

Multilateral
Evaluation
Mechanism
MEM

Barbados

Evaluation of Progress in Drug Control

Organization of American States – **OAS**

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission – **CICAD**

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1999
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2000

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Organización de los Estados Americanos – OEA

Comisión Interamericana para el Control del Abuso de Drogas – CICAD

Organization of American States – OAS

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission – CICAD

Organização dos Estados Americanos – OEA

Comissão Interamericana para o Controle do Abuso de Drogas – CICAD

Organisation des Etats Américains – OEA

Commission Interaméricaine de Lutte Contre l'abus des Drogues – CICAD

NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY

Barbados has a draft national plan for the period 2001-2005 pending approval, which covers supply reduction, demand reduction, control measures, institutional framework, budget, and an evaluation system. Current strategies are divided into demand reduction and supply reduction activities, and legislation and international cooperation.

Barbados has a central coordinating authority called the National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA), established by Act of Parliament in 1995, which coordinates demand reduction activities. The agencies directly involved in supply reduction are the Royal Barbados Police Force, the Barbados Defense Force, the Barbados Information Centre, and the Customs and Excise Department.

Barbados has ratified the United Nations Conventions of 1961, 1971 and 1988. It has not signed the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption; the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters; or the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials.

Furthermore, it has national laws and regulations on drugs issues, in keeping with international agreements. Specifically, it has legislation regarding money laundering, chemical substances and firearms, ammunition and explosives. It does not indicate whether the legislation is in keeping with the CICAD Model Regulations.

Barbados does not have a system for the collection and maintenance of statistics and documents. However, there are separate collections of documents and statistics for demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures and societal impact of illicit drugs.

Recommendations

1. **Finalize its national plan at the earliest possible time. In this regard, it is noted that CICAD consultants are currently assisting in this exercise, which Barbados expects to conclude during 2001.**
2. **Incorporate an evaluation system into the National Anti-Drug Plan to analyze, monitor, and interpret information on the processes, effects, and impact of interventions in demand and supply reduction and control measures.**

3. Sign and ratify the following international instruments:
 - The Inter-American Convention against Corruption.
 - The Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.
 - The Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other related materials.
4. Develop and apply an integrated system for the collection, analysis and maintenance of statistics and documents and consider support by means of international cooperation, if necessary.

DEMAND REDUCTION

Barbados has a National Drug Demand Strategy with four main components: coordination and data collection, school prevention, community prevention, and treatment and rehabilitation. There is a national system on drug abuse prevention programs targeted to key populations that include primary and secondary school children, community leaders, prisoners, and prison officers.

There are both private and public sector “Drugs in the Workplace” programs. These include employer assistance programs, seminars, and workshops.

Barbados has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and its Plan of Action. There are no guidelines on minimum standards of care for drug treatment. While there is a program for prisoners, there is no program for social reintegration and after-care. The public programs are supplemented by private sector programs.

Specialized professional training is available at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. This is a program for professionals leading to a certificate in addiction studies. Other courses and seminars are offered from time to time.

Prevalence of drug use is measured by utilizing the Rapid Assessment Survey of the UNDCP. This has provided data that could be used for research purposes. The average age of first illicit drug use is 14.5 years. Substances considered were alcohol, cannabis, and cocaine. There is no evaluation of prevention programs and no data available to document the annual incidence of new drug users.

Recommendations

1. Implement fully the Plan of Action of the United Nations Declaration of the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction.
2. Enhance and formalize existing programs in the areas of prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation with minimum standards and strategies that can be evaluated.
3. Implement a system of data collection to determine the annual incidence of new drug users.
4. Establish regular evaluations of treatment and prevention programs.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

There are illicit cannabis crops in Barbados. Up to September of the 1999, the Royal Barbados Police Force seized 39 cannabis plants. The country does not have a mechanism to determine the area planted, or potential production capacity.

The Barbados Drug Service, in collaboration with the Customs and Excise Department, is the agency responsible for controlling the diversion of pharmaceuticals and controlled chemical substances. The country has a system to estimate the annual national legitimate needs for pharmaceuticals and controlled chemical substances, but observes that there is a need to evaluate the coordination of this effort. The Barbados Pharmacists' Association reports that there is a system to monitor and regulate professions involved in the distribution and use of pharmaceuticals. The Barbados Drug Service, as the national agency, established a mechanism for national and international operational information exchanges regarding pharmaceuticals and controlled chemical substances. That entity is responsible for controlling the importation and exportation of pharmaceuticals identified in the 1961 UN Convention. Pre-export notifications provide prior notification of shipments of controlled chemical substances to the country. The number of pre-export notifications for controlled chemical substances issued to countries importing or transshipping these chemicals was not available, nor was the number of pre-export notifications received and replied on time.

Barbados informs that no diverted pharmaceuticals or controlled chemical substances were seized in 1999. The numbers of requests for assistance made by the country under the provisions of international cooperation agreements regarding controlled chemical substances and replies received were not available.

Barbadian law establishes criminal, administrative, and civil sanctions for the diversion of controlled chemical substances and pharmaceuticals. However, it should be noted that the country does not report their application in 1999.

As the country provides limited information on its legal, regulatory, and institutional framework for the control of chemical substances and pharmaceuticals, there is insufficient information to determine its nature and function in greater detail. It is thus difficult to determine to what extent the country has adapted this framework to the recommendations contained in the Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere.

Recommendations

1. **Implement mechanisms for determining the existence of illicit cultivation and potential production capacity.**
2. **Develop a mechanism for handling pre-export notification.**
3. **Strengthen its mechanism to provide information on its legal, regulatory and institutional framework for the control of chemical substances and pharmaceuticals.**

CONTROL MEASURES

The Royal Barbados Police Force and the Customs and Excise Department are the entities responsible for investigating, controlling, and eradicating illicit drug trafficking. The Law Courts are the judicial and administrative agencies specifically responsible for investigating, controlling or eliminating illicit drug trafficking.

