



OAS | CICAD



7th | Evaluation
Round
M E M

MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

EVALUATOR'S MANUAL

SEVENTH EVALUATION ROUND 2016-2018

INTRODUCTION

This manual, approved by the Inter-American Drug Control Commission of the Organization of American States (OAS/CICAD) during its Sixty-Second Regular Session, is a guide to support the work of the Governmental Expert Group (GEG) that carries out the Seventh Round of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM).

This group's task is to assess the progress made by countries in the implementation of the guidelines issued in the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020, benchmarking the principles of the CICAD Hemispheric Drug Strategy, identifying the objectives to meet and priority actions to achieve them.

Purpose and characteristics

Accordingly, the purpose of this manual is to assist experts in assessing the fulfillment level of each member state in implementing the objectives of the Plan of Action, 2016-2020, of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy.

This manual is a component of the evaluation process in addition to the Evaluation Questionnaire. The Questionnaire is the key instrument of the process, serving as the means to collect information and data that enable the experts in assessing the situation in each country. While taking into account their national reality, domestic legislation and the stage of development of the public policies that are carried out.

The Evaluation Manual, similarly to the Evaluation Questionnaire, mirrors the structure of the five areas outlined in the Plan of Action. Thus, the Manual includes the objectives for each area with its corresponding priority actions. For each priority action, interpretative notes were drafted with the main purpose of assisting experts in the drafting of an assessment on the level of achievement of each objective. The main purpose of drafting the interpretive notes for said actions was a way of assisting experts in assessing the fulfillment level of each objective.

Note that some priority actions were omitted, done selectively and without disregarding the essence of the objectives, also taking into account that the omitted actions are covered in other objectives or were omitted due to difficulties in evaluating those actions during the evaluation period 2014-2018.

Evaluation process documents

During the seventh evaluation round, along with the Evaluator's Manual, the following components are part of the process:

- a) Evaluation Questionnaire: This component is the key instrument of the evaluation process. It contains the questions that the countries must respond, providing the necessary information allowing the GEG to analyze the reality of the country in each of the areas that make up the

Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its Plan of Action 2016-2020. The evaluation period will cover the years 2014 to 2018.

- b) Procedural Manual: This Manual contains a description on the operational process of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), the actors involved in the evaluation process and their respective roles, as well as the general aspects for the GEG's preparation of the reports.
- c) Calendar of Activities: This component outlines the activities for the evaluation process for the MEM Seventh Evaluation Round, including deadlines such as, information submitted by member states, GEG meetings, training activities and official publications.

The evaluation process

The assessment of the drug problem in each country is mainly based on analyzing the responses to the Evaluation Questionnaire by each country. Thus, the first stage of the process is drafting the narrative reports, prepared by the MEM Unit, seeking to organize and systematize the information sent by each country.

Based on this information, the MEM Expert Group should analyze and assess the situation in each country, while considering the interpretative notes of each priority action in this Manual, as well as the information included in the national reports from previous rounds of this Mechanism, as well as other relevant information sources.

The evaluator drafts the corresponding national reports for this round with the information that substantiates marked progress, setbacks and shortcomings in order to provide an objective panorama of the current situation in addressing the drug problem in each country. The evaluation process should access the different development stages of the drug phenomenon present in each country, in addition to the material, financial and human capabilities available to confront it.

After six evaluation rounds, the levels of development of drug strategies in the countries is widely diverse. Also, the manifestations of the phenomenon vary in each country. In some countries there is a higher incidence of demand reduction issues while in others it is more pressing to address the supply reduction shortcomings. Therefore, the evaluation should reflect such intricacies and included in a constructive assessment for countries and used to form national policy.

The evaluation must be comprehensive in the same way that the phenomenon is addressed. The objectives and its priority actions are a whole in its entirety and therefore the evaluation must show links between the responses to the different topics in the Questionnaire. Likewise, not all priority actions can be fulfilled simultaneously. For example, some actions are related to others and their fulfillment depends on the completion of previous steps. Such type of assessments will lead to conclusions that better depict the situation in each country.

National reports should highlight strengths and weaknesses, as well as progress and setbacks of drug plans and/or strategies in each member state in the Hemisphere. Therefore, it is highly important that such reports include assessments at the end of each strategic area, highlighting the necessary reinforcements and strengthening needed to address the drug problem in each country.

While considering the aforementioned, note that the Plan of Action 2016-2020 corresponds to the second period of the current Hemispheric Drug Strategy, and that a new strategy will have to be developed for the next decade.

Characteristics of the national reports

The main characteristics that should form part of each national report are:

- Be evaluative and objective.
- Be relevant to the country and, specifically, to the drug problem in each country.
- Be concise, including the information necessary to fulfill the two previous characteristics.
- Be readable and understandable without consulting other reference documents.
- Contain comparative analysis between the current situation and previous evaluations.
- Be realistic. This is a key criterion to meet the objectives with which the MEM was created.
- Be specific and technical, using clear language, and accurately reflecting information and data.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

OBJECTIVE

1

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN NATIONAL DRUG AUTHORITIES, PLACING THEM AT A HIGH POLITICAL LEVEL AND PROVIDING THEM WITH THE NECESSARY CAPABILITIES AND COMPETENCIES TO COORDINATE NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES IN THE STAGES OF FORMULATION, IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION.

Priority Action 1.1: Place national drug authorities at a high political level. (Questions 1, 2)

Interpretive Note:

The country has a national drug authority¹ placed at a high political level, with the necessary legal/political authority to coordinate drug policies² among relevant agencies.

Priority Action 1.2: Provision of the national drug authorities with the capabilities to guide the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the national drug policies and inter-agency coordination in this area. (Question 4)

Interpretive Note:

The legal basis that upholds the country's national drug authority includes the necessary capabilities to steer the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national drug policies. Said capabilities should allow it to coordinate the work of the various agencies responsible in the matter in order to carry out the aforementioned activities.

¹ The national drug authority(ies) is(are) the central or national governmental body(ies) responsible for the design, coordination and follow-up of the implementation or execution of the national anti-drug plan/strategy.

² Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) guidelines for developing drug policies, notes that national drug bodies be firmly placed, therefore should be, "strong bodies with a legal basis, political will and have decision-making authority. Likewise, should have the necessary budget to sufficiently operate, staff the necessary personnel and implement policy. These national bodies should be the governing body on drugs, drafting drug policy, coordinating work among the various drug-related offices, outlining guidelines, guidance and advising governmental and non-governmental entities on the drug problem and the corresponding drug law enforcement, implementing programs and projects at the national, state, municipal and local levels, while monitoring/following-up on the processes and evaluating results and the impact of programs, projects and initiatives." *How to Develop a National Drug Policy: A Guide for Policymakers, Practitioners and Stakeholders*, (CICAD, 2012)

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Priority Action 1.3: Provision of the necessary resources (material, financial and human) for the effective functioning of the national drug authorities. (Question 3)

Interpretive Note:

The national drug authority of your country, in order to effectively operate, has a budget³ allowing it to finance the necessary human and material resources to implement national drug policies.

Priority Action 1.4: Design or optimize coordination and collaboration mechanisms among government institutions for the formulation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and updating of evidence-based national drug policies and/or strategies. (Question 5)

Interpretive Note:

The country has an ongoing coordination and collaboration mechanism among government agencies, headed by the national drug authority, for the formulation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and updating of the evidence-based national drug plan and/or strategy.

³ An annual budget for the national authority is one that facilitates the administration of its structure, functions, and obligations, as well as any operational activities that might be included in its mandate. This budget is not necessarily meant to cover the cost of specialized agencies in the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, alternative development, and control measures, among others.

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OBJECTIVE

2

FORMULATE, IMPLEMENT, EVALUATE AND UPDATE NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES AND/OR STRATEGIES THAT WILL BE COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED, BASED ON EVIDENCE THAT INCLUDE A CROSS-CUTTING HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE, CONSISTENT WITH OBLIGATIONS OF PARTIES UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW⁴ WITH A FOCUS ON GENDER AND EMPHASIZING DEVELOPMENT WITH SOCIAL INCLUSION.

Priority Action 2.1: Collection and use of evidence as a basis for the formulation and updating of national drug policies and/or strategies. (Questions 6, 7)

Interpretive Note:

The country has mechanisms that allow the compiling and use of evidence as the basis for the developing and updating of the national drug plan and/or strategy. Said plan or strategy should include all the components of the comprehensive drug policy and approved at a governmental level.

Priority Action 2.2: Promotion and establishment, as appropriate, of collaborative relations with the scientific community, public policy experts, community and/or civil society actors that contribute to the development, implementation, evaluation and updating of national drug policies based on evidence. (Question 8)

Interpretive Note:

The country has agencies and/or mechanisms that foster collaborative relations among public institutions and non-governmental actors. Through this coordination, the academic sector, scientific, civil society, international organizations and other pertinent actors have an active role in the process of developing, implementing, evaluating and updating the drug plan and/or strategy.

Priority Action 2.3: Promotion of territorial/local management of drug policies and/or strategies through greater coordination and/or delegation of responsibilities, as appropriate, between sub-national and national agencies, where appropriate. (Questions 9, 10, 11, 12)

Interpretive Note:

The country develops actions geared to local strengthening and training in drug matters, delegating responsibilities and allow for coordination between national and sub-national agencies.

