I. INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING / NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY

The National Anti-Drug Plan of the Dominican Republic was approved in 2000 and came into effect on January 2001 and expire in 2005 with a budget allocation of US$86,330,000, which represents 0.20% of the total government budget. Of the amount assigned for demand reduction, i.e., US$64,840,000, 88.1% is drawn from national resources and 11.9% from international cooperation. For supply reduction, with an allocation of US$38,870,000, 96.8% is nationally funded and 3.2% comes from outside sources. The budget allocation for the demand reduction component is substantially larger than the amount allocated for supply reduction. It is important to stress the quantification of the necessary resources and having a budget allocation that ensures, in large part, fulfillment of the National Anti-Drug Plan.

The National Anti-Drug Council is the central national authority for coordination, created under Law 50-88, at the highest level of government and with legally established functions, and it works together with the regional, state, and provincial offices. The Board is headed by a President and a Board of Directors which comprises representatives of the private sector and the Catholic Church, who are appointed by the President of the Republic, and it is the highest decision-making body. It coordinates the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, information and statistics. It is also responsible for coordinating international assistance and for carrying out institutional evaluations.

The National Council’s operating budget is incorporated into the budget of the Presidency of the Republic, and is based on various sources, including national resources, resources from law enforcement, and contributions from civil society. During the period of evaluation 2001-2002, it has averaged US$2,583,000.

On November 15, 2001, the government signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols. As mentioned in the report entitled "Implementation of Recommendations from the First Evaluation Round 2001," the Dominican authorities are expected to complete their review of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA) in 2002, after which they will proceed with ratification of it.

The government has not signed the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, which the adherence process is scheduled to be completed in 2002, according to the "Implementation of Recommendations of the First Evaluation Round 2001." However, it has signed agreements in the area of Prevention and Suppression of Illicit Drug Trafficking with Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, Spain, Cuba and Central America.

The country has made significant progress with regard to collection and dissemination of data and analysis of statistics on the topic of drugs. In March 2002, under the umbrella of Spain’s National Plan on Drugs and CICAD, the Observatory on Drugs began its operations. Uses the Inter-American Uniform Drug Used Data System (SIDUC) to compile, analyze, and present statistics on drug use and the Uniform Statistical Systems on Control of the Supply Area (CICDAT) in the case of drug supply issues. It will present reports to United Nations agencies such as the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and United Nations Drug Control Program (UNDCP). The National Drug Control Directorate publishes its statistics in a document entitled "Government Annual Report", and makes them accessible to the public on its web page. This represents significant progress in fulfilling the recommendation made by CICAD during the First Evaluation Round 1999-2000.

The country has an assistance line, called the "drug line," to provide information on various aspects of the problem and on care centers. In general, the information is made available to the authorities and the general public through the web page, electronic mail, and the media, among
other means. An innovative way of disseminating information on aspects of the drug problem is to distribute information in gymnasiums to warn people of the dangers of using anabolics.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **REITERATE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND 1999-2000 TO SIGN AND RATIFY THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS.**

2. **RATIFY THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AND ITS THREE PROTOCOLS.**

**II. DEMAND REDUCTION**

The Dominican Republic continues to implement its demand reduction strategy, based on the guiding principles for demand reduction issued by the United Nations and its Plan of Action, covering the areas of prevention, treatment, and social reinsertion. The budget for the period of evaluation 2001-2002 allocated exclusively to the National Council ascended to the amounts of US$580,210 with an average of US$193,403 a year.

The National System of Prevention Programs directed to key sectors of the population continues to be strengthened. In the student sector, ongoing national programs for elementary school children aged 9 to 13 and high school youth from 16 to 20 years of age extended coverage to 6,482 students; in addition, 4,080 young people not attending school benefited from community programs.

Besides programs in the school sector, priority was placed on community programs which reached 14,356 beneficiaries, including parents, police officers, community leaders, and youth and teachers. Programs at the work place were conducted at 58 companies in the private sector.

Important progress was made in the population coverage of programs targeting key sectors through the implementation, in March 2002, of the “Armed Forces Project for the Civic Reeducation of Children and Adolescents.” Its integral service program offers the target population housing, socialization, health care, vocational education, among others. It is also significant that the program will be implemented in several regions of the country including the capital and the northern and southern zones, and trained personnel are available for this.

Regarding the incorporation of prevention programs into the penitentiary system, in the period between June and August of 2002, in keeping with the recommendation issued in the First Evaluation Round 1999-2001, the National Drug Council conducted research in all of the country’s prisons to assess the incidence of drug use among the prison population, which, among other aspects, will serve a basis for devising a prevention strategy for prisons.

The area lagging farthest behind in the field of demand reduction is specialized professional training. At university level, there are short refresher courses on prevention and investigation for students in the various schools of social sciences, but there is no related degree program. The School of Sociology of Pontificia Universidad Madre y Maestra has one graduate specializing in drugs.

