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MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

Evaluation Report on Drug Policies

COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION

Argentina

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)
Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS)

2024



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Evaluation Report on Drug Policies:

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EIGHTH EVALUATION ROUND

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PREFACE¹

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), established by a mandate from the Second Summit of the Americas (Santiago, Chile - 1998), is a unique multilateral evaluation tool designed to measure the progress made and challenges faced by the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) in implementing the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs of the OAS Hemispheric Drug Strategy, currently in force.

The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS) is the OAS specialized agency in charge of implementing this Mechanism.

The current MEM round is based on the objectives of the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2021-2025 of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy 2020 and their respective priority actions. These documents take into account the recommendations of the outcome document of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS 2016) and the United Nations 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, as well as cross-cutting issues, such as the gender perspective and human rights, cultural context, and social inclusion approaches, among others.

Seven evaluation rounds have been completed from 1998 to 2019 and, during 2020, the MEM Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG), composed of member state delegates, agreed on a new methodology for the eighth round, consisting of annual thematic evaluations with the support of independent technical consultants, as follows: 2021 – Measures for Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Support; 2022 – Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their Causes and Consequences; 2023 – Institutional Strengthening; Research, Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation; International Cooperation; and 2024 – Comprehensive Evaluation based on updated information from all thematic areas.

MEM evaluations are conducted based on information provided by the member states' National Coordinating Entities (NCEs), which is thoroughly analyzed by the MEM Governmental Expert Group (GEG). This group is comprised of experts designated by the countries, who do not participate in the evaluation of their own country, thereby ensuring transparency and impartiality in the process. The GEG is consistently supported by a team of independent technical consultants and the MEM Unit. The eighth round introduces a more rigorous evaluation process, requiring

¹ In the context of the CICAD seventy-sixth regular session (November 19-22, 2024), Argentina indicated that the periods evaluated in this document cover the years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and early 2024. Throughout the text, reference is made on several occasions to issues related to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the gender perspective. It is worth mentioning that, by virtue of the change of government in December 2023, Argentina is reviewing and evaluating the policies implemented during these periods in relation to these issues, among others. This does not imply, in any way, non-compliance with the commitments and obligations previously assumed by the National State within the framework of the MEM.

countries to present valid means of verification to substantiate the information submitted and demonstrate compliance with each priority action.

The GEG's comprehensive evaluation of the objectives of the CICAD Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs (POA) was conducted in 2024, covering the 2019-2024 period (unless stated otherwise). This evaluation, which incorporates updated priority actions provided in an annex, aims to present a holistic view of all POA objectives integrating evaluations from the three preceding reports that did not undergo updates this year. Notably, this is the fourth and final year of the eighth evaluation round. The evaluation process was adapted to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, utilizing technology and virtual tools.

It is important to highlight that one of the primary purposes of the MEM evaluation reports is to provide a diagnostic tool that identifies opportunities for enhancing drug policies and strategies at both national and regional levels.

COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION

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.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that Argentina has two national drug authorities, which have a legal basis. Moreover, CICAD observes that, in the country, there is an annual budget for the national drug authorities, which is independent in one case and is integrated with the budget of another institution in the other. Furthermore, CICAD notes that Argentina has an ongoing coordination and collaboration mechanism among agencies and other levels of government to formulate, implement, monitor, evaluate, and update national drug policies and/or strategies and that the national drug authorities coordinate the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, drug observatory, international cooperation and program evaluation.

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, community, cultural context, and socially inclusive development.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that Argentina collects and uses evidence as a basis for formulating and updating national drug policies and/or strategies. Additionally, CICAD observes the involvement of relevant actors from the priority areas in the development, implementation, evaluation, and updating of national drug policies and/or strategies. CICAD notes that Argentina has partially delegated responsibilities on drug issues to subnational/local governments to implement concrete actions related to drug policies and strategies, in coordination with the national drug authorities, which have, in their central structure, an office or operational unit to promote, coordinate, train, and provide technical support on drug-related issues to subnational/local governments or agencies. Moreover, the national drug authorities have coordinators, offices, or representatives in the sub-national or local territories, as part of a decentralized operational and coordination structure at the local level to respond to the drug problem. Additionally, Argentina has specific and ongoing mechanisms to transfer funds or finance drug initiatives or projects implemented by municipalities or local governments. CICAD observes that the country engages private sector entities to develop innovative approaches in the implementation of drug policies and exchange information and best practices. CICAD notes that Argentina takes into account the OAS 2020 Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its corresponding Plan of Action to formulate or update national drug policies and strategies. Moreover, these policies and strategies take into account the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

CICAD observes that the country's national drug policies and strategies take into account the human rights approach, the gender perspective, and the social inclusion approach. Additionally, CICAD notes that Argentina has the necessary resources to implement 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.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that Argentina has interagency and multisectoral policy and technical coordination mechanisms to address the drug problem through a comprehensive, balanced, and multidisciplinary approach, including its causes and consequences. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country has concrete multisectoral plans and programs to address the causes and socioeconomic consequences of the drug problem based on the principles of human rights, public health, and development. Additionally, CICAD notes that Argentina participates in international cooperation programs at the bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen policies, programs, institutions, and their internal processes. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country promotes comprehensive and cross-cutting public policies to reduce and prevent crime, violence, social exclusion, and corruption. Also, CICAD notes that Argentina implements measures that promote equal access to justice and due process, taking into account gender, age, community, and cultural context approaches. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country implements 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.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that Argentina's law provides for alternative measures to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug-related offenses, which respect human rights and take into account the gender perspective in accordance with relevant international instruments. Additionally, CICAD observes that the country develops mechanisms to monitor and evaluate these measures, which involve academic and research institutions, as well as civil society, and promotes a 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.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that Argentina has 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. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country disseminates 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.

CICAD observes with satisfaction that Argentina promotes legislation that provides for proportional legal sentencing for minor drug-related offenses, in accordance with domestic law and has special courts for these offenses. Moreover, CICAD notes that the country promotes legal reforms regarding 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, community and take into account the guidelines and/or recommendations of specialized international and/or regional organizations.

CICAD notes that Argentina has drug demand reduction policies that include programs in the areas of health promotion, prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, rehabilitation, social integration, and recovery. These programs include gender, age, community, and cultural context approaches. In addition, CICAD notes that Argentina develops, strengthens, and implements coordination mechanisms to collect, analyze, disseminate, and access information on prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and social reintegration services. It also notes that the country has monitoring instruments for drug demand reduction programs and has performed an outcome evaluation of its drug demand reduction programs. However, CICAD notes that Argentina does not perform impact evaluations (best practices) or any other related or current study on drug use prevention programs. On the other hand, CICAD notes that Argentina develops and implements coordination mechanisms to support the development and implementation of drug demand reduction programs that allow for participation and coordination with civil society

and other stakeholders. Finally, CICAD observes that Argentina promotes national prevention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation, and social integration measures and programs, with a comprehensive and balanced drug demand reduction approach and, in this regard, promotes national standards recognized by the member states the “International Standards on Drug Use Prevention” and the “International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders,” both developed jointly by the WHO and 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, as well as environmental prevention, that incorporate a human rights, gender, age, and multicultural perspective.

CICAD notes that Argentina carries out universal drug use prevention programs in different population groups. However, it notes that it does not develop indicated or selective prevention strategies or programs, nor does it implement specific programs for other important population groups. In addition, CICAD observes that Argentina has carried out situational assessments to identify the specific needs, risk, and protective factors of each target population of drug use prevention program. Similarly, CICAD notes that Argentina promotes the exchange of research, experiences, and best practices to improve the effectiveness of prevention programs, taking into account the “International Standards for Drug Use Prevention,” developed jointly by the WHO and UNODC.

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.

CICAD observes that Argentina has comprehensive and inclusive care, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and social integration programs and services in the public health network and in social protection, which take into account the gender, human rights, and public health approaches. In addition, it notes that the country takes into account the “International Standards on Treatment of Drug Use Disorders” of the WHO and UNODC. However, it does not take into account use of the “Technical Guide for countries to set targets for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, and care for injecting drug users,” issued by the WHO, UNODC, and UNAIDS. On the other hand, CICAD observes that Argentina implements mechanisms to continuously monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and social integration programs. These mechanisms take into account inclusion of the human rights, age, and cultural context approaches. CICAD also observes that Argentina has mechanisms to protect the rights of persons in treatment programs and services and has protocols to protect the confidentiality of

information provided by those who receive these services, which include the process of providing adequate information on treatment and informed consent. In addition, CICAD notes that Argentina has early intervention, care, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and social integration alternatives for criminal offenders who use drugs. In addition, CICAD notes that Argentina offers early intervention, care, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and social integration programs for incarcerated drug users. CICAD also finds that the country implements cooperation mechanisms with social and community actors that provide social and community support services and that contribute to the social integration of drug users. Nonetheless, CICAD notes that Argentina does not promote regional or international cooperation nor does it share best practices for increasing access to or availability of evidence-based recovery or treatment services, including access to naloxone or other medications used in the treatment of substance use disorders. Finally, CICAD notes that Argentina does not promote measures to address the stigma or social marginalization associated with substance use disorders, which may deter individuals from seeking, accessing, or completing drug demand reduction services.

Objective 4

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

CICAD notes that Argentina implements ongoing competency-based training in the areas of prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation. Moreover, it participates in training programs on prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation offered by specialized international organizations. These programs take the gender approach into account. On the other hand, CICAD notes that Argentina certifies personnel who work in treatment services, but does not certify prevention, rehabilitation, or social integration personnel. In addition, CICAD notes that Argentina has conducted situational assessments to identify the training needs of staff working in prevention, early intervention, care, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and social integration programs, and has thus developed specialized programs in response to training needs.

Objective 5

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

CICAD notes that Argentina does not have regulatory measures for accrediting prevention programs. However, it does have an accreditation process for care and treatment services. On the other hand, the country uses the CICAD Indispensable Criteria for opening and operating drug use disorders treatment centers. In addition, CICAD observes that Argentina does not have supervisory mechanisms to ensure compliance with international quality standards in prevention programs. However, it does have such measures for its public and private treatment and rehabilitation programs. Furthermore, CICAD notes that Argentina has conducted an evaluation

at the national, regional, and local level to determine needs in terms of 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.

CICAD notes that Argentina implements ongoing training programs to detect, investigate and dismantle laboratories or facilities, used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, for personnel involved in interdiction operations; however, it is observed that the country does not have protocols or operating procedures to detect, investigate, and dismantle clandestine laboratories or facilities for the illicit processing or manufacture of drugs. Likewise, CICAD observes that the agencies in charge of drug control in Argentina implement policies that promote gender mainstreaming. In addition, CICAD notes that the country has programs and strategies for land, riverine, maritime and aerial interdiction through monitoring, inspections and checkpoints. In addition, CICAD notes that the country has legal instruments for the use of specialized investigation tools and techniques to prevent and reduce drug trafficking. CICAD also notes that the country has updated assessments or studies to identify new trends and threats on drug trafficking and related crimes. Likewise, CICAD notes that Argentina implements actions to identify organized criminal groups involved in illicit drug trafficking and related crimes, implements inter-institutional collaboration and cooperation mechanisms to carry out coordinated actions to dismantle organized criminal groups involved in these crimes, and has participated in joint operations and investigations with other countries aimed at dismantling these organized criminal groups. In addition, CICAD notes that the country has institutions that are responsible for, and capable of, analyzing chemical substances, precursors and pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances (NPS) and provides and participates in ongoing training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of these substances. In addition, CICAD notes that Argentina has mechanisms in place to facilitate or share information on the subject at the national level among government counterparts and with global repositories on these substances. CICAD notes that the country has mechanisms in place to investigate and disrupt illicit drug trafficking through the Internet. CICAD notes that the country maintains partnerships and information exchange mechanisms with private sector entities to prevent access to materials and services exploited for illicit drug trafficking purposes and uses INCB tools and resources to strengthen cooperation with the private sector to prevent the diversion of chemical substances. CICAD notes that Argentina has national authorities with the appropriate budget, human and material resources for the forfeiture, seizure, and management of assets, tools, or products related to illicit drug markets and its competent personnel receive ongoing training in this area.

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.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that Argentina has an early warning system (EWS) 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. On the other hand, CICAD notes that the country improves its capabilities to detect and analyze NPS through the use of special investigative techniques, updated equipment, and the acquisition of new technology. Additionally, CICAD notes that the country has a regulatory framework in place to identify and address the challenges posed by onset of NPS and emerging illicit synthetic drugs. In addition, CICAD notes that the country participates in the INCB ION Project. Also, CICAD notes that the country has innovative legislation to control synthetic opioids for non-medical use and NPS.

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.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that Argentina has competent national authorities responsible for developing guides, codes of conduct, or other instruments to inform the industry and users in general of controlled chemical substances and has developed such instruments and mechanisms to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances. CICAD also notes that the country has an updated registry of all individuals and corporations handling controlled chemical substances and that its responsible authorities carry out regular inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle these substances. In addition, CICAD notes that the country conducts analyses that include the exchange of information through existing mechanisms at the international level on substances, their analogs and precursors which pose a threat to public health. CICAD also notes that Argentina has legislation that incorporates control measures contained in Article 12 of the 1988 United Nations Convention to Prevent the Diversion of Controlled Chemical Substances to Illicit Activities, which incorporate all of the control measures in Paragraph 8, all of the control measures in Paragraph 9, and requests for information set forth in Paragraph 10. Likewise, CICAD notes that the country uses the PEN Online system to make pre-export notifications of controlled chemical substances, as well as the PICS system. In addition, CICAD notes that the country receives training for drug control personnel for the identification and handling of controlled chemical substances. In addition, CICAD notes that the country has budgetary mechanisms to ensure allocation of resources to acquire the necessary equipment and supplies for the preliminary identification of substances and the protective equipment required by the personnel in charge of these tasks. Likewise, CICAD notes that Argentina uses the CICAD Model Regulations for the Control of

Chemical Substances Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

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.

