

MEMEM

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS)

Venezuela

EVALUATION OF PROGRESS IN DRUG CONTROL

2007-2009



Organization of American States

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Governmental Expert Group (GEG)

VENEZUELA

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 - Office of Administration and Finance.
 - Office of Supply Reduction.
 - Anti-Money Laundering Department.
 - Office of Legal Counsel.
 - Venezuelan Drug Observatory.
 - Office of Information Systems and Technology.
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- Ministry of People's Power for Foreign Affairs, General Department of Consular Affairs, Office of Multilateral Affairs and Integration.
- Penal and Criminal Scientific Investigations Corps.
- National Bolivarian Armed Forces, Arms and Explosives Department.



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 of the progress of actions taken by member states and by the hemisphere as a whole, in dealing with the drug problem. The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), of the Secretariat of Multidimensional Security, an OAS specialized agency, implemented this Mechanism in 1998, 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 vehicle for disseminating information on the progress achieved by individual and collective efforts of OAS member state governments, catalyzing hemispheric cooperation, promoting dialogue among member state government authorities and precisely channeling assistance to areas requiring greater attention by optimizing resources. The MEM process itself is assessed by the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG), comprised of delegations from all member states, which meets before the onset of each MEM evaluation round to review and strengthen all operational aspects of the mechanism, including the indicators of the evaluation questionnaire.

National evaluation reports are drafted by experts from each member state, with experts not working on their own country's report, guaranteeing the transparent multilateral nature of the MEM. Each chapter is based on countries' responses to a questionnaire of indicators covering the main thematic areas of institution building, demand reduction, supply reduction and control measures as well as subsequent comments and updated information provided by the government-appointed coordinating entities.

This report covers the full country evaluation for the MEM Fifth Round evaluation period 2007-2009. The follow-up report on the implementation progress of recommendations assigned to the country will be published in June 2012. All MEM reports can be accessed through the following webpage: www.cicad.oas.org



INTRODUCTION

Venezuela has a population of 27,483,208 (2007) and a total area of 916,445 km². The literacy rate is 97.3%. Venezuela is a federal republic divided into 23 states and a capital district. The country has a per capita Gross Domestic Product (PPP¹) of US\$ 13,826 (2009) and an inflation rate of 25.1% (2009). Venezuelan exports total US\$ 69.23 billion annually, with its chief exports being petroleum, bauxite and aluminum, steel, chemicals, agricultural products and basic manufactured goods.

I. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

A. National Anti-drug Strategy

Venezuela had a National Anti-drug Plan during the evaluation period.

The country reports that the Plan's strategic supply reduction priorities were: interdiction, control and oversight of chemical substances, prevention of money laundering, and management of seized assets. The demand reduction priorities include: the comprehensive prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, social reintegration and follow-up; and the institutional strengthening priorities were: the national anti-drug network, the Venezuelan Drug Observatory, international cooperation, and legal development.

The country reports that anti-drug policies do not fall within the jurisdiction of the regional, provincial, municipal and local authorities. Preparation and implementation of anti-drug policies are the jurisdiction of the National Executive; nevertheless, the country reports that the government's regional levels have been assigned responsibilities in the implementation of the National Anti-drug Plan, but that such responsibilities are stipulated by the central government.

Venezuela does not have a budget assigned to its national anti-drug plan, and indicates that the plan's specific activities are funded with resources from the government's general budget.

The budgetary law does not contain a specific category for the national anti-drug plan. The projected activities in this policy document are funded through allocations from the budget of various relevant Ministries, among these, Health, Defense, Higher Education, Finance, Interior and Justice, and the National Anti-drug Office (ONA).

Venezuela reports that ONA, created in 2006, is the national authority responsible for drafting, preparing, implementing and evaluating public policies and national strategies against illicit drug

¹ Purchasing Power Parity.



production, trafficking and consumption. This national authority has a legal foundation and is responsible for managing the monitoring and evaluation of the National Anti-drug Plan.

ONA coordinates the following areas: demand and supply reduction, preventive alternative development programs, control measures, drug observatory; international cooperation, and program evaluation.

ONA has an independent annual budget, funded through government allocations and international cooperation:

Fiscal year	Total budget received (US\$)
2007	8,189,738.16
2008	18,422,426.51
2009	12,262,321.50

* The calculations were based on the official exchange rate at December 31 of each fiscal year.

B. International Conventions

Venezuela has ratified the following conventions:

- Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, 1992;
- Inter-American Convention against Corruption, 1996;
- Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials, 1997;
- United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol;
- United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971;
- United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988;
- United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000, the Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;
- United Nations Convention against Corruption, 2003.

The country has not ratified the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000.

Regarding the Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the country entered a reservation.



C. National Information System

Venezuela has a national drug observatory, which has a budget allocated to carry out its functions. It organizes and carries out studies and compiles and coordinates drug-related statistics and other information.

The country reports that it conducted studies in the area of demand reduction, including a prevalence survey on drug use by secondary school students, 2009. The country has a registry of patients in treatment centers and conducted cross-section surveys of patients in treatment centers during the evaluation period.

The country indicates that in the area of supply reduction, it has information and records on seizures of drugs and chemical substances, sale prices of drugs, and drug laboratories dismantled.

II. DEMAND REDUCTION

A. Prevention

Venezuela is implementing drug use prevention programs targeting key population sectors:

Type of population	Estimated coverage		Name of program	Type of program
	Target population	% of coverage		
School and university students				
Pre-school: 3 to 9 years of age	357,197	13.57%	Opportunity for Integral Prevention	Universal
Basic Primary/Elementary: 6 to 14 years of age	1,294,278	23.01%	Living Prevention	Universal
Junior high/high school: 12 to 18 years of age	820,662	29.03%	I Value and Choose a Healthy Life	Universal
University level	1,420,772	9.01%	Prevention and I, a Lifestyle	Universal
Other populations				
At risk children and youths: 3 to 18 years of age	640	40.78%	Step by Step in Prevention	Indicated
Community	5,906,208	37.16%	Community Advisors	Universal / Selective
Indigenous groups and border communities	110,752	10.90%	Our Roots on the path to Prevention	Selective



Type of population	Estimated coverage		Name of program	Type of program
	Target population	% of coverage		
Workers in the workplace	631,934	24.34%	Building Work Spaces for Prevention	Selective
Prison population	23,287	32.24%	New Course Prison Centers in Preventive Action	Selective / Indicated
National Bolivarian Armed Forces / Citizen Security Agencies	1,032,036	39.20%	One Step Ahead of Prevention / Prevention is Safety for All	Universal / Selective
Persons with disabilities	3,000	50%	The Hope and Strength of a New Preventive Life	Universal / Selective

* Coverage of target population is set for four years, starting in 2009.

