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MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM

REPORT OF THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP

ANNEX III

MEASURES TO CONTROL AND COUNTER THE ILLICIT CULTIVATION, PRODUCTION, TRAFFICKING, AND DISTRIBUTION OF DRUGS, AND TO ADDRESS THEIR CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES
2022

EVALUATOR'S MANUAL

MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

EVALUATOR'S MANUAL

Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their Causes and Consequences
2022

EIGHTH EVALUATION ROUND

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INTRODUCTION

This manual, approved by the Inter-American Drug Control Commission of the Organization of American States (OAS/CICAD) during its sixty-eighth regular session, is a guide to support the work of the Governmental Expert Group (GEG) that carries out the eighth 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* (POA) 2021 – 2025, benchmarking the principles of the *OAS Hemispheric Drug Strategy* (HDS) 2020, 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 POA of the HDS.

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.

The eighth round will evaluate the thematic areas over a three-year period, and a comprehensive evaluation in the fourth year. For 2022, the Manual includes the objectives for the area of Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their Causes and Consequences and its corresponding priority actions. There are interpretative notes for each priority action to assist experts in the assessment of each objective.

2022 Evaluation process documents

In this stage of the eighth 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 to, providing the necessary information allowing the GEG to analyze the reality of the country in each of the areas that make up the HDS and its POA. The evaluation period for this thematic area will cover the years 2019 to 2022.

b) Procedural Manual: This Manual contains a description on the operational process of the 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 eighth round, including deadlines, such as information submitted by member states, activities of the MEM independent technical consultants, 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 documents, prepared by the MEM Unit, seeking to organize and systematize the information sent by each country. Based on these narrative documents, the MEM independent technical consultants conduct an initial review of the responses to the questionnaire and draft a base document with recommendations for the GEG to use in their analysis.

The GEG analyzes and assesses the situation in each country for the thematic area evaluated in 2022, while considering the interpretative notes of each priority action in this Manual, the information included in the national reports from previous rounds of this Mechanism, as well as other relevant information sources.

The thematic national reports seek to outline marked progress, setbacks, and shortcomings, taking into account their material, financial and human capabilities, to provide an objective panorama of the current situation in addressing the drug problem in each country for the corresponding thematic area.

CICAD Commissioners consider and approve the draft thematic national reports at their regular sessions.

Thematic national reports

The main characteristics of these reports aim to be:

- Evaluative and objective.
- Relevant to the country and, specifically, to the drug problem in each country.
- Concise and include the information necessary to fulfill the two previous characteristics.
- Readable and understandable without consulting other reference documents.
- Specific and technical, using clear language, and accurately reflecting information and data.

It is highly important that these thematic national reports include assessments, highlighting the necessary reinforcements and strengthening needed to address the drug problem in each country.

OBJECTIVE 1

OBJECTIVE 1	DEVELOP AND/OR STRENGTHEN NATIONAL- AND REGIONAL-LEVEL INTERDICTION CAPACITY, AS WELL AS THE CAPACITY TO REDUCE THE ILLICIT CULTIVATION, PRODUCTION, TRAFFICKING, AND DISTRIBUTION OF PLANT-BASED AND SYNTHETIC DRUGS THROUGH THE USE OF COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED PROGRAMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REALITIES OF EACH COUNTRY'S DOMESTIC LEGISLATION AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

Priority Action 1.1: Develop or strengthen intelligence and interdiction capabilities to detect, investigate, and dismantle laboratories or facilities used in the illicit manufacture of drugs.

Interpretive Note:
The country develops capacity-building activities for its competent authorities to strengthen their intelligence and interdiction capabilities to detect, investigate, and dismantle clandestine laboratories or facilities for the illicit processing or manufacture[1] of drugs. This is done employing effective safety measures to prevent harm to human health derived from being exposed to different chemical substances, as well as minimizing any negative impact on the environment. **(Questions 1, 2)**

Priority Action 1.2: Implement policies that promote gender mainstreaming in agencies and organizations in charge of drug control.

