

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism MEM



Dominican Republic

2009 EVALUATION OF PROGRESS IN DRUG CONTROL
IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS
FROM THE FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND



**RECOMMENDATION 1:****APPROVE AND IMPLEMENT THE NEW NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG PLAN.**

The Dominican Republic reports that it approved its new National Strategic Plan 2008-2012, through the enactment of an Executive Decree on July 23, 2008. However, the Plan has not yet been implemented.

CICAD recognizes the progress made and encourages the country to fully implement this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 2:**RATIFY THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA (1982).**

The Dominican Republic reports that the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was approved by the National Congress by Resolution No. 478-08 and enacted by the Executive Branch on November 28, 2008. Deposit of the corresponding instrument of ratification remains pending.

CICAD acknowledges the efforts made by the Dominican Republic and encourages the country to fully comply with this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 3:**RATIFY THE PROTOCOL AGAINST THE SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS BY LAND, SEA AND AIR OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (2000), A REITERATED RECOMMENDATION FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001–2002.**

The Dominican Republic reports that it has ratified the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air of the 2000 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The instrument of ratification was deposited with the United Nations General Secretariat on December 10, 2007.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 4:**RATIFY THE PROTOCOL AGAINST THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURE OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, THEIR PARTS AND COMPONENTS AND AMMUNITION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (2000), A REITERATED RECOMMENDATION FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001–2002.**

The Dominican Republic reports that the ratification of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacture of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime of 2000 was approved by the National Congress by Resolution No. 442-08, and enacted by the Executive Branch on September 10, 2008. Deposit of the corresponding instrument of ratification remains pending.



CICAD acknowledges the efforts made by the Dominican Republic and urges the country to fully implement this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned in the Second Evaluation Round, 2001-2002.

RECOMMENDATION 5:

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

The Dominican Republic reports that it has not ratified the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters of 1992.

CICAD notes with concern the lack of progress made and urges the country to fulfill this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned in the First Evaluation Round, 1999-2000.

RECOMMENDATION 6:

RATIFY THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURE OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS – CIFTA (1997), A REITERATED RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND, 1999–2000.

The Dominican Republic reports that the ratification of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacture of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials (CIFTA) was approved by the National Congress by Resolution No. 443-08, and enacted by the Executive Branch on September 10, 2008. Deposit of the corresponding instrument of ratification remains pending.

CICAD acknowledges the efforts made by the Dominican Republic and urges the country to fully implement this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned in the First Evaluation Round, 1999-2000.

RECOMMENDATION 7:

IMPROVE THE INTERAGENCY COORDINATION MECHANISMS TO ALLOW THE TIMELY GATHERING OF DATA AND THE POSSIBILITY OF CENTRALIZING IT WITHIN THE DRUGS OBSERVATORY.

The Dominican Republic reports that work has been done to sensitize, educate, and raise awareness among agencies concerning the need to produce and provide the necessary information, with the aim of centralizing this data within the National Drugs Observatory.

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

**RECOMMENDATION 8:****ESTABLISH A HELP LINE TO PROVIDE DRUG-RELATED INFORMATION TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.**

The Dominican Republic reports that it has implemented a help line or government contact center to provide addiction-related information.

CICAD views with satisfaction the completion of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 9:**INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY OF PROFESSIONAL SPECIALIZED TRAINING IN DRUG USE PREVENTION, A REITERATED RECOMMENDATION FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003–2004.**

The Dominican Republic reports that in the last quarter of 2008, a three-month diploma course on the Diagnosis of and Intervention in Addiction Disease was given at the Madre y Maestra Catholic University, Fénix Foundation, and Dorys Amaya Foundation. This course had a total of 50 participants from different institutions.

In addition, the country indicated that an agreement was signed by the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo and the National Anti-drug Council to begin a diploma program on Drug Prevention and Public Policy. The course will begin in the second semester of 2009.

CICAD views with satisfaction the completion of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 10:**CONDUCT AN EVALUATION OF RESULTS TO MEASURE SCHOOL-BASED PREVENTION PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS, A REITERATED RECOMMENDATION FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001–2002.**

The Dominican Republic reports that it has not begun implementing this recommendation.

CICAD notes with concern that the Dominican Republic has not shown progress in the implementation of this reiterated recommendation and urges the country to implement it, given that it was assigned in the Second Evaluation Round, 2001-2002.

