

**Multilateral
Evaluation Mechanism
MEM**



Venezuela

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



**RECOMMENDATION 1:****EXPAND THE COVERAGE OF THE SYSTEM TO GATHER NATIONWIDE INFORMATION ON DRUG SUPPLY AND DEMAND AND RECORD THIS INFORMATION IN A UNIFIED DATABASE**

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Venezuela reports that this recommendation has been implemented with the creation of the National Drugs Information System (SINADRO), which was established based on a centralized database model. The country informs that the system is currently incorporating information on supply and demand reduction into a single structure.

Furthermore, the country reports that it is creating and installing a database in 13 drug abuse treatment centers with information on the causes of drug abuse in their patients.

CICAD expresses its satisfaction with Venezuela for the completion of this recommendation, and encourages the country to continue with its efforts to strengthen the National Drugs Information System (SINADRO).

RECOMMENDATION 2:**CARRY OUT AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY IN SCHOOLS ON DRUG USE PREVALENCE, RISK FACTORS AND PREVENTION**

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Venezuela reports that it carried out a nationwide epidemiological study on the use of psychoactive substances among seventh to ninth grade school students in public and private institutions, in cities and towns with a population of over 30,000 inhabitants. This study has been funded by CICAD/OAS and developed by the Simón Bolívar University Foundation (FUNINDES), which made it possible to gather field data in 2005 from a sample of 24,000 students. The country expects to submit the study's final report during 2006.

CICAD expresses its satisfaction with Venezuela for implementing this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 3:**IMPLEMENT THE CASUISTRY PROJECT ON MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY RELATED TO DRUG ABUSE**

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Venezuela reports that meetings have been held in order to plan the implementation of the recommendation with various government sectors and sources of international financing. The meetings identified the need to update the existing information, mainly requiring the reactivation of the data gathering process on drug-consumption related diseases from the corresponding ministries.

CICAD recognizes the activities carried out to fulfill this recommendation and encourages the country to continue its efforts towards implementation.

**RECOMMENDATION 4:****CONDUCT A NATIONWIDE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001–2002**

PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003

REITERATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Venezuela reports that, as a part of the project "Prevention of Drug Use in Venezuela", financed by the European Union, the "Epidemiological Study on Drug Use in Venezuela" was carried out to determine the epidemiological characteristics of psychoactive substances used by Venezuelans aged between 15 and 70 years. These were categorized by gender, age, education level, marital status, income level, and employment situation.

The country reports that a survey was conducted on a Venezuelan population of 11,700 persons. The results indicate that illicit drug abuse levels are relatively low. Data shows that 2.3% of the population declares having used, albeit only once or twice in their lifetime, some kind of illicit drug. In this context, marijuana is the most widely used drug, followed by cocaine and crack or rock cocaine, although far behind marijuana. The profile of those stating that they used some kind of drug, albeit only once or twice in their lifetime, indicates major differences in terms of gender, where 3.9% are males, compared to 0.7% females.

CICAD expresses its satisfaction that Venezuela has implemented this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 5:**COMPLETE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL DATABASE SYSTEM (NDS) FOR THE CONTROL OF DRUGS, CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES AND PRECURSORS**

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Venezuela reports that implementation of this recommendation is underway, with the configuration and testing of remote connections through the internet.

The country is also carrying out a review of the terms and screens used in the system, to make them consistent with national terminology and procedures. Once those phases are concluded, the country reports that it will interconnect physically the agencies and the system will be brought on line.

CICAD recognizes the activities carried out and encourages the country to continue its efforts to implement this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 6:****UPDATE EXISTING REGULATIONS ON THE CONTROL AND DIVERSION OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS AND CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND 2001–2002**

PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003

REITERATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Venezuela reports that the new Organic Law on Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances was enacted and published in the Official Gazette No. 38,287 of October 5, 2005. The country reports that Title VII of this Law covers the prevention and control of chemical substances.

CICAD expresses its satisfaction with Venezuela for having complied with this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 7:**IMPLEMENT A STATISTICAL SYSTEM TO ALLOW AN ESTIMATION OF THE NUMBER OF PERSONS ARRESTED, TRIED AND CONVICTED FOR CRIMES RELATED TO THE TRAFFIC OF FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES**

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Venezuela reports that it has not implemented a statistical system that would allow it to determine the number of persons arrested, tried, and convicted for crimes connected with the trafficking of firearms and explosives.

CICAD expresses its concern regarding the status of this recommendation and urges the country to comply with it.