Interpretive Note:
Drug control agencies in the country implement policies that promote gender[2] mainstreaming[3], as well as specific provisions to foster equality of opportunity and equal treatment. **(Question 3)**

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[1] **Manufacture:** Any form or stage of preparation, processing or direct or indirect acquisition of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances or chemical substances, either by extraction, preparation, formulation, purification, processing, refinement, chemical synthesis or other treatment of raw materials. *CICAD's Model Regulations for the control of Chemical Substances Used in the Illicit Production of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (2019):* http://www.cicad.oas.org/reduccion_oferta/resources/chems/Model%20Regulations-Approved%20CICAD%2066-Final.pdf

[2] **Gender:** It refers to the identities, functions, and socially-constructed attributes of women and men and the social and cultural meaning that is attributed to those biological differences.
Inter-American Court of Human Rights' Advisory Opinion OC-24/17. Available at: https://www.corteidh.or.cr/docs/opiniones/seriea_24_eng.pdf

[3] **Gender mainstreaming:** "The process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality." United Nations Report of the Economic and Social Council for 1997. ECOSOC Agreed Conclusions on Gender Mainstreaming. Available at: https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/pdf/ECOSOCAC1997.2.PDF

Priority Action 1.3: Design, implement, and strengthen programs aimed at land, riverine, maritime, and aerial interdiction.

Interpretive Note:
Within their powers, national authorities design and carry out ongoing interdiction activities via land, rivers, sea, and air to detect the illicit production, trafficking, and distribution of drugs; and continuously strengthen the contents of existing programs and/or strategies to ensure its multidisciplinary and comprehensive approach. **(Question 4)**

Priority Action 1.4: Review and update, as appropriate, legal frameworks related to the use of specialized investigation tools and techniques.

Interpretive Note:
The country, as appropriate, reviews and updates its legal framework, including laws and regulations, related to the use of specialized investigation tools and techniques to prevent and/or reduce drug trafficking.[4] **(Question 5)**

Priority Action 1.5: Review and/or update mechanisms countries use to monitor the evolution of drug trafficking and related crimes, for the purpose of identifying and responding to new trends and threats.

Interpretive Note:
The country uses different means, methods, tools, and technologies to identify and monitor new trends and patterns, modus operandi, routes, and emerging threats of criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking and related crimes. **(Question 6)**

Priority Action 1.6: Define and implement coordinated actions between national and regional entities to dismantle organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes.

Interpretive Note:
The country has implemented inter-institutional collaboration mechanisms to identify, locate, and dismantle organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes. Likewise, the country implements collaborative efforts at the regional level to dismantle organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes. **(Questions 7, 8, 9)**

Priority Action 1.7: Enhance the capacity of national and regional forensic laboratories or similar investigation entities to analyze and identify chemical substances, precursors,

[4] Special investigation techniques, include, but are not limited to, controlled deliveries, undercover operations, and electronic surveillance.

pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances (NPS) and facilitate information sharing with global repositories and across governmental counterparts.

Interpretive Note:
The country has a national authority with the appropriate infrastructure (forensic laboratories or similar entities), equipment, and training to identify chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including NPS[5]. The country has mechanisms in place to facilitate and share information at the national level across governmental counterparts, as well as with global repositories on the matter. **(Questions 10, 11, 12)**

Priority Action 1.8: Enhance the capacity of relevant drug control and financial regulatory competent authorities to identify and address new challenges whereby synthetic drugs and their precursors and pharmaceutical products, being illicitly sold online and shipped through land, riverine, maritime, and aerial means.

Interpretive Note:
The competent drug control and financial regulatory authorities of the country have up-to-date and coordinated mechanisms to develop capabilities for the investigation of online sale of drugs and their shipment through land, riverine, maritime, and aerial means. These mechanisms include ways of detecting, preserving, and analyzing electronic evidence related to drug trafficking through the Internet, the use of crypto currencies for this purpose, as well as methods that allow identification of mailings containing illicit substances. **(Question 13)**

Priority Action 1.9: Enhance coordination with private sector entities to prevent diversion of chemical substances and precursors and deny criminals access to the materials, platforms, and services of the licit supply chain, which are exploited by criminal organizations for the illicit manufacture, sale, and trafficking of drugs.

Interpretive Note:
The country has established partnerships and information exchange mechanisms with private sector entities. In particular, these partnerships are established with the chemical and pharmaceutical industries and other relevant private sector actors, to prevent the diversion of chemical substances and precursors, and deny criminals access to the materials, platforms, and services of the licit supply chain, which are exploited by criminal organizations for the illicit manufacture, sale, and trafficking of drugs. **(Questions 14, 15)**

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[5] **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

Priority Action 1.10: Enhance capacities for forfeiture, seizure, and management of assets, tools, or products related to illicit drug markets.