The last evaluation of prevention programs, was conducted 4 years ago and there have been no impact evaluations that would make it possible to identify “best practices.” This indicates that the country lacks a mechanism to develop evaluations systematically. Currently a coordination and organization process is being developed to evaluate the efficiency and impact of prevention programs using the baseline methodology.
In the area of treatment and rehabilitation, the Dominican Republic is making progress in establishing minimum standards of drug abuse treatment in compliance with the recommendation from the First Evaluation Round 1999-2000. Currently, owing to an inter-institutional effort, it has a project entitled "National Standards of Care for Drug Addicts," a review of legal issues and the incorporation of the Standards into the regulations of the General Health Law was schedule in 2002.

As for the capacity to provide treatment, rehabilitation, and social reinsertion services for drug users, the country has 3 out-patient programs, 32 institution-based programs, and 1 clinic/day care program for adults of both sexes and for minors of the male sex. As far as treatment services are concerned, the private sector has a regional network for early detection, extension, and referral services, and 2 private detoxification centers, 38 treatment and rehabilitation centers with municipal and national coverage, 26 social reinsertion centers, and 44 self-help groups with national coverage.

In the area of evaluation of programs for treatment and rehabilitation, the country did not made important progress. In the report on implementation of the recommendations of the first evaluation round, the country reported that there was a shortage of funds for research of this kind.

In the report on Implementation of the "Recommendations of the First Evaluation Round – 2001," the country indicated that household surveys of the population were not included among its priorities because of their high cost, but population studies were. As part of the decentralization process, which the Government has undertaken since 2001, a qualitative "Provincial Diagnostic Study on Drugs" was launched to ascertain the drug situation in 29 provinces. The outcomes of this study will make it possible to discern each province’s research needs, among other things. Progress has been made in the development of 21 studies.

Regarding the average age of first drug use, the data gathered by SIDUC in 2000 in Santo Domingo hospital emergency rooms show that the average age of first use is 16 years old for alcohol; 18 for inhalants; and 29 for men and 17 for women in the case of heroin. However, the PACARDO National Survey conducted in schools reports the age for first alcohol use at 12.12, for inhalants at 11.11, with no record of heroin use.

The PACARDO National Survey included items related to how youth perceive drug use. The perceived risk was lowest for alcohol use. The opposite was true of cigarette use, which was perceived to be riskier than illegal drug use. In all, 35% perceived consumption of alcoholic beverages to be high risk, while 82% perceived smoking 20 cigarettes or more per day to be high risk. Regarding illegal drug use, 63% said that smoking marijuana regularly was dangerous; 61% felt that using crack once or twice was very dangerous; and 32% did not know what the risk was. Furthermore, 56% perceived using cocaine once or twice to be very dangerous, while 32% did not know how risky that was.

With regard to drug use trends or modalities, it is worth noting that in 2000, the first seizure of ecstasy was made and in February 2002, were seized 29,600 units of this drug coming from Europe. In fact, the country has confirmed the use of this drug in discotheques.

Given that the country’s research priority for 2002-2003 focuses on provincial diagnostic studies, the country is not compiling forensic information to determine the consequences of drug use. Likewise, no information is being compiled on morbidity related to use of injectable drugs due to the belief that use is low and the persons injecting are not sharing needles.
RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. REITERATE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND 1999-2000 TO IMPLEMENT PREVENTION PROGRAMS IN THE PENITENTIARY SYSTEM.

2. SELECT A PREVENTION PROGRAM THAT THE COUNTRY FEELS HAS ACHIEVED BROAD COVERAGE AND BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY THE POPULATION AND USE IT TO LAUNCH A PILOT EVALUATION TEST.

3. CONTINUE EFFORTS TO INCORPORATE MINIMUM STANDARDS OF CARE INTO THE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION INFRASTRUCTURE.

III. SUPPLY REDUCTION

A. Drug Production and Alternative Development

The Dominican Republic has not traditionally been a drug-producing country. However, in the years of 2000 and 2001 were seized 4,408 and 6,578 of marijuana plants and 2,934 and 3,815.6 kilos of marijuana coming from other countries. During 2000, 726 marijuana seeds were confiscated.

B. Supply Reduction and Control of Pharmaceutical Products and Chemical Substances

As far as pharmaceutical products and controlled chemical substances are concerned, all of the substances listed in international conventions are subject to control by the National Drug Control Directorate and the State Secretariat for Public Health and Social Welfare, the agencies responsible for the control of imports and exports and issuance of licenses, inspection and investigation visits, regulatory control, registration of license holders, and imposition of administrative sanctions. The country indicates that it has limited financial and human resources and personnel training to comply effectively with controls to prevent the diversion of such substances.

Likewise, to control distribution of pharmaceutical products, the country has a mechanism for control and regulation of the professionals authorized to issue prescriptions. The main components of this mechanism are the requirement of a medical prescription to sell pharmaceuticals, issuance of special licenses to prescribe certain drugs, and distribution of those drugs through pharmacies or sales points.

