooperation and research, information, monitoring and evaluation. He also noted the upcoming release of Report on Drug Supply in the Americas 2022 by CICAD's Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID), as well as the OID's work on national and regional early warning systems and on various drug-related research topics.

Ambassador Namm highlighted the Institutional Strengthening Unit's work in supporting member states on national drug strategies and plans of action, alternatives to incarceration for adult and juvenile populations, and comprehensive and sustainable alternative development. In terms of demand reduction, he emphasized the assistance provided to member states in addressing stigma, training-of-trainers on prevention and treatment, support to global forums, and the mapping exercise of Caribbean drug demand reduction agencies. The CICAD Executive Secretary also reported on the Supply Reduction Unit's continued work in regional counterintelligence training, the roundtables and meetings held on precursor chemicals and aerial drug trafficking control, as well as technical assistance provided as part of the second phase of the Gender in Law Enforcement Agencies (GENLEA) project. Ambassador Namm mentioned that three of CICAD's experts' groups had met in 2022 and thanked the groups' respective Chairs and Vice-Chairs. Lastly, he called for strengthening cooperation with international organizations, permanent observer countries, and civil society. Ambassador Namm closed by expressing his gratitude to donors and wishing participants a productive regular session.

**c. Luis Oliveira, Secretary, Secretariat for Multidimensional Security/OAS (CICAD/doc.2713/22)**

Secretary Luis Fernando Lima Oliveira welcomed the member states and began his speech by referring to the words of OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro during the General Assembly in Peru, on the importance of respecting and promoting every right of every person and that we owe our people the right to live in peace and security. The Secretary emphasized that the search for security for our citizens necessarily involves prioritizing the multiple problems related to drugs, such as corruption, impunity, violence, and human rights violations. He mentioned the importance of multilateralism in the search for common objectives, of conflict resolution, and of pursuit of concrete solutions to this issue.

The Secretary stressed the importance of the commitment of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, and of the OAS General Secretariat as a whole, to continue assisting and providing the necessary inputs to facilitate the adoption of measures and guidelines by the OAS political decision-making bodies for matters of security and defense. He emphasized that interventions should be guided by the protection of human rights, the promotion of public health approaches, and the need for evidence-based policies. That multilateralism must protect and promote the strengthening of the democratic institutions of the states, of their capacities, and of their relationships with civil society. Secretary Oliveira closed his speech by thanking the countries for their commitment and institutional collaboration, as well as thanking all donors and member states for their financial support. He also thanked the Executive Secretary of CICAD, Ambassador Adam Namm, and his entire team for their constant dedication and daily efforts.

**d. Zully Rolón Esquivel, Minister Secretary, SENAD, Paraguay - Vice-Chair of CICAD (CICAD/doc.2701/22)**

Minister Rolón began by welcoming the national drug commissioners, participating delegations, and the members of the opening table. She thanked the commissioners for supporting the CICAD Vice-Chair, which has accompanied Costa Rica in the work period that is coming to a close. Minister Rolón emphasized the importance of the issues that have arisen recently in addressing the drug problem, and the need for countries to continue working on strategic elements to strengthen each area, with emphasis on individuals

with addiction problems. She concluded her remarks by thanking the Permanent Mission of Paraguay to the OAS, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay, her team, the Assistant Executive Secretary of CICAD, Angela Crowdy, and especially Ambassador Adam Namm, Executive Secretary of CICAD, for all their support.

**e. Luis Almagro, Secretary General, Organization of American States (CICAD/doc.2712/22)**

Secretary Almagro thanked the Government of Paraguay for its collaboration with the Executive Secretariat of CICAD in organizing the seventy-second regular session and its commitment as candidate for the Chair of the Commission. The Secretary recalled the seventy-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly, where it was mentioned that drug trafficking affects both, producer and transit countries, as well as the economy, society, politics, and security. The Secretary emphasized the diversity of the region, including the way in which public policies against drugs are designed and implemented. He stressed that the drug problem must be approached in a differentiated and flexible manner. He reflected on four key messages: to seek respect for human rights, environmental protection, civil society participation, and the inclusion of a gender perspective in policies.

He recalled that the drug problem continues to pose threats to democracy and stability in the Hemisphere, and that it is necessary to continue working to defend public health and social inclusion approaches. The Secretary also noted that never before have so many civil society actors been incorporated into the OAS and asked that [the OAS] continue to listen to what civil society has to say. He concluded his speech by calling for continued work on building evidence to advance human rights, public health, security, and development.

**2. Adoption of the Draft Agenda (CICAD/doc.2666/22) and Draft Schedule of Activities (CICAD/doc.2667/22)**

The Commission approved the draft agenda (CICAD/doc.2666/22corr.1) and the draft schedule of activities (CICAD/doc.2667/22.rev1.Corr.1) without modifications.

**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 Paraguay and Uruguay by acclamation to serve, respectively, as Chair and Vice-Chair of CICAD for the period 2022-2023.

**Observations:**

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

Ambassador Namm thanked Costa Rica for its important leadership as 2021-2022 Chair and presented a gift from the SE-CICAD in recognition of Costa Rica's work.

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

### **Zully Rolón, Minister of the National Anti-Drug Secretariat (SENAD), Paraguay**

Minister Rolón thanked Secretary Oliveira and Ambassador Namm, OAS permanent missions and CICAD commissioners for electing Paraguay as CICAD Chair. She extended congratulations to Costa Rica for its excellent work and congratulated Uruguay for having been elected Vice-Chair.

She informed the Commission that the President of the Republic of Paraguay, Mr. Mario Abdo Benítez, has as one of his main lines of effort the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime. These problems represent great national and transnational challenges. She also commented that several issues have arisen in addition to the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime, including recovery from the aftermath of the pandemic and its consequences on mental health, as well as the impact of marijuana cultivation on the environment, and therefore countries must work in a coordinated manner to address these needs and challenges. She also highlighted the importance of continuing to develop concrete actions that promote recovery for persons with problematic drug use and those deprived of liberty, and the importance of evidence-based interventions and treatment. She indicated that the important thing is to continue working together in the search for solutions for the Hemisphere. The Minister concluded by thanking Ambassador Namm and the CICAD team for their work during a difficult period.

## **5. Remarks by the new Vice-Chair of CICAD**

### **Dr. Daniel Radío Presta, Secretary General of the National Drug Board (Junta Nacional de Drogas, JND)**

Dr. Radío thanked Secretary Luis Oliveira, Minister Rolón, and those present for Uruguay's ~~his~~ election as CICAD Vice-Chair. He commented that consumption pathologies continue to be a problem in these times, that the time in which we live is increasingly fragile, which is why societies continue creating toxic attachments to substances and other elements such as gambling, cell phones, and social media. He reflected on the efforts and resources invested for a century in the fight against drugs, and that we must accept that drugs will always exist and that we must live with this struggle: "We cannot close our eyes to this problem, we must act intelligently." He also indicated that as a community we have a duty to design social and health interventions to work on risk and protection factors, seeking to mitigate the consequences and effects of substances on people. He also stressed the need to work on specific actions aimed at families, which play a central role in the recovery of people with problematic drug use. Lastly, he pointed out that it is necessary to start from the premise that every person has an interest in preserving his or her well-being and integrity, and that therefore it is necessary to provide humane and dignified treatment and promote the return of affected persons to society, based on the universal recognition that the world is a valuable place. He appealed that we must continue to formulate appropriate responses.

## **6. Presentation of reports and election of 2022-2023 officers for the CICAD**

### **a) Report of the Expert Group on Demand Reduction (CICAD/doc.2687/22) and election of the Chair for 2022-2023.**

**Mexico:**

Mexico, as Chair of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction, delivered a summary of the Group's activities in 2022, with the accompaniment of the Vice-Chair of Panama and the CICAD Demand Reduction Unit. Three working groups were conducted with experts from national commissions to exchange recommendations for the development of the document "Recommendations for the implementation of drug demand reduction programs with an emphasis on addressing mental health", taking into consideration national experiences. Subgroup One addressed health promotion, drug use prevention, and early detection programs, with the participation of 13 member states. In Subgroup Two, 14 member states discussed treatment and rehabilitation programs. Lastly, Subgroup Three addressed initiatives and measures aimed at minimizing the adverse consequences due to the consumption of psychoactive substances, with 12 member states participating. More than ten contributions from the experts who participated in these meetings were included in the final version of the document. On October 18 and 19, the XXIII Meeting of the CICAD Group of Experts on Demand Reduction was held virtually. This meeting was attended by 24 delegations from member states, in addition to governmental and independent experts and regional and international organizations, who developed a work agenda comprising the Chair, the Vice-Chair of Panama, and the Demand Reduction Unit of CICAD to consider issues of interest to the region. Also, on October 31 of this year, the aforementioned Recommendations document was sent to CICAD's Demand Reduction Unit, for final review, editing, approval, dissemination and circulation among member states. Finally, he thanked member states for their support and contributions to Mexico's work and offered his best wishes to the Chair of Panama and the Vice-Chair of Brazil.

## **Decisions**

The Commission approved the report of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction (CICAD/doc.2687/22). The Commission also approved the candidacy of Panama (CICAD/doc.2598/21) to serve as Chair of the Group of Experts for the period 2022-2023. The Commission also approved the candidacy of Brazil (CICAD/doc.2670/22) 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.2689/22) and election of the Chair for the 2022-2023 period.**

### **Peru**

As Chair of the Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking, Peru indicated that the following activities had been conducted during its term: Virtual Meeting of the Group of Experts on the Control of Drug Trafficking by Rivers in June 2022, which was attended by 120 participants from various drug control agencies from 21 OAS member states. On that occasion, important contributions were made and information was exchanged for the formulation of effective and innovative responses to meet the emerging challenges of this form of drug trafficking, which is of growing concern to member states. Subsequently, in coordination with the National Commission for Development and Life without Drugs (DEVIDA) and the Peruvian Navy, the Expert Group Meeting on Maritime Drug Trafficking was held in Lima, Peru from September 20-22, 2022. This was the first meeting to be held in person since 2019 and was attended by 69 experts, from 17 OAS member states, five OAS permanent observers and four international and regional organizations.

As established in the program of activities, the presentations and discussions focused on the following topics: regional overview of illicit drug trafficking in the Americas; roundtable on evolving and emerging threats and challenges in illicit drug trafficking by river and maritime transport; best practices to strengthen anti-drug port security; measures to control cocaine trafficking to European markets; Cooperation Agreement for the Suppression of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in the

Caribbean (Treaty of San Jose, 2003); regional initiatives to counter maritime and port drug trafficking; strategies to strengthen maritime and port security; and strategies to strengthen maritime security in the Caribbean. The countries emphasized the importance of training anti-drug agency personnel, the use of technological tools, as well as inter-agency and regional cooperation and information exchange, including the strengthening of joint investigations and operations. Finally, emphasis was placed on the importance of multilateral anti-drug maritime interdiction operations and international regulations that facilitate cooperation in this area. The Chair expressed its gratitude for the trust placed in Peru to lead the Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking for the period 2021-2022.

### **Decisions**

The Commission approved the report of the Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking (CICAD/doc.2689/22). The Commission also approved the candidacy of El Salvador (CICAD/doc.2665/22) to serve as Chair of the Group of Experts for the period 2022-2023. The Commission also approved the candidacy of Guatemala (CICAD/doc.2678/22) to serve as Vice-Chair of the Group of Experts for the same period.

### **c) Report of the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products (CICAD/doc.2688/22) and election of the Chair for 2022-2023.**

#### **Guatemala**

As Chair of the Group of Experts on Chemicals and Pharmaceutical Products, Guatemala informed that during the seventieth regular session of CICAD, held virtually from November 16-19, 2021, the Commission elected Guatemala and Ecuador to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively for 2022, and that an in-person meeting had been held in Guatemala City from October 12 to 14, 2022. The meeting was attended by more than 35 experts from 16 member states, one OAS permanent observer, and representatives from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Cooperation Program between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drug Policy (COPOLAD). The main objective of the meeting was to provide a forum for the exchange of information and best practices on the control of precursor chemicals among OAS member states. Experiences and reference tools were presented so that countries can use them as support material to strengthen their regulatory and control frameworks in this area. Experiences were shared on the following topics: trends in the illicit manufacture and trafficking of synthetic drugs, such as fentanyl, MDMA/MDA and methamphetamine; new trends in the illicit production, manufacture, and trafficking of cocaine; national strategies and approaches to improve control of non-controlled substances used in the illicit manufacture of drugs; and the safe handling and final disposal of seized precursor chemicals. A technical visit was also made to the chemical disposal and elimination center, the “Precursor Complex”, located in the municipality of San José del Golfo. Finally, the Chair mentioned its continued willingness to support the work of this group of experts in the future.