Interpretive Note:
The country has national authority(ies) with the appropriate budget, human, and material resources, as well as ongoing training for the forfeiture, seizure, and management of assets, tools, or products related to illicit drug markets. **(Questions 16, 17)**

OBJECTIVE 2

OBJECTIVE 2	STRENGTHEN NATIONAL MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES POSED BY NPS AND ILLICIT SYNTHETIC DRUGS, AND THE THREAT OF FENTANYL-RELATED SUBSTANCES, NON-MEDICAL SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS, AND ILLICIT AMPHETAMINE DERIVATIVES.

Priority Action 2.1: Establish and/or strengthen early warning systems (EWS) at the national level to promote collaboration and the exchange of information with other existing regional or international systems.

Interpretive Note:
The country has established or strengthened EWS[6] to identify and trace new psychoactive substances (NPS), illicit synthetic drugs, and the threat of fentanyl-related substances, non-medical synthetic opioids, illicit amphetamine derivatives, and other substances subject to international control, and shares with other regional or global systems. **(Question 18)**

Priority Action 2.2: Improve domestic capabilities to detect and analyze NPS by making resources and tools available for those responsible in this area.

Interpretive Note:
The country takes measures to improve the ability to detect and analyze NPS by making resources and tools available for the national entities responsible in this area. **(Question 19)**

Priority Action 2.3: Design and implement, when appropriate, national regulatory tools to address the challenges posed by NPS and national controls on emerging illicit synthetic drugs and their precursor chemicals.

Interpretive Note:
The country designs and implements, when appropriate, regulations that address in an effective and timely manner the challenges associated with the onset of NPS, emerging illicit synthetic drugs and their precursor chemicals. **(Question 20)**

Priority Action 2.4: Promote participation in the Project ION Incident Communication System (IONICS) to facilitate real-time communication of incidents involving suspicious shipments of, trafficking in, or illicit manufacture or production of NPS, including fentanyl-related substances and other non-medical synthetic opioids and amphetamine derivatives.

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[6] **Early Warning System (EWS)** is a system to gather and disseminate information on emerging drug threats made available through early warning systems in OAS member states. EWS also serve as a global reference for the timely identification of drug-related emerging issues. Also known as SATA, for its Spanish acronym. Available at: http://www.cicad.oas.org/Main/Template.asp?File=/oid/sata/default_eng.asp

Interpretive Note:
The country participates in the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)'s Project ION (International Operations on New Psychoactive Substances), a secure online communication platform dedicated to real-time communication of incidents involving suspicious shipment of trafficking, manufacture, or production of NPS. **(Question 21)**

Priority Action 2.5: Develop innovative regulatory approaches, such as generic controls, analogue legislation, and temporary or emergency controls, to enhance national controls on synthetic opioids for non-medical use, and NPS, particularly when scheduling fentanyl-related substances by class.

Interpretive Note:
The country has developed innovative regulatory approaches to enhance control of synthetic opioids for non-medical use and NPS. These may include, but are not limited to, generic controls, analogue legislation[7] and temporary emergency controls.[8] **(Question 22)**

[7] **Analogue legislation:** These systems are used to place NPS under national control. By using these complementary systems, drug control measures foreseen under the individual listing system are extended to other substances (analogue) or a defined group of substances (generic) not explicitly mentioned in the legislation, but which share some similarities with controlled substances in terms of structure, effects, or both without appealing to a legislative reform. See UNODC: https://www.unodc.org/LSS/Page/NPS/LegalResponses

[8] **Temporary (emergency) ban:** an accelerated procedure to quickly introduce temporary restrictions on NPS for a limited period of time (usually for a year), while the legislative process is completed/or a rigorous assessment of the risks is conducted and a final decision to control the substance is made. If there is no decision to control the substance, the temporary ban expires. See UNODC: https://www.unodc.org/LSS/Page/NPS/LegalResponses

OBJECTIVE 3

OBJECTIVE 3	STRENGTHEN OR DEVELOP LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR THE EFFECTIVE MONITORING AND CONTROL OF ESSENTIAL CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES AND PRECURSORS TO PREVENT DIVERSION OF THESE SUBSTANCES TO THE MANUFACTURING OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND COUNTER ITS TRAFFICKING, INCLUDING PERIODICALLY UPDATING NATIONAL LISTS OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES.

Priority Action 3.1: Promote inter-agency coordination with industry to prevent diversion of controlled chemical substances.

Interpretive Note:
The country has a competent[9] national authority responsible for developing 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 inspections and audits of establishments. **(Questions 23, 24, 25, 26)**

Priority Action 3.2: Conduct analyses, including through existing mechanisms of information exchange, on substances, their analogues, and precursors, which pose a threat to public health in member states, to identify substances for expedited international control.

