



**ORGANIZATION OF
AMERICAN STATES (OAS)**



MEM

**MULTILATERAL EVALUATION
MECHANISM (MEM)**

**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)**

**SECRETARIAT FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL
SECURITY (SMS)**

El Salvador

Evaluation Report on Drug Control

2014



Organization of
American States

OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.56
CICAD/doc.2148/14 Add.14

**Organization of American States (OAS)
Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS)
Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)**

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)

El Salvador

**EVALUATION REPORT ON DRUG CONTROL
2014**



PREFACE

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) is a diagnostic tool, designed by all member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), to periodically carry out comprehensive, multilateral evaluations on the implementation level of the Plan of Action of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy of member states of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD). As part of the Secretariat of Multidimensional Security (SMS), CICAD is the OAS specialized agency responsible for the implementation of this Mechanism, pursuant to a mandate from the Second Summit of the Americas held in Santiago, Chile in 1998.

The MEM is not only an evaluation instrument, but has also become a valuable source of information on the progress achieved by the individual and collective efforts of the governments of OAS member states, thus strengthening hemispheric cooperation, promoting dialogue among governmental authorities of member states and precisely channeling assistance to areas requiring greater attention by optimizing resources. The MEM process in itself is assessed by the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) comprised of delegations from all member states, which meets before the onset of each evaluation round to review and strengthen all operational aspects of the mechanism.

The national evaluation reports for the Sixth Round collect the results of the level of implementation of the 27 recommendations, emanating from the Plan of Action 2011-2015 of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy 2010, and were drafted by experts in the different areas, assigned by each member state. Experts do not work on their own country's report, guaranteeing the transparent, objective and multilateral nature of the MEM. Each chapter is based on countries' responses to a survey covering the main thematic areas of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy: institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction¹, control measures and international cooperation, as well as additional and updated information, provided by the government-appointed coordinating entities.

This report covers the country evaluation for the MEM Sixth Evaluation Round, which covers the 2013 to mid-2014 period. All MEM reports are available through the following webpage: <http://www.cicad.oas.org>.

¹ In accordance with the CICAD Commissioner's agreement at their fiftieth regular session (November 2011), the supply reduction chapter refers exclusively to the topic of illicit crops. For this reason, the CICAD Commissioners decided, at their fifty-fourth regular session (December 2013), that the recommendations in this chapter (11 to 15) would only be applied to those countries that have significant illicit crops.



INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

RECOMMENDATION 1

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN NATIONAL DRUG AUTHORITIES, PLACING THEM AT A HIGH POLITICAL LEVEL, WITH THE MISSION TO COORDINATE THE EFFECTIVE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES.

Evaluation: Complete

El Salvador's national drug authority is the National Anti-drug Commission (CNA), under the Office of the President of the Republic. The CNA has a legal basis and a budget. The national drug authority coordinates the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, observatory on drugs, international cooperation, legislation, training and education, coordination and institutional strengthening. The country has a coordination mechanism to carry out the effective planning and implementation of national drug policies.



INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

RECOMMENDATION 2

DESIGN, IMPLEMENT, STRENGTHEN AND UPDATE NATIONAL EVIDENCE-BASED STRATEGIES AND POLICIES ON DRUGS.

Evaluation: Partially complete

El Salvador has a National Anti-Drug Strategy 2011-2015, which covers demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures and international cooperation. Relevant actors are involved in the designing, drafting and execution of the National Anti-Drug Strategy.

El Salvador does not have a monitoring and evaluation framework for said national strategy.



INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

RECOMMENDATION 3

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN NATIONAL OBSERVATORIES ON DRUGS OR SIMILAR TECHNICAL OFFICES TO DEVELOP NATIONAL DRUG INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND FOSTER SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON THIS SUBJECT.

