



**ORGANIZATION OF  
AMERICAN STATES (OAS)**



**MEM**

**MULTILATERAL EVALUATION  
MECHANISM (MEM)**

**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE  
CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)**

**SECRETARIAT FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL  
SECURITY (SMS)**

# Nicaragua

Evaluation Report on Drug Control

2014





Organization of  
American States

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**Organization of American States (OAS)  
Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS)  
Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)**

**Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)**

# Nicaragua

**EVALUATION REPORT ON DRUG CONTROL  
2014**

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## PREFACE

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) is a diagnostic tool, designed by all member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), to periodically carry out comprehensive, multilateral evaluations on the implementation level of the Plan of Action of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy of member states of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD). As part of the Secretariat of Multidimensional Security (SMS), CICAD is the OAS specialized agency responsible for the implementation of this Mechanism, pursuant to a mandate from the Second Summit of the Americas held in Santiago, Chile in 1998.

The MEM is not only an evaluation instrument, but has also become a valuable source of information on the progress achieved by the individual and collective efforts of the governments of OAS member states, thus strengthening hemispheric cooperation, promoting dialogue among governmental authorities of member states and precisely channeling assistance to areas requiring greater attention by optimizing resources. The MEM process in itself is assessed by the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) comprised of delegations from all member states, which meets before the onset of each evaluation round to review and strengthen all operational aspects of the mechanism.

The national evaluation reports for the Sixth Round collect the results of the level of implementation of the 27 recommendations, emanating from the Plan of Action 2011-2015 of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy 2010, and were drafted by experts in the different areas, assigned by each member state. Experts do not work on their own country's report, guaranteeing the transparent, objective and multilateral nature of the MEM. Each chapter is based on countries' responses to a survey covering the main thematic areas of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy: institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction<sup>1</sup>, control measures and international cooperation, as well as additional and updated information, provided by the government-appointed coordinating entities.

This report covers the country evaluation for the MEM Sixth Evaluation Round, which covers the 2013 to mid-2014 period. All MEM reports are available through the following webpage: <http://www.cicad.oas.org>.

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with the CICAD Commissioner's agreement at their fiftieth regular session (November 2011), the supply reduction chapter refers exclusively to the topic of illicit crops. For this reason, the CICAD Commissioners decided, at their fifty-fourth regular session (December 2013), that the recommendations in this chapter (11 to 15) would only be applied to those countries that have significant illicit crops.





## INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

### RECOMMENDATION 1

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN NATIONAL DRUG AUTHORITIES, PLACING THEM AT A HIGH POLITICAL LEVEL, WITH THE MISSION TO COORDINATE THE EFFECTIVE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES.

**Evaluation:** Complete

Nicaragua's national drug authority is the National Council against Organized Crime under the Ministry of Interior. The national authority has a legal basis and a budget. The national authority coordinates the areas of supply reduction, demand reduction, control measures, observatory on drugs, international cooperation and program evaluation. The country has a coordination mechanism to carry out the effective planning and implementation of national drug policies.



## INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

### RECOMMENDATION 2

DESIGN, IMPLEMENT, STRENGTHEN AND UPDATE NATIONAL EVIDENCE-BASED STRATEGIES AND POLICIES ON DRUGS.

**Evaluation:** Complete

Nicaragua has a national strategy on drugs, the Anti-Drug Strategy (2011-2014), which covers the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures and international cooperation. The relevant actors are involved in the designing, drafting and execution of said Strategy, which has a monitoring and evaluation framework. The country has updated its drug policies, plans and programs based on the evaluation of the Strategy.





## INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

### RECOMMENDATION 3

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN NATIONAL OBSERVATORIES ON DRUGS OR SIMILAR TECHNICAL OFFICES TO DEVELOP NATIONAL DRUG INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND FOSTER SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON THIS SUBJECT.

