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MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

*Evaluation Report on Drug Policies:
Institutional Strengthening; Research,
Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation;
and International Cooperation*

Hemispheric Brief

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

2024

Based on the results
of the 2023 national
evaluation reports



**Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American
Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)
2024 HEMISPHERIC BRIEF OF THE
MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM):
INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING; RESEARCH, INFORMATION, MONITORING,
AND EVALUATION; AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
(Based on the results of the 2023 national evaluation reports)**

During 2023, member states¹ of the Organization of American States (OAS) were evaluated by the Governmental Expert Group (GEG) of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) on their level of compliance with priority actions related to Institutional Strengthening; Research, Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation; and International Cooperation, outlined in CICAD's Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2021-2025.² The results of the evaluation indicate that noteworthy progress has been made at the hemispheric level, with a substantial number of priority actions exceeding 50% compliance, including:

Institutional Strengthening

- Placing national drug authorities at a high political level, granting them the authority to guide and coordinate the formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of national drug policies.
- Drafting/updating of national drug policies and strategies, aligned with the 2020 OAS Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its corresponding Plan of Action, with the majority of these policies and/or strategies being evidence-based.
- Promoting sub national/local management of drug policies and/or strategies where national law allows.
- Adopting alternative measures to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug-related offenses.

Research, Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation

- Developing drug treatment information systems that record the number of patients treated, diagnoses, clinical history, and available information on treatment outcomes.
- Building capacity among relevant stakeholders to enhance the collection, management, and dissemination of drug related information.
- Establishing and strengthening the relationship between national drug observatories or similar technical offices and national, local, or sub-national forensic laboratories to bolster the collection of data on the chemical composition of substances and precursors seized.

¹ Member states that participated in the 2023 evaluation: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas (Commonwealth of The), Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica (Commonwealth of), Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis (Federation of), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, and Uruguay.

² [http://www.oas.org/fpdb/press/Hemispheric_Plan_of_Action_on_Drugs_2021-2025_ENG-\(1\).pdf](http://www.oas.org/fpdb/press/Hemispheric_Plan_of_Action_on_Drugs_2021-2025_ENG-(1).pdf)

International Cooperation

- Strengthening regional and international cooperation to investigate and prosecute criminals on drug-related offenses.
- Strengthening regional and international cooperation to facilitate mutual legal assistance, extradition, and transfer of proceedings, in accordance with international legal instruments, when investigating and prosecuting criminals on drug-related offenses.

However, the national reports³ highlight that additional efforts need to be made in the following areas:

- The highest rate of noncompliance in the area of Institutional Strengthening refers to the lack of engagement with the private sector to develop innovative approaches to the implementation of national **drug policies or strategies** (59%).
- A high percentage (41%) of countries indicate that there is no provision of adequate financing and other necessary resources for the implementation of **national drug policies and programs**.
- Regarding **alternatives to incarceration**, 41% of the countries have not developed mechanisms to monitor and evaluate these measures for minor or non-violent drug-related offenses.
- Regarding the **promotion of proportionate sentencing for drug-related crimes**, half of the countries do not promote legal reforms in this respect.
- Under Research, Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation, 56% of countries only partially comply with establishing and strengthening a national **drug information network (DIN)** to carry out long-term monitoring and an **early warning system (EWS)** to develop rapid responses to emerging threats.
- Additionally, 69% of the countries do not contribute to the **Early Warning System of the Americas (Spanish-language acronym SATA)**, managed by the ES-CICAD, which gathers national alerts and disseminates them to member states.
- Concerning the **Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)**, 56% of countries do not disseminate their national evaluation reports, while 47% do not share best practices or lessons learned, limiting hemispheric cooperation and partnership among member states.
- Regarding **access to information on drug use and related issues**, 50% of the countries do not carry out impact evaluations using scientific methodologies on drug treatment and prevention programs.
- In the area of International Cooperation, the highest rate of noncompliance indicates that 53% of countries have not **enacted national legislation** or taken administrative actions to fully implement obligations included in those international conventions related to the world drug problem.

³ <https://www.oas.org/ext/en/security/mem/type/1?category=12#7398>



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

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