

M E M M

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism

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

**Secretariat for
Multidimensional
Security
(SMS)**

Costa Rica

**EVALUATION
OF PROGRESS
IN DRUG CONTROL**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS
FIFTH EVALUATION ROUND**

2012



**Organization of
American States**



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American States



Inter-American Drug Abuse
Control Commission

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)

COSTA RICA

Evaluation of Progress in Drug Control

Implementation of Recommendations from the Fifth Evaluation Round

2012



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

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

Costa Rica reports that on January 3, 2012, it ratified the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters. The country deposited the instrument for ratification on March 14, 2012.

CICAD views with satisfaction the implementation of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 2

IMPLEMENT PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.

Costa Rica reports that it implemented the program “Promotion, Prevention, Detection, and Early Intervention” (PDEIT) in secondary schools. By the end of 2011, 73 schools had undertaken the initiative, which included the training of 275 school officials. The program involves several phases, including coordination and outreach, establishment of commitments, training, designing of action plans and implementation, follow-up and evaluation. The program also identifies students who should be referred for care in Comprehensive Drug Treatment Centers (CAID).

CICAD views with satisfaction Costa Rica’s work on this program and considers the recommendation fulfilled.

RECOMMENDATION 3

CARRY OUT AN IMPACT EVALUATION OF THE “APRENDO A VALERME POR MÍ MISMO” [LEARNING TO STAND ON MY OWN] PREVENTION PROGRAM.

Costa Rica reports that it has conducted an evaluation of the “Aprendo a Valerme por Mi Mismo [Learning to Stand on My Own]” program and its results were published. Recommendations for improving this program include ongoing training for organizers, training in constructive teaching methods and the use of technology in conjunction with the program.

CICAD expresses its satisfaction with the country’s work and considers this recommendation fulfilled.



RECOMMENDATION 4

INCREASE PERSONNEL TRAINING TO ALLOW BETTER FOLLOW-UP FOR INSPECTIONS AND AUDITS OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS FIELD, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND, 2005-2006.

Costa Rica reports that some officials have undertaken relevant training at the international level involving the handling of pharmaceuticals and chemicals. In addition, the country has drafted wide-ranging legislation and implementing guidelines that, when approved, will modify procedures related to the oversight of pharmaceuticals in the country.

CICAD takes note of the information provided and urges the country to implement this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned in the Fourth Evaluation Round, 2005-2006.

RECOMMENDATION 5

IMPLEMENT A SYSTEM TO COMPILE INFORMATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND REGULATORY ACTIVITIES, AND SANCTIONS IMPOSED IN CONNECTION WITH THEM, REGARDING PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS.

Costa Rica reports that it has a system in place to compile information on pharmaceutical products as specified in the recommendation. This includes, for example, record keeping for the issuance of licenses, the import, export, sale, distribution of pharmaceuticals, prescriptions written for patients by medical personnel and the imposition of sanctions. The central control for maintaining this data is Costa Rica's Supervisory Drug Board.

CICAD takes note of the information provided and considers the recommendation fulfilled.

RECOMMENDATION 6

IMPLEMENT A SYSTEM TO FACILITATE THE TRACKING, REGISTRATION, AND THE AUTHORIZATIONS, LICENSES AND REGISTRATION OF REGULATED ENTITIES, OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS.

Costa Rica reports that Ministry of Health's Supervisory Drug Board and the Costa Rican Drug Institute's Precursor Control and Monitoring Unit collaborate to maintain the country's system to track authorizations, licenses and registrations associated with the regulation of all entities involved in the distribution of pharmaceutical products.

CICAD takes note of the information provided and considers the recommendation fulfilled.



RECOMMENDATION 7

ESTABLISH A REGISTER OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS FORMALLY CHARGED WITH AND CONVICTED OF CRIMES RELATED TO ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING.

Costa Rica reports that modifications have been made to its Integrated Drug System (SID) in order to maintain records on public officials detained by the judicial police in drug trafficking cases. The country reports that the system does not include records of public officials charged with or convicted of crimes related to drug trafficking.

CICAD takes note of the progress made and encourages the country to fulfill this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 8

OFFER SPECIALIZED TRAINING TO PERSONNEL RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTROL OF ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON NEW FORMS OF ILLICIT TRAFFICKING AND THE USE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND, 2005-2006.

