

**RECOMMENDATION 1:****REITERATE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND 1999-2000 TO RATIFY THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS****PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2001**  
**REITERATION DATE: JANUARY 2003**

Costa Rica reports that the Convention has been introduced in the Legislative Assembly for approval.

CICAD recognizes the progress made by Costa Rica and urges that it continue the process in order to implement this recommendation, if possible, by the end of 2004, as it was assigned during the First Evaluation Round 1999-2000.

**RECOMMENDATION 2:****RATIFY THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AND ITS PROTOCOLS****PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003**

Costa Rica reports that it has ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto. Costa Rica reports that the dates of deposit of the respective instruments of ratification with the United Nations General Secretariat are:

Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: July 24, 2003; Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on August 7, 2003.

Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on September 9, 2003.

Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on September 9, 2003.

CICAD expresses its satisfaction with the implementation of this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 3:****CONTINUE MONITORING THE EVOLUTION OF ILLICIT CROPS IN ORDER TO PREVENT THEIR EXPANSION****PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003**

Costa Rica reports that it has made progress to this end and that a specialized group of the Drug Control Police is carrying out ongoing intelligence and illicit crop eradication activities. The country is aware that marijuana cultivation is a legal, police, and social problem and that there must be greater interagency coordination to address this problem.

Also, the country reports that helicopters would facilitate crop destruction efforts, and considers that its knowledge of the crop destruction experiences of other countries must be deepened.

CICAD encourages Costa Rica to continue its efforts to monitor the evolution of illicit crops.

**RECOMMENDATION 4:****CONTINUE MAKING ARRANGEMENTS SO THAT THE DATABASE, NEEDED TO MONITOR THE ISSUE OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION, BECOMES OPERATIONAL BY THE ANTICIPATED DATE****PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003**

Costa Rica reports that the Department of Firearms and Explosives Control, the entity with responsibility for control and supervision of privately owned weapons, and the Firearms Registration Office are duly computerized.

However, the Firearms Registration Office's database only includes firearms belonging to the Ministry of Public Security; collection and systematization of data of other government agencies is pending. Costa Rica reports that, as the criteria used by many government institutions differ from those of the Firearms Office, the issuance of presidential guidelines has been requested so that the government may take a uniform approach to the control and inventory of government firearms. The country indicates that upgrading of hardware and software is needed, as is training of officials to administer them.

The country has requested the software developed by CICAD for the oversight and control of firearms and explosives, which will be a valuable instrument to facilitate integration of all information available in the country in this area.

CICAD recognizes the efforts made to implement the recommendation and encourages that it be implemented, if possible, by the end of 2004.

**RECOMMENDATION 5:****ESTABLISH PERIODIC COORDINATION AMONG THE ENTITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR PREVENTING THE ILLICIT DIVERSION OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION****PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003**

The country reports that the designation of the Firearms Office as the central contact point has enabled interagency coordination to be established with the General Customs Office and the judiciary, which enhances control of illicit trafficking in firearms and ammunition, with a view to preventing their diversion. Such coordination is effected for specific cases, with a view to preventing diversion through rigorous oversight and control. It likewise established that all confiscated firearms with pending court proceedings must remain in the custody of the National Arsenal of the Firearms Office and may only be returned permanently (never provisionally) to their owners when a series of legal requirements has been met. The country requires staff training in specific firearms control techniques.

CICAD expresses its satisfaction with the establishment of interagency coordination and encourages the country to effect it regularly.

**RECOMMENDATION 6:****INCLUDE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS TO PREVENT THE DIVERSION OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION WHEN SUCH MATERIALS ARE IN TRANSIT IN THE NATIONAL TERRITORY****PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003**

Costa Rica reports that it has implemented this recommendation on July 24, 2003, when the Official Gazette published a list of procedures and requirements that the Ministry of Public Security must apply. Among these requirements are those concerning the exportation, the presentation of a document or certificate through which is established the final destination of goods to be exported and a specific declaration that such goods will not be sent to a third country.