Interpretive Note:
The country implements expedited and timely monitoring and information exchange systems through existing international mechanisms to detect controlled or not controlled substances, their analogs, and precursors,[10] which pose a threat to public health. **(Question 27)**

Priority Action 3.3: Strengthen the existing international control system to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances, pharmaceutical products, and precursors used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, as well as interdiction to counter the trafficking of chemical substances.

Interpretive Note:
The country has strengthened its legislation by incorporating all the control measures in Article 12, Paragraphs 8 and 9 of the 1988 United Nations Convention[11] to prevent diversion of controlled chemical substances towards illicit activities. **(Question 28)**

[9] Legally delegated.
[10] 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).
[11] United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Vienna, 1988).

Priority Action 3.4: Strengthen or develop appropriate domestic controls over precursors including measures to control the international trade in precursor chemicals and other controlled chemical substances, consistent with the framework established in the United Nations Drug Conventions, and law enforcement measures.

Interpretive Note:
The country implements effective domestic and border control measures on precursor chemicals that may be used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, in accordance with Article 12, Paragraphs 8, 9, and 10 of the 1988 United Nations Convention. **(Questions 29, 30, 31, 32)**

Priority Action 3.5: Promote participation in the Pre-Export Notification (PEN) Online system and Precursor Incident Communication System (PICS) to facilitate information exchange on controlled chemical substances.

Interpretive Note:
The country promotes participation in the International Narcotics Control Board's (INCB) PEN Online pre-export notification information system for controlled chemical substances[12] and in the INCB´s PICS.[13] **(Questions 33, 34)**

Priority Action 3.6: Train relevant drug investigation, control and interdiction personnel and researchers on the identification and handling of precursors and other controlled chemical substances used in the illicit manufacture of drugs.

Interpretive Note:
The country's drug control personnel receive the necessary training to identify and handle precursors and other controlled chemical substances used in the illicit manufacture of drugs. **(Questions 35)**

Priority Action 3.7: Allocate resources to acquire necessary equipment and supplies for the preliminary identification of substances, and the protective equipment required by personnel in charge of these tasks.

Interpretive Note:
The country allocates sufficient resources to acquire necessary equipment and supplies for the preliminary identification of substances and the protective equipment required by personnel in

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

charge of these tasks. Such equipment and supplies include, but are not limited to, color tests and Raman/FTIR handheld devices for the preliminary field identification of the substances most commonly encountered, and personal protective equipment (PPE), considering the different hazards (levels A, B, C or D)[14]. The PPE should include adequate eye and face protection, gloves, protective clothing, foot protection and respiratory protection, according to the level of hazard. **(Questions 36)**

Priority Action 3.8: Use, as appropriate, CICAD's Model Regulations for the control of Chemical Substances Used in the Illicit Production of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (2019) in the formulation of national chemical control regulations.

Interpretive Note:
CICAD's Model Regulations for the Control of Chemical Substances Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances[15] were reviewed and updated during the 2019 meeting of the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products, and later approved at CICAD 66th regular session. The document is an important tool for member states in their efforts to develop/update their legislation/regulations on the topic. **(Question 37)**

[14] There are four levels of PPE commonly used in managing chemical and emergency incidents depending on the level of risk posed by the chemicals present: Level A (extreme risk), Level B (high risk), Level C (medium risk), Level D (lower risk). See UNODC: https://www.unodc.org/documents/scientific/Illustrated_Disposal_guide_for_the_disposal_of_chemicals_used_in_the_manufacture_of_drugs.pdf

[15] CICAD's Model Regulations for the control of Chemical Substances Used in the Illicit Production of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (2019). Available at: http://www.cicad.oas.org/reduccion_oferta/resources/chems/Model Regulations-Approved CICAD 66-Final.pdf

OBJECTIVE 4

OBJECTIVE 4	ENSURE ADEQUATE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF SUBSTANCES SUBJECT TO INTERNATIONAL CONTROL FOR MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES, WHILE ALSO PREVENTING THEIR DIVERSION TOWARDS ILLICIT ACTIVITIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL CONVENTIONS.

Priority Action 4.1: Streamline, in accordance with national legislation and international obligations, the process for issuing authorizations for national production, and to import and export controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes.

Interpretative Note:
The country has mechanisms to expedite the processes for issuing authorizations for national production, as well as import and export of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, in accordance with corresponding legislation. **(Questions 38, 39)**

Priority Action 4.2: Adopt measures, in accordance with national laws, to train competent authorities and health professionals on ensuring access to substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes.

