



**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION**

CICAD

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

**SIXTY-EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION OF CICAD
December 9 - 11, 2020
Bogotá, D.C., Colombia**

**OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.68
CICAD/doc.2533/20
December, 10 2020
Original: English/Spanish**

**HEMISPHERIC PLAN OF ACTION ON DRUGS 2021-2025
(DECEMBER 10, 2020)**

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)
INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)

HEMISPHERIC PLAN OF ACTION ON DRUGS 2021-2025
(DECEMBER 10, 2020)

Introduction

The world drug problem is a complex, dynamic, and multi-causal phenomenon that negatively affects public health, security, human rights, the environment, and the well-being of all humanity. Responding to this problem requires a comprehensive, balanced, multidisciplinary, and evidence-based approach, in full respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with applicable international law, and consistent with the principle of common and shared responsibility.

OAS member states pledged their commitment to work together to address the drug problem in the Declaration of Antigua, Guatemala, “For a comprehensive policy against the world drug problem in the Americas” (2013) and the Resolution of Guatemala, “Reflections and guidelines to formulate and follow up on comprehensive policies to address the world drug problem in the Americas” (2014). Similarly, member states adopted international commitments in the form of operational recommendations through the outcome document of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the world drug problem, entitled, “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem” (2016). Member states recommitted to these international commitments, including the need for concerted and sustained action at the national, regional, and international levels, in the 2019 United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) Ministerial Declaration during the High-Level Ministerial Segment of the 62nd CND in March 2019. This Plan of Action also acknowledges the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and notes that the efforts made by member states towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and effectively addressing the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

In 2020, OAS member states approved the OAS Hemispheric Drug Strategy, which is supported by this Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2021-2025. Through this updated five-year Plan, member states reiterate their commitment to placing individuals at the core of drug policies and programs and furthering tangible progress in addressing the world drug problem within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments, in full respect of the principles of international law, the United Nations Charter, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Its content takes into account gender, age, community¹, and cultural context, as well as, when appropriate, inputs from civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders, and addresses the new challenges faced by member states within the framework of the new Strategy. Moreover, this Plan of Action positions member states to adapt to new realities, including those emerging as a result of global crises, such as the coronavirus pandemic, which has spurred criminal activity and drug trafficking groups, while exacerbating a public health crisis. Strengthening international cooperation is more vital than ever, as countries will need to work together more closely to respond to these threats, share information, and exchange lessons learned. Adapting to innovative technology and virtual tools to facilitate this cooperation will be critical to supporting the region’s response to the pandemic and related drug threats.

The Plan outlines objectives and priority actions for OAS member states to consider when designing and

¹ Community includes ethnicity.

implementing national drug policies, programs, and projects in response to the unique challenges faced by each member state. The document promotes the exchange of best practices and lessons learned in the fields of drug demand and supply reduction policies, institutional strengthening, research and international cooperation, as well as closer coordination between CICAD and other bodies within the OAS, and the broader Inter-American system with expertise in human rights, health, childhood, adolescence, gender, and security, particularly in the areas of corruption, money laundering, transnational organized crime, and public security.

CICAD's Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) will monitor and evaluate member state progress in the implementation of this Plan of Action on Drugs (2021-2025). The MEM – a 1998 Summit of the Americas' mandate – serves as a unique hemispheric tool for strengthening national policies and actions to address the world drug problem through its periodic peer review and evaluation process.

In this sense, the following objectives and priority actions are proposed, organized in five pillars:

Institutional Strengthening

Objective 1: Establish and/or strengthen national drug authorities, placing them at a high political level and providing them with the necessary capabilities, resources, and competencies to coordinate formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of national drug policies.

Priority Actions

- 1.1 Place national drug authorities at a high political level.
- 1.2 Grant national drug policy entities the authority to guide and coordinate the formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of national drug policies.
- 1.3 Allocate the necessary resources (material, financial, and human) for the effective functioning of the national drug authorities.
- 1.4 Design or optimize mechanisms to facilitate effective coordination and collaboration among government institutions for the formulation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and updating of evidence-based national drug policies and/or strategies.

Objective 2: Formulate, implement, evaluate, and update comprehensive national drug policies and/or strategies that promote balanced, multidisciplinary, and evidence-based approaches, while fully respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, under the principle of common and shared responsibility, consistent with obligations of parties under international law, and take into account gender, age, community², cultural context, and socially inclusive development.