With regard to the exchange of operational information and collaboration among the national authorities to control the import of pharmaceuticals and controlled chemical substances, in its report on "Implementation of the Recommendations from the First Evaluation Round – 2001", the country stated that by 2002 it would have consolidated inter-sectoral coordination to strengthen controls of both types of substances. However, in the present evaluation report 2001-2002, it states that coordination mechanisms are nonexistent. It likewise describes limitations in the area of human and financial resources and personnel training, as well as a poor regulatory framework to comply effectively with controls on the diversion of controlled chemical substances and pharmaceuticals.

There are several entities responsible for the exchange of information and collaboration with other countries and they have coordinated joint measures for the control of imports of chemical substances.

The country informs that no criminal, civil, or administrative sanctions for the diversion of controlled chemical substances have been imposed during the present evaluation report 2001-2002.
Cyprus submitted a request that was turned down because the case involved was not related to drug trafficking. Under current legislation, drug trafficking is the only crime that can lead to the crime of asset laundering.

To strengthen enforcement of the asset laundering law, 267 officials were trained, including judges, prosecutors, and personnel of the FIU.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **UPDATE LEGISLATION ON ARMS AND AMMUNITION TO BRING IT INTO HARMONY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN ARMS AND AMMUNITION (CIFTA).**

2. **CREATE COORDINATION MECHANISMS WITH THE COMPETENT ENTITIES SO AS TO PREVENT THE DIVERSION OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION.**

3. **INCORPORATE INTO THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS TO PREVENT THE DIVERSION OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION THOSE OPERATIONS RELATING TO THE TRANSIT OF SUCH MATERIALS THROUGH THE NATIONAL TERRITORY.**

V. CONCLUSIONS

The Dominican Republic has made significant strides in implementation of its anti-drug policy. During the evaluation period 2001-2002, it has shown progress in the approval of the National Anti-Drug Plan whose resources will enable it to implement the programs included therein and enable the coordinating entity to adequately discharge its duties. It now has an Observatory on Drugs in compliance with the “Implementation of Recommendation from the First Evaluation Round 2001.” Execution in different regions of the country of the Armed Forces Project for the Civic Reeducation of Street Children and Adolescents represents a major step forward in the area of Demand Reduction. Likewise, in the area of Money Laundering, the new law expands predicate offenses and administrative controls.

The Dominican Republic should pay special attention to issues relating to controlled chemical substances and trafficking in firearms and ammunition. In the former case, there are weaknesses in the regulations and coordination mechanisms at the domestic and international levels. Legislation governing firearms contains gaps in the areas of exports and transit and, as in the case of chemicals, coordination strategies are weak.

The advances the country has made in demand reduction and supply reduction are a reflection of its willingness to comply with the commitments acquired with the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM).

The Dominican Republic has legal standards under which it may impose criminal, civil, and administrative sanctions to prevent the diversion of pharmaceuticals. It has provided data demonstrating enforcement of this legislation: in 2000, one criminal and one administrative sanction were imposed, and in 2001; three criminal and five administrative sanctions were imposed.

The Dominican Republic reports that it is not an exporting country control chemical substances and therefore does not issue pre-export notifications. In the First Evaluation Round 1999-2000, it was recommended that the country strengthen enforcement of its pre-export notification mechanism for chemical substances. In 2001 it responded to only 40% of pre-export notifications, since most of these were received after the substances had entered the country. While the Dominican Republic has a legal framework for pharmaceuticals and controlled chemical substances in accordance with International Conventions, the country presents weaknesses in terms of infrastructure to prevent and control their diversion. These include the lack of a coordinating mechanism, regulations, and limited use of the pre-export notification mechanism.

No seizures of chemical substances were reported in 2000 and 2001. Where there are cases of seizures, the country uses various methods to dispose of them. In the case of pharmaceuticals, the procedures used are incineration and donation to public institutions, while chemical substances are sold to legally established institutions.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **REQUIRE PRE-EXPORT NOTIFICATION OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES FROM COUNTRIES SENDING CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES TO IT. SHOULD NONCOMPLIANCE PERSIST, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD (INCB) BE NOTIFIED PURSUANT TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTRIPIC SUBSTANCES, VIENNA 1988.**

2. **CREATE AN INTER-SECTORAL COORDINATION MECHANISM TO STRENGTHEN INTER-SECTORAL COORDINATION TO PREVENT THE DIVERSION OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES AND PHARMACEUTICALS.**

3. **INCLUDE IN ITS REGULATIONS CONTROLS ON THE TRANSPORT OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES.**

IV. CONTROL MEASURES

A. Illicit Drug Trafficking

Control entities made outstanding efforts in law enforcement, increasing drug seizures in 2001 over their 2000 levels, this was mainly related to units of cannabis plants (49.2%), cannabis leaf (30%), base cocaine (45.9%), and heroin (37.5).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of drug</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Base cocaine</td>
<td>1,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine</td>
<td>1,197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis plants</td>
<td>4,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis leaves</td>
<td>2,334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis seeds</td>
<td>726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDMA (Ecstasy)</td>
<td>125,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others (controlled pharmaceuticals)</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data pertain to the January-August period of 2002
With regard to displacement, new trends have been uncovered in the routing of synthetic drugs, which have been detected through the seizure of 29,600 units of ecstasy. Use of this substance in discotheques was also reported.

