

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism MEM



Belize

**2005 PROGRESS REPORT IN DRUG CONTROL
IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS
FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND**



**RECOMMENDATION 1:**

RATIFY THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AND ITS FOLLOWING PROTOCOLS, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001–2002:

- A) THE PROTOCOL AGAINST THE SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS BY LAND, SEA AND AIR**
- B) THE PROTOCOL TO PREVENT, SUPPRESS AND PUNISH TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN**
- C) THE PROTOCOL AGAINST ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, THEIR PARTS AND COMPONENTS AND AMMUNITION**

PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003

REITERATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Belize reports that it acceded to this Convention on September 26th, 2003, but that it has not yet ratified two of the three Protocols.

The Protocol that deals with the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air is currently being addressed by the Ministry of the Attorney General. The Ministry is conducting a legal Revision of the Convention with a view to advising Cabinet and the Senate and it is expected that this will be completed by the end of 2006.

CICAD notes with satisfaction the accession of the country to the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to this Convention to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

CICAD urges the country to ratify the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, which was recommended in the Second Evaluation Round, 2001–2002.

RECOMMENDATION 2:

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

PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2001

REITERATION DATES: JANUARY 2003

JUNE 2005

Belize reports that the implementation of this recommendation is in progress and that the office of the Attorney General is responsible for moving this process to be submitted to Cabinet and ratification.

CICAD expresses its concern over the lack of fulfillment of this recommendation given that it was assigned to the country from the First Evaluation Round, 1999–2000, and urges the country to implement it.

**RECOMMENDATION 3:****ESTABLISH A MECHANISM TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE DATA COLLECTION CAPACITY**

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Belize reports that, in compliance with this recommendation, it has established, through its Police Department, a new structure for the purpose of evaluating data collection capacity. Data is collected from the various agencies and fed into a centralized data bank. This information is then made available both to Government and the general public through the Crimes Committee. The Head of Intelligence is the first evaluative point followed by the Commander of Operations and then the Commissioner of Police. All three entities have received specialized training and are responsible for checking the data collection system for effectiveness and efficiency.

Belize reports that the data collection capacity does cover Demand Reduction aspects of the fight against drugs and does have an evaluation mechanism to test the efficiency of the system.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 4:**SET UP A DRUG "HELP LINE" OR A CENTRALIZED OFFICE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Belize reports that it has set up six Drug Resource Centers in each of its six Districts and each center is staffed with a Drug Coordinator who is supported by members of the District Drug Demand Reduction Task Force. These centers provide access for drug information as well as basic drug counseling and referral services. In addition, there is an Outreach Program which offers services to the community.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 5:**ESTABLISH MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAMS**

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Belize reports that a Committee has been set up to prepare a draft document to guide the process of establishing minimum standards for drug treatment programs.

REMAR (*Rehabilitación de Marginados*) is the only treatment facility in Belize. The country reports that the initial agreement between REMAR, which is a private facility, and the previous administration did not leave room for the negotiating of standards, assessment and evaluation. However, the country informs that REMAR is now under new leadership which should expedite this process.

CICAD encourages Belize to intensify its efforts to comply with this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 6:****DEVELOP A SYSTEM TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SERVICES OFFERED IN THE AREA OF TREATMENT**

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

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

The country indicates that, only recently, Belize has decided to give the area of treatment close attention and that it will review the treatment provided at REMAR which is a private facility.

CICAD encourages Belize to start working to ensure implementation of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 7:**CONDUCT A NATIONAL SURVEY ON THE GENERAL POPULATION IN ORDER TO FORMULATE CLEAR DRUG PREVENTION POLICIES AND STRATEGIES, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001–2002**

PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003

REITERATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Belize reports that this recommendation is in progress, and that the data collection has commenced.

The plan of action for implementing the survey was divided into five subsections namely: Planning, Data Collection, Data Handling, Report Writing and Printing and Reproduction. Belize has completed phase I and II and is now embarking on phase III, and reports that the entire process should be finalized by 2006.

CICAD encourages Belize to complete the recommendation within the timeframe indicated by the country, taking into account that it was assigned during the Second Evaluation Round, 2001–2002.

RECOMMENDATION 8:**ESTABLISH A MECHANISM TO PROVIDE DATA ON DRUG USE ON ARRESTEES AND ON THE PRESENCE OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE IN THE WORK PLACE**

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Belize reports that the Police Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center (JICC) established a data base that allows the district police stations to feed the relevant data on arrestees directly to the system.

The Belize Police Department is involved in a working relationship with various companies where "workplace policies" are being developed and implemented. Workplace Policies refer to legally binding documents that clearly define a company's standard/expectations of its employees in relation to the use of alcohol and other drugs particularly during the period of employment. These policies are developed by the company in collaboration with the National Drug Abuse Control Council (NDACC) under the guidance of their legal counsel. These policies have facilitated the



gathering of information by random searches of all office spaces, vehicles and other structures on the company's compound as well as random drug tests.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 9:

ESTABLISH A MECHANISM TO EVALUATE THE MEASURES PUT IN PLACE TO CONTROL PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Belize reports that an Act has been submitted to the Solicitor General to cover the control of pharmaceutical products. The Ministry of Health has also set up a unit to monitor and control pharmaceutical products. Training of personnel (Custom Officials, Immigration Officials, National Security Officials and other entities operating at the various border points and maritime areas) is yet to be undertaken in an effort to complete the implementation of this recommendation. The Act for the Control of Pharmaceuticals is expected to be passed by the end of 2006.