CICAD notes that Argentina has special processes for issuing authorizations for the national production, import, and export of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes, and that it has an updated register of individuals or companies importing and exporting substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes; however, CICAD notes that the country does not have training or awareness activities for competent national authorities and health professionals on the proper access to substances subject to international control solely for medical and scientific purposes. CICAD also notes that the country has a regulatory framework governing the acquisition of internationally controlled substances but no regulations and/or administrative measures have been adopted to improve access to these substances by the medical and scientific communities.

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.

CICAD notes that Argentina has an updated register of individuals and corporations handling pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances, issues licenses to manufacturers and distributors authorizing the handling of these products and carries out regular inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle them. CICAD notes that the country has criminal, and administrative penalties for infractions or violations by individuals or corporations that handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances. Additionally, CICAD notes that Argentina offers periodic training programs for personnel responsible for preventing trade in and diversion of materials and equipment for illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and share information with other regional or global systems on this matter. Additionally, CICAD observes that the country does not use the INCB's I2ES system; however, it has an alternative mechanism to issue, upload or exchange import and export authorizations for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical use between countries; and the country has received training in the use of the I2ES system.

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.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that Argentina participates in periodic training programs for personnel involved in drug investigations in specialized investigative techniques and intelligence collection, analysis, and operations, likewise, the country participates in periodic training programs and other capacity-building activities to investigate and counter crimes associated with drug trafficking, such as corruption and money laundering. Additionally, CICAD notes that Argentina has information gathering mechanisms to exchange intelligence information, at a domestic, regional, and international level, to detect routes and methods used by drug trafficking criminal organizations. The CICAD also observes that the country has tools that promote and strengthen cooperation and the exchange of information and intelligence among domestic law enforcement agencies responsible for drug interdiction and effective border control. Additionally, CICAD notes that Argentina has a national information system on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on changing behaviors and modus operandi of criminal 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).

CICAD notes that Argentina has strengthen its legislative frameworks to counter money laundering derived from drug trafficking. Also, CICAD notes that it has periodic training programs for officials and those in vulnerable sectors on prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of money laundering derived from drug trafficking. Additionally, CICAD notes that the country has protocols that enable the authorities to conduct financial and asset investigations parallel to drug trafficking investigations. Likewise, CICAD notes it has mechanisms allowing for inter-agency coordination and cooperation in the area of preventing and controlling money laundering. CICAD notes that Argentina has a financial intelligence unit, and it has information systems aimed at the investigation and prosecution of money laundering in analyzing cases deriving from drug trafficking. CICAD notes that the country has mechanisms for analyzing money laundering risks, in accordance with the FATF recommendations. However, CICAD notes that Argentina has not established 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.

CICAD notes that Argentina has designated competent authorities responsible for the administration and disposition of seized and forfeited assets and with regulations to facilitate the accountability and transparency of the management of seized and forfeited assets. However, the country does not offer nor participates in specialized, periodic training programs for the management and disposition of seized and forfeited assets. Moreover, CICAD observes that Argentina has legislation in accordance with international conventions and treaties, to facilitate the seizure, forfeiture, and management of assets and instruments derived from drug trafficking and other related crimes.

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.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that Argentina has designed national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit cultivation, production, and manufacture of drugs. In addition, CICAD observes that the country has direct budgetary allocations towards financing counternarcotics programs. Likewise, CICAD notes that the country takes into account the licit traditional use in designing and implementing policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs, which include environmental protection measures. CICAD observes that the country has established mechanisms for interinstitutional cooperation between public and private institutions to provide a comprehensive response to the illicit production of drugs. Additionally, CICAD notes that Argentina supports the development of supply reduction programs with drug-related crime prevention initiatives that address social and economic risk factors, which include the participation from civil society and other social stakeholders.

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.

CICAD notes that Argentina has not designed or implemented comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs or preventive alternative development as part of the

strategies to control and reduce illicit crops, therefore the priority actions of this objective are not applicable.

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.

CICAD notes that Argentina has not carried out, during the evaluation period (2019-2022), research or studies to determine the characteristics and extent of the environmental impact caused by the illicit cultivation of crops and illicit drug production, therefore, the priority actions of this objective are not applicable.

Objective 12

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

CICAD notes that Argentina has developed and implemented approaches for controlling micro-trafficking and related crimes, that take into account effects on public health, the economy, social cohesion, and citizen security. However, CICAD observes that the country does not promote the interagency exchange of information on the effects of small-scale drug trafficking in the health, social, economic, and security sectors. Moreover, CICAD notes that Argentina has strategies to prevent the exploitation of at-risk populations affected by drug trafficking networks, at the national and international level.

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.

CICAD notes that Argentina has a National Drug Observatory (NDO), which was created through a legal basis and has been assigned financial and human resources to carry out its functions. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country has established and maintained working relationships with academic and research institutions and has carried out two studies on the drug problem through them. Additionally, CICAD notes that Argentina has developed and adopted quantitative and qualitative methodologies and information-gathering mechanisms that allow for the comparison of data among countries, has carried out studies on drug use applying the SIDUC methodology, and has used the CICAD standard indicators for drug information networks

for the collection, analysis, and reporting of national drug related data and information. Moreover, the country has carried out studies that use methods that are non-representative of the population to obtain information on drugs that can be shared with other countries that have carried out studies with similar methodologies. Furthermore, CICAD notes that Argentina's observatory has a national drug information network (DIN), which interacts through meetings and document exchanges but does not publish an annual report or any other type of periodic report. Also, the country has an early warning system (EWS) to identify NPS or other emerging drug-related threats, which shares information, alerts, and reports with the Early Warning System of the Americas (SATA) and has a mechanism to share information in real time. Additionally, CICAD notes that Argentina's observatory carries out training sessions with local stakeholders to enhance data collection and management, as well as meetings and other workshops where the results of studies and other information gathering activities are shared with local stakeholders. Moreover, CICAD observes that Argentina has established forums that allows drug researchers to present their findings to policymakers. Also, CICAD notes that the country's observatory promotes and disseminates best practices or 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.

CICAD notes that Argentina has carried out and published five demand reduction studies during the evaluation period (2019-2023). Additionally, CICAD observes that the country has a national system for the collection of data on the number of patients treated, diagnoses, clinical history, and available information on treatment outcomes. Moreover, CICAD notes that Argentina has conducted studies to evaluate treatment and prevention programs and interventions, as well as process and intermediate outcome evaluations of one of these programs. However, it has not conducted impact evaluations of these programs. On the other hand, Argentina has mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment, rehabilitation and recovery and social integration programs and services in the public health and/or social protection network.

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.

CICAD notes that Argentina has mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs and has information related to supply reduction, trafficking, and related crimes. However, the country does not carry out periodic studies or research on the drug market

for illicit drugs nor on the medical and scientific uses and other legal use of narcotics or psychotropic substances, subject to the international control system. CICAD observes that Argentina collects information for the development of studies on drug prices, purity or concentration, and chemical profile of drugs, and conducts chemical characterization or tests of purity for substances that may or may not be subject to international control. Moreover, the country has mechanisms through which substances that have been identified as not being under international control can be placed under control. CICAD notes that Argentina has agencies that are responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances, and are part of the national early warning system (EWS) but not of the national drug information network (DIN). On the other hand, the country implements and participates in periodic training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of these substances. CICAD observes that Argentina's DIN does not rely on standardized indicators for the collection of data on drug supply and that the country does not implement or participate in training activities for DIN stakeholders to improve and strengthen the mechanisms that are needed for the collection and exchange of information on drug supply.

Objective 4

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

CICAD notes that, for the eighth round of evaluation of the MEM, Argentina collected information on the implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2021-2025 and submitted it in a timely manner for evaluation by the Governmental Expert Group (GEG). CICAD observes that, for the eighth evaluation round of the MEM, the country designated delegates for all the MEM groups, actively participating and contributing to the evaluation process. However, CICAD notes that Argentina did not carry out periodic activities to promote and raise awareness of the MEM Drug Policy Evaluation Reports aimed at national institutions. CICAD observes that the country has promoted the analysis of the findings of MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies for national institutions to identify areas where technical assistance is needed to improve national drug-related policies and programs. On the other hand, CICAD notes that Argentina has not reviewed the MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies and identified opportunities to increase cooperation and partnerships with other member states or share best practices and lessons learned (horizontal cooperation).

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Objective 1

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

CICAD notes that Argentina develops and implements a plan for the promotion and strengthening

of technical assistance and horizontal cooperation among member states and with states outside the Western Hemisphere, as well as with relevant international and regional organizations, and related initiatives and programs. Additionally, the country has established secure communication channels for the exchange of intelligence information on drug interdiction and control. Moreover, Argentina promotes the exchange, with member states and with states outside of the Western Hemisphere, and with relevant international and regional organizations, of best practices on training, specialization, and professional development of the staff responsible for implementing the national drug policies and strategies. Additionally, the country participates in regional coordination activities to prevent crimes related to drug trafficking, such as firearms trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, money laundering, and corruption, among others. Furthermore, Argentina has bilateral mechanisms for coordination and collaboration with other countries, focused on the dismantling of criminal groups linked to drug trafficking and related crimes. However, CICAD observes that the country has not promoted technology transfers among and between OAS member states and international (including regional) organizations but has promoted information sharing among them. Also, CICAD notes that Argentina has promoted the dissemination of good practices or the exchange of successful research experiences among and between member states and international organizations on drug policies.

Objective 2

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

CICAD notes with satisfaction that the competent authorities of Argentina carry out cooperative activities at the regional and international levels to investigate and prosecute criminals for drug-related offenses. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country carries out activities to 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. Additionally, CICAD notes that Argentina has enacted and adopted, during the evaluation period (2019-2024), legislative and administrative measures to improve the implementation of the obligations set forth within international legal instruments related to the world drug problem, respecting human rights and gender equality. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country has ratified or acceded to all of the international legal instruments of the United Nations and all of the OAS Inter-American legal instruments regarding the world drug problem and related crimes.

ANNEX

PRIORITY ACTIONS WITH UPDATES

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 Action 1.1: Place national drug authorities at a high political level.

The Secretariat for Comprehensive Drug Policies of Argentina (SEDRONAR) and the Secretariat for the Fight against Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime are Argentina's national drug authorities. SEDRONAR was established in 1989 as the Programming and Coordination Secretariat for the Prevention of Drug Addiction and the Fight against Drug Trafficking, until its name and functions changed in 2017. This national authority falls within the Office of the Chief of Cabinet Ministers in the government administrative structure. The Secretariat for the Fight against Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime has been part of the Ministry of Security since 2024.

Priority Action 1.2: Grant national drug policy entities the authority to guide and coordinate the formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of national drug policies.

SEDRONAR and the Secretariat for the Fight against Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime have a legal basis through the following instruments:

- Decree 271/89
- Decree 33/2017
- Decree 8/2023
- Administrative Decision 1865/2020
- Law 26.657
- Decree 50/2019 – 8/2024
- Law 23.737
- Decree 560/19 – Decree 635/2024
- Decree 593/19 – 606/2023
- Administrative Decision 782/2023
- Law 26.045

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

In Argentina, there is an annual budget for the national drug authorities, which is independent in the case of SEDRONAR and is integrated into the budget of the Ministry of Security in the case of

the Secretariat for the Fight against Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime. Below is the amount of SEDRONAR's annual budget for the years 2019–2024:

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Annual budget amount (Argentine pesos)	1,636,370,000	2,504,330,000	4,644,620,000	4,644,620,000	15,682,410,000	37,342,546,000

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, COMMUNITY, CULTURAL CONTEXT, AND SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT.

Priority Action 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.

In Argentina, the following relevant actors from the priority areas are involved in development, implementation, evaluation, and updating of national drug policies or strategies:

Relevant Actors	Development	Implementation	Evaluation	Update
Health Ministry	X	X	X	X
Interior Ministry				
Justice Ministry	X	X		
Regional and/or local governments	X	X	X	X
Scientific community/academia			X	
Civil society		X		
Private sector	X	X		X
Others: Ministry of Security	X	X	X	X
Ministry of Human Capital – Secretariat of Education	X	X		

Priority Action 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.

Argentina has partially delegated responsibilities on drug issues to subnational/local governments to implement concrete actions related to drug policies and strategies, in coordination with the national drug authorities.

In this regard, politically, Argentina is organized as a federal system comprised of 24 autonomous jurisdictions united under a common government. Local/subnational governments may take concrete actions to address problematic substance use that are best suited to the situation on the ground, provided these are aligned with the policy criteria and priorities established by SEDRONAR at the national level.

SEDRONAR plans, implements, and coordinates public policies focused on prevention, research, treatment, assistance, and support for people with problematic substance use issues, in constant co-management with local/subnational governments and within the framework of the Federal Council on Drugs (COFEDRO) and the 24 jurisdictions that make up Argentina.

