

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

Colombia informs that the Congress of the Republic approved the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters by Act 636 of January 2001. After the positive ruling of the Constitutional Court, through sentence C-974, September 12, 2001, the ratification process is now to be concluded by the Executive branch.

CICAD recognizes the progress made by the country and encourages Colombia to continue efforts to fulfill this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 2:**RATIFY THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS**

The Congress of Colombia passed the approving law in 2001; however the remaining steps to complete the ratification process are still pending.

CICAD recognizes the progress made by Colombia and encourages the country to continue efforts to fulfill this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 3:**LAUNCH SYSTEMATIC "DRUGS IN THE WORKPLACE" PROGRAMS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL AND IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR**

Colombia informs that it has not begun to implement this recommendation. Nonetheless, the country reports on its preliminary work plan for implementing the recommendation.

CICAD feels that due attention should be given to this recommendation, and encourages Colombia to continue its efforts to fully implement the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 4:**UTILIZE METHODOLOGIES THAT ENSURE COMPARABLE DATA ON THE PREVALENCE USE, AGE OF FIRST USE, AND DRUGS USED**

In July 2001, Colombia released the results of the National Survey on Psychoactive Substance Use by schoolchildren aged 10-24 in urban areas.

Colombia also informs that to obtain comparative data from the aforementioned survey, it is necessary to conduct similar studies every two years. Likewise, the country reports that in the second part of the National Survey on Psychoactive Substance Use by Young People currently being conducted, studies will be extended to include rural areas and that the population not in school was included in diverse studies.

CICAD recognizes the progress made by Colombia and encourages the country to continue efforts to fulfill this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 5:****STRENGTHEN THE EVALUATION OF PREVENTION, REHABILITATION, AND TREATMENT PROGRAMS**

Colombia reports that it has policies on this topic to comply with the recommendation.

The country has evaluation research policies. Efforts are underway to see that institutions (1) are trained in this area of research; (2) include these components in their programs; and (3) change their view of evaluation to one that treats it as a management tool to guide and correct the course of interventions.

CICAD recognizes the efforts carried out by Colombia, and is aware that time is required to implement this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 6:**CONTINUE EFFORTS TO ERADICATE ILLICIT CULTIVATION AND PREVENT ITS INCREASE**

Colombia reports that to implement this recommendation it applies a differential strategy to fight the production of illicit crops: alternative development regarding small-scale illicit crops, in the form of crops that the small farmer and indigenous sector can incorporate into their traditional production systems as a means of subsistence, and forced eradication of illicit crops of an industrial nature.

Colombia indicates that its National Alternative Development Plan is being implemented through 26 Regional Plans, with the help of regional administrative authorities and civil society. It lists activities carried out so far, including the regionalization process; participatory drafting of regional alternative development plans; team training; and, voluntary eradication agreements between the Government and communities, among others.

Finally, with regard to forced eradication of illicit crops, Colombia states that it hopes to halve illicit crops over the next six years. To that end, it is engaged, inter alia, in identifying, classifying, and discriminating between areas used for illicit crops and exclusion zones; spraying operations using technical environmental parameters; hiring an international, technical audit firm to evaluate not only the technical and operational aspects of the program, but also its environmental, human, and health-related impacts; and satellite-based monitoring.

CICAD acknowledges the progress made by Colombia and shares the country's concern to ensure that, in the future, target parameters are set to evaluate progress in this area.

RECOMMENDATION 7:**IMPROVE CONTROL MECHANISMS FOR THE DIVERSION OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES FROM LEGAL INDUSTRY TO ILLICIT INDUSTRY**

Colombia has suitably implemented the recommendation to improve control mechanisms to prevent the diversion of chemical substances from legal industries to illegal ones. It has established concrete procedures, a work plan, and a timetable for this. CICAD feels that important progress was made in implementing the recommendation.

CICAD believes that Colombia's observation about how the recommendation was stated should be studied for future evaluation rounds.



CICAD acknowledges the progress made and encourages Colombia to continue its efforts to fully implement the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 8:

STRENGTHEN THE INFORMATION SYSTEM BASED ON THE DATA REGISTER COVERING FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES, AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOLLOW-UP TO THESE ELEMENTS, TO RELATED CRIMES AND TO APPLICATION OF THE APPROPRIATE LAWS, IN AGREEMENT WITH THE TERMS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES, AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS (CIFTA)

Colombia indicates that it is implementing actions to adapt the relevant domestic regulations to the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials, even though it has not completed the pertinent ratification procedures.

The country informs of the existence of the Systematic National Archive and the Interagency Terrorism Analysis Group (GIAT) at the Ministry of National Defense and the Criminal Activities Information Center at the Office of the Public Prosecutor of the Nation, bodies that keep data on weapons, ammunition, explosives, and related materials, among other matters.

CICAD recognizes the efforts being made by Colombia to fulfill this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 9:

DEVELOP A SYSTEM TO COMPILE INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS HANDED DOWN BY THE COURTS FOR CRIMES RELATED TO THE MANUFACTURE, TRAFFICKING, AND ILLEGAL IMPORTING OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES, AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS

Colombia informs that, since the recommendation was made, it promoted the approval of a new penal code and a new code of criminal procedure which took effect in late July 2001 and that this will facilitate a more complete fulfillment of the aforementioned system. In particular, a domestic timetable has been prepared in order to finish compiling the necessary information for the purposes indicated above by the end of June 2002.

CICAD hopes that with the adoption and implementation of the aforementioned instruments, implementation of the recommended compilation system will be more thorough.

CICAD acknowledges the progress made and encourages Colombia to continue its efforts to fully implement the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 10:

DEVELOP A SYSTEM TO COMPILE INFORMATION REGARDING THE NUMBER OF SEIZURE OPERATIONS

Colombia reports that since April 2001 it has had a Colombia Drug Information System (SIDCO), designed and administered by the National Directorate of Narcotics. The data it compiles include information on seizures of drugs, firearms, explosives, and ammunition related to drug-trafficking offenses.

Colombia adds that the security forces provide this information and that detailed information is



now available on each operation carried out since 1998 to the present.

CICAD welcomes the implementation of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 11:

DEVELOP A SYSTEM TO COMPILE INFORMATION TO IDENTIFY FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES, AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS USED FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING

CICAD acknowledges the intention of Colombia to fulfill this recommendation and for the National War Materials Tracking Center to be fully operational by the year 2002.

CICAD encourages Colombia to continue its efforts to fully implement the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 12:

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

CICAD believes that it is a step in the right direction that the Government of Colombia will complete the methodology for estimating the economic cost of the drug problem by December 31, 2001. However, CICAD would like that methodology to also cover the human and social costs, as indicated in the 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

CICAD has examined carefully the responses Colombia has submitted in compliance with the recommendations issued in the 1999-2000 report, and feels that the country has made important progress in complying with the recommendations.

Accordingly, CICAD acknowledges the efforts undertaken by Colombia to ratify the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and the Inter-American Convention against Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials. It also notes that major efforts continue with respect to eradication of illicit crops, mechanisms to prevent the diversion of chemical substances from licit to illicit industries, and development of a system for recording the number of seizure operations. "Drugs at Work" programs still need to be implemented systematically at the national level and in the public sector and more extensive use needs to be made of the methodologies that ensure that comparable data are obtained regarding the prevalence of drug use in rural areas, whereby CICAD is aware of the security problems that Colombia faces with regard to this last-mentioned task.

CICAD recognizes the efforts Colombia has made and the depth of the submitted report.