### **Decisions**

The Commission approved the report of the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products (CICAD/doc.2688/22). The Commission also approved the candidacy of Ecuador (CICAD/doc.2679/22) to serve as Chair of the Group of Experts for the period 2022-2023. The Commission also approved the candidacy of Brazil (CICAD/doc.2673/22) to serve as Vice-Chair of the Group of Experts for the same period.

**d) Group of Experts on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development (CICAD/doc.2668/22) election of the Chair for 2022-2023.**

**Decisions**

The Commission approved the candidacy of Peru (CICAD/doc.2668/22) to serve as Chair of the Group of Experts on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development for the period 2022-2023.

**7. Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) - Report of the General Coordinator of the Governmental Expert Group (GEG) (CICAD/doc.2677/22) and presentation/approval of the thematic national evaluation reports of the eighth round of the MEM on Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking and Distribution of Drugs and to Address Their Causes and Consequences (CICAD/doc.2676/22).**

**Presenter: Carmen Batres, GEG General Coordinator, Coordinator of the Substance Control Area, Executive Directorate of the National Anti-Drug Commission (CNA), El Salvador**

Ms. Batres, in her capacity as GEG General Coordinator, gave an account of the work carried out by this group during 2022, during which an evaluation was made of the area of Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and Distribution of Drugs and to Address their Causes and Consequences. In this regard, the speaker explained that the GEG held two plenary meetings to analyze and evaluate the information submitted by the member states through the evaluation questionnaire and through comments to the first draft of the report, and ultimately submitted the national evaluation reports for consideration and approval by the member states.

**Decisions**

The Commission approved the Report of the General Coordinator of the GEG (CICAD/doc.2677/22) and the thematic national evaluation reports 2022 of the eighth round of the MEM on Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and Distribution of Drugs and to Address Their Causes and Consequences (CICAD/doc.2676/22).

**8. Panel 1: Tools and mechanisms for the development of drug strategies and plans of action**

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

Mr. Croft introduced the panel by congratulating the new Chair (Paraguay) and Vice-Chair (Uruguay) of CICAD and highlighted the relevance of this discussion as there are several countries currently either developing new or updating existing national drug strategies. He noted that Antigua and Barbuda's policy will expire in 2023 with plans for drafting the 2024-2028 drug strategy in January 2023. He complimented CICAD's support for these activities with both capacity building sessions and the new manual for developing a national drug policy. He made mention of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) workshop that took place in Jamaica earlier this year for English-speaking Caribbean countries.



**Panelists:****a. Karen Segura Fernández, Chief of Planning Unit, Costa Rican Institute on Drugs (ICD, by its Spanish-language acronym), Costa Rica**

Ms. Segura Fernandez noted the complexity of developing a balanced and effective drug strategy and action plan. She emphasized that an effective plan should incorporate viable, feasible, and measurable tools. Countries are encouraged to start by establishing the current drug situation. She highlighted the importance of aligning priorities with other national and international, legal, and policy frameworks, including the CICAD Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its 2021-2025 Plan of Action. She also mentioned that it was important to move beyond supply and demand, and include broader social and economic issues that impact the drug problem, and include the cross cutting issues of gender and human rights. She stressed the importance of identifying issues that could be implemented using existing legal frameworks and a strong M&E strategy so that the long-term implications and value to society would be maintained beyond electoral cycles. She closed by emphasizing the importance of M&E as well as budgetary sustainability to ensure the strategy is embedded as part of other national strategies, thereby ensuring its success.

As a follow-up to her presentation, Mr. Edward Croft enquired how Costa Rica had ensured there were adequate resources for the strategy. Ms. Segura Fernandez advised that Costa Rica has legislative and executive decrees that provide for funding from drug seizures to finance the various activities in the strategy. Additionally, high level officials, as well as a wide cross section of stakeholders from various government institutions with responsibility for drug control, are involved in planning and are also mandated to allocate funding for their activities.

**b. Elisa Cabrera, Coordinator of the Monitoring and Evaluation Section, National Secretariat on Drugs, Uruguay**

Ms. Cabrera outlined the scope of work undertaken by the National Secretariat on Drugs as a coordinating entity for drug-related policy. She advised that the Secretariat falls under the office of the President, and in the national budget it has “stand alone” funding for prevention programs. She explained that funding for the 2021-2025 strategy was approved in 2021, and that the Secretariat reports on its spending annually. She stressed the importance of updating the previous strategy, by setting out government’s strategic objectives in alignment with the existing legal framework and including consultation with regional authorities and other stakeholders. She also highlighted the need for an external evaluation of the strategy, by incorporating evidence from Uruguay’s Drug Observatory. This helped shape the new strategy and establish objectives in alignment with the CICAD Hemispheric Drug Strategy, anchoring the new strategy around the core values of gender, human rights, transparency, and evidence-based decision-making. Ms. Cabrera then explained that annually, planning begins with the financial presentations by all institutions, in alignment with the identified strategic objectives. She highlighted Uruguay’s planning software tool (SIGES), which supports the overall policy planning process. The tool offers a mechanism to link objectives and indicators, as well as the budget and sources of funding required to implement them with those accountable for delivery. She offered the system as a potential tool to support the planning process in other CICAD member states. She closed by reinforcing the need for all programs to be developed in consultation with key partners and to allocate adequate resources for successful implementation.

**c. Napoleón Núñez Almanzar, National Drug Council (CND, by its Spanish-language acronym), Dominican Republic**

Mr. Núñez thanked participants for the opportunity to present the mechanisms being used in the Dominican Republic to plan a national drug strategy in line with international standards. He focused on the importance of planners managing “policy bilingualism” referring to the ability of policy planners to effectively communicate the relevance of national drug policies and objectives by translating technical language into a narrative that would allow for buy-in from politicians and other high level decision makers. He focused his presentation on highlighting a demand reduction prevention initiative that utilized an existing program in high schools to reach persons across the country. A policy of the education system requires students 16 and 19 to undertake social action programs. The National Drug Council, through a training partnership with the Ministry of Education, has tasked these 310,000 students in local communities to address prevention. By training these trainers and young people, the National Drug Council has multiplied the effects of the prevention program. This enhances the policy’s reach across the country, targeting specific groups, and directly impacting the students and their communities.

**d. James Singh, Head of the Customs Anti-Narcotics Unit, Guyana**

Mr. Singh started by congratulating CICAD’s new Chair and Co-chair and thanked the Executive Secretariat for its continued support on the development of Guyana’s drug policy. He explained that Guyana’s strategic approach is to balance health and security, and noted that like other countries, Guyana’s strategy is designed to address the country’s current drug situation, taking into account international frameworks but also the country’s cultural norms. Consequently, there is a need to include, as part of the planning process, how the drug problem impacts a diverse cross section of society, including indigenous populations. As with the other speakers, he stressed the need to consider perspectives from a range of government and non-government stakeholders, and noted that this dialogue is supported by evidence from institutions like the drug information networks (observatories). He noted that information from the Drug Information Network is shared broadly and used by stakeholders to target interventions such as training, education, and law enforcement using an empirical basis. This cross-sectional multiagency approach is built on transparency and sharing pertinent information to avoid operating in silos. He outlined the comprehensive thematic areas of the Plan and noted that it assessed the drug situation through the lens of the individual, family, and communities. This ensures that outreach is conducted and communicated to all target groups, including indigenous populations, students and those at risk. Mr. Singh also stressed the need for the incorporation of tobacco and alcohol use in the strategy, and highlighted the fact that the policy acknowledges drug treatment courts as alternatives to incarceration, which provide counselling and community services. This prevents exposure of persons with minor infractions, to more serious criminals thereby exacerbating the risks of escalation in criminal activity. Collectively, these programs contribute to a safer Guyana. He concluded by stressing that Guyana is committed to implementing its plan and not just having a document.

The moderator highlighted the relevance of Guyana’s multidimensional and multi-agency approach to addressing the drug problem.

**e. Christine Kourtides, Senior Analyst, International Relations and Supply Reduction Office, Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), USA**

Ms. Kourtides thanked CICAD for its support on drug-related issues across the Hemisphere. She highlighted how addressing drug addiction is a key priority for the United States (US) given current trends of drug use through substances like methamphetamines and cocaine, particularly in communities that lack effective prevention programs. In response to this challenge, she highlighted the launch in April 2022 of a national drug strategy to steer the federal government’s efforts to address the problem. Ms. Kourtides provided an overview of the institutional history that led to the current strategy as well as efforts through the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) which was tasked in 2018 to work with other U.S.

departments and agencies to develop national drug control budgets; establish quantifiable objectives, targets and corresponding indicators to establish a national drug strategy based on a clear understanding of the existing drug problem. This resulted in a strategy that included seven main goals and quantifiable objectives and targets using a baseline of 2022. She offered some examples of demand and supply reduction targets, such as reducing overdose deaths by 13% by 2025. In developing the 2022 strategy, consultations occurred with over 200,000 stakeholders including foreign partners, states, congress, drug policy advocates, academia and others, as key contributors to shaping the final strategy. She advised that implementation began immediately after the launch in April, including commitments to providing quarterly progress reports through a national drug control performance measuring system. This reporting mechanism enables tracking against two- and five- year targets and facilitates tracking against the strategy's long-term goals. The expectation is that this system will allow those implementing the strategy to be flexible and adjust their actions as needed to achieve these goals. She highlighted that a key element of the strategy is that it enables the ONDCP Director to conduct program and performance audits and evaluations. Ms. Kourtides closed her presentation by offering her country's support to those working on developing and implementing their national drug strategies. She also welcomed the revised MEM process which supports these efforts.

The moderator thanked her for the intervention and highlighted the relevance of strategies including measurable targets with specific timeframes to adequately track the progress of national drug strategies.

Following the last intervention, Mr. Croft concluded by reflecting on the progress made so far by various countries across the Hemisphere and invited participants to consider the situation countries would find themselves in if not for these efforts to develop and implement the policies to tackle the evolving nature of the drug problem. He also invited participants to study lessons learned from the various experiences and continue with efforts to develop and strengthen national drug policies across the Hemisphere.

### **Delegation Comments**

**Peru:** The Commissioner thanked panelists and highlighted that Peru's national drug policy is effective through 2030. He mentioned the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which impacted the organization of government's priorities as well as available funding. He also noted that despite being aligned with international standards promoted by the CICAD Hemispheric Drug Strategy, adequate allocation of funds for implementation remains a challenge, both to the agency and the stakeholders with whom they work.

## **9. Panel 2: Drug use in adolescents and young people.**

**Moderator: Cristina E. Núñez Vásquez, Specialist - National Commissioner of Drugs Secretariat of the Interinstitutional Committee on Drugs, Ministry of Public Health, Ecuador**

Ms. Núñez Vásquez opened the panel by highlighting the importance of the topic to be discussed, introduced the panelists, and established the rules for conducting the panel.

### **Panelists:**

- a. Quirino Cordeiro, Secretary of Attention and Prevention of Drugs, Ministry of Citizenship (SENAPRED, its Portuguese acronym), Brazil**

Dr. Cordeiro focused his presentation on the current state of drug use among adolescents and youth in Brazil. He presented highlights of the new drug policy and the new law on drugs, along with important

epidemiological data on the drug use situation in Brazil. Mr. Cordeiro concluded his presentation with the principal actions the Brazilian government has implemented in the areas of prevention, treatment, and social reinsertion.

**b. Nadja I. Porcell Iglesias, Coordinator of the Panamanian Drug Observatory, National Commission for the Study and Prevention of Drug-Related Crimes (CONAPRED), Panama**

Ms. Porcell's presentation centered on the results of the "Pilot Study on Drug Consumption in the University Population of Panama 2013". Ms. Porcell shared data on the prevalence of substance use in Panama in the study's target population, as well as the results related to the perception of risk of consumption, among other important findings. Ms. Porcell concluded her presentation by stressing the importance of defining drug-use policies based on scientific evidence.