**Evaluation:** Partially complete

Nicaragua has a National Observatory on Drugs. The country has two priority studies in demand reduction and has most of the priority information on supply reduction. Drug demand and supply reduction information is disseminated to all relevant parties.

Nicaragua does not have a national household survey nor has information on the number of seizures of pharmaceutical products and quantity of seized pharmaceutical products. The country has not carried out a study on the economic and social cost of drugs in the last 10 years.



## DEMAND REDUCTION

### RECOMMENDATION 4

DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT COMPREHENSIVE DEMAND REDUCTION POLICIES, PLANS AND/OR PROGRAMS.

**Evaluation:** Complete

Nicaragua has comprehensive demand reduction programs in the areas of prevention, early intervention, treatment and rehabilitation, social reinsertion and recovery support services. These programs are designed using available evidence and guidelines from recognized organizations, and current data from demand related studies. Implementation of demand reduction programs is monitored in the areas of universal, selective, and indicated prevention, early intervention, treatment and rehabilitation, social reinsertion and recovery support services. The country evaluates its programs in the areas of universal, selective, and indicated prevention, early intervention, and treatment and rehabilitation, and updates them based on the outcomes of the monitoring and evaluation. The treatment and rehabilitation programs include a gender perspective and a multisectoral approach to implementation of them has been adopted.



## DEMAND REDUCTION

### RECOMMENDATION 5

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF EVIDENCE-BASED UNIVERSAL, SELECTIVE, AND INDICATED PREVENTION PROGRAMS, WITH MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES, AIMED AT DISTINCT TARGET POPULATIONS, INCLUDING AT-RISK GROUPS.

**Evaluation:** Partially complete

Nicaragua has universal, selective and indicated prevention programs addressing drug use and aimed at different population groups. Selective and indicated prevention programs vary based on the presence of risk factors.

Nicaragua has not implemented a comprehensive prevention system.



## DEMAND REDUCTION

### RECOMMENDATION 6

PROMOTE THE INTEGRATION OF TREATMENT AND RECOVERY PLANS AND PROGRAMS INTO THE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM AND ADDRESS DRUG DEPENDENCE AS A CHRONIC, RELAPSING DISEASE.

**Evaluation:** Complete

Nicaragua has a network of public health system facilities responsible for public health needs within its territory. These facilities carry out drug use screening and have screening instruments in place for the early detection of drug use, offer guidance and brief intervention and systematically refer persons affected by drug use to treatment. The public health system provides outpatient treatment services for persons affected by drug use and coordinates with other sectors that offer treatment and rehabilitation, aftercare and recovery support services. Residential treatment is provided by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and private institutions. Nicaragua has a process for accrediting its treatment centers. The public health system facilities that offer treatment and rehabilitation have a program monitoring system and professionals who are trained to implement and use it. This system allows for the collection and organization of information regarding the treatment programs being implemented.



## DEMAND REDUCTION

### RECOMMENDATION 7

FACILITATE ACCESS FOR DRUG-DEPENDENT PERSONS TO A SYSTEM OF DRUG TREATMENT, REHABILITATION, SOCIAL REINSERTION, AND RECOVERY SERVICES THAT ARE EVIDENCE-BASED AND FOLLOW INTERNATIONALLY-ACCEPTED QUALITY STANDARDS.

**Evaluation:** Complete

Nicaragua takes actions to facilitate access to treatment, rehabilitation and social reinsertion for various populations affected by drug use. Treatment and rehabilitation and social reinsertion interventions are tailored to the population profiles being served.



## DEMAND REDUCTION

### RECOMMENDATION 8

EXPLORE THE MEANS OF OFFERING TREATMENT, REHABILITATION, SOCIAL REINSERTION AND RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES TO DRUG-DEPENDENT CRIMINAL OFFENDERS AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTION OR IMPRISONMENT.

**Evaluation:** Complete

Nicaragua has legislation that establishes and provides for alternatives to incarceration for criminal offenders including drug-dependent persons. The country offers various kinds of alternatives to incarceration, and has standard operating procedures to identify and select the candidates that will participate. Participants' progress is monitored.



