

M E M M

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism

**Inter-American Drug Abuse
Control Commission
(CICAD)**

**Secretariat for
Multidimensional
Security
(SMS)**

The Bahamas (Common- wealth of)

EVALUATION OF PROGRESS IN DRUG CONTROL

**IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS
FIFTH EVALUATION ROUND**

2012



**Organization of
American States**



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American States



Inter-American Drug Abuse
Control Commission

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)

THE BAHAMAS (COMMONWEALTH OF)

Evaluation of Progress in Drug Control

Implementation of Recommendations from the Fifth Evaluation Round

2012



PREFACE

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) is an instrument designed to measure progress in actions taken by the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) to address the global drug problem and other related offenses.

The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), an OAS specialized agency, implemented this Mechanism in 1998, pursuant to a mandate from the Second Summit of the Americas held in Santiago, Chile in April 1988.

The MEM is not only a diagnostic tool but has also become a vehicle for disseminating information on the progress achieved through the individual and collective efforts of OAS member state governments, catalyzing hemispheric cooperation, promoting dialogue among member state government authorities, and precisely channeling assistance to areas requiring greater attention by optimizing resources.

The evaluation reports are drafted by the Governmental Expert Group (GEG), a multidisciplinary group composed of experts designated from all OAS/CICAD member states. Each expert functions independently from his or her own government, and experts do not participate in the evaluation of their own countries. Additionally, each country has the opportunity to review and comment on the contents of the evaluations, ensuring an open and participatory process.

The Fifth Evaluation Round, covering the period 2007-2009, consisted of two phases. The full evaluation phase assessed progress made by all member states in combating the drug problem in the subject areas of institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction and control measures. This culminated with the publication of national reports containing 350 recommendations for individual member states. The follow-up phase evaluated progress made in the implementation of the recommendations assigned in the Fifth Round.



RECOMMENDATION 1

EVALUATE EXISTING DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAMS.

The Bahamas reports that it has initiated discussions among agencies to provide capacity building in the area of monitoring and evaluation through the training of trainers.

CICAD encourages the country to implement the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 2

IMPLEMENT DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS.

The Bahamas reports that it is piloting the Healthy Promoting University Self Harm and Substance Abuse Initiative at the College of The Bahamas.

CICAD recognizes the progress made and encourages the country to fully implement the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 3

ESTABLISH AN OFFICIAL REGISTER FOR THE NUMBER OF CASES TREATED IN DRUG TREATMENT FACILITIES.

The Bahamas has not commenced implementation of the recommendation.

CICAD encourages the country to implement the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 4

ESTABLISH OFFICIAL OPERATING STANDARDS FOR SPECIALIZED TREATMENT FACILITIES THAT PROVIDE TREATMENT SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH DRUG USE, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001-2002.

The Bahamas reports that the review of its draft minimum standards of care document is ongoing.

CICAD urges the country to implement this reiterated recommendation, given that it was assigned during the Second Evaluation Round, 2001-2002.



RECOMMENDATION 5

CONDUCT A SURVEY ON THE MAGNITUDE OF DRUG USE AMONG THE GENERAL POPULATION.

The Bahamas has not commenced implementation of the recommendation.

CICAD encourages the country to implement the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 6

EXPAND THE COVERAGE OF TRAINING COURSES FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HANDLING AND CONTROL OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND, 2005-2006.

The Bahamas has implemented the recommendation through a number of training courses conducted jointly by The Bahamas National Drug Agency and The Bahamas Pharmacy Association where 170 participants were trained in Supply Management, Record Keeping and Drug Inspector Training.

CICAD views with satisfaction the completion of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 7

IMPLEMENT AN AUTOMATED SYSTEM TO COMPILE INFORMATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND REGULATORY ACTIVITIES TO CONTROL PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS.

The Bahamas has not commenced implementation of the recommendation.

CICAD encourages the country to implement the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 8

IMPLEMENT AN AUTOMATED INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TO FACILITATE THE CONTROL OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES.

The Bahamas has not commenced implementation of the recommendation.

CICAD encourages the country to implement the recommendation.



RECOMMENDATION 9

ESTABLISH LEGISLATION REQUIRING THE MARKING OF FIREARMS FOR THEIR IMPORTATION AND OFFICIAL USE AFTER CONFISCATION OR FORFEITURE.

The Bahamas has not commenced implementation of the recommendation.

CICAD encourages the country to implement the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 10

ESTABLISH A NATIONAL REGISTRY FOR THE IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS.

The Bahamas maintains a register for all firearms, ammunition and explosives imported into the country by the Royal Bahamas Police Force and the Ministry of Works. Additional measures are being taken through the Ministry of National Security.

CICAD takes note of the information provided and encourages the country to implement this recommendation.

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CONCLUSIONS

The Commonwealth of The Bahamas was assigned eleven recommendations during this Fifth Evaluation Round. Of these recommendations, one was implemented, four are in progress, five have not yet commenced and one was withdrawn¹.

In the area of Demand Reduction, the country has made progress in piloting the Healthy Promoting University Self Harm and Substance Abuse Initiative at the College of The Bahamas, the ongoing review of a draft document on minimum standards of care, and on initiating discussions among agencies to provide capacity building in the area of monitoring and evaluation of existing drug abuse prevention programs through the training of trainers. However, the country made no progress on the establishment of an official register for the number of cases treated in drug treatment facilities and on conducting a survey on the magnitude of drug use among the general population.

In the area of Supply Reduction, the country implemented a number of training courses for the handling and control of pharmaceutical products, where participants were trained in Supply Management, Record Keeping and Drug Inspection. Nonetheless, the country did not take action on the implementation of an automated system to compile information on administrative and regulatory activities to control pharmaceutical products and chemical substances.

In the area of Control Measures, The Bahamas made progress on the establishment of a register for firearms, ammunition and explosives imported into the country by the Royal Bahamas Police Force and the Ministry of Works. However, the country did not take action towards establishing legislation requiring the marking of firearms for their importation and official use after confiscation or forfeiture.

CICAD recognizes the participation of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas in the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) process and encourages the country to fully implement the pending recommendations.

¹ Recommendation 11 was withdrawn.

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