

MEMEM

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism

**Inter-American Drug Abuse
Control Commission
(CICAD)**

**Secretariat for
Multidimensional
Security
(SMS)**

Belize

EVALUATION OF PROGRESS IN DRUG CONTROL

**IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS
FIFTH EVALUATION ROUND**

2012



**Organization of
American States**



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Inter-American Drug Abuse
Control Commission

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BELIZE

Evaluation of Progress in Drug Control

Implementation of Recommendations from the Fifth Evaluation Round

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PREFACE

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) is an instrument designed to measure progress in actions taken by the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) to address the global drug problem and other related offenses.

The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), an OAS specialized agency, implemented this Mechanism in 1998, pursuant to a mandate from the Second Summit of the Americas held in Santiago, Chile in April 1988.

The MEM is not only a diagnostic tool but has also become a vehicle for disseminating information on the progress achieved through the individual and collective efforts of OAS member state governments, catalyzing hemispheric cooperation, promoting dialogue among member state government authorities, and precisely channeling assistance to areas requiring greater attention by optimizing resources.

The evaluation reports are drafted by the Governmental Expert Group (GEG), a multidisciplinary group composed of experts designated from all OAS/CICAD member states. Each expert functions independently from his or her own government, and experts do not participate in the evaluation of their own countries. Additionally, each country has the opportunity to review and comment on the contents of the evaluations, ensuring an open and participatory process.

The Fifth Evaluation Round, covering the period 2007-2009, consisted of two phases. The full evaluation phase assessed progress made by all member states in combating the drug problem in the subject areas of institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction and control measures. This culminated with the publication of national reports containing 350 recommendations for individual member states. The follow-up phase evaluated progress made in the implementation of the recommendations assigned in the Fifth Round.



RECOMMENDATION 1

APPROVE A NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG PLAN THAT SERVES AS THE FRAMEWORK FOR ALL ANTI-DRUG ACTIVITIES.

Belize does not have an approved National Anti Drug Plan. The country reports that it has drafted a base document, which covers policies for illicit drug demand and supply reduction, and that it is in the process of being approved.

CICAD takes note of the information provided and encourages the country to continue its efforts to complete this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 2

ACCEDE TO THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS, 1992, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND, 1999-2000.

Belize has not started the implementation of this recommendation.

CICAD notes with concern the lack of progress and urges the country to comply with this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned in the First Evaluation Round, 1999-2000.

RECOMMENDATION 3

ACCEDE TO THE PROTOCOL AGAINST THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, THEIR PARTS AND COMPONENTS, AND AMMUNITION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME, 2000, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001-2002.

Belize has not started the implementation of this recommendation.

CICAD urges the country to comply with this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned in the Second Evaluation Round, 2001-2002.



RECOMMENDATION 4

ACCEDE TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION, 2003, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND, 2005-2006.

Belize has not started the implementation of this recommendation.

CICAD urges the country to comply with this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned in the Fourth Evaluation Round, 2005-2006.

RECOMMENDATION 5

ESTABLISH A NATIONAL CENTRALIZED OFFICE THAT CARRIES OUT STUDIES, ORGANIZES, COMPILES, AND COORDINATES DRUG-RELATED STATISTICS AND OTHER DRUG-RELATED INFORMATION, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND, 2005-2006.

Belize reports that it has initiated the development of a drug observatory and established a Research and Information Office in 2010. The country reports that it has a plan and timeline to implement the creation of a Drug Information Network led by the Research and Information Office.

CICAD recognizes the progress made and urges the country to comply with this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned in the Fourth Evaluation Round, 2005-2006.

RECOMMENDATION 6

CONDUCT AN EVALUATION OF RESULTS OF SCHOOL-BASED DRUG PREVENTION PROGRAMS CURRENTLY IN PLACE, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND, 2005-2006.

Belize reports that it has restructured the School and Community Programs Unit in 2010. The mandate of this unit includes a revision of all school based programs and the creation of a proper monitoring and evaluation tool for them. The evaluation has multiple components including Evaluation Sheets completed by the students receiving the program and Drug Educator Checklists where teachers write observations made during the delivery of the program. Teachers may also provide feedback on the officer providing the program. All of this information is collated into an assessment of the program and the results of this assessment are shared with the school for monitoring purposes and to make recommendations for better outcomes for the program.

