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INTRODUCTION

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) was established pursuant to the Presidential Mandate from the Second Summit of the Americas, held in Santiago, Chile, in April 1998. On that occasion, the Presidents and Heads of State and Government approved the creation of a governmental Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism, singular and objective, that would report on individual and collective progress in efforts undertaken by countries in the hemisphere to confront the drug problem. The MEM is based on the principles of respect for sovereignty, territorial jurisdiction and the domestic laws of each State. The countries in the hemisphere recognized that they must develop an integral, balanced approach to confront the global drug problem, given its transnational and complex nature. International cooperation, in the framework of shared responsibility, is the only viable, effective tool to counteract this problem.

The first MEM round covered the 1999-2000 period. It produced 34 national reports and a hemispheric report, approved in December 2000, which serve as a baseline evaluation of the hemispheric drug problem. On this basis, successive evaluation rounds will measure the progress made by each individual country and by the hemisphere as a whole.

The multilateral evaluation process entails the full and timely participation of all CICAD member States, through the Governmental Experts Group (GEG) comprising delegates from each participating country. Its methodology includes establishing a dialogue with countries to distill the information they provide and to prepare, through a transparent process, an evaluation report. This report includes recommendations to guide governments in adjusting their anti-drug policies to enable them to respond more effectively to the challenges posed by the international drug problem.

The MEM is a dynamic, constantly evolving process. Based on the experience from the first round, the instrument and methodology used have been modified. Moreover, the process of data collection and processing has strengthened information systems and inter-institutional coordination mechanisms in the countries. The ongoing commitment and participation of Governments are essential to ensuring the MEM's ability to serve as an objective, effective evaluation instrument.

This report is based on information provided by each of the 34 OAS-CICAD member States as well as the national reports prepared by the GEG. Its chapters follow the format of the Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere, which is the Charter outlining the course for comprehensive, coordinated and cooperative hemispheric action to combat the drug problem. This hemispheric report includes the following areas:

- I. Institutional Building/National Anti-Drug Strategy:**
Anti-Drug Plans & National Commissions, International Conventions, National Information Systems.
- II. Demand Reduction:**
Prevention, Treatment, Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration, Trends in Drug Use.
- III. Supply Reduction:**
Drug Production and Alternative Development, Pharmaceutical Products and Controlled Chemical Substances,
- IV. Control Measures:**
Illicit Drug Trafficking, Corruption, Firearms and Ammunition, Money Laundering, International Cooperation and Extradition.

Based on the national reports, strengths and weaknesses have been identified, as well as progress, setbacks and gaps, in order to produce a global, objective panorama of the current situation of



the problem in the hemisphere. The aim is to deepen understanding of the nature of this problem, which affects all of the countries and to guide each country in adjusting its policies and actions vis-à-vis the aspects of the problem that most affect it. This knowledge also facilitates the identification of areas of international cooperation that should be reinforced.

The political, economic and security conditions at the time that the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism was created have changed and the MEM must reflect those changes. These new circumstances have led countries to re-examine their priorities. Nonetheless, because of its multidimensional nature, the drug problem must be incorporated into comprehensive, long-term development policies. Recognizing the constant expansion and diversification of the problem, as well as changing international conditions, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) crafted a flexible instrument and a dynamic process. Likewise, this Second Evaluation Round 2001-2002 evaluates the collective progress made relative to the first round, taking into account the diverse realities and conditions in the hemisphere.



I. INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING/NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY

A. National Anti-Drug Plans and Commissions

A National Anti-drug Plan or Strategy is an instrument that presents, in an organized manner, the activities carried out by a country to accomplish objectives established in accordance with its national reality. Consequently, the country must define its strategies and the budget, as well as delegate responsibilities to the institutions charged with their implementation.

Virtually every country in the hemisphere has a National Anti-drug Strategy or Plan and this represents significant progress in developing an integral approach to confronting this hemispheric problem. Most countries, however, lack a monitoring system to measure compliance.

It has also been noted that most of the strategies or plans lack criteria for decentralization. Therefore, they do not reflect or represent the unique characteristics of the drug problem in different regions of each country, nor do they promote the participation of municipal and local governments in combating the problem. This constitutes a weakness in developing an integral approach to the drug phenomenon.

Most countries have a national commission or central authority responsible for ensuring that institutions implementing anti-drug policy satisfactorily perform the duties assigned to them under the national plan, that an adequate budget is obtained to implement the plan and that the budget is managed properly.

While it is true that countries have established national commissions, some of them need to be strengthened politically or in terms of their technical, institutional, or human resources capacity. The commissions frequently face budget shortfalls that lead to partial implementation of their responsibilities and of the national plans.

The countries indicate that technical and financial cooperation should be promoted to surmount some of the aforementioned weaknesses. National authorities, however, could encourage the involvement of various national and international, public and private cooperation sources, by designing feasible projects.

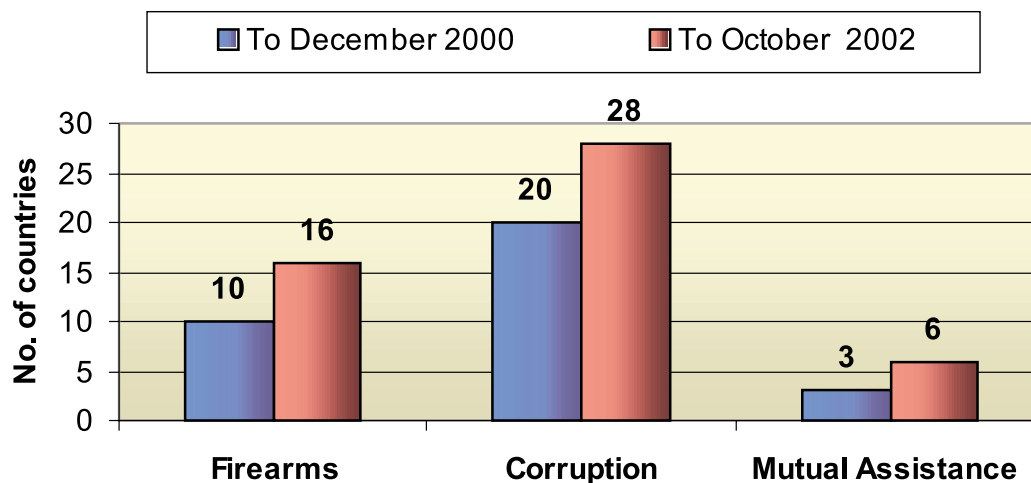
B. International Conventions

With regard to international conventions on drug matters, it should be noted that all 34 CICAD member countries are party to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Vienna, 1988). Only 3 countries have not ratified the United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, while only one has not ratified the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961.

