

**RECOMMENDATION 1:****RATIFY THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS**

Pursuant to this recommendation, the Government of Mexico signed the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters on June 5, 2001.

The initiative for ratification of this Convention by the Mexican Senate will be included in a legislative package to be submitted by the federal executive branch at the start of the next regular session of Congress.

CICAD acknowledges the progress made by Mexico in implementing this recommendation and urges it to take the necessary steps to proceed to the prompt ratification of the Convention.

RECOMMENDATION 2:**IMPLEMENT A NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PREVENTION PROGRAM DELIVERY BY CONSOLIDATING EXISTING PROGRAMS**

Mexico reports that the Official Mexican Standard on Addiction Prevention, Treatment, and Control establishes guidelines for the content of health promotion and protection activities, community participation, and public education and awareness, permitting the establishment of the regulatory foundation for a national prevention system.

The country reports that five nationally applied addiction prevention models for the health, education, and military sectors. Furthermore, a joint declaration was issued on October 24, 2000 by the Department of Health, through the National Addiction Control Council (CONADIC), and various civil society organizations to reduce the impact of addiction on the community; several inter-institutional agreements were also signed to that end.

CICAD recognizes the progress made and encourages Mexico to continue with its efforts to fully comply with the implementation of the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 3:**PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR PRISONERS, PRISON OFFICERS, AND OUT OF SCHOOL YOUTH SHOULD BE DEVELOPED**

Mexico reports that it has social rehabilitation centers, which are currently being consolidated and improved in such a way as to facilitate the implementation of drug-use prevention programs.

In June 2000 a "Program for Adult Prison Inmates" was launched in the 32 federative entities in the country, under the Department of Public Security (SSP). The Youth Integration Centers, and the Mexican branch of Alcoholics Anonymous support this program.

Prison officers and technical personnel receive continuous training on addiction prevention.

Regarding out of school adolescent offenders, the Department of Public Security is responsible for a program recognized by the Department of Public Education that encompasses primary, secondary, and preparatory education. Minors participate in training workshops according to their abilities and age, to help them learn a traditional or technical trade.

Indigenous prisoners receive bilingual education from the National Indigenous Institute.



CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 4:

EXPAND APPLICABLE DEMAND REDUCTION PROGRAMS, PAYING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE CHANGING PATTERN OF DRUG USE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

Mexico reports that it has a long tradition of epidemiological research, conducted by various health sector institutions.

Currently the System for the Epidemiological Monitoring of Addictions (SISVEA) now compiles information in the country's 25 largest cities, allowing for continuous monitoring of drug-use behavior in the population. By 2003, the system is expected to include at least one city in each of the 31 federal states and one federal district.

In August 2001, a methadone clinic was opened in the border city of Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua with programs to treat stimulant abuse, with the aim of mitigating the impact of the use of these substances. The State has plans to open new clinics on the country's northern border.

CICAD recognizes the progress made and encourages Mexico to continue with its efforts to fully comply with the implementation of the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 5:

IMPLEMENT A SYSTEM OF DATA COLLECTION TO DETERMINE THE INCIDENCE OF NEW DRUG USERS

Mexico informs that the primary objective of the System for the Epidemiological Monitoring of Addictions (SISVEA) is to maintain an up-to-date assessment of drug use by regularly conducting population surveys and compiling information from different institutional sources, including an indicator of the incidence of drug use.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation

RECOMMENDATION 6:

CONDUCT EVALUATIONS ON EXISTING DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR COMPARATIVE PURPOSES AND BUILD INTO THE DESIGN OF NEW PROGRAMS

Mexico reports that these evaluations are an integral part of the drug-use prevention strategy. Steps have been taken to develop the legal framework and institutional structures.

Evaluation efforts are now being focused on health sector activities to address emerging problems, such as addiction.

To comply with commitments stipulated in the internal regulations of the Secretariat of Health, the National Health Program, and the Action Plan against Addictions, a section has been established in CONADIC to perform follow-up and evaluation tasks in the area of addictions and mental health care.

The National Institute of Psychiatry conducts programs to evaluate the prevention of substance use in the workplace, in the families of addicts, and among child workers, street children, and minor victims of sexual exploitation and the sex industry.



CICAD recognizes the progress made and encourages Mexico to continue with its efforts to fully comply with the implementation of the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 7:

CONTINUE DEVELOPING A SYSTEM TO DETERMINE POTENTIAL PRODUCTION, CULTIVATED AREA, AND NEW PLANTATIONS OF DRUGS

Mexico reports that two projects were carried out: the first was an effort to revalidate statistics on opium gum production per hectare of Mexican poppy cultivation; the second, a multidisciplinary project, was designed to characterize the varieties of poppy planted in Mexico on the basis of agronomical, pharmacological, morphological, genetic, and geographic criteria.

The methods used by illicit drug producers, the variation in the area cultivated, and the remoteness of certain areas are obstacles to determining production potential, area cultivated, and new plantations.

Mexico has carried out a study, which foresees a number of projects such as the integration of a system in three stages for determining potential production of cultivated areas and new illicit crops.

CICAD recognizes the progress made and encourages Mexico to continue with its efforts to fully comply with the implementation of the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 8:

PURSUE EFFORTS TO SET UP A REGISTER AND/OR DATA BANK TO IDENTIFY THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS CHARGED AND CONVICTED FOR CRIMES RELATED TO DRUG TRAFFICKING

Mexico reports that since January 1, 2001, systematic register of data on the number of persons tried and convicted, by type of conviction and offense, was incorporated into the Statistical Case Control System of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic.

The General Directorate of Information Technology and Telecommunications of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic compiles statistical data on the number of persons tried and convicted of offenses relating to drug trafficking.

The Department of Public Security maintains and updates the database on persons tried and convicted of federal offenses.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 9:

CONTINUE EFFORTS TO ESTIMATE THE HUMAN, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC COST OF THE DRUG PROBLEM

Mexico informs that the studies will be completed by the end of 2001, and the information required will be available in early 2002.

In the opinion of the Government of Mexico, "it is essential for progress in studying this issue, as well as the series of indicators and/or parameters for calculating costs, to be shared throughout the Hemisphere."



CICAD concludes that for this recommendation to be implemented, it will be necessary to devise a project addressing the methodological bases for conducting a study of the social, human, and economic costs of the drug problem.

Accordingly, in the first half of 2002 CICAD, together with states in the Hemisphere that have progressed in this area, will present a proposed basics and homogeneous methodology applicable to all countries.

FINAL COMMENT

CICAD has reviewed the responses presented by Mexico for the implementation of the recommendations of 1999-2000 and views with satisfaction the progress achieved by the country.

With reference to production, CICAD encourages the country to continue with its efforts to measure the area of illicit cultivation, in order to assess the potential global production.

Mexico, through the National Addiction Control Council (CONADIC) and the Youth Integration Center, conducts training events in Central America. A preliminary evaluation yielded very positive results that could motivate other countries to undertake a similar process.

Accordingly, Mexico's experience with the development of programs for prisoners, prison officers, and out-of-school youth should be shared with other countries, needing technical cooperation in this field. Likewise, this applies to Mexico's experience with the System for the Epidemiological Monitoring of Addictions (SISVEA), which it offers to share with those countries of the hemisphere still working on the consolidation of their data collection system on addictions.