

# M E M M

## Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism

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

**Secretariat for  
Multidimensional  
Security  
(SMS)**

**Venezuela**

**EVALUATION  
OF PROGRESS  
IN DRUG CONTROL**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS  
FIFTH EVALUATION ROUND**



**Organization of  
American States**

**2012**



Organization of  
American States



Inter-American Drug Abuse  
Control Commission

## Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)

# VENEZUELA

## Evaluation of Progress in Drug Control

## Implementation of Recommendations from the Fifth Evaluation Round

2012

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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

RATIFY THE PROTOCOL AGAINST THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, THEIR PARTS AND COMPONENTS AND AMMUNITION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME, 2000, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND, 2005-2006.

Venezuela reports that the instrument of accession to this Protocol was redrafted and submitted by the legal office of the Ministry of Popular Power for Foreign Affairs to the office of the Foreign Minister.

The country reports that the pending step to complete the implementation of the recommendation is the signature of the instrument of accession by the President and its deposit.

CICAD urges the country to comply with this reiterated recommendation, considering it was assigned during the Fourth Evaluation Round, 2005-2006.

## RECOMMENDATION 2

CARRY OUT EVALUATIONS OF DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAMS TARGETING KEY POPULATIONS, SUCH AS SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS.

Venezuela reports that during March and April of 2011, the unit of Demand Reduction of the National Anti-drug Office conducted an evaluation of the process of the prevention programs “Aprendiendo y Viviendo en la Prevencion” and “La Prevencion y Yo un Estilo de Vida,” the first directed towards the school population and second towards the university population.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.

## RECOMMENDATION 3

IMPLEMENT SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH DRUG USE AT THE FACILITIES COMPRISING THE COUNTRY’S PRIMARY HEALTH CARE (PHC) SYSTEM.

Venezuela reports that it has not started to implement this recommendation.

CICAD encourages the country to comply with this recommendation.



## RECOMMENDATION 4

CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE MAGNITUDE OF DRUG USE IN THE GENERAL POPULATION, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND, 2005-2006.

Venezuela reports that it has completed all the phases of the study and the results of the data are available. The Venezuelan Observatory on Drugs is currently working on dissemination of the results.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.

## RECOMMENDATION 5

OFFER TRAINING COURSES FOR PRIVATE SECTOR PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN THE HANDLING OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS.

The country indicates that the Autonomous Sanitary Control Service (SACS) assigned the Ministry of Popular Power for Health to provide courses to: training technical personnel, managers of pharmacies, commercial pharmacies, laboratories, entities that manage controlled substances; disclose existing legislation for controlled products, psychotropic category, narcotics and precursors; and mitigate existing weaknesses in corporations to prevent the diversion of controlled substances.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.

## RECOMMENDATION 7

IMPLEMENT A REGISTRY OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS FORMALLY CHARGED WITH AND CONVICTED OF ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING.

The country reports that the Public Prosecutor's Office manages and handles the information regarding public officials formally charged with illicit drug trafficking.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.



## CONCLUSIONS

Venezuela shows progress in complying with the recommendations assigned during the Fifth Evaluation Round. Of a total of seven recommendations assigned, the country has complied with four; it shows one in progress, one not started and one withdrawn<sup>1</sup>.

In the area of Institutional Strengthening, the country reports that in ratifying the Protocol against the Manufacture of and Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000, it has re-worked and submitted through the Legal Advisors Office of the Ministry of Popular Power for Foreign Relations to the Office of the Minister, pending the signature of the President and deposit of the instrument of accession.

In the area of Demand Reduction, Venezuela reports that it has evaluated two drug abuse prevention programs implemented among school and university populations, as the study of the magnitude of drug use in the general population. However, it has not implemented specific measures to provide drug abuse treatment services in facilities that are part of the Primary Health Care Network (APS).

In the area of Supply Reduction, the country offered training courses to private sector personnel involved in the handling of pharmaceutical products.

In the area of Control Measures, Venezuela reports that the Public Prosecutor's Office manages and handles the information regarding public officials formally charged with illicit drug trafficking.

CICAD recognizes the participation of Venezuela in the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism process and urges the country to fully comply with the pending recommendations.

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<sup>1</sup> Recommendation 6 was withdrawn.

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