In 2005, Law 26.052 on Partial Defederalization of Criminal Jurisdiction over Narcotic Drugs was enacted at the national level. This law allows each province to decentralize drug-related matters, transferring cases from the federal jurisdiction to the regular jurisdiction pursuant to the criteria established therein. In recent years, several provinces have availed themselves of this law.

Argentina's national drug authorities have, in their central structure, an office or operational unit to promote, coordinate, train, and provide technical support on drug-related issues to local/subnational governments or agencies. The Directorate for Federal Coordination falls within SEDRONAR's structure. Its primary responsibility is to coordinate a federal system to manage policies, plans, and programs aimed at prevention and treatment of problematic use of psychoactive substances, as well as assistance and support for individuals grappling with this issue. Among the Directorate's most relevant activities that could be mentioned are: coordinating the development of channels and mechanisms for consultation with civil society organizations involved in issues related to the problematic use of psychoactive substances, either in specific provinces or nationally, in coordination with the areas with jurisdiction in the matter; assisting the Secretariat in coordinating with liaison officials from the federal and provincial governments and establishing channels of communication with technical liaisons from the areas with responsibilities pertaining to treatment and prevention in cases of problematic use of psychoactive substances; coordinating operations for the meetings of COFEDRO, pursuant to Decree 623/96; and helping to implement actions to coordinate activities with the corresponding jurisdictional structures of the provinces and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires.

Likewise, the Ministry of Security, through the Secretariat for the Fight against Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime (whose objectives include coordinating, within the scope of its jurisdiction,

actions with the provincial governments and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, providing technical assistance, and creating opportunities for discussion, joint work, and exchange of information), has been developing a "Cooperation Program for Criminal Investigation in the Fight against Drug Trafficking," focusing on the Buenos Aires metropolitan area. Its main objective is the design, development, and implementation of criminal investigation actions through tactics, strategies, and best practices that involve the exchange of information and coordinated efforts between federal police and security forces and other actors involved, aimed at reducing the supply of drugs and dismantling drug dealing locations in neighborhoods. The plan is for this program eventually to involve specialized neighborhood drug trafficking brigades (BENB) in the areas where they eventually become available.

Argentina's national drug authorities have coordinators, offices, or representatives within the subnational/local territories, as part of a decentralized operational and coordination structure at the local level to respond to the drug problem. In this regard, politically, Argentina is organized as a federal system comprised of 24 autonomous jurisdictions united under a common government. Local/subnational governments may address problematic substance use through concrete actions that are better suited to the situation on the ground, provided these are aligned with the policy criteria and priorities established by SEDRONAR at the national level.

Argentina has specific, ongoing mechanisms and programs to transfer funds or finance drug initiatives or projects implemented by municipalities or local governments. SEDRONAR has the following programs to transfer funds or finance drug-related initiatives or projects carried out by municipalities or local governments:

- Program for the Prevention and Treatment of Problematic Substance Use – Sub-program for Local Problematic Substance Use Prevention Projects (Resolution 511/2021 – Annex VI). Funding for projects proposed by public or private organizations or trade unions that address prevention of problematic drug use from a rights perspective and take an inclusive approach
- National Program for a Comprehensive Approach to Addiction Prevention, Training, and Assistance (Resolution 172/2014). Subsidy program for governmental or nongovernmental organizations to promote crosscutting addiction-related prevention, training, and assistance activities aimed at individuals with problematic drug and alcohol use issues, in order to support them in finding, building, and strengthening lives based on social inclusion
- Federal Problematic Use Coordination Program (Resolution 307/2020). Funding for projects submitted by local/subnational governments aimed at addiction-related prevention, training, support, and treatment. Its objective is to help those who are going through or have undergone problematic substance use in the past recover their dignity, especially those who have been displaced from the social system. To this end, social reintegration strategies are essential for helping such individuals build and strengthen life plans focused on social inclusion
- Territorial Community Centers (Resolution 324/2020) address substance use from a comprehensive community perspective at the first level of treatment. They take into account the complexities of substance use and its impact on the different realities in the nation, enabling them to determine which cross-sector and intergovernmental approaches should be taken. In order to ensure a cross-sector approach within the framework of shared

responsibility, the creation of a Local Management Board is being proposed. Such a board would develop protocols and avenues for coordination to ensure that the unique nature of each intervention is respected and that a comprehensive approach to problematic substance use is taken. Forums for exchange and technical assistance are being made available to local governments for purposes of developing strategic plans to implement different public policies at the local level

- Program to Support and Strengthen Provincial Drug Observatories (Resolution 412/2021). Support and funding for provincial initiatives that help to develop and strengthen provincial drug observatories (OPD) and their capabilities with respect to data production and analysis so they are able to develop, implement, and monitor science-based public policies

The Argentine Observatory on Drugs (OAD) considers it essential to enhance data and research production, analysis, and dissemination at the provincial level in order to have a deeper understanding of the particular characteristics of substance use, its implications, types, and manifestations at the local level, and thus be able to prioritize the areas of research in each of the provinces.

The Program to Support and Strengthen OPDs was adopted in 2021 in an effort to help new and emerging observatories develop and to consolidate already existing observatories. Bearing in mind the main challenges surrounding substance use research, and taking a human rights perspective, the program seeks to expand the capabilities of provincial drug observatories in terms of local data production and analysis so they are able to develop, implement, and monitor science-based policies in a coordinated manner among agencies and at a federal level.

The program's main lines of action are:

- Plan and develop local studies and areas of research in coordinated manner and among agencies
- Develop an integrated system of provincial data on substance use that allows for the periodic collection and analysis of information
- Build a provincial research network in coordination with various local actors and institutions in order to generate quality localized knowledge. To this end, the OAD works in coordination with each jurisdiction's technical team, at both the municipal and provincial level, in an effort to prioritize local needs, interests, and knowledge and build their capacity

Priority Action 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.

Argentina engages with private sector entities to develop innovative approaches in the implementation of drug policies and exchange information and best practices. As far as these

private sector entities are concerned, a line of work was initiated in December 2022 in the framework of the Prevention and Treatment Program aimed at providing support and assistance to sports organizations and universities, and a framework and specific agreements were signed for the implementation of local projects for prevention of problematic substance use. The *Unión de Clubes de Barrio* (UCB), *Federación de Organizaciones Deportivas de la Argentina* (FODA), *Observatorio Social y Económico de Clubes de Barrio y Entidades Afines*, and *Club Villas Unidas* submitted projects that will be funded and will receive technical support in 2023. Additionally, the National Directorate of Chemical Precursors (Ministry of Security) engages with industries that use chemical precursors (petrochemical, chemical, metalworking, agrochemical, cosmetic, medical, transportation, hardware, textile, and food industries).

In terms of innovative approaches, the National Directorate for Prevention and Treatment participated in the "Summer Care" campaign, which sought to develop strategies and actions focused on awareness, treatment, prevention, and assistance related to problematic use of psychoactive substances. The campaign was carried out in January and February 2022 with support from the areas of security, health, youth, and civil defense, representatives of the mental health sector, the Ministry of Security of the Province of Buenos Aires, the *Cámara de Boliches* [Association of Nightclubs], and municipalities from the Atlantic coast and different provinces.

The National Directorate of Chemical Precursors seeks to strengthen the private sector's commitment to preventive behavior to avoid the diversion of chemical precursors, through regular training and the dissemination of the Code of Conduct on Chemical Precursors.

Additionally, the Ministry of Security signed an agreement with the e-commerce company Mercado Libre to use a technological tool that allows the Ministry to carry out massive searches for products on the MercadoLibre platform, with the aim of identifying, reporting and removing publications regarding the control and surveillance of chemical precursors that violate current regulations.

Priority Action 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.

Argentina takes into account the 2020 Hemispheric Drug Strategy of the Organization of American States (OAS) and its corresponding Plan of Action to formulate or update national drug policies and strategies. In this regard, Argentina applies the central principles and fundamental elements in measures related to supply and demand reduction; research, data, monitoring, and evaluation; institutional strengthening; and international cooperation. The programs, actions, and laws that take the 2020 OAS Hemispheric Drug Strategy into account are:

- The Workplace Prevention and Care Program, which offers training and opportunities for listening and support for unions, guilds, and the federal government.
- Guidelines for Federal Intervention in Substance Use Situations in School Environments

- Community Companions Program [Acompañantes Comunitarios]
- Law 26.045 creates the National Register of Chemical Precursors to control activities involving authorized chemical substances or products which, because of their characteristics or components, may serve as a base or be used in the preparation of narcotics

Argentina's national drug policies and strategies take into account the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this regard, Argentina has developed different actions and programs that are carried out by SEDRONAR and reflect the targets established in the Convention. Each year, for its part, the Ministry of Security's Secretariat for the Fight against Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime conducts monitoring and provides data to report to the UN with respect to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.

Priority Action 2.6: Integrate a human rights, gender, and social inclusion approach, particularly with respect to at-risk populations, in the process of formulating, implementing, and updating national drug policies and/or strategies.

Argentina's national drug policies and strategies take into account the human rights approach. SEDRONAR promotes an approach to the problem of drug use based on respect for human rights and within the framework of the Mental Health Law (26.657), which creates, within the Office of the Public Defender, the Mental Health Law Review Body to protect the human rights of individuals who access mental health services.

Respect for human rights is among the central pillars of the national drug strategy. This means that the pillars and specific areas of prevention, treatment, support, and research include actions that respect human rights as part of a work approach.

This approach places at its core people and their life trajectories, with their personal and collective stories, clearly drawing distinctions between those elements that must be addressed from a policy dimension of forging social ties and devising healthy life paths and those that have to be addressed from a safety and security perspective.

The public policy being developed by SEDRONAR is anchored in a comprehensive approach focused on treatment and support for individuals, federal efforts in accordance with national government guidelines, and the cross-sector nature of the programs and actions necessary to address the complexity of the problem. These are core actions for developing social ties and improving people's living conditions and quality of life.

At the same time, an effective approach to problematic substance use must counter attitudes and beliefs and act on society's assumptions with respect to substance use, since these are what underpin the stigmatization of users and hinder treatment-based approaches.

Therefore, nondiscrimination against individuals with drug use issues is being encouraged, with the aim being full inclusion and respect for people's rights. SEDRONAR has programs that carry

out specific activities aimed at reducing the stigma for drug users, including Territorial Community Centers; Community Treatment and Support Centers; a Public Media Protocol on how to report the problem; a Gender Guide; and specific materials for young people.

The Ministry of Security takes the human rights approach into account in national drug policies and strategies. In 2016, it approved Resolutions 554/2016 and 555/2016, whereby the chiefs of the federal police and security forces were instructed to adopt and implement measures designed to unify, in a nine-month cycle, the basic training of noncommissioned officers of the Argentine Federal Police, the National Gendarmerie, the Naval Prefecture, and officers of the Airport Security Police, and to adapt the cycle to the "Basic Guidelines for Adapting the Basic Training Curriculum." The minimum required content ensures that a human rights-based conceptual, regulatory, and policing framework will be incorporated in a crosscutting way, as an essential tool for building an institutional culture in which the missions, duties, and practices of the candidates are adapted to the basic guidelines of the rule of law.

Meanwhile, in 2022, Resolutions 517/2022 and 843/2022 were approved, which update doctrine on interventions involving children and adolescents or individuals in a mental health crisis and/or with problematic drug use. They promote best practices in policing with these populations from a perspective of comprehensive protection of rights.

Argentina's national drug policies and strategies take into account a gender perspective. A Gender and Sexual Diversity Coordination Office was created to promote efforts to specifically address the interrelationship between approaches to problematic substance use and the perspective of gender and sexual diversity.

The country's national drug authority requires technical support to develop and implement programs with a gender perspective. To this end, the Gender and Sexual Diversity Coordination Office considers it essential for countries to share experiences and practices related to the gender and diversity perspective among each other in order to deepen and mainstream this perspective in the different approaches to problematic substance use.

Likewise, in the context of the gender approach to national drug policies and strategies, in 2016, the Ministry of Security approved Resolutions 554/2016 and 555/2016, as mentioned above. These resolutions instructed the chiefs of the federal police and security forces to adopt and implement measures designed to unify, in a nine-month cycle, the basic training of noncommissioned officers of the Argentine Federal Police, the National Gendarmerie, the Naval Prefecture, and officers of the Airport Security Police, and to adapt the cycle to the "Basic Guidelines for Adapting the Basic Training Curriculum." The minimum required content ensures that a gender perspective will be incorporated into the programs, raising gender issues and shining a light on potential discriminatory and violent practices within the forces themselves and in society, so that the different measures adopted by the Ministry of Security to promote and ensure gender equality within the federal police and security forces become known.

In 2020, meanwhile, an amendment was made to the two annexes to Resolution MS 1181/2011 containing guidelines for treating the LGBTI+ population both within the police and security forces as well as individuals outside the forces. This amendment ensures that treatment will be adjusted to reflect the person's self-perceived gender identity, in line with the Gender Identity Law promoting the principles of equality and nondiscrimination based on sexual orientation.

The Ministry of Security provides training courses through its virtual platform to provide tools for policing with a gender perspective. Specifically, the following courses are offered: "Femicides: Policing with a Gender Perspective at the Scene of the Crime" and "Tools for Working with a Gender and Diversity Perspective in Police and Security Agencies."