⁴ Full respect for international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, observing the principles of sovereignty and the territorial integrity of States, nonintervention in the internal affairs of States, fundamental liberties, inherent human dignity, and equal rights and mutual respect among States.

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Priority Action 2.4: Formulation and/or the updating of national drug policies and/or strategies, taking into account the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. (Question 13)

Interpretive Note:

The country has a national drug authority that identifies the goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁵ related to the world drug problem and includes them in the national drug plan and/or strategy.

Priority Action 2.5 Integration of a human rights perspective, a gender approach and development with social inclusion in the process of formulation, implementation and updating the national drug policies and/or strategies. (Questions 14, 15, 16)

Interpretive Note:

The country includes the human rights perspective⁶, gender approach⁷ and development with social inclusion in the process of developing, implementing and updating the national drug plan and/or strategy.⁸

⁵ Available at: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

⁶ The Declaration of Antigua Guatemala, *For a Comprehensive Policy Against the World Drug Problem in the Americas* (June 2013), declares that “drug policies must have a crosscutting human rights perspective consistent with the obligations of parties under international law, including the American Convention on Human Rights and other applicable human rights instruments, as well as the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, in order to promote and achieve, inter alia, the well-being of individuals, their social inclusion, access to justice and health.”

⁷ The gender perspective entails recognizing that drug policies have a differential impact on women and men and if these differences are not specifically addressed they tend to amplify and deepen the existing inequalities in human development, product of an androcentric and patriarchal society. Inclusion of a gender perspective entails the actions undertaken within the drug policies framework contributing to closing the gender gap.

The UNGASS 2016 Resolution notes “Mainstream a gender perspective into and ensure the involvement of women in all stages of the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of drug policies and programmes, develop and disseminate gender-sensitive and age-appropriate measures that take into account the specific needs and circumstances faced by women and girls with regard to the world drug problem and, as States parties, implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.”

United Nations, Outcome Document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, *Our Joint Commitment to Effectively Addressing and Countering the World Drug Problem* (New York, 2016).

⁸ Take into account UNGASS operational recommendations 2016 (Resolution A/S-30/L.1). “Operational recommendations on intersectoral matters: drugs and human rights, youth, children and women and communities. The drugs and human rights, youth, women, children, the vulnerable members of communities and society. Proportional policies and responses and efficient, such as legal guarantees and safeguarding that relate to the criminal proceeding and the justice sector.”

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OBJECTIVE

3

DESIGN AND COORDINATE NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES AND/OR STRATEGIES WITH OTHER PUBLIC POLICIES AND/OR STRATEGIES THAT ADDRESS FUNDAMENTAL CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE DRUG PROBLEM.

Priority Action 3.1: Establishment of policy and technical coordination mechanisms, at the interagency and multisectoral levels, for a comprehensive, balanced, and multidisciplinary approach to the drug problem including all its causes and consequences. (Question 17)

Interpretive Note:

The country implements the necessary institutional structure to enable the establishment of permanent/periodic forums for multidisciplinary interinstitutional coordination among agencies responsible for the national drug plan/strategy with agencies responsible for other public policies and/or strategies. These areas have a designated entity responsible for channeling and coordinating the joint work among agencies.

Priority Action 3.2: Design, implementation and evaluation of multisectoral plans and programs aimed at preventing and countering the socioeconomic causes and consequences of the drug problem, from a human rights, public health and development perspective. (Question 18)

Interpretive Note:

From a human rights, public health, gender and development perspective, the country develops, implements and evaluates its plans and programs aimed at the drug problem⁹, on prevention as well as to address the socioeconomic causes and consequences of the drug problem.

⁹ Recognition that the complexity, dynamics and multi-causal nature of the world drug problem requires a comprehensive, balanced and multidisciplinary approach. Addressing this complexity requires a complementary approach among different public policies and establishing coordination mechanisms through the legal, health, education, law enforcement, social services and development programs, among others.

The Resolution approved on April 19, 2016 by the United Nations General Assembly notes, "We reaffirm the need to address the key causes and consequences of the world drug problem, including those in the health, social, human rights, economic, justice, public security and law enforcement fields, in line with the principle of common and shared responsibility, and recognize the value of comprehensive and balanced policy interventions, including those in the field of promotion of sustainable and viable livelihoods."

United Nations, Outcome Document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, *Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem* (New York, 2016).

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Priority Action 3.3: Promotion of the cross-cutting measures that further comprehensive public policies in order to prevent crime, violence, victimization, social exclusion and corruption. (Question 19)

Interpretive Note:

The country facilitates periodic discussion forums among agencies that implement social policies for the integration of cross-cutting areas to prevent crime, violence, victimization, social exclusion and corruption, in the public policies.

Note: Priority actions 3.4 and 3.5 were omitted because they are covered in other objectives or due to difficulties in evaluating during the 2014-2018 period.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

OBJECTIVE

4

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN NATIONAL OBSERVATORIES ON DRUGS (OR SIMILAR TECHNICAL OFFICES) FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL DRUG INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND FOSTERING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THIS AREA.

Priority Action 4.1: Provision of the national observatory on drugs (or similar technical office) with training, and financial, human and technological resources. (Questions 20, 21)

Interpretive Note:

The country has a national observatory on drugs or similar technical office with trained staff, technological resources and the budget necessary to carry out its functions.

Priority Action 4.2: Development, as appropriate, of national drug information systems in the areas of demand and supply reduction, as well as, related crimes. (Question 22)

Interpretive Note:

The country has an organized set of key elements (a national observatory on drugs and a national information network) that allow interactions between stakeholders in order to access, gather, store and transform data into relevant information in order to obtain an exhaustive overview of the drug situation in the country.¹⁰

¹⁰ According to the Manual for the Implementation of a National Observatory on Drugs that was drafted jointly by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission/Organization of American States (CICAD/OAS):

National Drug Observatory: organization whose purpose is to provide its country with factual, objective, reliable and comparable information on drugs, drug addiction and its consequences.

National Drug Information Network: integrates general and specialized sources of advanced information and know-how, as well as systematic monitoring programs and ad hoc studies on target groups.

National Information System on Drugs: organized set of elements that allow the interaction of stakeholders with the purpose of accessing, collecting, storing and transforming data into relevant information to obtain a comprehensive overview of the drug situation in the country, and consists of two fundamental components: a national data collection network and a national drug observatory.

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Priority Action 4.3: Development of national and/or regional drug studies and research on the drug problem on general, specific and hidden populations by the observatory and/or other similar technical agencies, encouraging disaggregation by gender and age, among others. (Questions 23, 24, 25)

Interpretive Note:

The country carries out national studies and investigations on the drug problem in selected populations, using scientific methods, with current, reliable and comparable data related to the drug problem on the basis of various indicators, taking into account gender and age, among other aspects. Among the priority demand reduction studies included: survey of secondary school students, national household survey and patient register of treatment centers. In the area of supply reduction and control measures, the following is the priority information available: drug supply indicators; number of drugs; number of drugs seized; number of persons charged and convicted for drug use, possession and trafficking; number of dismantled laboratories.

Priority Action 4.4: Strengthening the monitoring and evaluation of drug programs and/or interventions, through results and impact indicators, and tools for evidence-based analysis, in the areas of drug demand and supply reduction. (Question 26)

Interpretive Note:

The country has mechanisms to evaluate programs and/or interventions on drugs, both in the demand reduction and supply reduction areas. These mechanisms include a system of basic indicators (priority) and conducting evaluation studies or other scientific analysis tools that support planning, allowing for the evaluation of intervention results and impacts, and provide empirical evidence.

Note: Priority action 4.5 was omitted because it is covered in another objective or due to difficulties in evaluating during the 2014-2018 period.

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OBJECTIVE

5

ENCOURAGE THE DESIGN, ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION FOR LOW-LEVEL DRUG-RELATED OFFENSES, WHILE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT NATIONAL, CONSTITUTIONAL, LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS.

Priority Action 5.1: Assess the feasibility of implementing alternative measures for low-level Drug related offenses to incarceration, where appropriate, safeguarding the sovereignty of States, preventing impunity and respecting human rights. (Question 27)

Interpretive Note:

The country has evaluated the feasibility of implementing alternative measures to incarceration¹¹ for low-level drug offenses¹² in accordance with the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, the Tokyo and Bangkok Rules¹³.

¹¹ The 2015 *CICAD Technical Report on Alternatives to Incarceration for Drug-related Offenses* defines alternatives to incarceration as:

“Any measure (whether legal reforms, strategies, programs or policies) intended to: i) reduce criminal prosecution, ii) limit the use of incarceration as a punishment, or iii) decrease the time of actual deprivation of liberty in the event of incarceration, for individuals who have committed drug-related offenses.”

In this regard, the Report notes:

“Alternatives to incarceration can be grouped into three broad categories according to the stage in judicial proceedings at which they occur. Accordingly, this report refers to: a) Measures taken prior to the opening of a criminal proceeding, and aimed at limiting entry into the criminal justice system; b) Measures applied during criminal proceedings, and aimed at either preventing the criminal case from resulting in incarceration, or making the incarceration proportional to the offense; and c) Measures for prison populations, aimed at providing for early release of convicted and imprisoned individuals along with social integration strategies.”