Interpretative Note:
The country has training programs for competent authorities and health professionals and promotes awareness among health practitioners to ensure adequate access to controlled substances solely for medical and scientific purposes. **(Question 40)**

Priority Action 4.3: Improve access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes by addressing existing barriers, including those related to laws, regulations, and measures to promote access and build capacity for health care systems.

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, the country has procedural and administrative guidelines[16] to prevent their diversion, abuse, and trafficking, which are not burdensome to the medical and scientific sector. **(Question 41)**

[16] Procedural and administrative guidelines should be easily accessible and understood and should not inexplicably or significantly delay the process.

OBJECTIVE 5

OBJECTIVE 5	ADOPT OR STRENGTHEN CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DIVERSION OF CONTROLLED PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS CONTAINING NARCOTIC DRUGS AND/OR PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, AND THOSE CONTAINING PRECURSOR SUBSTANCES USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.

Priority Action 5.1: Strengthen or implement control measures on pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or controlled psychoactive substances, to prevent their diversion for non-medical purposes, abuse, and trafficking.

Interpretive Note:
The country implements measures for the control of pharmaceutical products containing precursors, narcotics, or psychotropic substances, to prevent their diversion for non-medical purposes, abuse, and trafficking. These measures include, but are not limited to: i) sharing of information on the misuse of pharmaceuticals containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and ensuring the quality and consistency of reported data; ii) maintaining an updated list of individuals and corporations handling pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics or psychotropic substances; iii) issuing licenses to manufacturers and distributors of pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics or psychotropic substances for their control; iv) conducting regular inspections or audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances. **(Questions 42, 43, 44)**

Priority Action 5.2: Update existing and other regulations and control measures to prevent diversion of pharmaceutical products containing narcotic drugs and/or psychotropic substances.

Interpretive Note:
The country regularly updates, as needed, its regulatory framework and control measures to prevent the diversion of pharmaceutical products containing narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances. **(Question 45)**

Priority Action 5.3: Strengthen national capacity and regional cooperation to prevent trade in and diversion of materials and equipment for illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including pill presses and encapsulating equipment.

Interpretive Note:
The country provides periodic training to relevant personnel to prevent the diversion of tablet pressers, encapsulating and packaging machines and, as appropriate, materials, instruments, and laboratory equipment from legitimate purposes to the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, or chemical substances. Likewise, the country has established appropriate channels for regional cooperation and information sharing on this issue. **(Questions**

46, 47)

Priority Action 5.4: Promote the incorporation of competent national authorities to the International Import and Export Authorization System (I2ES) of the International Narcotics Control Board, a secure online platform, ready to issue, load, and exchange expeditiously import and export authorizations of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical use, between countries.

Interpretive Note:
The country promotes the incorporation of competent national authorities to the I2ES, an online platform developed by the International Narcotic Control Board. Through this system, competent national authorities can issue electronic import and export authorizations for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances on I2ES in compliance with the international drug control treaties. **(Questions 48, 49)**

OBJECTIVE 6

OBJECTIVE 6	STRENGTHEN OR DEVELOP SPECIFIC OPERATIONAL AND INTELLIGENCE GATHERING AND SHARING MECHANISMS TO DETECT METHODS USED BY CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE EXPLOITATION OF LAND, RIVERINE, MARITIME, AND AERIAL ROUTES.

Priority Action 6.1: Train law enforcement personnel involved in drug investigations in specialized investigative techniques and intelligence collection, analysis, and operations, including through the use of existing information systems and intelligence data exchanges.

Interpretive Note:
The country implements or participates in periodic-training program or other capacity-building activities on specialized techniques related to the gathering, development, and analysis of strategic, operational, and prospective intelligence, to enhance counterdrug law enforcement personnel's ability to effectively investigate and dismantle drug trafficking criminal networks. **(Question 50)**

Priority Action 6.2: Enhance the capabilities of law enforcement agencies that investigate and counter drug trafficking and the crimes that facilitate and are associated with trafficking, such as corruption and money laundering, through ongoing training of the involved personnel.

Interpretive Note:
The country implements or participates in periodic training programs or other capacity-building activities to investigate and counter crimes associated with drug trafficking, such as corruption and money laundering.[17] **(Question 51)**

Priority Action 6.3: Strengthen cooperation and the exchange of information among the domestic, regional, and international law enforcement agencies to carry out operations and investigations to counter drug trafficking and related crimes.