Evaluation: Mostly complete

El Salvador has the Salvadoran Observatory on Drugs. The country has one priority demand reduction study and has most of the priority information in supply reduction. The country carried out a study on the economic and social cost of drugs. Drug demand and supply reduction information is disseminated to all relevant parties.

El Salvador does not have national household studies or the one for access to patient registers in treatment centers. In the area of supply reduction, the country does not have the number of laboratories that produce illicit drugs of natural or synthetic origin.



DEMAND REDUCTION

RECOMMENDATION 4

DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT COMPREHENSIVE DEMAND REDUCTION POLICIES, PLANS AND/OR PROGRAMS.

Evaluation: Mostly complete

El Salvador has demand reduction programs which include the areas of prevention, early intervention, treatment and rehabilitation and recovery support services. These programs have been designed based on available evidence from recognized organizations, current information from demand-related studies, and available information on prevalence and trends in drug use in the population. The country monitors the implementation of its universal, treatment and rehabilitation and recovery support services programs and evaluates its universal and selective prevention programs. Updates of these programs are based on the outcomes of the evaluations. The country includes a gender perspective in its programs, and has adopted a multisectoral approach with the participation of various sectors of the population.

El Salvador does not have demand reduction programs in the area of social reinsertion.



DEMAND REDUCTION

RECOMMENDATION 5

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF EVIDENCE-BASED UNIVERSAL, SELECTIVE, AND INDICATED PREVENTION PROGRAMS, WITH MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES, AIMED AT DISTINCT TARGET POPULATIONS, INCLUDING AT-RISK GROUPS.

Evaluation: Partially complete

El Salvador has universal and selective prevention programs addressing drug use. Selective prevention programs are designed according to the presence of risk factors in the target population.

El Salvador does not have indicated prevention programs nor has it designed a comprehensive prevention system.



DEMAND REDUCTION

RECOMMENDATION 6

PROMOTE THE INTEGRATION OF TREATMENT AND RECOVERY PLANS AND PROGRAMS INTO THE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM AND ADDRESS DRUG DEPENDENCE AS A CHRONIC, RELAPSING DISEASE.

Evaluation: Mostly complete

El Salvador has a network of public health system facilities responsible for health needs within its territory. These facilities carry out drug use screening and have screening instruments in place for early detection of drug use, offer guidance and brief intervention, and they systematically refer persons affected by drug use to treatment. The public health system provides outpatient treatment services, and residential treatment services are also provided by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and religious institutions. Private and religious institutions and NGOs provide aftercare, rehabilitation and recovery support services for persons affected by drug use. The public health system facilities offering treatment and rehabilitation services coordinate with other sectors that offer these services. The country has monitoring systems for its treatment programs, which have trained professionals to implement and manage them, and allow for the collection and organization of information on the treatment and rehabilitation programs.

El Salvador does not have an accreditation process for its drug treatment centers.



DEMAND REDUCTION

RECOMMENDATION 7

FACILITATE ACCESS FOR DRUG-DEPENDENT PERSONS TO A SYSTEM OF DRUG TREATMENT, REHABILITATION, SOCIAL REINSERTION, AND RECOVERY SERVICES THAT ARE EVIDENCE-BASED AND FOLLOW INTERNATIONALLY-ACCEPTED QUALITY STANDARDS.

Evaluation: Partially complete

El Salvador takes action to facilitate access by children and adolescents to treatment and rehabilitation.

El Salvador does not have treatment, rehabilitation or social reinsertion interventions that are tailored to the population profiles being served.



DEMAND REDUCTION

RECOMMENDATION 8

EXPLORE THE MEANS OF OFFERING TREATMENT, REHABILITATION, SOCIAL REINSERTION AND RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES TO DRUG-DEPENDENT CRIMINAL OFFENDERS AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTION OR IMPRISONMENT.

Evaluation: Mostly complete

El Salvador has national legislation that creates and provides for alternatives to incarceration for drug-dependent criminal offenders. The country offers conditional suspension of the criminal proceedings as an alternative to incarceration.