The country indicates that its school-based prevention programs are consistent with the principles of CICAD's "Hemispheric Guidelines on School-Based Prevention". It also indicates that workplace prevention programs are compatible with CICAD's "Hemispheric Guidelines on Workplace Prevention".

The country indicates that the following programs were offered during the period 2006-2009:

- Training for police officers, teachers, counselors, prison guards, monitors and community leaders; a comprehensive program to prevent the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs (in-person and online); and training for community advisors on comprehensive drug prevention, among other programs.
- Technical non-professional training.
- Continuing education (refresher or in-service training) courses for university graduates.

In addition, the country reports that, every year since 2006, it has organized the National Drug Prevention and Treatment Congress.

During the period 2006-2009, the country offered 80 refresher and advanced prevention courses with the following number of participants:

Number of participants			
2006	2007	2008	2009
1,687	2,410	8,412	18,480

During the period 2006-2009, the country offered refresher and advanced treatment and reintegration courses with the following number of participants:

Number of participants			
2006	2007	2008	2009
50	140	683	550



During the period 2006-2009, the country offered refresher and advanced research and investigation courses with the following number of participants:

Number of participants			
2006	2007	2008	2009
942	0	1,369	583

During the period 2006-2009, the country offered 17 non-professional technical training courses in the field of prevention with the following number of participants:

Number of participants			
2006	2007	2008	2009
150	810	1,047	2,150

In the area of treatment and rehabilitation, the country offered non-professional technical training courses to 40 participants in 2008 and 67 in 2009. There is no information concerning these courses for 2006 and 2007.

The country also reports that it offers continuing education refresher or advanced study courses for university graduates on addiction, prevention, and treatment and research for professionals working in areas related to these subjects.

Regarding regional and international training programs in drug abuse prevention, treatment and research, the country reports that local specialists participated in the project to strengthen the national anti-drug office of Venezuela in the area of drug demand reduction.

During the 2006-2009 period, Venezuela conducted evaluations of the following programs: comprehensive prevention of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use for citizen security agencies and comprehensive prevention of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use for the National Bolivarian Armed Forces.

B. Treatment

Venezuela reports that the competent agencies responsible for designing and implementing public policies on addiction treatment are the Ministry of People’s Power for Health and the National Anti-drug Office. However, it does not provide information on amounts earmarked in the public budget for addiction treatment activities in the country. It reports that, aside from the public budget, there exists a mandatory special contribution, under the principle of social responsibility, that applies to all manufacturers of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and their blends, or importers of these substances, in an amount equal to two percent (2%) of their net annual income, for the creation, construction, restoration, maintenance, strengthening and operation of centers for the prevention, detoxification, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of



persons addicted to alcohol, tobacco, and their blends, as well as to support programs for integral social prevention, carried out by the National Executive.

The country reports that supervision of treatment centers is carried out through the application of the Instrument for Evaluation of Public and Private Sector Facilities Providing Care for Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substance, Users and Dependents.

Venezuela has official operating standards for specialized facilities that provide treatment services for persons with problems associated with drug abuse, entitled “Operating Standards for Public and Private Sector Facilities that Provide Care for Drug Dependents” issued by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (now the Ministry of the People’s Power for Health) and published in the Official Gazette No. 36,291, of September 15, 1997.

The country reports that it has a official licensing procedure to authorize the operation of health care facilities, including hospital medical care facilities and ambulatory medical care facilities that serve as specialized treatment centers (use of drugs), managed by the Ministry of People’s Power for Health.

The country reports that, in addition to the register of health care facilities, managed by the Ministry of People’s Power for Health, the National Anti-drug Office has developed a single register of public and private treatment facilities for the treatment of addictions.

The country indicates that it has a monitoring system for specialized facilities that provide treatment services for persons with problems associated with drug use.

The country’s Primary Health Care facilities (PHC) do not perform any specific activities to address problems associated with drug use.

The country reports the total number of cases treated in officially-licensed specialized treatment facilities for problems associated with drug use was 6,523 in 2006, 6,604 in 2007, 9,469 in 2008 and 5,603 in 2009.

Venezuela reports that nine of the country’s 24 states have officially-licensed specialized treatment facilities for problems associated with drug use.

With respect to cases related to drug use that were treated in officially-licensed specialized treatment facilities, the country provides the following statistics:

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Number of cases treated in officially-licensed specialized treatment facilities for drug use problems	6,523	6,604	9,469	5,603

Venezuela did not conduct a study on the prevalence of drug use in the general population that would enable an objective and reliable estimation of the population potentially in need of attention.



Based on the data available on cases treated in officially-licensed specialized treatment facilities for problems associated with drug use, the country provides the following table:

	Number of cases treated in officially-licensed specialized treatment facilities for drug use problems			
	2006	2007	2008	2009
Male	5,951	5,974	8,597	5,084
Female	572	630	872	519
Total cases treated	6,523	6,604	9,469	5,603
Under 18 years old	1,396	1,455	8,765	958
19 to 25 years old	1,471	1,491	453	2,494
Over 25 years old	3,656	3,658	251	2,151
Total cases treated	6,523	6,604	9,469	-
Alcohol	2,596	3,037	3,886	2,639
Cannabis	1,665	1,396	2,413	119
Heroin	10	8	26	6
Opioids	1	-	3	6
Cocaine Hydrochloride	444	382	495	307
Crack	89	78	178	101
Inhalants	30	22	11	14
LSD	-	-	-	6
Other	06	-	01	3
Benzodiazepines (*) Rophinol	10	11	30	-
Amphetamines	03	04	02	1
Methamphetamines and other derivatives (Ecstasy)	06	03	01	1
sedatives)	10	11	09	-
antidepressants	04	-	-	-
Total cases treated	4,875	4,958	7,054	5,603
Outpatient	-	-	3,654	-
Residential	-	-	2,633	2,919
Total cases treated	-	-	6,287	1,206

(*) Without medical prescription

Regarding the total number of cases treated in unlicensed specialized treatment facilities for drug abuse problems, the country reports that it treated 310 cases in 2007 and 1,674 in 2008. The information for 2009 is not available.

Venezuela has three treatment centers that offer aftercare programs.

Venezuela carries out follow-up activities for patient once they have completed their prescribed treatment. In this regard, the country carries out systematic follow-up that varies in intensity.