Regarding other drug-related conventions, most member states have signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, while only 4 states have ratified these instruments, which indicates that significant progress has not been made in the inter-American system. The Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials (CIFTA), which had been ratified by 10 countries in 2000, was ratified by 6 more countries during the period 2000-2002. Of the 31 countries that had not yet ratified the Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters by the year 2000, 3 did so during the aforementioned period.



NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE RATIFIED INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTIONS



Interestingly, 28 countries of the hemisphere have ratified the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, which reflects significant progress relative to the 20 which had ratified it by the end of the First Evaluation Round 1999-2000.

Despite the reiteration of recommendations from the First Evaluation Round 1999-2000, several countries in the hemisphere have failed to sign and ratify the conventions determined by CICAD through the MEM, arguing that their domestic legislation contains instruments of superior scope and coverage compared to the international treaty provisions. This clearly represents an enormous weakness that increases the vulnerability of the hemisphere by enabling criminal organizations, whose decisions are transnational and immediate by nature, to reap the benefits of their actions.

C. National Information Systems

One of the salient needs in the hemisphere observed during the First Evaluation Round 1999-2000 was for national systems to compile and manage information on the drug problem nationwide. During the 2001-2002 evaluation period, 21 of the 34 CICAD member countries had established or strengthened national drug observatories for this purpose. This represents significant progress.

The difficulties frequently cited by the countries in establishing these observatories include lack of technical, professional and financial resources, insufficient training in data collection and management and lack of experience in the use of new technologies. The lack of uniform data collection methods to facilitate analysis of overall trends was also reported.

A step forward in standardizing methodologies has been the use of the Inter-American System of Uniform Drug-Use Data (SIDUC) by 24 member States and the Uniform Statistical System on Control of Supply Data (CICDAT) by 22 member States, to compile, analyze and report statistics on drug use and supply. In the Caribbean region there is a huge vacuum of integrated information systems. Therefore, CICAD must continue to focus its efforts on this area.

It should be recalled that the national commissions' coordinating responsibilities include compiling and managing information produced by the various institutions involved in implementing the national anti-drug policy. To this end, the drug observatories should contribute to the availability of up-to-date, accurate and reliable information that enables countries to analyze drug trends, adjust government policy and enhance their understanding of the various aspects of the national drug problem.



Significantly, progress has been observed in the compilation and dissemination of information on drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programs. This information is disseminated in the press, in publications by the entities themselves or others, web pages, Official Gazettes and electronic communications, in addition to libraries, educational institutions, campaigns and other materials or actions involving particular institutions and groups.

As mentioned earlier, there is a clear need for technical assistance and technological equipment. Efforts in this area should focus on training observatory officials and those responsible for developing such projects in member countries. The observatory program that CICAD is implementing throughout the hemisphere is an indispensable tool that has shown progress, although its results will only be evident in the medium term. Consolidating the observatories will help to increase objective knowledge on drug-related trends in the hemisphere and optimize and streamline the reporting process to the MEM and to other international entities such as the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and the United Nations Drug Control Program (UNDCP).



II. DEMAND REDUCTION

A. Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation

The information available, in countries that have conducted the relevant studies, reveals an upward trend in drug use in the hemisphere among diverse social groups, particularly youth. Such drug use acts as a powerful incentive for the supply of illicit substances and the drug trade.

This evaluation has found that countries in the hemisphere have included demand reduction programs as a key component of their drug strategies. While this could be seen as a positive sign, its impact is diminished by the fact that most countries have not completely recognized the importance of strengthening this crucial aspect of their approach to the drug phenomenon.

The failure of a number of countries to develop policies for training educators at every level (primary, secondary and university) in addiction prevention means that this task is left to a small number of specialists, which limits its effectiveness.

Moreover, most countries lack national epidemiological studies to estimate the prevalence of drug use among the general population. This failing hampers evaluation of trends in drug use over time and the impact of policies and programs on demand reduction. In addition, prevention programs targeting key populations are not evaluated to determine their effectiveness. This makes it difficult to identify best practices and discard those that are ineffective.

Less than one quarter of the countries in the hemisphere report having initiated drug abuse prevention programs in primary schools and only a few report that they are studying the effectiveness of prevention programs.

It should be noted that primary education has been institutionalized in all countries of the hemisphere, which facilitates implementation of drug abuse prevention programs. Early education for children 5-8 years old repeatedly has been shown to be critical to the development of later attitudes, skills and behaviors. It is widely believed that early education at the primary level will help to prevent addiction to drugs.

In countries of the hemisphere that have developed national and local surveys on drug use, the evidence shows that alcohol and tobacco appear to be the drugs of first use at an average age of between 12 and 14 years. The priority of prevention programs is to prevent first use; research has shown that a young person who reaches the age of 18 or 19 years without having tried drugs is much less likely to do so later.

According to existing evaluations of prevention programs targeting young children in the hemisphere, such programs are an ideal tool for reducing the likelihood of and even preventing, children from using drugs as adolescents.

It is important to note the failure by the majority of countries in the hemisphere to adopt minimum standards of treatment, as illustrated in the following chart:



COUNTRIES THAT HAVE ADOPTED MINIMUM STANDARDS OF TREATMENT



Most countries have been unable to plan treatment services because, in many cases, they lack studies to estimate the number of drug dependents who require and could benefit from such services.

The drug treatment and rehabilitation programs, both public and private, currently in place in the hemisphere are not evaluated to determine their effectiveness.

B. Trends in Drug Use

Studies conducted to date have shown that licit drugs, alcohol and tobacco, are the most widely used substances in the hemisphere. The most frequently used illicit drugs continue to be marijuana and cocaine hydrochloride derivatives. However, there is a rising trend in the abuse of pharmaceuticals, in other words the use of tranquilizers, sedatives and synthetic morphine without a doctor's prescription.

