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**REPORT OF MEXICO'S CHAIR OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON DEMAND REDUCTION OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION CICAD**

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Mr. Luis Leonardo Almagro Lemes, Secretary General, Organization of American States

Ambassador Adam Namm, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission.

Greetings to the new authorities assuming the Office of Chair and Vice Chair of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, as well as the new authorities of each of the CICAD Working Groups.

Commissioners,

Friends.

The following is the report of the Mexican Chair of the CICAD Expert Group on Demand Reduction.

On behalf of the Government of Mexico and the Chair of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction, I am honored to present the Report on the activities carried out this year, accompanied by the Vice Chair from Panama and with the invaluable support of CICAD's Demand Reduction Unit.

The Chair oversaw the drawing up of the document entitled: "**Recommendations for the implementation of drug demand reduction programs, with emphasis on a mental health approach,**" which seeks to highlight basic factors to be taken into account for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of comprehensive and integrated care services that can be accessed by children, adolescents, adults, and seniors, who may or may not be at risk of consuming psychoactive substances or of developing a mental disorder due to their consumption of psychoactive substances.

To that end, four regional virtual meetings were held. The first meeting was preparatory in nature to provide context and establish the objectives and methodology to be followed in the three meetings with working groups; at all times with the support of the Vice-Chair (Panama) and the Demand Reduction Section.

Between July and August, three working groups were held with experts from the National Drug Commissions to propose and exchange recommendations, taking national experiences into consideration .

- **Subgroup 1.** Health promotion, consumption prevention, and early detection programs; with the participation of 13 member states.
- **Subgroup 2.** Treatment and rehabilitation programs; on this occasion, 14 member states participated.
- **Subgroup 3.** Initiatives and measures aimed at minimizing the adverse consequences of drug abuse. 12 member states attended and participated.

More than ten contributions from the experts who participated in these meetings were incorporated into 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 in virtual mode. Participating in this meeting were 24 delegations from the different countries of the region, in addition to governmental and independent experts, as well as regional and international organizations, who followed a work agenda drawn up by the Chair, the Vice Chair from Panama and CICAD's Demand Reduction Unit, and reviewed topics of interest to the region.

Likewise, on October 31 of this year, the aforementioned Recommendations document was sent to CICAD's Demand Reduction Unit, with a request that it kindly share it with members with a view to its eventual adoption.

Finally, I thank all of you for your support and contributions to the work of the Chair from Mexico and convey my best wishes to the Chair from Panama and the Brazilian Vice Chair.