El Salvador does not have standard operating procedures to identify and select candidates that meet the requirements for participating in the alternatives to incarceration and does not monitor participant progress in these programs. The country does not have an evaluation of the alternative to incarceration program.



DEMAND REDUCTION

RECOMMENDATION 9

STRENGTHEN GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS AND SPECIALIZED NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs), IN ORDER TO GENERATE EVIDENCE ON THE DEMAND FOR DRUGS.

Evaluation: Complete

El Salvador has a national drug authority that maintains cooperative relationships with academic and research institutions and relevant civil society organizations dealing with drug demand reduction related issues. The information produced by academic and research institutions and civil society organizations is used to design policies, plans and programs in this area. The country works with these institutions and with civil society organizations to support and improve their capacity to regularly collect data and produce drug use trend reports.



DEMAND REDUCTION

RECOMMENDATION 10

PROMOTE AND STRENGTHEN TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION OF PROFESSIONALS, TECHNICIANS AND OTHERS INVOLVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DEMAND REDUCTION ACTIVITIES.

Evaluation: Complete

El Salvador has introductory training programs and offers continuing education on all aspects of demand reduction for personnel involved in implementing activities in this area. The country offers certificate, undergraduate and graduate level training programs focused on evidence-based approaches and best practices to drug demand reduction to build staff knowledge and strengthen their skills in specialized technical or professional fields of expertise. It also makes available to its technical experts and professionals advanced drug demand reduction training programs at the regional and international level. El Salvador carries out regular monitoring and evaluations to ensure that training in drug demand reduction meet the needs of personnel in this area.



SUPPLY REDUCTION

RECOMMENDATIONS 11–15

Evaluation: Not applied

In consideration of El Salvador's situation, CICAD agreed not to apply any category from the evaluation scale to the following recommendations, given that the country does not have significant illicit crop areas:

RECOMMENDATION 11: ADOPT AND/OR IMPROVE COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED MEASURES AIMED AT REDUCING THE ILLICIT SUPPLY OF DRUGS.

RECOMMENDATION 12: ADOPT AND/OR IMPROVE DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS MECHANISMS WITH A VIEW TO CARRYING OUT ASSESSMENTS THAT WILL FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC POLICIES AIMED AT THE REDUCTION OF THE ILLICIT SUPPLY OF DRUGS.

RECOMMENDATION 13: PROMOTE STUDIES AND RESEARCH THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND MONITORING OF NEW AND EMERGING TRENDS THAT COULD PROVIDE UPDATED INFORMATION ON THE ILLICIT SUPPLY OF DRUGS.

RECOMMENDATION 14: ACCORDING TO THE NEEDS OF EACH COUNTRY, ADOPT COMPREHENSIVE MEASURES, SUCH AS INTEGRAL AND SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVES.

RECOMMENDATION 15: PROMOTE ACTIONS TO REDUCE THE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT CAUSED BY THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH NATIONAL POLICIES.



CONTROL MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 16

IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS TO PREVENT AND REDUCE THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION OF PLANT-BASED AND SYNTHETIC DRUGS.

Evaluation: Mostly complete

El Salvador has trained National Civil Police (Anti-narcotics Division) personnel who implement procedures to detect and identify laboratories for the illicit manufacturing of plant-based and synthetic drugs. In addition, a group has been trained to apply dismantling protocols designed by a specialized agency and receives annual training on these topics, offered by various organizations. Once destruction of seized substances has been ordered, a business is contracted to carry it out, and the destruction process is supervised by relevant authorities, including, among others: police, judicial and environmental officials and fire fighters. The Ministry of the Environment establishes the requirements that the selected company must comply with in order to minimize the environmental impact.

El Salvador does not have a national system to consolidate information regarding laboratories for the illicit manufacturing of plant-based and synthetic drugs that could be detected and dismantled.



CONTROL MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 17

ADOPT OR STRENGTHEN CONTROL MEASURES IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE DIVERSION OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES TOWARDS ILLICIT ACTIVITIES.