CICAD recognizes the efforts made by the country in relation to this recommendation and encourages the country to continue working to ensure passage of legislation and training of personnel in order to fully comply with the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 10:

ESTABLISH A MECHANISM TO EVALUATE THE MEASURES PUT IN PLACE TO CONTROL CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Belize reports that an Act has been submitted to the Solicitor General which provides for the establishment of a Drug Registration Unit to oversee the process of Drug Registration as a major tool for control. The Ministry of Health has established a Unit to review this Act. The country further reports that an evaluation mechanism has been established through the Ministry of Health's Epidemiology Center.

As Belize indicated, full implementation of this mechanism will require training of the relevant personnel and this is yet to be undertaken.

CICAD recognizes the progress made by the country towards fully complying with this recommendation and encourages the country to continue with its efforts to fulfill the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 11:

ESTABLISH A FORMAL MECHANISM FOR EVALUATION OF THE RESPONSIBLE NATIONAL ENTITIES IN CONTROLLING ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Belize reports that there is a formal mechanism in place for evaluation of the responsible national entities in controlling illicit drug trafficking.



The country informs that a National Crimes Commission was established with major responsibility for liaising with all national entities involved in controlling illicit drug trafficking by means of monitoring activities and assessing efforts made and the outcome of these activities and efforts. This information is then submitted to the Minister of Home Affairs.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 12:

ESTABLISH A FORMAL MECHANISM TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NATIONAL SYSTEM FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AMONG RESPONSIBLE NATIONAL ENTITIES WITH REGARD TO TYPES OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION AS WELL AS THEIR SOURCES AND DESTINATION

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005:

Belize reports that an integrated data collection system was set up involving Belize, Central America (El Salvador), Interpol, the United States Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms and the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation which, as Belize indicates, has been effective and efficient for the exchange of information.

Information exchange within the country is carried out through a national reporting system that includes the Belize Police Department, the Belize Defence Force (Maritime Wing and Coast Guard Units) Departments of Immigration and Customs and the Fisheries Authorities. Each of these agencies submit a daily report (Situation Report) to their headquarters. Additionally, monthly reports are submitted to the Crimes Commission which includes the number of weapons, types of weapons and ammunition confiscated and their serial numbers. Points of origin as well as destination are also recorded.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 13:

CREATE AN ENTITY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND/OR THE DISPOSAL OF ASSETS SEIZED AND CONFISCATED IN RELATION TO MONEY LAUNDERING, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001–2002

PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003

REITERATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Belize indicates that a special Unit within the Police Department was set up which has direct responsibility for the administration and disposal of assets seized and confiscated in relation to money laundering.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 14:****ADOPT LAWS TO PROVIDE FOR SPECIAL INVESTIGATION TECHNIQUES TO SUPPRESS MONEY LAUNDERING**

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Belize reports that it has adopted laws to provide for special investigation techniques to suppress money laundering, through the Money Laundering Prevention Amendment ACT 2002 Schedule II.

CICAD recognizes the adoption of the Amendment to the Money Laundering Prevention Act. However, the lack of information provided by the country does not enable CICAD to fully assess the status of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 15:**CRIMINALIZE MONEY LAUNDERING AS AN AUTONOMOUS OFFENSE**

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Belize reports that a Legal Committee has been established which has developed draft legislation. The Committee will review the draft and make amendments before submitting it to the Office of the Solicitor General for legal review at which time a paper will be prepared and submitted to Cabinet for approval.

CICAD encourages Belize to continue working to ensure passage of this legislation.

RECOMMENDATION 16:**AMEND LEGISLATION IN ORDER TO INCLUDE ORGAN TRAFFICKING, PROSTITUTION, TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS, CORRUPTION AND PORNOGRAPHY AS PREDICATE OFFENSES OF MONEY LAUNDERING**

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Belize reports that draft legislation has been prepared and it is currently under review. The country further reports that it expects to encounter problems with its implementation.

CICAD encourages the country to continue working to ensure passage of the amendment to this legislation.

CONCLUSIONS

Belize has made considerable progress since the First Evaluation Round, 1999–2000 of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism.

Belize had sixteen recommendations assigned during the Third Evaluation Round, 2003–2004, four of which were reiterated from previous rounds and of these four, one was fully complied with and other three are in progress. Of the new recommendations, six of the twelve were implemented.



CICAD feels that due attention should be given to those recommendations in the area of treatment. Information regarding treatment methods and standards of the country's sole private treatment facility is still pending while a Committee has been established to formulate plans for minimum standards of treatment.

There has been progress dealing with the outstanding Conventions, however, the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Legal Matters is still pending since the First Evaluation Round, 1999–2000. The national survey on drug use in the general population has commenced and legislation has been drafted to deal with the control of pharmaceutical products and chemical substances.

CICAD also recognizes that the country has established a mechanism to evaluate data collection capacity through the Police Department and established a mechanism to evaluate responsible national entities in controlling illicit drug trafficking.

Belize foresees lack of human resources as a deterrent to being able to fully implement at least one of its recommendations which requires legislation to be amended in order to make organ trafficking, prostitution, trafficking of persons, corruption and pornography, predicate offences of money laundering.

CICAD acknowledges the progress that the country has made in implementing the recommendations as well as its commitment to the MEM process, and encourages the country to fully implement all pending recommendations.