

## MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

### PRINCIPLES

Pursuant to the Mandate of the Second Summit of the Americas, the process of multilateral evaluation is based upon the following principles:

1. Respect for sovereignty, territorial jurisdiction, and the domestic laws of States.
2. Reciprocity, shared responsibility and an integrated balanced approach to this issue.
3. The **Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere** and international agreements and instruments in force.

### CHARACTERISTICS

The multilateral evaluation process applicable to all States, individually and collectively, has the following characteristics:

1. Governmental, singular and objective, with the participation of specialized representatives of the governments.
2. Transparency, impartiality and equality to assure an objective evaluation.
3. Full and timely participation of the States based upon mutually and previously established rules and procedures of general application to guarantee an equitable evaluation process.
4. The exclusion of sanctions of any kind.
5. Respect for the confidentiality of the deliberations and the information provided by states, in accordance with established norms and procedures.

## OBJECTIVES

The process of multilateral evaluation has the following objectives:

1. To achieve full application of the Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere<sup>1</sup>.
2. To strengthen mutual confidence, dialogue, and hemispheric cooperation in order to confront, with greater efficiency and efficacy, the diverse aspects of the world drug problem<sup>2</sup>.
3. To follow-up on the progress of individual and collective efforts in the Hemisphere of all the countries participating in the Mechanism, indicating both results attained as well as obstacles faced by the countries.
4. To promote the following actions on the basis of the evaluation results and within the framework of CICAD:
  - 4.1 To Support States in the execution of their national plans.
  - 4.2 To contribute to the strengthening of their capacity to confront the problem.
  - 4.3 To stimulate the development of technical assistance and training programs, and the exchange of experiences according to the needs of each.
5. To produce periodic reports on the situation of the problem in the countries and in the hemisphere.
6. To strengthen multilateral cooperation as the way to ensure objective evaluation of States' efforts to confront the drug problem.
7. To promote through CICAD the strengthening of cooperation and coordination with other regions, the United Nations and other international entities.

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<sup>1</sup> Approved by CICAD during its twentieth regular session in Buenos Aires, Argentina October 1996, signed in Montevideo, Uruguay in December 1996, adopted by the OAS General Assembly during its twenty-seventh regular session in Lima, Peru, June 1997.

<sup>2</sup> The illicit cultivation, production, manufacture, sale, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including amphetamine-type stimulants, the diversion of precursors, and related criminal activities.