Evaluation: Mostly complete

El Salvador has criminalized the actions specified in Article 3 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. The law establishes regulations to control international trade in controlled chemical substances, as provided in Article 12 of the aforementioned Convention. The country has an updated register of all natural and legal persons working in the import, export, manufacture or distribution of controlled chemical substances, and carries out audits of distributors of controlled substances. El Salvador's legislation includes administrative, civil and criminal penalties to punish infractions or violations by natural or legal persons that handle controlled chemical substances. The country has a competent authority responsible for coordinating control activities for controlled chemical substances as well as national institutions that carry out control operations. The country recently hired staff and upgraded its computer systems in order to produce reliable data on international trade and to fully implement the pre-export notification system.

El Salvador is part of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) Pre-Export Notification System (PEN Online), but has not been issuing or responding to pre-export notifications on a regular basis and therefore does not have statistics on notifications sent or received in recent years.



CONTROL MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 18

ADOPT OR STRENGTHEN CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT THE DIVERSION OF NARCOTICS, PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS WITH PSYCHOACTIVE PROPERTIES AND THOSE USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF SYNTHETIC DRUGS.

Evaluation: Complete

El Salvador has legislation for the control of narcotics, psychotropic substances and preparations containing them, in accordance with the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and the United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. The country has a national authority responsible for coordinating controls over these substances and products, as well as mechanisms to estimate the requirements for narcotics, as provided in Article 19 of the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961. El Salvador provides for the application of administrative, civil and criminal penalties for infractions or violations of the regulations governing the work of medical professionals, professional managers, administrators, and legal representatives of establishments that handle narcotics, psychotropic substances, and psychoactive pharmaceutical products. With regard to pharmaceutical products that contain substances used in the manufacture of illicit synthetic drugs, and are therefore at risk of diversion at the global level, the country has prohibited all sales or use of ephedra, pseudoephedrine, ephedrine, its salts, optical isomers and salts from optical isomers, whether as raw material or as a finished pharmaceutical product, with the exception of the injectable pharmaceutical form for human use, controlled through medical prescription and other mechanisms provided for in the regulation.



CONTROL MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 19

ENSURE THE ADEQUATE AVAILABILITY OF NARCOTICS NEEDED FOR MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC USE.

Evaluation: Complete

El Salvador estimates the quantities of narcotics and psychotropic substances needed for medical and scientific purposes annually, using data on established care capacity and statistics on use during the past three years from public and private health establishments. The evaluations include an analysis of impediments to adequate availability and the initiation of actions to resolve the situation. In this regard, the country has reduced the response times for authorization of requests for import and marketing of the narcotics and psychotropic substances needed for medical use, which was found to be one of the problems.



CONTROL MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 20

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE CONTROL OF ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING AND RELATED CRIMES.

Evaluation: Mostly complete

El Salvador conducts periodic evaluations of the strengths and weaknesses of the entities responsible for the control of drug trafficking and related crimes. The country implements and participates in ongoing training programs in this area, and has formal mechanisms for the exchange of information among the entities responsible for the control of drug trafficking and related crimes.

El Salvador does not have laws or regulations that include provisions for the safe and final disposal of seized drugs. El Salvador does not have laws or regulations on interdiction and border controls, which would provide a suitable framework for the prevention of drug trafficking by air, land and sea. There are no periodic plans to address the prevention of drug trafficking.



CONTROL MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 21

IDENTIFY NEW TRENDS AND PATTERNS REGARDING ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING AND RELATED CRIMES.

Evaluation: Complete

El Salvador conducts annual studies on recent trends in drug trafficking and related crimes, carried out by air and sea, which are informally disseminated for police planning purposes. The country updates its regulations based on the identification of new trends in drug trafficking and related crimes.



CONTROL MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 22

PROMOTE IMPROVEMENTS IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS ON ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING AND RELATED CRIMES.