New drug use trends reported include the so-called synthetics such as ecstasy, ketamine and metamphetamines. In addition, the use of mixtures of Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD) and formaldehyde, cocaine and marijuana, and heroin and cocaine are reported as localized phenomena in some countries.

There also have been reports of localized outbreaks of drug abuse through injected methods, heretofore virtually unheard of in Latin America and the Caribbean, together with indications of some Hepatitis C and HIV/AIDS (Human Immune Deficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) infections associated with this type of drug use.

The countries in the hemisphere must recognize that demand reduction is a key or essential component of their approach to the drug problem by establishing the appropriate legislation and budgets for drug prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration programs.

In light of the above, the commitment to demand reduction—adopted by every country at the Summits of the Americas and in the Action Plan on Demand Reduction approved by the 1998 Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Drug Control—must be reaffirmed with strategic and substantive actions to address substance abuse through demand reduction policies and programs.

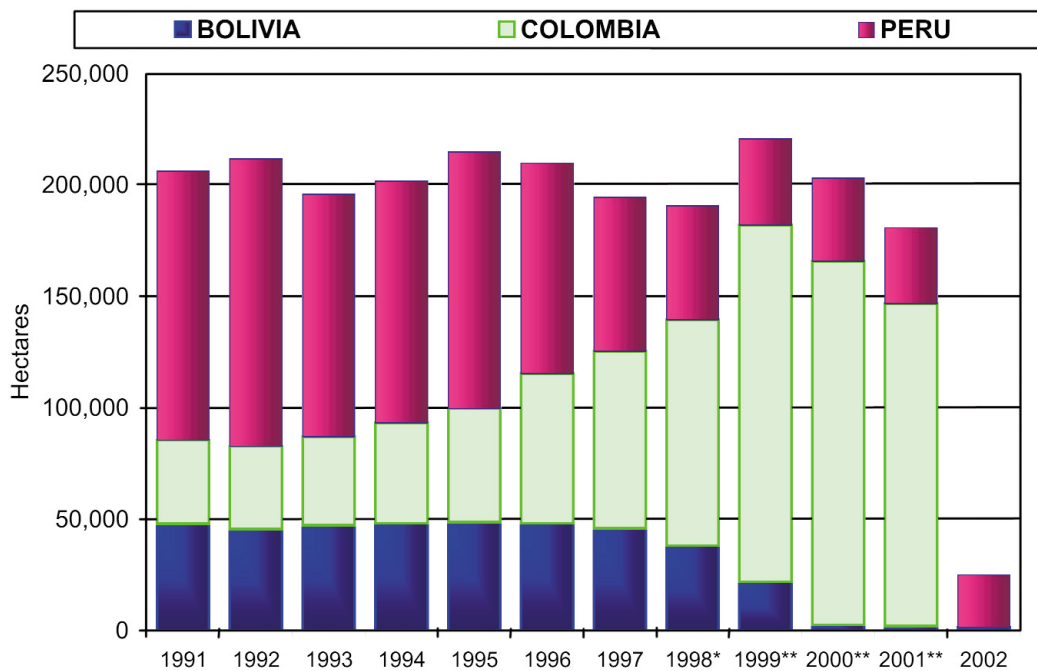


III. SUPPLY REDUCTION

A. Drug Production and Alternative Development

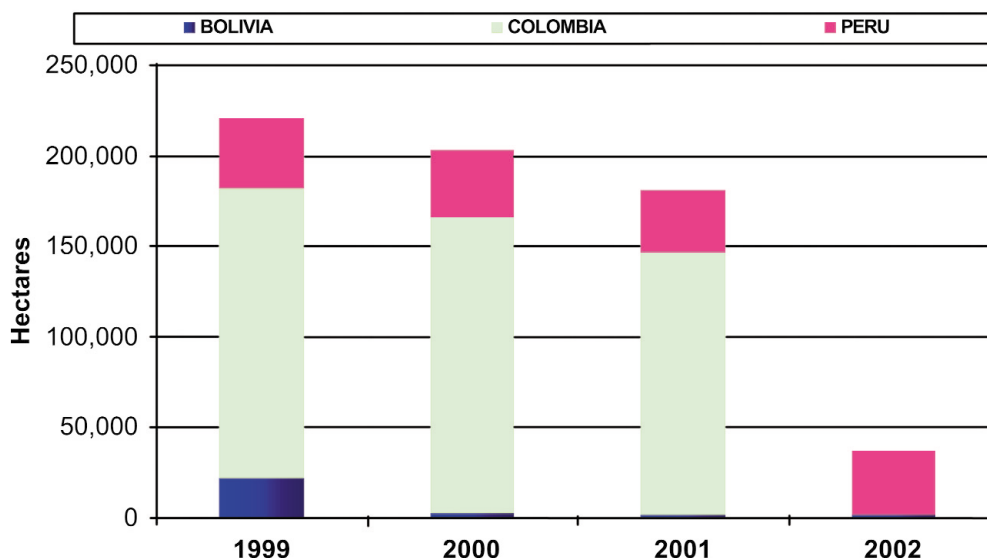
From 1999 to 2001, there was a significant decline in illicit coca crops in Bolivia and Peru. At the same time, however, there was a considerable increase in these crops in Colombia. As a result, there was a slight overall decrease in total crops at the end of the evaluation period.

COCA CULTIVATED HECTARES, 1991 - 2002



* 1998 data corresponds to the official total from the Colombian Government, based on the First Interinstitutional Census of Illicit Crops. This does not include the demilitarized zone.
 ** 1999 - 2001 data for Colombia were estimated using a new methodology and are therefore not comparable with previous years.
 Note: 2000-2002 data for Bolivia and Peru do not include the 12,000 hectares corresponding to traditional cultivation areas of each country. 2002 data for Bolivia correspond to the hectares of the Yungas area up to June 2002 and do not represent definitive data as the technical evaluation has not concluded.
 Colombia reports that it cannot provide figures for 2002, as the annual coca survey is conducted at the beginning of the year, and figures for 2002 will therefore appear in early 2003.

COCA CULTIVATED HECTARES, 1999 - 2002



Note: 1999 data for Bolivia y Peru include the 12,000 hectares corresponding to the traditional cultivation areas of each country. 2002 data for Bolivia correspond to the hectares of the Yungas area up to June 2002 and do not represent definitive data as the technical evaluation has not concluded.
 Colombia reports that it cannot provide figures for 2002, as the annual coca survey is conducted at the beginning of the year, so figures for 2002 will appear in early 2003.