Regarding officially-licensed specialized drug use treatment facilities where care is supervised by professional staff specifically trained in this area, the country provides the following data:

Number of officially-licensed specialized treatment facilities for drug problems in which care is supervised by professional staff specifically trained in this area	09	Percentage (%) of facilities supervised by qualified treatment staff
Total number of officially-licensed specialized treatment facilities	09	100%

Regarding the number of cases that received treatment in officially-licensed specialized treatment facilities for drug problems and completed the prescribed treatment plan, the country provides the following table:

Number of cases treated in officially-licensed specialized treatment facilities for drug problems and completed the prescribed treatment plan	2006	2007	2008	2009
	5,302	4,981	6,512	2,787

Venezuela reports that it has no information concerning the level of satisfaction of patients who completed the prescribed drug use treatment plan in officially-licensed specialized drug treatment centers.

C. Statistics on Consumption

Venezuela reports² that in June 2009, the National Anti-drug Office conducted a National Drug Study on alcohol and drug use prevalence³ in the school-aged population (primary and secondary education students, ages 12 to 18), and provides the following figures:

Year of last survey: 2009	Population studied: Students of primary and secondary education Representative sample : YES								
	Lifetime (percentage)			Last 12 months (percentage)			Last 30 days (percentage)		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Alcohol	48.1	46.4	47.2	31.7	28.7	30.1	19.9	16.2	17.9
Tobacco	21.2	12.8	16.8	4.8	9.6	7.1	2.8	6.6	4.6
Solvents or inhalants	1.0	0.4	0.7	-	-	-	0.3	0.1	0.2
Marijuana	2.6	1.0	1.7	-	-	0.9	-	-	0.6

² The data presented in the tables are the substances included in the country's survey, and are a subset of the substances suggested by the MEM.

³ Rate of prevalence of drug use is defined as the number of people who used a drug during a specified period of time divided by the total number of people in the population at that time; and is generally multiplied by 100.



Year of last survey: 2009	Population studied: Students of primary and secondary education Representative sample : YES								
	Lifetime (percentage)			Last 12 months (percentage)			Last 30 days (percentage)		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Poppy Derivatives									
Heroin	0.7	0.2	0.4	-	-	-	0.2	0.1	0.1
Substances that contain cocaine									
Cocaine Hcl	1.0	0.4	0.6	-	-	0.3	-	-	0.3
Crack	0.8	0.3	0.5	-	-	0.2	-	-	0.2
Basuco	0.7	0.2	0.4	-	-	-	0.3	0.1	0.2
Other Tranquilizers Sedatives and Depressants	3.0	4.6	3.9	1.4	2.0	1.7	1.0	1.3	1.1
Stimulants									
Ecstasy (MDMA)	0.8	0.3	0.5	-	-	0.3	-	-	0.2
Methamphetamines	0.7	0.2	0.4	-	-	-	0.3	0.1	0.2
Other stimulants	2.6	2.6	2.6	1.3	1.1	1.2	0.9	0.7	0.8
Other drugs	1.7	0.8	1.2	-	-	-	0.6	0.2	0.4
Any drug*	3.2	1.3	2.2	-	-	1.1	-	-	0.8

* Includes marijuana, cocaine-ecstasy and crack.

The country reports that, based on the National Drug Study of the primary and secondary school population of 2009, the typical age of first use of drugs is between the ages of 12 and 15 (an average of 62.5% of this population range).

Venezuela reports the following data concerning the perception of risk posed by drug consumption in the school population:

National drug study on the primary and secondary school population, 2009

Age group concerned: 12 to 18 years of age	
Category	% of those surveyed who believe persons engaged in the following activities are at great risk (or believe such activities are very harmful):
Smoke cigarettes occasionally	23.1
Smoke cigarettes frequently	66.4
Drink alcoholic beverages frequently	17.6
Get drunk	59.0
Inhale solvents occasionally	28.0
Inhale solvents frequently	60.4
Smoke marijuana occasionally	42.6



Age group concerned: 12 to 18 years of age	
Category	% of those surveyed who believe persons engaged in the following activities are at great risk (or believe such activities are very harmful):
Smoke marijuana frequently	72.2
Use cocaine HCl or crack occasionally	44.3
Use cocaine HCl or crack frequently	72.0
Use ecstasy occasionally	35.2
Use ecstasy frequently	60.6

Venezuela did not provide information concerning the number of alcohol and drug-related traffic or workplace accidents.

III. SUPPLY REDUCTION

A. Drug Production

Venezuela reports that during the evaluation period, no significant illicit coca or poppy cultivation was detected in its national territory. In addition, for that same period, the country did not detect marijuana grown indoors.

With respect to a system for the detection and quantification of illicit crops, the country reports that it carries out aerial reconnaissance and field visits, supported by remote monitoring data that is regularly analyzed, in areas susceptible to crop migration.

Venezuela has a formal program (forced manual eradication) to eradicate coca, poppy and cannabis crops. In 2007, 2008 and 2009, the results of Operation Sierra⁴ indicated no illicit crops in the country.

Venezuela indicates that in 2007, 26 illicit laboratories for drugs of natural origin were dismantled. The country reports that it has not found illicit laboratories for drugs of synthetic origin during the evaluation period.

B. Alternative, Integral and Sustainable Development

Venezuela reports that it does not have the conditions to carry out alternative, integral and sustainable development. However, the country reports that is carrying out programs related to

⁴ A program for the detection and eradication of illicit crops, adopted in 1998, is carried out annually along the country's western border.



preventive alternative development: agroforestry nurseries, productive reforestation, and food cultivation through mixed productive forests.

C. Control of Pharmaceutical Products

The country controls all pharmaceutical products listed in the international conventions, and specifies that it also controls tramadol hydrochloride.

The Ministry of Health's General Directorate of Health Regulation is the authority responsible for coordinating activities relating to the control of pharmaceutical products.

In the health sector, the country carries out the following actions to control pharmaceutical products and prevent their diversion: control of health records, control and monitoring of prescriptions, inspections, administrative sanctions, and referral to judicial authorities of unusual cases detected by administrative authorities. However, it does not monitor the entire chain of distribution.

In the private sector, the country carries out the following actions to control pharmaceutical products and prevent their diversion: import/export control, health register control, manufacturing control, inspections; administrative sanctions, registry of licensees, and registry of quantities of pharmaceutical products sold or manufactured in free trade zones. However, the country does not monitor distribution (sales from wholesalers to retailers).

Venezuela reports that in order to monitor and prevent the diversion of pharmaceutical products, the Ministry of Health's coordinating office for psychotropics and narcotics carries out control, supervision, and monitoring to detect diversion and make referrals to competent judicial agencies to initiate criminal investigations as appropriate.

The country reports that it has a regulatory/administrative system for control of pharmaceutical products that includes inspectors. However, the country does not provide information on how many inspectors or investigators it has for this purpose.

