

Multilateral
Evaluation
Mechanism
MEM

Dominican Republic

Evaluation of Progress in Drug Control

Organization of American States – **OAS**

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission – **CICAD**

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1999
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Organización de los Estados Americanos – OEA
Comisión Interamericana para el Control del Abuso de Drogas – CICAD

Organization of American States – OAS
Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission – CICAD

Organização dos Estados Americanos – OEA
Comissão Interamericana para o Controle do Abuso de Drogas – CICAD

Organisation des Etats Américains – OEA
Commission Interaméricaine de Lutte Contre l'abus des Drogues – CICAD

NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY

The Dominican Republic has a National Anti-Drug Plan approved by Presidential Decree in June 2000, covering all areas: supply reduction, demand reduction, control measures, institutional framework, budget, and an evaluation system. This Plan will be in effect from 2000-2005.

The Dominican Republic has a central coordinating authority entitled the National Drug Council (CND), which coordinates demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, and the information center. Its legal basis is the Law 50-88. The CND has a budget allocated through the Public Expenditure Act. Furthermore, it has other legal instruments for financing.

The Dominican Republic has ratified the United Nations Conventions of 1961, 1971 and 1988 and the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption. It has not signed the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters or the Inter-American Convention Against Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials.

Furthermore, it has national drug laws and regulations in conformity with the international conventions. It mentions specific legislation on money laundering, chemical substances, and firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials in accordance with the CICAD Model Regulations.

The Dominican Republic is in the process of implementing a system for the collection and maintenance of statistics and documents. Notwithstanding, it has a separate collection of documents and statistics in the following areas: demand reduction, supply reduction and control measures. There are no documents or statistics on the societal impact of illicit drugs.

Recommendations

1. **Sign and 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.**
2. **Develop and implement the integrated system for collecting, analyzing, and maintaining statistics and documents.**

DEMAND REDUCTION

The Dominican Republic has begun to implement and offer demand reduction programs. Consultations with other countries and regional and international organizations for advice and assistance could expedite the process.

The Dominican Republic has a national demand reduction strategy. There is a national system of drug abuse prevention programs that target school children and community leaders. Steps are being taken to establish a prevention program in prisons, which will involve both prisoners and prison officers. However, no programs cover street children/runaway children and out-of-school youth.

There are "Drugs in the Workplace" programs in both the public and private sectors. The overall program is entitled the "Labor Sector Drug Prevention Program" (PRAL) and has been in continuous operation since 1995.

The Dominican Republic has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and its Plan of Action.

There are no minimum standards of care for drug treatment. The treatment and rehabilitation services cover four treatment modalities: early detection and outreach, treatment, rehabilitation, social reintegration, and after care. Specialized training in drug abuse prevention is available at one university in the Dominican Republic. There is no training available in drug treatment, but arrangements are being made for professionals to receive this training abroad.

Although there was a positive response regarding regular diagnosis of drug use in the general population, the observations indicated that the sample for the studies was taken from among high-risk individuals. Based on studies conducted from 1994 to 1998 in hospital emergency rooms and detention and rehabilitation centers for addicts, the average age of first use of any illicit drug for men was as follows: tobacco 14.6; alcohol 16.2; amphetamines and methamphetamines 16.7; cannabis 17.1; inhalants 19.3; cocaine hydrochloride 19.3; hallucinogens 20.1 and crack cocaine 21.5.

The Dominican Republic has conducted research on prevention and drug use programs and is evaluating and monitoring ongoing demand reduction programs.

The annual incidence of new drug users has not been determined. There have been no studies conducted to evaluate the various treatment and rehabilitation programs and modalities.

Recommendations

1. Continue to evaluate the effectiveness of existing prevention programs.
2. Conduct a household survey to determine the prevalence of drug use in the general population and the annual incidence of new users.
3. Establish prevention programs for at-risk groups, such as street children, runaway children, and out-of-school youth.
4. Implement the prevention programs envisaged for the penal system.
5. Establish minimum standards of care for drug treatment and rehabilitation.
6. Conduct studies to evaluate the effectiveness of the different treatment and rehabilitation programs and modalities.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

Marginal cannabis plantations covering approximately 1 km² have been reported in the Dominican Republic. With respect to processing, evidence of secret laboratories for synthetic drugs is reported.

The National Drug Control Bureau (DNCD) is responsible for controlling the diversion of chemical substances, while the Public Health and Social Assistance Secretariat controls the diversion of pharmaceuticals. There are no systems for estimating legitimate industrial needs for controlled chemical substances. The monitoring and control of professions involved in handling pharmaceuticals is regulated by Law 50-88 governing drugs. Additionally, as a coordinating entity, the DNCD exchanges operational information with different governmental agencies, at the national and international levels, to prevent the diversion of both types of substances.

