Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS)

El Salvador

EVALUATION OF PROGRESS IN DRUG CONTROL
IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FIFTH EVALUATION ROUND

2012
Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)

EL SALVADOR

Evaluation of Progress in Drug Control

Implementation of Recommendations from the Fifth Evaluation Round

2012
PREFACE

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) is an instrument designed to measure progress in actions taken by the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) to address the global drug problem and other related offenses.

The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), an OAS specialized agency, implemented this Mechanism in 1998, pursuant to a mandate from the Second Summit of the Americas held in Santiago, Chile in April 1988.

The MEM is not only a diagnostic tool but has also become a vehicle for disseminating information on the progress achieved through the individual and collective efforts of OAS member state governments, catalyzing hemispheric cooperation, promoting dialogue among member state government authorities, and precisely channeling assistance to areas requiring greater attention by optimizing resources.

The evaluation reports are drafted by the Governmental Expert Group (GEG), a multidisciplinary group composed of experts designated from all OAS/CICAD member states. Each expert functions independently from his or her own government, and experts do not participate in the evaluation of their own countries. Additionally, each country has the opportunity to review and comment on the contents of the evaluations, ensuring an open and participatory process.

The Fifth Evaluation Round, covering the period 2007-2009, consisted of two phases. The full evaluation phase assessed progress made by all member states in combating the drug problem in the subject areas of institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction and control measures. This culminated with the publication of national reports containing 350 recommendations for individual member states. The follow-up phase evaluated progress made in the implementation of the recommendations assigned in the Fifth Round.
RECOMMENDATION 1

APPROVE A NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG PLAN THAT SERVES AS THE FRAMEWORK FOR ALL ANTI-DRUG ACTIVITIES.

El Salvador reports that the 2011-2015 National Anti-Drug Strategy (ENA) and its action plan were approved by the National Anti-Drug Commission and the Presidency of the Republic, through Agreement No. 110 on March 1, 2011.

CICAD expresses its satisfaction with the fulfillment of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 2

IMPLEMENT PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR STREET CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

El Salvador reports that the Salvadoran Institute for the Integral Development of Children and Adolescents (ISNA) is implementing the “Health Care Program for Street Children and Adolescents living in San Salvador’s Historic Center,” which consists of three phases: first, Approach and Contact; second, Detoxification, and third, Transition and Reintegration to the Family. This initiative is very limited in scope and is being implemented in only part of the capital city.

CICAD takes note of the information provided and encourages the country to comply with the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 3

IMPLEMENT PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR WORKERS IN THE WORKPLACE.

El Salvador has not begun implementation of this recommendation.

CICAD encourages the country to comply with the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 4

CARRY OUT AN OUTCOME EVALUATION OF THE PREVENTION PROGRAMS TARGETING PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.

El Salvador reports that it has designed a project to implement an outcome evaluation of the drug use prevention program “Education for Life.”

CICAD takes note of the information provided and encourages the country to comply with the recommendation.
RECOMMENDATION 5

IMPLEMENT AN OFFICIAL REGISTRATION SYSTEM FOR SPECIALIZED FACILITIES THAT PROVIDE TREATMENT SERVICES TO PERSONS WITH PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH DRUG USE, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003-2004.

El Salvador reports that it has completed the review and update of the “Regulations for the Operation of Institutions and Facilities that Provide Treatment Services to Persons Suffering from Drug Abuse Related Problems.” Once approved, the regulations will allow the fulfillment of this recommendation.

CICAD takes note of the information provided and urges the country to fully comply with this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned in the Third Evaluation Round, 2003-2004.

RECOMMENDATION 6

ESTABLISH A MONITORING SYSTEM FOR THE FACILITIES THAT PROVIDE TREATMENT SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH DRUG USE.

El Salvador reports that the Technical Legal Group on Demand Reduction, comprised of representatives from governmental and non-governmental organizations, has completed the review and update of the “Regulations for the Operation of Institutions and Facilities that Provide Treatment Services to Persons Suffering from Drug Abuse Related Problems,” which establishes oversight mechanisms.

