

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism MEM



Trinidad and Tobago

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



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

Trinidad and Tobago reports that the National Anti-Drug Plan for the period 2008-2012 has been drafted, but has yet to be submitted to the country's Cabinet of Ministers for consideration and approval.

CICAD encourages the country to implement this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 2:**RATIFY THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME, 2000 AND ITS THREE PROTOCOLS, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003-2004:**

- 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.**
- C) PROTOCOL AGAINST THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, THEIR PARTS AND COMPONENTS AND AMMUNITION.**

Trinidad and Tobago informs that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime together with the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition, were acceded to on November 6, 2007.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 3:**ESTABLISH A MECHANISM TO ESTIMATE COVERAGE OF DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAMMES, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003-2004.**

Trinidad and Tobago reports that a Monitoring and Evaluation Unit was established to estimate the coverage of drug abuse prevention programs. The country informs that the National Drug Council, through the National Drug Information System, has been collecting data since 2006 on the geographical locations of drug prevention activities and producing maps highlighting the areas covered by the National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme (NADAPP) and the Organized Crime Narcotic and Firearms Bureau (OCNFB). The country informs that the system needs to be improved to ensure that data is collected from additional agencies which undertake prevention activities.

CICAD recognizes the progress made and urges Trinidad and Tobago to fully comply with this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned in the Third Evaluation Round, 2003-2004.

**RECOMMENDATION 4:****EVALUATE DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAMMES IN SCHOOLS TO DETERMINE THEIR EFFECTIVENESS.**

Trinidad and Tobago reports that the National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme (NADAPP) utilizes two evaluation methods in elementary and secondary schools when prevention messages are delivered, targeting both students and teachers.

Additionally, during the annual "Facing Life" series, students are asked to complete evaluation forms which are analysed to identify where changes need to be made and methods for more effective dissemination of prevention messages.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 5:**ESTABLISH MINIMUM STANDARDS OF CARE FOR THE TREATMENT OF DRUG ABUSE, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001-2002.**

Trinidad and Tobago reports that the Minimum Standards of Care are in development.

CICAD urges Trinidad and Tobago to implement this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned in the Second Evaluation Round, 2001-2002.

RECOMMENDATION 6:**CREATE A REGISTRY OF TREATMENT SERVICES/PROGRAMMES AND CENTERS WITHIN THE COUNTRY.**

Trinidad and Tobago informs that the registry of the National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme (NADAPP), established in 2007, was formalized and upgraded in 2008. A comprehensive document outlining the location and services offered by treatment and rehabilitation agencies was published and distributed in January 2009.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 7:**IMPLEMENT SPECIALIZED TRAINING COURSES FOR PERSONNEL IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVED IN THE HANDLING OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS.**

Trinidad and Tobago informs that public sector officials received precursor chemical training in 2008 at the Regional Drug Law Enforcement Training Center (REDTRAC) in Jamaica. The country also reports that personnel in the public and private sector involved in the handling of pharmaceutical products are either pharmacists, doctors or other medical professionals who, as part of their profession are trained in the handling of these products.

CICAD recognizes the progress made by Trinidad and Tobago and encourages the country to continue its efforts to fulfill this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 8:****IMPLEMENT AN AUTOMATED INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TO FACILITATE THE CONTROL OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS.**

Trinidad and Tobago informs that the National Drug Control System (NDS) was installed in 2007. The system facilitates the daily management of licit movements, production, distribution and consumption, as well as international trade in all controlled substances in both raw material form as well as in the form of pharmaceutical preparations. The NDS acts as an electronic database of both the companies handling controlled substances and the controlled substances themselves in all their different forms. The system also tracks all transactions in relation to these substances carried-out by registered companies.

The system improves the timely exchange of information amongst all involved parties at both the national and international levels including the issuance and tracking of domestic licenses, import/export authorizations, certificates and pre-export notifications.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 9:**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.**

Trinidad and Tobago reports that there is no legislation in place for the prevention and control of illicit trafficking of pharmaceutical drugs via the Internet. However, the country informs that if drugs are ordered over the Internet, they must enter the country via an authorized port, at which the Customs and Excise Division has jurisdiction. Additionally, any drugs that do not have legal authorization for entry into the country are seized and ultimately destroyed.

CICAD takes note of the information provided by Trinidad and Tobago and encourages the country to fulfill this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 10:**APPROVE AND IMPLEMENT THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION FOR THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PROVISIONS AND PROPOSALS OF ARTICLE 12 OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES OF 1988.**

Trinidad and Tobago informs that it has drafted an act to provide for the monitoring and control of precursor chemicals and other chemical substances. The country reports that it was unable to meet the 2008 projected timeframe for the introduction into Parliament of this draft legislation. However, efforts are being made to have this matter entered on the agenda of the Parliamentary term in 2009.