**c. Betty Hunte, Manager, National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA), Barbados**

Ms. Hunte began her presentation with the history and background of the National Council on Substance Abuse of Barbados (NCSA) and went on to describe the main programs of the NCSA, whose objectives are to reduce the use and abuse of legal and illegal substances among the population of Barbados, incorporating a gender-sensitive approach. Ms. Hunte concluded her presentation by proposing several actions to ensure that the multiple problems of substance abuse are given high standing in the political agendas of the countries.

**d. Jesús William Yupanqui Franco, Technical Secretariat of the National Coordination of the Strategic Crime Prevention Program, Public Prosecutor's Office, Peru**

In his presentation, Mr. Yupanqui outlined the line of action "Restorative Juvenile Justice" the main objective of which is to contribute to the administration of juvenile criminal justice using a restorative approach. He presented the various stages of intervention followed by the stages of the action protocol for providing care to adolescents facing criminal legal trouble who have problems with substance use. To conclude his participation, Mr. Yupanqui presented the positive outcomes of the Action Line and highlighted the pending tasks of the Strategic Crime Prevention Program.

### Delegation Comments

**Vanesa Escobar, Youth Coordinator of SEDRONAR, Argentina:** Ms. Escobar requested the floor, which the Chair offered prior to advancing to the question session. Ms. Escobar began her intervention by thanking the panel for the opportunity to exchange views and consider solutions at the regional level beyond each member state. In her presentation, she highlighted the current worrisome landscape regarding alcohol consumption in Argentina because of the young age at which consumption begins. She also pointed out that those SEDRONAR serves the most are boys, girls, and teenagers, given its hundreds of national-level mechanisms that have agreements with several agencies to offer a broad support network to this population. In her intervention, Ms. Escobar also made important distinctions among the target groups, calling for thought to be given on the complexities of these problems demand complex solutions that focus on comprehensiveness and on all dimensions that affect the lives of young people without segregating them, but rather including them in the process.

**Canada:** Canada congratulated Paraguay and Uruguay for their election as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively. The Canadian delegate also thanked Costa Rica for its leadership during the past year and the CICAD Secretariat for organizing this CICAD 72 hybrid meeting. After outlining the goals of Canada's National Drug and Strategy, the delegate described the various activities associated with this strategy, such as supporting public education with resources, or funding community-based prevention programs. The

delegate also underscored the importance of improving social and economic conditions to reduce vulnerability to experience harms from substance use as well as the importance of effective evidence-based prevention and the role of the environment in which youth develop. Canada stressed its interest to continue to engage at CICAD and exchange information on this important issue.

**The Bahamas:** The Bahamian delegate began his intervention by thanking Ambassador Namm for all his work, he congratulated Costa Rica for its leadership, as well as Paraguay and Uruguay. The Bahamas took the opportunity to ask the presenter from Barbados to share more about her previous presentation, specifically regarding the sensitive topic of gender.

**Presenter: Betty Hunte, Manager, National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA), Barbados:** Ms Hunte agreed how sensitive this gender topic is and stressed that, although conscious of the international context, and considering the cultural context in which they operate, they have decided to segregate - as traditionally - by biological gender in their programs and will try to get feedback first before moving on to a different method. Moreover, the presenter mentioned that this decision was made not only due to the cultural context but also because of their current legislation which does not speak as definitely to gender as other jurisdictions. She also commented on the impact of a recent survey on gender expression and identification taken at educational institutions and how parents reacted negatively to this initiative. However, to finalize, the presenter expressed the country's interest in moving forward regarding gender as their legislation and cultural context permits.

#### **10. Panel 3: The link between illicit firearms trafficking and criminal organizations dedicated to drug trafficking.**

**Moderator: Michael Bejos, Senior Officer, Department against Transnational Organized Crime (DTCO), SMS/OAS**

Mr. Bejos introduced the panel, noting that the high level of armed violence that accompanies the illicit drug trade poses significant challenges for OAS member states. He highlighted that according to the United Nations Global Study on Homicide, the Americas continue to have the highest regional homicide rate worldwide, despite representing only 8% of the world's population. The moderator also indicated that while there have been significant government efforts to address the dual threats of firearms trafficking and illicit drug trafficking, these issues persist as major challenges to hemispheric security.

#### **Panelists:**

- a. **Óscar Ángel Talledos, Deputy Director General of National Analysis, National Center for Planning, Analysis and Information to Combat Crime (CENAPI), Criminal Investigation Agency (AIC), Attorney General's Office (FGR), Mexico.**

Mr. Talledos indicated that there is a strong correlation between illicit drug trafficking and activities related to illicit firearms trafficking. To illustrate this fact, the speaker highlighted that, through the illegal acquisition of weapons, criminal organizations increase their power and their capacity to respond violently in eventual confrontations with state forces and other rival organizations (either over control of specific areas of interest or to gain access to certain criminal markets). Mr. Talledos mentioned data on the firearms seizures in Mexico, the origins of the firearms and how they are usually trafficked. He indicated that the government of Mexico is pushing for increased dialogue in various fora and spaces of international cooperation over illicit firearms trafficking and its relationship to drug trafficking, as in the case of the

resolution approved at the 65th Session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held in March 2022, to strengthen cooperation and the response capacity of countries to this problem.

**b. Jonathan Lowy, President, Global Action on Gun Violence.**

Mr. Lowy stated that guns are the “life’s blood” of criminal drug trafficking organizations, therefore stopping the gun trafficking pipeline is essential to curtail the drug trade. Additionally, the presenter indicated that the U.S. gun industry supplies around 70% of crime guns used by the cartels in Mexico, and that responsible gun sales practices and stronger policies are needed. Mr. Lowy explained that authorities in Mexico have implemented voluntary firearm surrender schemes and weapon seizure programs in order to reduce the number of illicit firearms in circulation. However, the presenter noted that seizing their guns is not enough, and that the most effective way to stop gun trafficking is at its supply source. Mr. Lowy highlighted that Global Action on Gun Violence is counseling the Government of Mexico in its gun litigation, and that it has experts in impact litigation and policy which stand ready to work with other countries and organizations interested in stopping the supply of the criminal gun market.

**c. Rufus Ferdinand, Deputy Head of Operations, Joint Regional Communications Center, Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS).**

Mr. Ferdinand presented the link between the illicit trafficking of firearms and narcotics in the Caribbean. He referred to the high rates of homicide and violence resulting from the actions of criminal groups linked to drug trafficking. The presenter made reference to routes that are used for trafficking both arms and drug, the recent increase in violence and firepower of criminal gangs, and the problem of weapons that once belonged to law enforcement and now are in the hands of organized crime. Mr. Ferdinand mentioned how CARICOM IMPACS supports Caribbean countries in this issue and highlighted a few joint operations conducted by the anti-drug agencies of several countries in the region, in collaboration with INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization (WCO), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which led to the seizure of firearms and large quantities of narcotics and psychotropic substances.

**d. Danielle Alfonso, Project Officer, Joint Regional Communications Center, CARICOM IMPACS**

Complementing Mr. Ferdinand's presentation, Ms. Alfonso spoke of the different illicit cargo detection systems in place in the Caribbean region. These include the Integrated Regional Ballistic Information Network, the INTEPROL Ballistic Information Network, the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network, the Advance Cargo Information System, the Advance Passenger Information System, and the CARICOM Domain Awareness System. In addition, Ms. Alfonso mentioned some of the best practices of the CARICOM Domain Awareness System. Ms. Alfonso also touched on some best practices that could be implemented to strengthen cooperation between national agencies and regional and international organizations; intelligence gathering and risk-based targeting; the creation of an illicit arms and ammunition trafficking surveillance unit within the CARICOM framework; the optimization of maritime satellite surveillance technology and the technology used to track and manage firearms, as well as legislative reforms to equip countries with better legal tools to address drug trafficking and illicit arms trafficking.

### **Delegation Comments**

**The United States:** The delegate stated that the U.S. is committed to combating arms trafficking and complying with international commitments in this area and mentioned the importance of the Model Regulations for the Control of the International Movement of Firearms, Their Parts and Components, and Ammunition, developed by the OAS as a tool to counteract this problem. In addition, the country indicated

that it is working jointly with Mexico and CARICOM IMPACS to curb the illicit flow of firearms. In this regard, the delegation expressed interest in obtaining more information on these illicit flows and on the relationship between firearms and drug trafficking in the Caribbean.

**Presenter: Rufus Ferdinand, Deputy Head of Operations, Joint Regional Communications Center, Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS):** Mr. Ferdinand responded to the question from the United States by emphasizing the illicit flows of firearms into countries such as Jamaica, Haiti, and Guyana, from where they are distributed to other Caribbean countries.

**Colombia:** The delegate commented that a large proportion of arms trafficked to Mexico end up in Colombia and that the country is seeing an increase in the use of firearms to perpetrate violence and threaten the population. In this regard, he noted that the government is developing a comprehensive security strategy to address drug trafficking and related crimes, including arms trafficking, and expressed interest in learning about similar tools being developed or implemented by other countries.

**Presenter: Óscar Ángel Talledos, Deputy Director General of National Analysis, Criminal Investigation Agency (AIC), Attorney General's Office (FGR), Mexico:** Mr. Talledos referred to Colombia's question, stating that although there is no specific formula to counteract the links between arms trafficking and drug trafficking, the measures taken in the countries must be part of a comprehensive approach, thus making manifest the importance of international cooperation.

**Presenter: Jonathan Lowy, President, Global Action on Gun Violence:** Mr. Lowy added that the main step in countering arms trafficking is to reform the arms industry and ensure that arms sales are conducted in a responsible manner.

**Peru:** The delegation added that to avoid the black market in arms and possibilities for diversion, countries must put in place measures to ensure that the arms industry acts responsibly.

#### 11. Panel 4: Advances in early warning systems in the Americas

**Moderator: Jenny Fagua Duarte, Deputy Director of Strategy and Analysis, Ministry of Justice and Law of Colombia, Colombian Drug Observatory.**

Ms. Fagua highlighted the importance of early warning systems (EWS) in the Hemisphere. She referred to the latest UNODC report that highlights the presence of more than 1,100 newly detected psychoactive substances (NPS) worldwide. She warned about the dangers of some recently detected mixtures, such as fentanyl and other opioids with other psychoactive substances, that pose a serious hazard to public health. In this regard, she stressed the importance of an EWS to generate timely alerts.

#### **Panelists:**

- a. **Eduardo Loyola Argüello, Executive Director, National Anti-Drug Commission (CNA), El Salvador**

Mr. Loyola addressed the progress of the EWS, which began with the creation of El Salvador's Country Strategy. He mentioned that the EWS was set up with technical support from UNODC and as part of the land interdiction component of the strategy. Mr. Loyola informed that the promotion of the EWS required the integration of various organizations, and that the EWS bill had been signed by the President of the Republic. He indicated that the UNODC Global SMART Program had previously visited the country to

evaluate the technical capacity for analysis of laboratories in El Salvador. Mr. Loyola highlighted the recent establishment of an important forensic investigation laboratory equipped with state-of-the-art technology, which has considerably increased the country's drug analysis and detection capacity, as well as the strengthening of technical capacity and political will to implement the EWS. Raman spectrometers and mass spectrometers are just some of the equipment donated to the laboratory by the U.S. State Department's International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Section (INL). He highlighted the inclusion of civil society and health agencies to gather information from people in treatment about emerging drugs. Mr. Loyola pointed out that by doing this, not all information is obtained from seizures. At the institutional level, the EWS is administered by the Salvadoran Drug Observatory of the National Anti-Drug Commission. He mentioned that an Occurrence Detection Form was designed to assess which detected substances warrant an alert, indicating that among the substances detected by the SAT are fentanyl, blotter papers with 2C-B and NBome, which are sold as LSD in the drug markets, as well as blotter papers sold in the markets as ecstasy. He concluded by indicating that after the information is gathered, a risk assessment is conducted and a determination is made about whether a public or closed alert will be issued (only at the institutional level).