Interpretive Note:
The country has mechanisms for the exchange of information and intelligence, at a domestic, regional, and international level, to enable competent authorities to enforce effective border control measures and prevent drug trafficking by land, river, sea, and air. The information exchange mechanisms include, but are not limited to, law enforcement agencies (police, customs, and air and sea border authorities) and the postal services. **(Question 52)**

Priority Action 6.4: Promote and strengthen the exchange of information and intelligence on matters of drug interdiction and effective border control measures to prevent drug trafficking

[17] 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).

by land, river, sea, and air.

Interpretive Note:
The country ensures the existence and effective use of information and intelligence exchange mechanisms among competent authorities on matters of drug interdiction and effective border control measures to prevent drug trafficking by land, river, sea, and air. **(Question 53)**

Priority Action 6.5: Improve the information systems on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on changing behavior patterns and modus operandi of criminal drug trafficking organizations.

Interpretive Note:
The country has an 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 ensures the timely and regular information exchange between the agencies involved in the control of drug trafficking and related crimes. **(Question 54)**

OBJECTIVE 7

OBJECTIVE 7	ESTABLISH, UPDATE, OR REINFORCE, AS APPROPRIATE, THE LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS IN THE AREAS OF PREVENTION, DETECTION, INVESTIGATION, PROSECUTION, AND CONTROL OF MONEY LAUNDERING DERIVED FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING, SUCH AS THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE (FATF).

Priority Action 7.1: Strengthen implementation of the legal, regulatory, and operational frameworks in the areas of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and control of money laundering associated with drug trafficking.

Interpretive Note:
The country has and, as appropriate, periodically reviews its legal, regulatory, and operational frameworks[18] for the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and control of money laundering derived from drug trafficking. **(Question 55)**

Priority Action 7.2: Develop and implement specialized ongoing training in areas of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and control of money laundering derived from drug trafficking, consistent with known and emerging risks.

Interpretive Note:
The country has periodic training program(s) for the competent authorities and those in vulnerable sectors[19] (financial and non-financial sectors) to prevent, detect, investigate, and prosecute money laundering derived from illicit drug trafficking. **(Question 56)**

Priority Action 7.3: Enhance investigations by competent authorities into drug trafficking cases linked to money laundering and illicit use of assets.

Interpretive Note:
The country has and effectively implements protocols, manuals, guides, or other official instruments that enable the authorities to conduct financial and asset investigations parallel to investigations related to drug trafficking. **(Question 57)**

Priority Action 7.4: Strengthen interagency coordination and cooperation in relation to the development of national anti-money laundering strategies, including through coordinating committees and task forces.

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

[19] **Vulnerable sectors:** Please refer to Recommendation 1 of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF): "Assessing risks & applying a risk-based approach." Available at: https://www.fatf-gafi.org/publications/fatfrecommendations/documents/fatf-recommendations.html .

Interpretive Note:
The country has mechanisms to allow the inter-institutional coordination and cooperation in the area of preventing and countering money laundering. These mechanisms include the private financial and non-financial sectors as being vulnerable sectors. **(Question 58)**

Priority Action 7.5: Strengthen the exchange of financial intelligence as related to money laundering, including through the standardization of information systems.

Interpretive Note:
The competent authorities of the country have an information system aimed at the investigation and prosecution of money laundering derived from drug trafficking. The system allows for the sharing of information between financial intelligence and drug trafficking investigations. **(Questions 59, 60)**

Priority Action 7.6: Identify and analyze money laundering threats to mitigate risks through public policies that strengthen the regime for preventing and countering money laundering, in accordance with applicable international instruments.

Interpretive Note:
The country has mechanisms for the identification and analysis of money laundering risks, in accordance with international instruments. The country has a structure or body that oversees the coordination of effective preventive measures and ensures the participation of the financial and non-financial sectors and other vulnerable actors. **(Question 61)**

Priority Action 7.7: Strengthen partnerships with the financial industries to identify and investigate illicit transactions and money laundering operations related to the proceeds of drug trafficking activities.

Interpretive Note:
The country has mechanisms to allow inter-institutional coordination and cooperation to identify and investigate illicit transactions and money laundering operations related to the proceeds of drug trafficking activities. These mechanisms include the private financial and non-financial sectors[20] as vulnerable sectors. **(Question 62)**

[20] The financial sector covers different types of transactions in such areas as real estate, consumer finance, banking, and insurance. It also covers a broad spectrum of investment activities, including securities. See International Monetary Fund: https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/basics/finserv.htm .

OBJECTIVE 8

OBJECTIVE 8	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, IN LINE WITH APPLICABLE INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND IN LINE WITH RELEVANT STANDARDS, SUCH AS THE FATF RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON PREVENTIVE FREEZING OF ASSETS.