## DEMAND REDUCTION

### RECOMMENDATION 9

STRENGTHEN GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS AND SPECIALIZED NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs), IN ORDER TO GENERATE EVIDENCE ON THE DEMAND FOR DRUGS.

**Evaluation:** Complete

Nicaragua has a national drug authority that maintains cooperative relations with academic and research institutions and relevant civil society organizations dealing with drug demand reduction related issues. The information produced by these institutions and organizations are used to develop actions and strategies in the annual action plans. The country works with these institutions and organizations to support and improve their capacity to collect data on a regular basis and produce reports on trends in drug use.



## DEMAND REDUCTION

### RECOMMENDATION 10

PROMOTE AND STRENGTHEN TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION OF PROFESSIONALS, TECHNICIANS AND OTHERS INVOLVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DEMAND REDUCTION ACTIVITIES.

**Evaluation:** Mostly complete

Nicaragua offers introductory training programs and continuing education on all aspects of demand reduction for personnel involved in implementing activities in this area. The country offers training programs at the certificate, undergraduate, and graduate levels, focused on science-based approaches and best practices to drug demand reduction personnel, to increase knowledge and strengthen skills in their specialized technical or professional fields of expertise. Technical experts and professionals have available advanced demand reduction training programs at the regional and international level. Specialized training in this field includes a gender perspective.

Nicaragua does not conduct regular monitoring and evaluation to ensure that training in drug demand reduction meets the country's personnel needs in this area.





## SUPPLY REDUCTION

### RECOMMENDATIONS 11–15

**Evaluation:** Not applied

In consideration of Nicaragua's situation, CICAD agreed not to apply any category from the evaluation scale to the following recommendations, given that the country does not have significant illicit crop areas:

**RECOMMENDATION 11:** ADOPT AND/OR IMPROVE COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED MEASURES AIMED AT REDUCING THE ILLICIT SUPPLY OF DRUGS.

**RECOMMENDATION 12:** ADOPT AND/OR IMPROVE DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS MECHANISMS WITH A VIEW TO CARRYING OUT ASSESSMENTS THAT WILL FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC POLICIES AIMED AT THE REDUCTION OF THE ILLICIT SUPPLY OF DRUGS.

**RECOMMENDATION 13:** PROMOTE STUDIES AND RESEARCH THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND MONITORING OF NEW AND EMERGING TRENDS THAT COULD PROVIDE UPDATED INFORMATION ON THE ILLICIT SUPPLY OF DRUGS.

**RECOMMENDATION 14:** ACCORDING TO THE NEEDS OF EACH COUNTRY, ADOPT COMPREHENSIVE MEASURES, SUCH AS INTEGRAL AND SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVES.

**RECOMMENDATION 15:** PROMOTE ACTIONS TO REDUCE THE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT CAUSED BY THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH NATIONAL POLICIES.



## CONTROL MEASURES

### RECOMMENDATION 16

#### IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS TO PREVENT AND REDUCE THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION OF PLANT-BASED AND SYNTHETIC DRUGS.

**Evaluation:** Complete

Nicaragua has protocols and procedures to detect, raid and dismantle laboratories for the illicit manufacturing of plant-based and synthetic drugs. The country publishes information on the dismantling of these types of laboratories in an annual national police report. The country's government institutions take actions to protect the environment, including waste disposal and attention to the local population. Nicaragua participates in ongoing training programs for law enforcement agents responsible for the dismantling of laboratories for illicit manufacturing of drugs through workshops, seminars and courses, which are part of the general National Police training, although only isolated incidences of these types of laboratories have been detected.



## CONTROL MEASURES

### RECOMMENDATION 17

ADOPT OR STRENGTHEN CONTROL MEASURES IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE DIVERSION OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES TOWARDS ILLICIT ACTIVITIES.

