**RECOMMENDATION 1:****RATIFY THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AND ITS PROTOCOLS TO PREVENT, SUPPRESS AND PUNISH TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN, AGAINST THE SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS BY LAND, SEA AND AIR AND AGAINST THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, THEIR PARTS AND COMPONENTS AND AMMUNITION****PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003**

Panama reports that it has initiated an interinstitutional consultation on the feasibility of ratifying the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols. The country further indicates it is only awaiting the opinion of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, after which the Convention and its Protocols will be submitted to the Legislative Assembly for ratification.

CICAD encourages Panama to ratify these four instruments so as to fulfill this recommendation as soon as possible.

RECOMMENDATION 2:**IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES UNDER THE 2002-2007 PLAN TO OBTAIN SPECIFIC DATA ON THE GENERAL POPULATION TO DETERMINE DRUG USE TRENDS IN PANAMA****PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003**

Panama reports that the National Plan 2002-2007 includes a National Household Survey project that will enable it to implement this recommendation. For that purpose, it has requested and obtained a contribution of US\$50,800 from CICAD/OAS to supplement the national contribution of US\$27,000.

The country indicates that it launched the National Survey in September 2003.

CICAD recognizes the progress made and encourages Panama to continue in its efforts to fulfill this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 3:**STRENGTHEN THE EXISTING TREATMENT SERVICES SO AS TO EXPAND THEIR CAPACITY TO RESPOND TO THE TOTALITY OF THE DEMAND SERVICES****PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003**

Panama reports that there are three distinct stages to implementing this recommendation: one entire stage involves developing new outpatient treatment programs and training specialized personnel in drug dependent care standards-related topics.

A second stage, now in progress, has to do with the application of care standards in the corresponding programs. However, the lack of financial, human, and logistical resources has made it difficult to fully implement this recommendation. It is estimated that the recommendation will be implemented by the end of 2004.



Finally, the country reports a third stage, not yet begun, relating to treatment centers. Implementation of this stage has been hindered by financial constraints and infrastructure problems.

In order to fully implement this recommendation, the country identifies the need for technical and financial assistance, equipment, and training. It further states that it has requested assistance but that the response has been inadequate.

CICAD recognizes the progress achieved by Panama, and encourages the country to continue its efforts to fulfill the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 4:

IMPLEMENT THE COLON PROVINCE FREE ZONE PROJECT TO ESTABLISH SPECIFIC PRE-EXPORT CONTROL MECHANISMS FOR CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES

PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003

Panama considers that this recommendation as it pertains to chemical precursors used for medical purposes is fully implemented. In this regard, the country indicates that it has issued an executive decree applicable to raw materials for precursor chemicals used in medicines, which includes free trade zones.

However, while the recommendation requests the establishment of specific pre-export control mechanisms for controlled chemical substances in the Colon Free Zone, the country refers only to precursor substances used for medical purposes, for which it identifies the need for technical and financial assistance, equipment, and training.

While CICAD recognizes the efforts made by Panama to implement the recommendation, it considers that the coverage of controls must be expanded so that they apply not only to substances used for medical purposes but also to the other substances included in Lists I and II of the 1988 Convention, particularly in view of the geographic position of the country.

RECOMMENDATION 5:

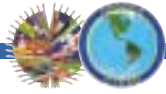
DEVELOP A MARKET STUDY TO IDENTIFY EXACTLY WHICH BUSINESSES REQUIRE CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES, THEIR PURPOSE AND AVERAGE AMOUNT OF SUCH INPUTS NEEDED

PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003

Panama reports that the implementation of this recommendation is under way. To this end, the country has a Chemical Control Section, with units at the Paso Canoas border post, which control the entry and exit of these controlled substances, as well as a database to record all imports, exports, and local purchases.

It further indicates that implementation is pending of a record book for all businesses, where individual movements of products are recorded. In addition, businesses are subject to inspections.

