

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism MEM



Mexico

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



**RECOMMENDATION 1:****EXTEND COVERAGE OF GOVERNMENT DRUG PREVENTION PROGRAMS SPECIFICALLY TARGETING VULNERABLE POPULATION GROUPS, SUCH AS STREET CHILDREN, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003–2004.**

Mexico reports that it has carried out various prevention projects aimed at children, covering issues of drug-related violence, methamphetamine use, attention deficit disorders in children, and art education for children in high-risk areas, among others.

The country informs that the Gender Program assisted 1,262,327 women in 2007. Mexico has carried out prevention activities aimed at indigenous groups in the Federal District, Toluca, Chiapas, Chihuahua, and Oaxaca, as well as the Hñahñu and Mazaguas communities, covering subjects such as alcohol, tobacco, hygiene, and remaining in and enjoying school, reaching more than 800 persons. Prevention activities were carried out in 31 centers for juvenile offenders in 2008, with the participation of 12,916 people through various activities targeting inmates, family members and prison technical staff.

Regarding activities targeting street children, the country reports that in 2008, the Ramón de la Fuente Muñiz National Institute of Psychiatry (INPRF) conducted three distance education courses, which 41 street educators from civil society organizations and community outreach workers of different state Comprehensive Family Development (DIF) centers took part in. An attendance-based course, "Training counselors to prevent and discourage drug use among children and adolescents living in the street," was also given for 35 community outreach workers of the state of Mexico DIF center.

CICAD recognizes Mexico's efforts and urges the country to implement this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned in the Third Evaluation Round, 2003-2004.

RECOMMENDATION 2:**INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF TRAINING IN ORDER TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF PROFESSIONALS WORKING IN THE AREAS OF DRUG PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND RESEARCH.**

Mexico reports that its institutional education programs were strengthened through accreditation of higher education institutions, by means of workshops, case study courses, and diploma and specialization courses. These training programs will be expanded to include the training of professionals, who will then enlarge the network of primary care treatment and prevention units.

The country reports that training covers both prevention and treatment subjects, and includes gender awareness and approaches to domestic violence, drugs in the workplace, and street children.

At present, 27 students have applied for masters' degrees and seven for doctorates in public mental health. Each year, between 10 and 15 residents choose a master's degree in addiction studies, coordinated by the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) in conjunction with the Ramón de la Fuente Muñiz National Institute of Psychiatry.

In 2007, distance-learning training was provided to 605 professionals working in 77 operating units, while attendance-based training was offered to 126 operational and regulatory professionals.



Also noteworthy was training for staff of Primary Addiction Care Centers (UNEME CAPA), provided by means of 4,000 reading circles, involving 59,650 people; a training program for juvenile justice system officers, attended by 27 agents from the Office of the Public Ministry; and 22 refresher courses for regulatory and administrative personnel on gender violence information systems, application and interpretation of neuropsychological tests, eating disorders, developing teaching materials, forming an effective team, and control and audit committees.

Another significant activity was the 2007 International Congress on Addictions, "Vanguard Models of Care," which addressed all aspects of addictions and in which 3,000 individuals took part.

CICAD expresses its satisfaction with the implementation of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 3:

IMPLEMENT A SYSTEM TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EXISTING DRUG TREATMENT MODELS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS.

Mexico reports that the Ramón de la Fuente Muñiz National Institute of Psychiatry, in coordination with the National Autonomous University of Mexico School of Psychology, is conducting a research program to develop methodologies for evaluating the cost-effectiveness of five intervention programs. This evaluation will include four programs for alcohol and drug users, and one for the evaluation of families in rural and indigenous areas to help them deal with the problems of alcohol use by a family member.

CICAD notes the initial efforts reported by Mexico and encourages the country to strengthen measures that would enable this recommendation to be fully implemented.

