

**Remarks by Ambassador Adam Namm  
Executive Secretary  
Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)  
Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS)  
Organization of American States (OAS)**

**UNODC: Intersessional meeting of the 64th Commission on Narcotic Drugs and  
Thematic Discussion (IGOs)**

Greetings on behalf of the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, known by its Spanish language acronym, CICAD. CICAD is part of the Organization of American States, or OAS, and is the consultative and advisory body of the OAS on the drug problem. It serves as a forum for open discussion on drug issues and the promotion of coordinated efforts to effectively address the drug problem across the Western Hemisphere.

I thank UNODC for the opportunity to present on emerging drug trafficking trends in the Americas from a multidimensional security perspective.

Both in the Americas and globally, we note with great concern the strong link between illicit drug trafficking and corruption and other forms of transnational organized crime such as human trafficking, firearms trafficking, cybercrime, and money laundering. More than ever, the criminal landscape is dominated by global criminal networks made up of highly resourced groups that incorporate new illicit activities into their portfolios, often aided and abetted by corrupt officials.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated, criminal groups are adept at turning obstacles into criminal opportunities. When it comes to narcotrafficking, they have adapted trafficking routes, means of transportation, and other *modus operandi* to continue moving illicit drugs and generating huge amounts of profit. For example, with the reduction of commercial flights, drug traffickers have expanded the use of smaller “narco-planes” and clandestine landing strips, which pose a serious threat to the environment as large areas of natural forest are destroyed to create the landing strips. They also continue to use drones, submarines, and semi-submersible vessels. All of these vehicles can also be used for other organized crime offenses, such as arms smuggling. Riverine drug trafficking has also increased.

Another worrying narcotrafficking trend is the historically high level of production of cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine, including in countries where clandestine laboratories producing these substances had not previously been present. In this context, organized crime is continuously seeking ways to produce illicit drugs with local manufacture of key chemical precursors, reducing dependence on chemical substances brought in from other regions of the world.

Additionally, more efficient production techniques and the use of “designer” chemical precursors and unscheduled chemical substances are allowing criminal organizations to increase the potency of synthetic drugs and New Psychoactive Substances, as well as the amount of product to be sold in so-called cryptomarkets and distributed to consumers via public and private postal services. Finally,

traditional microtrafficking and related offenses are rising in OAS member states, with increasing violent crime rates and public security concerns.

The OAS Hemispheric Drug Strategy 2020 and its corresponding Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2021-2025 provide our member states with a framework for addressing the challenges I have discussed. CICAD's counterdrug programming includes robust training of law enforcement and other technical assistance. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with international partners such as UNODC to respond to the ever-changing drug problem.

Thank you very much for your attention.