The country's mechanism that enables police and judicial authorities to share information is the reporting of suspicious or unusual activities, transmitted through formal institutional communications channels.

The country has a system for compiling information on administrative and regulatory activities related to controlled pharmaceutical products and on sanctions imposed. In this regard, it provides the following information:



	2006	2007	2008	2009
Regulatory activities				
Number of licenses issued to:				
Importers	85	72	75	80
Exporters	4	4	4	4
Manufacturers	21	21	21	20
Distributors	64	51	54	60
Number of permits issued for:				
Importation	1,000	700	905	804
Exportation	30	25	22	15
Regulated entities				
Number of inspections conducted of:				
Importers	85	72	75	80
Exporters	4	4	4	4
Manufacturers	20	20	20	20

The country provided training, in 2008 and 2009, for the public sector personnel involved in handling products that fall under Statutory Regulation 3, but did not provide information about training for private sector personnel that handle pharmaceutical products.

Venezuela has an automated information system to facilitate the control of pharmaceutical products. The Ministry of People's Power for Health has a database of pharmaceutical products that contain controlled substances.

Venezuela has legal norms and provisions for imposing penal sanctions for the illicit production, diversion, and trafficking of pharmaceutical products. The country does not have civil sanctions for these activities.

With respect to penal sanctions applicable to the illicit production, diversion and trafficking of pharmaceutical products, Venezuelan legislation provides for penalties of six to ten years for the illicit production of controlled pharmaceutical products, and of eight to ten years for the illicit diversion and trafficking of said substances.

The country indicates in the following table the number of times penal and administrative sanctions were imposed during the years 2006-2009:

Type of sanction	Number of sanctions			
	2006	2007	2008	2009
Penal	0	0	0	0
Administrative	1	0	2	2



In 2006 and 2007, no pharmaceutical products were seized or disposed of. Venezuela provides the following data regarding the quantities of pharmaceutical products seized and disposed of during the years 2008-2009:

2008			
Pharmaceutical products	Quantities seized and destroyed		
	Tablets/ capsules	Powder (kilograms)	Injectables (liters)
Diazepam	-	0.70	14
Clonazepam	4,740	1.19	-
Total	4,740	1.89	14

2009		
Pharmaceutical products	Quantities seized and destroyed	
	Tablets/ capsules	Powder (kilograms)
Codeine	669,996	41.87
Ephedrine sulfate	-	335.57
Hydroxyzine hydrochloride	-	37.66
Anhydrous theophylline	-	653.87
Pseudoephedrine sulfate	169,362 (envelopes)	101.61
Total	-	1,170.58

Regarding the methods used for final disposition of confiscated pharmaceutical products, the country reports that they are donated or destroyed through incineration.

D. Control of Chemical Substances

Venezuela has the following laws and regulations of national scope for the control of chemical substances, in accordance with international conventions: the Organic Law against Illicit Traffic and Consumption of Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances (December 15, 2005), and the Joint Resolution of the Ministries of Finance, Defense, Industry and Trade, Health and Social Assistance, and Justice (September 23, 1998).

The national legislation of the Republic of Venezuela provides for the control and oversight of all chemical substances listed in the international conventions.

Chemical substances not listed in the international conventions that are controlled in Venezuela include:

- Anhydrous ammonia
- Ammonia in aqueous solution
- Sodium carbonate



- Sodium hydrogencarbonate (sodium bicarbonate)
- Sodium sesquicarbonate
- 4-methylpentan-2-one (methyl isobutyl ketone)
- Ethyl acetate
- Urea, whether or not in aqueous solution
- Organic composite solvents or thinners included in the tariff code 3,814.00

Regarding the existence of mechanisms or means through which the institutions responsible for preventing and imposing sanctions for the diversion of controlled chemical substances are able to communicate and share information, the Republic of Venezuela has the Network for Control of Chemical Substances and the National Committee for Prevention, Control and Supervision of Chemical Substances, both of which include representatives from all agencies with jurisdiction in this area. These task forces meet periodically to discuss and evaluate aspects related to the subject.

The country reports that the following national authorities are responsible for enforcing laws and regulations for the control of chemical substances:

- Administrative: the National Anti-drug Office (ONA), the Ministry of Health, the Vice Ministry for Intermediate Industries, and the Penal and Criminal Scientific Investigations Corps.
- Judicial: the Office of the Attorney General.
- Customs: the National Integrated Customs and Tax Administration Service.
- Others: the Penal and Criminal Scientific Investigations Corps and the National Guard of Venezuela.

Venezuela provides, in the following table, the actions it undertakes to control the diversion of chemical substances, as well as the entities responsible:

Action carried out	Responsible entity
National registry of licensees License control (manufacture, distribution)	Ministry of Health, Penal and Criminal Scientific Investigations Corps
Import/export control	Ministry of Health Vice Ministry for Intermediate Industries
Inspections Transaction audits Control of distribution Control of final commercialization Transport control	National Guard of Venezuela Penal and Criminal Scientific Investigations Corps
Pre-export notifications Design and implementation of policies and strategies in the area of prevention, control, and supervision of chemical substances	National Anti-drug Office
Imposition of sanctions	Criminal Courts Ministry of Health Vice Ministry for Intermediate Industries



These actions are carried out as part of an integrated procedure. Inspections and transaction audits are coordinated by ONA, auditing agencies, and the Office of the Attorney General.

Venezuela has a regulatory system for the control of chemical substances that includes inspectors and investigators. The country has approximately 200 employees to carry out this task, who also assist the Office of the Attorney General in criminal investigations.

Venezuela reports that it offers training courses for administrative, police and customs officers on controlling the diversion of chemical substances (approximately 162 officials participated). The training courses offered during the evaluation period covered administrative and interdiction control mechanisms and preventing diversion. A seminar-workshop was held on control mechanisms, proper handling and final disposal.

Venezuela uses an automated system to facilitate the secure and efficient handling of information on controlling the diversion of chemical substances. Moreover, the National Drug System (NDS) has been installed in the country, in cooperation with the UNODC, however, during the evaluation period, the system was not fully operational.

Venezuela has provisions permitting for the imposition of penal sanctions for the illicit production, diversion, and trafficking of controlled chemical substances.

Regarding penal sanctions applicable to the illicit production, diversion, and trafficking of controlled chemical substances, the country has the Organic Law against Illicit Traffic and Consumption of Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances, which imposes prison terms of between six and ten years, based on the type of infraction.