**Evaluation:** Complete

Nicaragua has criminalized the acts set forth in Article 3 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, and has regulations for the control of controlled chemical substances in accordance with Article 12 of that Convention. The country has an updated register of all individuals or corporations handling controlled chemical substances, and conducts regular inspections and audits of their establishments. National legislation provides for administrative and civil penalties for infractions or violations by individuals or corporations that handle controlled chemical substances, as well as some criminal penalties. Nicaragua has an authority to coordinate control activities for controlled chemical substances and to manage its responsibilities before the regional and international organizations of which it is a member. Nicaragua has mechanisms to provide a timely response to pre-export notifications for controlled substances received from other countries, which are answered electronically.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> To date, the country has not exported controlled substances, and therefore has not issued pre-export notifications.



## CONTROL MEASURES

### RECOMMENDATION 18

ADOPT OR STRENGTHEN CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT THE DIVERSION OF NARCOTICS, PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS WITH PSYCHOACTIVE PROPERTIES AND THOSE USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF SYNTHETIC DRUGS.

**Evaluation:** Complete

Nicaragua has legislation for the control of narcotics, psychotropic substances and preparations containing them, as called for in the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and the United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. The country has a national authority responsible for coordinating activities to control these substances and products, and it has the relevant legal powers to do so. The country estimates its projected need for narcotics based on the requests submitted by health care facilities and data from previous years. The system allows for the collection of the information called for in Article 19 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961. National legislation provides for the application of administrative and civil penalties for infractions or violations of the regulations by medical professionals, administrators, and legal representatives of establishments that handle narcotics, psychotropic substances, and psychoactive pharmaceutical products.



## CONTROL MEASURES

### RECOMMENDATION 19

ENSURE THE ADEQUATE AVAILABILITY OF NARCOTICS NEEDED FOR MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC USE.

**Evaluation:** Partially complete

Nicaragua calculates the narcotics needed for medical use based on consumption data from previous years at health facilities authorized to handle these substances and analyzes impediments in order to ensure adequate availability.

Nicaragua has not taken steps to resolve difficulties that may arise in ensuring the adequate availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific use.



## CONTROL MEASURES

### RECOMMENDATION 20

#### STRENGTHEN NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE CONTROL OF ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING AND RELATED CRIMES.

**Evaluation:** Partially complete

Nicaragua has formal mechanisms for the exchange of information among institutions responsible for the control of drug trafficking and related crimes. The country has legal frameworks to address the prevention of drug trafficking, as well as laws and regulations that include provisions for the safe and final disposal of seized drugs. The country also has permanent law enforcement plans.

Nicaragua does not regularly evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the agencies responsible for the control of drug trafficking and related crimes, and does not offer or participate in ongoing training plans for those involved in the control of drug trafficking and related crimes.



## CONTROL MEASURES

### RECOMMENDATION 21

IDENTIFY NEW TRENDS AND PATTERNS REGARDING ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING AND RELATED CRIMES.

**Evaluation:** Complete

Nicaragua conducts analyses of recent trends in drug trafficking and related crimes, as well as assessments of the drug trafficking situation and trends every six months. These studies are disseminated among the authorities of institutions involved in combating drug trafficking, as well as national political authorities. The results of these analyses and studies are taken into consideration when updating legislation, based on the confirmation of new trends in drug trafficking and related crimes, as well as when reviewing protocols and procedures.



## CONTROL MEASURES

### RECOMMENDATION 22

PROMOTE IMPROVEMENTS IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS ON ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING AND RELATED CRIMES.

**Evaluation:** Mostly complete

Nicaragua has a centralized national statistical information system on police operations for drug trafficking. The country has a national early warning system on new behaviors of criminal organizations in this area. The country also conducts technical studies and research on drug trafficking and related crimes.

Nicaragua does not conduct drug characterization or impurity profiling studies, in accordance with priorities based on the specific drug trafficking problem in its territory.





