

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism MEM



Belize

2009 EVALUATION OF PROGRESS IN DRUG CONTROL
IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS
FROM THE FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND



**RECOMMENDATION 1:****ACCEDE TO THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS, 1992, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND, 1999-2000.**

Belize reports that the Convention is pending review at the Ministry of the Attorney General.

CICAD expresses its concern over the lack of fulfillment of this reiterated recommendation and urges the country to accede to this Convention, 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, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001-2002.**

Belize reports that the Protocol is pending review at the Ministry of the Attorney General.

CICAD expresses its concern over the lack of fulfillment of this reiterated recommendation and urges the country to accede to this Convention, given that it was assigned in the Second Evaluation Round, 2001-2002.

RECOMMENDATION 3:**ACCEDE TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION, 2003.**

Belize reports that the Convention is pending review at the Ministry of the Attorney General.

CICAD encourages the country to fulfill this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 4:**ESTABLISH A NATIONAL CENTRALIZED OFFICE THAT ORGANIZES, COMPILES, AND COORDINATES DRUG-RELATED STATISTICS AND OTHER DRUG-RELATED INFORMATION.**

Belize informs that the national centralized office, included in the Ministry of Health's five-year plan 2008-2013, was launched in January 2009. The office is being used as a resource center by parents, teachers and students and awaits the appointment of a Research and Information Officer.

CICAD encourages Belize to work towards fully completing this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 5:****CONDUCT AN EVALUATION OF SCHOOL-BASED DRUG PREVENTION PROGRAMS CURRENTLY IN PLACE.**

Belize reports that the Prevention Program "Hoops you got Game" for secondary schools was evaluated. The country further informs that a similar program evaluation for pre and primary schools is underway.

CICAD acknowledges the progress that Belize has made in the evaluation of its school based drug prevention programs and encourages the country to complete the process.

RECOMMENDATION 6:**EXPAND THE COVERAGE OF DRUG PREVENTION PROGRAMS TO INCLUDE THE SCHOOL POPULATION AND THE COMMUNITY.**

Belize informs that the National Drug Abuse Control Council (NDACC) is working with the Youth for the Future Program, the Conscious Youth Development Program (CYDP), the National Committee for Families and Children (NCFC) as well as the Ministry of Education to provide prevention programs at both the school and community levels and these programs are now being offered in a structured rather than an ad-hoc manner.

The NDACC and the Ministry of Education target prevention through teacher training, therefore, Prevention Education has now become a part of the classroom timetable in more than half of the nation's schools.

The CYDP and the NCFC are instrumental in promoting drug prevention at the community levels through advocacy and various work programs. One such program is the Social Transformation Program, whereby residents of a depressed area of Belize City are engaged in the transformation of their communities in conjunction with the CYDP and the Belize Tourism Industry.

CICAD views with satisfaction the completion of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 7:**ESTABLISH MINIMUM STANDARDS OF CARE FOR DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003-2004.**

Belize reports that the minimum standards of care are pending review at the Office of the Solicitor General.

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

**RECOMMENDATION 8:****ESTABLISH A MECHANISM TO EVALUATE THE MEASURES PUT IN PLACE TO CONTROL PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003-2004.**

Belize reports that the recommended amendments to the draft copy of the Act to Control the Movement of Pharmaceuticals are being made. The final draft will be presented to the Minister of Health and later to Cabinet for approval.

CICAD takes note of the updated information provided by Belize in response to this recommendation and considers the recommendation fulfilled.

RECOMMENDATION 9:**CARRY OUT TRAINING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF ILLICIT TRAFFIC OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS AND OTHER DRUGS VIA THE INTERNET, WHICH WILL ENABLE THE COUNTRY TO IDENTIFY ITS REGULATORY AND OPERATIVE NEEDS.**

Belize reports that it has sought and received assistance to offer several training workshops. The country further reports that one workshop was conducted in October 2008 with a total of 20 participants including pharmacists, Police, Customs and Immigration officers as well as personnel from the Ministry of Health.

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

RECOMMENDATION 10:**ESTABLISH A MECHANISM TO EVALUATE THE MEASURES PUT IN PLACE TO CONTROL THE DIVERSION OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003-2004.**

Belize informs that a Drug Inspectorate office was established. This office works closely with the Anti-Drug and Forensic Unit of the Belize Police Department to monitor the movement or diversion of chemical substances. Data is then collected and shared with the Belize National Health Information System (BNHIS).