The Dominican Republic has penal, civil, and administrative sanctions for the diversion of controlled chemical substances and pharmaceuticals. However, no information is provided on sanctions imposed last year.

A wide variety of pharmaceuticals were seized in 1999, as shown in the following table.

Psychotropic Substances Seized in 1999 by the DNCD Division on Chemicals and Precursors:		
Substance	Concentration	Quantity
Alprazolam	0.25 Mg.	700 Pills
Clonazepam	1 Mg.	300 Pills
Clonazepam	2 Mg.	400 Pills
Clorazepate	3.75 Mg.	100 Pills
Diazepam	25 Mg.	4,425 Pills
Diazepam	10 Mg.	3,100 Pills
Diazepam	2 Mg.	2,096 Pills
Diazepam	5 Mg.	700 Pills
Phenobarbital	100 Mg.	1,250 Pills
Flurazepam	15 Mg.	300 Pills
Codeine phosphate	10 Mg.	946 Pills
Hydrocodone bitartrate	5 Mg.	100 Pills
Lorazepam	2.5 Mg.	1,000 Pills
Lorazepam	1 Mg.	850 Pills
Lorazepam	2 Mg.	270 Pills
Methyl phenade	5 Mg.	100 Pills
Nitrazepam	20 Mg.	700 Pills
Nitrazepam	5 Mg.	280 Pills
Oxacepam	10 Mg.	925 Pills
Oxacepam	25 Mg.	1,650 Pills
Oxycodone	5 Mg.	100 Pills
Temazepam	15 Mg.	600 Pills
Triazolam	0.25 Mg.	339 Pills
Zolpidem	10 Mg.	1,000 Pills

Despite the Dominican Republic's efforts to improve the technological infrastructure and inter-sectoral coordination through the National Drug Council (CND), neither is fully operational as yet. In addition, there are no precise data on the systems for identifying legitimate industrial needs.

The Dominican Republic reports having received 10 pre-notifications with 1 reply.

Recommendations

1. Establish a mechanism for the identification and destruction of secret laboratories manufacturing synthetic drugs.
2. Continue the policies that make it possible to strengthen the technological infrastructure and inter-sectoral coordination of the institutions responsible for controlling chemical substances and pharmaceuticals.
3. Create a system for identifying industry's legitimate needs for controlled chemical substances.
4. Strengthen the application of the pre-export notification mechanism for chemical substance transactions, in compliance with the 1988 UN Convention.

CONTROL MEASURES

The Dominican Republic has law enforcement, judicial, and administrative institutions responsible for investigating, controlling, and eliminating illicit drug trafficking. The law enforcement agency is the DNCD; the administrative institution indicated is the National Drug Council; and the Office of the Attorney General with its branch offices is the competent judicial agency.

The Joint Information and Coordination Center (CICC) is the agency responsible for the exchange of operational information and coordination among the various national and international authorities involved in intelligence and law enforcement. The National Drug Council administers the exchange of information and coordination between the Dominican Republic and other countries, in accordance with the Dominican Republic's international obligations.

There were 3,365 drug seizure operations, and the amounts and types of drugs seized are indicated below:

Type of Drug	Quantity
Heroin	11Kg and 908g
Cocaine base	1,071Kg and 300g
Cannabis plants	1,985 plants
Cannabis resin (hashish)	172.3g

The Dominican Republic indicates that a total of 2,236 persons were arrested for illicit trafficking; and 1,036 persons were charged with illicit trafficking and 1,200 with distribution. However, there is no data on convictions for these offenses.

The Dominican Republic alludes to international cooperation to investigate and prosecute drug traffickers, but could not provide precise data on the number of requests for information and replies – although it indicates there were numerous requests from various countries.

The Dominican Republic has criminalized the illicit manufacture, trafficking, import, and export of firearms, explosives, ammunition, and other related materials. Mechanisms or authorities are in place to control these activities, with a legal framework for seizure and forfeiture. There is also an office in charge of coordinating and exchanging information with national and international agencies.

The Dominican Republic does not specify the number of persons charged or convicted for illicit manufacturing, importing, exporting, and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials, given the unavailability of such data.

However, mention is made of 50 seizure operations for these materials in connection with illicit drug trafficking. The quantity and type of seized weapons is indicated below.

Firearms	
Type	Quantity
Pistols	37
Revolvers	16
Shotguns	4
Rifles	2
Total	59

The seizure of ammunition, explosives, and other related materials is not addressed. The Dominican Republic does not keep a record of the origin of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials or the routing employed to divert firearms. It gives no specific answer about the routing used to divert ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.