RECOMMENDATION 11:**EXPAND THE COVERAGE OF PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR THE SCHOOL POPULATION.**

The Dominican Republic reports that the State Education Secretariat is implementing four comprehensive school prevention programs: Education on Values, School for Parents, Safe Neighborhood and Prevention of Child and Adolescent Abuse. These programs will be implemented in conjunction with the Secretariat of the Interior and Police, Pro-Familia, and the National Anti-drug Council. However, the country has not provided information that would allow an evaluation of progress made in the implementation of the recommendation.



CICAD takes note of the activities reported and encourages the country to move forward in implementing this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 12:

IMPLEMENT THE TOOLS NECESSARY TO ACCREDIT DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT SERVICES AND PROGRAMS.

The Dominican Republic reports that meetings have been held among the Offices of Mental Health, Accreditation and Certification, and Standards of the Secretariat of State for Public Health and Social Assistance (SESPAS). The purpose of these meetings is to define procedures for the Accreditation, Certification, and Standards System.

CICAD notes the lack of progress made in preparing the instruments needed for the treatment center accreditation process, and encourages the Dominican Republic to move forward in implementing this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 13:

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

The Dominican Republic reports that it has not begun implementing this recommendation.

CICAD urges the country to initiate actions that would enable it to make progress in implementing this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned in the Third Evaluation Round, 2003–2004.

RECOMMENDATION 14:

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.

The Dominican Republic reports that it has not begun implementing this recommendation.

CICAD encourages the country to take the necessary steps to fulfill this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 15:

ESTABLISH A JUDICIAL DATABASE CONTAINING INFORMATION ON PERSONS FORMALLY CHARGED WITH AND CONVICTED OF ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING OFFENSES, ENABLING THE IDENTIFICATION OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS, A REITERATED RECOMMENDATION FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003–2004.

The Dominican Republic reports that the Office of the Attorney General has developed a Criminal Investigation System (SIC) to consolidate data on persons charged with and convicted of illicit drug trafficking offenses, using the database of the General Office of Prisons.



In addition, the Supreme Court of Justice has developed a comprehensive case management system, "Supremo Plus," which consolidates all information on illicit drug trafficking cases and the persons involved therein, as well as associated infractions and other details. The country reports that a second version of the system is being developed to determine whether those involved are public officials.

CICAD takes note of the information provided by the Dominican Republic and urges the country to implement this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned in the Third Evaluation Round, 2003-2004.

RECOMMENDATION 16:

ESTABLISH A REGISTRY OR DATABASE CONTAINING ALL INFORMATION RELATED TO ILLICIT TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS.

The Dominican Republic has not begun implementing this recommendation.

CICAD encourages the country to take the necessary steps to fulfill this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 17:

UPDATE NATIONAL LEGISLATION TO CONTROL ILLICIT TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS ON THE SUBJECT, A REITERATED RECOMMENDATION FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003–2004.

The Dominican Republic reports that four bills are before the National Congress to amend the existing legal framework for controlling illicit trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.

CICAD urges the country to make progress toward the implementation of this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned in the Third Evaluation Round, 2003-2004.

CONCLUSIONS

During the Fourth Evaluation Round, the Dominican Republic received a total of 17 recommendations. The country has implemented three recommendations, made progress in four and reports no major progress in six.

CICAD views with satisfaction that the country has ratified the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Additionally, the country established a help line to provide addiction-related information and increased the availability of professional specialized training in drug use prevention.

CICAD recognizes the progress made by the country in the implementation of the National Strategic Plan 2008-2012 and the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The country also showed progress in the ratification of both the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacture of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition of the



United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime as well as the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacture of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials.

CICAD expresses its concern regarding the lack of progress shown in the implementation of the recommendations regarding the ratification of the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters; the improvement of the inter-agency coordination mechanisms to allow the timely gathering of data and the possibility of centralizing it within the National Drugs Observatory; the measurement of school-based prevention program effectiveness in elementary schools; the estimation of the magnitude of drug use in the general population; and the implementation of research and training activities to prevent and control the illicit traffic of pharmaceutical products and other drugs via the Internet.

CICAD recognizes the participation of the Dominican Republic in the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) process and encourages the country to continue its efforts to fulfill the pending recommendations.