In 2000 and 2001, 5,855 and 5,117 persons were arrested for illicit drug trafficking, and 2,763 and 2,682 persons were prosecuted, respectively. Verification of court verdicts issued shows that 1,238 convictions and 940 acquittals were handed down in 2000 and 2001. Between January and August 2002, 871 persons have been prosecuted for illicit drug trafficking, 596 for selling, and 897 for simple possession.

Laws in the Dominican Republic penalize possession of drugs without distinction for whether it is for personal use. To differentiate this from illicit trafficking in drugs, the offense is defined on the basis of the amount of the drug in the possession of the detainee, and not on the basis of possible use or purpose. The country reports that in 2000 and 2001, 1,169 and 1,747 persons respectively were prosecuted for possession of illicit drugs.

Important progress was made in the administration of justice in that the country has begun to monitor proceedings relating to drug law violations, due to the Judicial and Statistical Standards Program launched by the National Council on Drugs in 2000.

The country has mechanisms such as inter-institutional committees, joint operations, training, and inter-institutional information networks to exchange information and enhance cooperation among national authorities in the area of illicit drug trafficking.

No requests were made of the country with regard to judicial cooperation in the area of drug trafficking. During the years of 2000 and 2001, the country made two requests to France, which was granted.

In 2000, the country submitted a request for extradition to the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, which was not granted. Moreover, during the evaluation period 2001-2002, it has received 69 extradition requests from the United States of which 5 were granted; in 2001, it received 40 and granted 17; and, so far in 2002, it has received 10. Between January and August 2002, the country has extradited to the United States 16 Dominican nationals; the extradition requests had been issued in both 2001 and 2002.

The offense of corruption is defined in the Criminal Code in accordance with the conduct referred to in the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, and includes acts such as bribery, breach of public duty, abuse of authority, embezzlement, violation of confidentiality, and influence peddling, among others. No public officials have been convicted for corruption during the evaluation period 2001-2002.

A. Firearms and Ammunition

With regard to prevention of the diversion of firearms and ammunition, the State Secretariat of the Interior and the Police and the State Secretariat of the Armed Forces are the agencies responsible for granting import and export permits and licenses, exchange of information among national officials and their foreign counterparts, cancellation of licenses, and record-keeping, training, and seizure of illegal arms and ammunition.

The country reported that nobody was arrested, indicted, or convicted for illicit trafficking in firearms and ammunition. CICAD recommended that the Dominican Republic create a register of persons detained, indicted, and convicted for this crime. As stated in the report on Implementation of the Recommendations of the First Evaluation Round – 2001, the country set up a computer program for recording data on arms and ammunition which currently is in operation in the Secretary of State of the Armed Forces.

Articles 39 to 49 of Law 36 on trading in, bearing and possession of firearms regulate arms imports. There are gaps in the law with respect to the Inter-American Convention against the Manufacturing of and Illicit Trafficking in Arms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials (ICFTAA) as it contains no regulation concerning arms exports and transit. The information on cooperation mechanisms between national authorities and between the latter and their international counterparts is unclear and there are no registers with which to monitor the movement of arms in the country.

C. Money Laundering

In the Dominican Republic, Law 72-02 of June 2002 criminalizes the laundering of assets derived from illicit trafficking in drugs and controlled substances, illicit trafficking in arms, any crime related to terrorism, illicit trafficking in human beings (including illegal immigrants), trafficking in human organs, abduction, extortion related to recordings on film or electronic media by natural or artificial persons, robbery of vehicles when the intent is to move them to another territory for sale, solicitation of prostitution, forgery of coins, securities, or titles, fraud against the state, embezzlement, extortion, and bribery related to drug trafficking. This represents major progress for the country in the area of prevention and control, since it incorporates all legal and regulatory actions against money laundering recommended by the various international specialized entities and provides for criminal and administrative sanctions against those responsible.

During the years of 2000 and 2001, were reported 777 and 1,102 suspicious transactions and inquiries were opened in 48 of those cases, such transactions were reported, and 21 investigations conducted. However, no information on criminal proceedings initiated or persons convicted was reported. In the First Evaluation Round 1999-2000, it was recommended that a register of convictions and administrative sanctions for the offense of asset laundering be established and its creation is stipulated in the recently approved law on money laundering. Between January and September 2002, the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) of the Superintendent of Banks has received 1,400 reports of suspicious transactions.

In the Dominican Republic, there is no bank secrecy. The Financial Intelligence Division has the power to solicit information, and if it is not provided, an investigation can be opened or the financial entity can be inspected.

The value of assets seized in the course of 2001 is US$199,000. This amount was distributed in accordance with the provisions of Law 50-88.

In 2000 and 2001, the Financial Investigations Department of the National Drug Control Directorate investigated 82 and 155 cases, in which 10 and 17 criminal prosecutions, respectively, were initiated.