**b. Nadia Robles Soto, Director of Coordination of National Programs, National Commission Against Addictions (CONADIC), Ministry of Health, Mexico**

Ms. Robles shared Mexico's progress in the implementation of a National EWS, indicating that this was a pending task for Mexico being carried out within the framework of an INL project, with technical support from OID/CICAD. She indicated that the project has different lines of work, one of them being the implementation of an EWS. The expectation is that an EWS will be implemented at the local level. The presenter reported that the Mexican Observatory permanently monitors the appearance of NPS and other emerging drugs, orienting the information towards decision-making. She highlighted that the EWS seeks to form an interdisciplinary technical group with the participation of National Center for Planning, Analysis and Information to Combat Crime (CENAPI, by its Spanish acronym), of the Attorney General's Office, as a fundamental component for detection and analysis of chemicals and NPS. She emphasized that the health component does not seek to restrict the circulation of substances, many of which have legal medical uses, but rather ongoing monitoring to prevent their diversion for illicit purposes, and highlighted that Mexico is seeing the use of fentanyl or substances adulterated with fentanyl as a threatening issue. She informed that organizations that detect NPS in leisure spaces will participate in the EWS, while the EWS also counts on the participation of several secretariats of the security field, which conduct drug warehousing or seizures. She underscored that training has been fundamental, through training courses with various institutions to standardize the issuance and notification of alerts. She concluded by indicating that she hopes to maintain the network of components that will give permanence to the EWS.

**c. Anthony Rosales, Manager, Integrated Threat Assessment Center (ITAC), National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), Trinidad & Tobago**

Mr. Rosales indicated that the Trinidad and Tobago EWS was established in 2017 with the support of the Cooperation Program between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drug Policy (COPOLAD), seeking to respond to NPS and other emerging drugs. He pointed out that the EWS is housed in the Prime Minister's Office, emphasizing that the aim was to create a space for inter-institutional exchange, with various members: experts in chemical and forensic testing, police, coast guard, customs, prevention programs, drug inspectorate, among others, seeking to involve as many entities as possible with ongoing revision of the membership. The presenter highlighted that the idea was to create a system to process information for internal exchange and, when necessary, to generate public alerts. He emphasized that the police had to be trained to identify these illicit substances, and students informed of the risks of NPS. He reported that in 2018, UNODC donated four handheld NPS field-detection devices, which are used by law enforcement. Mr. Rosales highlighted some of the EWS's achievements: in 2019 an



amendment was made to the list of controlled substances, to include NPS; laws were amended to bring NPS traffickers before the courts; and a form was created to collect data on NPS, with details on each of the drugs reported. In 2019 the first alert was issued, after detecting a lot of NPS use during Carnival. He stated that the general public was made aware of the risks and harms of NPS. Among the drugs reported he mentioned methamphetamine, ketamine, ecstasy-type substances, and other synthetic drugs.

**d. Antonio Pascale, Medical Toxicologist and Professor, University of Montevideo, Uruguay**

Mr. Pascale presented the EWS from a health perspective. He indicated that emerging substances create concern, particularly in clinical practice, due to potential overdoses. He highlighted the new forms of drug commercialization and the emergence of higher-toxicity NPS or the consumption of drugs other than those the user intended to consume: what is seized is not necessarily what is consumed. He highlighted the usefulness of an EWS at the health level, which enables information sharing, early detection of threatening substances, and the generation of fast alerts and effective responses. He referred to the proliferation of NPS, new preparations, drugs containing more than one substance or that are sold under a particular name while containing other substances. He emphasized the importance of databases for clinical intervention, presenting the following examples: in 2017, 575 alleged LSD-laced stamps containing fentanyl were detected, therefore, having naloxone available in healthcare centers is key to assist potential cases of intoxication; at electronic music parties, emerging drugs have been detected through chemical analysis of drug samples; cardiac complications can be detected among users due to the use of drugs other than the drugs the user expected to consume. He highlighted that, for health and clinical intervention, having early data allows for timely interventions. He referred to the use of high-potency cannabis and synthetic cannabinoids that are of great risk to users. He concluded by warning about the use of drugs that have paradoxical effects: different from those expected.

**Guatemala:** The Guatemalan commissioner asked the panelist from El Salvador if the work of the EWS is conducted with any legal framework or inter-institutional agreement.

**Presenter: Eduardo Loyola Argüello, Executive Director, National Anti-Drug Commission (CNA), El Salvador:** The panelist from El Salvador indicated that the legal framework for the implementation of the SAT is the Drug Regulation Law, which empowers the police to conduct drug tests. He added that administrative mechanisms have been employed to form the Inter-Institutional Roundtable, through the official call on institutions and the request for designation of focal points. He emphasized that the support of the government has been fundamental.

**Chile:** The delegate of Chile stressed the importance of information sharing and the implementation of a single standardized mechanism that is reviewed on an ongoing basis.

**Moderator's closing remarks:** Ms. Fagua thanked the panelists for highlighting the progress shown by the countries in implementing national EWS. She emphasized that there are different types of EWS in the region, but the common factor found in each of them is the increasing presence of synthetic drugs. She concluded by mentioning the need to generate a country-level health response for implementation of effective actions. She underscored that support of ODA/CICAD, UNODC's Global SMART Program, COPOLAD, and INL have been key to the advancement of EWS in the Hemisphere.

**12. Panel 5: Gender in drug policies: a civil society perspective.**

**Moderator:** Coletta A. Youngers, International Outreach Coordinator, National Council of Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls, Senior Fellow, Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) and Senior Researcher, International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC).

Ms. Youngers noted that the main objective of the panel was to share civil society's view on the challenges faced by the region in integrating a gender perspective in the formulation and implementation of drug policies. She thanked the government of Paraguay for providing the opportunity to address this topic, recognizing that the session was very timely given that the Americas continues to be one of the regions of the world with the highest increase in the incarceration of women. Before introducing the panelists, she noted that the session would focus on women who have been affected by drug policies.

**Panelists:**

**a. Claudia Cardona, Director, Corporación Mujeres Libres, Colombia**

Ms. Cardona began by expressing her gratitude for having been invited to take part on a panel for women who had been deprived of liberty. During her presentation, she pointed out that justice does not take into account the circumstances under which the women committed the crime, nor the harm done to their children and family in general by sending them to prison. She also commented that the conditions under which they must survive in prison are not taken into account, where their fundamental rights are violated, with no analysis given to gender-specific care, especially as it relates to resocialization. In closing, she highlighted the importance of the Colombian legislative bill [that would allow incarcerated women heads of household to do service that benefits the public in exchange for reduced prison time], thus promoting alternative measures to reduce the time of incarceration for women, which is currently awaiting presidential approval.

**b. María Pía Pawlowicz, Coordinator, Research Area, Intercambios Asociación Civil, Argentina**

Ms. Pawlowicz presented the results of a study of patterns of psychoactive substance use, access to care, and social health determinants in populations of pregnant and postpartum substance users in three provinces of Argentina. She pointed out that there are few studies with a psychosocial perspective of pregnant women and the consequences of their drug use, and she mentioned the importance and necessity of working with this population. On the results of the study, she highlighted, among other points, that women reported having suffered discrimination for being pregnant drug users, and that pregnant women tend to hide their drug use for fear of stigma, as well as for fear they will not receive care. As conclusions, the panelist highlighted the importance of including the concept of intersectionality in public policy and expressed the urgent need to include the perspectives of gender and harm reduction that recognize the complexity of consumption in vulnerable populations.

**c. Luana Malheiro, Representative, Brazilian Drug Policy Platform, National Network of Anti-prohibitionist Feminists (RENFA) and the Latin American and Caribbean Network of People Who Use Drugs (LANPUD), Brazil**

The panelist began her presentation by highlighting the work that RENFA has been doing, noting that they have been working in 12 Brazilian states to generate a support and empowerment network for women who have experienced traumatic situations because of anti-drug policies. Ms. Malheiro pointed out the effect punitive drug policies have on communities and particularly women, and denounced the prejudice exhibited against certain groups. She highlighted the importance of protecting the right to motherhood for women users and the need to provide them with health services, as well as to address drug use and provide treatment for women who are in prison. Lastly, she emphasized that drug policies and services must have an intersectional, gender, racial, and territorial perspective.

**d. Giselle Amador, Member of the International Network of Women Relatives of Persons Deprived of Liberty and founder of Familia Penitenciaria Unida (RIMUF), Costa Rica.**

Before the presentation, a video prepared by RIMUF was shown, which shows the perspective of women who have a relative in prison.

During her presentation, Ms. Amador highlighted the work RIMUF has done with the objective of promoting the rights of women who are related to incarcerated persons. During her presentation, she highlighted the difficulties women face when trying to help their family members who are in prison and pointed out that violations of their rights, including gynecological rights, occur during visits to family members in prison. In conclusion, she pointed out the urgent need to recognize the human rights of both the persons deprived of liberty and their family members, and to strengthen support for women relatives who are left in charge of the family and who generally need psychological and legal support. She stressed the importance of recognizing the international mechanism for the prevention of torture, conducting research, and raising awareness of the importance of this issue among international organizations.

### **Delegation Comments**

**Colombia:** The representative of Colombia recognized the importance of giving space to civil society organizations to understand the complex reality of women who are in prison. The delegate noted that the government of Colombia is committed to promoting the law on community service for mothers who are heads of household in trouble with the law for drug-related crimes and acknowledged that the Ministry of Justice and Law has a significant challenge in seeking to regulate this issue. The delegate acknowledged that Colombia must build a solid path so people in prison achieve better reintegration and to prevent both family and social isolation. Lastly, the delegate mentioned the government's intention to launch a criminal policy reform that addresses these problems and takes a more humane view toward persons deprived of liberty.

**Canada:** The representative of Canada congratulated Paraguay and SE-CICAD for bringing the issue of gender into drug policies and working closely with civil society organizations. The delegate recognized that the issues of sex, gender, and diversity factors are determinants of health and must be taken into account in all public programs and policies in order to address inequalities. The delegate indicated that the Canadian government analyzes this issue from the perspective of "gender plus analysis" (GBA+) to assess how diverse groups of women, men, and non-binary individuals experience government programs and initiatives, taking into account other factors such as race, age, economic status, LGBTI, living in a rural or remote community, or belonging to an indigenous people. Lastly, the delegate highlighted that Canada has made significant progress in gender considerations within public programs and noted that work will continue to gather more evidence.

**Chile:** The representative of Chile thanked SE-CICAD for including civil society in the issue of gender and drug policy. The delegate mentioned that Chile wishes to strengthen its gender agenda, promoting the participation of feminist nongovernmental organizations, and making efforts not to backtrack on progress that the country has made to date. The delegate stated that they have worked hand in hand with SE-CICAD and announced that Chile will host the training on the intervention curriculum for women who have been exposed to substances, highlighting the work of the Demand Reduction Unit staff in coordinating this event. The delegate also recognized the close collaboration the GENLEA project has experienced with the staff of the Supply Reduction Unit.

**Uruguay:** The representative of Uruguay emphasized the importance of taking the individual into account when implementing drug policies, stressing the importance of prioritizing his or her freedom and health, and of seeking alternatives to criminalization.

**Peru:** The representative of Peru noted the importance of recognizing the effects drug policies have on gender. The delegate invited the participants to seek solutions with a gender perspective in the design of criminal policies and to identify evidence-based formulas for the excluding criminal liability in cases of drug offenses committed by women, since, the delegate said, this type of crime has particularities of subordination that are social, cultural, economic, and gender-based.

**Brazil:** The representative of Brazil requested the floor to clarify some points regarding the drug-related actions of his country. He pointed out that, since 2019, Brazil has worked on the creation of public policies, with effective results. The delegate underscored the link between lack of access to treatment by drug-dependent individuals and criminal recidivism and incarceration. The delegate emphasized that work has been done on a new national drug policy that is focused mainly on: (i) fighting drug trafficking head-on; (ii) making seizures and; (iii) promoting a domain-extinction law with the objective of reducing the funding of criminal activities. Lastly, he indicated that Brazil is working in partnership with the OAS and UNODC to strengthen its actions in the area of drugs and listed some of the most important actions that Brazil has taken recently, such as strengthening treatment services, promoting therapeutic communities, and reducing crime.