Argentina's national drug policies and strategies take into account a social inclusion approach. At the federal level, the SEDRONAR Network spearheads treatment, assistance, and support policies related to problematic substance use. The Mental Health Law fosters a comprehensive approach to substance use that enables all dimensions of people's lives to be addressed and ensures access to treatment in each province or city.

The network is made up of "first-stop screening" spaces, day treatment centers, neighborhood treatment centers, temporary community group homes, treatment centers for more complex addiction situations, and a health network that works in coordination with the Ministry of Health with respect to detox, mental health emergencies, and cases of co-occurring disorders. The network includes six types of centers:

- Territorial Community Centers (DTC): Treatment centers co-managed with municipal and/or provincial authorities and staffed by professionals funded by SEDRONAR
- Community Care and Support Homes (CAAC): Outpatient community centers subsidized by SEDRONAR and run by social and church organizations
- Community Group Homes (CCC): Co-living community homes subsidized by SEDRONAR
- Immediate Treatment Centers (CAI): Centers where individuals with substance use issues are first referred and screened
- Partner Institutions (IC): Institutions that partner with SEDRONAR to provide treatment and support to people with substance use issues
- Preventive Listening Spaces: Forums for engagement and comprehensive communications mediated by a co-worker and/or persons in charge of the mechanism and work environment

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 Action 3.3: Participate in international cooperation programs at the bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen policies, programs, institutions, and their internal processes.

Argentina participates in international cooperation programs at the bilateral and multilateral level to strengthen policies, programs, institutions, and their internal processes. SEDRONAR works continuously with international organizations, acting as a focal point and spokesperson in events and activities related to drug demand reduction that take place within the framework of the UN, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD).

The country also participates actively in bi-regional forums such as the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)–European Union Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs (MCCMD) and the Cooperation Program between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drug Policy (COPOLAD).

At the regional level, SEDRONAR serves as the coordinating body for the Southern Common Market – MERCOSUR’s forum on drugs, known as the Specialized Meeting of Drug Enforcement Authorities (*Reunión Especializada de Autoridades de Aplicación en Materia de Drogas*, RED). In addition, through the Ministry of Security, Argentina participates in the MERCOSUR Meeting of Ministers of the Interior and Security (RMIS). Lastly, within the framework of the bilateral agreements and conventions on drugs to which Argentina is signatory, joint commissions have been formed with Chile, Bolivia, Mexico, Peru, Colombia, and the European Union.

Argentina’s Ministry of Security has played a central role in the creation of the Latin American Committee for Internal Security (CLASI) and assumed its leadership as the first pro tempore chair. CLASI aims to coordinate the definition and implementation of public security policy in the region at the political, strategic, and operational level in order to effectively address the threats posed by transnational organized crime. One example of this is bi-regional cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking, which Argentina has brought about through the creation of the Operational Working Group (GTO) to combat drug trafficking.

In addition to cooperating internationally by means of different systems, such as the Pre-Export Notification (PEN) Online System, the Project Ion Incident Communication System (IONICS), or the Precursor Incident Communication System (PICS), the country actively participates in CICAD’s Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products, COPOLAD III, the activities proposed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the CND, meetings of MERCOSUR’s RED and of different expert groups of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), and various bilateral meetings (recently with Mexico, Chile, Bolivia, Peru and Colombia).

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 AND COMMUNITY, AND TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE GUIDELINES AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS OF SPECIALIZED INTERNATIONAL AND/OR REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

Priority Action 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 and social consequences of drug abuse, taking into account gender, age, community, and cultural context, and establish budgetary mechanisms for such programs.

Argentina has drug demand reduction policies that include programs in the areas of health promotion, prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, rehabilitation, social integration, and recovery.

Area	Policies / Programs
Health promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Program for Prevention and Care in the Educational Environment (National Ministry of Education) - Law 26.586 - National Program for Education and Prevention of Addiction and Drug Abuse
Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Program for Prevention and Care in the Educational Environment (National Ministry of Education) - Law 26.586 - National Program for Territorial Support on Drug Matters - Federal Program for Coordination on Drug Matters - Program on Detection and Specific Intervention by Risk Level for Problematic Substance Use - "National Prevention and Care Framework" - "Fundamentals and Guidelines for the Prevention and Care Program" - "Guidelines for the Federal Forums for Consensus and Action on Alcohol Use Subprogram of the Program for Prevention and Care of Problematic Substance Use" - "Guidelines for the Training Subprogram for a Comprehensive Approach to Problematic Substance Use of the Program for Prevention and Care of Problematic Substance Use" - "Guidelines for the Community Companions Subprogram of the Prevention and Care Program" - "Guidelines for the Workplace Prevention and Care Subprogram of the Prevention and Care Program" - "Guidelines for the Subprogram of Local Projects for the Prevention of Problematic Substance Use of the Prevention and Care Program"

Area	Policies / Programs
Early intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comprehensive Care, Assistance, and Integration Program for Persons with Problematic Substance Use - National Program for Territorial Support on Drug Matters - Federal Program for Coordination on Drug Matters - Subsidy Program for a Comprehensive Approach to Persons with Problematic Substance Use
Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comprehensive Care, Assistance, and Integration Program for Persons with Problematic Substance Use - Subsidy Program for Community Group Homes - National Program for Territorial Support on Drug Matters - Federal Program for Coordination on Drug Matters - Program on Detection and Specific Intervention by Risk Level for Problematic Substance Use - Subsidy Program for a Comprehensive Approach to Persons with Problematic Substance Use
Care	
Rehabilitation	
Social integration	
Recovery	

These programs include gender, age, community, and cultural context approaches.

Priority Action 1.3: Carry out impact, process, and outcome evaluations of demand reduction programs.

Argentina has monitoring instruments for its drug demand reduction programs.

The country has conducted the following outcome evaluations of its drug demand reduction programs:

Program evaluated	Title of evaluation performed	Type of evaluation performed	Year of program evaluation
Territorial Forum for Coordination of Prevention Networks (ESTAR)	"ESTAR" Project on Prevention – Outcome evaluation	Outcome	2019
Empowering Support Program	Study on perceptions of participants in the Empowering Support Program (<i>Potenciar Acompañamiento</i>) one year after its launch (2020-2021)	Process evaluation	2020–2021
Community Companion Program	Community Companion Program (<i>Acompañantes Comunitarios</i>). Experiences in five municipalities in the Buenos Aires Metropolitan Area (2022-2023)	Process evaluation	2022–2023
Community Care and Support Homes Program (CAAC)	Community Care and Support Homes (CAAC). Growth of the assistance network, responses implemented, and people served in 2022	Process evaluation	December 2022

Argentina has not conducted impact evaluations (best practices) or any other related or current study on drug use prevention programs.

**OBJECTIVE
2**

ESTABLISH OR STRENGTHEN AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF EVIDENCE-BASED UNIVERSAL, SELECTIVE, AND INDICATED DRUG USE PREVENTION PROGRAMS THAT PRIORITIZE AT-RISK POPULATIONS, AS WELL AS ENVIRONMENTAL PREVENTION, THAT INCORPORATE A HUMAN RIGHTS, GENDER, AGE, AND MULTICULTURAL PERSPECTIVE.

Priority Action 2.1: Develop and implement evidence-based drug use prevention strategies and/or programs in the school, family, work, and community settings.

Priority Action 2.4: Implement selective prevention programs aimed at at-risk populations, in particular at children, adolescents, youth, and women.

Priority Action 2.5: Develop and strengthen indicated prevention programs aimed at individuals at increased risk of developing substance use disorders.

Argentina develops and implements the following prevention strategies and programs:

Population group	Estimated Coverage		Strategy / Program	Type of program
	Target population	Coverage rate		
School children and university students:	11,540,641	48%	“Cuidado y prevención en el ámbito educativo”	Universal
			“Programa de Prevención y Cuidados en el Ámbito Educativo” (Ministry of Education)	Universal
• Pre-school	1,851,601	-	“Programa de Prevención y Cuidados en el Ámbito Educativo” (Ministry of Education)	Universal
• Elementary/primary	4,832,979	-	“Programa de Prevención y Cuidados en el Ámbito Educativo” (Ministry of Education)	Universal
• Junior high & high school (secondary school)	3,877,041	-	“Programa de Prevención y Cuidados en el Ámbito Educativo” (Ministry of Education)	Universal
• University/tertiary education	991,020	-	“Programa de Prevención y Cuidados en el Ámbito Educativo” (Ministry of Education)	Universal
Population in street situation:	10,000	-	-	Universal

Population group	Estimated Coverage		Strategy / Program	Type of program
	Target population	Coverage rate		
Gender	Number of participants: 867	-	“Perspectiva de género y diversidad en el abordaje de los consumos problemáticos de sustancias”	Universal
LGBTIQ+	Number of participants: 5,867	-	“Perspectiva de género y diversidad en el abordaje de los consumos problemáticos de sustancias”	Universal
Community	Number of participants: 812	-	“Abordaje comunitario e integral de los consumos problemáticos de sustancias”	Universal
Others	Number of participants: 725	-	“Estrategias de cuidado y acompañamiento de las juventudes”	Universal
	Number of participants: 659	-	“Formación de redes para la prevención y el cuidado frente al consumo de bebidas alcohólicas”	Universal

Argentina does not develop indicated or selective strategies or programs, nor does it implement specific programs for the following populations: family; indigenous population; migrants and refugees; individuals in the workplace; or incarcerated individuals.

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

Argentina has the following comprehensive and inclusive care, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and social integration programs and services in the public health network and in social protection: early intervention (brief intervention, counseling), crisis intervention, various treatment modalities, dual pathology (co-morbidity), and social integration and recovery support

services. These programs and services take into account gender, human rights, and public health approaches.

These programs and services take the gender perspective into account. In this regard, the Secretariat for Comprehensive Drug Policies of Argentina (SEDRONAR) must comply with Law 26.743 on Gender Identity. Likewise, the country has institutions (non-governmental organizations -NGO) that take the gender perspective into account in treatments, including gender dissidence. The gender perspective is included through the design of specific mechanisms for women, gender dissidents, mothers, and expectant mothers, as well as in the development of training geared toward inclusion with a gender and sexual diversity perspective in treatment centers for people with drug use problems.

Argentina's programs and services take into account the UNODC/WHO "International Standards on Treatment of Drug Use Disorders." The country coordinates supervision of institutions with interdisciplinary teams that supervise and monitor the operation of the institutions with which SEDRONAR has an agreement and does follow-up and evaluation of individuals who are subsidized, ensuring compliance with Mental Health Law 26.657 and respect for people's rights.

At the national and provincial level, there are Review Bodies for Law 26.657 whose function is to monitor and ensure compliance with the Mental Health Law.

In 2016, SEDRONAR implemented the new "Care Quality Assessment Instrument for Provider Institutions," based on international parameters and standards. It consists of two parts: one an institutional care survey and the other an assessment and analysis of the physical plant and infrastructure. The institutional care survey component consists of three parts: the first is the "Structure and Recertification Audit of Registered Institutions," the second is called "Observation of Medical Records," and the third is the "User Satisfaction Survey." All of these instruments remain in effect.

The country does not take into account the use of the "Technical Guide for countries to set targets for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care for injecting drug users," issued by WHO, UNODC, and UNAIDS.

Priority Action 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.

Argentina implements mechanisms to continuously monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and social integration programs and comprehensive public and private facilities.

These mechanisms take into account the inclusion of human rights, age, and cultural context approaches during the evaluation and monitoring of care, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery,

and social integration programs and comprehensive public and private facilities, focused on individuals, human rights, and in the context of National Mental Health Law 26.657, the gender and diversity perspective. In this sense, the indicators and variables used are sensitive to the perspectives and approaches mentioned above.

Meanwhile, SEDRONAR Resolution 71/2023 approves the Subsidy Program for a Comprehensive Approach to Persons with Problematic Substance Use and the regulatory frameworks for oversight of institutions and the administrative sanction system, among others, which are an integral part of this measure.

Priority Action 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.

Argentina has early intervention, care, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and social integration alternatives for criminal offenders who use drugs, through the "Comprehensive Approach to Problematic Drug Use for Young Criminal Offenders Program." The program's general objective is to coordinate with the areas involved in the juvenile criminal system in the executive branch, the judicial branch, the Office of the Public Prosecutor, the Public Defender's Office, and human rights, to strengthen socio-educational and assistance strategies, promoting the social and community inclusion of young criminal offenders who have problematic drug use.

The Federal Penitentiary Service (SPF) has harm reduction programs, care and treatment services, and rehabilitation/recovery services, and provides assistance in crisis situations. With respect to treatment modalities, it has the following programs:

- Public Regulatory Bulletin (BPN) 451/2012, Single Regulation on the Operation of Drug Rehabilitation Centers (CRD). There are currently six drug rehabilitation centers distributed across different units or complexes in the country with a total of 160 spaces
- BPN 467 /12, Interdisciplinary, Individualized, and Comprehensive Treatment Program (PROTIN)
- BPN 696/19, Program on Detection and Specific Intervention by Risk Level for Problematic Substance Use
- BPN 773/21, Interdisciplinary Program for Reduced Prescription of Benzodiazepine and Gradual Withdrawal

OBJECTIVE

4

FOSTER ONGOING TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION OF PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND REHABILITATION SERVICE PROVIDERS.