Priority Actions

- 2.1 Collect and use evidence as a basis for the formulation and updating of national drug policies and/or strategies.
- 2.2 Promote and establish collaborative relationships with the scientific community, public policy experts, community and/or civil society actors, and other relevant stakeholders, to contribute to the evidence-based development, implementation, evaluation, and updating of national drug policies.

² Community includes ethnicity.

- 2.3 Promote sub-national/local management of drug policies and/or strategies through greater coordination and/ or delegation of responsibilities, as appropriate, between sub-national/local and national agencies, taking into account the socio-cultural, demographic and other differences of each region.
- 2.4 Engage private sector entities to develop innovative approaches to implementation of drug policy, including the exchange of information on emerging substances and new drug trafficking modalities that may affect the private sector, and best practices for denying criminals access to the private sector platforms and technologies that facilitate international trade.
- 2.5 Formulate or update national drug policies and/or strategies in line with the 2020 OAS Hemispheric Strategy on Drugs and this accompanying Plan of Action, taking into account the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- 2.6 Integrate a human rights, gender, and social inclusion approach, particularly with respect to at-risk populations³, in the process of formulating, implementing, and updating national drug policies and/or strategies.
- 2.7 Provide adequate financial and other necessary resources for the implementation of drug policies and programs.

Objective 3: Design and coordinate national drug policies, that can be harmonized across related government policies and/or strategies, that address the fundamental causes and consequences of the drug problem.

Priority Actions

- 3.1 Establish and/or strengthen interagency and multisectoral policy and technical coordination mechanisms, to achieve a comprehensive, balanced, and multi-disciplinary approach to the drug problem, including its causes and consequences.
- 3.2 Design, implement, and evaluate multisectoral plans and programs based on the principles of human rights, public health, and development, to address and counter the socioeconomic causes and the consequences of the drug problem.
- 3.3 Participate in international cooperation programs at the bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen policies, programs, institutions, and their internal processes.
- 3.4 Promote comprehensive and cross-cutting public policies to reduce and prevent crime, violence, social exclusion, and corruption.
- 3.5 Implement measures that promote equal access to justice and due process, taking into account gender, age, community, and cultural context.
- 3.6 Implement measures that foster citizen participation in crime prevention, build community cohesion, increase public safety, and emphasize social inclusion.

Objective 4: Design, adopt, and implement alternatives to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug or drug-related offenses, while taking into account national, constitutional, legal, and administrative systems, and in accordance with relevant international instruments.

Priority actions

- 4.1 Adopt alternative measures to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug-related offenses,

³ At-risk populations may include: women, children, adolescents, LGBTIQ+ persons, people who use drugs, prison population, indigenous groups, migrants, homeless individuals, and other socially disadvantaged groups.

where appropriate, while safeguarding the sovereignty of states, and ensuring individual accountability, respecting human rights and the gender perspective.

- 4.2 Develop mechanisms to monitor and evaluate alternative measures to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug-related offenses, in collaboration with academic and research institutions, as well as civil society.
- 4.3 Promote common understanding of national legal norms, regulations, and internal procedures for the implementation of alternatives to incarceration.

Objective 5: Promote and implement, as appropriate, in accordance with the policies, laws and needs of each country, comprehensive programs that promote social inclusion, especially to those at-risk populations.

Priority actions

- 5.1 Design and implement, in accordance with the characteristics, interests, and needs of each country, inter-agency and multisectoral programs that promote the social inclusion of individuals, families, and communities affected by the drug problem, taking into account the specific needs of at-risk populations.
- 5.2 Disseminate best practices and lessons learned to improve institutional responses to the needs of at-risk populations.

Objective 6: Promote proportionate sentencing for drug-related crimes that provides for penalties commensurate with the relative seriousness of offenses, in line with the international drug conventions and respecting the principles of due process, with gender perspective, age, community, and a human rights approach.

Priority actions

- 6.1 Promote proportional legal sentencing for minor drug-related offenses in accordance with domestic law.
- 6.2 Promote legal reforms as needed, to promote proportional sentencing for minor drug-related offenses.

Measures of Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Support

Objective 1: Establish comprehensive and integrated drug demand reduction policies with a public health focus, that are evidence-based, multidisciplinary, multisectoral, respectful of human rights, that consider the gender perspective, community⁴ and take into account the guidelines and/or recommendations of specialized international and/or regional organizations.

