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MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

Evaluation Report on Drug Policies

COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION

Guatemala

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

2024



OAS | CICAD



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EIGHTH EVALUATION ROUND

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OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.76
CICAD/doc.2894/24

ISBN 978-0-8270-7927-4

PREFACE

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 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 that Guatemala has a national drug authority, which has a legal basis. Furthermore, CICAD observes that in the country there is an annual budget for the national drug authority, which is independent. However, CICAD notes that Guatemala does not have a coordination and collaboration mechanism among agencies and other levels of government (national and subnational), to formulate, implement, monitor, evaluate, and update evidence-based national drug policies and/or strategies and that the national drug authority coordinates 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 that Guatemala collects and uses evidence as a basis for formulating and updating national drug policies and/or strategies. In addition, CICAD observes the involvement of relevant actors from priority areas in the development, implementation, evaluation, and updating of national drug policies and/or strategies. CICAD notes that the country has partially delegated drug responsibilities to local/subnational governments to implement concrete actions related to drug policies and strategies, in coordination with the national drug authority, and that said the said authority has, in its central structure, an office or operational unit to promote, coordinate, train, and provide technical support on drug-related issues to sub-national/local governments or agencies. In addition, the national drug authority has coordinators, offices or representatives within its sub-national or local territories, as part of a decentralized operational and coordination structure at the local level to respond to the drug problem. However, Guatemala does not have a specific and ongoing mechanism or program to transfer funds or finance drug initiatives or projects implemented by sub-national or local governments. CICAD observes that the country does not engage private sector entities to develop innovative approaches in the implementation of drug policies and exchange information and best practices. CICAD notes that Guatemala takes into account the 2020 Hemispheric Strategy on Drugs of the OAS and its corresponding Plan of Action to formulate or

update national drug policies and/or strategies. Likewise, 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. On the other hand, CICAD notes that Guatemala does not have 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 that Guatemala 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. However, CICAD observes that the country does not have concrete multisectoral plans or programs to address the socioeconomic causes and consequences of the drug problem, based on human rights, public health, and development principles. Furthermore, CICAD notes that Guatemala participates in international cooperation programs at the bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen policies, programs, institutions, and their internal processes. Additionally, CICAD observes that the country promotes comprehensive and cross-cutting public policies to reduce and prevent crime, violence, social exclusion, and corruption. Additionally, CICAD notes that Guatemala implements measures that promote equal access to justice and due process, taking into account gender, age, community, and cultural context. Likewise, 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 that Guatemala's laws do not provide for alternative measures to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug-related offenses. Furthermore, CICAD observes that the country does not develop mechanisms to monitor or evaluate these measures and does not promote a common understanding of national legal norms, regulations, and internal procedures for the implementation of said measures.

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 that Guatemala does not have 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. However, 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 that Guatemala promotes legislation that provides for proportional legal sentencing for minor drug-related offenses in accordance with domestic law but does not have special courts for these offenses. However, CICAD notes that the country does not promote legal reforms in regard to 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 Guatemala has drug demand reduction policies that include programs in the areas of health promotion, prevention, treatment, care, rehabilitation, social integration, and recovery, which include the age, gender, community, and cultural context approaches. However, CICAD observes that the country's policies do not include programs in the area of early intervention. In addition, it notes that the country develops, strengthens, and implements coordination mechanisms for collecting, analyzing, disseminating, and accessing information on prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and social integration services. In addition, CICAD observes that Guatemala has monitoring instruments for drug demand reduction programs. However, it has not carried out assessments of its drug demand reduction programs during the period of evaluation. Similarly, CICAD recognizes that the country implements coordination mechanisms to support the formulation or execution of drug demand reduction programs that allow for participation and coordination with civil society and other

