

**RECOMMENDATION 1:****RATIFY THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS**

Panama reports that a bill to adopt the convention was reviewed and passed by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Assembly but that the process was not completed because of time. It advises that the bill was scheduled to be reintroduced at the beginning of September 2001 for final approval.

CICAD recognizes the efforts of Panama and encourages the country to continue in its efforts to fully implement the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 2:**CONDUCT STUDIES ON THE MAGNITUDE OF CONSUMPTION WITHIN THE GENERAL POPULATION THAT DETERMINE THE INCIDENCE, PREVALENCE, AND TRENDS IN USE, FIRST USE, AND TYPES OF DRUG**

Panama reports that the 2002-2007 National Strategy on Drugs will provide for studies to be undertaken during the 5-year period. It however advises that because such studies are costly, financial assistance will be needed.

CICAD recognizes the efforts of Panama and encourages the country to continue in its efforts to fully implement the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 3:**STRENGTHEN THE EVALUATION SYSTEM THAT MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO ANALYZE, MONITOR, AND INTERPRET INFORMATION ON THE PROCESSES, EFFECTS, AND IMPACT OF INTERVENTIONS IN DEMAND REDUCTION MEASURES**

Panama reports that its 2002-2007 National Drug Strategy will provide for evaluation components in the area of demand reduction measures. The country expects to complete the initial evaluation programmes by the end of 2002 and commence other ones by that time.

CICAD recognizes the efforts of Panama and encourages the country to continue in its efforts to fully implement the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 4:**STRENGTHEN THE SURVEILLANCE MECHANISMS IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE EXPANSION OF THE ILLICIT CROP CULTIVATIONS**

Panama reports that the 2002-2007 National Drug Strategy will address the need for technical knowledge and financing. It also states that large-scale illicit crop cultivation has not been a problem in Panama.

CICAD recognizes the efforts of Panama and encourages the country to continue in its efforts to fully implement the recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 5:****STRENGTHEN APPLICATION OF THE PRE-EXPORT MECHANISM FOR CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES, PURSUANT TO THE 1988 UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION**

Panama reports that the Free Zone in Colon Province has been designated as the focal point for its pre export control mechanism. Steps have been taken with the help of the US Narcotic Affairs Section to create a committee which will integrate the 3 agencies that currently have control over chemical substances. This committee holds periodic analysis- meetings to develop the necessary mechanisms for its operations. In addition they have highlighted the need to acquire training, expert advice, specialized equipment and financial assistance in order to effectively address this problem. The 2002-2007 National Strategy will provide for implementation of appropriate projects during that time frame.

CICAD recognizes the efforts of Panama and encourages the country to continue in its efforts to fully implement the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 6:**IMPROVE THE REGISTER OF PERSONS PROSECUTED AND CONVICTED FOR ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING**

Panama reports that it has launched a project entitled "National Network of Drug Prosecutors Offices" (RENADROG) the aim of which is to link all the Regional Anti Drug Prosecutors Offices or Agencies in the country through an automated communications system which is designed to efficiently control procedural information on drug related offences. Panama is in the process of implementing the Panama Observatory on Drugs with external assistance. In addition the 2002-2007 National Strategy will provide for a project that will entail further strengthening activities to meet the requirements of the recommendation. However the need for continued assistance by way of training, funding and new technologies is stressed.

CICAD recognizes the efforts of Panama and encourages the country to continue in its efforts to fully implement the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 7:**ESTABLISH A CENTRAL BODY TO FACILITATE THE EXCHANGE AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION RELATIVE TO THE MOVEMENT OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS**

Panama reports that there are data banks in place in the different institutions in charge of arms control in the country and that steps will be taken to set up a centralized database for better exchange of information between agencies. The country also reports that its "Arms Collection Group" which is a specialized unit within the National Police currently furnishes information on arms both in and out of the country.

CICAD recognizes the efforts of Panama and encourages the country to continue in its efforts to fully implement the recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 8:****IMPROVE THE DATABASE THAT RECORDS THE INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF REQUEST MADE FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE OFFENSES INVOLVING THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURE AND TRAFFICKING OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES, AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS**

Panama reports that the 2002-07 National Strategy will address this problem but stresses their need for financial and technological resources to set up the necessary centralized database. In the meantime the Arms Collection Unit, a specialized unit of the National Police has been tasked with collecting and sharing information on arms both locally and abroad.

CICAD recognizes the efforts of Panama and encourages the country to continue in its efforts to fully implement the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 9:**IMPROVE THE RECORD OF PROSECUTIONS AND CONVICTIONS FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES, AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS, AND TO IDENTIFY THEIR ORIGIN AND THE ROUTING USED IN THEIR DIVERSION**

Panama reports that it has a National Committee on Crime Statistics Analysis (CONADEC) which is carrying out a project on Systematization and Analysis of Criminal Information and that this project will address this recommendation in the short term. In the medium term its 2002-2007 National Strategy will implement the Arms Collection Group and the Modernization of the Criminal Information System projects. The country notes, however, the need for assistance in accessing the requisite technology and training that will be needed to effectively implement these projects.

CICAD recognizes the efforts of Panama and encourages the country to continue in its efforts to fully implement the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 10:**DEVELOP A LEGAL FRAMEWORK TO FACILITATE THE FREEZING OR FORFEITURE OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS**

Panama reports that various legislation exists e.g. Law No.14 of Oct 30,1990, Decree No. 2 of Jan 2,1991, Decree No. 409 of Aug 12.1994 among others, which provides for the freezing or forfeiture of firearms, ammunition etc.

CICAD accepts Panama's response and hereby acknowledge that Panama has complied with this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 11:**DEVELOP THE CAPACITY TO ESTIMATE THE HUMAN, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC COST OF THE DRUG PROBLEM**

CICAD concludes that for this recommendation to be implemented, it will be necessary to devise a project addressing the methodological bases for conducting a study of the social, human, and economic costs of the drug problem.



Accordingly, in the first half of 2002 CICAD, together with states in the Hemisphere that have progressed in this area, will present a proposed basic and homogeneous methodology applicable to all countries.

FINAL COMMENT

The answers given by Panama to the MEM Implementation of Recommendations Questionnaire, indicate that in most cases the country has either already implemented interim measures to comply, and/or is working towards full compliance via its 2002-2007 National Strategy on Drugs. However, CICAD considers it essential that Panama adopt and implement the abovementioned National Strategy as soon as possible given the central role it plays.

The Country has further pointed out that in order to fully comply with several of its recommendations it will need technical, training and financial assistance.

CICAD recognizes the efforts made by Panama in response to the list of recommendations and encourages Panama to continue in its efforts to fully comply with all recommendations.