



Organización de los
Estados Americanos

April 10, 2015

We are pleased to invite you to participate in a dialogue on " Drugs and Development: Prioritizing a Social Integration Approach," to be held in the context of the 57th Regular Session of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) in Washington D.C., on April 28th 2015, from 2:00pm to 8:00pm. This event will be held at Ruben Dario Room, Organization of American States, 1889 F Street NW, Washington D.C.

This meeting is an initiative of Guatemala's Ministries of Interior and Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with CICAD. Governmental representatives to the CICAD, as well as subject matter experts and civil society organizations will participate in this dialogue.

The objective of the meeting is to examine the link between drugs and development, addressing issues such as the negative impact of drugs on health, life expectancy, education, employment, human rights and poverty reduction. The following specific topics will be discussed: a) The interconnection between drugs and development; b) Promising responses with different approaches that promote social integration of people with different forms of attachment to drugs. Attached please find the preliminary agenda for this dialogue.

The sessions will be conducted with simultaneous translation in English and Spanish. The outcomes of the meeting will be presented during CICAD's 57th Regular Session.

We would be grateful if you could confirm your participation no later than April 20th 2015, via email, to:

agarcia@minex.gob.gt
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This invitation is non-transferable.

We hope you will be able to join us for this important meeting.

With best wishes,

Mauricio López Bonilla

Carlos Raúl Morales

Minister of Interior of Guatemala

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala

4ª CICAD SIDE EVENT - CIVIL SOCIETY –

WITH THE OCCASION OF THE 57 ORDINARY SESSION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE CONTROL OF DRUG ABUSE (CICAD), SECRETARY OF MULTIDIMENSIONAL SECURITY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)

Drugs and Development, Prioritizing a Social Integration Approach

April 28th 2015

**Ruben Darío Room
Organization of American States
1889 F Street NW Washington DC**

At the 54th Ordinary Session of CICAD / OAS held in Bogotá, Colombia in 2013, the Side Event was first celebrated. Since then, the practice of holding a Side Event has continued at subsequent CICAD Meetings to date. These sessions, although not part of the CICAD Ordinary Session, are not binding for the Commission, but they certainly serve as a mechanism for learning about experiences, actions, and promising research from civil society, as well as encourage feedback and exchange of ideas. The Side Event is expected to promote and strengthen the relationship between Commissioners and civil society, strengthening the relevant discussions and subsequent actions in the framework of CICAD. The content of these sessions do not necessarily reflect the position of the OAS, or the governments and institutions that sponsor these sessions.

Drugs and Development: Prioritizing a Social Integration Approach

Introductory Reflections to the Sessions.

Every facet of the drug problem—production, trafficking and consumption—impacts development prospects for the countries of our hemisphere. Despite this link, drug and development policies tend to be formulated in isolation. For example, the drug problem is not included in the Millennium Development Goals, despite the negative impact drugs have on its key goals, such as health, life expectancy, education, employment, human rights and poverty reduction. Beyond the toll on health and family structure, the drug problem exacts high social and economic costs that affect the economy, the environment, political processes, and even the social fabric that is essential for well-functioning democracies.

These sessions are designed to facilitate future research and deepen dialogue and collaboration between the different state and civil society actors, by promoting awareness of the link between drugs and development, placing particular emphasis on social integration and continually searching for solutions. Above all, these Sessions are meant to advance those concrete actions that exemplify this collaboration.

A vicious cycle of exclusion hinders the prospects of resilience and social reintegration. The stigma of the drug addiction or of a criminal record for consumption, trafficking or production of drugs adversely affects access to a legal and permanent employment, and the option to access various social services and public benefits. The degree of social cohesion - understood as belonging to a community of shared rights and obligations, and as a community that fully recognizes the intrinsic value of the people who constitute it - is a true barometer of the health of a society. When society is fractured by a limited sense of cohesion, the likely result is a multitude of problems. Those related to drugs undoubtedly are highly visible. Social exclusion is not only an indicator of an unfair and inequitable system, which does not provide opportunities for development, but it also doubles its effect through the stigma of the excluded as a potential problematic consumer or trafficker of illicit drugs. In these situations of conflict and tensions, in which the different elements of the drug phenomenon intersect, it is imperative to apply a wide and integral orientation that takes into account the multiple factors involved and search for solutions that preserve the quality of life and social integration of all citizens.

The participation and often the leadership of the Civil Society, is essential for progress with the drug policy. The effort to socially integrate citizens who have drug problems can be hindered by the lack of cohesion and effective coordination of the different actors involved, both from the governments and civil society. On this occasion we hope to hear from pioneers in this debate.

Agenda

2:00 – 2:30pm Opening Remarks

Héctor Mauricio López Bonilla, Minister of Interior of Guatemala
Embajador Paul Simons, CICAD Executive Secretary

2:30pm-2:45pm Introduction to the debate and brief explanation of the rules for the debate.

2:45 – 3:20 pm Session I. **The interconnection between the Drugs and Development**

Moderator: Francisco Thoumi, Researcher and member of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).

Presenters:

- **Deborah Alimi**, PhD Candidate, Department of Political Science, Université Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne.
- **Efrem Milanese**, Psychoanalyst and International Consultant.
- **Carlos Mendoza**, Researcher and member of the National Commission for the Reform of Drug Policy, Guatemala.

3:20pm – 3:45pm Questions and answers

3:45pm – 4:00 pm Coffee break

4:00 – 5:00 pm Session II. **Promising responses with different approaches that promote social integration of people with different forms of attachment to drugs.**

Moderator: Rosina Tricanico, Departamento de Inserción Social, Junta Nacional de Drogas, Uruguay

Presenters:

- **Rodrigo Hoyos Mancilla**, Fundación Paréntesis, Chile.
- **... To be confirmed...** Organización del Caribe
- **Pedro Arenas**, Observatorio Colombiano de Cultivos y Cultivadores Declarados Ilícitos, Colombia

5:00 pm – 5:30pm Questions and answers

5:30pm – 6:45pm Work Groups. Debate
Moderator: Raquel Barros, Lua Nova, Brasil

6:45pm – 7:00pm Closing remarks
To be confirmed

7:00 – 8:00 pm Reception