The Dominican Republic states that it has no information available regarding requests for international cooperation to investigate and prosecute the illegal manufacture of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.

The Dominican Republic has enacted legislation to criminalize money laundering that covers the suppression and prevention of the laundering of drug trafficking proceeds. Preventive administrative controls and a legal framework have also been established for the freezing, confiscation, and forfeiture of such assets.

A Financial Intelligence Unit is in charge of processing data on reports of suspicious transactions, but solely and exclusively for institutions in the National Financial System, exchange and remittance agents, and securities transactions. A legal framework exists for the imposition of a requirement to report suspicious operations and compliance with control measures. There is no agency responsible for receiving, requesting, analyzing, and disseminating information on the transactions conducted by other agents subject to these controls.

The National Drug Council is the entity responsible for the management of assets forfeited from illicit drug trafficking, and these assets may only be forfeited in accordance with final judicial rulings.

It reports that 62 persons were arrested and 33 charged, with no figures as of yet for convictions for money laundering, since there have not been any final judgments.

The Dominican Republic has no available data on the number of judicial convictions and administrative and/or regulatory sanctions that have been imposed for failure to report suspicious transactions.

With regard to international cooperation to investigate and prosecute money-laundering offenses, the Dominican Republic states that 8 requests were made and that four replies were received.

Recommendations

1. Create a registry of persons prosecuted and convicted of illicit drug trafficking.
2. Create a registry containing data on the number of requests made and replies received for international cooperation to investigate and prosecute drug traffickers.
3. Create a registry of persons charged and convicted of the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.

4. Create a registry and/or database reflecting the seizure of ammunition, explosives, and other related materials and the origin of and routing employed to divert firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.
5. Establish international cooperation mechanisms to investigate and prosecute the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.
6. Create a control mechanism or entity for other agents subject to these controls to receive, request, analyze, and disseminate information on their financial transactions or, if necessary, to expand the powers of the existing entity.
7. Establish a registry of judicial convictions and administrative and/or regulatory sanctions imposed for failure to report suspicious transactions.

HUMAN, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC COST OF DRUGS

Estimating Human, Social and Economic cost of the drug problem in all of its manifestations constitutes a complex process. This information is relevant to each country's understanding of the magnitude of the drug problem. This would enable each country to appreciate the direct and indirect cost in proportion to their Gross National Product or national annual budget. Because many countries have difficulty in providing these estimates, CICAD is proposing a hemisphere-wide program involving training and technical assistance, which should assist the country in its effort in confronting the drug problem and fulfilling this indicator's requirements.

Recommendation

1. Develop the capacity to estimate the human, social, and economic costs of the drug problem.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

CICAD recommends that the Dominican Republic's anti-drug efforts be strengthened by addressing the following:

1. Sign and ratify the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and the Inter-American Convention Against Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials.
2. Develop and implement the integrated system for collecting, analyzing, and maintaining statistics and documents.
3. Continue to evaluate the effectiveness of existing prevention programs.
4. Conduct a household survey to determine the prevalence of drug use in the general population and the annual incidence of new users.
5. Establish prevention programs for at-risk groups, such as street children, runaway children, and out-of-school youth.
6. Implement the prevention programs envisaged for the penal system.
7. Establish minimum standards of care for drug treatment and rehabilitation.
8. Conduct studies to evaluate the effectiveness of the different treatment and rehabilitation programs and modalities.
9. Establish a mechanism for the identification and destruction of secret laboratories manufacturing synthetic drugs.
10. Continue the policies that make it possible to strengthen the technological infrastructure and inter-sectoral coordination of the institutions responsible for controlling chemical substances and pharmaceuticals.
11. Create a system for identifying industry's legitimate needs for controlled chemical substances.
12. Strengthen the implementation of the pre-export notification mechanism for chemical substance transactions, in compliance with the 1988 UN Convention.
13. Create a registry of persons prosecuted and convicted of illicit drug trafficking.

14. Create a registry containing data on the number of requests made and replies received for international cooperation to investigate and prosecute drug traffickers.
15. Create a registry of persons charged and convicted of the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.
16. Create a registry and/or data base reflecting the seizure of ammunition, explosives, and other related materials and the origin of and routing employed to divert firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.
17. Establish international cooperation mechanisms to investigate and prosecute the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.
18. Create a control mechanism or entity for other agents subject to these controls to receive, request, analyze, and disseminate information on their financial transactions or, if necessary, to expand the powers of the existing entity.
19. Establish a registry of judicial convictions and administrative and/or regulatory sanctions imposed for failure to report suspicious transactions.
20. Develop the capacity to estimate the human, social, and economic costs of the drug problem.