The FIU is part of the Egmont Group and it has signed memoranda of understanding with Colombia and Panama. It is in the process of signing one with Guatemala. Despite the fact that there are no other memoranda, Dominica cooperates with other foreign authorities in cases of laundering of assets derived from illicit drug trafficking.

During the period of evaluation 2001-2002, there have been no extradition requests related to asset laundering either received or made. The United States shared the proceeds of the sale of an asset with the Dominican Republic which was not granted. Moreover, during the evaluation period 2001-2002, it has received 69 extradition requests from the United States of which 5 were granted; in 2001, it received 40 and granted 17; and, so far in 2002, it has received 10. Between January and August 2002, the country has extradited to the United States 16 Dominican nationals; the extradition requests had been issued in both 2001 and 2002.
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C. Money Laundering

In the Dominican Republic, Law 72-02 of June 2002 criminalizes the laundering of assets derived from illicit trafficking in drugs and controlled substances, illicit trafficking in arms, any crime related to terrorism, illicit trafficking in human beings (including illegal immigrants), trafficking in human organs, abduction, extortion related to recordings on film or electronic media by natural or artificial persons, robbery of vehicles when the intent is to move them to another territory for sale, solicitation of prostitution, forgery of coins, securities, or titles, fraud against the state, embezzlement, extortion, and bribery related to drug trafficking. This represents major progress for the country in the area of prevention and control, since it incorporates all legal and regulatory actions against money laundering recommended by the various international specialized entities and provides for criminal and administrative sanctions against those responsible.

During the years of 2000 and 2001, were reported 777 and 1,102 suspicious transactions and inquiries were opened in 48 of those cases, such transactions were reported, and 71 investigations conducted. However, no information on criminal proceedings initiated or persons convicted was reported. In the First Evaluation Round 1999-2000, it was recommended that a register of convictions and administrative sanctions for the offense of asset laundering be established and its creation is stipulated in the recently approved law on money laundering. Between January and September 2002, the Financial Intelligent Unit (FIU) of the Superintendence of Banks has received 1,400 reports of suspicious transactions.

In the Dominican Republic, there is no bank secrecy. The Financial Intelligence Division has the power to solicit information, and if it is not provided, an investigation can be opened or the financial entity can be inspected.

The value of assets seized in the course of 2001 is US$199,000. This amount was distributed in accordance with the provisions of Law 50-88.

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The FTU is part of the Egmont Group and it has signed memoranda of understanding with Colombia and Panama. It is in the process of signing one with Guatemala. Despite the fact that there are no other memoranda, Dominican cooperation allows for cooperation with other foreign authorities in cases of laundering of assets derived from illicit drug trafficking.

During the period of evaluation 2001-2002, there have been no extradition requests related to asset laundering either received or made. The United States shared the proceeds of the sale of an asset with the Dominican Republic, and these funds were used for activities related to control of illicit drug trafficking and demand reduction.

During 2000 and 2001, the Dominican Republic formulated 10 requests to Italy to lift bank secrecy requirements in asset laundering cases, and received six replies to them. As for requests received, Spain submitted eight requests during the same period, of which seven were granted. Moreover,
Cyprus submitted a request that was turned down because the case involved was not related to drug trafficking. Under current legislation, drug trafficking is the only crime that can lead to the crime of asset laundering.

To strengthen enforcement of the asset laundering law, 267 officials were trained, including judges, prosecutors, and personnel of the FIU.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **UPDATE LEGISLATION ON ARMS AND AMMUNITION TO BRING IT INTO HARMONY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN ARMS AND AMMUNITION (CIFTA).**
2. **CREATE COORDINATION MECHANISMS WITH THE COMPETENT ENTITIES SO AS TO PREVENT THE DIVERSION OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION.**
3. **INCORPORATE INTO THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS TO PREVENT THE DIVERSION OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION THOSE OPERATIONS RELATING TO THE TRANSIT OF SUCH MATERIALS THROUGH THE NATIONAL TERRITORY.**

**V. CONCLUSIONS**

The Dominican Republic has made significant strides in implementation of its anti-drug policy. During the evaluation period 2001-2002, it has shown progress in the approval of the National Anti-Drug Plan whose resources will enable it to implement the programs included therein and enable the coordinating entity to adequately discharge its duties. It now has an Observatory on Drugs in compliance with the "Implementation of Recommendation from the First Evaluation Round 2001." Execution in different regions of the country of the Armed Forces Project for the Civic Reeducation of Street Children and Adolescents represents a major step forward in the area of Demand Reduction. Likewise, in the area of Money Laundering, the new law expands predicate offenses and administrative controls.

The Dominican Republic should pay special attention to issues relating to controlled chemical substances and trafficking in firearms and ammunition. In the former case, there are weaknesses in the regulations and coordination mechanisms at the domestic and international levels. Legislation governing firearms contains gaps in the areas of exports and transit and, as in the case of chemicals, coordination strategies are weak.

The advances the country has made in demand reduction and supply reduction are a reflection of its willingness to comply with the commitments acquired with the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM).