stakeholders, in addition to promoting national measures and programs on prevention, treatment, care, and rehabilitation, with a comprehensive and inclusive drug demand reduction approach and 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 Guatemala carries out universal and selective drug use prevention programs in various population groups. However, it notes that it does not develop indicated prevention strategies or programs, nor does it implement specific programs for other important population groups. In addition, CICAD observes that the country has not carried out updated situational assessments to identify the specific needs, risks, or protective factors of each target population group of drug use prevention programs. In addition, CICAD notes that Guatemala does not promote the exchange of research, experiences, and best practices to improve the effectiveness of prevention programs, taking into consideration the “International Standards on 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 Guatemala has comprehensive and inclusive care, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and social integration programs and services in the public health and social protection network, which take into consideration the human rights, public health, and gender perspective approaches. In addition, it notes that the country takes into account the “International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders” of the WHO and UNODC, and uses 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.” However, CICAD observes that Guatemala does not implement mechanisms to continuously monitor and evaluate the outcomes of care, treatment, and rehabilitation programs. In contrast, CICAD observes that the country has mechanisms to protect the rights of individuals in treatment programs and services and protocols to protect the confidentiality of the information provided by those who receive these services, which include the process of providing adequate information on treatment and informed consent. Nonetheless, CICAD notes

with concern that Guatemala does not have early intervention, care, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, or social integration services for criminal offenders who use drugs, nor does it offer early intervention, care, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, or social integration programs for incarcerated individuals who use drugs. In contrast, CICAD finds that the country implements cooperation mechanisms with social and community actors that provide social and community support services, which contribute to the social integration of drug users. However, CICAD notes with concern that Guatemala does not promote regional or international cooperation, nor does it share best practices to improve access to and availability of evidence-based recovery and treatment services, including access to naloxone and other medications used in the treatment of substance use disorders. From another perspective, CICAD notes with satisfaction that the country promotes measures to address the stigma and social marginalization associated with substance use disorders, which may deter individuals from seeking, accessing, and completing drug demand reduction services.

Objective 4

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

CICAD notes that Guatemala implements ongoing competency-based training in the areas of prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation. It also emphasizes that the country participates in prevention and training programs offered by specialized international organizations, which take into account the gender, public health, and human rights approach. In contrast, CICAD notes with concern that the country does not certify staff working in prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, or social integration services, and has not carried out situational assessments during the 2019-2021 period to identify the training needs of staff working in prevention, early intervention, care, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, or social integration programs, and thus has not 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 Guatemala does not have regulatory measures to accredit prevention programs but it does have an accreditation process for care and treatment centers. However, it does not use the CICAD Indispensable Criteria for the opening and operation of treatment centers for drug use disorders. In addition, CICAD observes that the country does not have supervisory mechanisms to ensure compliance with international quality standards in prevention programs. However, it does have such mechanisms for public and private treatment and rehabilitation services. Finally, CICAD notes with concern that Guatemala has not carried out an assessment at the national, regional, or local level to determine needs in terms of care, treatment, and reintegration services during the period of evaluation.

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 Guatemala implements and participates in ongoing training programs to detect, investigate and dismantle laboratories or facilities used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, for personnel involved in interdiction operations. In addition, it notes that the country has protocols or operating procedures to detect, investigate and dismantle clandestine laboratories or facilities for the illicit processing or manufacture of drugs, which include adequate security and health measures for the personnel involved in the dismantling of laboratories or facilities, and include actions to minimize damage to the environment and optimize the management of chemical and hazardous waste. Likewise, CICAD observes that agencies in charge of drug control in the country implement policies that promote gender mainstreaming. In addition, CICAD notes that the country has programs and strategies aimed at land, riverine, maritime, and aerial interdiction, through monitoring, inspections, and checkpoints. Likewise, CICAD notes that Guatemala has laws and regulations providing for the use of specialized investigation tools and techniques to prevent and reduce drug trafficking. CICAD also notes that the country has updated assessments and studies to identify new trends and threats on drug trafficking and related crimes. Likewise, CICAD observes that Guatemala implements actions to identify organized crime groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes, implements inter-institutional collaboration and cooperation mechanisms to coordinate activities aimed at dismantling organized crime groups involved in these crimes, and has participated in operations and investigations in cooperation with other countries aimed at dismantling these groups. In addition, CICAD notes that the country has institutions that are responsible for, and capable of, analyzing chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances (NPS), and participates in ongoing training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of these substances. However, CICAD observes with concern that the country does not have mechanisms to facilitate or share information at the national level across relevant government counterparts, as well as with global repositories on these substances. CICAD notes that the country does not have mechanisms to investigate or disrupt drug trafficking through the Internet. Likewise, CICAD observes that the country does not maintain partnerships or information exchange mechanisms with private sector entities to prevent access to materials and services exploited for illicit drug trafficking purposes, and does not use tools or resources of the INCB to strengthen cooperation with the private sector to prevent the diversion of chemicals. CICAD notes with concern that the Guatemalan national authorities do not have an appropriate budget, human or material resources for the forfeiture, seizure, and management of assets, tools, or products related to