In order to recognize, review and foster alternatives to incarceration the States can assess suitability of implementation, foster and/or amend legislation, changes to drug polices or implement specific programs.

¹² Low-level offenses are referred to crimes punishable with a maximum sentencing up to a year of incarceration/imprisonment, or crimes punishable with a minimum sentencing of less than six months of incarceration/imprisonment. Notwithstanding those established by the respective legal systems of member states.

¹³ **Tokyo Rules:** United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures. General Assembly Resolution 45/110. 14 December 1990. Available at:

https://www.unodc.org/pdf/criminal_justice/UN_Standard_Minimum_Rules_for_Non-custodial_Measures_Tokyo_Rules.pdf

Bangkok Rules: United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders. General Assembly Resolution 65/229. 21 December 2010. Available at:

https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/Bangkok_Rules_ENG_22032015.pdf

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Priority Action 5.2: Develop mechanisms for the monitoring and evaluation of the various alternative measures to incarceration for low-level drug-related offenses in collaboration, as appropriate, with academic and research institutions. (Question 27)

Interpretive Note:

The country has developed mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the implementation of alternative measures to incarceration for low-level drug offenses, taking into account gender differences, in collaboration with academic and research institutions.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

OBJECTIVE

6

PROMOTE AND IMPLEMENT, AS APPROPRIATE, COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICIES, LAWS AND NEEDS OF EACH COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE VULNERABLE POPULATIONS, WITH DIFFERENT LEVELS AND FORMS OF INVOLVEMENT.

Priority Action 6.1: Design and implementation of, in accordance with the needs of each country, inter-agency and multisectoral programs that promote the social inclusion of individuals and populations affected by the drug problem, especially those in vulnerable situations. (Question 28)

Interpretive Note:

The country develops and implements interinstitutional and multisectoral programs that foster social inclusion¹⁴ of individuals affected by the drug problem, particularly those in vulnerable situations.¹⁵

¹⁴ Social integration in relation to the drug phenomenon means looking both at the processes used for individuals affected by drug abuse and at each of the contexts of intervention. By so doing, we attempt to achieve a consistent, complementary vision and approach to the various factors that determine or affect pathways for prevention, mitigation, and/or rehabilitation, influencing these factors in coordination with other institutions and helping individuals, families, and groups directly affected by the problem to achieve full inclusion with respect to their personal relationships and development and, in general, their life in society. Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, Valdivia Declaration, *On Social Integration: Exclusion and Drug* (Valdivia, Chile, 2014). Available at:

http://www.cicad.oas.org/fortalecimiento_institucional/dtca/ai_dialog/documents/declaracionValdivia_ENG.pdf

¹⁵ The member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) adopted the *2010 Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its Plan of Action 2016-2020*, agreeing upon the fundamental principles that: "In addressing the world drug problem, its impact on poverty and exclusion must be given special emphasis while encouraging the implementation of policies and actions that foster social inclusion and a reduction in those vulnerabilities."

Given that CICAD adopted that the world drug problem as a complex, dynamic and multi-causal issue, it requires policies that foster inclusive social development. The social inclusion programs seek to strengthen social assets and resources of individuals and communities (access to material resources, employment, education, participation, social recognition, among others) in order to reduce vulnerability and/or vulnerability of rights. The concept of vulnerability refers to an impending, temporary and/or evolving condition that can stem from economic recessions, natural disasters, armed conflict and weakening democratic institutions and government, among others.

The Resolution approved on April 19, 2016 by the United Nations General Assembly approves the following measures, among others, aimed at improving the situation of affected and vulnerable populations:

"Continue to identify and address protective and risk factors, as well as the conditions that continue to make women and girls vulnerable to exploitation and participation in drug trafficking, including as couriers, with a view to preventing their involvement in drug-related crime." (UNGASS, 2016)

"Encourage the promotion of inclusive economic growth and support initiatives that contribute to poverty eradication and the sustainability of social and economic development, develop measures for rural development, improving infrastructure and social inclusion and protection, addressing the consequences of illicit crop cultivation and the manufacture and production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances on the environment, with the incorporation and participation of local communities, and consider taking voluntary measures to promote products

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Note: Priority action 6.2 was omitted because it is covered in another objective or due to difficulties in evaluating during the 2014-2018 period.

stemming from alternative development, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, to gain access to markets, consistent with applicable 24 multilateral trade rules and with national and international law, within the framework of comprehensive and balanced drug control strategies.” (UNGASS,2016).

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OBJECTIVE

7

FOSTER PROPORTIONATE SENTENCING, WHERE APPROPRIATE, THAT ADDRESSES THE SERIOUSNESS OF DRUG OFFENSES AND SAFEGUARDING LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Priority Action 7.1: Promotion, when appropriate, within the national drug policy framework, of the respect for the principle of proportionate sentencing for low-level drug-related offenses. (Questions 29, 30)

Interpretive Note:

The country adopts initiatives to foster, in the context of national drug policies, the implementation of a legal framework that includes proportionate sentencing¹⁶ for low-level drug-related offenses¹⁷.

¹⁶ Recognized by international law, the principle of proportionality requires a balance between the harm done and the punishment. Based on the concept that the States should safeguard the fundamental freedoms and rights, avoiding deprivation or excessive restriction, except for the protection of superior legal rights.

CICAD 2015 Technical Report on Alternatives to Incarceration for Drug-related Offenses, states that “The legal principle of proportionality in sentencing means that the punishment for a particular crime should reflect the degree of harm caused to society. This principle necessitates the creation of categories of offenses, of substances, and of offenders, and the assignment of a range of sentencing options applicable to each category. Some Member States are recognizing that their sentencing structures and policing practices do not sufficiently differentiate between such different types of offenses as use, minor supply, and major trafficking, and that reliance on incarceration for most offenses is problematic. Depriving an individual of liberty, especially for an extended period of time, imposes great costs on the individual, their families and communities, and society in general. By enhancing proportionality in criminal sentencing, Member States can ensure that these costs are only assumed when absolutely necessary. Resources saved by not incarcerating the large number of comparatively minor offenders, but imposing other punishments if appropriate, can in turn be re-invested in investigation and prosecution of the higher levels of organized crime, strengthening citizen security. Threshold levels can play a key role in the definition of categories of offenses and sanctions, as long as they are set at realistic levels. Levels may be defined with higher or lower degrees of precision (number of grams, or simply ‘small quantity’); whatever levels are chosen, the actors in the justice system should be flexible, addressing each case individually and remembering the intention behind the levels set.”

CICAD 2015 Technical Report on Alternatives to Incarceration for Drug-related Offenses, states that the proportional approach “incorporates consideration of the different harms to the individual or to society posed by the different substances, the amount of drugs linked to the offender and the behavior and role of the offender in the drug market, on a case by case basis. In particular, a more detailed consideration of the role and characteristics of the offender – such as gender, age, socio-economic status, national origin, lack of guidance as a youth, and physical and mental disabilities – can help authorities recognize and more effectively respond to certain such vulnerabilities, or aggravating circumstances (such as recidivist or violent behavior). The proportional approach should be taken into account at all stages of the judicial system. It may also recognize some criminal justice supervision during treatment or social reintegration programs that may result in the imposition of minor sanctions of short duration to encourage compliance.”

¹⁷ Low-level offenses are referred to crimes punishable with a maximum sentencing up to a year of incarceration/imprisonment, or crimes punishable with a minimum sentencing of less than six months of incarceration/imprisonment. Notwithstanding those established by the respective legal systems of member states.

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Note: Priority action 7.2 was omitted because it is covered in another objective or due to difficulties in evaluating during the 2014-2018 period.

DEMAND REDUCTION

DEMAND REDUCTION

OBJECTIVE

1

ESTABLISH DEMAND REDUCTION POLICIES WITH A PUBLIC HEALTH FOCUS THAT ARE EVIDENCE-BASED, COMPREHENSIVE, MULTIDISCIPLINARY, MULTISECTORAL, AND RESPECTFUL OF HUMAN RIGHTS, CONSIDERING THE GUIDELINES AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS OF SPECIALIZED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

Priority Action 1.1: Establishment and/or update of programs in the areas of prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and social integration, taking into account gender, age and cultural relevance, as appropriate. (Questions 1, 2)

Interpretive Note:

The country establishes and/or updates evidence-based programs¹ in the areas of prevention, treatment² and social integration³ taking into account human rights, inter-cultural⁴, age difference⁵ and gender approaches.

Priority Action 1.2: Creation and/or strengthening of dissemination and access mechanisms for drug use related information and evidence and, on the prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and social integration services, for the general public and different target populations, with the participation of universities and research centers. (Question 3)

Interpretive Note:

The country creates or has mechanisms for dissemination and access to information⁶ and the evidence associated to drug abuse and on prevention, treatment, and social integration services for general and specific populations with the participation of universities and research centers.

¹ "A program should have the following minimum elements: objectives, activities, timeframe or work plan, identified and allocated resources, target or aimed population, setting location, space and implementation timetable."

² High-quality treatment and tailored to the individual needs of each person that is either directly or indirectly affected by alcohol and other drug use, always using the inpatient modality as the last therapeutic recourse and when it is duly justified. It can be offered either by/or in coordination with community/neighborhood centers, primary care centers, detox centers and services, centers specialized in acute management and clinical stabilization, outpatient approach centers, halfway houses, low-threshold centers and inpatient facilities. Rehabilitation is a component of treatment.