Shipments in transit or to be brought into the country remain in police custody from the point of entry into national territory to their place of final storage or departure from the country. Regular inventories are made of the different police armories and stolen firearms data is compared with that of firearms in police custody pursuant to court order in order to locate and recover government firearms.

CICAD recognizes that Costa Rica has adopted mechanisms to control, within national territory, the diversion of firearms and ammunition. CICAD encourages the country to incorporate the administrative controls to which the recommendation refers.

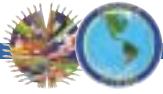
**RECOMMENDATION 7:****ESTABLISH ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS THAT COVER INSURANCE COMPANIES, CASINOS, REAL ESTATE COMPANIES, ATTORNEYS AND NOTARY PUBLICS, TO PREVENT MONEY LAUNDERING****PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003**

Costa Rica reports that in February 2003, a bill to strengthen anti-terrorism laws was introduced in the Legislative Assembly. This bill would amend the Law on Narcotics, Psychotropic Substances, Unauthorized Drugs, Money Laundering and Related Activities in areas related to the offense of the financing of terrorism and aspects such as regulation of professional services. The country reports that it is difficult to establish a timeframe for implementation of the recommendation because this depends upon the Legislative Assembly.

CICAD views positively the drafting of this bill and its introduction in the National Assembly and encourages the authorities to proceed with the Parliamentary approval process in order to have this law in place.

**RECOMMENDATION 8:****CONDUCT TRAINING FOR CONTROL AND INTERDICTION ENTITIES IN ASPECTS RELATING TO SYNTHETIC DRUGS, SO AS TO TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION AGAINST THIS TREND THAT IS EMERGING IN THE COUNTRY****PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003**

Costa Rica reports that it has held an international conference on ecstasy and club drugs that made possible a wide-ranging exchange of experiences. It has conducted several training activities for government officials and representatives of organized communities on the basis of these materials.



In addition, in the period of October and December 2003, six training events were held on synthetic drugs for 163 public police officials of the Office of the Attorney General and the judiciary. In November 2003, the Costa Rican Institute on Drugs officially launched a synthetic drug awareness campaign, with its own resources and financial support from the Embassy of the United States. This campaign was carried out through different national television channels, preparation of an interactive CD containing detailed information on synthetic drugs, and printed materials, i.e., posters and brochures, on synthetic drugs.

The country reports that it has issued information bulletins on ecstasy. An information and awareness campaign using printed and audiovisual materials was begun on October 2003.

Costa Rica underscores that it faces serious budgetary constraints and that it needs technical and financial assistance, equipment, training, and printed and audiovisual materials. It has received financial support from the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) for the awareness campaign conducted in October 2003.

CICAD expresses its satisfaction with the implementation of this recommendation.

## CONCLUSIONS

CICAD recognizes the major efforts Costa Rica is making in its fight against the problem of drugs and its related offenses. Such efforts are reflected in the implementation of five of the eight recommendations made to it.

In this period, the country moved forward with the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols; in implementing a coordination among the entities responsible to prevent diversion of the illicit traffic of firearms and ammunition; in adoption of a mechanism to control within national territory the diversion of firearms and ammunition, as well as in training interdiction and control organizations aspects related to synthetic drugs.

Moreover, Costa Rica still needs to increase its efforts to comply with the recommendations assigned. Among these are the ratifications of the Inter-American Convention of Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, as it was assigned in the First Evaluation Round 1999-2000. In addition, the country should continue efforts on the surveillance of illicit crops; in the conclusion of implementation of a data base to follow up the firearms and ammunitions matters; in the inclusion of the administrative controls to prevent diversion of the firearms and ammunitions related to transit of these materials through national territory; and on the approval of the Draft Law to strengthen the Legislation against Terrorism, which includes the administrative controls requested on the recommendation given to the country in January 2003.