

Multilateral  
Evaluation  
Mechanism  
MEM

# Paraguay

Evaluation of Progress in Drug Control

Organization of American States – **OAS**

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission – **CICAD**

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1999  
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2000

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Organización de los Estados Americanos – OEA

Comisión Interamericana para el Control del Abuso de Drogas – CICAD

Organization of American States – OAS

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission – CICAD

Organização dos Estados Americanos – OEA

Comissão Interamericana para o Controle do Abuso de Drogas – CICAD

Organisation des Etats Américains – OEA

Commission Interaméricaine de Lutte Contre l'abus des Drogues – CICAD

## NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY

**T**he Republic of Paraguay has a Plan entitled the National Anti-Drug Policy. This Plan was established in 1999 and covers the areas of supply reduction, demand reduction, control measures, and institutional framework. It does not cover the budget or the evaluation system.

Its administrative basis stem from a directive of the President of the Republic.

In 1991 a central authority entitled the National Drugs Secretariat (SENAD) was established to coordinate the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures and the information center. Its legal basis is founded on Law No. 108/91. SENAD has a budget that is part of the General Budget of Expenditures of the Nation.

Paraguay has ratified the United Nations Conventions of 1961, 1971 and 1988 and has ratified the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials. It has not ratified the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.

Furthermore, Paraguay has national laws and regulations with respect to the issue of drugs in conformity with international conventions. It has specific legislation with respect to money laundering, firearms, ammunition and explosives in accordance with CICAD model regulations as well as specific legislation on chemical substances which is not guided by the CICAD Model Regulations.

Paraguay does not have a centralized system for the collection and maintenance of statistics and documents. However, there are separate collections of documents and statistics in the following areas: demand reduction, supply reduction, and control measures. There are no statistics or documents relating to the societal impact of drugs.

## Recommendations

1. **Establish a budget for the “National Anti-Drug Policy”.**
2. **Incorporate an evaluation system into the “National Anti-Drug Policy” to permit the analysis, monitoring, and interpretation of information on the processes, effects, and impact of interventions in demand and supply reduction and control measures.**
3. **Ratify the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.**
4. **Develop and implement a system for the collection, analysis and maintenance of statistics and documents.**

## DEMAND REDUCTION

Paraguay has a national demand reduction strategy. Some prevention and treatment programs offered by various sources are in place. Although Paraguay has indicated that it has a national system of drug abuse prevention programs for school children, community leaders and street children, these programs have only been partially implemented according to the availability of resources. Despite the positive response provided to the existence of "Drugs in the Workplace" programs, it was observed that these programs have yet to be implemented.

Paraguay has not adopted the UN Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and its Plan of Action.

Drug treatment and rehabilitation programs exist, although it has been deduced from the information supplied by Paraguay that implementation has not been possible. Specialized professional training in drug abuse prevention and treatment is provided by Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

Minimum standards exist for the treatment of drug dependency. However, full implementation of these standards has proven difficult.

There are no regular assessments being carried out of drug use in the general population. There is no research on prevention and drug use or evaluation of drug abuse prevention programs. No average age for first use of any illicit drugs has been reported and no data are available to estimate the annual incidence of new drug users. There have been no studies conducted to evaluate treatment and rehabilitation programs.

### Recommendations

1. **Seek to achieve full implementation and execution of "Drugs in the Workplace" programs in the public and private sectors.**
2. **Adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and its Plan of Action.**
3. **Carry out regular assessments of drug use in the general population.**
4. **Achieve execution of drug treatment and rehabilitation programs, as well as implementation of minimum standards of drug dependency treatment.**

## SUPPLY REDUCTION

**T**here are approximately 3,000 hectares of cannabis crops in Paraguay, 1,433.26 hectares of which have been eradicated manually by incineration. Each hectare produces approximately 3 tons per harvest.

Paraguay has expressed its concern over the expansion of cannabis crops. For this reason, the country has begun consultations to start a Program of Alternative Development.

The Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare is the entity responsible for the control of the diversion of pharmaceuticals and controlled chemical substances, estimating legitimate needs, and regulating professions involved in the distribution and use of pharmaceuticals.

The National Anti-Drug Secretariat (SENAD), through the Records and Control Office, and the Health Inspection Bureau of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare are the agencies responsible for national and international operational information exchanges and for the control of the diversion of chemical substances and pharmaceuticals respectively.

There are laws and regulations for the application of criminal, civil, and administrative sanctions on the diversion of controlled chemical substances and pharmaceuticals, and these have been applied on a regular basis according to information supplied by Paraguay. However, no cases resulting from the application of these sanctions were reported for 1999.

With regard to international transactions involving controlled substances, Paraguay reports that it neither issued nor received pre-export notifications.

## Recommendations

1. **Adopt a system that will permit the identification, measurement, and monitoring of trends in cannabis crops.**
2. **Implement alternative development programs.**
3. **Issue pre-export notification for controlled chemical substances where applicable, pursuant to the provisions of the 1988 Vienna Convention.**

## CONTROL MEASURES

Paraguay has law enforcement, judicial and administrative agencies in the area of illicit drug trafficking. The National Anti-Drug Secretariat (SENAD) is the agency in charge of law enforcement. The Office of the Attorney General and the Judiciary are the judicial agencies responsible for investigating and prosecuting this offense. The administrative agency is the Health Surveillance Office of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare.