There has been an increase in the difficulties encountered in efforts to eradicate illicit crops in Bolivia and Peru. These countries face alarming protests from segments of the farming population. This situation stems from high coca leaf prices, which render coca crops significantly more profitable than licit crops. The main reasons for rising coca leaf prices in Bolivia and Peru are believed to be the 1999 suspension of air interdiction in Peru and stepped up eradication and interdiction by Colombia.

A worrisome trend is the displacement of coca crops to countries that traditionally have not been producers, as reported by Ecuador and Venezuela.

There is no statistical analysis to evaluate adequately the extent of illicit poppy crops in the hemisphere. Available data indicate the presence of such crops on a significant scale in Colombia and Mexico. Peru and Venezuela report a trend towards displacement of these crops to their territories. The trend causes serious changes in the social and economic behavior of those communities affected by cultivation, as a consequence of either becoming voluntarily or involuntarily involved. It also places additional stress on already constrained national resources.

There is also an absence of proper measurement tools, which has led to a lack of statistical analysis for a proper evaluation of the extent of cannabis crops in the hemisphere. These crops are present, at least on a small scale, in virtually every country of the Americas, and on a commercial scale in many of them. It is worrisome that countries considered to be major producers based on existing data on use and seizures have made no attempt to establish systems to evaluate areas under cannabis cultivation and the resulting production. Significantly, the available data show that Marijuana is the most abused illicit drug in the hemisphere.

Alternative development plays a pivotal role in the prevention and eradication of illicit crops. Significant progress has been made in this area in the main producing countries, where alternative development has become an important tool in combating illicit crops.

The reduction of the price of coca leaf in local markets discourages its cultivation and makes alternative commercial activities more attractive. The drop in the price of coca leaf in the local market in 1997-1998 led many coca farmers to abandon their crops, thereby resulting in a marked drop in the area planted with coca in Bolivia and Peru.

Poverty, unemployment, lack of vocational training, market constraints as well as the influence of organized crime, are some of the factors driving rural populations to plant illicit crops to satisfy the demand for drugs. Therefore, if alternative development programs are to succeed, it is necessary to study the markets for their products, develop vocational training programs, and provide technical assistance and financial support for producers.

Alternative development must be implemented proactively and include social and economic development. Introduction of preventive alternative development programs should be considered in areas susceptible to the displacement of illicit crops in the hemisphere. Alternative development should be considered and applied to other illicit crops.

B. Pharmaceutical Products and Controlled Chemical Substances

Since the First Evaluation Round 1999-2000, the countries have made progress by developing legislation and the capacity to determine their needs, in order to prevent the diversion of pharmaceuticals and controlled chemical substances. Nonetheless, 85% of the countries in the hemisphere (29 out of 34) merited CICAD recommendations generally having to do with strengthening their control systems. The data analyzed reveal problems with existing controls for the production, distribution and use of pharmaceuticals, as well as chemical substances used in the production of illicit drugs.



While most countries have developed a regulatory framework for the control of pharmaceuticals, in some cases either it has not entered into force or is not being properly enforced; there is evidence, based on rising illicit drug production, that significant quantities of these controlled substances possibly are being diverted for improper uses.

The reported rates of improper use of pharmaceuticals are higher than those for other drugs such as cocaine or heroin. This indicates that such products are vulnerable to diversion through illicit channels as well as prescription abuse. The lack of appropriate regulations and the weaknesses of control systems make it difficult to prevent illicit diversion and to ensure that the products are used for therapeutic purposes.

Significantly, CICAD held a meeting of the Expert Group on Pharmaceutical Products in 2002, which was the first step of a thorough review of diverse aspects relating to the regulation and control of pharmaceuticals in the hemisphere.

Domestic regulations for pharmaceuticals are based on the particular needs and circumstances of each country. Nonetheless, each country should have a solid legislative basis and regulatory framework to support an effective monitoring mechanism and appropriate corrective measures.

Most countries (28 out of 34), report that they have a system for the control of controlled chemical substances. At the same time, 17 countries mentioned the lack of an adequate budget; 8 have received recommendations relating to the fragility of their laws and 5 have minimum sanctions.

There are a number of international instruments regulating chemical substances, including those in the framework of the United Nations. Nonetheless, increasing diversion of chemical precursors parallels the upward trend observed in illicit drug production.

Despite the international legal regime in effect in this area, domestic systems for the control of chemical substances vary from country to country, reflecting and responding to the particular needs of each one. While this is a matter involving national sovereignty, such variations in control create opportunities for criminal organizations to divert chemical substances for illicit purposes. Cooperation and coordination among control agencies is considered essential to reducing the likelihood of diversion of controlled chemical substances for illicit purposes.

It is essential for countries to ensure full application of international conventions regarding the establishment of mechanisms to guarantee the effectiveness of control systems.

