

M E M M

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism

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

**Secretariat for
Multidimensional
Security
(SMS)**

**Dominican
Republic**

**EVALUATION
OF PROGRESS
IN DRUG CONTROL**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS
FIFTH EVALUATION ROUND**

2012



**Organization of
American States**



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Inter-American Drug Abuse
Control Commission

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Evaluation of Progress in Drug Control

Implementation of Recommendations from the Fifth Evaluation Round

2012



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

RATIFY THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS (1992), A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND, 1999–2000.

The Dominican Republic reports that on November 8, 2011, the National Congress, through Resolution No. 358-11, approved the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters which was promulgated by the Executive Branch on December 13, 2011. However, the country still needs to deposit the instrument of accession of the Convention in the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States.

CICAD takes note of the progress made and urges the country to implement this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned during the First Evaluation Round, 1999-2000.

RECOMMENDATION 2

CONDUCT AN OUTCOME EVALUATION TO MEASURE SCHOOL-BASED PREVENTION PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001–2002.

The Dominican Republic reports that it has not started implementation of the recommendation.

CICAD notes with concern the lack of progress and urges the country to comply with this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned during the Second Evaluation Round, 2001-2002.

RECOMMENDATION 3

IMPLEMENT AN OFFICIAL LICENSING PROCEDURE TO AUTHORIZE THE OPERATION OF SPECIALIZED FACILITIES THAT PROVIDE TREATMENT SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH DRUG USE.

The Dominican Republic reports that it is testing a pilot licensing procedure for specialized facilities providing drug treatment services, which was developed by the Department of Certification and the Mental Health Department of the Ministry of Public Health, jointly with the Treatment and Rehabilitation Department of the National Drug Council. The first phase of the pilot procedure was implemented in November 2011, at four facilities that provide treatment services.

CICAD takes note of the information provided and encourages the country to comply with the recommendation.



RECOMMENDATION 4

CONDUCT A STUDY TO ESTIMATE THE MAGNITUDE OF DRUG USE IN THE GENERAL POPULATION, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003-2004.

The Dominican Republic reports that the National Survey of Drug Use among the General Population was conducted in 2010; the results were published in June 2011.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 5

IMPLEMENT TRAINING ACTIVITIES FOR PERSONNEL FROM THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS INVOLVED IN THE HANDLING OF CONTROLLED PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS, TO PREVENT THEIR DIVERSION.

The Dominican Republic reports that the National Drug Control Agency has added the handling of import and export permits for controlled substances as well as existing controls for the distribution and sale of such products, to the subject areas covered by the Basic Course on the Identification and Investigation of Controlled Drugs. Additionally, meetings have been held with laboratory associations and pharmaceutical products' representatives, and agreements were obtained for training personnel handling controlled products established in Law 50-88 on Drugs and Controlled Substances in the Dominican Republic.

CICAD recognizes the progress made and encourages the country to comply with the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 6

ESTABLISH A JUDICIAL DATABASE CONTAINING INFORMATION ON PUBLIC OFFICIALS CHARGED WITH AND CONVICTED OF CRIMES RELATED TO ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING OFFENSES, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003-2004.

The Dominican Republic reports that the Judiciary began the process of incorporation of new variables in order to classify in the courts management systems if the accused is a public official or not. The country also commenced the process of resource management necessary to incorporate these variables.

CICAD takes note of the information and urges the country to comply with this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned during the Third Evaluation Round, 2003-2004.



RECOMMENDATION 7

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

The Dominican Republic reports that it participated in the “Training Workshop on Drug Trafficking Investigation via Internet” organized by CICAD and offered by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), which took place from May 30 to June 2, 2011.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.



CONCLUSIONS

CICAD notes that, of the seven recommendations assigned during the Fifth Evaluation Round, 2007-2009, the Dominican Republic has implemented two, made progress in four and did not start the implementation of one.

In the area of Institutional Strengthening, the country reports progress on the approval by the National Congress of the “Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters” and its promulgation by the Executive Branch. Nevertheless, the country still has to deposit the instrument of accession to the Convention with the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, in order to comply with this reiterated recommendation from the First Evaluation Round, 1999-2000.

In the area of Demand Reduction, the country complied with one recommendation through the conclusion of the National Survey of Drug Use in the General Population, and publication of the results in June 2011. On the other hand, the Dominican Republic reports that it is testing a pilot licensing procedure for specialized facilities that provide treatment services to persons with drug abuse related problems. The country made no progress in carrying out an outcome evaluation of the prevention program in primary schools.

In the area of Supply Reduction, and regarding the implementation of training activities targeting private and public sector personnel involved in the handling of controlled pharmaceutical products in order to prevent their diversion, the country reports that the National Drug Control Agency has included this topic in the curriculum of the Basic Course on Identification and Investigation of Controlled Drugs.

Regarding Control Measures, the country has initiated the implementation of a judicial database with information on public officials charged with and convicted of crimes related to illicit drug trafficking, a recommendation reiterated from the Third Evaluation Round, 2003-2004. Furthermore, the Dominican Republic implemented training and research activities regarding the prevention and control of illicit drug trafficking via the Internet.

CICAD recognizes the participation of the Dominican Republic in the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) process and encourages the country to comply with the recommendations that are still pending.

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