Priority Action 4.1: Implement ongoing competency-based training mechanisms, in collaboration with academic institutions and other specialized organizations.

Argentina implements ongoing competency-based training in the areas of prevention, treatment, or rehabilitation. Teachers at the primary, secondary, higher, tertiary, and university level throughout the country are trained in programs such as the Course on Care and Prevention in the Educational Environment and the Diploma Program for a Human Rights-based Approach to Problematic Substance Use from the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters (FILO) of the University of Buenos Aires (UBA).

The country participates in the following training programs on prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation offered by specialized international organizations:

International Organizations	Type of program	Name of program	Approaches taken into account
CICAD-OAS / Government of Italy	Treatment and rehabilitation	Institutional Strengthening Project for Therapeutic Communities and Treatment Centers in Latin America with Italian Support (FOCTALI)	Human rights and public health
CICAD-OAS	Treatment and rehabilitation	Gender in the Criminal Justice System: Exploring Evidence-based Alternatives to Incarceration for Drug-related Offenses	Gender and human rights
Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID) / CICAD-OAS	Training by OID on early warning system	New Psychoactive Substances, Heroin, Fentanyl, and Other Opioids, and Support for Research in Latin America and the Caribbean through the SIDUC program	Public health
OID / CICAD-OAS	OID/CICAD-OAS training	Opioids in the Americas: How to Identify and Respond to Emerging Epidemics	Public health
Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) / National Drug Board of Uruguay (JND) / National Service for the Prevention and Rehabilitation of Drug and Alcohol Use (SENDA) of the Government of Chile / National Council for the Fight against Illicit Drug Trafficking (CONALTID)	Prevention and treatment	Workshop on Drug Policy, Human Rights, and Gender in the framework of MERCOSUR (conducted by Uruguay)	Human rights and gender
CICAD-OAS	Prevention and treatment	Gender-sensitive Substance Use Treatment Programs: Israel's	Human rights and gender

		Perspective on Residential Treatment for Women	
CICAD / Valencia City Hall / Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)	Prevention, treatment	Prevention and Management of Stigma toward Drug Users in Social and Health Care Services	Human rights and public health
CICAD / Valencia City Hall, Spain	Prevention, treatment	New Psychoactive Substances: What are synthetic cannabinoids, how do they work, and what are the health risks?	Public health
Cooperation Program between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drug Policy (COPOLAD)	Treatment	Webinar: Incorporation of a Rights-based Differentiated Approach with Special Emphasis on Gender Mainstreaming in National Drug Information Systems	Human rights
Habla Franco service - National Commission for Development and Life without Drugs (DEVIDA)	Exchange of experiences with telephone helplines	V Exchange of Experiences with Telephone Helplines	Public health
CICAD/Government of Italy	Treatment	Webinar: Inter-institutional good practices in social and labour integration for people with substance use disorders in conflict with the law. Experiences from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean	Human rights

These programs take the gender perspective into account.

Along these lines, the program on "Gender in the Criminal Justice System: Exploring Evidence-based Alternatives to Incarceration for Drug-Related Offenses" seeks to identify procedural and extra-procedural alternatives to incarceration, and the various options available to women, men, and members of the LGBTI community.

Similarly, FOCTALI promotes innovative approaches to the socio-occupational integration of people involved with the justice system who have substance use disorders, presenting opportunities for developing programs that take culture, age, and gender into account. The program supports the exchange of best practices, facilitating knowledge-sharing and international cooperation between member states and the San Patrignano Therapeutic Community, a key expert in this area in Italy.

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

Argentina does not have regulatory measures for accreditation of prevention programs.

The country has an accreditation process for care and treatment services through the Ministry of Health, SEDRONAR, and official bodies, guaranteeing compliance with Mental Health Law 26.657 and respect for the rights of persons.

From SEDRONAR there is a Coordination of Supervision of Institutions with interdisciplinary teams that supervise and accompany the operation of the institutions that have an agreement with this Secretariat and Follow-up and evaluation of the people who are subsidized, guaranteeing compliance with the Mental Health Law 26.657 and respect for the rights of people.

At the National and Provincial level there are Review Bodies of Law 26.657 that have the function of controlling and guaranteeing compliance with the Mental Health Law.

Resolution 71/2023 establishes in its Annex V the regulatory framework for SEDRONAR service providers, aimed at those interested in joining and establishing themselves as service providers within the Subsidy Program for the Comprehensive Approach to People with Problematic Consumption. This framework details the necessary legal, technical and procedural requirements, the first requirement being registration in the National and Permanent Registry of Healthcare Providers, dependent on the National Coordination of Institutional Registration of SEDRONAR.

Regarding the evaluation, selection and registration procedure to enter the National and Permanent Registry of Healthcare Providers, the presentation of a Therapeutic Program is established in accordance with the format and content specified in the Resolution, which will be evaluated by the Technical Team of the Coordination of Supervision of Institutions. From SEDRONAR, a report will be requested from the Mental Health Law Review Body of the jurisdiction where the institution is located. Once these requirements have been met, the National and Permanent Registry of Healthcare Providers will require the documentation indicated in Annex V, Point 2. Subsequently, an initial supervision of the structure of the establishment will be carried out, which will be categorizing in nature based on the authorization granted by the competent health authority and the quality standards established by SEDRONAR.

If the result is favorable and admission and categorization are recommended, an administrative file will be prepared for its processing and substantiation. Before entering the Registry, the establishment must sign the Adhesion Agreement (Annex VII) in accordance with the guidelines

established in the aforementioned Resolution. Finally, a Resolution of Registration as a Provider Institution will be issued with the corresponding notification.

Establishments that enter the Subsidy Program for the Comprehensive Approach to People with Problematic Consumption will be authorized to provide care services from the date of signing the respective Resolution of Registration.

Argentina uses CICAD's Indispensable Criteria for opening and operating drug use disorders treatment centers.

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 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.

Argentina implements ongoing training programs to detect, investigate, and dismantle laboratories or facilities used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, for personnel involved in interdiction operations. The training activities organized by the police and security forces to professionalize policing and keep personnel performing these tasks up to date are the following:

Airport Security Police

- Introduction to the Crime of Drug Trafficking from an Economic Perspective, two sessions, 40 troops per session, bimodal
- Introduction to Knowledge and Investigation of Chemical Precursors, two sessions, 20 troops per session, bimodal

Argentine National Gendarmerie

- Special Anti-Drug Aptitude of National Gendarmerie, one session, 30 troops per session, in person
- Anti-Drug Analyst and Tactical Investigator, one session, 40 troops per session, in person

Argentine Federal Police

- Level II Course, Update of Law 23.737 – Issues Related to Procedures and Evidence – Jurisprudence, one session, 100 troops per session, bimodal
- Level II Course, Update of Law 23.737 – Issues Related to Procedure and Evidence – Jurisprudence, two sessions, 100 troops per session, virtual
- Practical Course for Investigation of Illicit Drug Trafficking, one session, 100 troops per session, in person
- Introductory Course to Knowledge of Drugs for Interior of Country (distance learning), three sessions, 50 troops per session, virtual
- Theoretical–Practical Course for Investigation of Drug Trafficking for Interior of Country, three sessions, 130 troops per session, in person

Argentine Naval Prefecture

- Course on Drug Trafficking: Tools for On-Board Checks, three sessions, 20 troops in the first two sessions and 100 in the rest, in person
- Course on Drug Trafficking in the Port Setting, in person
- Training Course for Handlers of Drug Detection Dogs, in person
- Basic Course on Prevention of Drug Trafficking, in person
- Basic Course on Management of Investigative Tools in the Fight Against Drug Trafficking, in person
- Workshop on Drug Trafficking and Drugs of Abuse, in person
- Joint Maritime and Riverine Intelligence and Control
- Specialist Course on Criminal Intelligence and Investigations
- Supplementary Course on Criminal Intelligence and Investigations
- Refresher Course, distance learning
- Application of Communications, in person
- Application of Naval Machinery, in person
- Application of Navigation, in person
- Coastal Security Application, in person
- Major Course, in person

Ministry of Security

- Advanced Anti-Drug Trafficking Course, within the framework of the Federal Plan for Comprehensive Prevention of Drug Addiction and Control of Illicit Drug Trafficking. September 11–15, 2023, Autonomous City of Buenos Aires. One hundred troops from police and security forces and guests from the Federal Public Revenue Administration (AFIP) - Customs participated in the course. One session, in person.

On March 11, 2024, the Ministry of Security approved the “Annual Training Plan in the Fight against Drug Trafficking” composed of the “Advanced Course in the Fight against Drug Trafficking” and the “Advanced Course in the Fight against Drug Trafficking. Synthetic Drugs and New Psychoactive Substances”, aimed at training Provincial Police Corps, Federal Security Forces,

the Federal Penitentiary Service (SPF), Provincial Penitentiary Services, the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office, Provincial Public Prosecutor's Offices and the AFIP with direct or related responsibility for the fight against illicit drug trafficking.

Within this framework, the following courses were held:

- First Stage of the Advanced Course on the Fight against Drug Trafficking, held from March 20 to 22, 2024, in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, with 133 attendees. The Police and Penitentiary Services of the Province of Buenos Aires, Córdoba and Santa Fe, the AFIP - Customs, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the SPF, and the Federal Security Forces participated in said training
- Second Stage of the Advanced Course on the Fight against Drug Trafficking, held from April 22 to 24, 2024, in Paraná, Entre Ríos Province, with 128 attendees. The Police and Penitentiary Services of the Province of Entre Ríos, Santa Fe, Misiones, Chaco, Corrientes, Formosa and Córdoba, the AFIP - Customs, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the SPF, and the Federal Security Forces participated in this training
- Third Stage of the Advanced Course in the Fight against Drug Trafficking, held from May 21 to 23, 2024 in La Plata, Province of Buenos Aires, with 150 attendees. The Police and Penitentiary Services of the Province of Buenos Aires, the AFIP - Customs, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the SPF, and the Federal Security Forces participated in this training
- Fourth Stage of the Advanced Course in the Fight against Drug Trafficking, held from July 1 to 3, 2024 in the City of Salta, Province of Salta, with 147 attendees. Police officers from Salta, Jujuy, Tucumán, Santiago del Estero, the Provincial Penitentiary Services of Jujuy and Salta, the AFIP - Customs, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the SPF and the Federal Security Forces participated in said training

Other courses carried out by the Ministry of Security

- Training on Chemical Precursors for "General Operators, State Agencies and Destroyers", dated June 24, 2024 for Northwest Argentina (NOA). 88 people participated representing General Operators, State Agencies and Destroyers
- Training on Chemical Precursors for "General Operators, State Agencies and Destroyers", dated June 26, 2024 for the NOA region. 61 people participated representing General Operators, State Agencies and Destroyers
- Training for "Chemical Precursor Transporters", dated July 11, 2024. A training session was held for the "Federal Region Transporters". 44 operators participated
- Training sessions for "Small Operators, Ammonia Operator, Sulfuric Operator, Chemical Operator". Hydrochloric Acid and Chemical Precursor Ink Operator", dated July 17, 2024. It was carried out for the NOA region. 147 operators participated
- Training on Chemical Precursors for "General Operators; State Agencies and Destroyers", dated July 26, 2024 for Northeast Argentina (NEA). 88 people participated representing General Operators, State Agencies and Destroyers

- Training for the Argentine Post Office in Rosario, Province of Santa Fe, on February 26, 2024. Course given in collaboration with the Argentine Federal Police to employees of the Argentine Post Office in the framework of the identification of suspicious packages, profiling of people and the detection of actions linked to illicit drug trafficking
- First theoretical-practical workshop on the safe dismantling of illicit processing centers for synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances on April 9, 2024 in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, 40 participants
- Training course on the Anti-Drug Trafficking Laboratory Network, in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires on April 24, 2024
- Workshop for gender equality within the framework of the Inter-American Program for Strengthening Gender Equality in National Agencies Responsible for Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking (GENLEA) - CICAD, held in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, on May 16, 2024
- Second theoretical-practical workshop on the safe dismantling of illicit processing centers for synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances, held on May 27 in the city of Rosario, Province of Santa Fe

The country does not have protocols and operating procedures to detect, investigate, and dismantle clandestine laboratories or facilities dedicated for the illicit processing or manufacture of drugs.

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.

Argentina carries out updated assessments and studies to identify new trends and threats related to drug trafficking and related crimes through the National Criminal Intelligence Directorate, which performs such tasks in the context of producing criminal intelligence, and the Secretariat for the Fight against Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime, which develops national policies in the planning of strategies to counter the production, trafficking, and sale of narcotics and psychotropic substances and to control precursors and chemical substances that can be used in the production of illicit drugs. Some of this information is confidential for national security reasons.

Priority Action 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.

Argentina has the Argentine National Gendarmerie (GNA), the Argentine Naval Prefecture (PNA), and the Argentine Federal Police (PFA), institutions reporting to the Ministry of Security that are responsible for and capable of analyzing chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical

products, and synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances (NPS).

The country has and participates in the following ongoing training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including NPS:

- Inter-laboratory training programs
- ISO 17025 Quality Standards Training since 2016
- Training and updating in assay validation methods
- Uninterrupted participation in the inter-laboratory exercises of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the category of Seized Materials (SM). It also participated in 2019 and in the second round in 2021 in the category of Biological Specimens (BS).