³ Any social intervention with the aim of integrating former or current problem drug users into the community. The three 'pillars' of social reintegration are (1) housing, (2) education and (3) employment (including vocational training). May also be referred to as "social reintegration or social re-insertion."

⁴ **Inter-cultural approach:** Including the cultural diversity and the needs related to it in designing health programs and services, while respecting, accompanying and valuing cultural differences in practice and from a viewpoint of community actors.

⁵ **Age difference approach:** refers to the needs during different life stages: childhood, adolescence, adulthood.

⁶ **Mechanisms for dissemination of and access to information:** Tools for the promotion and dissemination of prevention, treatment and social integration services. Examples of dissemination of and access to information mechanisms are: social networks, mass media publicity, brochures, toll-free phone lines, information published in governmental web portals, dissemination through publicity and communication campaigns.

DEMAND REDUCTION

Priority Action 1.3: Carry out processes and results-based evaluations of demand reduction programs. (Questions 4, 5, 6)

Interpretive Note:

The country carries out the monitoring and evaluation (process, intermediate outcome, impact),⁷ of demand reduction programs through different instruments⁸ respectful of the international standards.⁹ The monitoring includes continuous reports regarding the activities carried out, their products and results. The evaluation is carried out periodically to measure the progress made towards the goals and targets set for the demand reduction programs. The information generated is widely available to relevant actors, including those who design and implement programs.

Priority Action 1.4: Implementation, as appropriate, of coordination mechanisms with civil society and other social actors, academic and research institutions for the development and implementation of demand reduction programs. (Question 7)

Interpretive Note:

The country carries out coordination mechanisms for the development and implementation of demand reduction programs, which allow the participation of and engagement with civil society and other social stakeholders,¹⁰ academic and research institutions. These coordination mechanisms may be formal or informal provided that their use can be accredited on a regular basis.

⁷ **Process evaluation:** includes documenting each step of the design of a specific intervention, to determine its efficacy, efficiency and effectiveness. It seeks to determine whether the intervention efficiently meets its short term goals, has successfully reached the target population, and the materials used are appropriate.

Intermediate outcome evaluation: assesses the effectiveness of the program; that is, what the project is expected to change. The outcome may include changes in behavior, status, attitude or certification of the beneficiaries after receiving the program's goods or services. The importance of the intermediate outcome evaluation lies in the expectation that the results will drive the final outcome (impact) of the program or project.

Impact evaluation: This is an assessment of the final outcomes of key actions or inputs relative to what would have occurred in the absence of an intervention. These results indicate a change in the conditions of the target population directly attributable to these actions. In some instances it is difficult to carry out these measurements, due to the difficulty in isolating the effects of other external variables and/or because many of these effects are long term.

⁸ The instruments referred to are those of diagnostics, process, results and audits. The mode of collecting information could be quantitative and/or qualitative, for example: structured surveys, in-depth interviews, etc.

⁹ For example: For prevention: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention* (Sao Paulo, 2013). For treatment: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)/World Health Organization (WHO), *International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders* (Vienna, 2016).

¹⁰ **Other social stakeholders:** local stakeholders, neighborhood referents, social movements, community organizations, neighborhood meetings, non-governmental organizations (NGO) and other civil society associations (including women's organizations).

DEMAND REDUCTION

Priority Action 1.5 Promotion, as appropriate, of national prevention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration measures and programs, in the context of comprehensive and balanced drug demand reduction efforts, effective measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse. Promoting in that regard the use, as appropriate, of the technical guide for countries to set targets for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care for injecting drug users, issued by the World Health Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS. (Question 8)

Interpretive Note:

The country promotes the implementation of effective measures which are evidence-based and respectful of human rights aimed at minimizing the adverse consequences of drug abuse for society and public health, promoting, as appropriate, a technical guide jointly published by the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)¹¹ for countries to set targets for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care for injecting drug users.

¹¹ WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS, *Technical Guide for Countries to Set Targets for Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for Injecting Drug Users* (2012 revision). Available at: http://www.who.int/hiv/pub/idu/targets_universal_access/en/.

DEMAND REDUCTION

OBJECTIVE 2

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF UNIVERSAL, SELECTED AND INDICATED PREVENTION PROGRAMS ON DRUG USE, GIVING PRIORITY TO VULNERABLE AND AT-RISK POPULATIONS, EVIDENCE-BASED AND INCORPORATING A HUMAN RIGHTS, GENDER, AGE AND MULTICULTURAL APPROACH.

Priority Action 2.1: Development and implementation of evidence-based drug use prevention strategies and/or programs in the school, family, work, and community spheres. (Question 9)

Interpretive Note:

The country has drug abuse prevention (universal¹² and/or selective and/or indicated) strategies and/or programs targeting schools, families, work, communities and other specific population groups.

Note: Priority actions 2.2 and 2.3 were omitted because they are covered in other objectives or due to difficulties in evaluating during the 2014-2018 period.

Priority Action 2.4: Implementation of selective prevention programs aimed at boys and girls, adolescents and at-risk youth. (Question 9)

Interpretive Note:

The country implements evidence-based selective prevention programs¹³ aimed at children (boys and girls), adolescents and at-risk youth.

Priority Action 2.5: Development of indicated prevention programs aimed at individuals with problematic drug use. (Question 9)

Interpretive Note:

The country implements evidence-based indicated prevention programs¹⁴ aimed at individuals with problematic drug use.

¹² **Universal prevention:** Target the general population, such as all students in a school. This level of prevention strengthen values, attitudes, knowledge and abilities that allow the child or youth to lead a healthy and drug-free lifestyle. *CICAD Hemispheric Guidelines on School-Based Prevention* (Washington D.C., 2005).

¹³ **Selective prevention:** Target at-risk groups or subgroups of the general population, such as children of drug-users or poor school achievers. *CICAD Hemispheric Guidelines on School-Based Prevention* (Washington D.C., 2005).

¹⁴ **Indicated prevention:** Are designed for people who are already experimenting with drugs or who exhibit other risk-related behaviors. *CICAD Hemispheric Guidelines on School-Based Prevention* (Washington D.C., 2005).

DEMAND REDUCTION

OBJECTIVE

3

ESTABLISH AND STRENGTHEN, AS APPROPRIATE, A NATIONAL TREATMENT, REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION SYSTEM FOR PEOPLE WITH PROBLEMATIC DRUG USE, INCLUDING A HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER-BASED APPROACH, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED QUALITY STANDARDS.

Priority Action 3.1: Implementation and strengthening of comprehensive care, treatment, rehabilitation, and social inclusion programs and services in the public health care network, and/or social protection, guaranteeing access-free of discrimination. (Question 10)

Interpretive Note:

The country has a comprehensive network of programs and comprehensive care treatment and social integration devices¹⁵ in the public health and/or social networks, ensuring non-discrimination, with a gender focus.

Priority Action 3.2: Monitor and evaluation of the results of the care, treatment, rehabilitation, social reintegration of programs and comprehensive facilities, taking into account, gender, age and cultural relevance, as appropriate. (Question 11, 12, 14)

Interpretive Note:

The country has mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment and social integration programs, taking into account criteria of gender, culture and age group relevance, as appropriate.

Priority Action 3.3: Promotion of measures to protect the rights of the persons in treatment programs and services. (Question 13)

Interpretive Note:

The country has formally established mechanisms to ensure respect for the rights of people with problematic drug use who are receiving professional care, with a gender perspective.

Note: Priority action 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6 were omitted because they are covered in other objectives or due to difficulties in evaluating during the 2014-2018 period.

¹⁵ From a mental health perspective, the notion of devices refers to the idea of different assistance procedures. A device is one that is constructed in a cunning way and focuses actions to obtain measurable results, in order to reach a defined objective, in this case being the highest level of health and well-being, as possible.

DEMAND REDUCTION

OBJECTIVE

4

FOSTER ONGOING TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION OF HUMAN RESOURCES THAT PROVIDE PREVENTION, TREATMENT, REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL REINTEGRATION SERVICES.

Priority Action 4.1: Implementation of ongoing competency-based training mechanism, in collaboration with academic institutions and those specializing in the area. (Questions 16, 17, 18)

Interpretative Note:

The country offers ongoing competency-based training through recognized institutions/universities in the prevention, treatment and social integration areas.

Priority Action 4.2: Development of basic, intermediate and advance criteria for certification, by levels and human resources competencies, that provides prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration. (Question 19)

Interpretative Note:

The country has developed criteria for the certification of personnel who provide prevention, treatment and social integration services. The country offers certification at the basic, intermediate and advance levels in these areas.

Priority Action 4.3: Conduct a situational diagnosis to identify the necessities for human resources training working in prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration programs. (Question 15)

Interpretative Note:

The country conducts an assessment to determine the training needs of personnel working in the prevention, treatment and social integration programs.

DEMAND REDUCTION

OBJECTIVE 5

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES TO REGULATE, ENABLE, ACCREDIT AND SUPERVISE PREVENTION PROGRAMS AND, CARE AND TREATMENT SERVICES.

Priority Action 5.1: Establishment and implementation of regulatory measures that include quality criteria for the accreditation of prevention programs and, care and treatment services. (Questions 20, 21)

Interpretive Note:

The country has and implements regulation measures for the accreditation of the prevention programs and, care and treatment services.