RECOMMENDATION 8:**STRENGTHEN THE TRAINING OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS IN THE INSTITUTIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTROL OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION**

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Venezuela reports that it has not initiated the implementation of this recommendation. However, the country informs that it will make the inter-institutional contacts necessary to fulfill the recommendation, contacting all of the agencies involved in the control of firearms and ammunition to implement training courses for officials.

CICAD expresses its concern regarding the status of this recommendation and encourages the country to implement it.

**RECOMMENDATION 9:**

ESTABLISH A FORMAL MECHANISM, WITH ADEQUATE TECHNOLOGY, TO PROMOTE OR FACILITATE AN EXPEDITIOUS EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION REGARDING FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION BETWEEN THE AGENCIES THAT ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR CONTROL

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Venezuela reports that it has not implemented a formal mechanism to promote and facilitate exchanges of information related to this recommendation. The country will make the necessary contacts with the Arms Department of the National Armed Forces (DARFA) in order to accomplish this objective. The country states that it does not have a timeframe for the implementation of this recommendation.

CICAD expresses its concern regarding the status of this recommendation and encourages the country to take steps aimed at its implementation.

RECOMMENDATION 10:

INCLUDE MONEY LAUNDERING AS AN AUTONOMOUS CRIME IN THE COUNTRY'S LEGISLATION

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Venezuela reports that the Organic Law against Organized Crime was enacted and published in the Official Gazette No. 38,281 on September 27, 2005. This law recognizes money laundering as a fully autonomous offense.

The country informs that, under the new law, money laundering is an organized-crime offense punishable by 8 to 12 years in prison and a fine equal to the amount of the increase in illicit wealth. It also provides for negligent money laundering, punishable by 1 to 3 years in prison.

Furthermore, the new Law creates the National Committee against Organized Crime and, in the framework of the Office of the Attorney General, the Bureau against Organized Crime, which are entities that contribute to combating offenses of this type.

CICAD expresses its satisfaction with the implementation of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 11:

EXPAND THE NUMBER OF PREDICATE OFFENCES FOR MONEY LAUNDERING, AND INCLUDE AMONG THOSE OFFENCES TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS, TRAFFICKING IN BODILY ORGANS, PROSTITUTION, PORNOGRAPHY, KIDNAPPING, EXTORTION, CRIMES AGAINST THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, TERRORISM AND ITS FINANCING, AND FRAUD

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Venezuela reports that the offenses listed in the recommendation were covered by the recently enacted Organic Law against Organized Crime, published in the Official Gazette No. 38,281 on September 27, 2005.

CICAD expresses its satisfaction with the implementation of this recommendation.



CONCLUSIONS

During the Third Evaluation Round, 2003–2004, Venezuela was assigned a total of 11 recommendations, out of which six have been completed, two are in progress, and three have not been started.

The country has expanded the national coverage of data gathering on drug supply and demand and records this information in a unified database under the National Drugs Information System (SINADRO).

Furthermore, with the enactment of legislation such as the Organic Law against Organized Crime of September 27, 2005, the country has completed the recommendations related to the autonomy of money laundering offenses, and the inclusion of trafficking in firearms, trafficking in human beings, trafficking in organs, prostitution, pornography, kidnapping, extortion, crimes against the public administration, fraud, and terrorism and its financing as predicate offenses to money laundering in its legislation.

Also, the Organic Law on Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances of October 5, 2005 enables compliance with the reiterated recommendation from the Second Evaluation Round, 2001–2002 to update the regulations that exist regarding the control and diversion of controlled pharmaceuticals and chemicals.

Venezuela currently has epidemiological studies on the use of psychoactive substances in the school population, as well as an epidemiological study on the use of drugs at the national level.

The project on morbidity and mortality related to drug abuse and the project to implement the National Drug Control System (NDS) for the control of drugs, chemical substances and precursors have yet to be implemented.

The country indicated that it has not initiated 3 of the 11 recommendations: implementing a statistical system providing timely information on the number of persons arrested, tried, and convicted for crimes related to the trafficking of firearms and explosives; strengthening the training of public officials in the institutions responsible for the control of firearms and ammunition; and establishing a formal mechanism, with adequate technology, to promote or facilitate an expeditious exchange of information regarding firearms and ammunition between the agencies that are responsible for their control.

CICAD recognizes the efforts made by Venezuela in the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) process and encourages the country to continue progressing in the implementation of the recommendations.