## CONTROL MEASURES

### RECOMMENDATION 23

ADOPT MEASURES FOR EFFECTIVE COOPERATION IN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS, INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES, COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE, AND THE EXCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION AMONG COUNTRIES, ASSURING DUE RESPECT FOR THE VARIOUS NATIONAL LEGAL SYSTEMS.

**Evaluation:** Complete

Nicaragua has formal mechanisms for the exchange of intelligence information in investigations of cases of drug trafficking and related crimes. The country also has formal mechanisms for coordination and exchange of information and best practices for the prevention, investigation and control of activities related to drug trafficking via the internet. In addition, Nicaragua participates in training programs on the exchange of intelligence information in the investigation of cases of drug trafficking and related crimes through seminars, workshops, conferences and courses offered by various national and regional organizations. The country has legal frameworks for the investigation of all assets within the scope of drug trafficking cases.



## CONTROL MEASURES

### RECOMMENDATION 24

ADOPT OR STRENGTHEN, AS APPLICABLE, CONTROL MEASURES FOR THE ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS ASSOCIATED WITH ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING.

**Evaluation:** Mostly complete

Nicaragua criminalizes the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials. To prevent losses or diversions, the country takes the necessary measures to ensure the security of exported, imported and in-transit firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials. The marking of firearms is required, permitting the identification of the name of the manufacturer, place of manufacture and serial number. The country maintains a system of licenses for the import and export of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials, as well as for the international transit of firearms and ammunition. Nicaragua has a national authority responsible for coordinating control activities for the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials, including the measures provided for in Article 8 of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials of 1997. In addition, the country maintains a register of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials seized in operations relating to drug trafficking.

Nicaragua does not require the appropriate marking of all confiscated or forfeited firearms. The country does not maintain a system of licenses for the international transit of explosives and other materials related to firearms and ammunition.



## CONTROL MEASURES

### RECOMMENDATION 25

ESTABLISH, UPDATE, OR STRENGTHEN LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS IN MATTERS OF PREVENTION, DETECTION, INVESTIGATION, AND PROSECUTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING.

**Evaluation:** Complete

Nicaragua criminalizes money laundering according to the terms of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime of 2000. The country has legislation for the prevention and control of money laundering, which follows the guidelines established in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations. Nicaragua has a Financial Analysis Unit (FAU) established in accordance with the operational standards of the EGMONT Group and FATF recommendations regarding Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs). The country also has laws for the forfeiture of assets relating to money laundering, which include temporary measures such as freezing and embargo of assets in order to prevent the use, transfer or disposal of those assets.



## CONTROL MEASURES

### **RECOMMENDATION 26**

CREATE OR STRENGTHEN, IN ACCORDANCE WITH NATIONAL LEGISLATION, THE COMPETENT NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF SEIZED AND/OR FORFEITED ASSETS, AND THE DISPOSITION OF FORFEITED ASSETS.

**Evaluation:** Complete

Nicaragua has a single agency responsible for the management and disposition of seized and forfeited assets to ensure proper management. The country has legislation that establishes the procedures to be followed to determine the final disposition of seized and forfeited assets, and has manuals, regulations and guidelines on asset management. Nicaragua also participates in training programs on the management of seized and forfeited assets.



## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

### RECOMMENDATION 27

REAFFIRM THE PRINCIPLE OF COOPERATION CONTAINED IN INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS TO ADDRESS THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM, THROUGH ACTIONS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS.

