

Multilateral
Evaluation
Mechanism
MEM

Ecuador

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

Ecuador has a National Anti-Drug Strategy in the areas of supply reduction, demand reduction, control measures, institutional framework, budget and evaluation system. The Strategy is in effect from 1999-2003 and was approved by the Constitutional President of the Republic.

On the basis of Law 108 of 1990 and its amendments, the National Council of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (CONSEP) Control coordinates the activities of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures and an information center.

CONSEP has its own budget that is part of the national budget, as well as other legal instruments for self-financing.

Ecuador has ratified the following international instruments: United Nations Conventions of 1961, 1971 and 1988. It also has ratified the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption and the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials. It has signed the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and is awaiting ratification by the National Congress.

There are national laws and regulations that have been amended to conform to international conventions and specific legislation dealing with chemical substances, money laundering, firearms, ammunition and explosives, in accordance with CICAD Model Regulations.

Ecuador has an integrated system for the collection and maintenance of statistics and documents, which is currently being strengthened. There is also a separate collection of documents and statistics on demand reduction, supply reduction, the societal impact of illicit drugs, and control measures.

Recommendation

1. Ratify the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.

DEMAND REDUCTION

Ecuador embraced the principle of a balanced approach towards Supply and Demand Reduction in developing its National Anti-Drug Strategy. The 1999-2003 National Plan includes a National Demand Reduction Strategy.

This Strategy incorporates the participation of the Ministries of Education, Social Welfare and Health and Non Governmental Organizations from throughout the country.

There is a national system of drug abuse prevention programs in place that targets key populations. Currently, school children, street children/runaway children, and out of school youth are covered. The greatest emphasis is placed on school children between the ages of 13 and 17. However, there are no programs that target prisoners and other groups at risk, prison officers and community leaders.

The information furnished shows that there are some "Drugs in the Workplace" programs in both the public and private sectors.

Ecuador has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and its Plan of Action.

The country has established minimum standards for drug treatment. There are treatment and rehabilitation services comprising early detection and outreach, treatment, rehabilitation, social reintegration and after care. Training is provided for personnel working at treatment centers and includes therapy models, group courses and seminar courses. Additional prevention and treatment courses are available for university students.

Two national household surveys have been conducted. Since the methodology used was different in each case, comparisons could not be established. Research on prevention and drug use has been conducted through the Second National Household Survey (1995) and the First Student Survey (1998). These studies indicated that 79.4 % of the population firmly reject drugs and abstain from using them; 15.4% are occasional users and some constitute an "at-risk" population; and, 5.2% consider themselves drug users, although consumption amounts vary and prevention programs could still be applied to this group. The evaluation guide suggested by the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) is currently being applied.

The average age of first use of illicit drugs is 14.7 years for inhalants, and 17 for tobacco, alcohol and cannabis, while the ages for first use of cocaine hydrochloride and coca paste are 18.9 and 19.5 respectively. The age of first use is not broken down by gender in the two national studies conducted to date. Ecuador does not report any data on the annual incidence of new drug users. It only presents information relative to drug and alcohol dependency.

Ecuador has not conducted studies to evaluate the different treatment and rehabilitation programs, nor has it the means to gauge their effectiveness. A guide has been developed for recording data with a view to carrying out nationwide supervision and follow-up on public and private institutions that work in this field.

Recommendations

1. Elaborate prevention programs for prisoners and other groups at risk, prison officers and community leaders.
2. Continue with “Drugs in the Workplace” programs.
3. Conduct studies on the extent of drug use, using methodologies that allow comparisons to be made over time.
4. Perform evaluations of all demand reduction programs.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

Ecuador reports that it has not detected illicit crops. Two cocaine-processing laboratories have been destroyed.

The National Office of Control and Oversight of CONSEP has regional and zonal offices at the national level for the control of chemical substances and pharmaceuticals. Ecuador has a system for annual forecasting of pharmaceutical and chemical substance requirements on the basis of historical consumption. CONSEP is the entity in charge of maintaining the register of medical professionals and pharmaceutical biochemists responsible for the handling of pharmaceuticals.

CONSEP has adopted mechanisms and procedures designed to control chemical substances and pharmaceuticals, such as import or export authorizations, checks in ports and airports, and has implemented domestic transportation guidelines, substance oversight mechanisms, regulations, instructions, procedural directives, and manuals.

In terms of operational mechanisms at national level for information exchanges on substance control, CONSEP provides judicial police personnel with access to documents and files to investigate illicit trafficking. It also provides and receives information from the control agencies of importing and exporting countries of controlled substances, and international organizations such as the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and CICAD.

Ecuador has laws and regulations authorizing penal, civil, and administrative sanctions for the diversion of controlled substances. During this past year, 450 administrative sanctions and 14 penal sanctions were applied, the latter by the CONSEP Court of Minor Infractions.

