

The Bahamas (Commonwealth of)

Evaluation of Progress in Drug Control 2005-2006

MEM

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism



Organization of American States - OAS
Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission - CICAD





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**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)
Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)**

**Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)
Governmental Expert Group (GEG)**

THE BAHAMAS (Commonwealth of)

**EVALUATION OF PROGRESS IN DRUG CONTROL
2005-2006**



CICAD wishes to thank the following national institutions of The Bahamas which provided information for this MEM national Fourth Round report:

- National Anti-Drug Secretariat (NADS)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Drugs, Crime & Maritime Affairs Division
- Bahamas National Drug Council
- Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre
- Ministry of Health & National Insurance:
 - Health Information & Research Unit
- Bahamas Customs Department
- Royal Bahamas Police Force:
 - Drug Enforcement Unit
- Office of The Attorney General



PREFACE

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) is a diagnostic tool designed by all 34 member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) to periodically carry out comprehensive, multilateral evaluations of the progress of actions taken by member states and by the hemisphere as a whole, in dealing with the drug problem. 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 1998.

The MEM is not only an evaluation instrument, but has also become a vehicle for disseminating information on the progress achieved by 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 MEM process itself is assessed by the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG), comprised of delegations from the 34 member states, which meets before the onset of each MEM evaluation round to review and improve all operational aspects of the mechanism, including the indicators of the evaluation questionnaire.

National evaluation reports are drafted by experts from each member state, with experts not working on their own country's report, guaranteeing the transparent multilateral nature of the MEM. Each chapter is based on countries' responses to a questionnaire of indicators covering the main thematic areas of institution building, demand reduction, supply reduction and control measures as well as subsequent comments and updated information provided by the government-appointed coordinating entities.

This report covers the full country evaluation for the MEM Fourth Round evaluation period 2005–2006. The follow-up report on the implementation progress of recommendations assigned to The Bahamas will be published in June 2009. All MEM reports can be accessed through the following webpage: www.cicad.oas.org.



INTRODUCTION

The Commonwealth of The Bahamas is an archipelago of 700 islands and has a total area of 13,940 km² with a coastline of 3,542 km. The country has a population of 303,770 (2006) with two main ethnic groups, black and white, and a literacy rate of 95.6% (2003). The Bahamas is a constitutional parliamentary democracy divided into 41 political constituencies. The country has a GDP per capita of US\$21,300 (2006) and an inflation rate of 1.2% (2004). The Bahamas' exports total US\$469.3 million annually (2004) and rely on the principal exports of fish and crawfish, rum, salt, chemicals, fruits and vegetables.

I. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

A. National Anti-drug Strategy

The Bahamas reports that it has a National Anti-drug Plan (2004–2009), which covers actions in the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, money laundering, and program evaluation. The Plan was approved by the Cabinet and the Parliament.

The National Anti-drug Plan has an assigned budget that is financed through direct government allocations, the specific budget of other public agencies in the drug area, civil society contributions and international cooperation. It is also partially financed by confiscated funds, as provided under the Proceeds of Crime Act of 2000.

The National Anti-drug Secretariat (NADS) is the national authority that executes the National Anti-drug Plan and coordinates national anti-drug policies, including demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, institutional cooperation, and program evaluation. The NADS was established in 2004 and re-commissioned in 2006. This agency reports to the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of National Security. The budget of the NADS was US\$75,000 for 2005 and US\$140,000 for 2006. The country states that this budget is not adequate.

CICAD notes that The Bahamas has an anti-drug plan and a national authority to carry out drug-related activities. CICAD notes however, that the country states that its budget is not sufficient to carry out drug-related strategies.

B. International Conventions

The Bahamas has ratified the following international conventions:

- The Inter-American Convention against Corruption, 1996 (March 14, 2000).
- The Inter-American Convention against Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), 1997 (June 5, 1998).
- The United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol (November 23, 1976).
- The United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971 (August 31, 1987).
- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982 (July 29, 1983).
- The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988 (January 30, 1989).



The country has signed but not ratified the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000, and its Protocols against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; and to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

The Bahamas has not signed or ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption, 2003 or 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.

In accordance with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the country enacted the Justice Protection Act, which is related to the protection of witnesses. The country also signed, during the evaluation period, the Comprehensive Maritime Agreement (CMA) with the United States of America.