### **13. Presentation of results of the institutional mapping exercise and evaluation of the training and human resource needs of Caribbean institutions focused on prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation.**

Mr. Ken Garfield-Douglas started his presentation by discussing the background of the research process that culminated in the publication of the following documents in June 2022:

1. Directory of Caribbean Substance Use Prevention-, Treatment-, and Rehabilitation-Focused Institutions. Results of an Institutional Mapping of the OAS English-, French-, and Dutch-Speaking Members States for the CICAD/OAS.
2. Results of an Institutional and Human Resource Training Needs Assessment of the OAS English-, French-, and Dutch-Speaking Caribbean member states.

Mr. Garfield-Douglas explained that in 2011 ES/CICAD conducted a regional mapping exercise to identify key drug demand reduction stakeholder agencies working in drug use prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation in the OAS English-speaking Caribbean member states and performed a regional institutional and human resource training needs assessment to identify specific priority needs across the Region. In 2020-2021, the same exercise was conducted in 14 OAS English-, Dutch-, and French-speaking Caribbean member states.

Mr. Garfield-Douglas then presented main results of the 2020-2021 Institutional and Human Resource Training Needs Assessment. He discussed the main areas identified with most urgent needs for prevention and treatment training, as well as the main conclusions and takeaways from the report. He closed the presentation by discussing the recommendations to member states and by thanking the national points of contact in OAS member states for their invaluable support throughout the implementation of this initiative and to US-INL for their funding support.

## **14. The impact of illicit drug production and marketing chains on the environment: From information to action**

### **Introduction: Antonio Lomba, Head of Institutional Strengthening Unit, SE-CICAD**

Mr. Lomba introduced the panelists from Peru, Colombia, and Jamaica and thanked them for comprising the panel. Drawing from Secretary General Luis Almagro's earlier remarks, he underscored the importance of environmental protection and its relation to drug policy. He concluded his introduction by stressing that both the current Hemispheric Drug Strategy and Hemispheric Plan of Action include this important element.

### **Presenters:**

#### **a. Ricardo Soberón Garrido, Executive President, National Commission for Development and Life without Drugs (DEVIDA), Peru**

Mr. Soberón began his presentation by acknowledging the challenge of confronting the new dynamics in drug trafficking routes and the high demand for cocaine caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. He explained that over the past 30 years coca production had been concentrated in the Andean foothills, but that in the last two years it had migrated to the Amazon, creating a new environmental danger for this region. He recognized that comprehensive and sustainable alternative development (CSAD) efforts must adapt to this new risk. He said that in Peru CSAD was first understood as crop substitution, then as a process of socioeconomic modification, and that today the successful experiences should be evaluated and CSAD should be reframed as an economic instrument for conservation of the Amazon and mitigation of climate change. Mr. Soberón shared that although drug trafficking impacts the Amazon, some state policies against drug trafficking can be counterproductive in terms of biodiversity defense, so a review of CSAD experiences to date is needed. He also stated that eradication policies must be accompanied by rural development policies and that, in many cases, eradication alone merely results in replanting. He also recognized that one challenge to CSAD is the impact monocultures can have on deforestation due to the high international market demand and the sale price of quality products such as cocoa and coffee. He stressed the need to focus technical assistance not only on production, but also on providing training in financial and market management for producer cooperatives. Mr. Soberón concluded by offering as a solution to this problem, as evidenced in Peru's own experience, the creation of a bridge between drug policies and environmental policies that includes young people and indigenous populations; giving a new approach to the fight against drugs and to international assistance.

#### **b. Tito Yesid Castellanos, General, Antinarcotics Director, National Police, Colombia**

General Castellanos based his intervention on Colombia's diagnosis of illicit crop detection. He stated that 204,557 hectares of crops have been detected in the country, representing 600,000 hectares of deforestation. He said that this problem affects different regions of Colombia and that a change of approach is needed. He commented that the small farmers affected by illicit crops are making two requests: (i) greater state presence and (ii) greater environmental protection. He said it has been established that to plant one hectare of coca three hectares of forest must be destroyed, on average. For each hectare of forest destroyed, 57 species of mammals and 95 species of birds are impacted, as well as other fauna. He explained that, from among the different approaches taken to fight drugs, one is being sought that protects the environment. The presenter also explained that the Emerald Strategy has been proposed as a response to the current situation, as it contains both a strategic and an operational factor. He explained that this strategy seeks to coordinate efforts and share information in real time on new ways drug traffickers operate. He also affirmed the importance of linking strategies related to increasing State presence in the territories with those related to illicit crops

and the environment, given that sometimes these can move in different directions. In conclusion, he stated that Colombia's current priority in the fight against drug trafficking is conservation of the environment, as well as prevention and inter-institutional communication within the country and with international actors.

**c. Maxine Bernard, Detective Inspector, Narcotics Division, Jamaica**

Ms. Bernard began her presentation by stating that commercialization of drugs has reached historic levels and that a strategy must be adapted to take note of new trends. She stated that in Jamaica the drug production chain is centered on marijuana, whose main impact on the environment is related to the demand for and pollution of water, as well as the smoke from the consumption of the substance. She acknowledged that while there is legally licensed cannabis production that must comply with some environmental protection standards, illegal production continues to be a problem because of its impact on water and land. She reported that another problem related to illegal marijuana crops is land invasions; in particular, she highlighted the problem of the use of state-owned land to produce and market illicit crops. She reported that water demand for marijuana crops is approximately twice that of wheat and potatoes, thus affecting the availability of water for other agricultural products both now and in the future. She stressed that the use of chemicals such as potassium, phosphorus, and pesticides in illegal marijuana production also affects the environment and water quality, as transporting and irrigating these substances causes them to leach into aquifer systems. She stated that contaminated water affects soil, crops, and consequently people's health. Ms. Bernard also explained that, according to recent studies, the pollution caused by marijuana consumption has a high impact on the environment, in addition to the respiratory problems it can generate in passive smokers. She explained that restrictions have been imposed on smoking in public places because of the chemical particles contained in smoke produced by marijuana consumption. She concluded by acknowledging the negative impact of illegal marijuana production on the environment and stressing that there are efforts underway to create policies against illegal marijuana.

### Delegation Comments

**Colombia:** The delegate congratulated all the panelists for their presentations and inquired about the percentage of Peru's deforestation attributable to coca crops.

**Presenter: Ricardo Soberón Garrido, Executive President, National Commission for Development and Life without Drugs (DEVIDA), Peru:** Dr. Soberón responded that in 2021 there were 25,176 hectares of deforestation related to coca crops, between 15% and 18% approximately.

**Colombia:** The delegate explained that while in Colombia there is 6% deforestation due to direct effect, there is an even higher rate due to indirect effect. She explained that issues such as migration caused by certain policies represent indirect deforestation. She also reported that in some regions of Colombia, such as Cauca, drug traffickers employ strategies to disguise illicit crops.

### 15. Panel 6: Measures to counteract the illicit manufacture of synthetic drugs through the prevention of illicit trafficking of non-controlled chemical substances and designer precursors

**Moderator: Fredy Anzueto Villatoro, Executive Secretary, Executive Secretariat of the Commission Against Addictions and Illicit Drug Trafficking (SECCATID), Guatemala**

Mr. Anzueto explained that one of the main challenges facing the region is the expansion and diversification of synthetic drug markets, particularly methamphetamine, new psychoactive substances (NPS), and

fenentanyl and its equivalents. He also indicated that this situation creates significant challenges for officials involved in the development and implementation of public policies, including law enforcement agencies.

**Panelists:**

**a. Maggie Nardi, Director of Global Programs and Policy, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, (INL) Department of State, United States.**

Ms. Nardi initiated her presentation noting synthetic drugs represent a global problem requiring a global solution, including action plans focused on identifying innovative solutions for disrupting this illicit supply chain. Additionally, she mentioned that the United States is facing the deadliest drug crisis in its history and highlighted that this crisis requires a broad and coordinated approach. As such, according to the presenter, INL is amplifying multilateral engagement and international tools to address drug trafficking, converting high-level policy responses into action. Finally, Ms. Nardi acknowledged that it is necessary to strengthen global cooperation with the private sector, by monitoring risks to the global chemical industry and strengthening measures like suspicious order reporting and information sharing between national authorities and private industry. She also highlighted that the private sector should strengthen existing measures to avoid precursor chemicals diversion to illicit markets.

**b. Adriano Maldaner, Chemical Expert, National Institute of Criminalistics, Federal Police, Brazil**

Mr. Maldaner began his presentation by mentioning that most of the seized synthetic drugs in Brazil are MDMA (ecstasy) and MDA. He then mentioned recent cases in which the Federal Police of Brazil made seizures of MDMA (pills, powders, and high-purity crystals) from Europe that arrived in the country through the postal service. Further, the speaker mentioned that between 2019 and 2020 some clandestine laboratories that were manufacturing MDMA using the precursor chemical, helional, were dismantled in the southern region of Brazil. To conclude, Mr. Maldaner commented that the country is conducting procedures to chemically profile MDMA and MDA samples to identify the precursor chemicals used to manufacture these drugs, as well as the adulterants they usually contain.

**c. Antonio L. Mazzitelli, Chief, Precursor Control Section, International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)**

Mr. Mazzitelli noted that recent years have witnessed rapid changes in the global precursor control landscape. For instance, successes in monitoring the international trade of chemicals listed in the tables of the 1988 Convention have led to diversions now being predominantly from domestic distribution channels. According to the panelist, sophistication and innovation in illicit drug manufacture have at the same time resulted in an increase in the use of non-scheduled chemicals and designer precursors. Additionally, traffickers are also identifying novel ways to obtain and deliver the precursors and equipment required to illicitly produce synthetic drugs. Mr. Mazzitelli highlighted that such developments call for a new and refreshed strategic approach to the control of precursors, non-scheduled substances and equipment, and that sharing of information and international cooperation is fundamental to address this global challenge.

**Delegation Comments**

**Mexico:** The delegate commented that the country's Financial Intelligence Unit is developing a report on financial flows generated by trafficking of synthetic opioids and stressed the importance of countries making efforts to bolster international collaboration between countries of origin and of destination for these drugs, as well as cooperation with the private sector.

**United States:** The delegate indicated that one of the ways to improve cooperation with the private sector is to ensure that companies do not feel they have become targets, and that they receive some sort of recognition after cooperating with the state. The delegation also discussed best practices countries could implement to address non-controlled chemicals, such as expanding precursor control to include precursor-related substances, as well as working with a watch list that is quickly updated and shared with the private sector as a tool to help ensure that trafficking in substances on the watch list is treated as a crime.

**Presenter: Antonio L. Mazzitelli, Chief, Precursor Control Section, International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) :** The presenter stressed the importance of improving strategies for interaction between public and private sectors. He also mentioned that the 1988 Convention contemplates the control of financial flows and urged countries to implement the "know your customer" rule.

## **16. Panel 7: Addressing Stigma in Drug Demand Reduction Programs**

**Moderator: Francisca Oblitas, Chief of Cabinet, National Service for the Prevention and Rehabilitation of Drug and Alcohol Consumption (SENDA), Chile**

Ms. Oblitas established as the panel's objective to analyze stigma as a factor that hinders access to programs and available approaches, introduced the panelists, and established the ground rules for conducting the panel. She expressed the need to dig deeper into the issue of demand reduction and drug policies. It is clear that stigma generates discrimination, exclusion, and hinders the recovery of people and their consumption. She pointed out that stigma should be understood as intersectoral and stressed the importance of addressing it through public policies.

**a. Eugenia Mata, Head of the Prevention Projects Unit, Costa Rican Institute on Drugs (ICD), Costa Rica**

Ms. Mata began her presentation by pointing out that addicts are still being blamed for their illness and provided a definition of the term "stigma" and its causes. Ms. Mata addressed the consequences of stigma, such as: family disengagement, social exclusion, and unemployment. Finally, she proposed re-humanization as a starting point for addressing the problem.

**b. Katie Faloon-Drew, Manager of the Opioid Response Team, Health Canada**

Ms. Faloon-Drew highlighted the lessons learned by Canada to reduce the stigma of substance use. The panelist showed global data on how substance use is one of the most stigmatized health problems, and therefore, to address stigmatization, it is necessary to address problems in all settings. From Canada's experience, Ms. Faloon-Drew addressed the main aspects to be taken into account to reduce the problem of stigmatization, including its approach to public policies, stressing that stigma is not reduced simply by talking about stigma.

