

MEMEM

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism

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

**Secretariat for
Multidimensional
Security
(SMS)**

Panama

EVALUATION OF PROGRESS IN DRUG CONTROL

**IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS
FIFTH EVALUATION ROUND**

2012



**Organization of
American States**



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Control Commission

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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.

Panama doesn't not have an approved Anti-Drug National Plan, however, the country has a base document of the Anti-Drug Plan that contains the mission, vision, the guiding principals and the thematic objectives, its politics, goals, strategic objectives, activities and indicators, of which are in the process of being drafted.

CICAD encourages the country to continue efforts to approve the National Anti-Drug Plan and implement this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 2

EXTEND THE COVERAGE OF PREVENTION PROGRAMS TARGETING PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.

Panama reports that it has trained a total of 782 teachers in the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades in the National Drug Control Program "Somos Triunfadores" (We are Winners). The project has reached a total of 20,460 students (8% of fifth grade students, 8.7% of sixth grade students, 8.9% of seventh grade students, 10% of eighth grade students).

Panama also reports that the program "Jóvenes contra el Delito" (Youth against Crime) is implemented with the National Police in 107 schools, representing 20% of the country's middle schools and high schools.

The country says that production of new documents targeted to the third, fourth, ninth, and tenth grades is pending, along with adaptation of the program "Somos Triunfadores" to indigenous languages and evaluation of the programs' impact.

CICAD views with satisfaction the implementation of the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 3

CONDUCT A STUDY TO ESTIMATE THE EXTENT OF DRUG USE AMONG THE GENERAL POPULATION.

Panama reports that it has not started implementing this recommendation.

CICAD encourages the country to implement this recommendation.



RECOMMENDATION 4

IMPLEMENT A COMPUTERIZED OR SIMILAR INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR THE CONTROL OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES.

Panama reports that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) trained personnel of the Controlled Chemical Substances Unit that will be responsible for operating the system NDS. Also reports that it maintains a record on spreadsheets for retention of and access to basic data input, this information is being transferred to the NDS system. The country adds that it is awaiting the adoption of the regulation to Law 19 of June 13, 2005, which will give an independent budget to the Controlled Chemical Substances Unit that will enable it to fulfill its responsibilities.

CICAD takes note of the actions started and encourages the country to continue its efforts to comply with the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 5

CARRY OUT RESEARCH AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF THE ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS AND OTHER 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.

Panama reports that it has provided training on prevention and prosecution of counterfeiting of pharmaceutical products to health professionals and professionals in other government areas, which addressed the dangers of trafficking of either counterfeit or authentic pharmaceutical products over the Internet. Also, the country reports that the Office of Pharmacy and Drugs participated in the INTERPOL workshop to tackle the growing area of drug trafficking (Drug.net Project), which took place in San José, Costa Rica.

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



RECOMMENDATION 6

ESTABLISH MECHANISMS FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND COOPERATION OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR THE CONTROL OF ACTIVITIES RELATED TO FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES, AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS.

Panama reports its incorporation into the High Level Group on Security and Justice (GANSJ) in the area relating to the illicit trafficking of arms and explosives, establishment of liaison with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) to trace illegal firearms. INTERPOL Panama is part of the network of countries that benefit from the use of the Integrated System I - 24 - 7, which issues international alerts and verifications, including crimes having to do with firearms and related materials. The country indicates that an Operational Center for Regional Security of the Central American Integration System (SICA) was established in Panama for the purpose of combating organized crime, including trafficking of firearms.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 7

IMPLEMENT A COMPUTERIZED REGISTRATION SYSTEM FOR THE IMPORT, EXPORT, AND TRANSIT OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES, AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND, 2005-2006.

Panama reports that on May 27, 2011, it adopted Law No. 57, General Law on Firearms, Ammunition and Related Materials. This assigns national responsibility for the control of firearms to the Institutional Directorate of Public Security Affairs (DIASP).

CICAD recognizes the actions carried out and urges the country to continue its efforts for full implementation of this reiterated recommendation, considering that it was assigned during the Fourth Evaluation Round, 2005-2006.



RECOMMENDATION 10

INCLUDE ACCOUNTANTS, ATTORNEYS AND PUBLIC NOTARIES AMONG THOSE OBLIGATED TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS OPERATIONS TO PREVENT MONEY LAUNDERING.

Panama points out that the Public Prosecutor's Office submitted a proposal to the Commission responsible for drafting the bill establishing measures to prevent money laundering and terrorism financing, which would include accountants, attorneys, and notaries public among the subjects obligated to report suspicious operations to prevent money laundering. This Commission will present the proposed amendment to current Law 42 of October 2, 2000.

CICAD takes note of the information provided and encourages the country to comply with this recommendation



CONCLUSIONS

Panama has shown progress in complying with the majority of the recommendations issued during the Fifth Evaluation Round. Of a total of ten recommendations assigned, Panama has complied with three; has taken steps to implement four, one has not been started and two recommendations were withdrawn¹.

In the area of institutional building, the country has a base document of the Anti-Drug Plan which is in the process of being drafted.

In the area of demand reduction, the training of teachers that take part in the National Drug Prevention Program “Somos Triunfadores” (We are Winners), as well as the expansion of drug prevention programs targeting primary, secondary and college-preparatory education students merit special recognition.

In the area of control measures, Panama has carried out training activities targeting health and other government professionals on topics relating to the prevention and combat of counterfeit medicines and trafficking in pharmaceutical products via the internet. Panama also implemented mechanisms to exchange information and cooperation with national and international entities with regard to the control of Illicit Trafficking in Firearms and Explosives by joining the High Level Group on Security and Justice and through coordination with ATF and INTERPOL Panama.

CICAD takes note of the actions taken to implement a computerized information system for the control of chemical substances, as well as a registration system for the import, export of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials.

Nevertheless, CICAD notes that the country has not made progress in implementing the recommendation addressing the need to estimate the magnitude of drug use in the general population.

CICAD recognizes Panama’s participation in the Multilateral Evaluation Process and encourages the country to continue its efforts to fully implement the recommendations still pending.

¹ Recommendations 8 and 9 were withdrawn.

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