



RECOMMENDATION 1:

**RATIFY THE PROTOCOL AGAINST THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, THEIR PARTS AND COMPONENTS, AND AMMUNITION TO THE UN CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME**

PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003

Venezuela reports that the National Assembly is currently studying the bill proposing ratification of 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. The country estimated that the respective process would be finalized during the first quarter of 2004.

CICAD recognizes the achievements registered by Venezuela to implement this recommendation and encourages full compliance by the date indicated.

RECOMMENDATION 2:

**EXTEND COVERAGE OF PREVENTION PROGRAMS TO KEY POPULATIONS INCLUDING INDIGENOUS GROUPS**

PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003

Venezuela reports that the National Anti-drug Plan 2002-2007 establishes a program of action called "Comprehensive Prevention" targeted at indigenous communities. Its objective is to develop plans, programs, and projects for comprehensive drug prevention in Venezuelan indigenous communities.

The prevention program in indigenous communities was included in the 2003 Plan of Action of the National Commission Against Illicit Drug Use (CONACUID).

Since 2002, the Ministry of the Interior and Justice, through its Directorate for Crime Prevention, has been developing a "Prevention in Education" program. The purpose of this program is to promote a culture of prevention in the education community through educational and training activities at the basic, intermediate, and diversified educational levels, extending coverage to the states of Amazonas and Delta Amacuro (where there is a significant number of indigenous population).

The country also informed about specific training programs in the school education and indigenous sectors, in which 1,952 students and 79 teachers were trained.

CICAD recognizes the substantial progress made by Venezuela in extending its prevention programs to key populations, including indigenous groups, and it encourages the country to continue its efforts.

RECOMMENDATION 3:

**RESUME RECORD KEEPING ON MORBIDITY ASSOCIATED WITH DRUG USE**

PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003

Venezuela reports that during 2003 the Ministry of Health and Social Development (MSDS) published the National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS: A focus for health and quality of life, which brings together statistics on morbidity and mortality due to HIV/AIDS from 1982 to 1999.



With regard to the morbidity of hepatitis B and C with regard to endovenous drugs, the lack of information persists.

The country informs that since 2000 it has no statistics in the area, as data processing was stopped due to reorganization, lack of personnel, and technological deficiencies.

Technical assistance has been requested in order to design effective instruments and to train the technical team of CONACUID in data collection, processing, analysis, and follow-up for the system.

CICAD encourages the country to complete its compliance with this recommendation as soon as possible.

#### RECOMMENDATION 4:

##### **CONDUCT A NATIONWIDE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY**

**PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003**

Venezuela reports that during 2003, an epidemiological study was done on drug use among superior education students across the country, with the participation of ten universities, both public and private, covering eight of the twenty-four states in the country with the largest student population and a sample of 11,112 students. This study is in the codifying and inputting stages.

Likewise, an epidemiological study has been planned for 2004 on national drug use among the general population, with the technical and financial assistance of the European Union (EU), as well as the European Observatory on Drugs and Drug Addiction, by virtue of the convention signed by Venezuela and the European Union defining the epidemiological study as the main priority of the project.

CICAD acknowledges the progress made by Venezuela in complying with this recommendation and encourages the country to complete the epidemiological study on national drug use among the general population within the foreseen timeframe.

#### RECOMMENDATION 5:

##### **UPDATE THE EXISTING REGULATIONS ON THE CONTROL AND DIVERSION OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS AND CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES**

**PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003**

Venezuela reports that the current Organic Law on Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances (LOSEP from the Spanish) includes provisions referring to the control of pharmaceutical products and chemical precursors and controlled substances. These provisions are being modified in the reformed LOSEP, which is presently being reviewed by the Legislative Power, to make it better suited to the issues faced today.

Among other changes, it foresees the creation of a National Registry of Chemical Substances, which will control and supervise nation-wide activities involving controlled chemical substances.

This draft law is expected to be approved by the Legislative Power during the second semester of 2004.



CICAD acknowledges the efforts made by Venezuela to implement the recommendation and urges the country to complete its full compliance within the planned deadlines.

#### RECOMMENDATION 6:

#### **ESTABLISH LAWS CRIMINALIZING THE OFFENSE SET FORTH IN ARTICLE VIII OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION**

PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003

Venezuela reports that it has not implemented the recommendation because the new Law Against Corruption in Public Office came into effect on April 7th, 2003, and an amendment is not deemed feasible on the short term. However, it states that the Venezuelan law empowers the cognizant bodies to assist and cooperate with other States whenever a case of transnational bribery arises.

CICAD considers that the crime in Article VIII of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (international bribes) is not effectively penalized, and urges Venezuela to comply with this recommendation.

#### CONCLUSIONS

Venezuela has made progress in implementing most of the six recommendations made in the Second Evaluation Round of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (2001 – 2002)

It has expanded the coverage of its drug use prevention programs, including indigenous groups. It has carried out national epidemiological studies among indigenous populations, and has provided for a research project on the general population during 2004.

Likewise, there is a draft law aimed to change the system to control the diversion of pharmaceutical products and controlled chemical substances, which is being reviewed by the Legislative Power.

However, difficulties persist for reestablishing the morbidity records associated with inappropriate drug use.

On the other hand, the approval of legislation penalizing international bribery is not foreseen.

In general, although there are recommendations pending fulfillment, CICAD acknowledges Venezuela's commitment to the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism and encourages the country in its efforts to comply fully with the recommendations assigned.

