

**RECOMMENDATION 1:****CONTINUE EFFORTS TO ADOPT THE NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG PLAN**

Nicaragua reports that the National Anti-Drug Plan will be approved by the National Anti-Drug Council in the last quarter of 2001, and will come into full force as of 2002.

CICAD recognizes the progress made and encourages Nicaragua to continue with the efforts to comply fully with the recommendation within the timeframe established.

RECOMMENDATION 2:**RATIFY THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS**

Nicaragua estimates that it will ratify the Convention by the first quarter of 2002.

CICAD acknowledges Nicaragua's intent to comply with the recommendations and exhorts the continuation of this process.

RECOMMENDATION 3:**EXTEND THE INFORMATION SYSTEM TO INCLUDE THE AREAS OF DEMAND REDUCTION, CONTROL MEASURES, AND THE IMPACT OF DRUGS ON SOCIETY, SO AS TO OBTAIN A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM**

Nicaragua reports progress in compiling information in the demand reduction area based on the data provided by the various state institutions carrying out activities in this area.

However, it indicates that difficulties remain in compiling information on activities carried out by nongovernmental organizations in the demand reduction area.

As regards information on control measures and the impact of drugs on society, Nicaragua reports progress in compiling data on pharmaceutical products and chemical substances.

CICAD recognizes the progress that has been made and hopes that efforts will continue to strengthen the gathering of data enabling an integrated information system to be made available soon.

RECOMMENDATION 4:**ADOPT THE UN DECLARATION ON THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION WITH THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING THE BASIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF APPROPRIATE DEMAND REDUCTION POLICIES AND PROGRAMS**

Nicaragua reports that the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction have been incorporated into the National Anti-Drug Plan.

CICAD recognizes the progress made in incorporating these principles in the National Anti-Drug Plan that will come into force as of 2002.

**RECOMMENDATION 5:****DEVELOP PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR PRISONERS AND FOR "DRUGS IN THE WORKPLACE."**

Nicaragua reports that both within the prison system and in the workplace, actions are being taken to develop prevention programs, which will be fully implemented in 2002.

Although the country states that it needs technical and financial assistance to comply fully with the recommendation, CICAD recognizes the efforts being made to implement it.

RECOMMENDATION 6:**ESTABLISH GUIDELINES ON MINIMUM STANDARDS OF CARE FOR DRUG TREATMENT**

Nicaragua reports that it has prepared a document on Minimum Standards of care for drug addicts, which is pending approval by the National Anti-Drug Council. It was expected to be approved in November 2001.

CICAD recognizes the effort made in the preparation of this document and hopes that it will be approved by the date indicated so that it may be implemented in treatment centers.

RECOMMENDATION 7:**CARRY OUT STUDIES TO DETERMINE THE AVERAGE AGE OF FIRST USE OF ANY ILLICIT DRUG AND THE ANNUAL INCIDENCE OF NEW DRUG USERS**

Nicaragua is conducting studies on the scale of drug consumption in some Departments of the country; on hospital emergency services in two cities; and on the school population to determine the average age of first use as well as the annual incidence of new consumers.

CICAD recognizes efforts made to obtain the resources making the aforementioned studies possible and hopes that the technical and financial problems that are preventing the studies from being conducted nationwide may be overcome.

RECOMMENDATION 8:**EVALUATE DEMAND REDUCTION PROGRAMS**

Although the National Anti-Drug Plan includes program evaluation, the country indicates the need for technical and financial assistance for it to be implemented properly.

CICAD reiterates the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 9:**IMPLEMENT A MECHANISM ENABLING IT TO DETERMINE THE EXISTENCE OR ABSENCE OF ILLICIT DRUG CROPS, AREA PLANTED, AND POTENTIAL PRODUCTION CAPACITY**

Nicaragua indicates that the National Police have a detection system enabling them to locate areas of cultivation. However, it is encountering technical difficulties in determining the area planted and potential production capacity.