**c. Peter Gaumond, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), Office of Public Health, U.S.A.**

Mr. Gaumond focused his intervention on stigma as a barrier to demand reduction services and programs. He conceptualized the manifestation of stigma from several perspectives (social, self, and structural), and showed how stigma limits access to care for people who use drugs. Mr. Gaumond commented on ways to address stigma in the United States and the response to stigma in health care.



**d. Nubia Esperanza Bautista, Deputy Director of Noncommunicable Diseases, Social and Citizen Coexistence of the Ministry of Health, Colombia**

Ms. Bautista spoke on the panel about approaching stigma and discrimination within a framework of use-reduction policies for psychoactive substances, providing political and regulatory references from Colombia. She then went on to present the effects of stigma, the main consequences of which are the impossibility of access or delayed access to health services, the violation of rights, and health problems. Ms. Bautista concluded her presentation with guidelines on how to eliminate stigma and discrimination in general, and particularly for individuals who use psychoactive substances, with a focus on gender and the LGBTI population.

**e. Margarita María Sánchez, President of the Ibero-American Network of Non-Governmental Organizations Working on Drugs and Addictions (RIOD)**

Ms. Sanchez presented RIOD's experience in addressing stigma in drug demand reduction programs. She commented on how people who use substances suffer social rejection, are pushed aside and stigmatized, and the implications that this entails. Ms. Sanchez showed how stigma is addressed in RIOD organizations, with examples drawn from working with women users and users in general.

### Delegation Comments

**Canada:** The delegate noted that reducing stigma is an important issue for Canada. One of the most effective ways to achieve this result, which is based on evidence, is to involve people who have been through this situation. The delegate thanked civil society for its participation and stressed the importance of continuing to involve civil society in discussions at CICAD regular sessions. The delegate highlighted the importance of initiatives to reduce stigma such as connecting governments and organizations that are working effectively on this issue. The delegate explained that during the month of October 2022, Canada organized the Stigma Symposium in Ottawa, in conjunction with the Pompidou Group, CICAD and UNODC. Lastly, the delegate explained that it is important for individuals who use drugs to have access to the support systems that the government and their families have developed and that Canada will continue to provide support on this issue.

**Uruguay:** The delegate highlighted the importance of paying attention to discrimination linked to exclusion. A recent survey showed for the first time that women consume more than men, and women consult less than men. The delegate explained that these results are because there is greater stigma towards women who consume and because the programs are focused on men.

### 17. Panel 8: Building institutional capacity for the design and implementation of alternatives to incarceration for drug-related crimes.

**Moderator: Jovanna Calderón Altamirano, Director of Restorative Justice, Judicial Branch, Costa Rica.**

Ms. Calderón noted that in Costa Rica the criminal procedure code focuses on restoration, reparation and reintegration, which makes indispensable the promotion and use of alternatives to incarceration that take a comprehensive approach encompassing health and judicial components, thus allowing the administration of justice focus on the person, addressing the circumstances that led him/her to be in conflict with criminal law, thereby preventing a revolving door situation. In conclusion, she highlighted the importance of

analyzing the issue of institutional transformations for proper implementation of alternatives to incarceration.

**Panelists:**

**a. Crescencio Jiménez Núñez, Head of the Justice System Support Unit of the Ministry of the Interior, Mexico.**

Mr. Jiménez Núñez emphasized that the relationship between use, abuse, and dependence on psychoactive substances and their relationship with criminal behavior is one of the main topics of social interest given the high costs their consequences represent to our societies. He pointed out that alternatives to incarceration for this type of criminal behavior such as restorative and alternative justice processes are here to stay. He stressed that this is not just about a program, but about a state policy that is focused on a segment of society that is vulnerable because of the effects of psychoactive substances. He also highlighted the progress that has been made in implementing and strengthening the Therapeutic Justice Program in Mexico, where agreements have been reached with judicial authorities of the states to promote alternatives to incarceration for minor and non-violent crimes in which a drug-crime relationship is proven, thereby promoting the prevention of violence and crime using a public health approach. In conclusion, he reaffirmed the commitment of Mexican authorities to continue working on the implementation of the Therapeutic Justice Program so that its benefits can be expanded for the good of a society that needs fairer alternatives. He also highlighted and thanked CICAD for its work and collaboration in advancing the Therapeutic Justice Program in Mexico.

**b. Rosellina Datillo, Senior Assistant Federal Prosecutor, Public Prosecutor's Office of Canada, British Columbia Regional Office, Canada.**

Ms. Datillo thanked CICAD for the invitation to present Canada's experiences with Drug Treatment Courts, particularly the program being developed in Vancouver. She outlined efforts that have been made to broaden the scope of their program and other alternatives to incarceration such as bail, which helped address the opioid crisis in 2019 and 2020, and the policy established for substance possession offenses to be treated from a health perspective rather than a law enforcement one. She stated that these policies need standardization not only from a national perspective, but also with international standards. In conclusion, she stressed that the treatment court is the only program in Vancouver and the only program in the province of British Columbia, therefore, means are being sought to roll out this program to all provinces to encourage buy-in to the program while not disengaging from support networks and preventing lengthy and costly transfers.

**c. Dorsa Melnyk, Counselor, Federal Prosecutor's Office, Public Prosecutor's Office of Canada, Regional Office, Canada.**

Ms. Melnyk recounted court actions taken to reduce incarceration levels, starting with the requirements for entry into the court's program. She noted that in the beginning only people who committed non-violent crimes related to addiction to psychoactive substances were admitted; however, she highlighted the evolution her court has undergone, such that now when an individual is going to enter the program, the person is screened for a history of violence, so the court can know the background of an individual with a history of violent acts and know their capacity to enter the program under specific conditions and rules, for example, acceptance of zero tolerance of violence while going through the program. She also stated that the main objectives of the program in Canada are abstinence from illicit substances and the establishment of positive social behaviors to reduce recidivism, creating a sense of responsibility over their own treatment and recovery. She pointed out that these actions protect society by screening out people who are not

committed to creating positive changes in their lives and who continue to fall into harmful behaviors. In conclusion, she asserted that every effort is made within his program to avoid incarcerating individuals.

**d. Carson L. Fox, Jr. CEO of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP), USA.**

Mr. Fox began his presentation by stating that it is a common desire for communities to live in safety and freedom; however, crime in communities promotes drug use and, if not properly treated, recidivism will always prevail. He emphasized the importance of multidisciplinary work and support provided to the beneficiary, such as employment, housing, support to improve the conditions of their family environment and ultimately their recovery. He pointed out the importance of having certainty regarding the availability of the necessary resources to provide the service, since there is a danger of not being able to meet the goals. He stated that, today, there are 4,000 treatment courts in the United States that serve 150,000 people each year, encouraging treatment and reducing delinquency by up to 58%. He concluded by reminding that there is no better way to raise awareness and promote the use of this kind of treatment courts than to witness the emotions at a graduation.

### **Delegation Comments**

**United States:** The delegate of the United States emphasized that internationally the United States supports the OAS, UNODC, and the Colombo Plan to create alternatives to incarceration focused on the treatment of drug use disorders. She thanked and congratulated CICAD for advancing efforts and supporting the development of alternatives to incarceration models including drug treatment courts and people-centered case management systems. She also mentioned that countries receive support to measure the success of these programs through professionalization and application of best practices. She concluded by stating that it is necessary to study and evaluate the programs to understand their impact.

**Peru:** The delegate of Peru thanked Mr. Fox for his interesting conclusions and best practices. He emphasized that it is necessary to think about another perspective in criminal law that is not necessarily related to drug use, but that addresses the socioeconomic context that motivates illegal crops. He asked for copies of the presentations so as to replicate the perspectives presented, but from the perspective of specific socioeconomic conditions, and then generate a proposal that would help create economic development conditions such that these factors might not be motivators of behaviors that break the law.

### **18. Panel 9: ~~Counteracting the growing threat of illicit drug trafficking by river in the region~~ Countering the growing threat of riverine illicit drug trafficking in the region**

**Moderator: Eduardo Loyola, Executive Director, National Anti-Drug Commission (CNA), El Salvador**

Mr. Loyola opened the panel by stating that, according to the United Nations World Drug Report 2022, maritime and waterways continue to be widely used by criminal organizations to traffic drugs in the region. He highlighted that as a consequence of restrictions imposed to contain the COVID-19 pandemic – which caused disruptions in air and land routes – drug traffickers sought alternative routes to transport drugs and, in such a context, the use of rivers by organized crime increased.

#### **Panelists:**

**a. Luis Richard Silva López, Rear Admiral, Navy, Peru**

Rear Admiral Silva began his presentation by pointing out the main drug trafficking routes by river in the country and then referred to the best practices the Navy has implemented to counteract this problem, emphasizing collaboration and joint operations with neighboring countries. In addition, Mr. Silva referred to specific recommendations, such as the importance of prioritizing river interdiction actions along transit routes; the need to allocate funds to strengthen infrastructure to improve connectivity with the most remote populations and to improve logistics of operations; and the importance of implementing common strategies between bordering countries in order to effectively coordinate repression of cross-border criminal activities.

**b. Alex Javier Rodriguez, Sub-Inspector, Special Agent, National Anti-Drug Secretariat (SENAD), Paraguay**

Mr. Rodriguez highlighted that the Paraguay-Parana waterway is the main river corridor used by drug traffickers operating in Paraguay and explained the main factors that enhance drug trafficking by river in the country. For example, he mentioned the proximity to countries where cocaine is manufactured, poor controls in border areas, the impossibility of providing full coverage at ports, and the lack of technology to intercept illicit cargo. In addition, Mr. Rodríguez cited some recent achievements that have been made thanks to several measures taken at the national level to counteract this scourge, such as increased control of containers, personnel training, use of technological tools, cooperation, and information sharing with anti-drug agencies in other countries, SENAD's agreements with other control agencies – such as the National Police – and collaboration with the private sector.

**c. Guillermo José Giménez Pérez, Prefect General, Director, Criminal Intelligence and Investigations, Prefectura Naval, Argentina**

Mr. Giménez began by stating that the Prefectura Naval Argentina is the national maritime authority and plays a decisive role in the fight against complex crimes and in the country's maritime protection, which includes rivers. He addressed the problem of drug trafficking and made a general analysis of the scenario in the Paraguay-Parana waterway, indicating that it is a route for marijuana trafficking from Paraguay, which is generally carried out using medium-sized vessels. He also highlighted the existence of an illegal cocaine trafficking route, the final destination of which is Europe. Lastly, he highlighted measures to counteract riverine drug trafficking in the country, such as enhancing criminal intelligence, strengthening human resource capacities, investing in information and communication technologies, and deepening cooperation and inter-agency work.

#### Delegation Comments

**Peru:** the delegation asked what would be the most appropriate strategy to apply in the face of growing drug trafficking by river, whether to concentrate efforts at the mouth of the river or to deploy an intervention along the entire length of the river.

**Presenter: Guillermo José Giménez Pérez, Prefect General, Director, Criminal Intelligence and Investigations, Prefectura Naval, Argentina:** In response to the question, the presenter indicated that his country concentrates its efforts on the most vulnerable ports and, in turn, on those ports where high-risk import companies operate.

#### 19. Panel 10: Control, legislation, and regulation of access to cannabis: updates and experiences

**Moderator: Lilian Portillo, General Director of National and International Cooperation and Interinstitutional Strengthening, National Anti-drug Secretariat (SENAD, by its Spanish-language acronym), Paraguay**

Ms. Portillo introduced the panel which covered regional experiences on the regulatory approaches regarding the control of, and access to, cannabis. She stressed the importance of incorporating balanced, multidisciplinary, evidence-based approaches regarding any drug-related policy. Ms. Portillo recognized that although the debate regarding the regulation of cannabis provokes a wide range of opinions, policies need to incorporate a public health perspective, as well as account for gender, age, cultural context, and the human rights of the individuals at the center of the policy.

Following the presentations, Ms. Portillo asked the panelists three questions regarding the challenges faced when implementing their respective policies, the main lessons learnt from their experiences and where they see cannabis policy in their respective countries in the next five to ten years.