The Dominican Republic has legal standards under which it may impose criminal, civil, and administrative sanctions to prevent the diversion of pharmaceuticals. It has provided data demonstrating enforcement of this legislation: in 2000, one criminal and one administrative sanction were imposed, and in 2001, three criminal and five administrative sanctions were imposed.

The Dominican Republic reports that it is not an exporting country control chemical substances and therefore does not issue pre-export notifications. In the First Evaluation Round 1999-2000, it was recommended that the country strengthen enforcement of its pre-export notification mechanism for chemical substances. In 2001 it responded to only 40% of pre-export notifications, since most of these were received after the substances had entered the country. While the Dominican Republic has a legal framework for pharmaceuticals and controlled chemical substances in accordance with International Conventions, the country presents weaknesses in terms of infrastructure to prevent and control their diversion. These include the lack of a coordinating mechanism, regulations, and limited use of the pre-export notification mechanism.

No seizures of chemical substances were reported in 2000 and 2001. Where there are cases of seizures, the country uses various methods to dispose of them. In the case of pharmaceuticals, the procedures used are incineration and donation to public institutions, while chemical substances are sold to legally established institutions.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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2. **CREATE AN INTER-SECTORAL COORDINATION MECHANISM TO STRENGTHEN INTER-SECTORAL COORDINATION TO PREVENT THE DIVERSION OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES AND PHARMACEUTICALS.**
3. **INCLUDE IN ITS REGULATIONS CONTROLS ON THE TRANSPORT OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES.**

**IV. CONTROL MEASURES**

**A. Illicit Drug Trafficking**

Control entities made outstanding efforts in law enforcement, increasing drug seizures in 2001 over their 2000 levels, this was mainly related to units of cannabis plants (49.2%), cannabis leaf (30%), base cocaine (45.5%), and heroin (37.5%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of drug</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Base cocaine</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>1,407</td>
<td>1,908</td>
<td>493</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crack</td>
<td>Grams</td>
<td>7,179</td>
<td>5,902</td>
<td>2,158</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis plants</td>
<td>Units</td>
<td>4,408</td>
<td>6,578</td>
<td>4,061</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis leaves</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>2,934</td>
<td>3,816</td>
<td>1,583</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis seeds</td>
<td>Units</td>
<td>726</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>166</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDMA (Ecstasy)</td>
<td>Units</td>
<td>125,073</td>
<td>30,903</td>
<td>153,605</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others (controlled</td>
<td>Units</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>99.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data pertain to the January-August period of 2002
RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. REITERATE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND 1999-2000 TO IMPLEMENT PREVENTION PROGRAMS IN THE PENITENTIARY SYSTEM.

2. SELECT A PREVENTION PROGRAM THAT THE COUNTRY FEELS HAS ACHIEVED BROAD COVERAGE AND BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY THE POPULATION AND USE IT TO LAUNCH A PILOT EVALUATION TEST.

3. CONTINUE EFFORTS TO INCORPORATE MINIMUM STANDARDS OF CARE INTO THE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION INFRASTRUCTURE.

III. SUPPLY REDUCTION

A. Drug Production and Alternative Development

The Dominican Republic has not traditionally been a drug-producing country. However, in the years of 2000 and 2001 were seized 4,408 and 6,578 of marijuana plants and 2,934 and 3,815.6 kilos of marijuana coming from other countries. During 2000, 726 marijuana seeds were confiscated.

B. Supply Reduction and Control of Pharmaceutical Products and Chemical Substances

As far as pharmaceutical products and controlled chemical substances are concerned, all of the substances listed in international conventions are subject to control by the National Drug Control Directorate and the State Secretariat for Public Health and Social Welfare, the agencies responsible for the control of imports and exports and issuance of licenses, inspection and investigation visits, regulatory control, registration of license holders, and imposition of administrative sanctions. The country indicates that it has limited financial and human resources and personnel training to comply effectively with controls to prevent the diversion of such substances.

Likewise, to control distribution of pharmaceutical products, the country has a mechanism for control and regulation of the professionals authorized to issue prescriptions. The main components of this mechanism are the requirement of a medical prescription to sell pharmaceuticals, issuance of special licenses to prescribe certain drugs, and distribution of those drugs through pharmacies or sales points.

With regard to the exchange of operational information and collaboration among the national authorities to control the import of pharmaceuticals and controlled chemical substances, in its report on "Implementation of the Recommendations from the First Evaluation Round – 2001", the country stated that by 2002 it would have consolidated inter-sectoral coordination to strengthen controls of both types of substances. However, in the present evaluation report 2001-2002, it states that coordination mechanisms are nonexistent. It likewise describes limitations in the area of human and financial resources and personnel training, as well as a poor regulatory framework to comply effectively with controls on the diversion of controlled chemical substances and pharmaceuticals.

There are several entities responsible for the exchange of information and collaboration with other countries and they have coordinated joint measures for the control of imports of chemical substances.

