

# Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism MEM



# Honduras

2009 EVALUATION OF PROGRESS IN DRUG CONTROL  
IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS  
FROM THE FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND





**RECOMMENDATION 1:**

**ACCEDE TO THE FOLLOWING PROTOCOLS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001–2002:**

- A. PROTOCOL AGAINST THE SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS BY LAND, SEA AND AIR;**
- B. PROTOCOL AGAINST THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, THEIR PARTS AND COMPONENTS AND AMMUNITION; AND**
- C. PROTOCOL TO PREVENT, SUPPRESS AND PUNISH TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN.**

Honduras reports that:

- The Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air was approved by Congress on August 20, 2008, by means of Legislative Decree 92-2008, and the corresponding instrument was deposited on November 18, 2008.
- The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, was approved by Congress on December 12, 2007, by means of Legislative Decree 169-2007. The instrument of ratification was deposited on February 11, 2008.
- The Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition was approved by Congress on December 12, 2007, by means of Legislative Decree 171-2007. The instrument of ratification was deposited on February 11, 2008.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 2:**

**STRENGTHEN THE HONDURAN OBSERVATORY ON DRUGS IN ORDER TO ENSURE ITS EFFECTIVE OPERATION, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003–2004.**

Honduras reports that it is carrying out several actions for implementation of this recommendation, such as: securing office space for the operation of the Observatory on Drugs; expanding its budget; purchasing furniture, computer equipment, and software; hiring of personnel and initiation of their training; increasing activities to disseminate drug-related information; developing a web page; and compiling studies on drug-related topics, conducted independently by other organizations or individuals.

CICAD recognizes the progress made and urges Honduras to continue its efforts to implement this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned during the Third Evaluation Round, 2003-2004.

**RECOMMENDATION 3:****EXPAND THE COVERAGE OF DRUG USE PREVENTION PROGRAMS DIRECTED AT THE SCHOOL POPULATION.**

Honduras reports that it is currently implementing the program “Valiéndome por mi Mismo” (drug prevention for primary school students), which reached a total of 478 students in different schools in the cities of Tegucigalpa and Comayagua; and the preventive project “Conociéndome” (drug prevention for secondary school students), which reached a total of 899 basic and diversified plan students at various schools in Tegucigalpa and Comayagua.

In addition, in 2007 steps were taken to introduce drug prevention programs in the national education curricula.

CICAD does not have sufficient information to carry out an adequate evaluation, and encourages the country to continue its efforts to implement this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 4:****INITIATE DRUG USE PREVENTION PROGRAMS DIRECTED AT UNIVERSITY STUDENTS.**

Honduras reports that it has scheduled and implemented training workshops for new students at the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH), and has also signed agreements with the Francisco Morazán National Pedagogical University (UPNFM) and the Central American Technological University (UNITEC).

CICAD takes note of the information provided, and encourages the country to continue its efforts to implement this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 5:****CARRY OUT AN EVALUATION OF ONE OF THE COUNTRY’S PRIORITY DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAMS, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003–2004.**

Honduras reports that, in order to determine the impact of the “Valiéndome por mi mismo” and “Conociéndome” programs, the Honduran Institute for the Prevention of Alcoholism, Drug Addiction and Pharmaceutical Dependence (IHADFA) used the pre- and post-test method.

CICAD takes note of the information provided, and urges the country to continue its efforts to implement this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned during the Third Evaluation Round, 2003-2004.

**RECOMMENDATION 6:****DEVELOP INSTRUMENTS FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF TREATMENT SERVICES AND PROGRAMS.**

Honduras reports that it has “Standards for Regulation of Centers Treating Persons with Problems Caused by the Use of Legal and Illegal Substances”, and that work is under way on their implementation.

CICAD takes note of the information provided, and encourages the country to continue its efforts to implement this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 7:****CARRY OUT STUDIES TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT AND CHARACTERISTICS OF DRUG USE IN THE GENERAL POPULATION, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003–2004.**

Honduras reports that it has incorporated studies to determine the extent and characteristics of drug use in the general population into the National Drug Strategy 2009-2013. However, its implementation is still pending.

CICAD takes note of the information provided by Honduras, and urges it to make the necessary efforts to implement this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned in the Third Evaluation Round, 2003-2004.

**RECOMMENDATION 8:****ENSURE THE EFFECTIVE OPERATION OF THE SYSTEM FOR PREVENTING THE DIVERSION OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS, THROUGH THE CREATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A CONTROL MECHANISM, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001–2002.**

Honduras reports that it adopted Regulation 246 to control pseudoephedrine-based pharmaceuticals, has implemented a computer program to record movements of pharmaceutical products, and is taking steps to reactivate the “Pre-Export Notification Online” (PEN Online) system and the United Nations’ “National Drug Control System” (NDS).