Additionally, Trinidad and Tobago reports that the Revised Customs Act, covers chemical substances and precursor. The Act also includes similar penalties as its Dangerous Drugs Act, in accordance with the World Customs Organization Recommendation (June 29 2002) which seeks to increase penalties for moving drugs across borders.

CICAD encourages the country to continue its efforts to comply with this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 11:

IMPLEMENT SPECIALIZED TRAINING COURSES FOR PERSONNEL IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVED IN THE HANDLING OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES.

Trinidad and Tobago informs that the country has participated in various precursor chemical courses. The country reports that three participants from Trinidad and Tobago took part in the most recent course which was held in April 2008.

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

RECOMMENDATION 12:

ESTABLISH ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL MEASURES OVER THE AREAS OF LICENCE CONTROL, MONITORING, DISTRIBUTION, INSPECTION, INVESTIGATION, TRANSPORT, CONTROL, AND PRE-EXPORT NOTIFICATIONS OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES, A REITERATED RECOMMENDATION FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003-2004.

Trinidad and Tobago indicates that the review of the chemical policy and legislation is in progress.

CICAD urges the country to fulfill this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned in the Third Evaluation Round, 2003-2004.

RECOMMENDATION 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 REITERATED RECOMMENDATION FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001-2002.

Trinidad and Tobago informs that the list of predicate offences has been expanded to include all serious crimes. The country states that under its legislation, an indictable offence or serious crime carries a penalty of 5 years or more.

CICAD views with satisfaction the completion of this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 14:**

ADOPT LEGISLATION TO EXERCISE TIGHTER ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS OVER CURRENCY EXCHANGES, CROSS BORDER MOVEMENT OF MONEY AND OTHER NEGOTIABLE BEARER INSTRUMENTS, LAWYERS, NOTARIES AND ACCOUNTANTS, A REITERATED RECOMMENDATION FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003-2004.

Trinidad and Tobago informs that legislation has been drafted to incorporate tighter administrative controls over currency exchanges, cross border movement of money and other negotiable bearer instruments, lawyers, notaries and accountants, and will be submitted to Parliament for final passage.

CICAD urges the country to comply with this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned in the Third Evaluation Round, 2003-2004.

RECOMMENDATION 15:

ADOPT LEGISLATION TO ALLOW SPECIAL INVESTIGATION TECHNIQUES SUCH AS, UNDERCOVER OPERATIONS, TELEPHONE TAPPING, AND CONTROLLED DELIVERIES, A REITERATED RECOMMENDATION FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003-2004.

Trinidad and Tobago informs that discussions on the content of the legislation are being held, but no draft legislation has been developed.

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

CONCLUSIONS

Trinidad and Tobago was assigned 15 recommendations in this Fourth Evaluation Round. The country completed five of the recommendations, made progress on another five, but has yet to make progress on the remaining five.

CICAD notes that the country has ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000 and its three Protocols, and has expanded the list of predicate offenses for money laundering to include all criminal activities punishable by a penalty of four years or more.

CICAD also notes that Trinidad and Tobago has conducted evaluations of its drug abuse prevention programmes in schools to determine their effectiveness; created a registry for treatment services; and implemented an automated information management system to facilitate the control of pharmaceutical products.

CICAD recognizes the progress the country has made towards creating a mechanism to estimate the coverage of its drug abuse prevention programmes.

CICAD recognizes further Trinidad and Tobago's progress in the implementation of specialized training courses for personnel involved in the handling of pharmaceutical products, and the development of legislation to provide for the monitoring and control of precursor chemicals and other chemical substances.



CICAD notes the lack of progress made in approving and implementing a new national anti-drug plan; establishing minimum standards of care for treatment of drug abuse¹; establishing administrative control over areas of licence control, monitoring, distribution, inspection, investigation, transport, control, and pre-export notification of controlled chemical substances; adopting legislation to exercise tighter administrative control over currency exchanges, cross border movement of money and other negotiable bearer instruments, lawyer, notaries and accountants; and adopting legislation to allow special investigation techniques, such as undercover operations, telephone tapping, and controlled deliveries.

CICAD recognizes the participation of Trinidad and Tobago in the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) process, and encourages the country to fully comply with the pending recommendations.

¹ At the Forty-Fifth Regular Session of CICAD in May 2009, Trinidad and Tobago highlighted that during the reporting phase, activities were undertaken that resulted in the development of a draft policy on Standards of Care.