It should be noted that in 2022 the PFA laboratory was selected to participate in a pilot NPS determination test carried out by the UNODC during the first round. This consisted of analyzing a sample of an unknown NPS and characterizing it using the laboratory's techniques and instruments. The GNA also participates in pilot tests. In both cases, the PFA and the GNA also carry out similar substance quantification activities in scientific cabinets in the interior of the country for the determination of samples.

It is important to note that the PNA carried out different activities such as:

- Participation in the XXI Argentine Toxicology Congress in 2019 – Presentation of scientific paper “Profile of narcotics in sample expert examinations performed by the Argentine Naval Prefecture Chemical Laboratory during the 2016-2017 period”
- Participation in the XXIII Argentine Toxicology Congress in 2023 – Presentation of poster on “Methods of concealment used in cocaine trafficking”
- Participation as lecturers in the “Advanced Anti-Drug Trafficking Course ” in 2023 – Technical and Operational Capabilities in the Detection of New Psychoactive Substances (NSP)
- Participation as lecturers in the “VII National Seminar of Scientific Police” in 2023 – presentation of “Expert Capabilities of the Argentine Naval Prefecture Chemical Laboratory”

Argentina has mechanisms to facilitate or share information on the subject at the national level across government counterparts, as well as with global repositories on chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including NPS. Through Resolution No. 307/24, the “Federal Network of Anti-Drug Laboratories” was created within the scope of the Ministry of Security. This is a system established within the scope of the Secretariat for the Fight against Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime, designed to promote collaboration between national and international laboratories, both public and private. Its main objective is to facilitate the exchange of information, experiences and relevant knowledge in investigations related to illicit drug trafficking and associated crimes.

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.

Argentina maintains partnerships and information exchange mechanisms with private sector entities to prevent access to materials and services exploited for illicit drug trafficking purposes. In this regard, the Federal Council on Chemical Precursors, created under Law 27.283 as an advisory body to the authority enforcing the National Register of Chemical Precursors, provides in its internal rules that, at the request of one of its members and for the purpose of addressing a particular problem, business chambers and trade union organizations in sectors related to the production, distribution, and sale of chemical precursors may be invited to participate in Council meetings.

In addition, it should be noted that SEDRONAR Resolution 580/2014 approved the Voluntary Code of Responsible Conduct with Respect to the Use of Chemical Precursors, which emphasizes the importance of discussions between the government and the business sector, corporate social responsibility, and training opportunities and also establishes various consultation channels.

In this regard, in June 2023, the new Code of Conduct on Chemical Precursors was approved as a result of a joint effort between the government and the private sector, within the framework of the Federal Council on Chemical Precursors, which made it possible to reach consensus on best practices in the use of precursors to prevent their diversion to illicit markets.

In June 2024, the Ministry of Security signed an agreement with the e-commerce company Mercado Libre to use a technological tool that allows the Ministry to carry out massive searches for products on the MercadoLibre platform, with the aim of identifying, reporting and removing publications of substances or products that violate current regulations. This collaboration seeks to strengthen controls and guarantee a safe and legally compliant e-commerce environment.

The country uses tools and resources of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) to strengthen cooperation with the private sector to prevent the diversion of chemical substances. The drafting of the Voluntary Code of Responsible Conduct with Respect to the Use of Chemical Precursors took into account the documents and tools provided by the INCB.

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 2.3: 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.

Argentina has Decree 560/2019 as the regulatory framework for identifying and addressing the challenges posed by NPS and emerging illicit synthetic drugs, which contains Annex II with chemical families for their control. Likewise, in 2024, Annex I of the aforementioned Decree was updated to incorporate new substances to the international lists, through Decree 635/2024.

On the other hand, at the beginning of July 2024 and through Joint Resolution 1/2024, published in the Official Gazette, the Ministries of Security and Health of the Nation, together with the National Administration of Medicines, Food and Medical Technology (ANMAT) and the AFIP, launched the Roundtable for the Prevention of Illicit Trafficking and Misuse of Fentanyl, which aims to design and implement strategies and policies to control and restrict the illegal trafficking of this drug and its analogues, as well as the chemical precursors used in its production.

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.

Argentina has the Ministry of Security and the National Administration of Drugs, Foods, and Medical Devices (ANMAT) as national authorities responsible for developing guides, codes of conduct, and other instruments to inform the industry and users in general about controlled chemical substances.

The country has developed the following instruments and mechanisms to inform the industry and users in general about applicable controls and cooperation methods, to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances:

- Voluntary Code of Responsible Conduct with Respect to the Use of Chemical Precursors
- Basic Manual of Chemicals Precursors
- Manual of Administrative Procedures: General System of Obligations and Requirements for

the Use of Chemical Precursors

- Training provided by the National Directorate of Chemical Precursors
- Law 19.303

Argentina has an updated record of all individuals and companies that handle controlled chemical substances.

The competent authorities in Argentina conduct regular inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and companies authorized to handle controlled chemical substances, as shown in the following table:

Name of the competent authority	Does it carry out regular inspections and audits?	Is it responsible for controlling domestic trade?	Does it consider the CICAD Model Regulations?
Ministry of Security	Yes, daily	Yes	Yes
ANMAT – Department of Substances Subject to Special Control	Yes, every 2 or 3 years.	No	No

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.

Argentina has the following legislation incorporating the control measures in Article 12, paragraphs 8 and 9 of the 1988 United Nations Convention to prevent diversion of controlled chemical substances toward illicit activities:

- Law 26.045
- Decree 593/2019
- Decree 606/2023
- MINSEG Resolution 1.122/2019
- Decree 1.490/92
- Law 19.303
- Law 17.818
- Law 16.463

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.

Argentina receives the following training for drug control personnel for the identification and

handling of controlled chemical substances:

Training programs	Institution in charge (national or international)
Operational tools of the Global Rapid Interdiction of Dangerous Substances (GRIDS) Programme for combating trafficking in NPS and other dangerous substances	INCB
GNA Special Anti-Drug Aptitude	GNA with the collaboration of the National Directorate of Chemical Precursors
Anti-Drug Analyst and Tactical Investigator Course	GNA with the collaboration of the National Directorate of Chemical Precursors
Control of Chemical Precursors	GNA with the collaboration of the National Directorate of Chemical Precursors
Control of Chemical Precursors	Airport Security Police (PSA) and the National Directorate of Chemical Precursors
Safe Handling of Chemical Precursors	CIQUIME (Chemical Information Center for Emergencies) – private organization
Use of portable RAMAN and FTIR spectrophotometers	National Directorate of Chemical Precursors

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.

The National Directorate of Chemical Precursors of Argentina’s Ministry of Security uses the CICAD Model Regulations for the Control of Chemical Substances Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in relation to the actions of chemical precursor operators, control tasks, and criminal complaints filed.

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

Argentina has the following penalties for infractions or violations by individuals or companies that handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances:

Type of penalty	Year of most recent update
Criminal	2024 (Law 23.737)
Administrative	2024 (Law 26.045)
	2023 (Decree 593/2019)
	2021 (Law 19.303)
	2024 (Law 17.818)
	2024 (Decree 606/2023)

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.

Argentina offers periodic training programs for personnel responsible for preventing trade in and diversion of materials and equipment for illicit production or manufacture of narcotics and psychotropic substances. In the context of training provided by the National Directorate of Chemical Precursors, information is provided on the use of machines to produce capsules, tablets, or pills, since they are regulated by the National Register of Chemical Precursors (RENPRE).

In addition, the ANMAT has a Training and Research Coordinating Office that offers a variety of courses.

Argentina shares information with the Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS) regarding the diversion of materials and equipment for illicit production or manufacture of narcotics and psychotropic substances. However, the country has not recorded any incidents to be shared.

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

Argentina has a national information system on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on changing behaviors and modus operandi of criminal organizations. Regarding information on procedures, the country collects information from the four security forces, the

police forces of the 24 administrative units that make up the national territory, and the General Directorate of Customs.

The information system on drug trafficking falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Security's Undersecretariat for the Fight against Drug Trafficking, as established in Decree 8/2024. This office collects information from the aforementioned institutions and, based on this information, prepares reports at the national level and responds to various international questionnaires.

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 7.2: 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.

Argentina has periodic training programs for the authorities and those in vulnerable sectors on prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and control of money laundering derived from drug trafficking. Along these lines, the following training sessions have been held for agents of the federal forces:

- Introduction to the Crime of Money Laundering
- Introduction to Assets in the Investigation of Economic Crimes
- Special Investigation Techniques Applied to Complex Crimes
- Specific Undercover Investigation Techniques
- Refresher Course on the Crime of Money Laundering
- Introductory Course on Economic Crimes and Asset and Financial Investigation
- First Course on Money Laundering and the Financial Economic Fight against Organized Crime

In addition, personnel from the Financial Information Unit (FIU) were trained through the following courses, workshops, seminars, and other activities:

Period	Issues addressed / Name of activity	Obligated parties	Location and modality	Sponsoring agency
2019	Subregional Workshop on Threats and Vulnerabilities related to Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (ML/FT) in the Tri-Border Area. Participation on the panel: Mechanism created by	-	Buenos Aires	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship

Period	Issues addressed / Name of activity	Obligated parties	Location and modality	Sponsoring agency
	Argentina to comply with UNSC 1373			
2020	4 Federal Seminars on Exchange of Best Practices in ML/FT Prevention in the Registration Setting	Real Estate Registry; Motor Vehicles; Legal Entities and Aircraft	Buenos Aires	FIU
2020	National Workshop on Combating the Financing of Terrorism	-	Panama City, Panama	Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) of the Organization of American States (OAS), Financial Analysis Unit (UAF), and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Panama
2020	"Postgraduate Course – Prevention and Prosecution of Money Laundering"		Mar del Plata, Buenos Aires	Center for Research and Prevention of Economic Crime (CIPCE) and School of Law, Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata
2021	Diploma Course in Prevention of Money Laundering	Certified public accountants, notaries, financial/exchange institutions, casinos, Public Trade Registry, Real Estate Registry /motor vehicles, insurance producers, customs brokers, real estate brokers, trustees, automobile dealers, etc. Judges, prosecutors, judiciary staff, lawyers, law enforcement University teachers, advanced students, and general public interested in the subject	Entre Ríos - virtual mode	Universidad Nacional de Entre Ríos (UNER) - FIU
2021	External Training Program – ML/FT Prevention. National and International Regulations	Security agents, Chubut Ministry of Security	Chubut; Buenos Aires	FIU – Chubut Ministry of Security
2021	Diploma Course in Prevention of Money Laundering	Educational / academic activity – FIU agents	Buenos Aires – Entre Ríos – Virtual mode	UNER – FIU

Period	Issues addressed / Name of activity	Obligated parties	Location and modality	Sponsoring agency
2022	Diploma Course in Prevention of Money Laundering	Educational / academic activity – FIU agents	Buenos Aires – Entre Ríos – Virtual mode	UNER – FIU
2022	Role of FIUs in Financial Investigations	Foreign public agents of tax agencies, judiciary, Public Prosecutor's Office	Virtual activity	Latin American Academy of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
2022	Internship activity on Operational Analysis among FIUs of the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT)	Agents from different FIUs	Santiago, Chile, in person	GAFILAT
2022	First Cohort: Specialization in Complex Crimes and Prevention of Money Laundering. Subject 10: International Cooperation	Government lawyers – Professionals from agencies specialized in ML/FT prevention	Virtual participation	School of the State Attorneys (ECAE) – AFIP – FIU
2022	Case Presentation in GAFILAT Operational Working Group	Members of GAFILAT Operational Support Working Group	Buenos Aires, in person	GAFILAT
2022	First Cohort: Specialization in Complex Economic Crimes and Prevention of Money Laundering. Subject 5: The Current System in Argentina. FIU	Government lawyers – Professionals from agencies specialized in ML/FT prevention	Buenos Aires Virtual	ECAE – AFIP – FIU
2022	Diploma Course in Prevention of Money Laundering	General public interested in the subject	Virtual participation	UNER
2022	Seminar on Feedback from Suspicious Operations Reports for Reporting Entities	Entities required to report, by sector. 20 sectors	Buenos Aires, virtual	FIU
2022	Role of FIUs in Financial Investigations	-	Virtual activity	OECD Latin American Academy
2022	Internship activity on Operational Analysis among GAFILAT FIUs	-	Santiago, Chile	GAFILAT
2022	Case Presentation in GAFILAT Operational Working Group	-	Buenos Aires	GAFILAT
2022	Seminar on Feedback from Suspicious Operations Reports	20 sectors	Simultaneous virtual session	FIU

Period	Issues addressed / Name of activity	Obligated parties	Location and modality	Sponsoring agency
2022	Second Cohort: Specialization in Complex Economic Crimes and Prevention of Money Laundering. Subject 5: The Current System in Argentina. FIU	Government lawyers – Professionals from agencies specialized in ML/FT prevention	Buenos Aires, virtual	ECAE – AFIP – FIU

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

Argentina has protocols that enable the authorities to conduct financial and asset investigations in parallel to drug trafficking investigations. In this regard, the Office of the Prosecutor for Economic Crimes and Money Laundering (PROCELAC) operates within the sphere of the Public Prosecutor's Office. In addition, a Manual on Asset Investigation was developed in 2011.

Likewise, the FIU, within the framework of the mission and function conferred on it by Article 6 of Law 25.246, conducts investigations into money laundering and financing of terrorism, and if suspicions arise, it communicates its findings to the Public Prosecutor's Office under the terms of Article 19 of Law 25.246.