**Panelists:**

**a. Daniel Radío, Secretary General of the National Secretariat on Drugs, Uruguay**

Dr. Radío explained that drug policies should be centered on the individuals affected by them, and should aim to protect both their health and dignity. He noted that our conception of drug use is flawed and instead of viewing the substances as the problem, the focus needs to be on their problematic use. Dr. Radío compared the issue of cannabis to the use of alcohol, tobacco, and smartphones, to illustrate that, although in some cases we can develop toxic relationships, this is not the case for all users. Therefore, cannabis policy should adopt a similar logic regarding interdiction policies. He argued that prohibiting access to cannabis has failed to completely deter those who wish to use cannabis, and as demand for a market remains, its prohibition allows access to be controlled by organized crime groups in the irregular market. Dr. Radío then presented Uruguay's regulatory framework, stating that it uses a demand reduction focus, and incorporates both a public health and human rights approach. Despite having been legalized in 2013, the right for Uruguayans to possess and consume substances for personal use had already been recognized by prior legislation. The framework approved in 2013 sought to establish a robust framework for state control and regulation of cannabis access, use, and distribution, thereby bringing the issue into the regular market. The policy is enforced by the Institute for the Regulation and Control of Cannabis (Spanish: *Instituto para la Regulación y Control del Cannabis*, IRCCA). Dr. Radío noted that, although there has not been any notable change regarding the already increasing use of cannabis, as also seen in other countries in the region, there has been increase in users within the age group of 26-35 years, which has consequently raised the average age of first use from 18 to 19. Dr Radío concluded by saying that cannabis, similar to alcohol, tobacco, and firearms, should be available for adults to purchase with the understanding that adults can use a degree of responsibility in their decision making. He reiterated that prohibitionist policies have failed address both the public health challenges and the irregular economy challenges related to cannabis.

In response to Ms. Portillo's questions, Dr. Radío highlighted the importance of changing cultural perceptions regarding use and access to cannabis, as well as recognizing the failures of prohibitionist policies. He noted that the regulation still only applies to Uruguayans and those with residency status in Uruguay, which still provides an opportunity for other actors to exploit the control of cannabis from the irregular market. In five to ten years' time, Dr. Radío hopes that Uruguay will improve the access of cannabis suppliers such as pharmacies to the banking system, which currently prevents pharmacies legally selling such products from opening bank accounts in line with financial regulations regarding funds from sales of drugs entering the formal system.

**b. Shountae Boothe, Legal Officer, Cannabis Licensing Authority, Jamaica**

Ms. Boothe provided an overview of Jamaica's regulatory framework on the use of cannabis, specifically in the forms of hemp and ganja, for medical, scientific and therapeutic purposes. She then described the function of the Cannabis Licensing Authority (CLA) as the body for issuing licenses, permits and authorizations for the handling of ganja, as well as their role in ensuring that Jamaica's framework both meets the needs of the industry while complying with international conventions to which they are party. Ms. Boothe highlighted that for ganja to be classed as medical, it must be prescribed by a medical practitioner and must have a level of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) smaller than 1%. She presented the "Closed Loop System" model used by the CLA, which ensures that trade within the industry only occurs among entities with valid licenses for the handling of ganja, this includes cultivators, processors, transporters, retailers and those involved in research and development, while excluding patients and exporters. Moreover, she explained the difference between ganja and hemp due to their varying levels of THC and that, due to the latter having a much lower content level as opposed to the former, it is not as stringently regulated as a dangerous drug. In contrast to ganja, products that involve a combination of cannabis types are regulated by the Ministry of Health under the Food and Drugs Act. Other forms of cannabis use, such as religious purposes in accordance with the Rastafarian faith, are not regulated by the CLA, and are instead presided over by the Ministry of Justice. In addition, household cultivation and use for traditional remedies is also permitted, with each household being allowed to grow five plants, but is not regulated by the CLA and is excluded from cannabis sale or trade. Ms. Boothe concluded by stating that Jamaica's policy toward cannabis has been primarily influenced by its economic potential and the country's known history linked to its use. Currently, the CLA is seeking to improve the industry's export potential, in order for Jamaica to be recognized as a regional power with quality cannabis products.

In response to Ms. Portillo's questions, Ms. Boothe identified the continued risk perception of cannabis as a purely dangerous drug, as well as the implementation of new regulations while the industry is still developing as key challenges, and that it is important to learn from the inevitable shortcomings that arise in order to better assist cultivators in navigating the new framework. She also mentioned the need to diversify the different types of licenses available. Regarding where Jamaica's cannabis policy will be in five to ten years, Ms. Boothe noted the desire to develop value-added products within the industry and expand its international reach, as well as the implementation of a new alternative development program seeking to include traditional cultivators who are excluded from the current cannabis market.

**c. Jordan Brydon, Director of the External Relations Division, Strategic Policy Directorate, Controlled Substances and Cannabis Branch, Health Canada, Canada**

Ms. Brydon presented Canada's regulatory framework and its key legislative features regarding the legalization of cannabis. While the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms enshrined the right for individuals to access cannabis for medical purposes as a foundation for its legalization, access and distribution of cannabis products for purchase involved a gradual rollout through a step-by-step approach over a number of years, to ensure countrywide impact. Extensive consultation prior to legalization indicated that the prohibitionist approach on cannabis had a negative impact on individuals, affected their social integration into communities and disproportionately affected racialized minorities, all the while failing to effectively deter people from using the substance. The consultation also recognized the important role that the ministries of justice, public safety and health all play in shaping and enforcing the policy. She advised that the current framework uses a public health approach to: minimize the social harms of cannabis; better protect public health and safety; prevent youths from accessing the substance; and prevent organized crime groups from profiting from cannabis control through the irregular market. The framework has a four-pronged approach by: 1) raising awareness of the risks surrounding cannabis use; 2) preventing problematic use; 3) restricting access to youth; and 4) monitoring cannabis use patterns. Since its inception, the framework also incorporated a strong monitoring and evaluation framework that considered problematic behavior indicators such as age of first use, potency of use, and whether users consumed while driving or working. The framework was also informed by lessons from the regulation and control of other substances,

such as alcohol and tobacco, particularly regarding restricting access to youth. Ms. Brydon presented the early results collected by the monitoring system since the framework came into place, which show that the rate of use among youth has remained constant, as opposed to the upward trend observed among the rest of the general population, and that both the proportion of frequent use and the average age of first use has remained unchanged. As opposed to certain jurisdictions in the U.S., legalization of cannabis in Canada has not led to an erosion in risk perception regarding use, while it is still viewed as being of less risk than alcohol, tobacco and e-cigarettes. Ms. Brydon also highlighted the positive impact that the framework has had on the shift from illegal to legal market purchase of cannabis, while the illegal online market continues to pose a challenge for the control of substances. Ms. Brydon concluded her presentation by identifying their interest in improving their public education and awareness campaigns, so that messages regarding risk reduction and dissuasion from use reach target audiences more effectively.

In response to the moderator's questions, a member of the delegation of Canada present noted the challenge of moving an industry from an illicit to a licit market, as well as the management of public expectations regarding the availability of products once legalization came into force. She also highlighted the importance of public awareness campaigns regarding the framework and the allowed use of cannabis in Canada, as well as how the Cannabis Act Review will serve to illustrate the successes and opportunities for improvement of the policy in five to ten years' time, particularly regarding the impact of the legislation on youth and indigenous communities.

#### Delegation Comments

**Brazil:** The delegate noted the importance of ensuring that regulations include other cannabis-related products, such as cannabinoids, and shared their concerns regarding the reduction of the perception of risk regarding both recreational and therapeutic use of cannabis. He also recognized the work of Health Canada in adopting an evidence-based policy.

**Mexico:** The delegate stated that it was important to not categorize cannabis in the same way as other substances with more damaging effects, such as fentanyl and heroine, and that cannabis use should not be met with punitive measures. The delegate highlighted that there have been recent developments in Mexico regarding the regulation of cannabis following a 2021 executive declaration that has recognized the right of individuals to use, cultivate, and transport cannabis. She also noted that the industry is seeking to increase commercialization and is in consultation with several stakeholders. She concluded that it is important to ensure the protection of the right to health of individuals, and that policies should be centered on the individual and incorporate a human rights approach.

#### 20. Presentation of the Report on Drug Supply in the Americas 2022 (CICAD/doc.2715/22).

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

Ms. Hynes began her presentation by highlighting the robust collaboration with OAS member states through a Technical Working Group on Drug Supply Indicators (TWIGDSI) that resulted in agreement on supply indicators, data collection methods, and the type of analysis that was carried out. Ms. Hynes informed that thirty-three member states contributed to the report by providing qualitative information, quantitative data, and/or through participation in the TWIGDSI.

Ms. Hynes then presented a summary of the main findings of the report including that the primary drug of concern varies by country, reflecting the variety of illegal drug supply across the region. Ms. Hynes then

presented highlights of the analysis on cannabis, coca and cocaine, fentanyl, heroin, methamphetamine, and drug prices. Ms. Hynes indicated that the report contained more data and results than were included in the presentation such as arrest data, crop eradication and laboratory seizures. In conclusion, Ms. Hynes encouraged member states to download the report and to send any questions or comments to the OID.

The Chair thanked Ms. Hynes for her presentation and congratulated her on the publication of the report.

## 21. Work Plan of the CICAD Executive Secretariat for 2023 (CICAD/doc.2672/22).

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

Ambassador Namm presented a summary of the work that each unit of the Executive Secretariat of CICAD plans to carry out during 2023. He submitted the work plan to CICAD for consideration and approval.

### **Delegation Comments**

**The Bahamas:** The delegate thanked Ambassador Namm for his presentation and asked whether a copy of the workplan will be made available to delegates.

**United States:** The delegate thanked the Executive Secretariat for a robust annual plan and commended the work carried out by its staff, particularly during the pandemic. The delegate also commended fellow donors to CICAD and encouraged them to continue their support. The delegate further commended the work done by CICAD's Expert Groups and urged the newly elected Expert Group Chairs and Vice-Chairs to consider developing workplans and a schedule of meetings for their respective groups. The delegate then stated that CICAD's work should be based on solid data, acknowledged the vital role of the MEM in keeping pace with the ever-evolving drug problem, and encouraged member states to contribute to its work. In closing, the delegate indicated the United States' anticipation of the hemispheric brief on supply reduction.

**Guatemala:** The delegate congratulated Ambassador Namm and all newly elected expert group Chairs and Vice-Chairs. The delegate stated that 2023 will bring several commitments and encouraged member states to meet in-person as far as possible, since this approach fosters greater collaboration. The delegate closed by pledging support for future CICAD activities.

**Mexico:** The delegate congratulated the new Chair and Vice-Chair of CICAD. The delegate then described the work being done by Ambassador Namm and the CICAD team as excellent and stated that Mexico has benefitted from CICAD's support. In closing, the delegate reiterated support for CICAD working groups and indicated a willingness to play a leading role in efforts related to multi-dimensional security.

**Brazil:** The delegate congratulated the new Chair and Vice-Chair of CICAD, as well as Ambassador Namm and the CICAD team. The delegate indicated satisfaction with the agreements reached between Brazil and the CICAD Secretariat and closed by reiterating support for CICAD's work.

**El Salvador:** The delegate congratulated the new CICAD Chair and commended its excellent chairmanship of the CICAD 72 session. The delegate thanked Ambassador Namm for presenting the 2023 workplan and stated that El Salvador was honored to chair the Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking. In closing, the delegate reiterated El Salvador's commitment to supporting CICAD.



**Peru:** The delegate congratulated the new CICAD Chair, as well as Ambassador Namm and the CICAD team for the work that they did during the pandemic. The delegate closed by indicating that Peru looks forward to chairing the Group of Experts on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development.

**Dominican Republic:** The delegate congratulated Ambassador Namm and thanked him for presenting the workplan. Moreover, she highlighted the importance of defining clear strategies and policies, accompanied by adequate tools for implementation and the commitment of the responsible institutions in this sector, as essential elements to increasingly advance in the control of drug abuse in the region.

**Canada:** The delegate thanked the Chair of CICAD, Ambassador Namm, and CICAD Secretariat staff for their work. The delegate concluded by indicating that Canada looks forward to CICAD's work in the upcoming year.