Costa Rica reports that between 2009 and 2011, 61 training courses on the various modes of drug trafficking were offered to a number of law enforcement organizations responsible for controlling the supply of drugs. A total of 215 law enforcement agents have been trained.

CICAD notes with satisfaction the implementation of the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 9

IMPLEMENT RESEARCH AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES REGARDING THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF THE SALE OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS AND OTHER DRUGS OVER THE INTERNET, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND, 2005-2006.

Costa Rica reports that in 2011, a workshop was held on “Trafficking in drugs over the Internet,” in which 20 government personnel participated.

CICAD takes note of the information provided and considers the recommendation fulfilled.



RECOMMENDATION 10

ESTABLISH A REGISTER TO ENABLE THE COLLECTION OF SYSTEMATIC DATA ON THE CONFISCATION OF AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND, 2005-2006.

Costa Rica reports that the Directorate General of Armament and the Informatics Directorate, both offices of the Ministry of Public Security, have created a project entitled, “Comprehensive Platform, Technology for Services of the Directorate General of Armament.” Through this system, information on confiscated ammunition, explosives and other related materials will be recorded and data updated on a regular basis.

CICAD takes note of the progress made and urges the country to continue its efforts to implement this recommendation, given that it was assigned in the Fourth Evaluation Round, 2005-2006.

RECOMMENDATION 11

MAINTAIN NATIONAL REGISTRIES ON THE IMPORTATION OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES; THE EXPORTATION OF EXPLOSIVES; AND THE TRANSIT OF FIREARMS FOR AT LEAST 10 YEARS.

Costa Rica reports that the General Directorate of Armament of the Ministry of Public Security maintains these registries for at least 10 years.

CICAD notes with satisfaction the implementation of the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 12

ESTABLISH THE CAPACITY TO FOLLOW UP ON ILLICITLY TRAFFICKED, DIVERTED AND SEIZED FIREARMS, WHETHER THROUGH A NATIONAL MECHANISM OR THROUGH THE USE OF SYSTEMS EXISTING IN OTHER COUNTRIES OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

Costa Rica reports that the General Directorate of Armament of the Ministry of Public Security coordinates through national, regional and international institutions to track and identify illegally trafficked, diverted and seized firearms. Relevant officials also participate in international training related to the problem.

CICAD takes note of the information provided and considers this recommendation fulfilled.



RECOMMENDATION 13

REGULATE THE MARKING OF FIREARMS AT THE TIME OF MANUFACTURE.

Costa Rica reports that its judiciary presented a proposal to regulate the marking of firearms at the time of manufacture to the national congress, which is currently in the Committee on Security for review and debate.

CICAD takes note of the information provided and encourages the country to fully implement this recommendation.



CONCLUSIONS

During the Fifth Evaluation Round, 13 recommendations were assigned to Costa Rica. Of these, the country has fulfilled nine and made progress in the implementation of the remaining four.

CICAD notes that Costa Rica ratified the 1992 Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters in 2012. The country also fully implemented recommendations on the implementation of prevention programs for secondary school students and evaluation of the results of the “Learning to Stand on My Own” program.

CICAD observes that Costa Rica fulfilled a recommendation regarding implementation of a system to compile information on administrative and regulatory activities, and sanctions imposed relating to pharmaceutical products, as well as the implementation of a system to facilitate the tracking of authorizations and licensing of entities related to pharmaceutical products. However, enactment of comprehensive provisions that would allow for improved monitoring of audits and inspections of public and private entities associated with pharmaceutical products, including provision of relevant training, is still pending.

The country completed recommendations regarding the implementation of training activities on the sale of drugs via the Internet and specialized training for law enforcement officials in the control of illicit drug trafficking.

While the country made progress in terms of recording data on public officials who have been detained in connection with illicit drug trafficking, there is still no provision to record data on public officials formally charged and convicted.

Costa Rica complied with the recommendation to maintain a registry on the import and export of firearms and related materials and has made progress on establishing national capacity to track illegally trafficked, diverted and seized firearms using national, regional and international mechanisms, as well as on the establishment of a register to collect systematic data on the confiscation of such materials. However, a recommendation on the marking of firearms at the time of manufacture is still pending approval of appropriate national legislation.

CICAD acknowledges Costa Rica’s participation in the MEM process and encourages the country to implement all the recommendations assigned.

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