Priority actions

- 1.1 Establish and/or update evidence-based programs in the areas of health promotion, prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, rehabilitation, social integration, and recovery and related support services, as well as initiatives and measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health

⁴ Community includes ethnicity.

- and social consequences of drug abuse, taking into account gender, age, community, and cultural context, and establish budgetary mechanisms for such programs.
- 1.2 Develop, strengthen, and/or implement, as appropriate, coordination mechanisms for collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information on drug use prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and social reintegration service availability, utilization, and outcomes, for the general public and different target populations, with support, as needed, from civil society, academic and research institutions, as appropriate.
 - 1.3 Carry out impact, process, and outcome evaluations of demand reduction programs.
 - 1.4 Develop and/or implement, as appropriate, coordination mechanisms with civil society, academic and research institutions, and other stakeholders to support the development and implementation of demand reduction programs.
 - 1.5 Promote national prevention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation, and social integration measures and programs, with a comprehensive and balanced drug demand reduction approach and, in that regard, promote nationally recognized standards by member states on drug use preventions and/or the International Standards on Drug Use Prevention, and the International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders, both developed jointly by the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Objective 2: Establish or strengthen an integrated system of evidence-based universal, selective, and indicated drug use prevention programs that prioritize at-risk populations,⁵ as well as environmental prevention, that incorporate a human rights, gender, age, and multicultural perspective.

Priority actions

- 2.1 Develop and implement evidence-based drug use prevention strategies and/or programs in the school, family, work, and community settings.
- 2.2 Develop and strengthen situational assessments to identify specific needs, risk, and protective factors of each target population of drug use prevention programs.
- 2.3 Promote the exchange of research findings, experiences, and best practices to improve the effectiveness of prevention programs, taking into consideration the “International Standards on Drug Use Prevention,” jointly by the WHO and UNODC.
- 2.4 Implement selective prevention programs aimed at at-risk populations,⁵ in particular at children, adolescents, youth, and women.
- 2.5 Develop and strengthen indicated prevention programs aimed at individuals at increased risk of developing substance use disorders.

Objective 3: Establish and strengthen, as appropriate, national care, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and social integration systems for people who use drugs, that are integrated with health systems, and that respect human rights, and offer gender-specific services, and that, to the extent possible, are designed and administered in accordance with internationally accepted quality standards.

Priority actions

- 3.1 Implement and strengthen comprehensive and inclusive care, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and social integration programs and services in the public health care network, and/or social

⁵ At-risk populations may include: women, children, adolescents, LGBTIQ+ persons, people who use drugs, prison population, indigenous groups, migrants, homeless individuals, and other socially disadvantaged groups.

protection, taking into account the “International Standards on Treatment of Drug Use Disorders,” the Technical Guide for countries to set targets for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, and care for injecting drug users, issued WHO, UNODC, and the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

- 3.2 Monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and social integration programs and comprehensive public and private facilities, taking into account the gender perspective, age, and cultural context, as appropriate.
- 3.3 Promote measures to protect the rights of persons in treatment.
- 3.4 Promote and offer alternative means for providing early intervention, care, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and social integration services for criminal offenders who use drugs, as an alternative to criminal prosecution and/or imprisonment.
- 3.5 Establish early intervention, care, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and social integration programs for incarcerated individuals.
- 3.6 Design and implement cooperation mechanisms with social and community actors that provide social and community support services in order to contribute to social integration of people who use drugs, particularly at-risk populations, in an ongoing, sustainable, and recovery-oriented manner.
- 3.7 Promote regional and international cooperation and share best practices in increasing access to and availability of evidence-based treatment and recovery services, including access to naloxone and other medicines used in the treatment of substance use disorder.
- 3.8 Promote measures to address the stigma and social marginalization associated with substance use disorders, which may deter individuals from seeking, accessing, and/or completing demand reduction services.

Objective 4: Foster ongoing training and certification of prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation service providers.

Priority actions

- 4.1 Implement ongoing competency-based training mechanisms, in collaboration with academic institutions and other specialized organizations.
- 4.2 Develop and utilize criteria for certification of drug use prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and social integration service providers that recognize tiered (e.g. basic, intermediate, and advanced) levels and/or specialized competencies (e.g. Co-occurring substance use and mental health disorder credentials).
- 4.3 Conduct a situational assessment to identify training needs of prevention, early intervention, care, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and social integration service providers.
- 4.4 Develop specialized programs in response to training needs identified by the situational assessment.