## Decisions

The Commission approved the work plan of the Executive Secretariat of CICAD for 2023 (CICAD/doc.2672/22).

## 22. Interventions by Permanent Observers to the OAS and by international, regional and civil society organizations accredited to the OAS

### a) Italy (CICAD/doc.2783/22)

Ambassador Simón Turchetta thanked and congratulated CICAD for holding CICAD 72. He mentioned that drug trafficking is a complex problem and that Italy has experience it can share in this regard, through its approach to combating organized crime. He recalled that Italy has worked closely with the OAS and its member states in training. In this regard, he mentioned the I-Can project, which works with ten countries. He indicated that Italy supports the public-health approach to the drug problem, also emphasizing prevention in schools and alternatives to incarceration programs, and providing technical assistance in Latin America and the Caribbean. Lastly, he reaffirmed Italy's commitment to continue working with the OAS.

### b) Holy See (CICAD/doc.2727/22)

Monsignor Juan Antonio Cruz Serrano thanked the participants for their participation in CICAD 72. He indicated that the drug problem is of global concern and that confronting it requires the commitment of all actors in society. He noted that Pope Francis has referred to this problem, urging communities to cooperate. He indicated that, although society is making progress in terms of quality of life, on the other hand, there is a strong breakdown in social coexistence. He reiterated that the fight against drug trafficking and drug abuse requires the support of all social actors and requires intervention in education. He indicated that in this sense, the Holy See considers prevention as a priority, but at the same time it tries to get governments to fight drug trafficking. He emphasized that it is the poorest communities that suffer the greatest impact of the drug problem and, in this regard, urged that work continue in a coordinated manner.

### c) Spain

Ambassador Marcos Vega of the Permanent Observer Mission of Spain to the OAS congratulated CICAD 72 and expressed his gratitude that the resumption of in-person sessions is now possible. He reiterated

Spain's commitment to collaborate with CICAD, indicating that this commitment has been in place for more than 20 years, strengthening cooperation in various areas. He highlighted the work on institutional strengthening and demand reduction, where Spain has been able to share its best practices. He mentioned as examples the SAVIA Program and the COPOLAD Program, the latter coordinated by Spain. He also highlighted the negotiation process with the Valencia City Council to work in coordination with the Institutional Strengthening and Demand Reduction Units. He highlighted the support of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID), which during the COVID-19 pandemic provided support for delivery of online courses and is resuming the delivery of in-person courses. He concluded by indicating that Spain has a longstanding and lasting commitment to CICAD.

**d) International Association for Sponsorship and Palliative Care (CICAD/doc.2729/22)**

The delegate, Mrs. Adelaida Córdoba Nuñez, mentioned that there is great inequity in the availability of pain relief medications. She indicated that the opioid epidemic in Canada and the United States has complicated the situation of access to medications for people with pain issues in Latin America. She mentioned some examples, pointing out that in Costa Rica there is guaranteed access to pain medication, as there is in Colombia, but in the latter country only 16 percent of the national needs are covered and in Mexico only 36 percent of the needs are covered. She pointed out that the only country in Latin America that covers all the pain needs of patients is Argentina. She indicated that according to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), guaranteeing access to pain medication does not mean increased access for improper use, in which cases the support of the entire community is required to find solutions, and she requested CICAD's support in finding such solutions.

**e) United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**

The delegate, Chloé Carpentier, thanked CICAD and the panelists for the topics discussed at CICAD 72, which are of common interest to UNODC. She mentioned, regarding palliative care and pain treatment, that in recent years attempts have been made to improve the flow of substances for these purposes. She referred to the impact drugs have on the environment, stating that this impact has increased twenty-fold and that drugs drastically increase deforestation. She remarked that with respect to cannabis, the latest developments have been examined, mainly where it has been legalized, assessing its impact on public health, as well as other aspects. She mentioned that UNODC has closely followed and evaluated the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the area of drugs and is working on innovations in prevention.

**f) FIIAPP-COPOLAD Third Phase**

The delegate, Javier Sagredo, stated that the COVID-19 pandemic has had repercussions in social conflict at the global level, adding that its effects are not unrelated to the proliferation of organized crime. He noted that, despite advances in drug policies, changes have been slow, highlighting budgetary restrictions as one of the challenges. He pointed out that the European Union seeks to address the drug problem in line with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He indicated that COPOLAD aims to support development of public policies on drugs, emphasizing the sustainable development approach, respect for human rights, and gender equity. He also pointed out that it seeks to evaluate drug policies and aims to strengthen research on drugs throughout the region. He stressed that the priority focus is on highly vulnerable territories, and the goal is also to break recidivism in drug-related crimes. Mr. Sagredo mentioned that all COPOLAD III working groups are underway. He highlighted that in 2023, in-person activities will be engaged between the national drug observatories of Europe and the Americas, and a workshop on prevention of high vulnerability in the territory will be held, among other activities. He concluded by pointing out that efforts to support cooperation between the European Union and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) will continue.

**g) Women's Group of Argentina (GMAF) - HIV Women and Family Forum (CICAD/doc.2781/22)**

The delegate referred to the legalization of drug use by focusing on a phenomenon that is not often referred to: pregnant women held in prisons for drug micro-trafficking. She indicated that in many cases this is due to women's lack of access to legitimate work. She suggested the possibility of house arrest for these women. She pointed to the right of children to be born and kept out of violent spaces. She stressed that penalizing women for micro-trafficking does not contribute to the fight against drug trafficking, but only aims to attack the weakest link in this chain.

**h) Dianova International (CICAD/doc.2780/22)**

The delegate, Jordi Alos of the Dianova Foundation of Uruguay, indicated that Dianova International promotes inclusion of a gender perspective in all drug policies. He pointed out that women's unequal access to drug-related care services persists. He emphasized that evidence shows that women are particularly vulnerable, which can be seen in their higher consumption of tranquilizers. He highlighted that stigma places women in sanctionable places more than it does to men. He suggested that drug care strategies should have a gender focus and perspective which targets the specific needs of women. In this regard, he indicated that more training is needed for professionals on gender issues. He recommended the use of data from national drug observatories to generate policies with a gender perspective.

**i) Brazilian Drug Policy Platform (CICAD/doc.2782/22)**

The delegate, Natalia Oliveira da Silva, pointed to the importance of generating drug policies with a human rights perspective. She referred to the need to consider racial aspects and discrimination in general, aiming to support the most vulnerable people. She suggested the creation of a public budget for countries to implement strategies based on best health practices and social policies with equal rights. She pointed out that the entire community is a victim of the war on drugs, which is why respect for human rights must be implemented, especially as it relates to criminalizing people who traffic small amounts of drugs. In this regard, she proposed an immediate and urgent review of drug regulation policies.

**CICAD Chair: Before moving on to the next item on the agenda, the Chair offered the floor to the delegation of Paraguay.**

**Paraguay:** The delegate referred to a course conducted by the National Anti-Drug Secretariat of Paraguay (SENAD) on the scientific evidence related to cannabinoids, which was held during the COVID-19 pandemic. The delegate emphasized that this course was carried out jointly by SENAD's demand reduction area and the respective CICAD unit. The delegate concluded by mentioning that the videos are available to the public.

## **23. Seventy-third regular session of CICAD**

The Chair referred to the agreements of the Commission during the sixty-sixth regular session of CICAD, held in Miami, Florida, in November 2019, in which it was established that a regular high-level session will be held in the fall of each year, generally in the month of November for four days, and another one-day session, with the presence of the permanent missions accredited to the OAS, to be held during the spring of

each year, generally in April or May, to approve the text of the resolution to be presented to the OAS General Assembly, as well as to approve CICAD's annual report for the previous year.

In line with these agreements, Paraguay, in its role as Chair of CICAD, will soon announce the date on which the CICAD session corresponding to the first half of the year will be held, taking into consideration the dates on which the fifty-third regular session of the OAS General Assembly will be held.

### Closing Remarks

**CICAD Chair:** The Chair summarized the topics discussed during the seventy-second regular session of CICAD. She also highlighted the commitment made by the countries that have served as Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the CICAD expert groups during 2021-2022. Minister Rolón expressed appreciation for the presentation of the Report on Drug Supply in the Americas 2022 by the CICAD Executive Secretariat, as well as the work plan for 2023, which was approved by the plenary. Finally, she underscored the importance of resuming in-person meetings, which provide an opportunity to strengthen ties among the member states and join efforts to carry out their work as those responsible for implementing national drug policies.

**SE-CICAD:** Ambassador Adam Namm underscored the importance of resuming in-person meetings and thanked all the panelists and presenters. He also congratulated Uruguay for having been elected Vice-Chair and Paraguay for its excellent management of the sessions. Finally, he presented Paraguay with a gift as the new chair of CICAD.

**CICAD Chair:** The Chair declared the plenary session and the seventy-second regular session of CICAD adjourned.

### III. DECISIONS

The Commission adopted the following decisions:

1. The Commission approved the draft agenda (CICAD/doc.2666/22corr.1) and the draft schedule of activities (CICAD/doc.2667/22.rev1.Corr.1) without modifications.
2. In accordance with Articles 22 and 23 of the Statute, the Commission elected by acclamation Paraguay and Uruguay to serve, respectively, as Chair and Vice-Chair of CICAD for the period 2021-2022.
3. The Commission approved the report of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction (CICAD/doc.2687/22). The Commission also approved the candidacy of Panama (CICAD/doc.2598/21) to serve as Chair of the Group of Experts for the period 2022-2023. The Commission also approved the candidacy of Brazil (CICAD/doc.2670/22) 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.2689/22). The Commission also approved the candidacy of El Salvador (CICAD/doc.2665/22) to serve as Chair of the Group of Experts for the period 2022-2023. The Commission also approved the candidacy of Guatemala (CICAD/doc.2678/22) to serve as Vice-Chair of the Group of Experts for the same period.

5. The Commission approved the report of the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products (CICAD/doc.2688/22). The Commission also approved the candidacy of Ecuador (CICAD/doc.2679/22) to serve as Chair of the Group of Experts for the period 2022-2023. The Commission also approved the candidacy of Brazil (CICAD/doc.2673/22) to serve as Vice-Chair of the Group of Experts for the same period.
6. The Commission approved the candidacy of Peru (CICAD/doc.2668/22) for the position of Chair of the Group of Experts on Alternative, Comprehensive, and Sustainable Development for the period 2022-2023.
7. The Commission approved the Report of the GEG General Coordinator (CICAD/doc.2677/22) and the 2022 thematic national evaluation reports of the eighth round of the MEM on Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking and Distribution of Drugs and to Address Their Causes and Consequences (CICAD/doc.2676/22).
8. The Commission approved the SE-CICAD Work Plan 2023 (CICAD/doc.2672/22).

#### **IV. 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, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, and Uruguay.

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

Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Germany, Holy See, Italy, Morocco, Portugal, and Spain.

##### **3. Specialized international and regional organizations**

Inter-American Defense Board (IADB/OAS), COPOLAD EU-CELAC Cooperation Program on Drug Policy, CARICOM Secretariat, International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe.

##### **4. Civil Society**

International Association for Hospice & Palliative Care (IAHPC), Dianova International, Fundación Dianova Uruguay, Organización Nacional para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos (ONALDEP), Red Iberoamericana de ONG que Trabajan en Drogas y Adicciones (RIOD), Plataforma Brasileira sobre Políticas de Drogas, Red Nacional de Feministas Antiprohibicionista (RENFA), Red Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Personas Usuarias de Drogas (LANPUD), Iniciativa Negra por Uma Nova Política sobre Drogas (INNP), United Way of Broward County, Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), Red Internacional de Mujeres Familiares de Personas Privadas de Libertad (RIMUF), Familia Penitenciaria Unida, Corporación Mujeres Libres, Global Action on Gun Violence, Institución Intercambios Asociación Civil, Brazilian Network of the Harm Reduction and Human Rights, Corporación Defensoría Militar, Kawen-Remar, USA Refugees + Immigrants, Fundación Derechos y Justicia Asociados, Asociación Salvadoreña para la Formación y Capacitación Integral Sostenible (ASAFOCAIS), Fundación Hombres de Valor, Fundación Pro Humanæ Vitæ.