CICAD observes that no advances have been made in the ratification of pending International Conventions and encourages the country to ratify the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and its three Protocols.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **RATIFY THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS, 1992, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND, 1999–2000.**
2. **RATIFY THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME, 2000, AND ITS PROTOCOLS, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001–2002:**
 - A. **PROTOCOL AGAINST THE SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS BY LAND, SEA AND AIR;**
 - B. **PROTOCOL TO PREVENT, SUPPRESS AND PUNISH TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN; AND**
 - C. **PROTOCOL AGAINST THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, THEIR PARTS AND COMPONENTS AND AMMUNITION.**
3. **ACCEDE TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION, 2003.**

C. National Information System

The Bahamas has no centralized office to gather drug-related information. However, different agencies gather this type of information and share it among themselves.

The country distributes drug-related information and materials to the public through websites, libraries, schools, universities, research institutes, the press and the media in general, as well as publications and reports from the national anti-drug authority and other government agencies.

The Bahamas also has a help line that provides drug-related information to the general public.

CICAD is concerned that The Bahamas does not have a centralized office to organize, compile and coordinate drug-related statistics and other drug-related information.



RECOMMENDATION:

4. IMPLEMENT A NATIONAL DRUG OBSERVATORY OR SIMILAR ENTITY TO GATHER AND ANALYZE DRUG-RELATED STATISTICS AND OTHER DATA, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001-2002.

II. DEMAND REDUCTION

A. Prevention

The Bahamas National Drug Council, which was established in 1988, is the institution responsible for developing and implementing treatment and prevention programmes.

The country is implementing drug abuse prevention activities, which include drug prevention education sessions, provided by teachers who have received training in this area. Also, a Participatory Methodology Drug Prevention Education Programme is being piloted in two junior high and two primary schools with a view to having the model implemented and sustained throughout the public school system. This Pilot Programme is being supported by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, and coordinated by The Bahamas National Drug Council.

Through the Caribbean Regional Certificate Study Programme, The Bahamas offered short refresher courses in drug abuse prevention, treatment and research to health care workers, the police, defence forces, prison guards and drug treatment workers. Twelve people were trained through this programme in 2006. Additionally, the medical school of the University of the West Indies in The Bahamas includes in its curriculum courses related to the drug abuse field. However, the country states that the courses available do not meet the national demand for professional training in drug abuse prevention and treatment.

CICAD recognizes that the country offers courses on the drug abuse field at a tertiary level institution and encourages the country to expand the coverage of training activities to satisfy the national demand. However, CICAD is concerned that presently there are only two junior high and two primary schools carrying out a model drug education prevention program.

RECOMMENDATION:

5. IMPLEMENT A COUNTRY-WIDE DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS, BASED ON CICAD'S HEMISPHERIC GUIDELINES ON SCHOOL PREVENTION, OR SIMILAR GUIDELINES.

B. Treatment

The Bahamas has not established any guidelines or regulations on standards of care for drug abuse treatment.

The country states that drug treatment personnel continually receive in-house training in their specialties.



Additionally, The Bahamas has one outpatient, and one residential public drug treatment modality for males and females of all ages, and five private residential modalities for males only. The country also offers one public detoxification service, seven public and five private treatment and rehabilitation services, two public aftercare services, two public self-help groups, and one public and two private brief intervention services, among others. All of these services have national coverage.

The Bahamas also has one treatment centre geared specifically toward women in the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre (SRC), and two targeting adolescents at the SRC and the Community Counselling and Assessment Centre.

CICAD notes the efforts made by the country in offering drug treatment and rehabilitation services to the general public, specifically for women and adolescents.

CICAD views with concern that there are no guidelines or regulations on minimum standards of care for drug abuse treatment.

RECOMMENDATION:

6. ESTABLISH MINIMUM STANDARDS OF CARE FOR DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001–2002.

C. Statistics on Consumption

The Bahamas does not have a recent estimate of the prevalence, or age of first use of drugs, nor of the percentage of youths that perceive drug use as being harmful to their health and well-being. The last survey was carried out in 2001.

An estimate from 2004 shows that, in that year, there were 21 male and six female alcohol-related deaths.

CICAD views with concern that The Bahamas has no recent information on the magnitude of the of drug consumption, and urges the country to implement a survey on the school population.

