

M E M M

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism

**Inter-American Drug Abuse
Control Commission
(CICAD)**

**Secretariat for
Multidimensional
Security
(SMS)**

Colombia

**EVALUATION
OF PROGRESS
IN DRUG CONTROL**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS
FIFTH EVALUATION ROUND**

2012



Organization of
American States



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Control Commission

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)

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Evaluation of Progress in Drug Control

Implementation of Recommendations from the Fifth Evaluation Round

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PREFACE

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) is an instrument designed to measure progress in actions taken by the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) to address the global drug problem and other related offenses.

The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), an OAS specialized agency, implemented this Mechanism in 1998, pursuant to a mandate from the Second Summit of the Americas held in Santiago, Chile in April 1988.

The MEM is not only a diagnostic tool but has also become a vehicle for disseminating information on the progress achieved through the individual and collective efforts of OAS member state governments, catalyzing hemispheric cooperation, promoting dialogue among member state government authorities, and precisely channeling assistance to areas requiring greater attention by optimizing resources.

The evaluation reports are drafted by the Governmental Expert Group (GEG), a multidisciplinary group composed of experts designated from all OAS/CICAD member states. Each expert functions independently from his or her own government, and experts do not participate in the evaluation of their own countries. Additionally, each country has the opportunity to review and comment on the contents of the evaluations, ensuring an open and participatory process.

The Fifth Evaluation Round, covering the period 2007-2009, consisted of two phases. The full evaluation phase assessed progress made by all member states in combating the drug problem in the subject areas of institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction and control measures. This culminated with the publication of national reports containing 350 recommendations for individual member states. The follow-up phase evaluated progress made in the implementation of the recommendations assigned in the Fifth Round.



RECOMMENDATION 1

ACCEDE TO THE FOLLOWING PROTOCOLS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME, 2000, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001-2002:

- A. PROTOCOL AGAINST THE SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS BY LAND, SEA, AND AIR.
- B. PROTOCOL AGAINST THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, THEIR PARTS AND COMPONENTS AND AMMUNITION.

Colombia reiterates that it has not signed the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air because the country considers that it contains provisions that go beyond the scope of the Protocol's application and are designed to legitimize the forced repatriation of irregular or undocumented migrants who have not necessarily been victims of illicit trafficking.

Colombia does not believe it is appropriate to sign the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking of Firearms, their Parts and Components, and Ammunition because it disagrees with the scope of its application.

CICAD takes note of the information provided and urges the country to accede to these two Protocols, given that this recommendation was assigned during the Second Evaluation Round, 2001-2002.

RECOMMENDATION 2

CONDUCT EVALUATIONS OF DRUG USE PREVENTION PROGRAMS CARRIED OUT IN THE COUNTRY.

Colombia reports that, under agreement with international organizations, it is executing the evaluation process of the "Destrezas para la Vida" universal prevention program carried out by "Leones Educando", and that it has conducted an evaluation of the programs to strengthen and foster youth leadership in selective and appropriate drug use prevention.

CICAD takes note of the information provided and encourages the country to continue with its efforts to fully implement this recommendation.



RECOMMENDATION 3

ESTABLISH A REGISTER OF THE NUMBER OF CASES TREATED FOR PROBLEMS RELATED TO DRUG ABUSE, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND, 2005-2006.

Colombia reports that it has the Single System of Indicators for Drug Addiction Care Centers (SUICAD), which enables the registration of cases treated by Drug Addiction Treatment Centers (CADs). Implementation is underway for the use of a form containing a standardized record for registering data, which may be completed on-line over the Internet.

CICAD expresses its satisfaction with the implementation of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 4

INTEGRATE TREATMENT SERVICES FOR PROBLEMS RELATED TO DRUG ABUSE INTO THE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE NETWORK.

Colombia reports that it has made progress in the integration of screening services, early detection, and brief and motivational interventions into the primary health network. The country also indicates that it is developing demonstrative experiences of programs for early attention in care centers for consumers, and that it is also carrying out actions for community-based care.

CICAD expresses its satisfaction with the implementation of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 5

ESTABLISH AN INTEGRATED PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING INFORMATION RELATED TO THE CONTROL, MONITORING, AND PREVENTION OF THE DIVERSION OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS.

Colombia reports that it is in the process of enacting the new National Statute on Drugs, which assigns the responsibility of streamlining the implementation of the system referred to by this recommendation.

CICAD recognized the efforts made and encourages the country to fully implement this recommendation.



RECOMMENDATION 6

INCREASE THE NUMBER OF TRAINING COURSES OFFERED TO AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTROLLING THE DIVERSION OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES IN ORDER TO SATISFY NATIONAL DEMAND FOR TRAINING IN THIS AREA.

Colombia reports that 520 members of law-enforcement agencies were trained in the detection, confiscation, and final disposal of controlled and non-controlled chemical substances.

CICAD takes note of the information provided and considers the recommendation complete.

RECOMMENDATION 7

CARRY OUT RESEARCH AND 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 OPERATIONAL NEEDS, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND, 2005 - 2006.

Colombia reports that, in August 2011, a training workshop on drug trafficking over the Internet was carried out in Bogotá, in coordination with an international organization. The purpose of this event was to increase awareness and allow lessons to be learned from the expertise of other countries, for their analysis and adaptation to Colombia's situation.

CICAD takes note of the information provided and considers the recommendation complete.

RECOMMENDATION 8

INCLUDE THE REAL ESTATE SECTOR, ATTORNEYS, AND ACCOUNTANTS IN THE LIST OF INDIVIDUALS AND ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO REPORTING SUSPICIOUS TRANSACTIONS.

Colombia reports that there are constitutional obstacles that make the implementation of this recommendation difficult. Lawyers and accountants have the constitutional backing of professional secrecy, however the country continues to work towards implementation of this recommendation. The country reports that it is awaiting the enactment of the law that will extend the obligation to submit to the FIAU the Report of Suspicious Transactions to attorneys, accountants and real estate agencies. Furthermore, the country states that it has carried out various activities aimed at minimizing the risk of money laundering in those professions and in the real estate field.

CICAD takes note of the information provided and encourages the country to implement this recommendation.



CONCLUSIONS

During the Fifth Evaluation Round, the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) assigned to Colombia eight recommendations, of which four have been implemented and from the four pending recommendations, three show progress and one has not been commenced.

In the demand reduction area, CICAD highlights the efforts that the country is making to evaluate drug prevention programs as well as actions carried out to integrate drug treatment services into the Primary Health Care Network and the establishment of a register of the number of cases treated for problems related to drug abuse.

In the area of supply reduction, Colombia has increased the supply of courses and training activities for the authorities that are responsible for the control of the diversion of chemical substances, including activities to prevent and control the illicit trafficking of pharmaceutical products over the Internet, in order to strengthen the response capabilities of these authorities.

CICAD recognizes the efforts made by the country to establish an integrated system to handle information on the control, monitoring and prevention of the diversion of pharmaceutical products.

With regard to money laundering, CICAD takes note of the actions carried out by the country to control real estate agencies, attorneys and accountants through the obligation to report suspicious transactions, as well as the alternative measures that are being implemented in order to minimize the risk of money laundering in these professions and in real estate activities.

CICAD observes that one recommendation has not been started: the accession of the country to the Protocols against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; and against the Manufacture of and Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts, Components and Ammunition of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. With regard to both instruments, Colombia does not consider convenient for the country to accede to those Protocols, given that it is not in agreement with the scope of their application.

CICAD recognizes Colombia's participation in the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism and encourages the country to continue in its efforts to implement pending recommendations.

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