CICAD recognizes the progress made and encourages Nicaragua to persist in its efforts to fully comply with the recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 10:****CREATE A SYSTEM TO ESTIMATE LEGITIMATE NEEDS FOR PHARMACEUTICALS AND CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES**

Nicaragua reports that it is implementing the National Drug Control System (NDS) project, the aims of which are to obtain greater efficiency in the control of drugs and chemical substances, improve statistical sources, and improve national and international communication to facilitate the formulation of a plan to determine legitimate needs for pharmaceuticals and controlled chemical substances.

CICAD reiterates the need for a system to estimate legitimate needs for such products and hopes that by December, Nicaragua will have a work plan enabling this system to be implemented.

RECOMMENDATION 11:**ENACT LEGISLATION TO CRIMINALIZE AND REGULATE AS AN OFFENSE, THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURE, TRAFFICKING, IMPORT, AND EXPORT OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES, AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS**

Nicaragua reports that only consultations have been initiated with sectors responsible for the control of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and related materials, and that compilation has begun of the necessary background information to draft a preliminary draft law in this area.

CICAD expresses its concern at the lack of a preliminary draft law that would enable the necessary discussion in this area to begin, and hopes that Nicaragua will take the pertinent steps to obtain the technical assistance needed to that end.

The Recommendation stands.

RECOMMENDATION 12:**CREATE A REGISTER AND/OR DATA BANK THAT REFLECTS THE INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF SEIZURE OPERATIONS FOR FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES, AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS CONNECTED WITH ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING, AS WELL AS KEEPS RECORD OF THEIR ORIGIN OR ROUTING EMPLOYED IN THEIR DIVERSION**

CICAD recognizes Nicaragua's efforts to strengthen the Documentation and Information Center, enabling it to collect the information needed for this recommendation and expresses its satisfaction for its fulfillment.

RECOMMENDATION 13:**CREATE A REGISTER AND/OR DATA BANK THAT REFLECTS THE NUMBER OF PERSONS ARRESTED, CHARGED, OR CONVICTED FOR MONEY LAUNDERING OFFENSES**

Nicaragua reports that the Documentation and Information Center compiles and records information on persons arrested, prosecuted, and convicted for drug-related offenses and offenses related thereto. It adds that, thus far, no one has been arrested, prosecuted, or convicted for money-laundering offenses.

CICAD recognizes Nicaragua's effort to strengthen the Documentation and Information Center enabling it to compile the information needed for this recommendation and expresses its satisfaction for its fulfillment.

**RECOMMENDATION 14:****DESIGNATE AN AGENCY OR ENTITY IN CHARGE OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF GOODS SEIZED FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING AND OTHER RELATED OFFENSES**

Nicaragua indicates that, although it has no law specifically addressing this topic, Article 83 of the Anti-Drug Law in force is being used to obtain similar results. It also reports that this recommendation will be taken into account in preparing the preliminary draft law amending the Anti-Drug Law, which according to the information provided by the country, is in process. Specific content resulting from previous studies is mentioned.

CICAD supports Nicaragua's efforts to amend the Anti-Drug Law to include the administration of assets seized and encourages the country to fully implement the recommendation in the shortest term.

RECOMMENDATION 15:**CREATE A REGISTER AND/OR DATA BANK THAT REFLECTS ADMINISTRATIVE AND REGULATORY SANCTIONS IMPOSED ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR FAILURE TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS TRANSACTIONS**

Nicaragua reports that it is keeping records, within the Superintendency of Banks and other institutions, of administrative and regulatory sanctions imposed on financial institutions that fail to communicate suspicious transactions. It adds that no failure to report suspicious operations has yet been detected.

CICAD recognizes the efforts made by Nicaragua to establish this system.

RECOMMENDATION 16:**DEVELOP THE CAPACITY TO ESTIMATE THE HUMAN, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC COST OF THE DRUG PROBLEM**

Nicaragua states that it needs assistance to fulfill this recommendation.

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 basic and homogeneous methodology applicable to all countries.

FINAL COMMENT

Considering the fact that Nicaragua has expressed a need for technical and financial assistance to fulfill some of the recommendations of the MEM's First Evaluation Round, CICAD recognizes Nicaragua's efforts highly. In keeping with its reality, the country has accorded priority to the recommendations related to demand reduction, which is reflected in the significant progress made in this area.