RECOMMENDATION:

7. CONDUCT A DRUG USE STUDY AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.

III. SUPPLY REDUCTION

A. Drug Production

The Bahamas has a system to detect and quantify the total area of illicit crops, and reports that very small quantities of cannabis crops are grown in disparate and isolated areas. During years 2004 and 2005, less than one acre of cannabis crops was detected, and in 2006, 1.5 acres of this crop were detected.

The country reports that no illicit drug laboratories were found during 2004–2006



CICAD considers that, while The Bahamas has not reported cannabis production in significant quantities, it is important for the country to continue monitoring areas susceptible to use for illicit crop cultivation.

B. Control of Pharmaceutical Products

The Bahamas has laws in place for the control of pharmaceutical products. The country does not provide information on the title of these laws, nor their date of enactment. The Ministry of Health and the Customs Department are the authorities responsible for coordinating activities related to the control of these products.

The country has a mechanism to monitor and prevent the diversion of pharmaceutical products applicable to health professionals and entities authorized to handle these products. All pharmaceutical products containing substances listed in the relevant international conventions are controlled by this mechanism.

In the commercial sector, the mechanism includes activities related to import and export control, license control, monitoring distribution, inspections, administrative sanctions, registration of licensees, and the registration of pharmaceutical products sold. In the health sector, the mechanism includes activities related to license control, distribution monitoring, prescription monitoring, inspections, administrative sanctions and the transfer of unusual cases detected by administrative authorities to judicial authorities. However, the country did not submit any information related to inspections carried out during the evaluation period.

The country has a system to compile information on administrative and regulatory activities, including related sanctions.

In-house training programs are offered for personnel involved in the handling of pharmaceutical products, sponsored by the Ministry of Health and the Customs Department. The Bahamas states that these courses do not satisfy the demand for training in this area.

The main obstacle encountered by the national entities in effectively fulfilling their control responsibilities is the lack of adherence to regulations regarding the reporting and release of supplies entering the country.

The Bahamas has provisions in its national laws for the application of penal and administrative sanctions for the diversion of pharmaceutical products. No sanctions were applied during the evaluation period.

The country detected activities regarding the sales and distribution of controlled pharmaceutical products or other drugs over the Internet.

The Bahamas reports that the Royal Bahamas Police Force, the Customs Department, the National Drug Agency and the Attorney General's Office are the entities involved in the prevention and control of the sale of pharmaceutical products and drugs over the Internet.

CICAD notes that the country has in place legislation for controlling pharmaceutical products and that the system established by the country for such control is in line with the corresponding international conventions.



However, CICAD notes that the country has not provided sufficient data on regulations or specific mechanisms in place to prevent and control the illicit trafficking of pharmaceutical products or other drugs via the Internet, thus an appropriate evaluation was not possible.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

8. DEVELOP A SYSTEM TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE COMPLIANCE WITH THE STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS FOR PREVENTING THE DIVERSION OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001–2002.
9. EXPAND THE COVERAGE OF TRAINING COURSES FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR PERSONNEL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HANDLING AND CONTROL OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS.
10. APPROVE REQUIRED LEGISLATION IN ORDER TO ALLOW EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003–2004.
11. 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 OPERATIVE NEEDS.

C. Control of Chemical Substances

The Precursor Chemical Act of 2006 is the legislative instrument in place for the control of chemical substances. The National Drug Agency is responsible for monitoring and preventing the diversion of controlled chemical substances. Its controls are applicable to health professionals and entities authorized to handle these substances. All controlled chemical substances listed in the United Nations International Conventions are controlled by the country.

The Bahamas provides training for administrative, police and customs officers in the control of the diversion of chemical substances through the Caribbean Customs Agency, as well as short term courses through bilateral cooperation.

The country has provisions in its national laws for penal and administrative sanctions for the diversion of chemical substances.

The Bahamas imports controlled chemical substances and also handles these substances in transit. The country reports that staff training on pre-export notifications is being provided during the evaluation period, and that particular emphasis is being placed on the Freeport Container Port to increase the monitoring of this facility.

CICAD notes that the country has not provided sufficient data on regulations or specific mechanisms in place to prevent and control the illicit trafficking of chemical substances, thus an appropriate evaluation was not possible.

RECOMMENDATION:

12. DEVELOP A SYSTEM TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS FOR PREVENTING THE DIVERSION OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001–2002.