Priority Action 5.2: Establishment of supervisory mechanisms to ensure that the quality criteria of the prevention programs and, care and treatment services are met. (Question 22, 23)

Interpretive Note:

The country establishes supervisory mechanisms to ensure that the quality criteria of the prevention programs and, care and treatment services are met.

Priority Action 5.3: Development of assessments on national needs and, care and treatment services offered. (Question 24)

Interpretive Note:

The country conducts an assessment to determine the national needs regarding care and treatment services.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

SUPPLY REDUCTION

OBJECTIVE

1

DESIGN, IMPLEMENT AND STRENGTHEN COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED POLICIES AND PROGRAMS, AIMED AT PREVENTING AND DECREASING THE ILLICIT SUPPLY OF DRUGS, IN ACCORDANCE TO THE TERRITORIAL REALITIES OF EACH COUNTRY AND RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS.

Priority Action 1.1: Design, implementation, and update of, as appropriate, national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit cultivation and production of drugs. (Question 1)

Interpretive Note:

The country designs, implements and updates, as appropriate, the national policies and programs to prevent and decrease the illicit cultivation and production of drugs, in accordance with the legal provisions of each country.

Priority Action 1.2: Establishment of budgetary mechanisms to ensure the sufficient and predictable allocation of resources to illicit supply of drugs reduction programs. (Question 2)

Interpretive Note:

The country makes budgetary allocations to finance illicit supply of drugs reduction programs, while respecting human rights.

Priority Action 1.3: Promotion of illicit supply reduction measures that take due account of licit traditional uses, whenever there is historical evidence of such uses, as well as, environmental protection. (Question 3, 4)

Interpretive Note:

The country fosters measures to counter illicit supply of drugs respecting licit traditional uses, whenever there is historical evidence of such uses. These measures are made in coordination with the country's environmental policy.

Priority Action 1.4: Strengthening of interagency cooperation to provide a comprehensive response to the illicit production of drugs, in the framework of the responsibilities and mandates of each agency, including collaboration among the public and private sectors and the international community. (Question 5)

Interpretive Note:

The country has mechanisms for interinstitutional cooperation between the agencies responsible for dealing with illicit production of drugs including public and private sector collaboration and with the international community within the framework of shared responsibility in order to provide effective and comprehensive response to the illicit production of drugs.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

Priority Action 1.5: In cooperation with civil society, as appropriate, supplement supply reduction programs with crime prevention initiatives that address social and economic risk factors. (Question 6)

Interpretive Note:

The country carries out drug-related crime prevention initiatives to supplement its illicit supply reduction programs, in collaboration with civil society and other social actors¹ and with emphasis placed on social and economic risk factors.

Note: Priority action 1.6 was omitted because it is covered in another objective or due to difficulties in evaluating during the 2014-2018 period.

¹ **Other social stakeholders:** local stakeholders, neighborhood referents, social movements, community organizations, neighborhood meetings, non-governmental organizations (NGO) and other civil society associations (including women's organizations).

SUPPLY REDUCTION

OBJECTIVE 2

DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT MECHANISMS TO COLLECT AND ANALYZE INFORMATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES AND ACTIONS AIMED AT DECREASING THE ILLICIT SUPPLY OF DRUGS.

Priority Action 2.1: Implementation, revision and update of mechanisms or systems used for collecting and analyzing information related to the illicit supply of drugs. (Question 7)

Interpretive Note:

The country has mechanisms or systems to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs.

Priority Action 2.2: Conducting periodic studies and research that contributes to knowledge on the current situation of the illicit supply of drugs within national borders, such as, structural and socioeconomic factors, as appropriate. (Question 8)

Interpretive Note:

The country carries out periodic studies and research, as appropriate, on the structural and socioeconomic factors, including the gender perspective, that contribute to increased knowledge on the illicit supply of drugs within the national borders.

Priority Action 2.3: Preparation and update of, as appropriate, scientific studies and research on medicinal uses and other legal use of plants containing narcotic and psychotropic substances subject to the international control system. (Question 9)

Interpretive Note:

The country prepares or updates, according to its needs, studies and/or research on medicinal and scientific uses and other legal use of crops containing narcotic and psychotropic substances subject to the international control system.

Note: Priority action 2.4 was omitted because it is covered in another objective or due to difficulties in evaluating during the 2014-2018 period.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

Priority Action 2.5: Promotion of the identification of chemical profiles and characteristics of drugs subject to the international control system, as well as, new psychoactive substances, enabling a better understanding of the dynamics of the supply of these substances. (Questions 10, 11)

Interpretive Note:

The country promotes and implements mechanisms for the identification of chemical profiles and characteristics of drugs² subject to the international control system, as well as, new psychoactive substances (NPS)³, in order to better understand the dynamics of the supply of these substances.

Priority Action 2.6: Promotion of standardized and comparable methodologies for the measurement of illicit crops and drug production, for the design and implementation of policies and programs, as appropriate. (Question 12)

Interpretive Note:

The country, in accordance to its needs, uses standardized and comparable methodologies⁴ to measure illicit crops and drug production.

² **Drug characterization and impurity profiling:** The use of scientific laboratory information in support of law enforcement operation work, and is aimed at establishing links between drug samples. It consists of the systematic collection and sharing, in a standardized form, of physical and chemical information on a drug seizure, including the analysis and use of trace impurities to link different drug samples.

³ **New psychoactive substances (NPS):** Substances of abuse, either in a pure form or a preparation, that are not controlled by the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs or the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, but which may pose a public health threat. The term “new” does not necessarily refer to new inventions — several NPS were first synthesized 40 years ago — but to substances that have recently become available on the market. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), *UNODC Early Warning Advisory (EWA) on New Psychoactive Substances*. Available at: <https://www.unodc.org/LSS/Page/NPS>

⁴ Such as satellite imagery, scientific studies of crop yields or efficiency of typical illicit drug laboratories, among others.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

OBJECTIVE

3

DESIGN, IMPLEMENT AND/OR STRENGTHEN LONG-TERM PROGRAMS WHICH ARE BROAD AND AIMED AT DEVELOPMENT THAT INCLUDES RURAL AND URBAN ALTERNATIVE, INTEGRAL AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, AND, AS APPROPRIATE, PREVENTIVE ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICIES, LEGISLATIONS AND NEEDS OF EACH COUNTRY, AS APPROPRIATE.

Priority Action 3.1: Design and implementation of alternative, integral and sustainable development programs, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate. (Question 13)

Interpretive Note:

The country has designed and implemented alternative, integral and sustainable development programs, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, as a component of strategies for the control and reduction of illicit crops.

Priority Action 3.2: Exchange experiences and best practices in the design and implementation of alternative, integral and sustainable development, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate. (Question 14)

Interpretive Note:

The country exchanges experiences and best practices with countries in the hemisphere on the design and implementation of alternative, integral and sustainable development programs, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate.

Note: Priority action 3.3 was omitted because it is covered in another objective or due to difficulties in evaluating during the 2014-2018 period.

Priority Action 3.4: Design and/or continuous improvement for monitoring and evaluation systems for alternative, integral and sustainable development programs, among others, aimed at reducing illicit crops and improving the well-being of communities, through results, intermediate and outcome indicators, to measure the effectiveness they have in the medium and long term. (Question 15)

Interpretive Note:

The country uses intermediate and/or outcome results indicators to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of alternative, integral and sustainable development programs, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, in the medium and long term that support the measurement of the impact on the economic and social development of individuals and communities, as well as on reducing illicit crops.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

Priority Action 3.5: Strengthening of the presence of the state in areas affected or at-risk by the illicit cultivation in drug production, where it is implemented, consistent with the circumstances of each State, the alternative, integral and sustainable development strategy, including preventive development, as appropriate, with a focus on inclusive intervention that guarantees conditions allowing for sustainable legitimate economies. (Question 16)

Interpretive Note:

The country strengthens the presence of state agencies in zones affected or at risk of being affected by illicit crops containing narcotic and psychotropic substances, through the implementation of the alternative, integral and sustainable development strategy, including preventive development, as appropriate; and the activities that are carried out by the different governmental agencies in these zones.

Priority Action 3.6: Promotion, in accordance with the circumstances of each State, of the participation of local communities and relevant organizations in the alternative, integral and sustainable development strategy, in order to take their needs and capabilities into account. (Question 17)

Interpretive Note:

The country promotes the participation of communities and target groups⁵ in the design, implementation and supervision of alternative, integral and sustainable development projects and programs, including preventive development, as appropriate.

Priority Action 3.7: Design, as appropriate, of urban sustainable development initiatives for those affected by illicit drug-related activities to foster public participation in crime prevention, community cohesion, protection and safety, and to stimulate innovation, entrepreneurship and employment. (Question 18)

Interpretive Note:

The country promotes crime prevention,⁶ community cohesiveness, protection and security of urban populations affected by illicit activities on drug trafficking and related crimes, through sustainable urban development⁷ initiatives and the promotion of innovation, entrepreneurial spirit and employment.

⁵ Local stakeholders, neighborhood referents, social movements, community organizations, neighborhood meetings, non-governmental organizations (NGO) and other civil society associations (including women's organizations), as appropriate.