Evaluation: Partially complete

El Salvador has a consolidated national statistical information system on police operations related to drug trafficking.

El Salvador does not conduct technical studies or research on drug trafficking and related crimes. There is no national early warning system to detect new behaviors of criminal organizations in this area and the country does not conduct drug characterization or impurity profile studies.



CONTROL MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 23

ADOPT MEASURES FOR EFFECTIVE COOPERATION IN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS, INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES, COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE, AND THE EXCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION AMONG COUNTRIES, ASSURING DUE RESPECT FOR THE VARIOUS NATIONAL LEGAL SYSTEMS.

Evaluation: Mostly complete

El Salvador has formal mechanisms for the secure and effective exchange of intelligence information in the investigation of cases of drug trafficking and related crimes. The country conducts training workshops on the exchange of intelligence information in the investigation of such cases. El Salvador implements training activities on the use of special investigative techniques and managing the chain of custody for evidentiary materials in cases of drug trafficking and related crimes. The country has legal frameworks and operational guidelines for the investigation of all assets within the scope of drug trafficking cases.

El Salvador does not have formal mechanisms for coordination and the exchange of information and best practices for the prevention, investigation and control of activities related to drug trafficking via the Internet.



CONTROL MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 24

ADOPT OR STRENGTHEN, AS APPLICABLE, CONTROL MEASURES FOR THE ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS ASSOCIATED WITH ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING.

Evaluation: Mostly complete

El Salvador has criminalized the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials. In order to prevent losses or diversion, the country takes the necessary measures to ensure the security of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials that are imported or in transit; and of firearms, ammunition, and other related materials that are exported. El Salvador requires appropriate marking of firearms, permitting identification of the serial number. The country maintains a system of export licenses for firearms, ammunition, and other related materials; and import licenses for firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials. El Salvador has a national authority responsible for coordinating controls on the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials, which includes the measures in Article 8 of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacture of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials of 1997. The country maintains a register of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials seized in drug trafficking operations.

El Salvador does not require the marking of firearms to identify the name of the manufacturer or place of manufacture, and does not require appropriate marking of confiscated or forfeited firearms. The country does not maintain a system of licenses for the export of explosives nor for the international transit of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials.



CONTROL MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 25

ESTABLISH, UPDATE, OR STRENGTHEN LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS IN MATTERS OF PREVENTION, DETECTION, INVESTIGATION, AND PROSECUTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING.

Evaluation: Complete

El Salvador criminalizes money laundering in accordance with the terms of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime of 2000. The country has regulations for the prevention and control of money laundering that conform to the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). It also has a Financial Investigations Unit (FIU). Although the law does not clearly define its functions, it has been operating as an FIU, based on the operating principles of the EGMONT Group and the recommendations of the FATF on FIUs. The country has regulations for the forfeiture of assets related to money laundering, including provisional measures such as freezing of bank accounts, preventive embargo, and embargo of assets to prevent the use, transfer, or disposal of said assets.



CONTROL MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 26

CREATE OR STRENGTHEN, IN ACCORDANCE WITH NATIONAL LEGISLATION, THE COMPETENT NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF SEIZED AND/OR FORFEITED ASSETS, AND THE DISPOSITION OF FORFEITED ASSETS.

Evaluation: Complete

El Salvador has a legal framework that establishes procedures for the management and disposal of seized and forfeited assets. These laws regulate the creation of the National Council on Assets Management (CONAB) as the agency responsible for the management and disposal of seized assets. El Salvador participates in training programs on the management of seized and forfeited assets, through the Latin American Seized and Forfeited Assets Management Project (BIDAL), among others.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

RECOMMENDATION 27

REAFFIRM THE PRINCIPLE OF COOPERATION CONTAINED IN INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS TO ADDRESS THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM, THROUGH ACTIONS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS.