**Evaluation:** Complete

Nicaragua has ratified the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime of 2000, and the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters of 1992, and has designated central authorities in the framework of these Conventions. The country has laws allowing extradition for the crimes of drug trafficking and money laundering. Nicaragua's legislation prohibits the extradition of its nationals; however, when denying extradition on the grounds provided for by law, the country will try the individual in its own territory for the relevant crime. The country has laws permitting the provision of reciprocal judicial assistance to States in investigations, trials, and legal proceedings for drug trafficking and money laundering. The country has adopted measures to authorize confiscation of the proceeds derived from drug trafficking or property of equal value, and the materials and equipment or other instrumentalities used in or intended for use in any manner in the crime of drug trafficking. In addition, there are communication channels among its competent agencies and services to facilitate the rapid and secure exchange of information on all aspects of the offenses criminalized in accordance with paragraph 1, article 3 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. The country has mechanisms for administrative cooperation with agencies and services in other States in inquiries on the identity, whereabouts, and activities of persons allegedly linked to drug trafficking; the movement of the proceeds of drug trafficking; and the movement of narcotics and psychotropic substances. Nicaragua has legal provisions permitting the use of controlled delivery for narcotics and psychotropic substances in order to identify persons implicated in the crime of drug trafficking.



## CONCLUSIONS

The MEM Sixth Evaluation Round report reflects the country's internal reality regarding the implementation of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy (2010) and its Plan of Action (2011-2015) from 2013 to mid-2014. CICAD recognizes that among the 27 common recommendations, Nicaragua completed 15, three mostly completed, four partially completed and five do not apply.

**In the area of Institutional Strengthening,** Nicaragua has a national drug authority under the Ministry of Interior. The country has a national anti-drug strategy. The country has a national observatory on drugs which has carried some priority studies in demand reduction (2 of 3), and has most of the priority information on supply reduction (8 of 10).

**In the area of Demand Reduction,** Nicaragua has comprehensive demand reduction programs, which are monitored, evaluated and updated. The country has universal, selective, and indicated prevention programs, but not a comprehensive prevention system. The public health system facilities offer early detection screening of drug use and provide guidance and brief intervention, and systematic referrals to treatment. The public health system provides outpatient treatment services for people affected by drug use, and coordinates with other sectors that offer treatment and rehabilitation, aftercare and recovery support services. It also monitors the treatment and rehabilitation programs. Residential treatment services are offered by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and private institutions. Treatment centers have an accreditation process. Nicaragua has alternatives to incarceration for criminal offenders including drug-dependent persons. Policies, plans and programs are developed with the support of academic and research institutions and civil society organizations. Training and continuing education for demand reduction personnel is offered regionally and internationally, from the certificate to the graduate levels, and focuses on evidence-based approaches and best practices.

**In the area of Supply Reduction,** CICAD agreed not to apply any category from the evaluation scale, given that Nicaragua does not have significant illicit crop areas.



**In the area of Control Measures,** Nicaragua has mechanisms to detect and identify laboratories for the illicit manufacture of plant-based and synthetic drugs, as well as protocols for their dismantling.

With regard to chemical substances and pharmaceutical products, the country has legal provisions for the control of controlled chemical substances and cooperates with other States; it has legislation regulating the manufacture of and domestic distribution channels for controlled chemical substances; and has a relevant authority with the necessary powers to coordinate activities to control the diversion of precursor chemicals. Regarding the control of narcotics, psychotropic substances and preparations containing them, the country calculates its needs for medical purposes, analyzing impediments to adequate availability; however, the country has not taken steps to resolve such impediments.

The country has formal mechanisms for the exchange of information among the institutions responsible for the control drug trafficking and related crimes, and for the secure and effective exchange of intelligence information. The country compiles statistical information on drug trafficking and related crimes at the national level and updates its legislation based on the identification of new trends. In addition, it has legislation establishing provisions for the safe and final disposal of seized drugs and a national early warning system on new behaviors of criminal organizations. However, the country does not have ongoing training programs for personnel in these areas.

The laws that criminalize the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials include measures to prevent loss and diversion in the course of licit trade, carried out by a national authority. In addition, the country has a register of such items seized in operations and activities related to drug trafficking. However, the country does not maintain a system of licenses for the international transit of explosives and other materials related to firearms and ammunition, and does not require the appropriate marking of any seized or forfeited firearms.