⁶ **Crime prevention:** comprises strategies and measures that seek to reduce the risk of crimes occurring, and their potential harmful effects on individuals and society, including fear of crime, by intervening to influence their multiple causes. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), *Compendium of United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*, page 294. Available at: https://www.unodc.org/pdf/criminal_justice/Compendium_UN_Standards_and_Norms_CP_and_CJ_English.pdf

⁷ **Sustainable urban development:** "a process of co-evolution and synergic integration between the three subsystems that make up the city: the economic, the social and the physical environment." *El Desarrollo Urbano Sostenible*. Available in Spanish only at: <https://dialnet.unirioja.es/servlet/articulo?codigo=65353>.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

Note: Priority actions 3.8 and 3.9 were omitted because they are covered in other objectives or due to difficulties in evaluating during the 2014-2018 period.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

OBJECTIVE

4

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT PLANS AND/OR PROGRAMS TO MITIGATE AND REDUCE THE IMPACT OF ILLICIT CROPS AND DRUG PRODUCTION ON THE ENVIRONMENT, WITH THE INCORPORATION AND PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NATIONAL POLICIES OF MEMBER STATES.

Priority Action 4.1: Conduct research and studies on the environmental impact of crop cultivation and illicit production of drugs. (Question 19)

Interpretive Note:

The country carries out research and studies to determine the characteristics and extent of the environmental impact caused by the illicit cultivation of crops and illicit drug production.

Priority Action 4.2: Design and implementation of specific plans which, based on the results obtained from research and studies, geared to mitigating and reducing the environmental impact of illicit crop cultivation and drug production, with the participation of local communities. (Question 20)

Interpretive Note:

The country develops and implements, based on the results of research and studies, specific plans to mitigate and reduce the negative environmental impact of the illicit cultivation of crops and illicit drug production, within the framework of the each country's environmental policies, which includes participation of local communities.

Note: Priority action 4.3 was omitted because it is covered in another objective or due to difficulties in evaluating during the 2014-2018 period.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

OBJECTIVE 5

ESTABLISH, AS APPROPRIATE, AND BASED ON EVIDENCE THE EFFECTS CAUSED BY SMALL-SCALE DRUG TRAFFICKING ON PUBLIC HEALTH, THE ECONOMY, SOCIAL COHESION AND CITIZEN SECURITY.

Priority Action 5.1: Development of characterization methodologies with a territorial approach to the phenomena of micro-trafficking. (Question 21)

Interpretive Note: The country has developed characterization methodologies,⁸ with territorial and socio-economic approaches, for micro-drug trafficking or small-scale drug trafficking⁹ and the effects on public health, the economy, social cohesion and citizen security.

Priority Action 5.2: Promotion of the exchange of information to better understand the scope of the adverse effects of small-scale drug trafficking, including those on health, society, the economy, and security. (Question 22)

Interpretive Note: The country exchanges information on the adverse effects of small-scale drug trafficking or micro-drug trafficking on health, society, the economy and security.

⁸ **Characterization methodologies:** Research mechanisms that explain a given phenomenon, taking into account socio-economic variables (age, gender socio-economic level, educational level).

⁹ For the purposes of this objective, the terms “micro-trafficking” and “small-scale drug trafficking” are used interchangeably to refer to this phenomenon.

CONTROL MEASURES

CONTROL MEASURES

OBJECTIVE

1

ADOPT AND/OR STRENGTHEN COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED PROGRAMS AIMED AT PREVENTING AND REDUCING DRUG TRAFFICKING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERRITORIAL REALITIES OF EACH COUNTRY AND RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS.

Priority Action 1.1: Implementation of procedures and strengthening of human resources capabilities to detect, investigate, and dismantle laboratories or facilities for the illicit manufacture of drugs. (Question 1)

Interpretive Note:

The country has carried out structured, chronologically and sequentially organized, and coordinated activities among its authorities to recognize, examine, and, if appropriate, dismantle laboratories or facilities for the illicit processing or manufacture of drugs, employing effective security measures to prevent harms to human health derived from being exposed to different substances, including minimizing the negative impact on the environment. These activities are carried out with full respect for human rights.

Priority Action 1.2: Strengthening of the design, update and implementation of programs aimed at land, riverine, maritime and aerial interdiction, by the national authorities. (Question 2)

Interpretive Note:

Within their powers, the national authorities carry out ongoing interdiction activities via land, riverine, air and sea to detect and seize drugs; to continuously strengthen the contents of the current and/or existing programs and/or strategies to ensure its multidisciplinary and comprehensive approach.

Priority Action 1.3: Review and update, as appropriate, legal frameworks related to the use of specialized investigation tools and techniques. (Question 3)

Interpretive Note:

The country, as appropriate, reviews and updates the legal framework related to the use of specialized investigation tools and techniques.

Priority Action 1.4: Training of personnel involved in interdiction operations linked to regulations, processes and procedures related to drugs and related crimes, as well as, specialized investigative techniques and intelligence. (Question 4)

Interpretive Note:

The country implements or has training, programs, workshops, seminars, diploma programs or other similar activities on regulations, processes and procedures on drug trafficking and related crimes, including such issues as promotion and protection of human rights in order to

CONTROL MEASURES

improve the capacities of the stakeholders involved in interdiction operations and in specialized investigation and intelligence techniques.

Priority Action 1.5: Review and/or update, as appropriate, the follow-up mechanisms of the evolution of drug trafficking and related crimes, for the purpose of identifying new trends and threats. (Question 5)

Interpretive Note:

The country uses different means, methods, tools and technologies, in any link in the illicit supply chain of drugs and related offenses to identify new trends and patterns, modus operandi, and emerging threats of criminal organizations.

Priority Action 1.6: Definition and implementation of coordinated actions that make it possible to dismantle organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes. (Question 6)

Interpretive Note:

The country prepares and defines interinstitutional collaboration mechanisms and implements focused operations to identify, locate and dismantle criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes to weaken their structures. These activities carried out with full respect for human rights.

Priority Action 1.7: Enhancement of the capacity of forensic laboratories or similar entities to analyze chemical substances, precursors and pharmaceutical products, including the new psychoactive substances. (Question 7, 8)

Interpretive Note:

The country has a national authority with the appropriate infrastructure (forensic laboratories or similar entities), equipment and training in order to identify chemical substances, precursors and pharmaceutical products, including the new psychoactive substances¹.

¹ **New psychoactive substances (NPS):** Substances of abuse, either in a pure form or a preparation, that are not controlled by the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs or the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, but which may pose a public health threat. The term “new” does not necessarily refer to new inventions — several NPS were first synthesized 40 years ago — but to substances that have recently become available on the market. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), *UNODC Early Warning Advisory (EWA) on New Psychoactive Substances*. Available at: <https://www.unodc.org/LSS/Page/NPS>.

CONTROL MEASURES

OBJECTIVE

2

ADOPT AND/OR STRENGTHEN CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DIVERSION OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES TOWARDS ILLICIT ACTIVITIES.

Priority Action 2.1: Promotion of inter-agency coordination in order to improve cooperation with industry in preventing diversion of chemical substances. (Questions 9, 10, 11, 12)

Interpretive Note:

The country has a competent national authority that develops guides, codes of conduct or other instruments to inform the industry and users in general of controlled chemical substances. Said authority is responsible for coordinating control of domestic trade and to perform inspection and audit of establishments.

Priority Action 2.2: Conduct analyses, including the exchange of information through existing mechanisms, of substances, their analogs and precursors which pose a threat to public health in member states for expedited international control. (Question 13)

Interpretive Note:

The country implements expedited and timely monitoring and information exchange systems through existing mechanisms in the international field to detect controlled or not controlled substances, their analogs and precursors² which pose a threat to public health.

Priority Action 2.3: Strengthening of the existing control system to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances. (Question 14, 15, 16, 17)

Interpretive Note:

The country has strengthened its legislation by incorporating all the control measures in Article 12, Paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 of the 1988 United Nations Convention³ to prevent diversion of controlled chemical substances towards illicit activities.

Priority Action 2.4: Promote the participation, at the national level, in the pre-export notification system of controlled chemical substances. (Question 18)

Interpretive Note:

The country promotes participation in the pre export notification (International Narcotics Control Board's - INCB PEN Online) information system for controlled chemical substances.⁴

Priority Action 2.5: Training of relevant drug control personnel on the identification and handling of controlled chemical substances. (Question 19)

² All of the substances included in tables I and II of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Vienna, 1988).

³ United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Vienna, 1988).

⁴ As per paragraph 10, Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Vienna, 1988).

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Interpretive Note:

The country's drug control personnel received the necessary training to identify and handle controlled chemical substances, providing information on the training in this area and the institution providing the training.

CONTROL MEASURES

OBJECTIVE 3

ADOPT AND/OR STRENGTHEN CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DIVERSION TOWARDS ILLICIT ACTIVITIES OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS CONTAINING PRECURSOR SUBSTANCES OR THOSE CONTAINING NARCOTIC DRUGS AND/OR PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, ENSURING THE ADEQUATE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESS SOLELY FOR MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES.

Priority Action 3.1: Implementation of measures to control pharmaceutical products that contain precursor substances, narcotics or psychoactive substances, in order to prevent their diversion to non-medical purposes. (Questions 20, 21, 22)

Interpretive Note:

The country implements measures for the control of pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics or psychotropic substances, in order to prevent their diversion for non-medical purposes.