During 1999, the following substances were seized:

Pharmaceuticals (name)	Quantity Seized	Unit of Measurement
Ecstasy	398	tablets
Ferraton	1,140	tablets
Diazepam	0.32	grams
Rivotril	16	tablets

Controlled Chemical Substances (name)	Quantity Seized	Unit of Measurement
Acetic acid	95	Kg
Acetic anhydride	2	Lt
Acetone	257.79	Kg
Acetone + alcohol	120	Kg
Ammonia	151	Kg
Ammonium hydroxide	60	Lt
Calcium chloride	1,281	Kg
Ethyl acetate	190	Kg
Glacial acetic acid	90	Lt
Hydrochloric acid	852	Kg
Isopropyl alcohol	430.37	Kg
Light sodium carbonate	17,000	Kg
Methyl ethyl ketone	33,565	Kg
Methyl ethyl ketone + lubricating oil	60	Kg
Methyl ethyl ketone + water + oxide	109	Kg
Methylene chloride	19,980	Kg
Methyl isobutyl ketone	302	Kg
Potassium hydroxide	16.2	Kg
Potassium permanganate	397	Kg
Sodium bicarbonate	1,946	Kg
Sodium carbonate	1,581	Kg
Sodium hydroxide	186	Kg
Sodium sulfate	1,188	Kg
Sulfuric acid	15,179.36	Kg
Toluene	1	Lt
Xylene	175	Kg

Observations: The substances and quantities indicated are from criminal cases for violations and offenses set forth in Law 108 of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances.

In relation to international transactions, Ecuador responded to 59% of the pre-export notifications received.

Recommendations

1. **Strengthen the application of the pre-export mechanism for controlled chemical substances pursuant to the Convention of Vienna of 1988.**
2. **Establish a system for identifying the needs of the licit industry for controlled chemical substances.**

CONTROL MEASURES

The Republic of Ecuador has law enforcement, judicial, and administrative agencies responsible for investigating, controlling, and eliminating illicit drug trafficking. The law enforcement agencies are the National Police, National Narcotics Bureau, the armed forces, and the customs surveillance service. The competent administrative institution is the National Council to Control Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (CONSEP), and the Superior and Supreme Court judges and courts are the judicial agencies with jurisdiction in this area.

Ecuador reports that the Joint Intelligence and Coordination Center is the mechanism for exchanging operational information and for collaboration among the different national authorities in this area. Furthermore, the Interpol National Central Office (OCNI) is responsible for information exchanges and coordination between Ecuador and other countries under its international commitments in this area.

There were 1,436 drug seizure operations conducted. The quantities and type of drugs seized are detailed below:

Type of Drug	Unit	Quantity
Heroin	Kilos	80,559
Coca Leaf	Leaves	5,000
Coca Paste	Kilos	252,085
Cocaine Base	Kilos	673,788
Cocaine Salts	Kilos	9,237.958
Leaf Cannabis (grass)	Kilos	2,976.910
Cannabis Seed	Grams	339
Liquid cocaine	Kilos	24,689
Liquid heroine	Kilos	2,040

It also indicates that 975 persons were arrested for trafficking and 1,431 persons were arrested for possession. The country also reports that 1,986 persons were prosecuted and 853 persons were convicted for these offenses.

Ecuador reports that it has made 122 requests for international cooperation to investigate and prosecute drug traffickers, to which 122 replies have been received.

Ecuador has criminalized the illegal manufacturing, trafficking, importation, and exportation of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials and has mechanisms or authorities to control these various areas.

188 seizure operations of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials connected to drug trafficking were conducted.

The types of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials seized are detailed below:

Type	Firearms	Quantity
Pistols		71
Small pocket pistols		5
Revolvers		132
Cartridge belts		61
Others		180
Total		449

Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials	
Type	Quantity
Projectiles	30,670
Cartridges	25,872
Boxes of cartridges	46
Boxes of ammunition	27
Boxes of caps	13
Vials of powder	43.75
Grenades	3

A total of 71 persons were charged and 8 persons were convicted for these firearms related offenses.

The country made four requests for international cooperation to investigate and prosecute the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials, to which one reply was received.

Ecuador has criminalized money laundering to include the suppression and prevention of the laundering of drug trafficking proceeds. The country has preventive administrative controls and laws that authorize the freezing or seizure and forfeiture of these assets.

Ecuador has a financial intelligence unit called the Confidential Information Processing Unit (UPIR), which processes data from disclosures of suspicious transactions. It also has laws requiring the disclosure of such suspicious transactions.

The Office for the Administration of Goods in Custody is responsible for managing assets seized in connection with drug trafficking.

Ecuador reported 4 persons arrested and 8 persons charged, but did not report on the number of persons convicted of money laundering offenses. It also recorded 17 administrative sanctions applied by supervisory agencies due to failure to report suspicious transactions.

The records mentioned above and records of convictions are officially maintained by the National Social Rehabilitation Directorate and by the judicial branch.

The country has made 16 requests for international cooperation to investigate and prosecute asset laundering offenses and 16 replies have been received.

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 and the country's effort to fulfill the requirement of this indicator is acknowledged. 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 hemisphere-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. Continue to develop the capacity to estimate the human, social, and economic cost of the drug problem.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Ratify the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.
2. Elaborate prevention programs for prisoners and other groups at risk, prison officers and community leaders.
3. Continue with "Drugs in the Workplace" programs.
4. Conduct studies on the extent of drug use, using methodologies that allow comparisons to be made over time.
5. Perform evaluations of all demand reduction programs.
6. Strengthen the application of the pre-export mechanism for controlled chemical substances pursuant to the Convention of Vienna of 1988.
7. Establish a system for identifying the needs of the licit industry for controlled chemical substances.
8. Continue to develop the capacity to estimate the human, social, and economic cost of the drug problem.