The country has legislation criminalizing money laundering and regulations for its prevention and control, as well as a Financial Intelligence Unit and regulations for the seizure and forfeiture of assets related to money laundering. In addition, it has regulations and an agency responsible for the management and disposal of assets seized and forfeited related to money laundering, which include guidelines for the appropriate management of those assets.



**In the area of International Cooperation,** Nicaragua has ratified the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime of 2000, the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters of 1992 and has designated central authorities, in accordance to said conventions. The country has legal provisions to permit extradition for the crimes of drug trafficking and money laundering. Also, the country has legal provisions allowing for reciprocal judicial assistance to third party States in investigations, trials, and legal proceedings for drug trafficking and money laundering. Also, Nicaragua has legal provisions that permit the use of controlled delivery of narcotics and psychotropic substances in order to identify persons involved in the crime of drug trafficking.

CICAD recognizes Nicaragua for its continued participation and commitment during the Sixth Evaluation Round of the MEM. In accordance with its national situation, the country is encouraged to fully implement the Plan of Action (2011-2015) of CICAD's Hemispheric Drug Strategy (2010).





## SUMMARY OF THE STATUS OF COMPLIANCE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING		
NO.	RECOMMENDATION	EVALUATION
1	Establish and/or strengthen national drug authorities, placing them at a high political level, with the mission to coordinate the effective planning and implementation of national drug policies.	COMPLETE
2	Design, implement, strengthen and update national evidence-based strategies and policies on drugs.	COMPLETE
3	Establish and/or strengthen National Observatories on Drugs or similar technical offices to develop national drug information systems and foster scientific research on this subject.	PARTIALLY COMPLETE
DEMAND REDUCTION		
4	Develop and implement comprehensive demand reduction policies, plans and/or programs.	COMPLETE
5	Design and implement a comprehensive system of evidence-based universal, selective, and indicated prevention programs, with measurable objectives, aimed at distinct target populations, including at-risk groups.	PARTIALLY COMPLETE
6	Promote the integration of treatment and recovery plans and programs into the public health system and address drug dependence as a chronic, relapsing disease.	COMPLETE
7	Facilitate access for drug-dependent persons to a system of drug treatment, rehabilitation, social reintegration, and recovery services that are evidence-based and follow internationally-accepted quality standards.	COMPLETE
8	Explore the means of offering treatment, rehabilitation, social reinsertion and recovery support services to drug-dependent criminal offenders as an alternative to criminal prosecution or imprisonment.	COMPLETE
9	Strengthen governmental relationships with academic and research institutions and specialized non-governmental organizations (NGOs), in order to generate evidence on the demand for drugs.	COMPLETE
10	Promote and strengthen training and continuing education of professionals, technicians and others involved in the implementation of demand reduction activities.	MOSTLY COMPLETE



<b>SUPPLY REDUCTION</b>		
11	Adopt and/or improve comprehensive and balanced measures aimed at reducing the illicit supply of drugs.	<b>NOT APPLIED</b>
12	Adopt and/or improve data collection and analysis mechanisms with a view to carrying out assessments that will facilitate the development of public policies aimed at illicit supply of drugs reduction.	<b>NOT APPLIED</b>
13	Promote studies and research that contribute to the early identification and monitoring of new and emerging trends that could provide updated information on the illicit supply of drugs.	<b>NOT APPLIED</b>
14	According to the needs of each country, adopt comprehensive measures, such as integral and sustainable alternative development and law enforcement initiatives.	<b>NOT APPLIED</b>
15	Promote actions to reduce the negative impact on the environment caused by the world drug problem, in accordance with national policies.	<b>NOT APPLIED</b>
<b>CONTROL MEASURES</b>		
16	Implement programs to prevent and reduce the illicit production of synthetic and plant-based drugs.	<b>COMPLETE</b>
17	Adopt or strengthen control measures in order to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances towards illicit activities.	<b>COMPLETE</b>
18	Adopt or strengthen control measures to prevent the diversion of narcotics, psychotropic substances, pharmaceutical products with psychoactive properties and those used in the production of synthetic drugs.	<b>COMPLETE</b>
19	Ensure the adequate availability of narcotics needed for medical and scientific use.	<b>PARTIALLY COMPLETE</b>
20	Strengthen national organizations for the control of illicit drug trafficking and related crimes.	<b>PARTIALLY COMPLETE</b>
21	Identify new trends and patterns regarding illicit drug trafficking and related crimes.	<b>COMPLETE</b>
22	Promote improvements in information systems on illicit drug trafficking and related crimes.	<b>MOSTLY COMPLETE</b>
23	Adopt measures for effective cooperation in criminal investigations, investigation procedures, collection of evidence, and the exchange of intelligence information among countries, assuring due respect for the various national legal systems.	<b>COMPLETE</b>
24	Adopt or strengthen, as applicable, control measures for the illicit trafficking of firearms, munitions, explosives, and other related materials associated with illicit drug trafficking.	<b>MOSTLY COMPLETE</b>