Priority Action 3.2: Update of existing regulations and control measures to prevent diversion of pharmaceutical products containing narcotic drugs and/or psychotropic substances. (Question 23)

Interpretive Note:

The country has effective regulations and control measures to prevent diversion of pharmaceutical products containing narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances.

CONTROL MEASURES

OBJECTIVE

4

ENSURE ADEQUATE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF SUBSTANCES SUBJECT TO INTERNATIONAL CONTROL SOLELY FOR MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES, PREVENTING THEIR DIVERSION.

Priority Action 4.1: Streamlining, in accordance with national legislation, the process for issuing import and export authorizations for controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes. (Questions 24, 25)

Interpretive Note:

The country has mechanisms, established in accordance with legislation to expedite the process for issuing import and export authorizations for controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes.

Priority Action 4.2: Adoption of measures, in accordance with national legislation, to provide capacity building for national competent authorities and health professionals, on the proper access to substances subject to international control solely for medical and scientific purposes. (Question 26)

Interpretive Note:

The country has training programs for competent authorities and health professionals, promote awareness among health practitioners and adequate access to controlled substances solely for medical and scientific purposes.

Priority Action 4.3: Improvement of access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes by appropriately addressing existing barriers, including those related to legislation, regulations and health care systems, among others, while preventing their diversion, abuse and trafficking. (Question 27)

Interpretive Note:

The country has established an effective regulatory framework, which promotes easy and timely access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes. As part of the regulatory framework, establish procedural and administrative guidelines⁵ that are not burdensome to the medical and scientific sector, while preventing their diversion, abuse and trafficking of controlled substances.

⁵ Procedural and administrative guidelines should be easily accessible and understood, and should not inexplicably or significantly delay the process.

CONTROL MEASURES

OBJECTIVE

5

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGE OF NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES AND THE THREAT OF AMPHETAMINE STIMULANTS.

Priority Action 5.1: Establishment and/or strengthening of an early warning system at the national level to promote, as appropriate, collaboration and the exchange of information with other existing regional or global systems. (Question 28)

Interpretive Note:

The country has established or strengthened an early warning system to identify and trace new psychoactive substances, amphetamine-type stimulants and other substances subject to international control, and shares with other regional or global systems.

Priority Action 5.2: Improvement of the capabilities to detect and analyze new psychoactive substances by making resources and tools available for those responsible in this area according to the possibilities of member states. (Question 30)

Interpretive Note:

The country takes measures to improve the ability to detect and analyze new psychoactive substances by making resources and tools available for the national entities responsible in this area within the possibilities of OAS member states.

Priority Action 5.3: Design and implementation of, when appropriate, of national regulatory tools to address the challenges at the onset of new psychoactive substances. (Question 29)

Interpretive Note:

The country designs and implements, when appropriate, regulations that effectively and timely address the challenges associated with the onset of new psychoactive substances and the threat of amphetamine type stimulants⁶.

⁶ **Amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS):** Group of substances comprised of synthetic stimulants, including amphetamine, methamphetamine, methcathinone, and ecstasy group substances (e.g. MDMA and its analogues). United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) – Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), Global SMART Programme, *Amphetamine-Type Stimulants in Latin America* (2014). Available at: http://www.cicad.oas.org/Smart/Reports/1_ENG.pdf.

CONTROL MEASURES

OBJECTIVE

6

ESTABLISH, UPDATE AND STRENGTHEN, AS APPROPRIATE, THE LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS TO COUNTER MONEY LAUNDERING DERIVED FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING.

Priority Action 6.1: Review the legal, regulatory and operational frameworks in the areas of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and control of money laundering derived from drug trafficking. (Question 31)

Interpretive Note:

The country has and, as appropriate, periodically reviews its legal, regulatory and operational frameworks⁷ for the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and control of money laundering derived from drug trafficking.

Priority Action 6.2: Development and implementation of specialized ongoing training in areas of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and control of money laundering derived from drug trafficking. (Question 32)

Interpretive Note:

The country has an ongoing training program for the competent authorities and other vulnerable sectors⁸ (financial sector, non-financial) to prevent, detect, investigate, pursue and control money laundering derived from drug trafficking.

Priority Action 6.3: Design and implementation of protocols to permit the competent authorities to enable financial and asset investigations to be conducted, parallel to investigations related to drug trafficking. (Question 33)

Interpretive Note:

The country has and effectively implements protocols, manuals, guides and other official instruments that enable the authorities to conduct financial and asset investigations parallel to investigations related to drug trafficking.

⁷ Money laundering is criminalized in accordance to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs (Vienna, 1988) and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo, 2000).

⁸ **Vulnerable sectors:** Please refer to Recommendation 1 of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF): “Assessing risks & applying a risk-based approach.” Available at:

http://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/recommendations/pdfs/FATF_Recommendations.pdf.

CONTROL MEASURES

Priority Action 6.4: Establishment and activation of mechanisms for interagency coordination and cooperation, including national anti-money laundering strategies, national coordinating committees, and the use of task forces. (Question 34)

Interpretive Note:

The country has mechanisms to allow the inter-institutional coordination and cooperation in the area of preventing and controlling money laundering. These mechanisms include the private financial and non-financial sector as being vulnerable sectors.

Priority Action 6.5: Optimization of the information systems for the investigation and prosecution of money laundering from drug trafficking, including the use of financial intelligence. (Question 35)

Interpretive Note:

The competent authorities of the country have an information system aimed at the investigation and prosecution of money laundering in analyzing cases deriving from drug trafficking. The system allows for the crossover of information between financial intelligence and drug trafficking investigations (financial intelligence unit).⁹

Priority Action 6.6: Identification and analysis of money laundering risks, for the purpose of mitigating said risks through public policies to strengthen the regime for preventing and countering this crime domestically, in accordance with international instruments. (Question 36)

Interpretive Note:

The country has mechanisms for the identification and analysis of money laundering risks. These mechanisms are in accordance with international instruments. The country has a structure or body that guarantees the updating, coordination and monitoring in the area of mitigating money laundering risks including the participation of the financial and non-financial sectors and other vulnerable activities.

⁹ **Financial intelligence unit:** Please refer to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendation 29: “Financial Intelligence Units.” Available at:

http://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/recommendations/pdfs/FATF_Recommendations.pdf.

CONTROL MEASURES

OBJECTIVE

7

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN AGENCIES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND DISPOSITION OF SEIZED AND/OR FORFEITED ASSETS IN CASES OF DRUG TRAFFICKING, MONEY LAUNDERING AND OTHER RELATED CRIMES.

Priority Action 7.1: In accordance with each country's constitutional principles, apply legislative and regulatory measures to facilitate the seizure and forfeiture of assets, instruments, or products of illicit drug-related activities. (Question 37)

Interpretive Note:

The country has legislation, regulations and/or procedures as well as other specific measures in accordance with international conventions and treaties to facilitate the seizure and forfeiture of assets, instruments, or products deriving from drug trafficking and other related crimes.

Priority Action 7.2: Establishment of specialized agencies and appropriate mechanisms for the transparent administration of seized and forfeited assets, in accordance with international standards. (Questions 38, 39)

Interpretive Note:

The country has designated a competent authority with responsibility for the administration of seized and forfeited assets. The designated body should have the legal authority to take custody of, manage, maintain, and dispose of seized assets. The country has regulations to ensure that transparency and accountability are maintained in the administration of seized and/or forfeited assets.

Priority Action 7.3: Development and implementation of specialized, ongoing training programs, as appropriate, on the administration and disposition of seized and forfeited assets. (Question 40)

Interpretive Note:

The country offers or receives specialized training programs¹⁰ for the administration and disposition of seized and forfeited assets.

¹⁰ Specialized training programs may include workshops, seminars, degree courses, or refresher training in techniques and methodologies for the administration and disposition of seized and forfeited assets.

CONTROL MEASURES

OBJECTIVE 8

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL INFORMATION GATHERING SYSTEMS AND MECHANISMS FOR EXCHANGING INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION TO DETECT ROUTES AND METHODS USED BY CRIMINAL DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS.

Priority Action 8.1: Enhancement of the capabilities of law enforcement agencies that control drug trafficking and related crimes, through ongoing training of the involved personnel. (Question 41)

Interpretive Note:

The country offers ongoing training programs for personnel involved in detecting routes and methods used by drug trafficking criminal organizations.

Priority Action 8.2: Strengthen cooperation and the exchange of information among the domestic law enforcement agencies. (Question 42)

Interpretive Note:

The country guarantees the existence and effective use of information exchange mechanisms among agencies responsible for law enforcement and drug trafficking control and its related crimes.

Priority Action 8.3: Promotion and strengthening of the exchange of information and intelligence on matters of interdiction and effective border control measures to prevent drug trafficking by air, land and sea. (Question 43)

Interpretive Note:

The country has mechanisms for the exchange of information and intelligence to enable competent authorities to enforce effective border control measures and prevent drug trafficking by air, land and sea. The information exchange mechanisms include law enforcement agencies (police, customs, air and sea border authorities), and the postal services.