Priority Action 8.1: Establish and/or strengthen, as appropriate, national entities responsible for the administration and disposition of assets seized and/or forfeited in cases of drug trafficking, money laundering, and other related crimes.

Interpretive Note:
The country has designated competent authority(ies), responsible for the administration and disposition of seized and forfeited assets. The designated body(ies) 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. **(Questions 63, 64)**

Priority Action 8.2: Establish specialized agencies and appropriate mechanisms for the transparent administration of seized and forfeited assets, in accordance with national laws and international standards.

Interpretive Note:
The information necessary for this Priority Action 8.2 is requested in Priority Action 8.1.

Priority Action 8.3: Develop and implement specialized, ongoing training programs for law enforcement officials charged with the administration and disposition of seized and forfeited assets.

Interpretive Note:
The country offers or participates in specialized, periodic training programs[21] for the management and disposition of seized and forfeited assets. **(Question 65)**

Priority Action 8.4: In accordance with each country's constitutional principles, apply legislative and regulatory measures to facilitate the seizure, forfeiture and management of assets, instruments, or products of illicit drug-related activities.

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

OBJECTIVE 8

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, forfeiture, and management of assets and instruments derived from illicit drug-related activities. **(Question 66)**

OBJECTIVE 9

OBJECTIVE 9	DESIGN, IMPLEMENT, AND STRENGTHEN COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED NATIONAL PROGRAMS TO REDUCE THE ILLICIT CULTIVATION, PRODUCTION AND MANUFACTURE OF DRUGS THROUGH THE ADOPTION OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES, SUCH AS COMPREHENSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT, ENHANCED LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PARTICULAR NEEDS OF SUB-NATIONAL REGIONS OF EACH COUNTRY, RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS.

Priority Action 9.1: Design, implement, and update national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit cultivation, production, and manufacture of drugs.

Interpretive Note:
The country designs, implements, and/or updates, as appropriate, national policies and programs to prevent and decrease the illicit cultivation, production, and/or manufacture of drugs, in accordance with the legal provisions of each country. **(Question 67)**

Priority Action 9.2: Establish budgetary mechanisms to ensure sufficient and consistent allocation of resources to counternarcotics programs.

Interpretive Note:
The country directs budgetary allocations towards financing counternarcotics programs. **(Question 68)**

Priority Action 9.3: Promote supply reduction measures that take into account licit traditional uses, whenever there is historical evidence of such uses, as well as environmental protection.

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 accordance with the country's environmental policy. **(Questions 69, 70)**

Priority Action 9.4: Strengthen interagency cooperation to provide a comprehensive response against the illicit production of drugs, including collaboration among the public and private sectors and the international community.

Interpretive Note:
The country has mechanisms for interinstitutional cooperation to deal with illicit production of drugs, including public and private sector collaboration and with the international community, to provide effective and comprehensive responses within the concept of shared responsibility. **(Question 71)**

Priority Action 9.5: Support supply reduction programs with crime prevention initiatives, in cooperation with civil society and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to address social and economic risk factors.

Interpretive Note:
The country supports the development of supply reduction programs with drug-related crime prevention initiatives, in collaboration with civil society and other social actors,[22] and with emphasis placed on social and economic risk factors. **(Question 72)**

[22] **Other social stakeholders**: local stakeholders, neighborhood leaders, social movements, community organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGO) and other civil society associations (including women's organizations).

OBJECTIVE 10

OBJECTIVE 10	DESIGN, IMPLEMENT OR STRENGTHEN LONG-TERM ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, INCLUDING RURAL AND URBAN ALTERNATIVES, COMPREHENSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, AND, AS APPROPRIATE, PREVENTIVE ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICIES, LAWS AND NEEDS OF EACH COUNTRY, AS APPROPRIATE, WHILE RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS.

Priority Action 10.1: Design and implement comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, while respecting human rights.

Interpretive Note:
The country has designed and implemented comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, as a component of strategies for the control and reduction of illicit crops, while respecting human rights. **(Question 73)**

Priority Action 10.2: Exchange experiences and best practices in the design and implementation of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate.

Interpretive Note:
The country exchanges experiences and best practices with countries in the Hemisphere on the design and implementation of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate. **(Question 74)**

Priority Action 10.3: Promote and disseminate the results of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, and the benefits they provide to affected communities.

Interpretive Note:
The country publishes data and analysis of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs and liaises with local and national civil society for its discussion, feedback, and dissemination. **(Question 75)**

Priority Action 10.4: Design and/or strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems for comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs aimed at reducing illicit crop cultivation and improving the well-being of communities, through the use of indicators that measure programs' effectiveness.