CICAD considers this recommendation fulfilled.



RECOMMENDATION 7

ESTABLISH OFFICIAL OPERATING STANDARDS FOR SPECIALIZED FACILITIES THAT PROVIDE TREATMENT SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH DRUG USE, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003-2004.

Belize reports that, in July 2009, the Ministry of Health and the National Drug Abuse Control Council (NDACC) created the Rehabilitation and Treatment Unit which is responsible for the implementation of minimum standards of care and provides recommendations for licensing and accreditation of rehabilitation and treatment facilities.

CICAD notes with concern the lack of progress and urges the country to comply with this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned in the Third Evaluation Round, 2003-2004.

RECOMMENDATION 8

CARRY OUT A DRUG USE SURVEY AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.

Belize reports that the National High School Drug Prevention Survey Protocol has been designed and completed but the data have not yet been collected.

CICAD takes note of the information provided and encourages the country to continue its efforts to complete this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 9

IMPLEMENT AN AUTOMATED SYSTEM FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION RELATED TO THE CONTROL OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS.

Belize has not started the implementation of this recommendation.

CICAD encourages the country to comply with this recommendation.



RECOMMENDATION 10

ENACT LEGISLATION FOR THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF THE DIVERSION OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS RATIFIED BY THE COUNTRY.

Belize has not started the implementation of this recommendation.

CICAD encourages the country to comply with the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 11

CARRY OUT RESEARCH AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF ILLICIT TRAFFIC OF ILLICIT DRUGS VIA THE INTERNET, WHICH WILL ENABLE THE COUNTRY TO IDENTIFY ITS REGULATORY AND OPERATIVE NEEDS, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND, 2005-2006.

Belize has not started the implementation of this recommendation.

CICAD notes the lack of progress made and urges the country to comply with this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned in the Fourth Evaluation Round, 2005-2006.

RECOMMENDATION 12

IMPLEMENT A MECHANISM TO REGISTER ILLICIT DRUG SEIZURES.

Belize reports that the Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center (JICC) is the centralized unit within the Belize Police Department that collates all drug seizures including types and quantities seized.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 13

IMPLEMENT A MECHANISM TO REGISTER THE NUMBER OF PERSONS CONVICTED OF ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING.

Belize has not started the implementation of this recommendation.

CICAD encourages the country to comply with the recommendation.



CONCLUSIONS

Belize had thirteen recommendations assigned during the Fifth Evaluation Round, 2007-2009, seven of which were reiterated from previous rounds. Two of these recommendations were completed, four are in progress and seven have not been started.

Although the National Anti-Drug Plan has yet to receive approval from the Cabinet and House of Representatives, a base document has been drafted, which covers policies for illicit drug demand and supply reduction.

There has been no progress with the acceding to three of the Conventions: The Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters has been pending since the First Evaluation Round, 1999-2000; The Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components, and Ammunition of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, pending since the Second Evaluation Round, 2001-2002; and The United Nations Convention against Corruption, pending since the Fourth Evaluation Round, 2005-2006.

CICAD recognizes the steps taken towards establishing a national centralized office to carry out studies as well as organize, compile and coordinate drug related statistics. In addition, the National High School Drug Prevention Survey has been designed and, once implemented, it will provide the country with much needed drug demand information.

CICAD also acknowledges the implementation of the evaluation of the results of the school-based drug prevention programs.

CICAD remains concerned that the national Minimum Standards of Care for treatment centers have not yet been implemented, as this was a recommendation from the Third Round, 2003-2004.

CICAD feels that due attention should be given to the recommendations in the area for supply reduction. The country has complied with the implementation of a mechanism to register illicit drug seizures, but has not started to implement any of the other four recommendations: to implement an automated system for the management of information related to the control of pharmaceutical products; enact legislation for the prevention and control of the diversion of chemical substances, in accordance with the international conventions ratified by the country; carry out research and training activities related to the prevention and control of illicit traffic of illicit drugs via the internet, a recommendation reiterated from the Fourth Evaluation Round, 2005-2006; and implement a mechanism to register the number of persons convicted of illicit drug trafficking.

CICAD acknowledges the country's commitment to the MEM process and encourages the country to fully implement all pending recommendations.

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