The country informs that no criminal, civil, or administrative sanctions for the diversion of controlled chemical substances have been imposed during the present evaluation report 2001-2002.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. REITERATE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND 1999-2000 TO SIGN AND RATIFY THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS.

2. RATIFY THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AND ITS THREE PROTOCOLS.

3. REITERATE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND 1999-2000 TO IMPLEMENT PREVENTION PROGRAMS IN THE PENITENTIARY SYSTEM.

4. SELECT A PREVENTION PROGRAM THAT THE COUNTRY FEELS HAS ACHIEVED BROAD COVERAGE AND BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY THE POPULATION AND USE IT TO LAUNCH A PILOT EVALUATION TEST.

5. CONTINUE EFFORTS TO INCORPORATE MINIMUM STANDARDS OF CARE INTO THE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION INFRASTRUCTURE.

6. REQUIRE PRE-EXPORT NOTIFICATION OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES FROM COUNTRIES SENDING CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES TO IT. SHOULD NONCOMPLIANCE PERSIST, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD (INCB) BE NOTIFIED PURSUANT TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, VIENNA 1988.

7. CREATE AN INTER-SECTORAL COORDINATION MECHANISM TO STRENGTHEN INTER-SECTORAL COORDINATION TO PREVENT THE DIVERSION OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES AND PHARMACEUTICALS.

8. INCLUDE IN ITS REGULATIONS CONTROLS ON THE TRANSPORT OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES.

9. UPDATE LEGISLATION ON ARMS AND AMMUNITION TO BRING IT INTO HARMONY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN ARMS AND AMMUNITION (CIFTA).

10. CREATE COORDINATION MECHANISMS WITH THE COMPETENT ENTITIES SO AS TO PREVENT THE DIVERSION OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION.

11. INCORPORATE INTO THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS TO PREVENT THE DIVERSION OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION, THOSE OPERATIONS RELATING TO THE TRANSIT OF SUCH MATERIALS THROUGH THE NATIONAL TERRITORY.
In the area of treatment and rehabilitation, the Dominican Republic is making progress in establishing minimum standards of drug abuse treatment in compliance with the recommendation from the First Evaluation Round 1999-2000. Currently, owing to an inter-institutional effort, it has a project entitled, “National Standards of Care for Drug Addicts”; a review of legal issues and the incorporation of the Standards into the regulations of the General Health Law was scheduled in 2002.

As for the capacity to provide treatment, rehabilitation, and social reinsertion services for drug users, the country has 3 out-patient programs, 32 institution-based programs, and 1 clinic/day care program for adults of both sexes and for minors of the male sex. As far as treatment services are concerned, the private sector has a regional network for early detection, extension, and referral services, and 2 private detoxification centers, 38 treatment and rehabilitation centers with municipal and national coverage, 26 social reinsertion centers, and 44 self-help groups with national coverage.

In the area of evaluation of programs for treatment and rehabilitation, the country did not make important progress. In the report on implementation of the recommendations of the first evaluation round, the country reported that there was a shortage of funds for research of this kind.

In the report on Implementation of the “Recommendations of the First Evaluation Round – 2001”, the country indicated that household surveys of the population were not included among its priorities because of their high cost, but population studies were. As part of the decentralization process, which the Government has undertaken since 2001, a qualitative "Provincial Diagnostic Study on Drugs" was launched to ascertain the drug situation in 29 provinces. The outcomes of this study will make it possible to discern each province’s research needs, among other things. Progress has been made in the development of 21 studies.

Regarding the average age of first drug use, the data gathered by SIDUC in 2000 in Santo Domingo hospital emergency rooms show that the average age of first use is 16 years old for alcohol; 18 for inhalants; and 29 for men and 17 for women in the case of heroin. However, the PACARDO National Survey conducted in schools reports the age for first alcohol use at 12.12, for inhalants at 11.11, with no record of heroin use.

The PACARDO National Survey included items related to how youth perceive drug use. The perceived risk was lowest for alcohol use. The opposite was true of cigarette use, which was perceived to be riskier than illegal drug use. In all, 35% perceived consumption of alcoholic beverages to be high risk, while 82% perceived smoking 20 cigarettes or more per day to be high risk. Regarding illegal drug use, 63% said that smoking marijuana regularly was dangerous; 61% felt that using crack once or twice was very dangerous; and 32% did not know what the risk was. Furthermore, 56% perceived using cocaine once or twice to be very dangerous, while 32% did not know how risky that was.

With regard to drug use trends or modalities, it is worth noting that in 2000, the first seizure of ecstasy was made and in February 2002, were seized 29,600 units of this drug coming from Europe. In fact, the country has confirmed the use of this drug in discotheques.