The country indicates in the following table the number of times that sanctions were imposed during the years 2007-2009:

Type of sanction	Number of sanctions		
	2007	2008	2009
Penal	12	45	36
Administrative	2	1	2

Venezuela exports controlled chemical substances. The country reports that no information about exports made was available in 2006. However, the following are the numbers of exports during the years 2007-2009:

Importing/ transshipment countries	Number of controlled chemical substance exports made		
	2007	2008	2009
Germany	0	0	1
Belgium	0	0	1
Brazil	16	11	21



Importing/ transshipment countries	Number of controlled chemical substance exports made		
	2007	2008	2009
Canada	0	5	0
Chile	37	39	44
Colombia	14	8	16
Costa Rica	0	1	4
Cuba	3	10	0
Curacao	2	0	0
Ecuador	14	14	5
France	2	2	5
Haiti	0	2	1
Honduras	0	1	4
England	0	0	2
Italy	0	2	1
Jamaica	0	2	1
Mexico	1	17	21
Nicaragua	2	9	1
Netherlands	0	0	1
Peru	21	10	9
United Kingdom	0	1	1
Dominican Republic	2	7	4
United States	54	40	35
Total	168	181	178

Transit operations, as concerns the controlled chemical substances indicated in this report, are prohibited by National Law (Organic Law against Illicit Traffic and Consumption of Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances, Article 190: under this Law, no controlled chemical substances shall be subject to transit operations through national territory, as they shall be seized).

Regarding pre-export notifications issued for controlled chemical substances sent to other importing or transshipment countries, the country reported that no information for 2006 was available. However, the following figures were reported for 2007-2009:

Importing/ transshipment countries	Number of pre-export notifications issued		
	2007	2008	2009
Germany	0	0	1
Belgium	0	0	1
Brazil	16	11	21
Canada	0	5	0
Chile	37	39	44
Colombia	14	8	16



Importing/ transshipment countries	Number of pre-export notifications issued		
	2007	2008	2009
Costa Rica	0	1	4
Cuba	3	10	0
Curacao	0	0	0
Ecuador	14	14	5
France	2	2	5
Haiti	0	0	0
Honduras	0	1	4
England	0	0	2
Italy	0	2	1
Jamaica	0	0	0
Mexico	1	17	21
Nicaragua	2	9	1
Netherlands	0	0	1
Peru	21	10	9
United Kingdom	0	1	1
Dominican Republic	2	7	4
United States	54	40	35
Total	166	177	176

Venezuela reports that the total number of controlled chemical substance exports differs from the total number of pre-export notifications issued because communication could not be established with some exporting countries.

The country indicates that there were no instances of pre-export notifications being rejected by the importing or transshipment countries during the years 2007-2009.

Venezuela reports that it imports controlled chemical substances. The country indicates that it received 372 imports of controlled chemical substances in 2007, 441 in 2008 and 382 in 2009.

The country reports in the following table the number of pre-export notifications for controlled chemical substances it received and the number responded to in a timely manner during the years 2007-2009:

	2007	2008	2009
Number of pre-export notifications received	60	78	106
Number of responses sent	53	75	94
Number of timely replies sent (maximum of 15 days)	53	74	94



During the years 2007-2009, the following numbers of pre-export notifications received by Venezuela were not approved or led to an investigation:

	2007	2008	2009
Number of pre-export notifications not approved	1	3	12
Number of investigations initiated	1	3	12

Regarding the use of a computerized information system, software or a similar system to process pre-export notifications, the country reports that it uses the PEN Online system to respond to and send pre-export notifications.

Venezuela reports the following quantities of controlled chemical substances seized during the years 2007-2009:

Controlled chemical substances	Unit of measure	Quantities seized		
		2007	2008	2009
Ethyl acetate	Kilograms	187.00	3,365.90	-
Acetone	Kilograms	40,290.00	12,680.00	59,167.65
Hydrochloric acid	Kilograms	70,621.00	622,745.02	84,027.80
Formic acid	Kilograms	-	-	6.42
Zinc acid	Kilograms	-	-	99.00
Nitric acid	Kilograms	-	-	300.00
Sulfuric acid	Kilograms	4,068.00	33,041.60	4,386.96
Anhydrous ammonia	Kilograms	-	-	15,959.80
Ammonia in aqueous solution	Kilograms	-	5,828.00	215.95
Bentonite	Kilograms	-	-	140.00
Activated carbon	Kilograms	-	900.00	1,620.00
Calcium carbonate	Kilograms	-	-	48,000.00
Sodium carbonate	Kilograms	-	3,875.00	5,000,490.00
Cement	Kilograms	4,000.00	2,520.00	-
Ephedrine hydrochloride	Kilograms	400.00	-	335.56
Calcium chloride	Kilograms	-	-	60.00
Copper chloride	Kilograms	-	-	5.85
Methylene chloride	Kilograms	-	-	5.28
Palladium chloride	Kilograms	-	-	0.20
Potassium chloride	Kilograms	-	-	137,500.00
Sodium chloride	Kilograms	-	-	10.83
Solvents or thinners	Kilograms	50,382.17	754.50	12,962.60
Calcium dolomite	Kilograms	-	-	14,500.00



Controlled chemical substances	Unit of measure	Quantities seized		
		2007	2008	2009
Npk chemical fertilizers	Kilograms	-	211,300.00	877,125.00
23-00-30-cp fertilizer	Kilograms	-	-	30,000.00
Monoammonium phosphate	Kilograms	-	-	15,000.00
Diesel	Kilograms	-	-	663.20
Gasoline	Kilograms	8,450.00	10,064.00	5,284.96
Sodium hydrogencarbonate	Kilograms	800.00	6,982.99	0.50
Calcium hydroxide	Kilograms	-	-	50.00
Potassium hydroxide	Kilograms	-	-	320.00
Sodium hydroxide	Kilograms	-	-	6,160.00
Sodium hypochlorite	Kilograms	-	3,520.00	1,197.96
Sodium metabisulfite	Kilograms	-	-	250.00
Methanol	Kilograms	-	-	16,100.10
Sodium metasilicate	Kilograms	-	-	450.00
Methyl ethyl ketone (mek)	Kilograms	100.00	-	1,248.00
Methylformamide	Kilograms	-	-	3.76
Sodium nitrate	Kilograms	-	-	500.00
Calcium oxide	Kilograms	3,000.00	1,250.00	50.00
Potassium permanganate	Kilograms	200.00	528.42	2.00
Pseudoephedrine	Kilograms	-	34.70	335.56
Safrol	Kilograms	-	-	4.40
Ammoniacal solution	Kilograms	350.00	-	50
Ammonium sulfate	Kilograms	-	-	3,150.00
Magnesium sulfate	Kilograms	-	-	22,250.00
Sodium sulfate	Kilograms	-	-	185.00
Toluene	Kilograms	-	1,100.90	10,854.14
Sodium tripolyphosphate	Kilograms	-	-	315.00
Urea	Kilograms	62,510.00	150,826.00	5,715,505.00
Thinner	Kilograms	-	-	3,535.80
Total	Kilograms	247,908.17	1,072,517.03	12,086,848.48

The country reports that the competent authorities share information on the volume of seizures and forfeitures in cases of the diversion of controlled chemical substances. In this regard, the operational agencies report to the National Anti-drug Office (ONA) and the Office of the Attorney General regarding seizures carried out, specifying the date, location, substance and quantity. This information is shared through the National Network against the diversion of chemicals (made up of the agencies with jurisdiction in administrative and operational control).