illicit drug markets and the competent personnel do not receive ongoing training on this subject.

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 observes that Guatemala does not have an early warning system (EWS) to identify or trace new psychoactive substances (NPS), illicit synthetic drugs, or the threat of fentanyl-related substances, non-medical synthetic opioids, illicit amphetamine derivatives, nor other substances subject to international control¹. On the other hand, CICAD notes with satisfaction 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 observes that the country does not have regulatory frameworks or guidelines to identify and address the challenges posed by the onset of NPS and emerging synthetic drugs. In addition, CICAD notes that the country does not participate in the INCB's ION Project. Additionally, CICAD notes that Guatemala does not have innovative legislation or regulatory approaches to synthetic opioids for non-medical use or 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 that Guatemala has a competent national authority responsible for developing guides, codes of conduct, and other instruments to inform the industry or users in general of controlled chemical substances, and has developed such instruments and mechanisms. Additionally, CICAD observes that the country has an updated register of all individuals and corporations handling controlled chemical substances, and that its competent authority carries out inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle these substances. In addition, CICAD notes that the country carries out analyses that include the exchange of information through existing international mechanisms of substances, their analogs, and precursors, which pose a threat to public health. Likewise, CICAD observes

¹ The country reported in the MEM 2022 "Evaluation Report on Drug Policies: Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their Causes and Consequences" that it did not have an early warning system (EWS) to identify and trace new psychoactive substances (NPS), illicit synthetic drugs, or the threat of fentanyl-related substances, non-medical synthetic opioids, illicit amphetamine derivatives, or other substances subject to international control. However, the country provided, during the 2024 evaluation process, an update under Objective 1 of the Research, Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation area, where it informs that it now has a functioning EWS, but not under this objective.

that Guatemala has legislation incorporating the control measures in Article 12 of the 1988 United Nations Convention to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances to illicit activities, which include all the control measures contained in paragraph 8, all the control measures contained in paragraph 9, and complies with the request for information contained in paragraph 10. Likewise, CICAD notes that the country uses the INCB's PEN Online system for pre-export notification of controlled chemical substances but does not use INCB's PICS System. However, CICAD observes that Guatemala does not receive training for drug control personnel for the identification and handling of controlled chemical substances. CICAD notes that the country has budgetary mechanisms that ensure allocation of resources to acquire necessary equipment and supplies for the preliminary identification of substances and the protective equipment required by personnel in charge of these tasks. However, CICAD observes that the country does not use the OAS/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 Guatemala 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 maintains an updated register of individuals or companies importing and exporting substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. However, CICAD observes 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. On the other hand, CICAD notes that the country has a regulatory framework governing the acquisition of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. However, it does not have legislation, standards or guidelines 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 Guatemala has an updated register of corporations handling pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances, issues licenses to the manufacturers and distributors of these products, and carries out regular inspections and audits of establishments of individuals and corporations that handle them. CICAD observes that the country has criminal and administrative penalties for infractions or violations by individual or corporations that handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances,