Evaluation: Complete

El Salvador has ratified the United Nations Convention against the Illicit Traffic of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime of 2000 and the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters of 1992, and has designated central authorities in accordance with said Conventions. The country has legal provisions that allow extradition for drug trafficking and money laundering crimes, and permit the trial of a person whose extradition has been denied on grounds of nationality or territory. There are legal provisions for providing reciprocal judicial assistance to third party States in investigations, trials, and legal proceedings for drug trafficking and money laundering. The country has implemented measures to authorize the confiscation of proceeds derived from drug trafficking or of property of equal value, and the materials and equipment or other instrumentalities used in or intended for use in any manner in the crime of drug trafficking. The country has mechanisms for administrative cooperation with agencies and services in other countries to investigate the identity, whereabouts and activities of persons allegedly involved in drug trafficking, the movement of the proceeds of drug trafficking, and the movement of narcotics and psychotropic substances. El Salvador has laws or other legal provisions that allow the use of controlled delivery for narcotics and psychotropic substances in order to identify persons implicated in the crime of drug trafficking. The country has communication channels among its relevant agencies and services in order to facilitate the secure and rapid exchange of information on all aspects of the acts criminalized in accordance with Paragraph 1, Article 3 of the United Nations Convention against the Illicit Traffic of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.



CONCLUSIONS

The MEM Sixth Evaluation Round report reflects the country's internal reality regarding the implementation of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy (2010) and its Plan of Action (2011-2015) from 2013 to mid-2014. CICAD recognizes that among the 27 common recommendations, El Salvador completed nine, nine mostly completed, four partially completed and five do not apply.

In the area of Institutional Strengthening, El Salvador has a national drug authority under the direction of the President of the Republic. The country has a national anti-drug strategy 2011-2015. Also, the country has a national observatory on drugs which has carried out one of the priority studies in demand reduction (1 of 3), and has most of the priority information on supply reduction (8 of 10).

In the area of Demand Reduction, El Salvador has programs that include the areas of prevention, early intervention, treatment and rehabilitation, and recovery support services, but do not include social reinsertion. The universal prevention and treatment and rehabilitation programs, and recovery support services are monitored, and the universal and selective prevention programs are evaluated. They are updated on the basis of the outcomes of the evaluations. The country does not have indicated prevention programs, nor does it have a comprehensive prevention system. The public health system facilities offer early detection of drug use and provide guidance, brief intervention, and systematic referrals to treatment to drug use affected persons. The public health system provides outpatient treatment services for persons affected by drug use, and NGOs and religious institutions offer residential treatment. Private and religious institutions and NGOs provide follow-up, rehabilitation, and recovery support services. There is no accreditation system for the treatment centers. El Salvador has alternatives to incarceration for drug-dependent criminal offenders. Policies, plans and programs are developed with the support of academic and research institutions and civil society organizations. National, regional and international training and continuing education are offered for personnel working in demand reduction, from the certificate level to graduate degrees, with a focus on evidence-based approaches and best practices.

In the area of Supply Reduction, CICAD agreed not to apply any category from the evaluation scale, given that El Salvador does not have significant illicit crop areas.



In the area of Control Measures, El Salvador has mechanisms to detect and identify laboratories for the illicit manufacture of plant-based and synthetic drugs, as well as protocols for their dismantling; however, the country does not have a centralized information system at the national level.

Regarding the control of chemical substances and controlled products, El Salvador has legislation regulating the manufacture of and domestic distribution channels for controlled chemical substances and has a relevant authority with the necessary powers to coordinate actions to control the diversion of precursor chemicals. The country estimates its projected needs for licit substances subject to international controls, in order to ensure adequate availability for medical and scientific purposes, carrying out regular evaluations that include trends in their use and the analysis of impediments.