RECOMMENDATION 4:

IMPLEMENT TRAINING AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES ON THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS AND OTHER DRUGS OVER THE INTERNET, ALLOWING NATIONAL REGULATORY AND OPERATIONAL NEEDS TO BE IDENTIFIED.

Mexico reports that the Federal Commission for Protection Against Health Risks (COFEPRIS), Secretariat of Health, has begun training its personnel in investigative techniques for detecting websites of this kind. The training's objective is to obtain the tools necessary to develop a plan of action to address this subject, within the scope of its authority and taking into account national and international experience.

The Office of the Attorney General of the Republic (PGR) has conducted six 60-hour academic activities, "Narcotics," which included the subject of "web mapping techniques," with the participation of 130 public officials in the states of Durango, Guerrero, Guanajuato, Baja California, Chihuahua, and Sinaloa.

CICAD recognizes the efforts that Mexico is making to comply with this recommendation and encourages the country to continue with its implementation.

**RECOMMENDATION 5:****ESTABLISH A LICENSING SYSTEM FOR IMPORTERS, EXPORTERS, MANUFACTURERS, AND DISTRIBUTORS OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS AS PROVIDED IN THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES OF 1971.**

Mexico reports that manufacturers, distributors, and points of sale of pharmaceutical products have health licenses issued by the Health Secretariat, pursuant to the General Health Act and the Regulations on Health Inputs. These licenses authorize them to market their products, including the importation and manufacture of raw materials (import health permit), and manufacture and distribution to the point of sale (verification visit). To that end, the country employs mechanisms such as import and export health permits, verification visits, and prescription pads, among others, which make comprehensive control possible.

CICAD expresses its satisfaction with the implementation of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 6:**ESTABLISH A PROGRAM OF CONTINUOUS TRAINING IN CHEMICAL DIVERSIONS CONTROL, TARGETING ADMINISTRATIVE, POLICE, CUSTOMS, AND PROSECUTORS.**

Mexico reports that, as part of the work of the Synthetic Drug Control Subgroup (created under the National Drug Control Program, PNCD), a training program on synthetic drugs was offered to federal and municipal authorities in 2008, including the Public Ministry, ministerial police, state and municipal prevention police forces, customs authorities, and the military. Sixty-nine public officials took part.

The Attorney General's office also programmed three academic activities in 2008 for federal Public Ministry agents on conducting preliminary investigations, with a view to improving the service's preliminary investigative practices, in strict adherence to the applicable legal and constitutional provisions. Two hundred and thirty-nine public officials took part in these activities.

The country reports that the 2009 Professionalization "Institutional Agenda of Academic Activities" included actions related to the development of knowledge, aptitudes, and skills for strengthening, updating, and identifying types of drugs, precursors, and chemical products frequently used in the illegal manufacture of narcotics or psychotropic substances. Due to the changes introduced by the enactment of the Constitutional Security and Justice Reforms, the prosecutorial system and organized crime were also included.

The country states that it will continue its ongoing development of these training courses.

CICAD expresses its satisfaction with the implementation of this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 7:****UPDATE LEGISLATION ON CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES IN LIGHT OF THE NEW TRENDS IN THEIR DIVERSION, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001–2002.**

Mexico reports that in June 2008, the “Agreement Establishing Human Health Protection Measures to Prevent the Use and Consumption of Ephedrine and Pseudoephedrine,” was published in the Official Gazette. This agreement prohibits the production, distribution, and marketing of medications containing these substances. On an exceptional basis and subject to rigorous administrative measures, they may be imported for scientific research purposes, toxicological testing, and the manufacture of medications for hospital use in ephedrine-based injectable solutions.

Mexico reports that new draft amendments to the Federal Law for the Control of Precursor Chemicals, Essential Chemical Products, and Machinery for Manufacturing Capsules, Tablets, and Pills have been prepared. These drafts are in the process of being reviewed by the Attorney General’s office.