narcotics, or psychotropic substances. On the other hand, CICAD notes that the country does not offer 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. However, it shares information with other regional or global systems on this matter. Additionally, CICAD observes that the country does not use the INCB's I2ES system, nor does it have alternative mechanisms that are ready to issue, load, or exchange expeditiously import and export authorizations of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical use, and it has not received training on the INCB's 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 that Guatemala implements periodic training programs for personnel involved in drug investigations in specialized investigative techniques and intelligence collection, analysis, and operations. In addition, CICAD notes that the country implements 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 with satisfaction that the country has mechanisms to collect and exchange intelligence information at the domestic, regional, and international level, to detect routes and methods used by drug trafficking criminal organizations. CICAD also notes 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. On the other hand, CICAD notes that Guatemala does not have a national information system on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on changing behaviors or modus operandi of criminal organizations. However, the institutions that have competencies related to illicit drug trafficking and related crimes have information systems that are shared via cooperation agreements.

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 Guatemala has strengthened its legislative framework to counter money laundering derived from drug trafficking. In addition, CICAD observes that the country has periodic training programs for officials and those in vulnerable sectors on prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and control of money laundering derived from drug trafficking. On the other hand, CICAD notes that Guatemala has protocols that enable the authorities to conduct financial and asset investigations parallel to drug trafficking

investigations. Likewise, CICAD observes that the country has mechanisms allowing for inter-agency coordination and cooperation in the area of preventing and controlling money laundering. CICAD notes that the country has a financial intelligence unit and an information system aimed at the investigation and prosecution of money laundering in analyzing cases deriving from drug trafficking. On the other hand, CICAD observes that the country does not have mechanisms for analyzing money laundering risks, in accordance with FATF recommendations. Additionally, CICAD notes that Guatemala does not have established partnerships with financial industries to identify or 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 with satisfaction that Guatemala has designated competent authorities responsible for the administration of seized and forfeited assets, and regulations that facilitate accountability and transparency in the administration of seized and forfeited assets. Likewise, CICAD notes that the country participates in specialized periodic training programs for the management and disposition of seized and forfeited assets. In addition, CICAD notes that Guatemala has legislation, in accordance with international treaties and conventions, to facilitate the seizure, forfeiture, and management of assets and instruments or products 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 that Guatemala has designed, implemented, and updated national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit cultivation, production, and manufacture of drugs. In addition, CICAD notes that the country directs budgetary allocations toward financing of counternarcotics programs. On the other hand, CICAD notes that the country does not take into account the licit traditional use in designing and implementing policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs, and does not include environmental protection measures in its policies and programs. CICAD notes that the country has not established mechanisms for interinstitutional cooperation between public and private institutions to provide a comprehensive response to the illicit production of drugs. However, CICAD notes with

satisfaction that Guatemala supports the development of supply reduction programs with drug-related crime prevention initiatives that address social and economic risk factors, which include the participation of 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 Guatemala has not designed or implemented comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs or preventive alternative development programs 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 Guatemala, during the evaluation period (2019-2022), did not carry out research or studies to determine the characteristics and extent of the environmental impact caused by the illicit cultivation of crops and illicit 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 Guatemala 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. Likewise, CICAD observes that the country promotes the interagency exchange of information on the effects of small-scale drug trafficking in the security sector. However, CICAD notes with concern that Guatemala does not have programs or strategies that 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 Guatemala has a National Drug Observatory (NDO), which has a legal basis and has been assigned financial and human resources to carry out its functions. Likewise, CICAD observes that the country has established and maintained working relationships with academic and research institutions but has not carried out studies on the drug problem through them. Furthermore, CICAD notes that Guatemala has developed and adopted the following quantitative and qualitative methodologies and information-gathering mechanisms that allow for the comparison of data among countries, however, has not carried out studies on drug use applying the SIDUC methodology but has utilized the CICAD standard indicators for drug information networks for the collection, analysis, and reporting of national drug related data and information. Likewise, the country has carried out studies using methods that are non-representative of the population and/or qualitative methodologies to obtain information on drugs that can be shared with other countries that have carried out studies with similar methodologies. Likewise, CICAD observes that the Guatemalan observatory has a national drug information network (DIN), which interacts through meetings and the exchange of documents, and publishes a periodic report. Additionally, the country has an early warning system (EWS) to identify NPS and other emerging drug threats. CICAD notes that the country's observatory carries out trainings with local stakeholders to enhance data collection and management, as well as meetings and other workshops where the results of studies and other data collection activities are shared with local stakeholders. However, CICAD observes that Guatemala has not established forums that allow drug researchers to present their findings to policymakers. On the other hand, CICAD notes that the country's observatory promotes and disseminates best practices and the exchange of successful experiences in research among member states.