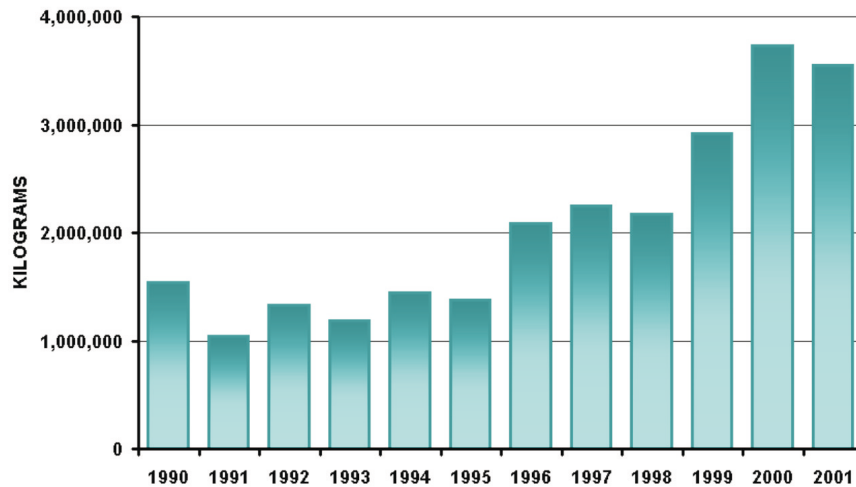


IV. CONTROL MEASURES

A. Illicit Drug Trafficking

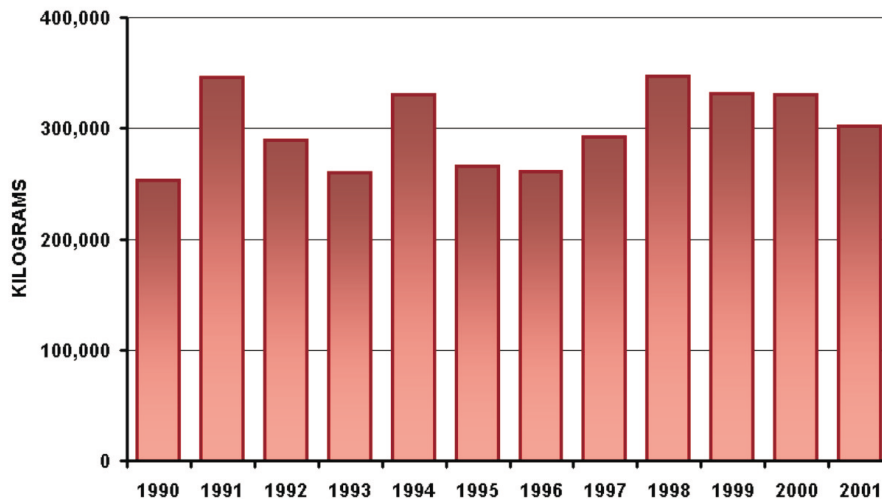
In the period analyzed, seizures of cannabis and cocaine had decreased relative to the year 2000, although not significantly.

CANNABIS SEIZURES IN THE HEMISPHERE



Source: CICAD / CICDAT

COCAINE SEIZURES IN THE HEMISPHERE

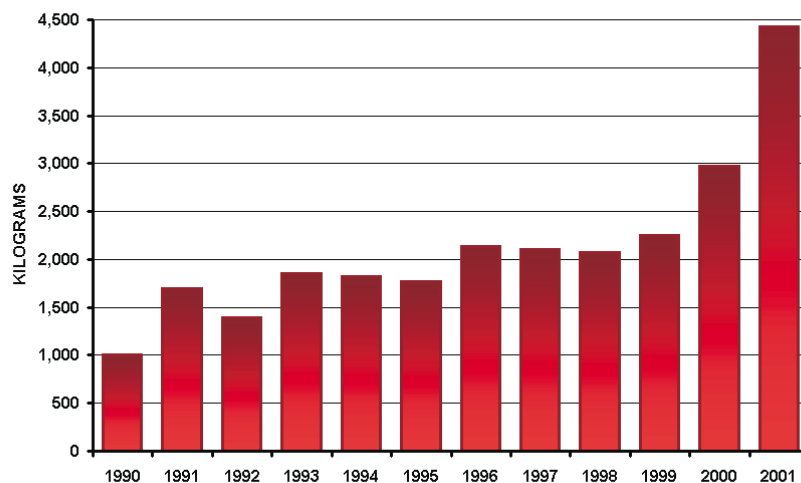


Source: CICAD / CICDAT

In contrast, heroin seizures registered in the region have increased significantly in recent years. This could be attributed to the eradication of significant areas of poppy crops in other regions of the world, which may have resulted in a significant increase in production of this crop in this Hemisphere.



HEROIN SEIZURES IN THE HEMISPHERE

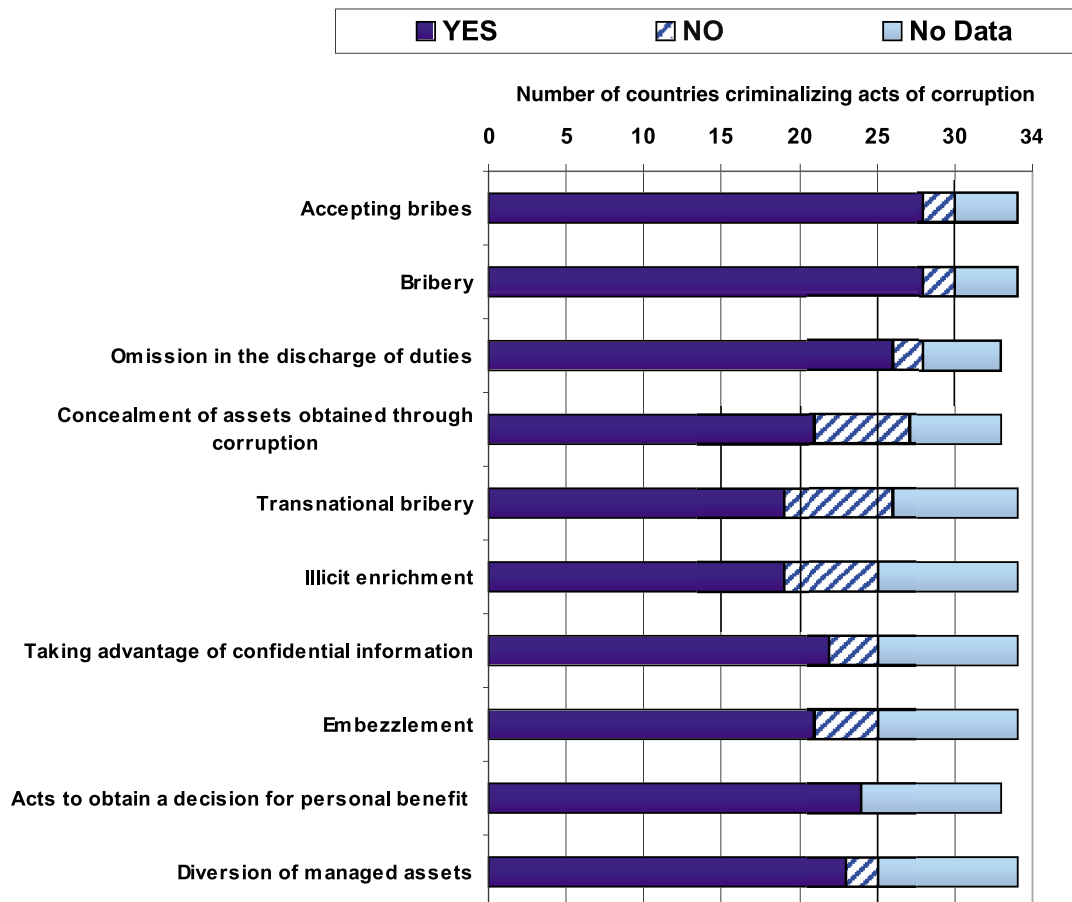


Source: CICAD / CICDAT

B. Corruption

As mentioned earlier, significant progress has been noted with regard to the number of countries that have ratified the Inter-American Convention against Corruption. This clearly means that illicit acts of this nature have been duly defined as offenses in the relevant legislation of most countries in the hemisphere, as shown in the following chart:

CRIMINALIZED ACTS OF CORRUPTION





Despite the aforementioned, information on the number of public officials convicted of corruption related to illicit drug trafficking is negligible and includes little detail, making it difficult to obtain a complete picture of actual progress made due to the lack of information on how such laws are being enforced.