Seized substances are forwarded to Venezuelan state-held companies that use them for industrial processes.

IV. CONTROL MEASURES

A. Illicit Drug Trafficking

Venezuela indicates the quantities of drugs forfeited to control and interdiction agencies during the years 2007-2009 in the following table:

Type of illicit drug	Quantities of drugs forfeited				
	Unit of measure	2006	2007	2008	2009
Heroin	Kilograms	270.97	130.84	135.23	81.29
Cocaine HCl	Kilograms	38,925.98	31,790.26	33,574.40	27,742.01
Crack	Kilograms	6.4	70,491	100.96	79.73
Basuco	Kilograms	34.73	113.79	79.76	15.07
Leaf cannabis (grass)	Kilograms	21,129.24	25,391.74	20,718.60	32,637.38
Amphetamine/ methamphetamine	Units	930	19,333	20	200
MDMA (Ecstasy) and derivatives	Units	7,616	-	-	2,097

Crime laboratories of the Bolivarian National Guard and of the Penal and Criminal Scientific Investigations Corps perform expert analysis of the substances.

Venezuela did not provide information on the number of persons formally charged with and convicted of illicit drug trafficking during the years 2006-2007. However, the country provides the following data for the years 2008 and 2009:

Year	Number of persons formally charged	Number of persons convicted
2008	1,748	272
2009	1,801	315

The registry of persons formally charged with and convicted of offenses related to illicit drug-trafficking, maintained by the Public Ministry, does not have a category for “public officials”.

Regarding how illicit drug possession for personal use is handled, Venezuela reports that public safety measures are implemented, as stipulated in Title IV of the Organic Law on Illicit Traffic and Consumption of Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances. The country reports that the illicit possession of drugs is criminalized, per Article 34 of the Organic Law against Illicit Traffic and Consumption of Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances.



The country provides information on the number of persons formally charged with and convicted of illicit drug possession during the years 2008-2009 in the following table:

Year	Number of persons formally charged	Number of persons convicted
2008	315	63
2009	389	78

The country has alternative sentencing measures for the crime of illicit drug possession for personal use. These consist of public safety measures: admission to a specialized therapeutic rehabilitation, treatment or detoxification center; social reintegration of the user; probation or monitoring; expulsion from Venezuela of a foreign, non-resident user, and community service.

Venezuela reports that the competent authorities responsible for controlling illicit drug trafficking in Venezuela are:

- The National Anti-drug Office
- The National Armed Forces
- The Penal and Criminal Scientific Investigations Corps
- Other government security agencies when witness to a serious offense or at the request of the Office of the Attorney General

Venezuela has created a network that facilitates information-sharing with different government security agencies at the national level, using secure mail and allowing for the flow of information among the various relevant agencies.

Regarding mechanisms for international cooperation that the authorities responsible for controlling illicit drug trafficking use to promote or facilitate the timely exchange of operational information and collaboration with national authorities in other countries responsible for controlling illicit drug trafficking, the country reports that it has implemented the following mechanisms: ongoing and timely exchanges with accredited police liaison officers at the embassies of third party states in Caracas and Venezuelan liaison officers in the embassies of the Republic of Venezuela abroad; and the signing of cooperation instruments facilitating the exchange of information with non-national counterpart agencies similar to ONA, with respect to efforts to combat illicit drug trafficking.

Venezuela reports that it has developed specialized training courses or briefings on combating illicit drug trafficking for police forces, customs officials, prosecutors, and judicial branch public officials.

The country provides details on specialized training courses offered during the years 2006-2009 in the following table:



Year	Name of course	Location	Participating countries	Participating entities
2008	Training program for judges and prosecutors on the penal process related to the crime of money laundering	ONA	Venezuela	56
2009	First Seminar on the integration of the business sector into state agencies responsible for the control and supervision of precursor and essential chemical substances	ONA	Venezuela	38
2009	Workshop on control mechanisms, proper handling and final disposition of precursor and essential chemical substances	ONA	Venezuela	33
2009	Training workshop on interdiction applicable to precursor and essential chemical substances	ONA	Venezuela	94
2009	Training workshop on interdiction control mechanisms applicable to precursor and essential chemical substances	ONA	Venezuela	38
2009	First session on prevention and control of money laundering	ONA	Venezuela	80
2009	General aspects of money laundering	ONA	Venezuela	69
2009	Drug trafficking, and money laundering case investigation	ONA	Venezuela	44
2009	Workshop on money laundering	ONA	Venezuela	30

Venezuela indicates that 100% of its ports under national jurisdiction have implemented the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). In addition to the ISPS, the country also has a comprehensive security system for the operation of commercial/recreational ports (SISEINOP).

The institutions that coordinate the implementation of the counterdrug port security program are: the Anti-drug Command of the Venezuelan National Guard, the Coast Guard Command of the Venezuelan National Navy, the National Integrated Customs and Tax Administration Service (SENIAT) and Certified Port Protection Operators.

The country does not use a common interagency database or mutual access to databases to gather, analyze, exchange and share information and intelligence among the national and public entities involved in counterdrug control activities in ports.

The country has a methodology to determine which vessels, cargo and containers should undergo a more complete inspection or examination in person.

Venezuela carries out maritime counterdrug detection, monitoring and interdiction activities, and carries out patrols, monitoring and control in territorial waters in the contiguous zone, the exclusive economic zone, and on the high seas.

Venezuela reports that the agencies responsible for coordinating monitoring activities and interdiction operations at sea are shown in the following table:



	Monitoring				Interdiction			
	Coordinator		Participant		Coordinator		Participant	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Public Prosecutor's Office		X	X			X	X	
Customs		X	X			X		X
National Police		X	X			X	X	
National Guard	X		X			X	X	
Coast Guard	X		X		X		X	
Navy	X		X			X	X	

Regarding operations related to maritime interdiction carried out by authorities, the country reports five vessels seized in 2008 and one in 2009.

The national Navy performs constant and regular patrols of territorial waters. Nonetheless, it is not possible to estimate the number of operations initiated specifically for illicit drug trafficking. Interdiction patrols do not differentiate between categories of crime.