Objective 2

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

CICAD notes that Guatemala has carried out and published a demand reduction study during the evaluation period (2019-2023). Likewise, CICAD notes 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. Furthermore, CICAD observes that Guatemala has carried out a study to evaluate prevention programs and interventions, but not for treatment programs. Likewise, the country has not carried out process or intermediate

outcome evaluations of prevention or treatment programs. On the other hand, the country 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 Guatemala 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 and research on the drug market for illicit drugs or on the medical and scientific uses and other legal use of narcotics or psychotropic substances, subject to the international control system. CICAD observes that Guatemala does not collect data or information on drug prices, purity or concentration, and chemical profile of drugs, although it does conduct chemical characterization and tests of purity for substances that may or may not be subject to international control. Likewise, the country has mechanisms through which substances that have been classified as not subject to international controls can be placed under control. CICAD notes that the country has an institution responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances, which is part of the national drug information network (DIN). In addition, the country implements periodic training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of these substances. CICAD observes that Guatemala's DIN relies on standardized indicators for the collection of data on drug supply and that the country implements 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 evaluation round of the MEM, Guatemala compiled 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 Government Expert Group (GEG). CICAD observes that, for the eighth round of MEM evaluation, the country designated delegates for all MEM groups, actively participating and contributing to the evaluation process. However, CICAD notes that Guatemala does not carry out periodic activities to promote or raise awareness of the MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies aimed at national institutions. On the other hand, 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. Additionally, CICAD notes that

Guatemala has reviewed the MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies and identified opportunities to increase cooperation and partnerships with other member states and sharing of 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 Guatemala develops and implements 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. In addition, the country has established secure communication channels for the exchange of intelligence information on drug interdiction and control. Moreover, Guatemala 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. Likewise, 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. Additionally, Guatemala has bilateral mechanisms in place for coordinating and collaborating 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 it has promoted information sharing among and between them. On the other hand, CICAD notes that Guatemala does not promote the dissemination of good practices and 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 that the competent authorities of Guatemala do not carry out cooperation activities at the regional and international level to investigate or prosecute criminals for drug-related offenses. On the other hand, 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. However, CICAD notes that Guatemala has not enacted or adopted, during the evaluation period (2019-

2023), legislation or administrative measures and actions to improve the implementation of obligations set forth within international legal instruments related to the world drug problem, respecting human rights and gender equality. On the other hand, CICAD observes that the country has ratified or acceded to all the international legal instruments of the United Nations and all the OAS Inter-American legal instruments regarding the world drug problem and related crimes.

ANNEX PRIORITY ACTIONS WITH UPDATES

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

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.
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Priority Action 4.1: Adopt alternative measures to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug-related offenses, where appropriate, while safeguarding the sovereignty of states, and ensuring individual accountability, respecting human rights and the gender perspective.

Guatemala’s laws do not provide for alternative measures to incarceration for minor or non-violent 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 AND COMMUNITY, AND TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE GUIDELINES AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS OF SPECIALIZED INTERNATIONAL AND/OR REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.
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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.

Guatemala has drug demand reduction policies that include programs in the areas of health promotion, prevention, treatment, care, rehabilitation, social integration, and recovery support, as well as other initiatives and measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse. However, these policies do not include the area of early intervention.