According to the 11 countries that reported the number of public officials convicted for corruption related to drug trafficking, a total of 8 were convicted in 2000 – 2001, which illustrates that the number of convictions is very low.

A total of 150 public officials were convicted directly for illicit drug trafficking, based on figures reported by 21 countries for the 2000 – 2002 period. This figure represents public officials who have committed an offense under criminal law provisions, for example, participation in a criminal organization involved in illicit drug trafficking.

In conclusion, the data and information provided, insufficient in certain respects in light of the seriousness of the conducts described, do not permit a satisfactory evaluation of the hemisphere in this area.

C. Firearms and Ammunition

Although most countries in the hemisphere have established measures for the control of firearms and ammunition, often including laws that criminalize production and illicit trafficking, either they are not adequately enforced or there are certain gaps in the laws. For this reason, the legal systems are unsuited to evaluation or to control and prevent illicit diversion.

Lack of coordination among some national and international control agencies has been reported. Inadequate coordination at the national level is attributed to the lack of operational capacity due to limitations in data registries and the way the registries are kept. Records are not always maintained electronically and, while manual records keeping is not necessarily an obstacle to a functional system, there have been reports of problems in providing information upon request. Significantly, while 25 countries keep records of arms import transactions, only 11 of these keep records of export and transit shipments. All of this is clearly undermines effective cooperation among countries at the regional and international levels.

There is a lack of information on the number of arrests for possession and trafficking in firearms and other offenses, particularly drug-related offenses involving firearms. Moreover, there are few requests for international cooperation on problems relating to firearms.

There is a similar lack of information relating to seizures in this area. However, more than half of the countries reported having effective mechanisms to prevent confiscated firearms and munitions from returning to the illicit market. Seized firearms and ammunition usually are destroyed, or donated or sold to a government agency.

Sixteen countries in the hemisphere have ratified the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials (CIFTA). This constitutes progress in combating the diversion of arms and ammunition since the First Evaluation Round 1999-2000. In CICAD's opinion, most of the shortcomings identified by the MEM could be solved if States actually enforced the Convention's provisions relating to domestic legislation and international cooperation.

The variations observed in penalties established by the different countries, as well as the causes giving rise to the offense, complicate the effective implementation of a hemispheric system for prevention and control in this area.

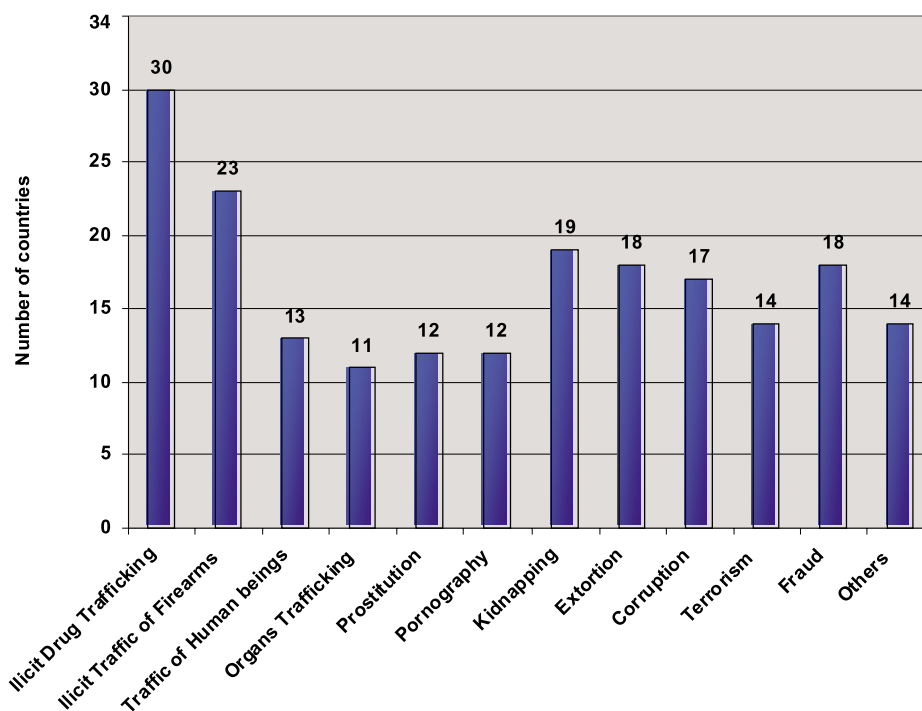


D. Money Laundering

Progress has been made in this area, according to the information provided by the countries. For example, most countries have adopted the definition of money laundering as an autonomous offense. The CICAD Model Regulations concerning money laundering have helped harmonize national laws to the extent that they follow this instrument.

