

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism MEM



Panama

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



**RECOMMENDATION 1:****ESTABLISH, WITHIN THE NATIONAL BUDGET, ALLOCATIONS TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE IMPLEMENTATION OF PANAMA'S NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG PLAN**

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Panama reports that National Anti-Drug Plan actions in the demand reduction and supply reduction areas are carried out by the National Commission for the Study and Prevention of Drug-Related Offenses (CONAPRED) which has resources available by means of forfeiture of seized property, money, and securities that are the proceeds of drug-related offenses. The national budget contains allocations for the institutions working on drug-related issues.

Panama stated that in the report presented for the Third Evaluation Round, 2003–2004, that alternative funds were not available in case forfeitures should be insufficient in any given year to finance the Strategy.

CICAD notes that to date Panama has resources from the forfeiture of assets to implement the National Anti-Drug Plan. However, the sustainability for the implementation of the National Anti-Drug Plan must be ensured by means of a national budgetary allocation. Therefore, CICAD encourages the country to implement the recommendation to establish, within the national budget, allocations for implementation of the National Anti-Drug Plan.

RECOMMENDATION 2:**ESTABLISH PREVENTION PROGRAMS TARGETING KEY POPULATIONS SUCH AS WOMEN, PRISON INMATES, AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES**

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Panama reports that the Ministry of Social Development, in coordination with the National Commission for the Study and Prevention of Drug-Related Offenses (CONAPRED), is developing two project initiatives:

1. An initiative through the National Directorate of Women and Indigenous Peoples, targeting indigenous women, to provide them with training on gender and human development issues and to raise awareness about personal, organizational, and technical tools and methodological frameworks;
2. The second initiative is being developed by the Office of Indigenous Peoples and is intended to prevent drug consumption and trafficking among young people in the Kuna Yala region.

CICAD takes note that Panama has initiated the implementation of this recommendation and encourages the country to continue working until both prevention programs are fully implemented.

**RECOMMENDATION 3:****EXTEND COVERAGE OF TREATMENT PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR THE POPULATION IN NEED THEREOF**

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Panama reports, that in 2005, a re-evaluation and reform were conducted for the minimum standards of care and the operation of drug-dependence centers. This process allowed the country to approve the draft minimum standards of care and has drawn up a document entitled "Standards of Care and Operation of Drug Treatment Centers" which objective is to strengthen treatment centers and to improve their capacity.

CICAD acknowledges that the country has taken steps to implement the recommendation and encourages Panama to continue efforts to finalize the project to strengthen treatment centers, within the established timeframe, in order to satisfy the demand of a larger number of individuals seeking care.

RECOMMENDATION 4:**IMPLEMENT A MECHANISM TO FACILITATE COMPLIANCE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS WITH THE REGULATORY STANDARDS THAT CONTROL PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS**

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Panama reports that the Ministry of Health and the Drug Commission are designing a project aimed to computerize the Pharmacy and Drugs Office in order to monitor and control pharmaceutical products.

CICAD acknowledges the initial effort made by Panama for the implementation of this recommendation. However, CICAD feels that the country must apply greater efforts to finalize the project to establish the control mechanism for pharmaceutical products, as a large number of health professionals are not complying with controls.

RECOMMENDATION 5:**IMPLEMENT THE COLON PROVINCE FREE ZONE PROJECT TO ESTABLISH SPECIFIC PRE-EXPORT CONTROL MECHANISMS FOR CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001–2002**

PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003

REITERATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Panama reports that, on June 13, 2005, enacted the Special Chemicals Law (Law No. 19) and its regulations. A project is being designed whose objective is to assess and implement controls in the Colon Free Zone, which will take place in 2006. Additionally, the country reports that also held training courses to institute improved control and inspection over controlled chemical substances.

CICAD acknowledges Panama's effort in enacting a special law on chemicals and encourages the country to continue working to implement this recommendation, which was assigned during the Second Evaluation Round, 2001–2002.

**RECOMMENDATION 6:****INCORPORATE IN THE LAW ON FIREARMS THE REQUIREMENT OF SUBMISSION OF PERMITS FROM THE IMPORTING COUNTRY PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF EXPORT LICENSES**

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Panama has not provided sufficient information that will allow for an adequate evaluation.

CICAD encourages the country to take the necessary steps towards the fulfillment of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 7:**INCLUDE THE CRIMES OF TRAFFICKING IN ORGANS, PROSTITUTION AND PORNOGRAPHY AS PREDICATE OFFENSES OF MONEY LAUNDERING**

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Panama reports that on August 23, 2005, the Financial Analysis Unit for the prevention of money laundering and terrorism financing, the judiciary, and the Attorney General's Office signed an agreement creating a tripartite coordination committee. The objective is to adopt measures to analyze, investigate, and prosecute money laundering and financing of terrorism offenses, revise legal provisions sanctioning these offenses, and recommend legislative or regulatory initiatives to adjust and update the regulatory framework in this area.

Although Panama has created a mechanism that will enable the country to promote legislative and administrative initiatives to improve the fight against money laundering, CICAD notes that the information provided does not show that actions are being taken to implement the recommendation. CICAD therefore encourages Panama to take steps towards full compliance with this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 8:**INCLUDE PUBLIC NOTARIES AMONG THOSE OBLIGED TO COMPLY WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS**

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Panama provides information on the enactment of Executive Decree No. 246 of December 15, 2004, containing a uniform code of ethics for transparency in public administration for public officials working in central government entities, which includes notaries.

The country also reports that it has taken steps for the National Assembly of Deputies to take the initiative in drafting a bill that would include notaries public among those obliged to comply with the administrative controls.

CICAD encourages the country to comply with this recommendation.



CONCLUSION

Panama has commenced implementation of five of the eight recommendations assigned in the Third Evaluation Round, 2003–2004.

Panama has carried out activities to implement three recommendations referring to implementation of prevention programs targeting specific populations, expansion of treatment programs, and control of pharmaceutical products for health professionals, through the preparation of projects that will enable it to establish lines of action to implement these drug intervention areas. Therefore, CICAD encourages the country to continue its effort in this regard. Through the enactment of the Special Chemicals Law, Panama has initiated actions for the implementation of a recommendation from the Second Evaluation Round, 2001–2002 referring to the control of chemical substances in the Colon Free Zone.

CICAD notes that Panama has not initiated activities to implement two recommendations referring to the area of money laundering dealing with the inclusion of the crimes of trafficking in organs, prostitution and pornography as predicate offenses of money laundering and, with the inclusion of public notaries among those obliged to comply with the administrative controls.

CICAD considers that the country must work towards implementing the recommendations to provide a budget for implementation of the National Anti-Drug Plan and the recommendations in the money laundering area.

CICAD encourages Panama to step up its efforts to complete the recommendations still pending and recognizes the country's commitment to the MEM process.