The country also reports that in May 2007, a bill of amendment was introduced in the Chamber of Deputies that would bring the General Health Law into line with international trends and with the treaties for the control of narcotic and psychotropic substances to which Mexico is a party. This draft is now being reviewed by the Health Secretariat. Prior to the amendment of that law, however, gamma-hydroxybutyric acid, ephedra (mahuang), and amineptine were added to the list of substances controlled by the Health Secretariat.

CICAD recognizes the progress made by Mexico and urges the country to continue working toward full implementation of this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned in the Second Evaluation Round, 2001–2002.

RECOMMENDATION 8:**ESTABLISH A DATABASE TO REGISTER THE NUMBER OF PERSONS FORMALLY CHARGED WITH, TRIED FOR, AND CONVICTED OF ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING AND ILLICIT POSSESSION OF DRUGS, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003–2004.**

Mexico reports that it has updated the Interagency Statistical Information System (SIIE), which enables information to be obtained on the initiation and completion of preliminary investigations and makes it possible to identify persons formally charged and convicted throughout the criminal proceedings, through to final sentencing.

The process of obligating the relevant entities to input data in the system is under way.

CICAD acknowledges the progress made and urges Mexico to continue its efforts to implement this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned in the Third Evaluation Round, 2003–2004.



RECOMMENDATION 9:

INCREASE THE COVERAGE OF THE SPECIALIZED TRAINING ON ILLEGAL DRUG TRAFFICKING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT, SECURITY AND CUSTOMS OFFICERS, INCLUDING TOPICS SUCH AS THE DIVERSION OF CONTROLLED CHEMICALS AND DRUG TRAFFICKING OVER THE INTERNET.

Mexico reports that it has established training programs on drug identification and trafficking to provide investigating agents with expertise on identification, classification, trafficking routes, supply, and investigative techniques in order to combat drug distribution and sale and to eradicate this practice.

The country continues working to provide training to key personnel and to improve technological capacities and operations used in addressing this problem.

CICAD notes the initial steps taken by Mexico and encourages the country to continue its efforts toward full implementation of this recommendation.

CONCLUSIONS

Mexico has shown progress in implementing the recommendations assigned during the Fourth Evaluation Round. Of the nine recommendations assigned, three have been fully implemented, progress has been made in four, and efforts to implement two have been initiated

In the demand reduction area, Mexico has increased the availability of training for professionals working in the prevention and treatment areas. CICAD also notes that the coverage of prevention programs targeting vulnerable populations such as women, indigenous groups, and juvenile offenders has increased. However, in keeping with the reiterated recommendation from the Third Round, the country should increase the coverage of programs for street children.

On the other hand, the country reports little progress in implementing a system to evaluate the effectiveness of public and private sector treatment models.

In the supply reduction area, the country has fully implemented the recommendation on the establishment of a system for licensing importers, exporters, manufacturers, and distributors of pharmaceutical products in keeping with international instruments.

Regarding the illicit trafficking of pharmaceutical products and other drugs over the Internet, the country has begun to implement training activities on the investigation, detection, and mapping of websites.

With regard to the updating of legislation on the control of chemical substances, Mexico has drafted two bills, now in the review stage: one to amend the Federal Law for the Control of Precursor Chemicals, Essential Chemical Products, and Machinery for Manufacturing Capsules, Tablets, and Pills; and another to amend and update the General Health Law to bring it into line with the new trends.

CICAD also notes with satisfaction that an ongoing training program has been established on the control of chemical substances, with participation by officials of different federal and municipal government entities with jurisdiction in this area.



Regarding control measures, CICAD acknowledges that progress has been made in implementing the Interagency Statistical Information System (SIE), which makes it possible to obtain information on persons charged, prosecuted, and convicted. Approval of the obligation to input information into the system is pending.

With regard to illicit drug trafficking, the country should increase its efforts to expand the coverage of specialized training in illicit drug trafficking for security forces, police forces, and customs.

CICAD acknowledges Mexico's participation in the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) process and encourages the country to continue its efforts in order to fully implement the pending recommendations.