**RECOMMENDATION 1:****APPROVE AND EXECUTE THE NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG PLAN AND ITS RESPECTIVE FINANCING BUDGET****PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003**

During the First Evaluation Round 1999-2000, Argentina reported that it had prepared its National Anti-Drug Plan, which was pending for approval. During the Second Evaluation Round 2000-2002, the country indicates that it has proceeded to prepare a schedule for approval and implementation of the National Plan 2005-2006.

CICAD expresses its concern for the evident delays in implementing this recommendation and urges the country to approve and put into action the National Plan, if possible by the end of 2004.

RECOMMENDATION 2:**REITERATE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FIRST ROUND OF EVALUATION 1999-2000 TO SIGN AND RATIFY THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS****PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2001****REITERATION DATE: JANUARY 2003**

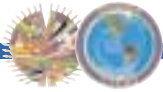
Argentina reports that it has relaunched the process of consultation among the competent ministries with a view to signature of the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and subsequent passage by the legislature.

Argentina reaffirms that, since January 16, 1997, it has had in place Law 24.767 on International Cooperation in Criminal Matters, which is an adequate legal instrument to respond to requests for judicial assistance coming from third parties and, accordingly, it is not essential for Argentina to be a Party to the Convention to be able to provide legal assistance in criminal matters. It nonetheless recognizes that the Inter-American Convention would complement its international cooperation framework, in particular, in connection with requests for cooperation made by Argentina authorities to States Parties to the said Convention.

CICAD expresses its concern regarding lack of implementation of this recommendation and urges Argentina to complete the process of signing and ratifying the aforementioned Convention, if possible by the end of 2004.

RECOMMENDATION 3:**SIGN AND RATIFY THE PROTOCOL AGAINST THE SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS BY LAND, SEA AND AIR, THE PROTOCOL TO PREVENT, SUPPRESS AND PUNISH TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND THE PROTOCOL AGAINST THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, THEIR PARTS AND COMPONENTS AND AMMUNITION, TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME****PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003**

Argentina reports that, on November 19, 2002, it ratified the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. It also reports that on October 7, 2002, it signed the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition, and that it is now undergoing the legislative process to approve it.



CICAD expresses its satisfaction with the progress made in implementing the recommendation and encourages that the country to continue to make the necessary efforts to ratify the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms and Ammunitions, their Parts and Components as soon as possible.

RECOMMENDATION 4:

BEGIN OPERATION OF THE ARGENTINE DRUG OBSERVATORY, IN ORDER TO MOVE FORWARD IN ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE DATA AND STATISTICAL SYSTEM ON THE DRUG PROBLEM

PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003

Argentina has not implemented the Argentine Observatory on Drugs because it has not been able to establish data collection units at the provincial office level, which would be networked to the central information office with a view to national policy formulation. The country also indicates that lack of resources is the main reason why implementation has not yet begun.

The country indicates that it has requested technical, financial and training assistance.

CICAD urges Argentina to continue efforts to obtain the resources needed to implement the Argentine Observatory on Drugs, thereby implementing this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 5:

DEVELOP A MECHANISM TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF METHODS OF INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND COLLABORATION AMONG AUTHORITIES WITH CONTROL RESPONSIBILITY

PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003

Argentina has reported that it has achieved and established, in the controlled chemical substances area, centralized coordination among all agencies that, in one way or another, participate in control efforts. The Programming Secretariat for Drug Addiction Prevention and the Fight against Drug Trafficking (SEDRONAR) executes such coordination. The effectiveness of exchange and collaboration mechanisms is evaluated by SEDRONAR, based on indicators whose information is taken from existing databases. These included data on seizures of chemical substances as well as data on internal and external movements of controlled chemical substances.

Argentina also reports that a similar situation is found in connection with the fight against illicit trafficking in prohibited substances. In this area, the Programming Secretariat for Drug Addiction Prevention and the Fight against Drug Trafficking also operates as a centralized coordination entity for all security forces with responsibilities in this area, with a view to fluid information exchange and collaboration among them.

CICAD expresses its satisfaction at the implementation of this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 6:****INCREASE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL ENTITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPPLY REDUCTION, IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THEIR CONTROLS****PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003**

Argentina reports that it has not begun to implement the recommendation because of the economic crisis of recent years. However, it gives its assurances that it is working in those areas that are important for control and require fewer resources, such as training for security forces. It also reports that the recent imposition of fees for the services provided by the National Register of Precursor Chemicals has enabled and will enable funds to be obtained to provide partial support for the work of the security forces in the controlled substances area, especially for information technology infrastructure.

Argentina also states the need for financial assistance, training and equipment for the responsible entities in the supply reduction area.

Although the country reported that implementation of the recommendation has not begun, from the information provided by the country it can be seen that steps have been taken with a view to obtaining additional resources for the entities with responsibility in the supply reduction area.

RECOMMENDATION 7:**ESTABLISH A REGISTRY AND STATISTICAL SYSTEM ON PERSONS ARRESTED, CHARGED AND CONVICTED AND ON ITEMS SEIZED AND CONFISCATED IN CONNECTION WITH MONEY LAUNDERING****PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003**

Argentina reports that the recommendation has been completed, as a computer program has been designed to implement a register system at the national level of persons arrested, prosecuted, and convicted; this system includes information on seizures and confiscations of the proceeds of money laundering. This system will enable data to be obtained for 2002, and a systematic survey to be conducted annually which would be available by March approximately each year. The country indicates that a pilot experiment conducted with the 2002 data is enabling it to adjust survey guidelines and data analysis.

CICAD expresses its satisfaction to Argentina for the establishment of recommended registry and statistical system.



CONCLUSIONS

CICAD notes with great concern that Argentina does not have a National Anti-Drug Plan in force nor a budget to fund it, as this recommendation was assigned to the country during the First Evaluation Round 1999-2000. In addition, Argentina has still neither signed nor ratified the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, which has negative implications for hemispheric cooperation.

CICAD also notes, that Argentina has moved forward and has fully implemented three of the recommendations made, as it has established a registry and statistical system on persons arrested, charged, and convicted, and another on items seized and confiscated in connection with money laundering; it has also establish a coordination mechanism to evaluate all agencies which, in one way or another, participate in control action or activities. The country has also taken specific steps to ratify the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

Finally, CICAD recognizes the efforts made by Argentina in the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism framework (MEM) and urges the country to continue working in a responsible matter to fully comply with the recommendations pending.