El Salvador has formal mechanisms for the exchange of information among the institutions responsible for the control of drug trafficking and related crimes, as well as for the secure and effective exchange of intelligence information. The country has ongoing training programs for personnel in this area and compiles statistical information on drug trafficking and related crimes at the national level. In addition, it updates its legislation based on the identification of new trends. However, the country does not have legislation establishing provisions for the safe and final disposal of seized drugs, or an early warning system on new behaviors of criminal organizations.

The legislation that criminalizes the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition and other related materials includes measures to prevent loss and diversion in the course of licit trade. The country has a register of these items seized in operations and activities related to drug trafficking. However, the country does not require the firearms marking to identify the name of the manufacturer or the place of manufacture, and does not require the marking of seized or forfeited firearms.

El Salvador has legislation criminalizing money laundering, with regulations for its prevention and control, a Financial Intelligence Unit, and regulations for the seizure of assets related to money laundering. The country has regulations and an agency for the management and disposal of seized and forfeited assets related to money laundering, which include guidelines for the appropriate management of those assets.



In the area of International Cooperation, El Salvador has ratified the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime of 2000, the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters of 1992 and has designated central authorities for said conventions. The country has legal provisions to permit extradition for the crimes of drug trafficking and money laundering. The country also has legislation to provide for reciprocal judicial assistance to third party States in investigations, trials, and legal proceedings for drug trafficking and money laundering. The country has laws that permit the use of controlled delivery of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in order to identify persons involved in the crime of drug trafficking.

CICAD recognizes El Salvador for its continued participation and commitment during the Sixth Evaluation Round of the MEM. In accordance with its national situation, the country is encouraged to fully implement the Plan of Action (2011-2015) of CICAD's Hemispheric Drug Strategy (2010).



SUMMARY OF THE STATUS OF COMPLIANCE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING		
NO.	RECOMMENDATION	EVALUATION
1	Establish and/or strengthen national drug authorities, placing them at a high political level, with the mission to coordinate the effective planning and implementation of national drug policies.	COMPLETE
2	Design, implement, strengthen and update national evidence-based strategies and policies on drugs.	PARTIALLY COMPLETE
3	Establish and/or strengthen National Observatories on Drugs or similar technical offices to develop national drug information systems and foster scientific research on this subject.	MOSTLY COMPLETE
DEMAND REDUCTION		
4	Develop and implement comprehensive demand reduction policies, plans and/or programs.	MOSTLY COMPLETE
5	Design and implement a comprehensive system of evidence-based universal, selective, and indicated prevention programs, with measurable objectives, aimed at distinct target populations, including at-risk groups.	PARTIALLY COMPLETE
6	Promote the integration of treatment and recovery plans and programs into the public health system and address drug dependence as a chronic, relapsing disease.	MOSTLY COMPLETE
7	Facilitate access for drug-dependent persons to a system of drug treatment, rehabilitation, social reintegration, and recovery services that are evidence-based and follow internationally-accepted quality standards.	PARTIALLY COMPLETE
8	Explore the means of offering treatment, rehabilitation, social reinsertion and recovery support services to drug-dependent criminal offenders as an alternative to criminal prosecution or imprisonment.	MOSTLY COMPLETE
9	Strengthen governmental relationships with academic and research institutions and specialized non-governmental organizations (NGOs), in order to generate evidence on the demand for drugs.	COMPLETE
10	Promote and strengthen training and continuing education of professionals, technicians and others involved in the implementation of demand reduction activities.	COMPLETE