Area	Policies / Programs
Health promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019-2030 National Policy on Drugs and Addiction (prepared by the Executive Secretariat of the Commission Against Addictions and Illicit Drug Trafficking - SECCATID) • Pro-Health Videos made by SECCATID on various digital platforms (YouTube, Facebook, Instagram)

Area	Policies / Programs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SECCATID’s website • Law Against Drug Activity
Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information from the Prevention Directorate on SECCATID’s website • Prevention Program: Mis Primeros Pasos • Comprehensive Preventive Education (PRONEPI) • Prevention Program: Construyendo en Comunidad • Prevention Program: Bienestar Laboral • Prevention Program: Por un Mundo Libre de Drogas • Video made by SECCATID on digital platforms (YouTube)
Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information from the Office on Treatment, Rehabilitation and Reintegration on SECCATID’s website • Treatment Material on Facebook and Instagram, produced by SECCATID
Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information from the Office on Treatment, Rehabilitation and Reintegration on SECCATID’s website • Treatment Material on Facebook and Instagram, produced by SECCATID
Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information from the Office on Treatment, Rehabilitation and Reintegration on SECCATID’s website • Treatment Material on Facebook and Instagram, produced by SECCATID
Social Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outpatient treatment center: Occupational Therapy Programs • Information from the Office on Treatment, Rehabilitation and Reintegration on SECCATID’s website • Treatment Material on Facebook and Instagram, produced by SECCATID • Social Welfare Secretariat (SBS) which manages reintegration programs
Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information from the Office on Treatment, Rehabilitation and Reintegration on SECCATID’s website • Treatment Material on Facebook and Instagram, produced by SECCATID
Other initiatives/measures aimed at minimizing adverse public health and social consequences	Videos and audiovisual made by SECCATID on various digital platforms (YouTube, Facebook, Instagram)

The programs described above include the gender, age, community, and cultural context approaches.

SECCATID published the 2019-2030 National Policy on Drugs and Addictions focused on health promotion, which describes all activity directly and indirectly related to addictions, illicit actions linked with drug trafficking in all its forms.

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.
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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.

Guatemala develops and implements the following prevention strategies and programs:

Population group	Estimated coverage		Strategy / program	Type of program
	Targeted population	Coverage rate		
School girls and boys:				
• Preschool	Unknown	Persons: 2020: 358 2019: 17,921	Mis primeros pasos	Universal
• Primary	Unknown	Persons: 2020: 626 2019: 986	National Comprehensive Preventive Education Program (PRONEPI)	Universal
• Secondary	Unknown	Persons: 2020: 1,277 2019: 2,134	PRONEPI	Universal
Family	Unknown	Persons: 2020: 2,158 2019: 19,973	PRONEPI	Universal
Community	Unknown	Persons: 2020: 4,707 2019: 6,933	Construyendo en comunidad	Universal and Selective
People in the workplace	Unknown	Persons: 2020: 1,506 2019: 2,630	Bienestar Laboral	Universal and Selective

The country does not develop indicated prevention strategies or programs, nor does it implement specific programs for the following population groups: university population, street

population, male/female gender; LGBTIQ+ population; indigenous population; migrants and refugees; or incarcerated individuals.

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

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.

Guatemala has a competent national authority responsible for developing guides, codes of conduct, and other instruments to inform the industry and users in general of controlled chemical substances. In this regard, the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance, through the Psychotropic, Narcotics, Imports and Exports Section of the Department of Regulation and Control of Pharmaceutical and Related Products, conducts regular training sessions for different trade associations in the country to educate them on controls and raise awareness on the use and possession of controlled chemical substances in general in order to prevent their diversion.

The country has developed instruments or mechanisms to inform the industry or users in general of applicable controls or cooperation methods to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances. In this sense, it has carried out the following trainings:

- Training given to the Association of Chemical Manufacturers and Distributors (GREQUIM), September 2023
- Training given GREQUIM, November 2023
- Training given to the Clothing and Textiles Industry Association (VESTEX), November 2023
- Training given to the Sugarcane Growers of Guatemala (AZASGUA), February 2024
- Training provided to the College of Chemists and Pharmacists of Guatemala (COFAQUI), November 2023
- Training provided to the National Coffee Association (ANACAFE), January 2024

Guatemala has an updated register of all individuals and corporations handling controlled chemical substances.

