Organization of American States – OAS
Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission – CICAD

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism
MEM

Trinidad and Tobago

2005 PROGRESS REPORT IN DRUG CONTROL
IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS
FROM THE THIRD EVALUATION ROUND
RECOMMENDATION 1:

RATIFY THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME, 2000 AND ITS FOLLOWING PROTOCOLS:

A) THE PROTOCOL AGAINST THE SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS BY LAND, SEA AND AIR.

B) THE PROTOCOL TO PREVENT, SUPPRESS AND PUNISH TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

C) SIGN AND RATIFY THE PROTOCOL AGAINST THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, THEIR PARTS AND COMPONENTS AND AMMUNITION

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Trinidad and Tobago reports that it is currently reviewing the existing legislation, in consultation with the International Organization on Migration, for inclusion of the issues of human trafficking in new legislation, to facilitate the ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000 and its Protocols. A request has been prepared for submission to Cabinet to facilitate ratification of the above Protocols and it is anticipated that the process would be completed by 2006.

CICAD recognizes the progress made by Trinidad and Tobago and encourages the country to complete the recommendation within the indicated timeframe.

RECOMMENDATION 2:

EVALUATE DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAMS TO DETERMINE THEIR EFFECTIVENESS

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Trinidad and Tobago reports that the agencies involved in drug abuse prevention have, together with the National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme, developed a standardized form that provides information on the activities, its locations, target groups and results of evaluation completed by participants. This information will be useful in determining the type and effectiveness of the programmes which are delivered, and also provide indicators as to whether there is effective coverage of those persons who are considered “at risk” and other groups. It is expected that all activities in this area are to be completed by the second semester of 2006.

CICAD recognizes the progress made by Trinidad and Tobago and encourages the country to complete the recommendation within the indicated timeframe.
RECOMMENDATION 3:
ESTABLISH A MECHANISM TO ESTIMATE COVERAGE ON DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAMS

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Trinidad and Tobago reports that the National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme has developed an evaluation instrument which is designed to gather data on the extent of the coverage of the prevention programmes delivered by both private and government agencies. It is expected that all activities in this area are to be completed by the second semester of 2006.

CICAD recognizes the progress made by Trinidad and Tobago and encourages the country to complete the recommendation within the indicated timeframe.

RECOMMENDATION 4:
ESTABLISH MINIMUM STANDARDS OF CARE FOR THE TREATMENT OF DRUG ABUSE IN ITS CODE OF PRACTICE, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001–2002

PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2003
REITERATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Trinidad and Tobago reports that the country has developed, in collaboration with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO’s), a Draft Code of Ethics, as the first step towards a collective appreciation of the need for a cohesive approach to be taken to the issue of standards. This Code of Ethics will apply to both Government and NGO’s involved in the provision of services, and therefore form the basis on which the Standards of Care will be developed. The next step will involve the development of minimum standards of care.

Furthermore, the country informs that, in cooperation with CICAD, a workshop will be hosted to assist in developing a comprehensive Standards of Care document. The country expects that the recommendation should be completed by the second semester of 2007.

CICAD expresses its concern over the lack of fulfillment of this recommendation, given that this recommendation was assigned to the country during the Second Evaluation Round, 2001–2002, and urges Trinidad and Tobago to intensify its efforts to fully comply with this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 5:
CONDUCT STUDIES TO DETERMINE THE PREVALENCE OF DRUG USE IN THE COUNTRY, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FIRST EVALUATION ROUND, 1999–2000

PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 2001
REITERATION DATE: JANUARY 2003
JUNE 2005

Trinidad and Tobago reports that the following studies have been completed:

- Rapid Assessment Survey of Out of School Youths with respect to their knowledge, attitude, and/or use of drugs;
• Rapid Assessment survey of Residents in Children Homes;

The country reports that, as a follow up, the following studies are underway:

• Rapid Assessment Survey of the knowledge of attitudes to, and prevalence and patterns of drug use/abuse in primary school students;
• Detection and prevalence of substance abuse and related issues among juvenile offenders;
• Survey of chemically dependent persons in treatment and rehabilitation centers;
• Rapid assessment survey of the knowledge of attitudes to, and prevalence of substance abuse in the general population;
• A study of drug related mortality in the country;
• A survey of students at tertiary institutions in the country—knowledge/attitudes, prevalence and patterns of drug use/abuse.

CICAD views with satisfaction the fulfillment of this recommendation and encourages Trinidad and Tobago to continue with the follow-up surveys.

**RECOMMENDATION 6:**

**ESTABLISH ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL MEASURES OVER THE AREAS OF LICENSE CONTROL, MONITORING, DISTRIBUTION, INSPECTION, INVESTIGATION, TRANSPORT, CONTROL AND PRE-EXPORT NOTIFICATIONS OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES**

**PUBLICATION DATE:** JUNE 2005

Trinidad and Tobago reports that the Cabinet-appointed Precursor Chemical Team has completed the review of the existing legislation and is in the process of drafting new legislation and regulations. The passing of the new legislation and regulations remain as follow-up actions towards full compliance with this recommendation.