SUPPLY REDUCTION		
11	Adopt and/or improve comprehensive and balanced measures aimed at reducing the illicit supply of drugs.	NOT APPLIED
12	Adopt and/or improve data collection and analysis mechanisms with a view to carrying out assessments that will facilitate the development of public policies aimed at illicit supply of drugs reduction.	NOT APPLIED
13	Promote studies and research that contribute to the early identification and monitoring of new and emerging trends that could provide updated information on the illicit supply of drugs.	NOT APPLIED
14	According to the needs of each country, adopt comprehensive measures, such as integral and sustainable alternative development and law enforcement initiatives.	NOT APPLIED
15	Promote actions to reduce the negative impact on the environment caused by the world drug problem, in accordance with national policies.	NOT APPLIED
CONTROL MEASURES		
16	Implement programs to prevent and reduce the illicit production of synthetic and plant-based drugs.	MOSTLY COMPLETE
17	Adopt or strengthen control measures in order to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances towards illicit activities.	MOSTLY COMPLETE
18	Adopt or strengthen control measures to prevent the diversion of narcotics, psychotropic substances, pharmaceutical products with psychoactive properties and those used in the production of synthetic drugs.	COMPLETE
19	Ensure the adequate availability of narcotics needed for medical and scientific use.	COMPLETE
20	Strengthen national organizations for the control of illicit drug trafficking and related crimes.	MOSTLY COMPLETE
21	Identify new trends and patterns regarding illicit drug trafficking and related crimes.	COMPLETE
22	Promote improvements in information systems on illicit drug trafficking and related crimes.	PARTIALLY COMPLETE
23	Adopt measures for effective cooperation in criminal investigations, investigation procedures, collection of evidence, and the exchange of intelligence information among countries, assuring due respect for the various national legal systems.	MOSTLY COMPLETE
24	Adopt or strengthen, as applicable, control measures for the illicit trafficking of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials associated with illicit drug trafficking.	MOSTLY COMPLETE



25	Establish, update, or strengthen legislative and institutional frameworks in matters of prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of money laundering.	COMPLETE
26	Create or strengthen, in accordance with national legislation, the competent national organizations for the management of seized and/or forfeited assets, and the disposition of forfeited assets.	COMPLETE
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION		
27	Reaffirm the principle of cooperation contained in international instruments to address the world drug problem, through actions to ensure compliance and effectiveness.	COMPLETE



GLOSSARY

I. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

Relevant actors: includes civil society, scientific community, university based researchers, government at the national, regional and local levels.

II. DEMAND REDUCTION

Alternatives to incarceration: vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, but most involve suspension of the judicial process provided the offender volunteers to participate in a monitored drug treatment program.

Available evidence: use of information, from different sources, to support an effect with an adequate degree of confidence, so that it can be used as a basis for a particular recommendation. The quality of the information sources will indicate the level of confidence for the estimate of the effect.

Comprehensive (prevention) system: organizations and programs that provide addiction prevention services, and are interconnected with each other and with several organizations, programs and channels that provide support services.

Indicated prevention programs: a set of actions targeting persons who use drugs.

Public health system: Includes all organizations, institutions and resources whose principal objective is to carry out activities designed to improve health. The majority of national health systems include the public, private, traditional and informal sectors. The four primary functions of a health system include: provision of services, generation of resources, financing and management.

Selective prevention programs: a set of actions targeting a specific segment of the population, which, because of personal, social, family, or socio-cultural and related characteristics, is vulnerable to the diverse risk factors leading to drug use.



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

Universal prevention programs: a set of preventive actions targeting the entire population independent of risk.

III. SUPPLY REDUCTION

Regulatory framework: the set of established laws and regulations that governs the activities of the institutions responsible for the formulation, development and application of drug supply reduction policies and/or programs.

Risk factors: risk factors are those conditions that contribute to the emergence or strengthening of illicit activities and/or to the neutralization of law enforcement activities.

Social inclusion: a situation which ensures that all citizens, without exception, are able to exercise their rights, use their skills, and take advantage of opportunities available to them.

Vulnerable populations: those sectors or population groups that, due to poverty, ethnic origin, health, age, gender or disability, are unable to develop and improve their circumstances. This vulnerability places such persons at a disadvantage with regard to exercising their full rights and freedoms.

IV. CONTROL MEASURES

Drug characterization and impurity profiling: use of scientific laboratory information in support of law enforcement operation work, 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.



ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)

INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)

1889 F STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20006
202.370.5000
WWW.CICAD.OAS.ORG