

**RECOMMENDATION 1:****RATIFY THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES, AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS**

The United States reports that the Convention was signed on November 14, 1997, and that it was submitted to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on June 8, 1998, for review. The technical legal analysis sent to the Senate at that time is currently under study. The country does not provide a date for final conclusion of the study.

CICAD expresses its concern for the lack of evidence of progress and reiterates the recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 2:****DEVELOP A METHOD FOR ESTIMATION OF CANNABIS CULTIVATION IN THE COUNTRY**

The United States reports that it currently is conducting the research necessary to determine the capabilities and shortfalls of various systems to be used in estimating cannabis cultivation in the country, including: hyperspectral remote sensing, isotope ratio measurement, and zone identification.

CICAD recognizes the progress made by the country and encourages the United States to continue with its efforts to fully comply with this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 3:****CONTINUE THE EFFORTS TO ERADICATE LABORATORIES PRODUCING ILLICIT DRUGS**

The United States asserts that its government continues to assign high priority to the elimination of clandestine laboratories; to this end, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) works in close cooperation with the relevant federal, state, and local agencies.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 4:****DEVELOP A SYSTEM TO ESTIMATE LEGITIMATE NATIONAL ANNUAL NEEDS OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES**

The United States asserts that, given the size of its industrial sector, it is very complicated to estimate legitimate annual needs for controlled chemical substances.

However, a general view of legitimate use of the chemicals listed in Tables I and II (USC Title 21) may be obtained from the annual reporting of production and importation required of manufacturers and importers of these substances. Meetings are also held with various commercial associations, industrial groups, and others to determine more precisely the legitimate market for these chemical products in the United States and to obtain data on such entities.

CICAD acknowledges the efforts made to implement the recommendation and invites it to persevere in its efforts to fully comply with it.

**RECOMMENDATION 5:****PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF REQUESTS MADE FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION BASED ON AGREEMENTS ON CHEMICAL CONTROL**

The United States reports that it has a mechanism that has been very successful in exchanging information pursuant to international agreements on controlled chemical substances. The mechanism's main feature is real-time information exchange via various formal and informal channels. The United States is now working with government agencies from many nations, as well as with law enforcement agencies such as the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), the World Customs Organization, and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). It does not, therefore, consider it pertinent to provide the number of requests made in this area.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, CICAD reiterates the need for implementation of this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 6:****STRENGTHEN THE SYSTEM TO KEEP RECORDS OF ALL FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL DRUG SEIZURE OPERATIONS**

The United States reports that currently it has a Federal-wide Drug Seizure System (FDSS) where seizures carried out by Federal law enforcement agencies are tabulated.

With regard to strengthening the records keeping system for all drug seizure operations, a system is being designed to collect and process data on clandestine laboratory seizures by state law enforcement agencies. The country asserts that this system may face certain legal constraints in capturing and recording information from state governments, since the United States' federal system limits the Federal Government's authority to compel states or territories to adopt measures in areas in which they have their own sovereign powers.

CICAD recognizes the efforts made by the country and hopes that the United States will resolve any type of legal problem that should arise and impede the compliance of this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 7:****STRENGTHEN THE MECHANISM FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION REGARDING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION FOR CRIMES RELATED TO ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING**

The United States reports that it has strengthened the information mechanism for international cooperation through various means, including the Office of International Affairs of the Department of Justice and representatives of law enforcement entities in various United States embassies throughout the world. This network has strengthened cooperation with other countries in the Western Hemisphere.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 8:****STRENGTHEN THE MECHANISM FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION REGARDING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION FOR CRIMES RELATED TO THE MANUFACTURING AND TRAFFICKING OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITIONS, EXPLOSIVES, AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS**

The United States reports that it implements this recommendation – taking into account the constraints imposed by its legislative and political system – by availing itself of periodic bilateral meetings with different countries, Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties, its contacts with INTERPOL, and informal contacts with the law enforcement authorities of other countries.

CICAD recognizes the progress made and encourages the United States to continue with its efforts to fully comply with this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 9:****STRENGTHEN THE MECHANISM FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION REGARDING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION FOR CRIMES RELATED TO MONEY LAUNDERING**

The United States has strengthened the mechanism for the international exchange of information regarding crimes related to money laundering, having as effective means for achieving that objective the Office of International Affairs (OIA) in the Department of Justice, as well as the Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Networks (FINCEN) organization.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 10:****CONTINUE TO IMPROVE CONTROLS AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL FOR THE PREVENTION OF OFFENSES RELATED TO THE LICIT AND ILLICIT MANUFACTURE AND TRAFFICKING OF AMMUNITIONS**

The United States reports that since the entry into force of the 1968 Gun Control Act, ammunition manufacturers and importers in the United States have been subject to federal licensing regulations and other controls over their activity. In 1986, the Gun Control Act was amended, and many provisions regarding the control of ammunition purchases and record-keeping requirements were repealed. However, the government reports that it will monitor the federal licensing requirements for ammunition manufacturers and importers that are still in force and that it will continue working with its international counterparts for the fulfillment of the law.

Notwithstanding the aforementioned, CICAD does not observe substantive progress in the implementation of this recommendation and therefore encourages the United States to obtain full compliance with this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 11:****STRENGTHEN THE DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM ON THE NUMBER OF PERSONS ARRESTED, CHARGED, AND CONVICTED FOR DRUG OFFENSES BY INTEGRATING DATA AT THE FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LEVELS**

The United States reports that the Department of Justice maintains a sophisticated and comprehensive data collection system on drug-related offenses that covers federal, state and local data. The country states that due to the existence of approximately 50,000 agencies providing criminal justice services, integrating their statistics into a single tabulation is impossible under its legal system; nonetheless, this is done through sample data or data collected at periodic intervals at all levels of case processing and the government.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.

**FINAL COMMENT**

The United States reports progress principally in those recommendations related to strengthening of mechanisms for the exchange of information regarding international cooperation concerning supply and demand covering the federal, state and local levels.

Also, CICAD notes the efforts on the improvement of administrative controls for the prevention of drug related offenses and the elimination of illicit drug producing laboratories. Among others, the country reports great efforts in the research area for estimating cannabis cultivation.

Finally, CICAD recognizes the commitment of the United States to implementing the recommendations arising out of the first round of evaluation under the MEM. It also trusts that it will be able to overcome the complexities derived from the country's institutional structures and complete implementation of the recommendations in the not too distant future.