IV. CONTROL MEASURES

A. Illicit Drug Trafficking

The Bahamas provides information on the quantities of drugs seized during 2004–2006 in the following table:

Number and Quantities of Illicit Drugs Seized, 2004–2006

Type of drugs	Number of seizures			Quantities of drugs seized		
	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
Heroin	-	1	-	-	1.05 kg.	-
Cocaine HCl	226	269	99	740.26 kg.	102.96 kg.	1,221.03 kg.
Cannabis Plants	13	17	27	1,552	8,306	21,570
Leaf Cannabis (grass)	3,307	991	490	1,858.36 kg.	2,386.80 kg.	5,322.10 kg.
Hashish Oil (liquid cannabis)	5	1	-	25.63 kg.	0.002 kg.	-
MDMA (Ecstasy) and Derivatives	-	1	-	-	0.07 kg.	5 pills

The country does not have any laws that permit the possession of drugs for personal use, nor local provisions in this regard. Also, there are no regulations that establish exceptions within the definition of the offence of possession for personal use. There are no alternative sentencing measures for a person charged with or convicted of illicit drug possession for personal use.

In 2004, 1,418 persons were formally charged with illicit drug trafficking or possession; in 2005, 1,401 persons were charged; and in 2006, 1,302 persons. No information is available on the number of persons convicted for this crime.

The Bahamas facilitates timely operational information exchange and collaboration among national authorities responsible for controlling illicit drug trafficking.

The country states that, through international cooperation, it has been able to interdict more illicit drugs and firearms, share investigative knowledge courses and law enforcement assets, seize more money derived from criminal conduct, and dismantle drug trafficking organizations.

The Bahamas received two judicial cooperation requests for illicit drug trafficking cases in 2004 and two in 2006, and sent one reply granting a request in 2004 and two in 2006.

CICAD notes the country's use of timely operational information exchange at both the national and international levels and observes that information exchange at the international level in particular has facilitated an increase in law enforcement.

CICAD encourages the country to monitor an apparently new trend of seizures of ecstasy for appropriate drug awareness and law enforcement action.

B. Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials

The Firearms Act of 1969 and the Explosives Act of 1968 criminalize illicit firearms trafficking and manufacture of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials. The country indicates that it does not manufacture nor export these items.

The responsibility for controlling firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials in the country is divided among different agencies, as shown in the following table:



**Entities Responsible for the Control of Firearms,
Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials**

Responsibility	National Entity	
	Firearms	Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials
Issuance of import and in-transit licenses and authorizations	Commissioner of Police	
Cancellation of licenses and authorizations	Commissioner of Police, or a Court	Judicial Branch
Confiscation or forfeiture of illicitly trafficked firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials	Judicial Branch	
Information exchange within the country among relevant national entities	Royal Bahamas Police Force, Strike Force, Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU), Royal Bahamas Defence Force (RBDF), Customs, Immigration, Prison	
Information exchange with relevant national entities in other countries	The Royal Bahamas Police Force	

During 2004, 195 persons were formally charged with illicit possession and trafficking of firearms and ammunition, and in 2005, 125 persons. There were no convictions.

The Firearms Act establishes administrative controls over the importation and transit of firearms and ammunition, and the Explosives Act establishes administrative controls over the importation and transit of explosives and the importation of other related materials.

The laws of The Bahamas require the country to issue the corresponding import or in-transit licenses or authorizations before permitting the entry of a shipment of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.

The country confiscated 195 firearms and 1,941 rounds of ammunition in 2004, 212 firearms and 4,542 rounds of ammunition in 2005, and 170 firearms and 2,597 rounds of ammunition in 2006.

The Bahamas also reports that in 2004, 28 firearms and 320 rounds of ammunition were seized in connection with illicit drug trafficking, and 27 persons were arrested; in 2005, 31 firearms, 691 rounds of ammunition, 10 grenades and 1 grenade launcher were seized, and 26 persons were arrested; and in 2006, 49 firearms and 865 rounds of ammunition were seized, and 55 persons were arrested.

The country has a computer-based register that keeps records of the importation and in-transit movement of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials. These data are kept for a period of 10 years.

The Royal Bahamas Police Force and Interpol are the national entities responsible for the exchange of information and collaboration with agencies in other countries regarding the control of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials. Domestically, these activities are facilitated among the national entities through interagency committees, joint forces and operations, joint training, interagency information systems, interagency communication systems, the National Security



Council and, internationally, through the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), and the Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police (ACCP).