**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.

Argentina, through the Ministry of Security, has designed national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit cultivation, production, and manufacture of drugs through the 2021–2023 Federal Plan to Address Organized Crime and the Federal Strategy to Combat Drug Trafficking, approved by Reserved Resolution No. 624 of the Ministry of Security. In the latter case, a public document was implemented.

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.

Under Article 15 of Law 23.737, Argentina takes into account licit traditional uses of coca leaf in the design and implementation of policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs.

In addition, the country includes environmental protection measures in its policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs. In this regard, the "Protocol on Traceability and Destruction of Seized or Forfeited Narcotics," approved by Resolution 1.275/2017 and amended by Resolution 478/2022, establishes that "4.2 in cases where incineration is ordered as the method of destruction, methods shall be used to ensure the treatment of fumes so that they will not be harmful to the environment; in case of doubt, the collaboration of firefighters and environmental protection personnel from the various forces should be sought."

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.

Argentina has established mechanisms for cooperation between public and private institutions to provide a comprehensive response to the illicit production of drugs. The Federal Council on Chemical Precursors, created under Law 27.283 as an advisory body to the authority implementing the National Register of Chemical Precursors, provides in its internal rules that, at the request of one of its members and for the purpose of addressing a particular problem, business chambers and trade union organizations in sectors related to the production, distribution, and sale of chemical precursors may be invited to participate in the council's meetings.

In this regard, representatives from various business chambers attended the latest meetings held by that council.

In addition, it should be noted that SEDRONAR Resolution 580/2014 approved the Voluntary Code of Responsible Conduct with Respect to the Use of Chemical Precursors, which emphasizes the importance of discussions between the government and the business sector, corporate social responsibility, and training opportunities and also establishes various consultation channels.

Likewise, in June 2023, the new Code of Conduct on Chemical Precursors was approved as a result of a joint effort between the government and the private sector, within the framework of the Federal Council on Chemical Precursors, which made it possible to reach consensus on best practices in the use of precursors to prevent their diversion to illicit markets.

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.

Argentina supports the development of supply reduction programs with drug-related crime prevention initiatives that address social and economic risk factors. In this regard, the Ministry of Security's lines of action intended to reduce the supply of drugs, which include crime prevention initiatives and the participation of civil society and other social actors, are as follows:

- Safe Neighborhoods Program
- Neighborhood Prevention Unit (UPB)
- Building Citizen Security Program
- Municipal Security Observatories

**OBJECTIVE
12**

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

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.

Argentina has strategies in place to prevent the exploitation of at-risk populations affected by drug trafficking networks at the national and international level. In this regard, the Argentine Ministry of Security's lines of action aimed at preventing the exploitation of at-risk populations by drug trafficking networks are the UPB, whose actions are framed within the Safe Neighborhoods Program.

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 Action 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.

Argentina has established and maintained working relationships with academic and research institutions. The country has the Program to Create Local Observatories on Problematic Substance Use and Treatment Practices for Municipalities, Universities, and Social Organizations,

which helps to coordinate and interconnect institutional and community networks. For this reason, in addition to the various intersectoral strategies designed by the Secretariat for Comprehensive Drug Policies of Argentina (SEDRONAR) to address various forms of violence and violations, the program aims to promote grassroots knowledge-building on the ground and launch a program for creating and strengthening observatories for local stakeholders.

The country has conducted the following studies on the drug problem through academic and research institutions:

- National Study on Changes in Substance Use and Treatment Responses Implemented as part of the Social, Preventive, and Mandatory Isolation (ASPO) due to COVID-19: Pillar 2, Changes in Substance Use Practices in the General Population. April 2021
- 2023 Study on Substance Use and Treatment Practices in the University Population

Meanwhile, since October 2021, Argentina has carried out the Program to Create Local Observatories on Problematic Substance Use and Treatment Practices for Municipalities, Universities, and Social Organizations, which includes as one of its objectives to plan and develop studies and lines of research in a coordinated, inter-institutional manner based on the problems and interests of people in their communities.

Priority Action 1.3: Develop and adopt quantitative and qualitative methodologies and information-gathering mechanisms that allow for the comparison of data among countries.

Argentina has developed and adopted quantitative and qualitative methodologies and information-gathering mechanisms that allow for the comparison of data among countries. The country has developed studies employing the following methodologies:

- In 2022, the National Study on Drug Use and Treatment Practices was conducted, with the aim of obtaining reliable and updated information on the breadth, prevalence, characteristics, and factors associated with psychoactive substance use in the urban population aged 16 to 75. This survey is conducted on the basis of the Ongoing Household Survey (EPH) of the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INDEC). The design of the survey is built on INDEC's Master Urban Housing Sample of the Republic of Argentina (MMUVRA)
- The Argentina 2019 Study on Mortality Related to Psychoactive Substance Use aims to calculate the Drug Use-Related Mortality Indicator (IMRCD), which estimates the annual number of deaths that are related directly or indirectly to psychoactive substance use in a specific region. To this end, a crosscutting descriptive study is conducted, which is based on a study of the number of deaths registered nationwide in 2019 by the National Death Registry of the Health Statistics and Information Directorate (DEIS) of the Ministry of Health
- The National Study on Changes in Substance Use and Treatment Responses Implemented as part of the ASPO due to COVID-19 set out, first of all, to reveal changes experienced in substance use, care, and treatment and support strategies used in the context of ASPO measures decreed nationwide due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Second of all, the study aimed

to describe changes in the use of alcohol, tobacco, medicines, non-prescription psychotropic drugs, and illegal drugs, and in the treatment associated with their use in everyday life among the population between 18 and 66 years of age living in urban settings

With respect to information on procedures, Argentina collects information from the four security forces, the police of the country's 24 administrative units, and the General Directorate of Customs. The information system on drug trafficking is under the responsibility of the Undersecretariat for the Fight against Drug Trafficking of the Ministry of Security, as established in Decree 8/2024. This area collects information from the aforementioned institutions and, based on this information, prepares reports at the national level and responds to various international questionnaires.

The country has also carried out studies on drug use applying a national methodology harmonized with the Inter-American Uniform Drug Use Data System (SIDUC). In 2022, the National Study on Drug Use and Treatment Practices was conducted with the aim of obtaining reliable and updated information on the breadth, prevalence, characteristics, and factors associated with psychoactive substance use in the urban population aged 16 to 75 living in cities with 2,000 or more inhabitants. Its design sought to ensure the ongoing use of standardized indicators at the regional and international level and at the same time incorporate new dimensions of analysis and indicators developed by the Argentine Observatory on Drugs (OAD), which seek to account for the complexity and multidimensional nature of substance use, focusing on national particularities. In 2023, the 2023 Study on Substance Use and Treatment Practices in the University Population was conducted for the purpose of guiding prevention, support, and assistance policies for university students in the country in relation to psychoactive substance use. This study falls under the general framework of SIDUC.

The 2019 Study on Mortality Related to Psychoactive Substance Use aims to calculate the IMRCD, which presents the annual number of deaths that are related directly or indirectly to psychoactive substance use in a specific region.

Additionally, Argentina has used the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission – CICAD's standardized indicators for drug information networks for the collection, analysis, and reporting of national drug-related data and information.

The country has carried studies using methods that are non-representative of the population or qualitative methodologies to obtain information on drugs that can be shared with other countries that have conducted studies using similar methodologies. In this regard, the report on changes in substance use practices in the general population implemented as a result of ASPO measures established during the pandemic aimed to describe changes in the use of alcohol, tobacco, medicines, non-prescription psychotropic drugs, and illegal drugs, and in the treatment associated with their use in everyday life among the population between 18 and 66 years of age living in urban settings.

In addition, the First National Survey of Care, Support, and Assistance Facilities for Mental Health

and Problematic Substance Use, carried out jointly by SEDRONAR's OAD and the Ministry of Health's National Directorate of a Comprehensive Approach to Mental Health and Problematic Substance Use, made it possible to collect information on the supply of care facilities in the country and their geographical distribution, detailing their general characteristics, modalities of treatment and care, services offered, composition of professional and non-professional teams, network operation, and profile of the target population, among other aspects.

Likewise, SEDRONAR's OAD and the National Directorate of Criminal Policy in Matters of Justice and Criminal Law of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights worked on studies on the population incarcerated for infractions of Laws 23.737 and 22.415, which regulate the possession and smuggling of narcotics. Their objective was to characterize that incarcerated population, to become familiar with patterns in the case files examined, and to conduct a qualitative inquiry into the life stories of those who have been incarcerated, in order to deepen and contextualize the most significant findings.

Priority Action 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.

Priority Action 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.

Priority Action 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.

The OAD has a national drug information network (DIN), which interacts through the following means:

Means	Yes	No	Frequency
Meetings	X		Quarterly
Document exchange	X		Quarterly

The following stakeholders participate in the DIN:

Stakeholders	Yes	No
Universities / Academia	X	
Health institutions	X	
Drug treatment facilities	X	
Law enforcement		X
Forensic laboratories		X
Statistical and census institutions	X	

Stakeholders	Yes	No
Private consultants		X
Civil society and other social stakeholders	X	
International organizations of cooperation		X

The DIN does not publish an annual report or any other type of periodic report.

Argentina has an early warning system (EWS) to identify new psychoactive substances (NPS) and other emerging drug-related threats.

The Ministry of Security, the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation, and SEDRONAR jointly coordinate the EWS, whereby each of the parties plays a particular role in operating the system without any one dominating another.

The EWS shares information, alerts, and reports with the Early Warning System for the Americas (known by its Spanish acronym, SATA).

The EWS has a mechanism to share information in real time.

The following stakeholders participate in the EWS:

Stakeholders	Yes	No
Universities / Academia	X	
Health institutions	X	
Drug treatment facilities	X	
Law enforcement	X	
Forensic laboratories	X	
Statistical and census institutions		X
Private consultants		X
Civil society and other social stakeholders	X	
International organizations of cooperation	X	

Priority Action 1.8: Establish or strengthen forums at which drug researchers can present their findings to policymakers, and encourage their participation in CICAD experts groups.

Argentina has established the following forums that allow drug researchers to present their findings to policy-makers:

Forum title	Frequency	Reports or publications from these forums
VI National Forensic Science Seminar	Annual	No

Forum title	Frequency	Reports or publications from these forums
VII National Forensic Science Seminar	Annual	No

Priority Action 1.9: Foster and disseminate best practices and the exchange of successful experiences in research among member states.

The OAD promotes and disseminates best practices and the exchange of successful research experiences among member states. The OAD's studies and research are conducted along four different areas of interest: general population, young people, specific populations, and care and treatment centers for problems caused by substance use. Thus, these studies contribute to the design of specific interventions and appropriate prevention strategies aimed at people who use substances or have problematic use. The implementation, development, and results of these studies are shared at COPOLAD and bilateral meetings.

In this context, it is worth highlighting the Seminar on the Exchange of Subregional Experiences on Early Warning Systems for Synthetic Drugs organized by Sedronar and CICAD-OAS as part of the Drug Monitoring in the Americas Project, which took place in July 2024.

Argentina actively participates in international meetings with the countries in the region on a bilateral level. During the period under review (2021–2023), it held "Joint Commission Meetings" on drugs with various countries, including Mexico, Bolivia, Chile, Peru and Colombia.

These bilateral forums serve to strengthen prevention capacities in the area of problematic substance use, as well as those related to the fight against drug trafficking, whether through the exchange of experiences, best practices, and knowledge; the generation of interagency links for an effective, rapid approach to the problem; or the creation or improvement of mechanisms and tools to take action against crime while ensuring access to substances for medical and scientific purposes.

**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 Action 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.

Argentina has conducted and published the following demand reduction studies during the evaluation period (2019-2023):

Demand reduction			
Studies	Studies carried out and published		Year of most recent study
	Yes	No	
Survey of secondary school students		X	
National household survey (12-64 years old)	X		2023
Cross-section survey of patients in treatment centers	X		2019
Survey of patients in emergency rooms	X		2019
Survey of university students	X		2023
Survey of incarcerated individuals		X	
Studies on drug-related mortality	X		2021
Studies on drug-related morbidity		X	
Surveys of other target populations		X	

Priority Action 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.

Argentina has carried out the following studies to evaluate treatment and prevention programs or interventions:

Scope	Are evaluation studies carried out?		If yes, please specify: Title of the study Year of assessment
	Yes	No	
Prevention	X		2021. Study on perceptions of participants in the Empowering Support Program (<i>Potenciar Acompañamiento</i>) one year after its launch (2020-2021) 2023. Community Companion Program (<i>Acompañantes Comunitarios</i>). Experiences in five municipalities in the Buenos Aires Metropolitan Area (2022-2023). November 2023
Treatment	X		2021. Study on SEDRONAR's Federal Network of centers 2023. Community Care and Support Homes (CAAC). Growth of the assistance network, responses implemented, and people served in 2022

The country has conducted the following process and intermediate outcome evaluations of prevention and treatment programs:

Program evaluated	Title of the evaluation performed	Year of publication of results	Year of program evaluation
Empowering Support (<i>Potenciar Acompañamiento</i>)	Study on perceptions of participants in the Empowering Support Program one year after its launch (2020-2021)	2021	2020/2021
Community Companion Program (<i>Acompañantes Comunitarios</i>)	Community Companion Program. Experiences in five municipalities in the Buenos Aires Metropolitan Area (2022-2023). November 2023	2023	2022/2023
Community Care and Support Homes Program (CAAC)	Community Care and Support Homes Program (CAAC). Growth of the assistance network, responses implemented, and people served in 2022	2023	December 2022

Argentina has not conducted impact evaluations of its prevention or treatment programs.

