

MEMEM

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism

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

**Secretariat for
Multidimensional
Security
(SMS)**

**United
States of
America**

**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)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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 AGAINST ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS (CIFTA), A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND, 1999-2000.

The United States of America reports that it has not advanced in 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 2

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.

The United States of America reports that it has not advanced in 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 Second Evaluation Round, 2001-2002.

RECOMMENDATION 3

ESTABLISH A NATIONAL REGISTER OF DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAMS TO INCLUDE THE NATURE, TARGET POPULATION, AND COVERAGE OF THE DIFFERENT PROGRAMS, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003-2004.

The United States of America reports the availability of the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP), a searchable online registry of mental health and substance abuse interventions.

CICAD views with satisfaction the implementation of this recommendation.



RECOMMENDATION 4

ADOPT THE NECESSARY MEASURES TO ENSURE THE MANDATORY NATURE OF THE OFFICIAL OPERATING STANDARDS NATIONWIDE FOR SPECIALIZED FACILITIES THAT PROVIDE TREATMENT SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH DRUG USE, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001-2002.

The United States of America informs that it does not have mandatory official standards applicable to all treatment and rehabilitation centers in the country, due to the fact that regulation of substance abuse treatment is the responsibility of states and localities, with the exception of opioid treatment, which is regulated at the national level.

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

RECOMMENDATION 5

ESTABLISH A NATIONAL SYSTEM TO KEEP RECORDS ON TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS RELATED TO DRUG USE, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003-2004.

The United States of America reports that the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), a census of fatal motor vehicle traffic crashes in the United States, contains a number of variables to describe drug involvement in fatal crashes. Drug presence as recorded in FARS includes both illegal substances as well as over-the-counter and prescription medications, which may or may not have been misused.

CICAD views with satisfaction the implementation of this recommendation.



RECOMMENDATION 7

ESTABLISH A NATIONAL AUTOMATED REGISTRY TO CONSOLIDATE THE NUMBER OF PERSONS FORMALLY CHARGED WITH AND CONVICTED OF ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING, THE NUMBER OF PERSONS FORMALLY CHARGED WITH AND CONVICTED OF ILLICIT DRUG POSSESSION, AND THE NUMBER OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS FORMALLY CHARGED WITH AND CONVICTED OF OFFENSES RELATED TO ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING.

The United States of America reports that comprehensive national statistics for federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial prosecutions of illicit drug trafficking, illicit drug possession, and public officials involved in drug trafficking offenses are not available, and establishing a consolidated national automated registry is not feasible. The country informs that with data gathered by thousands of Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and agencies providing criminal justice services, collecting and integrating relevant data on a regular basis is not feasible.

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

RECOMMENDATION 8

ESTABLISH A NATIONAL AUTOMATED REGISTRY OF CONFISCATED FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS INVOLVED WITH NARCOTRAFFICKING CASES.

The United States of America reports that the National Seizure System, located at the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC), collects data on the confiscation of firearms, involved with narcotrafficking cases from federal agencies, while state and local agencies report on a voluntary basis.

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



CONCLUSIONS

During the Fifth Evaluation Round, 2007-2009, the United States of America (U.S.) received a total of nine recommendations. Of these, the country has fulfilled two, made progress in two, has not initiated three, and two were withdrawn¹.

In the area of Institutional Strengthening, the U.S. has not made progress in both the ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials (CIFTA), a recommendation assigned during the First Evaluation Round, 1999-2000; as well as accession 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 assigned during the Second Evaluation Round, 2001-2002.

In the area of Demand Reduction, the country completed the establishment of an on-line National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP). In addition, the country has established a Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), which records fatal motor vehicle traffic accidents in the U.S., including the use of illegal substances and prescription medications, which may or may not have been misused. Nonetheless, the country did not make progress on the adoption of necessary measures to ensure the mandatory nature of the official operating standards nationwide for specialized facilities that provide treatment services for persons with problems associated with drug use, a recommendation assigned during the Second Evaluation Round, 2001-2002.

Regarding the area of Control Measures, the U.S. reported that the national statistics for prosecutions of illicit drug trafficking, illicit drug possession and public officials involved in these offenses are not available and the establishment of a consolidated national automated registry is not feasible for the country. With regards to the establishment of a national automated registry of confiscated firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials involved with narco-trafficking, the country reports that through the National Seizure System of the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC), data are collected on the confiscation of firearms involved with narco-trafficking cases at the federal level.

CICAD recognizes the participation of the United States of America in the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) process and encourages the country to implement the pending recommendations.

¹ Recommendations 6 and 9 were withdrawn.

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