CICAD encourages Trinidad and Tobago to continue working to ensure passage of this legislation that would allow the country to establish the recommended administrative control measures.

**RECOMMENDATION 7:**

**UPDATE THE LAW ON MONEY LAUNDERING TO INCLUDE THE CRIMES OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS, HUMAN ORGANS OR TERRORISM AND ITS FINANCING AS PREDICATE OFFENSES, A REITERATED RECOMMENDATION FROM THE SECOND EVALUATION ROUND, 2001–2002**

**PUBLICATION DATE:** JANUARY 2003
**REITERATION DATE:** JUNE 2005

Trinidad and Tobago reports that the Terrorism Law was passed on 13th September 2005 and that this law does not include money laundering, since the offence of money laundering is covered under The Proceeds of Crime Act.
The country also reports its actions for advocating the inclusion of trafficking in human beings and human organs as indictable offences since this would allow them to be pursued under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

CICAD expresses its concern over the lack of fulfillment of this recommendation, given the fact that this recommendation was assigned to the country during the Second Evaluation Round, 2001–2002. CICAD urges Trinidad and Tobago to intensify its efforts to fully comply with this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 8:**

**INSTITUTE TIGHTER CONTROLS REGARDING OFFSHORE BANKS, CURRENCY EXCHANGES, LAWYERS, NOTARIES, ACCOUNTANTS, OR CROSS BORDER MOVEMENT OF MONEY AND OTHER NEGOTIABLE BEARER INSTRUMENTS**

**PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005**

Trinidad and Tobago reports that the country does not facilitate offshore banking. Financial Obligation Regulations are being drafted to include most of the professions listed in the recommendation. One notable exception is lawyers.

The following steps are left in order to complete the implementation of the recommendation:

1. Approval by the Ministry of National Security;
2. Approval by the Ministry of the Attorney General;
3. Passage through both Houses of Parliament;
4. Final Ascension by the President.

CICAD encourages Trinidad and Tobago to continue working to ensure passage of these regulations and to include all the professions, including lawyers, as listed in the recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 9:**

**ADOPT LAWS TO PROVIDE FOR SPECIAL INVESTIGATION TECHNIQUES TO SUPPRESS MONEY LAUNDERING**

**PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005**

Trinidad and Tobago reports that the existing laws have been reviewed and adapted as needed. The Proceeds of Crime Act provides for limited use of special investigation techniques which assist in the suppression of Money Laundering.

Given the lack of relevant information provided by Trinidad and Tobago on the use of special investigation techniques, it is difficult for CICAD to evaluate the country’s concrete status in this area. CICAD encourages Trinidad and Tobago to intensify its efforts to fully comply with this recommendation.
RECOMMENDATION 10:

UPDATE NATIONAL LAWS TO COMBAT TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME TO INCLUDE VICTIM PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Trinidad and Tobago reports that significant progress has been made in this area with the establishment of a specialized unit to address witness protection.

The country has prepared a policy document to inform the development of legislation on Transnational Organized Crime. A recommendation will be made to include Victim Protection and assistance in the drafting of this legislation.

CICAD encourages Trinidad and Tobago to continue working to ensure implementation of the Policy Document and to include Victim Protection in the drafting of the new legislation.

RECOMMENDATION 11:

ADOPT NATIONAL LAWS TO ALLOW FOR SPECIAL INVESTIGATION TECHNIQUES SUCH AS UNDER COVER OPERATIONS, TELEPHONE TAPPING, AND CONTROLLED DELIVERIES

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2005

Trinidad and Tobago reports that it does not have National Laws at this time on these issues as they relate to Transnational Organized Crime, but these matters are engaging the attention of the relevant agencies. It is anticipated that formal representation would be made to the legal drafters in due course, but no specific timeframe could be established for completion of this recommendation at this time.

CICAD takes note of the information provided by Trinidad and Tobago in this regard and encourages the country to continue with its efforts.

CONCLUSIONS

In this Third Evaluation Round, 2003–2004, of the eleven recommendations assigned to Trinidad and Tobago, one recommendation was reiterated from the First Evaluation Round, 1999–2000 and two from the Second Evaluation Round, 2001–2002. Out of these reiterated recommendations, one has been implemented and two have registered progress in their fulfillment. For the eight new recommendations, little progress has been made so far and they require follow-up work.

CICAD recognizes that the country is currently working with the International Organization for Migration to undertake a review of existing legislation to facilitate the ratification of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and on the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. Despite these efforts CICAD notes that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols have not been ratified.
CICAD also notes that initial steps are being taken on a reporting mechanism to evaluate drug abuse prevention programs and their effectiveness, and on a mechanism to estimate the coverage of these programs. CICAD recognizes the initiatives to establish a draft Code of Ethics for NGO’s, but urges the country to establish national minimum standards of care for the treatment of drug abuse.

CICAD recognizes the efforts of the country to establish administrative control measures on controlled chemical substances, as well as to update laws and institute tighter controls on money laundering.

CICAD recognizes the commitment of Trinidad and Tobago to implementing all recommendations made through the MEM, and encourages the country to continue in its efforts.