Priority Action 8.4: Improvement to the information systems on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on changing behaviors and modus operandi of criminal drug trafficking organizations. (Question 44)

Interpretive Note:

The country has a formal and effective national information system on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on changing behaviors and modus operandi of criminal drug trafficking organizations. This system is a dynamic and rapid mechanism for regular information exchange between the agencies involved in the control of drug trafficking and related crimes.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

OBJECTIVE

1

PROMOTE AND STRENGTHEN COOPERATION AND COORDINATION MECHANISMS TO FOSTER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, IMPROVE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCES, AND SHARE BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED ON DRUG POLICIES AND RELATED CRIMES.

Priority Action 1.1: Development and implementation of a set of activities for the promotion and strengthening of technical assistance and horizontal cooperation among member states, third States and with relevant international organizations. (Question 1)

Interpretive Note:

The country carries out activities to promote and strengthen technical assistance and horizontal cooperation among OAS member states, third States and with relevant international organizations.

Priority Action 1.2: Encourage the transfer of technology among countries on the systematization of regulation, studies, research, and bibliographic material produced by countries and international organizations. (Question 2)

Interpretive Note:

The country exchanges technology with foreign counterparts regarding the systematization of regulation, studies, research, and bibliographic material produced by countries and international organizations.

Priority Action 1.3: Promotion of the exchange of intelligence information on drug interdiction and control. (Question 3)

Interpretive Note:

The country has secure communication channels to facilitate the exchange of intelligence information on drug interdiction and control.

Priority Action 1.4: Promotion of the exchange of best practices on training, specialization and professional development of the staff responsible for implementing demand and supply reduction policies. (Question 4)

Interpretive Note:

The country promotes the exchange with foreign counterparts of best practices on ongoing training, specialization and professional development for the various personnel responsible for implementing the national drug plan and/or strategy.

Note: Priority actions 1.5, 1.6 and 1.7 were omitted because they are covered in other objectives or due to difficulties in evaluating during the 2014-2018 period.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Priority Action 1.8: Strengthening of regional coordination measures to prevent crimes related to drug trafficking, such as, firearms trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, money laundering and others. (Question 5, 6)

Interpretive Note:

The country participates in strengthening the regional coordination¹ measures and bilateral mechanisms to prevent drug trafficking and related crimes, such as, firearms trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, money laundering among others.

¹ Through existing inter-governmental information exchange networks, such as the United Nations, Interpol, and other organizations and when required, through diplomatic channels, among others.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

OBJECTIVE

2

STRENGTHEN THE MULTILATERAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION MECHANISMS IN THE AREA OF FORFEITURE AND MANAGEMENT OF ASSETS DERIVED FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING AND RELATED CRIMES.

Priority Action 2.1: Review and updating of, as appropriate, the normative frameworks and procedural rules on administrative and judicial cooperation on money laundering derived from drug trafficking and related crimes. (Questions 7, 8)

Interpretive Note:

The country has appropriate and updated regulatory and procedural frameworks for forfeiture and management of assets derived from drug trafficking and related crimes in accordance to the 1988 United Nations Convention on Illicit Traffic in Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances and the 2000 United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime, as well as in line with the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF), in order to facilitate administrative and legal cooperation with foreign counterparts.

Priority Action 2.2: Creation and/or strengthening of mechanisms and processes to speed up handling of requests for mutual legal assistance on investigation and forfeiture of assets derived from drug trafficking and related crimes. (Question 9)

Interpretive Note:

The country has key authorities responsible for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters such as procedures and mechanisms that ensure swift handling of incoming requests for assistance, including investigation and asset forfeiture deriving from drug trafficking and related crimes.

Priority Action 2.3: Use, as appropriate, of information exchange networks in investigations on money laundering derived from drug trafficking, in a secure and rapid fashion among national authorities and competent international organizations. (Question 10)

Interpretive Note:

The country has relevant authorities with legal ability to exchange internally available information in order to facilitate the money laundering related investigations, including identification and tracking of the assets linked to this offense, and as appropriate with foreign counterparts through information exchange networks, such as, Interpol, Regional Asset Recovery Network of GAFILAT (RRAG), among others.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

OBJECTIVE

3

SUPPORT THE MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM) PROCESS, NOTING THE LEVEL OF PROGRESS AND COMPLIANCE OF THE COMMITMENTS UNDERTAKEN BY MEMBER STATES.

Priority Action 3.1: Systematic gathering of updated and quality information to observe the level of implementation of the MEM recommendations. (Question 11)

Interpretive Note:

The country has an appropriate authority that systematically gathers updated and quality² information to examine the implementation level of assigned MEM recommendations.

Priority Action 3.2: Active and timely participation in each of the activities that the MEM carries out, according to the agreed methodology. (Question 12)

Interpretive Note:

The country assigned authority(ies) and representative(s) to participate in each of the MEM-related activities. The aforementioned implies participation in MEM meetings, thematic discussions, and timely submission of information requested and assignments.

Priority Action 3.3: Dissemination of MEM Reports by member states, while adopting, as appropriate, corrective and proactive measures as necessary. (Question 13)

Interpretive Note:

The country disseminates the MEM reports and their recommendations to the general public and the competent authorities and adopts the corrective and proactive measures, as necessary.

Priority Action 3.4: Increase information sharing on hemispheric cooperation initiatives focused on addressing the world drug problem, to support the implementation of the MEM recommendations. (Question 14)

Interpretive Note:

The country is actively involved in information sharing on hemispheric cooperation initiatives³ focused on addressing the world drug problem, to support the implementation of the MEM process recommendations.

² Clear, accurate and concise information.

³ For example: Studies, questionnaires, surveys, discussions, among others.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

OBJECTIVE

4

STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AS DEFINED IN THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS RELATED TO THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM, WITH RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

Priority Action 4.1: Enactment of national legislation and/or adoption of administrative measures and actions, as appropriate, to increase implementation of obligations set forth within these legal instruments. (Question 15)

Interpretive Note:

The country makes efforts to strengthen international cooperation as defined by international legal instruments related to the world drug problem, by enacting legislation and/or adopting administrative measures and actions, as appropriate, to improve implementation of obligations set forth within these legal instruments,⁴ and taking into account respect for human rights and gender equality.

Priority Action 4.2: Promotion of the accession, ratification and implementation, as appropriate, of the international legal instruments related to the world drug problem and related crimes. (Question 16)

Interpretive Note:

The country promotes the accession⁵, ratification and implementation, as appropriate, of the international legal instruments⁶ related to the world drug problem and related crimes.

⁴ United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961), amended by the 1972 Protocol, the United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971), the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988), the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000) and its three Protocols: against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition; the United Nations Convention against Corruption (2003); the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (1992), the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (1996), and the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials (CIFTA) (1997); UNGASS 2016 Outcome Document, CICAD 2010 Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its Plan of Action, 2016-2020; 2009 United Nations Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation Towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem; United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Organization of American States (OAS) 2013 Declaration of Antigua, Guatemala, *For a Comprehensive Policy against the World Drug Problem in the Americas*; and 2014 OAS General Assembly Resolution, *Reflections and Guidelines to Formulate and Follow-up on Comprehensive Policies to Address the World Drug Problem in the Americas*.

⁵ **Accession:** Act whereby a state accepts the offer or the opportunity to become a party to a treaty already negotiated and signed by other states. It has the same legal effect as ratification. Accession usually occurs after the treaty has entered into force. United Nations Treaty Collection. Web link: https://treaties.un.org/Pages/Overview.aspx?path=overview/glossary/page1_en.xml.

⁶ United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961), amended by the 1972 Protocol, the United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971), the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988), the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000) and its three Protocols: against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; to Prevent, Suppress and

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

OBJECTIVE

5

PROMOTE COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF NATIONAL LEGAL NORMS, REGULATIONS, AND INTERNAL PROCEDURES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HEMISPHERIC JUDICIAL COOPERATION MECHANISMS AND MUTUAL LEGAL OR JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE RELATED TO DRUG TRAFFICKING AND RELATED CRIMES.

Priority Action 5.1: Adoption, where appropriate, of international cooperation measures for the provision of broad mutual legal assistance on drug control activities among competent authorities. (Question 17, 18)

Interpretive Note:

The country has cooperation agreements, bilateral and/or regional, in mutual legal assistance to control drug trafficking and related crimes.

Note: Priority action 5.2 was omitted because it is covered in another objective or due to difficulties in evaluating during the 2014-2018 period.

Priority Action 5.3: Adoption of measures, where appropriate, to promote cooperation facilitating extraditions, in accordance with current legislation of each country. (Question 19)

Interpretive Note:

The country has laws or other legal provisions that permit extradition for committing offenses under Article 3, Paragraph 1 and other relevant provisions of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The foreign affairs and judicial authorities will establish communication with their counterparts in other countries to facilitate extradition.

Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition; the United Nations Convention against Corruption (2003); the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (1992), the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (1996), and the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials (CIFTA) (1997); UNGASS 2016 Outcome Document, CICAD 2010 Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its Plan of Action, 2016-2020; 2009 United Nations Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation Towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem; United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Organization of American States (OAS) 2013 Declaration of Antigua, Guatemala, *For a Comprehensive Policy against the World Drug Problem in the Americas*; and 2014 OAS General Assembly Resolution, *Reflections and Guidelines to Formulate and Follow-up on Comprehensive Policies to Address the World Drug Problem in the Americas*.