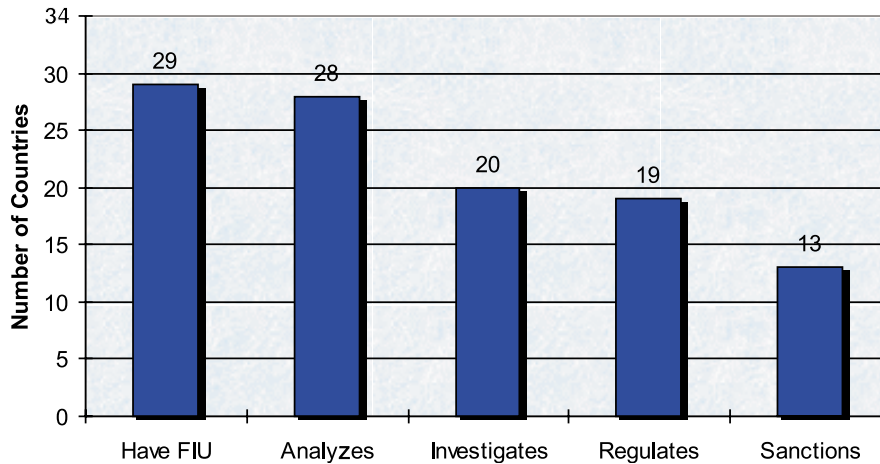
According to agreed international minimum standards, taken from instruments such as the CICAD Model Regulations Concerning Laundering Offenses Connected to Illicit Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Offenses, and the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, apart from illicit drug trafficking and related crimes, many countries of the hemisphere have defined the following as "serious crimes" from which the proceeds may give rise to money laundering: illicit trafficking of firearms, persons (including illegal immigrants) or body organs, prostitution, pornography, kidnapping, extortion, corruption, terrorism and its financing and fraud. Criminalization of these activities as predicate offenses of money laundering is essential for an effective and integral anti-money laundering legal framework.

COUNTRIES THAT CRIMINALIZE MONEY LAUNDERING OF THE PROCEEDS OF SERIOUS CRIMES



Most countries in the hemisphere have also made progress in establishing Financial Intelligence/Investigation/Information Units (FIUs). These units, recommended by the aforementioned Model Regulations, are centralized agencies responsible for receiving, requesting, analyzing and transmitting to the relevant authorities financial transaction reports involving assets of suspicious origin.

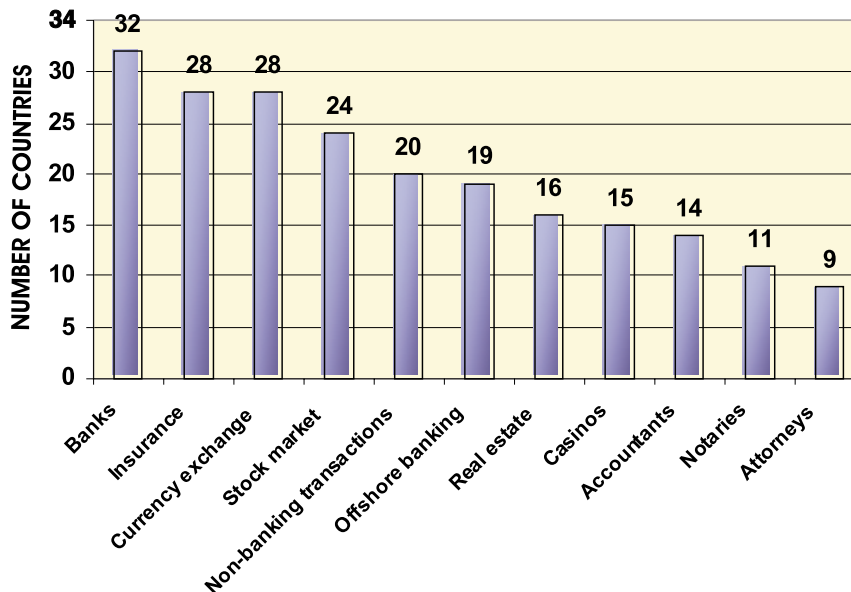
EXISTENCE OF FIUs AND THEIR FUNCTIONS



Unfortunately, the existence of a legal and institutional framework has not produced the desired outcomes. The data provided clearly show operational weaknesses and disparities. Keeping in mind that these anti-laundering systems have been established only recently in a significant number of countries, there are persistent deficiencies in control, analysis, investigation and prosecution in some parts of the hemisphere.

An obvious shortcoming in many cases is the lack of regulation of the activities of sectors at risk for money laundering, such as casinos and certain other well-known professions, as well as real estate. The most rigorous regulations have been applied in the financial sector, where tangible progress can be observed in contrast to the other areas mentioned where such crimes are prevalent.

ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO CONTROL FOR MONEY LAUNDERING



Most countries in the hemisphere are affiliated with international groups for the prevention and control of money laundering. Another indication of the hemispheric commitment is the fact that countries in the region participate in groups such as the International Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the South American Financial Action Task Force (GAFISUD) and the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) and the FIUs in the Egmont Group. Despite this, deficiencies persist in implementation at the operational level due to the failure to enforce an adequate legal framework, lack of training for officials and insufficient funding.



It should be noted that weaknesses and gaps in operational implementation represent obstacles for international cooperation. One example of this is the absence of Memoranda of Understanding on sharing of administrative information among FIUs, as reported by twenty countries. Moreover, reports by countries indicating that they did indeed have such Memoranda could not be verified by comparing the information, reflecting a lack of consistency.

This gives rise to the real danger that these international standards will become "dead letters," which would be negative in itself. Additionally, weaknesses in carrying out seizures, which is a legal action, increases the likelihood that assets will be recycled or increased and strengthens the criminal's ability to engage in corruption.

E. International Cooperation and Extradition

One problem found in control measures across the board is country compliance in the area of extradition and international cooperation. This reflects laxity in the enforcement of laws and international provisions relating to legal cooperation, to the direct benefit of national and transnational organized crime.

There are some failures in the commitment to combat corruption requiring a change of culture in which impunity has no place and in which no excuses are justified for eluding international cooperation and failing to extradite in cases in which there is proof of the existence of the offense of corruption.

Even though there is some form of hemispheric cooperation, some responses are contradictory, making it impossible to ascertain the reality of international legal cooperation and extradition. More than half of the countries failed to provide the requested information and some of those that did respond provided incomplete data.



CONCLUSIONS

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) has made it possible to establish an objective process of multilateral evaluation in order to monitor the progress of individual and collective efforts in the hemisphere in dealing with the drug problem. This, in itself, is a major achievement and one that unprecedented in the international community.

The report arising out of the second round of evaluation of the MEM shows that multidisciplinary policies have effectively been used to confront the drug problem in the Hemisphere. Thus, it was observed that the ideal way to confront the worldwide drug problem is through multilateral coordination, in which each country assumes responsibility for the different ways in which it is affected by the drug problem through actions that are both coherent and sustained.