In the following table, the country reports the number of maritime counterdrug operations carried out during the years 2006-2009 in conjunction with other countries, in accordance with Article 17 of the 1988 Vienna Convention:

Year	Number of requests made	Number of operations undertaken	Countries involved
2006	10	10	Venezuela, United Kingdom, United States of America, Spain and France.
2007	06	06	Venezuela, United Kingdom, United States of America, and Spain.
2008	05	05	Venezuela, United Kingdom, United States of America, Spain and France.
2009	04	04	Venezuela, Spain, United States of America, and Colombia.

Venezuela reports that it carries out interdiction activities aimed at preventing illicit aerial drug trafficking. These activities include, among others, the detection, monitoring, visual identification and air interception of flights entering or leaving national territory in an irregular manner.

The country reports that surveillance activities are the responsibility of the Bolivarian Air Force and of the Air Command of Integral Aerospace Defense (CADAI), in their capacity as coordinators and participants; while interdiction activities fall under CADAI's responsibility, acting as coordinator, and include the Bolivarian Air Force and the Bolivarian National Guard, as participants.

Aerial interdiction operations are carried out in Venezuelan air space and, consequently, are not joint operations with other countries. Other countries may be involved only as concerns supplying information.



The country provides the following information regarding the number of aircraft seized in operations related to aerial interdiction carried out by authorities: 23 in 2008 and 17 in 2009.

The country states that that it does not keep a record of all aerial interdiction operations related to illicit drug trafficking.

Venezuela has the following general laws and regulations that can be used to control the sale of drugs via the Internet: the Organic Law against Illicit Traffic and Consumption of Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances, December 16, 2005.

The responsible institutions have procedures, investigative techniques, training and equipment to detect illicit drug sales via the Internet. Venezuela reports that the Public Ministry, the National Armed Forces and the Penal and Criminal Scientific Investigations Corps are the authorities responsible for coordinating these procedures. The country reports that training is provided jointly by ONA and the Superintendency of Electronic Certifications (SUSCERTE).

The country reports that it has carried out activities to increase awareness regarding the sale of illicit drugs via the Internet among administrative, judicial and customs authorities, the armed forces and the postal service. In this regard, it indicates that various training sessions have been provided for officials by the National Anti-drug Office in coordination with the Superintendency of Electronic Certifications, including: First and Second Information Security Sessions; Technology, Integration... Security? A 360° View; and Tracking Cybercrime.

In addition, various activities have been carried out to increase awareness among communities, companies, educational institutions, and others.

Regarding the establishment of citizens' reporting mechanisms for illicit drug sales via the Internet, the country reports that complaints can be received and processed through the "0800-ONA-DENUNCIA" program and the complaints filing module of the National Drug Information System operating on the ONA website.

B. Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials

Venezuela has official institutions that regulate and authorize the following activities related to firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials: manufacture, import, export, transit, acquisition, sale, delivery, move, transfer, registration, marking, transport, possession, carrying, storage, and marketing.

The General Weapons and Explosives Department of the Ministry of Defense, as stipulated in the National Constitution, the Law on Weapons and Explosives, and the Disarmament Law, is the entity responsible for these controls.

The country has national legal and regulatory standards that establish administrative controls for the manufacture, importation, exportation and transit of firearms, ammunition, explosives and



other related materials. These laws criminalize trafficking in and illicit production of such materials, as well as regulate and authorize commercial transactions (purchase-sale): Articles 9 and 16 of the Organic Law against organized crime; and Articles 272 to 274 and 509 to 516 of the Penal Code.

Regarding applicable sanctions, the country provides the following information regarding the current laws for administrative control of the manufacture, importation, exportation and transit of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials:

Material	Titles and articles of current laws and regulations	Sanctions
Firearms	Law on Arms and Explosives, Articles 5 and 6. Criminal Code of Venezuela, Title V.	Five to eight years imprisonment.
Ammunition	Law on Arms and Explosives, Articles 5 and 6. Criminal Code of Venezuela, Title II.	Detention for up to three months or fine of 50,000 Bolivares.
Explosives	Article 12 of the Law on Arms and Explosives; and Administrative. Measure MPPD-VS-DAEX-007-2009.	Suspension of registration and seizure.
Other related materials	Administrative Measure N° MPPD-VS-DAEX-007-2009. Administrative Measures MPPD-DAEX.	Suspension of registration and seizure.

The country reports that in accordance with the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials, its legislation requires that firearms be marked at the time of manufacture, for importation and for official use after confiscation or forfeiture.

Likewise, the country reports that firearms are considered illicit when they are not marked at the time of manufacture or for importation.

The country has mechanisms for information exchange and cooperation between national institutions for control of activities related to firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials. It also reports that it does not have such cooperation mechanisms with international institutions.

The country reports that there are no recorded instances in which the entry of a shipment of firearms, ammunition, explosives, or other related materials was not authorized because the necessary licenses or permits were not issued, during the years 2006-2009.

The country reports that there are no recorded cases of instances in which an export license or permit was not issued because the necessary licenses or permits were not first issued by the importing country, in 2006-2009.

The country reports that during the evaluation period, no firearms, ammunition, explosives or other related materials were exported through a third country (transit).



The country reports that it has a national registry of the importation, exportation and transit of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials. These records are kept manually and are maintained for 10 years.

The country reports that it has a national computerized database for the confiscation of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials in which records are kept indefinitely.

The country provides in the following table the quantities of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials seized in connection with narcotrafficking during the years 2007-2009:

Quantities seized				
Year	Firearms	Ammunition	Explosives	Other related materials
2007	321	4,148	5	0
2008	246	3,332	8	0
2009	226	2,246	7	0

Venezuela provides the following information on the quantities of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials seized in connection with narcotrafficking during the years 2007-2009.

Quantities seized				
Year	Firearms	Ammunition	Explosives	Other related materials
2007	9	27	0	0
2008	5	0	0	0
2009	2	0	0	0

Venezuela does not provide the number of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials seized in relation to the number of arrests for narcotrafficking.

Venezuela does not provide information on the number of international firearms trace requests initiated, in order to identify the point at which firearms were diverted from the legal market for illicit use.

C. Money Laundering

The Organic Law against Organized Crime (LOCDO) criminalizes and punishes money laundering as an autonomous offense referred to as “Legitimación de Capitales”, imposing a sanction of eight to 12 years in prison and a fine equal to the illicitly obtained increase in net worth.

When the crime indicated in Article 4 of this law is committed through negligence, imprudence or failure to comply with the law by employees or obligated entities, the punishment shall be from one to three years in prison.