Interpretive Note:
The country uses intermediate and/or outcome results indicators to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of integral and sustainable alternative 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. **(Question 76)**

Priority Action 10.5: Strengthen state presence in areas affected by or at risk of illicit drug cultivation, consistent with the circumstances of each member state.

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 comprehensive and sustainable alternative development strategy. **(Question 77)**

Priority Action 10.6: Promote, in accordance with national realities, the participation of local communities and relevant organizations in the development of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, taking into account their needs and capabilities.

Interpretive Note:
The country promotes the participation of communities and target groups[23] in the design, implementation, and supervision of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development projects and programs, including preventive development, as appropriate. **(Question 78)**

Priority Action 10.7: Promote partnerships and innovative cooperative initiatives with the private sector, civil society, and international financial institutions to spur investment and job creation in areas and communities affected by or at-risk of illicit drug cultivation and production, and share related practices, lessons learned, expertise, and skills.

Interpretive Note:
The country has formal programs to facilitate partnerships with the private sector, civil society, and international financial institutions that lead to job creation in communities affected by or at-risk of illicit drug cultivation. These programs are aimed at preventing, reducing, or eliminating illicit crops while providing a licit alternative and share best practices, lessons learned, expertise, and skills in this regard. **(Questions 79, 80**)

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

OBJECTIVE 11

OBJECTIVE 11	DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT PLANS AND/OR PROGRAMS TO MITIGATE AND REDUCE THE IMPACT OF ILLICIT CROPS AND DRUG PRODUCTION ON THE ENVIRONMENT, IN COOPERATION WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND NATIONAL POLICIES OF MEMBER STATES.

Priority Action 11.1: Conduct research and studies on the environmental impact of illicit crop cultivation and illicit production of drugs.

Interpretive Note:
The country carries out research and/or studies to determine the characteristics and extent of the environmental impact caused by the illicit cultivation of crops and illicit drug production. **(Question 81)**

Priority Action 11.2: Design and implement specific research-based plans to mitigate the environmental impact of illicit crop cultivation and drug production, with the participation of local communities.

Interpretive Note:
The country designs 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, in accordance with each country's environmental policies, which includes participation of local communities. **(Questions 82, 82.a)**

Priority Action 11.3: Promote and strengthen the use of environmental management tools, as appropriate.

Interpretive Note:
The country promotes and strengthens the use of environmental management tools, as appropriate. This Priority Action 11.3 is linked to Priority Action 11.2 **(Question 82.b)**

OBJECTIVE 12	ADDRESS THE EFFECTS OF SMALL-SCALE DRUG TRAFFICKING ON PUBLIC HEALTH, THE ECONOMY, SOCIAL COHESION, AND CITIZEN SECURITY.

Priority Action 12.1: Develop and implement local approaches for controlling micro-trafficking and related crimes.

Interpretive Note:
The country has developed and implemented local approaches for controlling micro-trafficking[24] and related crimes, which may include, but are not limited to, investigation methodologies,[25] territorial and socio-economic considerations, that take into account the effects on public health, the economy, social cohesion, and citizen security. **(Question 83)**

Priority Action 12.2: Promote the interagency exchange of information at the national level to better understand the scope and adverse effects of small-scale drug trafficking, including on health, society, the economy, and security.

Interpretive Note:
The country promotes the interagency exchange of information at the national level on the adverse effects of small-scale drug trafficking on health, society, the economy, and security. **(Question 84)**

Priority Action 12.3: Promote programs and strategies to prevent the exploitation of at-risk populations by drug trafficking networks, at the national and international level.

Interpretive Note:
The country promotes programs and/or strategies to prevent the exploitation of at-risk populations[26] by drug trafficking networks, at the national and international level. **(Question 85)**

Priority Action 12.4: Encourage the development and implementation of comprehensive intervention strategies to counter local illicit distribution and sale of drugs.

Interpretive Note:
The information necessary for this Priority Action 12.4 is requested in Priority Action 12.1.

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[24] For the purposes of this objective, the terms "micro-trafficking" and "small-scale drug trafficking" are used interchangeably to refer to this phenomenon.
[25] **Investigation methodologies:** Research strategies that explain a given phenomenon, taking into account socio-economic variables (age, gender, socio-economic level, educational level, etc).
[26] At-risk populations may include: women, children, adolescents, LGBTIQ+ persons, people who use drugs, prison population, indigenous groups, migrants, individuals in street situations, and other socially disadvantaged groups.

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