The effectiveness of the Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere will depend on the concerted efforts of each nation, in which international cooperation based on the principle of shared responsibility needs to play a pivotal role.

Among the achievements worth underscoring are the strengthening of institutions and the implementation of a common international legal framework. International conventions related to this topic have been signed and ratified by a considerable number of member states. Practically all member states have developed national plans covering all aspects of the drug problem. They have created or strengthened their central coordinating agencies, and, with the support of international cooperation, they have begun to set up national drug observatories.

National demand reduction strategies have been developed in all the countries and national prevention programs have begun to be executed targeting specific population groups, such as schoolchildren, street children, and the prison population. Minimum standards for treating drug addicts have been observed in most countries, even though, in several cases, they are not yet obligatory in all treatment centers.

One of the major problems in the Hemisphere is lack of knowledge regarding the extent of consumption of illicit substances by the population. The dearth of comparable epidemiological studies and the failure to keep records make it difficult to design efficient and effectively focused policies to prevent or reduce consumption. One positive outcome of the MEM process has been the adoption, by most countries, of a uniform methodology for collecting Uniform Drug-Use Data (SIDUC).

In the area of supply reduction, information available shows that there has been a decrease in illicit coca cultivation in comparison to the previous evaluation, thanks to the application of integrated eradication and alternative development strategies. Marijuana is now being grown all over the Hemisphere and most countries are still not in a position to estimate the extent of these illicit crops.

Some progress has also been made in devising effective mechanisms to prevent the diversion of pharmaceutical products and controlled chemical substances to illicit channels. Nevertheless, many states do not enforce existing international conventions or even their own laws in an effective manner. At the same time, there is evidence of an increase in the production, trafficking, and consumption of synthetic drugs in the hemisphere.

As for control measures, the evaluation has demonstrated progress in implementation of the legal and institutional framework that has led to the execution of policies against corruption, arms trafficking, and money laundering. However, the lack of records and statistics covering these areas in many countries makes it impossible to assess the progress of government policies.

Regarding extradition and international judicial assistance, it is concluded from the information



provided by countries for national reports that there is a need for more cooperation among the states through the effective application of multilateral and bilateral conventions with the purpose of preventing offenses from going unpunished.

Actual progress in national drug strategies varies considerably from one country to another in terms of the degree of development and there is evidence that there are shortcomings that impair the effectiveness of the Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere. An attempt has therefore been made to make specific and constructive recommendations that can be translated into national policy decisions, thereby boosting hemispheric efforts to contain the problems associated with drug consumption and trafficking, and related offenses.

Finally, the MEM represents an exemplary effort to achieve transparency and cooperation. The technical and financial support of international organizations and donor countries has played a key role in its development. The extent to which it is practiced and improved depends on the political will of the member states and on their implementation of the recommendations they have received.



RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to the recommendations put forward on an individual basis, the countries should implement the following recommendations in coordination with the Executive Secretariat of CICAD:

1. DEVELOP, IN THE SHORT TERM, TRAINING AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS (TEACHERS AND PUPILS) IN ORDER TO PREVENT CHILDREN FROM STARTING TO USE ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO AND OTHER PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES.
2. EVALUATE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT PROGRAMS TO DETERMINE WHICH ARE THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND HAVE THE GREATEST IMPACT ON THE BENEFICIARY POPULATION.
3. CONDUCT NATIONAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEYS IN A SYSTEMATIC MANNER IN ORDER TO GAUGE THE EXTENT OF DRUG USE IN THE GENERAL POPULATION.
4. DEVELOP METHODOLOGIES FOR MEASURING THE AREAS DEDICATED TO GROWING POPPIES AND CANNABIS IN THE HEMISPHERE.
5. IMPLEMENT ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS WHICH ARE ENVIRONMENTALLY APPROPRIATE AND COMMERCIALY VIABLE IN AREAS LIKELY TO BE USED FOR ILLICIT CROPS.
6. PROMOTE MARKET ACCESS, WHERE APPROPRIATE, FOR THE PRODUCTS OF ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN ORDER TO ENHANCE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THOSE PROGRAMS.
7. ENCOURAGE THE SHARING OF EXPERIENCE ACQUIRED WITH ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT AMONG COUNTRIES IN THE HEMISPHERE, INCLUDING MEASURES REQUIRED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION.
8. CONDUCT A THOROUGH REVIEW OF DOMESTIC REGULATIONS FOR THE CONTROL OF PHARMACEUTICALS AND STRENGTHEN COORDINATION MECHANISMS AMONG THE RELEVANT SECTORS.
9. DETERMINE THE BEST MECHANISM TO OPTIMIZE USE OF "PRE-EXPORT NOTIFICATIONS" TO FOSTER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND STRENGTHEN THE MONITORING OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES.
10. IMPLEMENT A HEMISPHERIC COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION SYSTEM IN ORDER TO IMPROVE AND FACILITATE COOPERATION AND COORDINATION AMONG MEMBER STATES ON MATTERS RELATED TO CONTROL OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS AND CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS.
11. PROMOTE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEMS FOR COORDINATION AND CONTROL OF FIREARM IMPORTS, EXPORTS, AND TRANSIT AND MAINTAIN RECORDS BASED ON THE CICAD MODEL REGULATIONS WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AMONG STATES IN THIS FIELD.



12. **STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL JUDICIAL COOPERATION AND EXTRADITION MECHANISMS AMONG MEMBER STATES, IN ORDER TO COMBAT DRUG-RELATED OFFENSES, CORRUPTION, AND OTHER MANIFESTATIONS OF TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AS EFFICIENTLY AS POSSIBLE AND PREVENT THEM FROM GOING UNPUNISHED.**
13. **ADOPT APPROPRIATE REGULATIONS FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF NON-FINANCIAL SECTORS AT RISK FOR MONEY LAUNDERING.**
14. **BOOST TRAINING PROGRAMS ON MONEY LAUNDERING FOR COMPETENT AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBLE PERSONS.**
15. **STRENGTHEN EXISTING TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION TO ADDRESS COUNTRIES' WEAKNESSES IN INSTITUTIONAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE CAPACITY AS WELL AS IN AREAS CRUCIAL TO DEVELOPING AN INTEGRAL APPROACH TO THEIR ANTI-DRUG PROGRAMS, BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF SHARED RESPONSIBILITY.**