CICAD notes that The Bahamas has legislation, control mechanisms, and registers in place for the control of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.

C. Money Laundering

The Bahamas has enacted national laws that criminalize money laundering as an autonomous crime, and establish the sanctions for non-compliance: The Proceeds of Crime Act of 2000, the Financial Transaction Reporting Act of 2000, and the Financial Intelligence Unit Act of 2000.

Predicate offences include illicit drug trafficking, trafficking of firearms, traffic of human beings, prostitution, pornography, kidnapping, extortion, corruption, terrorism and its financing, and fraud. However, the laws do not include organ trafficking as a predicate offence.

Furthermore, these national laws authorize special investigations in money laundering cases as well as undercover investigations, electronic surveillance, use of informants and controlled deliveries.

The legislation also establishes administrative controls to prevent money laundering with respect to banks, "off-shore" banks, insurance, casinos, real estate, lawyers, notaries, accountants and cross border movement of currencies, as well as negotiable bearer instruments. There is no provision relating to stock or currency exchanges.

The country has an autonomous Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) that receives, requests, analyses and reports on transactions that may constitute money laundering. The Unit is under the authority of the Attorney General and is able to share information with other state agencies and foreign counterparts. The FIU, which has a staff of 17 people, had a budget of US\$830,808 for fiscal year 2003–2004, US\$662,470 for 2004–2005, and US\$664,000 for 2005–2006. The FIU is a member of the Egmont Group and has signed memoranda of understanding allowing for the exchange of information with counterparts in Australia, Belgium, Guatemala, Canada, Panama, South Korea, and Andorra.

It is mandatory for financial institutions to report suspicious or unusual transactions to the competent authorities. It is also mandatory to have control measures in place that provide for the reporting of large transactions, client registry, verification of client identity, transaction registry, preservation of records, the existence of enforcement officials and the existence of independent audits.

The country reports that it received 145 suspicious transaction reports in 2004, of which 30 remain open, 73 were closed and 42 were forwarded to the Royal Bahamas Police Force for investigation. In 2005, the country received 177 reports, of which 37 remain open, 79 were closed, and 61 forwarded to the Royal Bahamas Police Force for investigation; and in 2006, 203 reports were received, of which 32 remain open, 129 were closed, and 42 were forwarded to the Royal Bahamas Police Force for investigation.

The FIU is empowered, under the Financial Intelligence Unit Act of 2000, to request information, excluding information subject to legal professional privilege. In 2005, 152 financial documents were requested and provided to the FIU, and, in 2006, 309 financial documents were requested, of which 258 were provided.



The Bahamas reported the following seizures of money connected with illicit drug trafficking during years 2004–2006:

**Money Seizures Related to Illicit Drug Trafficking,
2004–2006**

Year	Amount Seized (US\$)
2004	453,722.75
2005	369,170.44
2006	2,061,497.78

The country does not authorize sharing forfeited goods in cases involving more than one country.

The Attorney General is the central authority responsible for making and receiving extradition requests and for making international cooperation requests to other states. Under the laws of The Bahamas, extradition of nationals is permitted.

CICAD observes that the Bahamas has put in place legislation for combating money laundering and that it has established a Financial Intelligence Unit and provided it with necessary resources.

CICAD expresses its concern that the trafficking of organs as a predicate offence and the control of stock and currency exchanges are not properly addressed by the country's legislation.

CICAD considers the information provided insufficient to assess the effectiveness of cooperation the country has offered or received in the exchange of information on money laundering investigations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 13. EXPAND THE LIST OF PREDICATE OFFENSES FOR MONEY LAUNDERING TO INCLUDE ALL CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES CONSIDERED SERIOUS CRIMES UNDER THE PALERMO CONVENTION (PUNISHABLE BY A MAXIMUM DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY OF AT LEAST FOUR YEARS OR A MORE SERIOUS PENALTY), A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003–2004.**
- 14. ESTABLISH ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS ON STOCK AND CURRENCY EXCHANGES TO PREVENT MONEY LAUNDERING, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003–2004.**



CONCLUSIONS

CICAD notes that the country has a National Anti-drug Plan covering the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, money laundering, and program evaluation.

CICAD expresses its concern that the country is still not a party to key international conventions, such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and its three Protocols.