Objective 5: Establish and/or strengthen government institutional capacities to regulate, enable, accredit, and supervise prevention programs and care, treatment, rehabilitation, and reintegration services.

Priority actions

- 5.1 Establish and implement regulatory measures that include quality criteria for the accreditation of prevention programs and care and treatment services.

- 5.2 Establish supervisory mechanisms to ensure that prevention programs and public and private treatment services meet the standards of international quality criteria recognized by the member states.
- 5.3 Assessment, at the national, regional, and local levels, of the needs and supply of primary care, treatment, and reintegration services.

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

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 actions

- 1.1 Develop or strengthen intelligence and interdiction capabilities to detect, investigate, and dismantle laboratories or facilities used in the illicit manufacture of drugs.
- 1.2 Implement policies that promote gender mainstreaming in agencies and organizations in charge of drug control.
- 1.3 Design, implement, and strengthen programs aimed at land, riverine, maritime, and aerial interdiction.
- 1.4 Review and update, as appropriate, legal frameworks related to the use of specialized investigation tools and techniques.
- 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.
- 1.6 Define and implement coordinated actions between national and regional entities to dismantle organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes.
- 1.7 Enhance the capacity of national and regional forensic laboratories or similar investigation entities to analyze and identify chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances (NPS) and facilitate information sharing with global repositories and across governmental counterparts.
- 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.
- 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.
- 1.10 Enhance capacities for forfeiture, seizure, and management of assets, tools, or products related to illicit drug markets.

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 actions

- 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.
- 2.2 Improve domestic capabilities to detect and analyze NPS by making resources and tools available for those responsible in this area.
- 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.
- 2.4 Promote participation in the Project ION⁶ 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.
- 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.

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 actions

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

⁶ Project ION (International Operations on New Psychoactive Substances).

national chemical control regulations.

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 actions

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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 actions

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

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 actions

- 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 by land, river, sea, and air.
- 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.

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 actions

- 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.
- 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.
- 7.3 Enhance investigations by competent authorities into drug trafficking cases linked to money laundering and illicit use of assets.
- 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.
- 7.5 Strengthen the exchange of financial intelligence as related to money laundering, including through the standardization of information systems.
- 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.
- 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.

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 actions

- 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.
- 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.

- 8.3 Develop and implement specialized, ongoing training programs for law enforcement officials charged with the administration and disposition of seized and forfeited assets.
- 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 product of illicit drug-related activities.

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 actions

- 9.1 Design, implement, and update national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit cultivation, production, and manufacture of drugs.
- 9.2 Establish budgetary mechanisms to ensure sufficient and consistent allocation of resources to counternarcotics programs.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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 actions

- 10.1 Design and implement comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, while respecting human rights.
- 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.
- 10.3 Promote and disseminate the results of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, and the benefits they provide to affected communities.
- 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.
- 10.5 Strengthen state presence in areas affected by or at risk of illicit drug cultivation, consistent with the circumstances of each member state.
- 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.

- 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.

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 actions

- 11.1 Conduct research and studies on the environmental impact of illicit crop cultivation and illicit production of drugs.
- 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.
- 11.3 Promote and strengthen the use of environmental management tools, as appropriate.

Objective 12: Address the effects of small-scale drug trafficking on public health, the economy, social cohesion, and citizen security.

Priority actions

- 12.1 Develop and implement local approaches for controlling micro-trafficking and related crimes.
- 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.
- 12.3 Promote programs and strategies to prevent the exploitation of at-risk populations⁷ by drug trafficking networks, at the national and international level.
- 12.4 Encourage the development and implementation of comprehensive intervention strategies to counter local illicit distribution and sale of drugs.

Research, Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation

Objective 1: Establish or strengthen national observatories on drugs, or similar technical offices, strengthening national drug information systems, and foster scientific research to generate, collect, organize, analyze, and disseminate information to inform the development and implementation of evidence-based drug policies and strategies.

Priority actions

- 1.1 Develop and strengthen national drug observatories (NDO) or similar technical offices ensuring they have adequate human and financial resources.
- 1.2 Strengthen ties to academic and research institutions, as well as specialized non-governmental organizations, to foster scientific research and studies on the various aspects of the drug phenomenon.

⁷ At-risk populations may include: women, children, adolescents, LGBTQ+ persons, people who use drugs, prison population, indigenous groups, migrants, homeless individuals and other socially disadvantaged groups.