The country reports that although it has not conducted a study of licit national needs for precursor chemicals and controlled chemical substances, such a study is included in the National Drug Strategy 2002-2007. It also indicates that it is working on a database in the Interagency Commission for the Control of Chemical Substances (CCQ), and is waiting to acquire the National



Database System (NDS). The NDS is an information system developed by the United Nations to control the licit movement of drugs and precursor chemical products, as well as to carry out effective national and international data exchange.

The country indicates that it needs technical and financial assistance, equipment, and training in order to fully implement the recommendation.

CICAD expresses its concern at the lack of significant progress, and therefore urges Panama to take such action.

RECOMMENDATION 6:

STRENGTHEN CONTROL MECHANISMS TO OBTAIN BETTER DATA ON ARRESTS AND CONVICTIONS OF PERSONS IN CONNECTION WITH ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING, MONEY LAUNDERING, CORRUPTION, FIREARMS AND THE DIVERSION OF PHARMACEUTICALS AND CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES

PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003

Panama reports that implementation of this recommendation is under way. To that end, it will have a national network to facilitate the automated management of case files handled by the Drug Prosecutor's Offices. The country further indicates that this system will enable it to check statistics using different variables. The Executive Secretariat of the National Drug Commission (CONAPRED) has provided support for the operation of the project, completion of which is expected in May 2004.

CICAD expresses its satisfaction with the progress made and encourages Panama to carry out pending activities with a view to full implementation of the recommendation in May 2004.

RECOMMENDATION 7:

REPORT ON PROGRESS ACHIEVED WITH THE "FIREARMS DATA COLLECTION GROUP" PROJECT

PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003

Panama reports that implementation of this recommendation is under way. Initially, it has established a complete updated data collection system on confiscated firearms. However, it indicates a need to obtain software such as "SALSA" (Small Arms and Light Weapons System Administration), which is a tool to improve the application of controls established in the Model Regulations and in the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials (CIFTA).

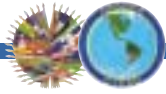
CICAD recognizes the effort being made by Panama to implement the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 8:

ESTABLISH A FORMAL MECHANISM TO PROMOTE OR FACILITATE THE OPERATIVE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND THE COLLABORATION AMONG AUTHORITIES IN CHARGE OF THE CONTROL OF ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF DRUGS

PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003

Panama reports that this recommendation has been fully implemented. The country states that it has promoted specialization of investigative agents and police officers and their integration with



agents from the Public Ministry, with a view to facilitating information sharing and proactive investigations. In addition, Panama reports the creation of a Sensitive Investigations Unit under the direction of the Attorney General for the investigation of drug trafficking and other related offenses.

It further reports that it has created the Anti-drug Intelligence Networks of Panama (RIANPA) to facilitate information sharing concerning tactical, operational, and strategic intelligence, with digitalized records of suspects, ships, aircraft, and property linked to drug trafficking and related offenses. These networks will facilitate the exchange of such information at the national level, as well as with other countries.

CICAD recognizes the efforts made and expresses its satisfaction with the full compliance with this recommendation.

CONCLUSIONS

Panama was assigned eight recommendations, and has fully implemented those corresponding to the application of a formal mechanism to promote the timely exchange of operational information via the Anti-Drug Intelligence Networks of Panama (RIANPA) and the Sensitive Investigations Unit of the office of the Attorney General.

Similarly, Panama has shown progress in six recommendations.

However, CICAD is concerned with the fulfillment of the recommendation related to the control of precursors and controlled chemical substances, and control of the movement of firearms and ammunition. Given the sensitivity of this subject due to Panama's geographic characteristics, CICAD reiterates to Panama the need to redouble efforts in strengthening control mechanisms in the Colon Free Zone, so as to progressively identify which companies require chemical substances, their purpose and the average amount of such inputs needed.

CICAD encourages the country to intensify efforts in order to fulfill the pending recommendations.