CICAD takes note and accepts the information provided by Belize in response to this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 11:**ESTABLISH TRAINING COURSES FOR PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN THE CONTROL OF THE DIVERSION OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES.**

Belize reports that several in-country training workshops have been carried out for members of the Belize Police Department, Customs, Immigration and Ministry of Health personnel. In addition, Belize is engaged in discussions with its counterparts in Central America to pursue structured courses in chemical control strategies and techniques.



The country further reports that in October 2008, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for training in the control of the diversion of chemical substances. The MOU provides for the necessary technical and financial assistance for capacity building in the area of the control of the diversion of chemical substances.

CICAD acknowledges the efforts of Belize and encourages the country to fulfill this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 12:

PROVIDE NATIONAL SPECIALIZED TRAINING COURSES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT, SECURITY, CUSTOMS OFFICERS, PROSECUTORS AND THE JUDICIARY TO ADDRESS ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING.

Belize reports that it is collaborating with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other countries to provide the following training regional seminars during 2008: Border Management, Drug Control and Gang Violence, and Drug Control Strategies and the Law.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 13:

CRIMINALIZE MONEY LAUNDERING AS AN AUTONOMOUS OFFENSE, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003-2004.

The Money Laundering and Terrorism (Prevention) Act, 2008 that came into effect January 12, 2008, establishes money laundering as an autonomous offense.

CICAD views with satisfaction the completion of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 14:

EXPAND THE LIST OF PREDICATE OFFENSES FOR MONEY LAUNDERING TO INCLUDE ALL CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES CONSIDERED SERIOUS CRIMES UNDER THE PALERMO CONVENTION (PUNISHABLE BY A MAXIMUM DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY OF AT LEAST FOUR YEARS OR A MORE SERIOUS PENALTY), A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003-2004.

Belize informs that the Money Laundering and Terrorism (Prevention) Act, 2008 as well as the Criminal Code, Chapter 101 of the Laws of Belize, R.E. 2000-2003, provides for the necessary amendments to deal with predicate offenses. Section 2 of the Act describes "serious crime" as an offence punishable by a sentence exceeding two years. This Act also criminalizes money laundering as an autonomous offense.

CICAD views with satisfaction the completion of this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 15:****AMEND LEGISLATION TO INCLUDE UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATIONS, ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE, USE OF INFORMANTS, CONTROLLED DELIVERIES AND SENTENCE REDUCTION FOR COOPERATING WITNESSES AS SPECIAL INVESTIGATION TECHNIQUES TO REPRESS MONEY LAUNDERING.**

Belize informs that undercover investigations, use of informants and controlled deliveries are special investigative techniques permitted under national legislation in money laundering investigations. Information was not provided on the use of electronic surveillance nor sentence reduction for cooperating witnesses.

CICAD encourages the country to continue its efforts to fulfill this recommendation.

CONCLUSIONS

The Fourth Evaluation Round of the MEM generated 15 recommendations for Belize. Six of these recommendations have been fulfilled, five are in progress, and four are under review by the country's legislative procedures.

CICAD acknowledges the progress made by the country in the expansion and evaluation of the prevention programs to schools and the community as well as the number of persons that these programs are expected to reach.

CICAD notes the launch of the national centralized office of the Ministry of Health and encourages the country to work towards organizing, compiling and coordinating drug related statistics.

CICAD recognizes that Belize has sought and obtained training in various areas of drug control, both internationally and regionally. Training was also provided in 2008, on the area of control of the diversion of chemical substances and on the area of illicit drug trafficking, through regional seminars on Border Management, Drug Control and Gang Violence and Drug Control Strategies and the Law.

However, CICAD is concerned that the country still has outstanding reiterated recommendations from previous evaluation rounds, such as, the accession to the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, 1992; and the 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. Additionally, the country has yet to accede to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

There was no progress in the enactment of legislation regarding the minimum standards of care for drug abuse treatment nor amendments with respect to national legislation relating to the monitoring of pharmaceutical products and chemical substances.

CICAD recognizes that the country has a Money Laundering and Terrorism (Prevention) Act 2008, which came into effect January 2009, that criminalizes money laundering as an autonomous offense. This Act also expanded the list of predicate offenses for money laundering to include all criminal activities considered as serious crimes and defining them as offenses punishable by a prison sentence exceeding two years or more.



CICAD recognizes the participation of Belize in the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) process, and encourages the country to continue with its efforts to implement all pending recommendations.