In addition, the country reports that it carried out inspections, conducted jointly by the Health Secretariat and the Office of the Director General of Special Services (DGSEI) in pharmacies and laboratories, and informs that it is reviewing its legislation in order to identify the modifications that need to be made.

CICAD takes note of the information provided, and urges the country to make efforts to comply with this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned in the Second Evaluation Round, 2001-2002.

**RECOMMENDATION 9:**

**CARRY OUT RESEARCH AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF THE ILLICIT TRAFFIC OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS AND OTHER DRUGS VIA THE INTERNET, WHICH WILL ENABLE THE COUNTRY TO IDENTIFY ITS REGULATORY AND OPERATIVE NEEDS.**

Honduras reports that it has not initiated the implementation of this recommendation.

CICAD encourages the country to implement this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 10:**

**ENSURE THE EFFECTIVE OPERATION OF THE SYSTEM TO PREVENT THE DIVERSION OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES THROUGH THE CREATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A CONTROL MECHANISM, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001–2002.**

Honduras reports that it implemented an interim data processing application to record chemical substance movements, which will later be replaced by the United Nations' "National Drug Control System" (NDS). Moreover, the country informs that it initiated the process to reactivate the Interagency Commission on Controlled Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products of the National Anti-Drug Trafficking Council (CNCN).

CICAD takes note of the information provided and urges the country to make efforts to implement this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned during the Second Evaluation Round, 2001-2002.

**RECOMMENDATION 11:**

**IMPLEMENT SPECIALIZED TRAINING COURSES ON COMBATING ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING, DIRECTED AT LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL.**

Honduras reports that it has carried out seven training activities on combating illicit drug trafficking and related crimes, in which approximately 260 participants were trained.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 12:**

**EXPAND THE LIST OF PREDICATE OFFENSES FOR MONEY LAUNDERING TO INCLUDE ALL CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES CONSIDERED SERIOUS CRIMES UNDER THE PALERMO CONVENTION (PUNISHABLE BY A MAXIMUM DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY OF AT LEAST FOUR YEARS OR A MORE SERIOUS PENALTY), A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003–2004.**

Honduras reports that Articles 3 and 6 of the Anti-Money Laundering Act (Decree No. 45-2002, in force since June 5, 2002) specify that any crime may be considered a predicate offence for money laundering, regardless of the sanction it carries.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation.



### **RECOMMENDATION 13:**

#### **EXPAND THE SCOPE OF THE LAWS IN FORCE ON MONEY LAUNDERING TO ENCOMPASS OFFSHORE BANKS, REAL ESTATE AGENCIES, LAWYERS, NOTARIES AND ACCOUNTANTS, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND, 2003–2004.**

Honduras reports that the Anti-Money Laundering Act (Decree No. 45-2002) was amended to include real estate agencies and notaries (Article 37). The amendment (Decree No. 3-2008) was published in March 2008. The country reports that regulations remain to be drafted for each sector included in this amendment.

Honduras also indicates that offshore banks are regulated under Resolution No. 012/08-01-2002 of the National Banking and Insurance Commission.

CICAD recognizes the progress made, and urges the country to continue its efforts to implement this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned in the Third Evaluation Round, 2003-2004.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

Honduras implemented three of the 13 recommendations assigned to it during the Fourth Evaluation Round. In addition, it has made progress in eight of the recommendations, and has not initiated the implementation of two.

The country has ratified the three Protocols to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; expanded the list of money laundering predicate offenses to include all those criminal activities defined as serious offenses under this Convention; and carried out specialized training courses on illicit drug trafficking countermeasures for law enforcement personnel.

In addition, Honduras has made progress in strengthening the Honduran Observatory on Drugs and in conducting studies to determine the size and characteristics of drug use among the general population, although the latter effort is still in its initial stage. Moreover, progress is observed in ensuring the correct functioning of its system to prevent diversions of pharmaceuticals and chemicals, through the creation and implementation of a control mechanism. Still pending is the strengthening of the country's national institutions responsible for this area and the updating of its legislation.

With respect to the expansion of money laundering legislation to regulate offshore banks, real estate agencies, lawyers, notaries, and accountants, the country amended its Anti-Money Laundering Act (Decree No. 45-2002) by means of Decree No. 3-2008. The enactment of the corresponding regulations is still pending.

The country uses the unrecognized method of pre- and post-test to evaluate drug abuse prevention programs. CICAD encourages the country to carry out a cohort study, taking into account that this evaluation method is recognized in this area.

CICAD encourages Honduras to take measures to implement training and investigation activities related to the prevention and control of illicit trafficking in pharmaceutical products and other drugs over the Internet, which will enable the identification of its regulatory and operative needs.

CICAD recognizes the participation of Honduras in the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism and encourages it to continue to step up its efforts to implement the pending recommendations.