- 1.3 Develop and adopt quantitative and qualitative methodologies and information-gathering mechanisms that allow for the comparison of data among countries.
- 1.4 Establish and strengthen national drug information networks (DINs) to carry out long-term monitoring and early warning systems (EWS), including the use of a broad range of research methods and information sources, to develop rapid responses to emerging threats.
- 1.5 Contribute to the Early Warning System of the Americas (Spanish acronym SATA) to gather the available national alerts and disseminate them to member states, so that member states can respond in the shortest possible time to new threats.
- 1.6 Publish updates annually, when possible, on drug supply and drug demand utilizing the information provided on the national drug situation by using information from the national DINs.
- 1.7 Build capacity among relevant stakeholders to enhance the collection, management, and dissemination of drug related information.
- 1.8 Establish or strengthen forums at which drug researchers can present their findings to policymakers, and encourage their participation in CICAD experts groups.
- 1.9 Foster and disseminate best practices and the exchange of successful experiences in research among member states.

Objective 2: Expand access to information on drug use and related issues through the use of sound, systematic data collection practices, scientific research, and standardized methodologies, ensuring that countries have the information necessary to develop sound demand reduction programs and policies.

Priority actions

- 2.1 Generate information on the incidence, prevalence, and modes of drug use and health impacts of drug use (e.g. non-fatal overdose, fatal overdose, infectious disease transmission), as well as drug use and health impact trends over time using sound, systematic data collection practices, scientific research, and standardized methodologies to monitor use across the general public and in key populations, whenever possible utilizing the Inter-American Drug Use Data System (SIDUC) as the standard methodology for epidemiological surveillance.
- 2.2 Develop drug treatment information systems that record the number of patients treated, diagnoses, clinical history, and available information on treatment outcomes.
- 2.3 Evaluate and monitor the impact and the results of treatment and prevention programs using scientific methodologies and make recommendations to update programs based on findings.

Objective 3: Expand and enhance the collection and dissemination of information on illicit drug production, trafficking, and related issues, through the use of sound, systematic data collection practices, scientific research, and standardized methodologies.

Priority actions

- 3.1 Generate information on illicit drug production, trafficking, drug markets, and related issues, using systematic data collection practices, scientific research, and wherever possible applying comparable methodologies.
- 3.2 Conduct studies on the price, purity or concentration, and chemical profile of drugs.
- 3.3 Establish and strengthen the relationship between the NDOs, or similar technical offices, and national, and when applicable, local, or sub-national forensic laboratories to bolster the collection of data on the chemical composition of substances and precursors seized.

- 3.4 Strengthen drug information networks in member states by improving the mechanisms used to gather and analyze data to inform the development of public policies that control the illicit supply of drugs.

Objective 4: Participate in and strengthen the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) process, considering its recommendations.

Priority actions

- 4.1 Regularly collect information and data to evaluate implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action.
- 4.2 Support and facilitate active and timely participation in each of the MEM activities agreed to by member states.
- 4.3 Disseminate MEM evaluation reports by member states among national stakeholders, other pertinent organizations, and the general public.
- 4.4 Promote use of the MEM's findings to identify technical assistance needs.
- 4.5 Increase hemispheric cooperation and partnerships among member states and sharing of best practices and lessons learned.

International Cooperation

Objective 1: Promote and strengthen cooperation and coordination mechanisms to foster technical assistance, improve exchange of information and experiences, and share best practices and lessons learned on drug policies.

Priority actions

- 1.1 Develop and implement a plan for promoting and strengthening technical assistance and horizontal cooperation among member states and with states outside of the Western Hemisphere, and with relevant international and regional organizations, and related initiatives and programs.
- 1.2 Promote technology transfers and information sharing among and between member states and international organizations.
- 1.3 Promote the dissemination of good practices and exchange of successful research experiences among and between member states and international organizations.

Objective 2: Strengthen international cooperation as defined in the international legal instruments related to the world drug problem, maintaining respect for human rights.

Priority actions

- 2.1 Strengthen regional and international cooperation by competent authorities to investigate and prosecute criminals on drug-related offenses.
- 2.2 Strengthen regional and international cooperation to facilitate, where appropriate, mutual legal assistance, extradition, and transfer of proceedings, in accordance with international legal instruments, when investigating and prosecuting criminals on drug-related offenses.
- 2.3 Enact national legislation and/or take administrative actions, as appropriate, to more fully implement the obligations set forth within these legal instruments.

- 2.4 Promote the accession, ratification, and implementation of the international legal instruments related to the world drug problem and related crimes.