Given that the country’s research priority for 2002-2003 focuses on provincial diagnostic studies, the country is not compiling forensic information to determine the consequences of drug use. Likewise, no information is being compiled on morbidity related to use of injectable drugs due to the belief that use is low and the persons injecting are not sharing needles.
other means. An innovative way of disseminating information on aspects of the drug problem is to distribute information in gymnasiums to warn people of the dangers of using anabolics.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **REITERATE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND 1999-2000 TO SIGN AND RATIFY THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS.**

2. **RATIFY THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AND ITS THREE PROTOCOLS.**

**II. DEMAND REDUCTION**

The Dominican Republic continues to implement its demand reduction strategy, based on the guiding principles for demand reduction issued by the United Nations and its Plan of Action, covering the areas of prevention, treatment, and social reinsertion. The budget for the period of evaluation 2001-2002 allocated exclusively to the National Council ascended to the amounts of US$580,210 with an average of US$193,403 a year.

The National System of Prevention Programs directed to key sectors of the population continues to be strengthened. In the student sector, ongoing national programs for elementary school children aged 9 to 13 and high school youth from 16 to 20 years of age extended coverage to 6,482 students; in addition, 4,080 young people not attending school benefited from community programs.

Besides programs in the school sector, priority was placed on community programs which reached 14,356 beneficiaries, including parents, police officers, community leaders, and youth and teachers. Programs at the work place were conducted at 58 companies in the private sector.

Important progress was made in the population coverage of programs targeting key sectors through the implementation, in March 2002, of the "Armed Forces Project for the Civic Reeducation of Children and Adolescents." Its integral service program offers the target population housing, socialization, health care, vocational education, among others. It is also significant that the program will be implemented in several regions of the country including the capital and the northern and southern zones, and trained personnel are available for this.

Regarding the incorporation of prevention programs into the penitentiary system, in the period between June and August of 2002, in keeping with the recommendation issued in the First Evaluation Round 1999-2001, the National Drug Council conducted research in all of the country's prisons to assess the incidence of drug use among the prison population, which, among other aspects, will serve a basis for devising a prevention strategy for prisons.

The area lagging farthest behind in the field of demand reduction is specialized professional training. At university level, there are short refresher courses on prevention and investigation for students in the various schools of social sciences, but there is no related degree program. The School of Sociology of Pontificia Universidad Madre y Maestra has one graduate specializing in drugs.

The last evaluation of prevention programs, was conducted 4 years ago and there have been no impact evaluations that would make it possible to identify "best practices." This indicates that the country lacks a mechanism to develop evaluations systematically. Currently a coordination and organization process is being developed to evaluate the efficiency and impact of prevention programs using the baseline methodology.
I. INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING / NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY

The National Anti-Drug Plan of the Dominican Republic was approved on 2000 and came into effect on January 2001 and expire in 2005 with a budget allocation of US$86,330,000, which represents 0.20% of the total government budget. Of the amount assigned for demand reduction, i.e., US$46,840,000, 88.1% is drawn from national resources and 11.9% from international cooperation. For supply reduction, with an allocation of US$38,870,000, 96.8% is nationally funded and 3.2% comes from outside sources. The budget allocation for the demand reduction component is substantially larger than the amount allocated for supply reduction. It is important to stress the quantification of the necessary resources and having a budget allocation that ensures, in large part, fulfillment of the National Anti-Drug Plan.

The National Anti-Drug Council is the central national authority for coordination, created under Law 50-88, at the highest level of government and with legally established functions, and it works together with the regional, state, and provincial offices. The Board is headed by a President and a Board of Directors which comprises representatives of the private sector and the Catholic Church, who are appointed by the President of the Republic, and it is the highest decision-making body. It coordinates the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, information and statistics. It is also responsible for coordinating international assistance and for carrying out institutional evaluations.

The National Council’s operating budget is incorporated into the budget of the Presidency of the Republic, and is based on various sources, including national resources, resources from law enforcement, and contributions from civil society. During the period of evaluation 2001-2002, it has averaged US$2,583,000.

On November 15, 2001, the government signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols. As mentioned in the report entitled "Implementation of Recommendations from the First Evaluation Round 2001" the Dominican authorities are expected to complete their review of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA) in 2002, after which they will proceed with ratification of it.

The government has not signed the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, which the adherence process is scheduled to be completed in 2002, according to the "Implementation of Recommendations of the First Evaluation Round 2001". However, it has signed agreements in the area of Prevention and Suppression of Illicit Drug Trafficking with Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, Spain, Cuba and Central America.

The country has made significant progress with regard to collection and dissemination of data and analysis of statistics on the topic of drugs. In March 2002, under the umbrella of Spain’s National Plan on Drugs and CICAD, the Observatory on Drugs began its operations. Uses the Inter-American Uniform Drug Used Data System (SIDUC) to compile, analyze, and present statistics on drug use and the Uniform Statistical Systems on Control of the Supply Area (CICDAT) in the case of drug supply issues. It will present reports to United Nations agencies such as the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and United Nations Drug Control Program (UNDCP). The National Drug Control Directorate publishes its statistics in a document entitled "Government Annual Report", and makes them accessible to the public on its web page. This represents significant progress in fulfilling the recommendation made by CICAD during the First Evaluation Round 1999-2000.

The country has an assistance line, called the "drug line," to provide information on various aspects of the problem and on care centers. In general, the information is made available to the authorities and the general public through the web page, electronic mail, and the media, among