

**Plenary Statement of Luis Fernando Lima Oliveira  
Secretary for Multidimensional Security of the Organization of  
American States (OAS)  
66<sup>th</sup> Session - Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)**

**March 2023**

Thank you, chair.

The Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Luis Almagro, closed the 52<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly held in Peru last October saying that, “*Every human right of every person must be protected and promoted,*” and that “*... we owe development to our people, and we owe them the right to live in peace, the right to live safely, and that our actions provide the answers.*”

To do so, we must focus on the search for security for our citizens. Their right to live in peace and safety clearly requires prioritizing the multiple drug-related problems that beset our member states; specifically, corruption, impunity, violence, and human rights violations. Insecurity cannot be pinned on a single culprit; it cannot be viewed or analyzed in isolation but as part of a multidimensional and multifactorial problem. It is the product of a network that includes terrorism, transnational crime, and other threats to public security.

Multilateralism is a necessary mechanism for cooperation and dialogue, a platform for pursuing common objectives, conflict resolution, and coordinating tangible solutions.

That is the nature of the context that defines the OAS Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, which I currently have the privilege of leading: a multilateralism that emanates from and evolves through cooperation among member states, as well as between countries and the international system.

Multidimensional security is one of the four pillars of the OAS, along with democracy, human rights, and development – all cross-cutting issues within the drug problem.

I would like to recognize the fundamental role played in this multilateralism by our collaborative partners: the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), and other institutional actors in the international system.

It is important to address the issue of security from a multilateral perspective, but always with an emphasis on the individual as the focus of our actions; actions that must be guided by the need for protection of human rights, promotion of public health approaches, and evidence-based policies. To that end, multilateralism must protect and promote the strengthening of democratic institutions, their capacities, and their relationship with civil society.

I would like to underscore the efforts of the Organization of American States, and specifically today, the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, which has successfully continued its work so that the OAS Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its Plan of Action are not simply documents, but serve as important tools for addressing the most pressing regional drug control challenges throughout this decade.

Thank you very much.