CICAD urges The Bahamas to implement surveys on drug use for secondary school students and encourages the country to consider the implementation of a National Drug Observatory or similar entity to centralize drug-related information gathered by different agencies, to provide a better assessment of the drug situation in the country.

CICAD considers that The Bahamas needs to implement drug prevention programs, especially those directed towards the school population.

CICAD notes that The Bahamas has made advancements in offering drug treatment and rehabilitation for the general population, and specifically for women and adolescents. However, the Commission notes with concern that minimum standards of care for drug abuse treatment have not yet been established.

The country has approved laws regarding the control of pharmaceutical products and controlled chemical substances. CICAD considers it necessary, however, to develop a system to ensure effective compliance with the standards and regulations for preventing the diversion of these products.

CICAD considers that the country's use of timely operational information exchange at both the national and international levels is particularly noteworthy, and appreciates that information exchange at the international level in particular has facilitated an increase in law enforcement.

CICAD notes that the country has appropriate legislative and control mechanisms in place for the control of firearms and other related materials.

CICAD recognizes the country's efforts in establishing a Financial Intelligence Unit and providing it with the necessary resources to function effectively.

CICAD acknowledges the efforts made by the country in providing information, which made possible a more comprehensive evaluation of the drug situation in The Bahamas by the MEM. However, the information provided was not yet extensive enough to allow a thorough assessment in a number of areas such as drug use statistics, control of pharmaceutical and chemical substances, and freezing of assets.

CICAD takes note of The Bahamas' consistent participation in the MEM and encourages the country to provide additional details for future MEM reports so that the Commission can conduct more complete assessments of the country's drug-control performance.



SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are assigned to The Bahamas in order to assist the country in strengthening its policies to combat the problem of drugs and related activities and increase multilateral cooperation in the Hemisphere:

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

1. **RATIFY THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS, 1992, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND, 1999–2000.**
2. **RATIFY THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME, 2000, AND ITS PROTOCOLS, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001–2002:**
 - A. **PROTOCOL AGAINST THE SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS BY LAND, SEA AND AIR;**
 - B. **PROTOCOL TO PREVENT, SUPPRESS AND PUNISH TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN; AND**
 - C. **PROTOCOL AGAINST THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, THEIR PARTS AND COMPONENTS AND AMMUNITION.**
3. **ACCEDE TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION, 2003.**
4. **IMPLEMENT A NATIONAL DRUG OBSERVATORY OR SIMILAR ENTITY TO GATHER AND ANALYZE DRUG-RELATED STATISTICS AND OTHER DATA, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001–2002.**

DEMAND REDUCTION

5. **IMPLEMENT A COUNTRY-WIDE DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS, BASED ON CICAD'S HEMISPHERIC GUIDELINES ON SCHOOL PREVENTION, OR SIMILAR GUIDELINES.**
6. **ESTABLISH MINIMUM STANDARDS OF CARE FOR DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001–2002.**
7. **CONDUCT A DRUG USE STUDY AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.**

SUPPLY REDUCTION

8. **DEVELOP A SYSTEM TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE COMPLIANCE WITH THE STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS FOR PREVENTING THE DIVERSION OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001–2002.**
9. **EXPAND THE COVERAGE OF TRAINING COURSES FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR PERSONNEL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HANDLING AND CONTROL OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS.**
10. **APPROVE REQUIRED LEGISLATION IN ORDER TO ALLOW EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003–2004.**



11. 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 OPERATIVE NEEDS.
12. DEVELOP A SYSTEM TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS FOR PREVENTING THE DIVERSION OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE **SECOND EVALUATION ROUND**, 2001–2002.

CONTROL MEASURES

13. EXPAND THE LIST OF PREDICATE OFFENSES FOR MONEY LAUNDERING TO INCLUDE ALL CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES CONSIDERED SERIOUS CRIMES UNDER THE **PALERMO CONVENTION** (PUNISHABLE BY A MAXIMUM DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY OF AT LEAST FOUR YEARS OR A MORE SERIOUS PENALTY), A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE **THIRD EVALUATION ROUND**, 2003–2004.
14. ESTABLISH ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS ON STOCK AND CURRENCY EXCHANGES TO PREVENT MONEY LAUNDERING, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE **THIRD EVALUATION ROUND**, 2003–2004.









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