There is a mechanism for national interagency coordination, cooperation, and information exchanges regarding drug trafficking. A central agency, the Regional Organized Counter Crime Intelligence Sharing System (ROCCISS) coordinates and facilitates international cooperation and timely information exchanges.

In 1998, 266 seizure operations were carried out, resulting in the seizure of 22.2 kilos of cocaine base, 858 cannabis plants, and 1511 cannabis leaves. The same year, there were 189 arrests for illicit trafficking offenses, and 168 persons were prosecuted. Barbados did not have information available on the number of convictions in drug trafficking cases in relation to persons arrested and charged.

Neither was information available on the number of requests for international cooperation to investigate and prosecute drug trafficking cases, although Barbados indicated that it cooperates with other countries on an ongoing basis. National laws or regulations define as an offense the illicit manufacture and trafficking of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and related materials, and administrative control measures are in place to prevent these offenses. Such laws or regulations authorize the seizure, confiscation, and forfeiture of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.

There are mechanisms for maintaining a record by date, classification-description, and quantities of imported firearms, ammunition, and related materials. The firearms section of the Royal Barbados Police Force keeps records of the manufacture, exportation or transit of firearms, ammunition, and other related materials. Although ROCCISS maintains national interagency coordination and information exchanges, Barbados has stated that there is no mechanism or authority that serves as a centralized point to coordinate international information exchanges on firearms-related matters.

No person has ever been charged or convicted in Barbados for the illicit manufacturing of firearms, ammunition, explosives or other related materials. However, the Police and Customs Departments have arrested persons for possession of firearms, ammunition and explosives that entered the island with illegal drugs. Barbados stated that it is not a firearm manufacturing jurisdiction so illicit manufacturing and trafficking in firearms are virtually unknown.

Regarding the quantity of firearms, ammunition and explosives confiscated in 1998, the country informed that 71 firearms and 474 rounds of ammunition, explosives, and other related materials were seized. Although it is very likely that these arms were directly related to drug trafficking, the authorities state that they are unable to confirm this. The additional information provided by Barbados indicates that the firearms confiscated are sent to the FBI's Department of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms in the United States, where the routing employed in their diversion is determined.

Barbados informs that there have been no requests made for international cooperation to investigate and prosecute the illicit manufacturing of firearms, and related materials, but indicates that there is constant collaboration.

The Proceeds of Crime Act defines money laundering as an offense and establishes administrative controls. It contains provisions authorizing the seizure and forfeiture of assets related to money laundering.

The Central Bank of Barbados is responsible for receiving, requesting, analyzing, and disseminating information to the competent authorities. Financial and other

institutions are obliged to report suspicious or unusual transactions to the competent authorities. The country has a mechanism for the management and disposal of assets related to drug trafficking that have been seized and forfeited.

Although Barbados did not have specific legislation in this area during the period under review (1999), it should be noted that in April 2000, the Anti-Money Laundering (Prevention and Control) Act was passed, which establishes a money-laundering unit within the Office of the Attorney General. In 2000, one person has been charged with that offense. Barbados also reported that no sanctions had been applied to date, and that no requests for international cooperation to investigate and prosecute money-laundering offenses had been received.

Recommendations

1. Establish a mechanism or authority that conducts interagency coordination and information exchanges at the international level on firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.
2. Create a mechanism that provides information on the number of persons convicted for illicit drug trafficking and the number of requests for international cooperation to investigate and prosecute drug trafficking cases.

HUMAN, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COST OF DRUGS

Estimating the human, social and economic cost of the drug problem in all of its manifestations constitutes a complex process. This information is relevant to each country's understanding of the magnitude of the drug problem.

This would enable each country to appreciate the direct and indirect cost in proportion to their Gross National Product or national annual budget. Because many countries have difficulty in providing these estimates, CICAD is proposing a hemispheric-wide program involving training and technical assistance, which should assist the country in its effort in confronting the drug problem and fulfilling this indicator's requirements.

Recommendation

1. Develop the capacity to estimate the human, social, and economic costs of its drug problem.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

CICAD recommends that Barbados' anti-drug efforts be strengthened by addressing the following:

1. Finalize its national plan at the earliest possible time. In this regard, it is noted that CICAD consultants are currently assisting in this exercise, which Barbados expects to conclude by 2001.
2. Incorporate an evaluation system into the National Anti-Drug Plan to analyze, monitor, and interpret information on the processes, effects, and impact of interventions in demand and supply reduction and control measures.
3. Sign and ratify the following international instruments:
 - The Inter-American Convention against Corruption.
 - The Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.
 - The Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other related materials.
4. Develop and apply an integrated system for the collection, analysis and maintenance of statistics and documents and consider support by means of international cooperation, if necessary.
5. Implement fully the Plan of Action of the United Nations Declaration of the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction.
6. Enhance and formalize existing programs in the areas of prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation with minimum standards and strategies that can be evaluated.
7. Implement a system of data collection to determine the annual incidence of new drug users.
8. Establish regular evaluations of treatment and prevention programs.
9. Implement mechanisms for determining the existence of illicit cultivation and potential production capacity.
10. Develop a mechanism for handling pre-export notification.

11. Strengthen its mechanism to provide information on its legal, regulatory and institutional framework for the control of chemical substances and pharmaceuticals.
12. Establish a mechanism or authority that conducts interagency coordination and information exchanges at the international level on firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.
13. Create a mechanism that provides information on the number of persons convicted for illicit drug trafficking and the number of requests for international cooperation to investigate and prosecute drug trafficking cases.
14. Develop the capacity to estimate the human, social, and economic costs of its drug problem.