The Paraguay report states that there is a mechanism for collaboration and exchanges of operational information among national authorities. This is carried out by the National Narcotics Office (DINAR), which is subordinate to the National Anti-Drug Secretariat (SENAD).

SENAD is also responsible for the timely international coordination and exchanges of information between Paraguay and other countries, pursuant to international obligations undertaken in this area.

DINAR and the National Police have carried out 296 drug seizure operations in Paraguay.

| Drugs seized             | Unit | Quantity   |
|--------------------------|------|------------|
| Cocaine salts            | Kg   | 95.058     |
| Cannabis plants          | Kg   | 3,769.000  |
| Leaf cannabis (grass)    | Kg   | 79,282.319 |
| Cannabis resin (hashish) | Kg   | 2.337      |
| Cannabis seed            | Kg   | 2,130.025  |

The number of arrests in connection with these offenses is also reported:

| Type of offense       | Number of persons arrested | Relative to the population of the country (rate per 100,000 inhab.)     |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Marijuana trafficking | 139                        | 2 arrests   |
| Cocaine trafficking   | 57                         | 1 arrest  |
| Marijuana cultivation | 22                         | 0.44 arrests per 100,000 inhab. out of a total of 5,000,000 inhabitants |

Paraguay reports that it did not make requests for international cooperation to investigate and prosecute drug traffickers.

Paraguay has criminalized the illicit manufacturing, trafficking, exportation, and importation of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials under national law.

Administrative controls are in place in the above areas, as well as laws and regulations authorizing the seizure or freezing of the aforementioned articles. An administrative agency maintains a record of the use, manufacture, importation, exportation, and transit of said articles and the War Materials Office of the Ministry of National Defense carries out interagency coordination and information exchanges.

Paraguay does not report the number of persons prosecuted or convicted in connection with these offenses.

However, the following seizures and forfeitures of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials were reported:

| Firearms |          |
|----------|----------|
| Type     | Quantity |
| G3       | 3        |

| Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials |                |
|--|----------------|
| Type   | Quantity       |
| cal. 7.62  | 280 Cartridges |

In addition, Paraguay identifies the origin of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials, and the routing employed in their diversion.

Paraguay reports that it has not made any requests for international cooperation to investigate and prosecute offenses involving the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.

Paraguay has criminalized asset laundering in Law No. 1015/96, to cover the suppression and prevention of the laundering of proceeds of drug trafficking. Administrative controls and national laws are also in place authorizing the freezing or seizure and forfeiture of such proceeds.

The country has a central agency that processes data obtained from disclosures of information relating to suspicious transactions. There are also national laws that require disclosure of suspicious transactions. Laws and mechanisms also exist for the management and disposal of seized and forfeited assets related to illicit drug trafficking. These assets are transferred to specialized agencies engaged in the fight

against this offense, and in the prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug users.

Paraguay reports that there were no arrests last year for money laundering, and that data are not available on persons charged and convicted in connection with this type of offense.

Paraguay also states that no administrative sanctions have been applied to financial institutions.

Paraguay did not make any requests for international cooperation to investigate and prosecute money laundering offenses in 1999.

## Recommendations

1. Create a record and/or database on the number people charged and convicted of illicit drug trafficking and related offenses.
2. Create a record and/or database on the number of persons charged with and convicted for offenses involving the illicit manufacturing of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials, identifying their origin and diversion routing.
3. Create a register of persons charged with and convicted of money laundering.

## HUMAN, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COST OF DRUGS

Estimating the human, social and economic cost of the drug problem in all of its manifestations constitutes a complex process. This information is relevant to each country's understanding of the magnitude of the drug problem. This would enable each country to appreciate the direct and indirect cost in proportion to their Gross National Product or national annual budget. Because many countries have difficulty in providing these estimates, CICAD is proposing a hemisphere-wide program involving training and technical assistance, which should assist the country in its effort in confronting the drug problem and fulfilling this indicator's requirements.

## Recommendation

1. Develop the capacity to estimate the human, social, and economic cost of the drug problem.

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

**C**ICAD recommends that Paraguay's anti-drug efforts be strengthened by addressing the following:

1. Establish a budget for the "National Anti-Drug Policy".
2. Incorporate an evaluation system into the "National Anti-Drug Policy" to permit the analysis, monitoring, and interpretation of information on the processes, effects, and impact of interventions in demand and supply reduction and control measures.
3. Ratify the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.
4. Develop and implement a system for the collection, analysis and maintenance of statistics and documents.
5. Seek to achieve full implementation and execution of "Drugs in the Workplace" programs in the public and private sectors.
6. Adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and its Plan of Action.
7. Carry out regular assessments of drug use in the general population.
8. Achieve execution of drug treatment and rehabilitation programs, as well as implementation of minimum standards of drug dependency treatment.
9. Adopt a system that will permit the identification, measurement, and monitoring of trends in cannabis crops.
10. Implement alternative development programs.
11. Issue pre-export notification for controlled chemical substances where applicable, pursuant to the provisions of the 1988 Vienna Convention.
12. Create a record and/or database on the number people charged and convicted of illicit drug trafficking and related offenses.
13. Create a record and/or database on the number of persons charged with and convicted for offenses involving the illicit manufacturing of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials, identifying their origin and diversion routing.
14. Create a register of persons charged with and convicted of money laundering.
15. Develop the capacity to estimate the human, social, and economic cost of the drug problem.