The country has mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results of the following programs and services in the public health and/or social protection network:

Programs/ Services	Mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate results		Description of the mechanisms
	Yes	No	
Care	X		<p>To monitor programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Portal to Monitor Treatment and Support Strategies. Based on periodic processing of information on centers, persons assisted, and processes, information is displayed on interactive dashboards geared toward different audiences <p>To evaluate programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluation of SEDRONAR's federal network of centers. Experiences of support from the perspective of all stakeholders (2019-2021) to obtain information that contributes to the daily monitoring and support of SEDRONAR's federal network of centers, based on staff members' perspective - Evaluation of the perceptions of participants in the Empowering Support Program (<i>Potenciar Acompañamiento</i>) one year after its launch (2020-2021). This study provides data on the program gleaned from the main lessons learned and difficulties in its implementation from the perspective of those involved

Treatment	X		<p>To monitor programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Portal to Monitor Treatment and Support Strategies: Based on periodic processing of information on centers, persons assisted, and processes, information is displayed on interactive dashboards geared toward different audiences <p>To evaluate programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluation of SEDRONAR's federal network of centers. Experiences of support from the perspective of all stakeholders (2019-2021) to obtain information that contributes to the daily monitoring and support of SEDRONAR's federal network of centers, based on staff members' perspective - Evaluation of the perceptions of participants in the Empowering Support Program (<i>Potenciar Acompañamiento</i>) one year after its launch (2020-2021). This study provides data on the program gleaned from the main lessons learned and difficulties in its implementation from the perspective of those involved
Rehabilitation	X		<p>To monitor programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Portal to Monitor Treatment and Support Strategies: Based on periodic processing of information on centers, persons assisted, and processes, information is displayed on interactive dashboards geared toward different audiences <p>To evaluate programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluation of SEDRONAR's federal network of centers. Experiences of support from the perspective of all stakeholders (2019-2021) to obtain information that contributes to the daily monitoring and support of SEDRONAR's federal network of centers, based on staff members' perspective - Evaluation of the perceptions of participants in the Empowering Support Program (<i>Potenciar Acompañamiento</i>) one year after its launch (2020-2021). This study provides data on the program gleaned from the main lessons learned and difficulties in its implementation from the perspective of those involved
Recovery and social integration	X		<p>To monitor programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Portal to Monitor Treatment and Support Strategies: Based on periodic processing of information on centers, persons assisted, and processes, information is displayed on interactive dashboards geared toward different audiences <p>To evaluate programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluation of SEDRONAR's federal network of centers. Experiences of support from the perspective of all stakeholders (2019-2021) to obtain information that contributes to the daily monitoring and support of SEDRONAR's federal network of centers, based on staff members' perspective - Evaluation of the perceptions of participants in the Empowering Support Program (<i>Potenciar Acompañamiento</i>) one year after its launch (2020-2021). This study provides data on the program gleaned from the main lessons learned and difficulties in its implementation from the perspective of those involved

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 Action 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.

Argentina has mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs. Argentina collects information from the four security forces, the police forces of the country's 24 administrative units, and the General Directorate of Customs. The information system on drug trafficking falls within the sphere of the Ministry of Security's Undersecretariat for the Fight against Drug Trafficking. This area collects information from the aforementioned institutions and, based on this information, prepares reports at the national level and responds to various international questionnaires.

The country has the following information related to supply reduction, trafficking, and related crimes:

Supply reduction, trafficking, and related crimes			
Information	Available information		Year of most recent information
	Yes	No	
Quantification of illicit crop cultivation including crops grown indoors		X	
Number of seizures of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production	X		2023
Quantity of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production seized	X		2023
Number of seizures of controlled chemical substances (precursors)	X		2023
Quantity of seized controlled chemical substances (precursors)	X		2023
Number of seizures of pharmaceutical products	X		2023
Quantity of seized pharmaceutical products	X		2023
Number of persons formally charged with drug use, possession, and trafficking of drugs		X	
Number of persons convicted of drug use, possession, and trafficking		X	
Number of laboratories producing illicit plant-based drugs detected and dismantled	X		2023
Number of laboratories producing illicit drugs of synthetic origin detected and dismantled	X		2023
Chemical composition of seized drugs	X		2023
Sale price of drugs (for consumers)		X	

Supply reduction, trafficking, and related crimes			
Information	Available information		Year of most recent information
	Yes	No	
Number of persons formally charged with money laundering		X	
Number of persons convicted of money laundering		X	
Number of persons formally charged with trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition and related materials		X	
Number of persons convicted of trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition, and related materials		X	
Number of persons formally charged with diversion of chemical substances		X	
Number of persons convicted of diversion of chemical substances		X	
Others: Number of persons who came into formal contact with the legal system for drug use, possession, and trafficking	X		2023

Argentina does not carry out periodic studies or research on the drug market for illicit drugs.

The country does not carry out studies on the medical and scientific use and other legal uses of narcotics or psychotropic substances, subject to international control systems.

Priority Action 3.2: Conduct studies on the price, purity or concentration, and chemical profile of drugs.

Argentina collects information on prices, purity or concentration, and chemical profile of drugs to be able to develop studies. However, it does not prepare reports for public dissemination:

Type of publication/report	Title of report/publication	Year of report/publication
Report	Cocaine Purity in Argentina 2023	2023

The country conducts chemical characterizations and purity tests of substances that may or may not be subject to international control. Argentina has mechanisms through which substances identified as not being subject to international control can be placed under control. The old system, by which Argentina controlled narcotics for more than 25 years, has yielded to a system supplemented by Decree 560/2019, which also allows for controlling groups of new psychoactive substances (NPS) and anticipating the emergence of NPS that can represent a serious threat to public health. Thus, more than one kind of drug control was adopted in order to reduce the likelihood that substances not subject to control that represent a health a safety risk were circulating nationwide. To this end, joint efforts were undertaken by the Ministry of Security, the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET), the National Drug Crime Prosecutor's Office, and the anti-drug trafficking section of the Public Prosecution Ministry. Additionally, the selection of chemical groups subject to control was based on the NPS classification set forth by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (aminoindanes,

arylcyclohexylamines, synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic cathinones, phenethylamines, piperazines, and tryptamines). The tools and instruments the United Nations made available to countries have been extremely useful. These include Project ION Incident Communication System (IONICS) and the UNODC Early Warning Advisory (EWA) on New Psychoactive Substances.

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 Action 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.

Argentina is developing and implementing a plan to promote and strengthen technical assistance and horizontal cooperation among member states and with states outside the Western Hemisphere, as well as with relevant international and regional organizations and related programs and initiatives. In this regard, it has worked together with the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) in incorporating new focal points to use Project ION Incident Communication System (IONICS), the Global Rapid Interdiction of Dangerous Substances (GRIDS) Programme, and Precursor Incident Communication System (PICS) tools, in addition to conducting various training sessions on using such tools.

In addition, the Ministry of Security participates in the Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drug Threats, which aims to develop innovative solutions, drive national initiatives, and elevate the need to address synthetic drugs as a shared global priority through Working Groups. Specifically, it participates in the following:

- Preventing the illicit production and trafficking of synthetic drugs. This was the first thematic area identified by the ministerial declaration to be addressed by the Global Coalition. Divided into two Sub-Working Groups, SWG 1.1 focuses on manufacturing of synthetic drugs and their precursors, and SWG 1.2 addresses trafficking of synthetic drugs.
- Detecting emerging drug threats and use patterns. This group is designed to improve data collection, increase information sharing, and better integrate resources to improve the collective ability to respond to emerging drug trends.

Sub-Working Group 2.1, on data collection, analysis, and trends, including early warning, will focus on improving the availability and credibility of data to better detect and respond to emerging trends. Sub-Working Group 2.2 will focus on information sharing, interagency

collaboration, and policy development to share best practices and close gaps exploited by transnational criminal organizations.

The country has established secure communication channels for the exchange of intelligence information on drug interdiction and control through IONICS and PICS.

Argentina promotes the exchange, with member states and with states outside of the Western Hemisphere, and with international and regional organizations, of best practices in training, specialization, and professional development of personnel responsible for implementing national drug policies and strategies. It has participated in the Cooperation Program between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drug Policy (COPOLAD) II and III, as well as in the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), where information has been exchanged primarily on the control of precursor chemicals and their final disposition. It has also held exchanges in the framework of the Specialized Meeting of Drug Enforcement Authorities (RED) of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) regarding administrative control of precursor chemicals and narcotics. Finally, it has held bilateral meetings (recently with Mexico, Chile, Bolivia, Peru, and Colombia) in which best practices were shared on administrative processes to control precursors and on various narcotics-related issues.

The country participates in regional coordination activities to prevent crimes related to drug trafficking, such as firearms trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, money laundering, and corruption, among others. In this regard, the country and specifically the Ministry of Security participates in the following activities where experiences, best practices, and training are shared:

- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
 - Participation in the initiative "Control of chemical substances, interdiction of illicit drugs and criminal justice response to drug trafficking and associated corruption in Argentina," and in specific activities:
 - Participation in roundtables on the context and challenges of illicit drug trafficking (with emphasis on synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances – NPS) and the diversion of chemical precursors in Argentina
 - Technical and legal workshop on the production of narcotic drugs (including synthetic drugs and NPS) and the chemical substances and precursors used for their illicit manufacture
 - Workshops to identify the illicit mechanisms used by organized crime to obtain chemical substances and precursors.
 - Integrity and drug trafficking
- U.S.–Colombia Joint Regional Security Action Plan (USCAP)
 - Diploma in Strategic Analysis for the Control of Drug Trafficking and its Associated Manifestations
 - Diploma in Management of Criminal Investigation Units
 - Basic Anti-Drug Diploma

- Diploma in Strategies against Drug Trafficking in Maritime and Air Terminals
- Designated Diploma in Fundamentals of Forensic Computing
- Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training (OPDAT) of the U.S. Department of Justice
 - Digital Piracy and Open-Source Investigations Working Group (DPWG)
 - Workshop on Special Investigation Techniques in Complex Crimes
 - Advanced Course on Financial Investigation Techniques
 - Dialogue with justice sectors in the triple border area; Combating Human Trafficking in Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay and its relationship to Organized Crime and International Terrorism
- International Law Enforcement Academies (ILEA)
 - Cross Regional – Advanced Narcotic Course
 - Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation Course
 - Leadership for Women in Law Enforcement
 - Tactical Safety and Planning

In Argentina, there are bilateral mechanisms for coordination and collaboration with other countries, focused on the dismantling of criminal groups linked to drug trafficking and related crimes with countries from the region as well as with countries in other hemispheres. These mechanisms are used when the parties so agree. Among them are the following:

- Thematic security meetings in MERCOSUR (Meeting of Ministers of the Interior and Security – RMIS)
- The Latin American Committee for Internal Security (CLASI) brings together the ministers in charge of internal security in the region to define priorities in a coordinated manner, based on empirical information, and to work on Operational Action Plans that allow for intelligent use of resources and increasingly effective results for the region. It is a coordination mechanism at the political, strategic, and operational level for the definition and implementation of public security policies in the Latin American region. Supported by the European Union, through the Europe Latin America Programme of Assistance against Transnational Organised Crime (EL PAcCTO). Members: Argentina, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama, Dominican Republic, Chile, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay, Peru, and Colombia
- Ministers of the Interior of the member states of the European Union and ministers in charge of internal security, members of CLASI, created the Operational Working Group (GTO), consisting of a network of police officers specialized in the fight against drug trafficking
- Participation in the Seaport Cooperation Project (SEACOP), with the cooperation of the International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies (FIIAPP)
- Participation in the Airport Communications Programme (AIRCOP) implemented by UNODC in association with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization (WCO)
- Participation in joint operations together with INTERPOL members

- Joint Commissions on Drugs (COMIXTAS)

OBJECTIVE
2

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

Priority Action 2.3: Enact national legislation and/or take administrative actions, as appropriate, to more fully implement the obligations set forth within these legal instruments.

Argentina has enacted and adopted, during the evaluation period (2019–2024), the following legislative and administrative measures and actions to improve the implementation of obligations set forth in international legal instruments related to the world drug problem, respecting human rights and gender equality:

	Enacted	Adopted	Name of legislation/measures or administrative actions
Legislative actions/measures	X	X	Law 27.669, Regulatory Framework for Developing the Medical Cannabis and Industrial Hemp Industry. Decree 560/2019 – Lists of controlled narcotics by Chemical Groups Decree 635/2024 – Update of the list of Annex I of the Decree on narcotics Decree 593/2019 – Regulations of Law 26.045 on control of chemical precursors Decree 606/2023 – Modifying the list of chemical precursors, replacing the annex to Decree 593/2019
Administrative actions/measures	X		Resolution 800/2021, Implementing regulations of the provisions of Article 8 of Decree 883/2020 on the creation of the Cannabis Registry Program (REPROCANN)



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1889 F Street N.W.
Washington, D.C., 20006
www.cicad.oas.org