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**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION**

CICAD

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INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

AMBASSADOR ADAM NAMM
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

OPENING REMARKS

AMB. ADAM NAMM – EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, CICAD/OAS
OPENING REMARKS FOR CICAD 72
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2022

Good morning.

Fernando Ramírez Serrano, Director of the Costa Rican Institute on Drugs (ICD), representing the CICAD Chair;

Zully Rolón Esquivel, Minister Secretary of the National Anti-Drugs Secretariat (SENAD) of Paraguay, representing the CICAD Vice Chair;

Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the Organization of American States;

Luis Oliveira, Secretary for Multidimensional Security, Organization of American States;

Honorable CICAD Commissioners and delegations from our member states;

Representatives of permanent observers to the OAS, members of international organizations, representatives of civil society, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen;

It is a pleasure to welcome you to this 72nd regular session of CICAD. Thank you to Costa Rica for its excellent service as CICAD chair during the past year, and my thanks to Paraguay, current CICAD Vice Chair, for working closely with the CICAD Executive Secretariat on the organization of this regular session.

The agenda for this CICAD regular session includes many interesting panels and presentations, as well as the presentation of important publications: the Report on Drug Supply in the Americas 2022, which is a CICAD Executive Secretariat product, and the set of national evaluation reports on drug supply from the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism's eighth evaluation round, which

will be submitted for approval by this Commission. These publications will shed important light on the various facets of drug supply issues, and I am certain that they will provide valuable information for our member states, helping them to put in place effective control measures to address the challenges of drug supply in the Hemisphere.

Regarding the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism, or MEM -- which as many of you know is a Summit of the Americas' mandate -- I thank the experts designated by El Salvador and Brazil for serving as General Coordinator and Deputy General Coordinator, respectively, of this year's Governmental Experts Group. Once the national reports on drug supply are approved by this Commission, they will be posted on our website, and the MEM Unit will then produce a hemispheric brief highlighting key trends in this thematic area. I encourage member states to disseminate national evaluation reports to their national drug control agencies and any other pertinent stakeholders. Next year's MEM evaluation will cover three thematic areas of CICAD's current Plan of Action on Drugs: Institutional Strengthening; International Cooperation; and Research, Information, Monitoring and Evaluation.

CICAD's Inter-American Observatory on Drugs, or OID, had the lead on coordinating the aforementioned Report on Drug Supply in the Americas 2022. I thank member states for the data and other inputs provided to this report. The OID also continues to provide training on national early warning systems and the Early Warning System of the Americas (known by its Spanish-language acronym, SATA), which are crucial in rapidly disseminating information on threats to public health and safety posed by new or existing psychoactive substances, so that effective responses can be developed and implemented. The OID continues to collect information on drug research methods, emerging substances, and drug supply and demand. Topics for papers to be issued in 2023 include wastewater analysis as a tool for early warning systems, drug sales on the internet, and fentanyl in North America.

Our Institutional Strengthening Unit is working with several member states to bring national drug strategies and plans of action in line with the Organization of American States' (OAS) Hemispheric Drug Strategy and corresponding Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs. In 2023, the Unit plans to publish three documents on developing national drug strategies: an updated how-to manual,

a toolkit, and a training curriculum. The Unit also continues to provide technical assistance to explore, implement, and evaluate alternatives to incarceration for adults and juveniles for the pre-trial, trial, and post-trial phases of criminal proceedings. Some of the most significant ongoing actions include the development of Case Care Management systems; the promotion of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms; and the use of better information to inform criminal sentencing. The Unit continues to promote social integration for drug-related offenders through more robust local and community engagement, including promoting the role of therapeutic communities in Latin America and the Caribbean. CICAD also continues to participate in events related to comprehensive and sustainable alternative development, and is planning a 2023 technical discussion on how to mitigate and reduce the impact of illicit crops and drug production on the environment.

CICAD's Demand Reduction Unit has been assisting member states in addressing stigma, given that this area requires much attention, particularly as it is a major cause of discrimination and exclusion, and contributes to the abuse of human rights. The Unit is providing virtual training of trainers on the Universal Prevention Curriculum and Universal Treatment Curriculum, as well as reviewing and updating its Curriculum for Treating Adolescents with Substance Use Disorders. The Unit supported the International Society of Substance Use Professionals (ISSUP) Global Conference in May 2022, and on the margins of that event supported the Global Forum of Youth Leaders in Drug Use Prevention that brought together youth from 37 countries. CICAD also finished a mapping exercise of the Caribbean to identify key drug demand reduction agencies working in prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation, the results of which will be presented during this regular session.

CICAD's Supply Reduction Unit organized virtual roundtables on the Safe Handling and Disposal of Seized Precursor Chemicals used in the Illicit Manufacture of Drugs with technical experts from fifteen member states, and CICAD continues to work jointly with the International Narcotics Control Board on the development of online training modules to promote adequate access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while avoiding their diversion for illicit purposes. CICAD's Regional Counterdrug Intelligence School of the Americas (ERCAIAD, by its Spanish-language acronym) and the Caribbean Counterdrug Intelligence Training School

continue to offer virtual regional courses on counterdrug police intelligence, as well as in-person courses, which were held in Paraguay, Guatemala, and Trinidad and Tobago in recent months. Another regional course is planned to be offered at ERCAIAD headquarters in Bogota in December. The Supply Reduction Unit held a sub-regional meeting of the Working Group on Aerial Drug Trafficking Control, for Latin American member states in May 2022, in San Jose, Costa Rica, to continue discussions on this evolving drug trafficking threat and explore ways to increase bilateral and regional operational cooperation. A second sub-regional meeting of this Working Group, for Caribbean member states, will be convened in Bridgetown, Barbados during the first quarter of 2023. Under the framework of the second phase of the Gender in Law Enforcement Agencies (GENLEA) project, the Supply Reduction Unit continues to hold virtual and in-person technical assistance activities for the development and implementation of action plans for strengthening gender equality in participating counterdrug agencies.

Three of CICAD's experts groups met during 2022. Allow me to thank Peru and El Salvador for chairing and vice chairing, respectively, the Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking; Guatemala and Ecuador for chairing and vice chairing the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products; and Mexico and Panama for their chair and vice chair of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction. I thank the member states that have presented their candidacies to chair and vice chair CICAD's four experts groups during the period 2022-2023. I note that we have yet to receive any candidacy for Vice Chair of CICAD for the period 2022-2023 and, in this regard, would highly encourage the presentation of such candidacy during this regular session.

We continue to seek to strengthen cooperation with OAS permanent observers, as well as with other international organizations and civil society, and look forward to hearing their statements on Friday morning, as well as looking forward to the civil society panel on gender in drug policies.

We continue to strengthen our collaboration with civil society, the participation of which is important to the development and implementation of drug policies and programs to address the drug problem. CICAD encourages a broad and open debate so that all sectors of society may contribute to

strengthening national, regional and international drug strategies.

Before I conclude, allow me to express my deep gratitude to our donors. Specific fund donations account for the vast majority of CICAD's funding, meaning the Executive Secretariat could execute few projects without the cash and in-kind support we receive.

I look forward to a dynamic and productive regular session over the next four days, and look forward to presenting CICAD's 2023 Work Plan to the Commission on Friday.

Thank you for this time, Chair.