CICAD takes note of the information provided and urges the country to comply with this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 7

CONDUCT A SURVEY TO ESTIMATE THE MAGNITUDE OF DRUG USE IN THE GENERAL POPULATION.

El Salvador reports that financing has been approved to help conduct a survey to estimate the magnitude of drug use in the general population, and that the country is in the process of procuring the rest of the financial resources needed to carry out the survey.

CICAD takes note of the information provided and encourages the country to comply with the recommendation.
RECOMMENDATION 8


El Salvador reports that there is a draft amendment to the Law Regulating Drug-related Activities, which would incorporate criminal sanctions for the illicit production, diversion, and illicit trafficking of pharmaceutical products.

CICAD urges the country to comply with this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned in the Third Evaluation Round, 2003-2004.

RECOMMENDATION 9


El Salvador reports that it participated in the “Training Workshop on Drug Trafficking Investigation via the Internet,” organized by CICAD and offered by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), which took place from May 30 to June 2, 2011.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 10

EXPAND THE AVAILABILITY OF SPECIALIZED TRAINING COURSES IN THE CONTROL OF ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING, PARTICULARLY RELATED TO SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES FOR ORGANIZED CRIME AND RELATED OFFENSES.

El Salvador indicates that the Attorney General’s Office Training School for Prosecutors trains prosecutors on evidentiary matters, including special investigative techniques.

CICAD expresses its satisfaction with the fulfillment of this recommendation.
RECOMMENDATION 11

REGULATE THE MARKING OF IMPORTED FIREARMS.

El Salvador reports that within the framework of the Cooperation Agreement with the Organization of American States (OAS) for the Execution of the Project “Promoting the Tracing of Firearms in Latin America and the Caribbean,” it issued Directive No. 09/2011 from the Logistics Directorate of the Ministry of National Defense, to Regulate the Marking of Exported and Imported Firearms and those Registered in the Weapons Registration System.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 12

EXTEND THE OBLIGATION TO SUBMIT SUSPICIOUS TRANSACTION REPORTS TO PREVENT MONEY LAUNDERING TO LAWYERS, NOTARIES AND ACCOUNTANTS.

El Salvador reports that a draft amendment to the law “Against Money Laundering” to strengthen the controls and requirements for subjects obligated to report suspicious transactions has been under consideration by the Legislative Assembly since August 12, 2011.

CICAD encourages the country to comply with this recommendation.
CONCLUSIONS

During the Fifth Evaluation Round, 2007-2009, El Salvador was assigned a total of 12 recommendations, of which three are reiterated. Four recommendations have been fulfilled, the country made progress on seven and did not report progress on one.

In the area of Institutional Strengthening, El Salvador adopted the National Anti-Drug Strategy (ENA) 2011-2015 and its plan of action.

In the area of Demand Reduction, the country initiated actions for the implementation of prevention programs targeting street children and adolescents; for the design of an evaluation project for a prevention program targeting the school population; for the establishment of an official registry for specialized facilities that provide treatment services to persons with problems associated with drug use and for the establishment of their monitoring mechanisms. In addition, the country obtained financial assistance to conduct a survey to estimate the magnitude of drug use in the general population.¹ The country has not initiated the implementation of prevention programs in the workplace.

In the area of Supply Reduction, El Salvador carried out training and research activities related to the prevention and control of illicit drug trafficking via the Internet. In addition, progress has been made in the formulation of a draft amendment to a law to establish sanctions for the illicit production, diversion and illicit trafficking of pharmaceutical products.

In the area of Control Measures, El Salvador expanded the availability of training for prosecutors on evidentiary matters, which includes special investigative techniques, and also regulated the marking of imported firearms. Regarding money laundering, the country introduced to their Legislative Assembly a draft amendment to the law “Against Money Laundering” to strengthen the controls and requirements for subjects obligated to report suspicious transactions.

CICAD recognizes the participation of El Salvador in the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) process and urges the country to fully comply with the pending recommendations.

¹ Within the framework of the Fifty-first Regular Session of CICAD, 9-11 May, 2012, El Salvador indicated that partial financial assistance from an international organization was confirmed, but the country is in the process of procuring the rest of the financial resources needed.