The country's competent authorities carry out inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle controlled chemical substances, as presented in the following table:

Name of the competent authority	Does it perform regular inspections and audits?	Responsible for controlling internal commerce?	Incorporates the CICAD model regulations?
Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare, via the General Directorate of Regulation, Surveillance and Control of Health, through the Department of Regulation and Control of Pharmaceutical and Related Products, through the Psychotropic, Narcotic Drugs, Imports and Exports Section	The agreement establishes periodic reviews and sampling, in addition to indicating how often they must be carried out. These reviews are carried out at least once every two years.	Yes	No

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.

Guatemala does not receive training for drug control personnel for the identification or handling of controlled chemical substances.

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.
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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 National Drug Observatory (NDO) has a national drug information network (DIN) that interacts through the following means:

Means	Yes	No	Frequency
Meetings	X		Monthly
Document exchange	X		Monthly

The following stakeholders are involved 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
Private consultants	X	
Civil society and other social stakeholders	X	
International organizations of cooperation	X	

The DIN publishes a periodic report.

Guatemala has an early warning system (EWS) to identify new psychoactive substances and other emerging drug-related threats. This system is led by the OPD. The EWS does not share information, alerts, and reports with the Early Warning System of the Americas, nor does it have a mechanism for sharing information in real time. The stakeholders participating in the EWS are the following:

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	

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 3.3: Establish and strengthen the relationship between the NDOs, or similar technical offices, and national, and when applicable, local, or sub-national forensic laboratories to bolster the collection of data on the chemical composition of substances and precursors seized.

In Guatemala, the National Institute of Forensic Sciences of Guatemala (INACIF) is responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances and is part of the DIN.

The country implements the following periodic training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances:

implements or participates in the program	Type of Training	Targeted institutions	Year when training was last done
Implements	Course on Controlling the Trafficking and Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, sponsored by OID-CICAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) - Executive Secretariat of the Commission Against Addictions and Illicit Drug Trafficking (SECCATID) - National Institute of Forensic Sciences (INACIF) - Ministry of the Interior (MINGOB) 	2022
Implements	Virtual training seminar on early warning system, sponsored by OID-CICAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MINGOB - SECCATID - INACIF - EWS - Ministry of National Defense (MINDEF) - MSPAS 	2022
Implements	Training Course on Analyzing New Psychoactive Substances for Chemical Experts from Latin America, sponsored by CICAD-OEA	Special Anti-Narcotics Unit (UNESA) of the Ministry of the Interior	2022
Implements	Institutional strengthening workshop related to the problem of chemical substances in the illicit production of	- Subdirector General for Anti-Narcotics Information Analysis (SGAIA) and UNESA	2022

implements or participates in the program	Type of Training	Targeted institutions	Year when training was last done
	drugs, within the framework of the Glou54 Project, sponsored by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)	of the MINGOB - Public Prosecutor's Office (MP) - Judicial Branch (OJ)	
Implements	Specialized training in drug and chemical control and management processes	- UNESA and SGAIA of the MINGOB - SECCATID - INACIF	2022
Implements	Specialized training in illicit drug price and market information systems and data culture	- UNESA and SGAIA of the MINGOB - SECCATID	2022
Implements	Course on electronic equipment for identifying precursors and chemical substances	UNESA and SGAIA of the MINGOB	2023
Implements	Control and supervision of chemical precursors taught by the Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Section (INL) of the United States Embassy in Guatemala (INL-Guatemala)	UNESA and SGAIA of the MINGOB	2023
Implements	Analysis and identification of illicit substances, given by UNESA, INACIF, MP, and UNODC staff	SGAIA of the MINGOB	2023



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