25	Establish, update, or strengthen legislative and institutional frameworks in matters of prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of money laundering.	<b>COMPLETE</b>
26	Create or strengthen, in accordance with national legislation, the competent national organizations for the management of seized and/or forfeited assets, and the disposition of forfeited assets.	<b>COMPLETE</b>
<b>INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION</b>		
27	Reaffirm the principle of cooperation contained in international instruments to address the world drug problem, through actions to ensure compliance and effectiveness.	<b>COMPLETE</b>



## GLOSSARY

### I. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

**Relevant actors:** includes civil society, scientific community, university based researchers, government at the national, regional and local levels.

### II. DEMAND REDUCTION

**Alternatives to incarceration:** vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, but most involve suspension of the judicial process provided the offender volunteers to participate in a monitored drug treatment program.

**Available evidence:** use of information, from different sources, to support an effect with an adequate degree of confidence, so that it can be used as a basis for a particular recommendation. The quality of the information sources will indicate the level of confidence for the estimate of the effect.

**Comprehensive (prevention) system:** organizations and programs that provide addiction prevention services, and are interconnected with each other and with several organizations, programs and channels that provide support services.

**Indicated prevention programs:** a set of actions targeting persons who use drugs.

**Public health system:** Includes all organizations, institutions and resources whose principal objective is to carry out activities designed to improve health. The majority of national health systems include the public, private, traditional and informal sectors. The four primary functions of a health system include: provision of services, generation of resources, financing and management.

**Selective prevention programs:** a set of actions targeting a specific segment of the population, which, because of personal, social, family, or socio-cultural and related characteristics, is vulnerable to the diverse risk factors leading to drug use.



**Social reinsertion:** any social intervention with the aim of integrating former or current problem drug users into the community. The three 'pillars' of social reinsertion are (1) housing, (2) education and (3) employment (including vocational training). May also be referred to as "social re-integration."

**Universal prevention programs:** a set of preventive actions targeting the entire population independent of risk.

### III. SUPPLY REDUCTION

**Regulatory framework:** the set of established laws and regulations that governs the activities of the institutions responsible for the formulation, development and application of drug supply reduction policies and/or programs.

**Risk factors:** risk factors are those conditions that contribute to the emergence or strengthening of illicit activities and/or to the neutralization of law enforcement activities.

**Social inclusion:** a situation which ensures that all citizens, without exception, are able to exercise their rights, use their skills, and take advantage of opportunities available to them.

**Vulnerable populations:** those sectors or population groups that, due to poverty, ethnic origin, health, age, gender or disability, are unable to develop and improve their circumstances. This vulnerability places such persons at a disadvantage with regard to exercising their full rights and freedoms.

### IV. CONTROL MEASURES

**Drug characterization and impurity profiling:** use of scientific laboratory information in support of law enforcement operation work, aimed at establishing links between drug samples. It consists of the systematic collection and sharing, in a standardized form, of physical and chemical information on a drug seizure, including the analysis and use of trace impurities to link different drug samples.







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