Legal entities, with the exception of the State and its enterprises, are criminally liable for punishable actions related to organized crime committed by them, their management bodies, or their representatives. The country also establishes administrative sanctions.

The country establishes the following crimes as predicate offenses for money laundering: illicit drug trafficking, trafficking of firearms, illicit trafficking of migrants, trafficking in human beings, kidnapping, extortion, corruption and crimes against the public administration, and fraud or financial crimes.

Venezuela has criminal provisions that allow the perpetrator of the predicate offense to be convicted as the perpetrator of the crime of money laundering, as established in the Penal Code, the Organic Law against Organized Crime, the Organic Law against Illicit Traffic of Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances, and the Law against Corruption.

The country identifies undercover operations, electronic surveillance, controlled delivery, and sentence reduction for cooperating witnesses as special investigative techniques provided for in its law for the investigation of money laundering cases. The country does not report if it permits the use of informants.

Venezuela is a member of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF), and the last reciprocal evaluation was done in 2009.

Venezuela indicates in the following table the sectors and activities that are subject to the obligation to submit suspicious transaction reports to prevent money laundering:

Regulated sector/activity	Title, article, and date of law
Banking sector	Resolution 185.01 of the Superintendence of Banks and other Financial Institutions dated September 12, 2001: Arts. 60, 61 and 68.
Currency exchange sector	General Law on Banks and Other Financial Institutions: Art.2, Art. 226. and Resolution 185.01 of Sudeban: Art.36, Art.68, Art. 71.
Stock exchanges	Resolution 178-2005 of the National Securities Commission dated December 16, 2005: Art. 46.
Insurance sector	Order 1.150 of the Superintendence of Insurance dated July 26, 2002: Article 45.
Transfers of funds, cash or valuables	Resolution 185.01 of the Superintendence of Banks and Other Financial Institutions dated September 12, 2001: Arts. 60, 61 and 68.
Real estate, lawyers, notaries, accountants, casinos and gambling	Organic Law against Organized Crime dated October 26, 2005: Articles 43.4(a) and (b).

The country reports that the following are subject to mandatory submission of objective Information Reports to prevent money laundering: the real estate sector and transfers of funds, cash or valuables.

Venezuela has a financial intelligence unit with authority in the area of money laundering, in accordance with the Decree on the General Law on Banks and other Financial Institutions, No. 1.526 published in Official Gazette No. 5.555, dated November 13, 2001.



The National Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) is part of the Superintendence of Banks and Other Financial Institutions (SUDEBAN) and has an annual budget allocation. The NFIU is a member of the Egmont Group and has access to its secure network.

Venezuela indicates in the following table the number of information requests received and responses sent through the Egmont Group’s secure network:

Year	Information requests received	Responses to information requests sent
2006	45	45
2007	39	39
2008	63	63
2009	68	68

Venezuela reports that there are no limitations on obtaining documents and records in money laundering cases. Moreover, it does not impose limitations on obtaining documents subject to secrecy, confidentiality, or reserve agreements, in money laundering cases.

Venezuela reports that ONA is responsible for the management of assets seized in illicit drug trafficking and money laundering cases. ONA is also responsible for the disposition of assets confiscated (forfeited) for these crimes and for the administration of the goods seized temporarily.

The country indicates that in 2008, five persons were formally charged with money laundering, and seven in 2009. Likewise, the country reports that in 2008, one person was convicted of money laundering, and nine in 2009. The country does not provide information for the years 2006 and 2007.

D. Judicial Cooperation

Venezuela reports that, in accordance with its legal system, extradition is possible for illicit drug trafficking and money laundering crimes. The extradition of nationals is not permitted. The country indicates that it has complied with the obligation to designate a competent authority, in accordance with the international legal framework, to receive, respond to and process extradition requests. In its domestic legal system the country provides for a Venezuelan national whose extradition for illicit drug trafficking or money laundering crimes has been denied to be tried in Venezuela for the commission of these crimes.

Venezuela’s domestic law permits the provision of reciprocal judicial assistance in accordance with Article 7 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988. The country reports that it uses secure technological resources to facilitate the flow of communication among authorities directing criminal investigations.

The country indicates that bank secrecy or other confidentiality provisions are not an obstacle or impediment to providing reciprocal judicial assistance.



Venezuela reports that the basic principles of its domestic law permit responding to a request for controlled delivery, and there are provisions in substantive and procedural law that allow the use of the controlled delivery technique.

The national legislation does not include a mechanism for recovering assets forfeited abroad. Nevertheless, the country uses the mechanism specified in Article 5 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

The country reports that during the evaluation period it made one active extradition request regarding a case of illicit drug trafficking, and no request in money laundering cases.

The country provides in the following table the number of passive extradition requests answered regarding illicit drug trafficking and money laundering cases:

Passive extradition requests answered regarding illicit drug trafficking cases				Passive extradition requests answered regarding money laundering cases			
2006	2007	2008	2009	2006	2007	2008	2009
0	1	4	0	0	1	0	0

The country provides in the following table the number of requests made for reciprocal judicial assistance regarding illicit drug trafficking and money laundering cases:

Requests for reciprocal judicial assistance made regarding illicit drug trafficking cases				Requests for reciprocal judicial assistance made regarding money laundering cases			
2006	2007	2008	2009	2006	2007	2008	2009
48	59	122	99	0	9	47	33

The country provides in the following table the number of requests for reciprocal judicial assistance answered regarding illicit drug trafficking and money laundering cases:

Requests for reciprocal judicial assistance answered regarding illicit drug trafficking cases				Requests for reciprocal judicial assistance answered regarding money laundering cases			
2006	2007	2008	2009	2006	2007	2008	2009
6	30	63	47	0	3	11	3



EVALUATIVE SUMMARY

In the area of institutional strengthening, CICAD notes that Venezuela had a National Anti-drug Plan during the evaluation period, with an annual budget for its implementation as well as a monitoring and evaluation system in place, which was administered by the National Anti-drug Office (ONA).

On the subject of international conventions, CICAD notes with concern that the country has not ratified the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components, and Ammunition of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000).

In relation to its national information system, CICAD acknowledges that Venezuela has a drug observatory, with an allocated budget, responsible for collecting and organizing relevant information on the issue, as well as coordinating studies targeting specific populations.

In the area of demand reduction, regarding prevention, CICAD acknowledges that Venezuela is developing prevention programs targeting school/children, university students, and the street population, and notes that during the evaluation period the country has delivered training courses in the areas of prevention, treatment and research.

CICAD notes that the country has not evaluated its drug abuse prevention programs targeting key sectors of the population, such as school/children and university students.

Regarding treatment, CICAD acknowledges that there are entities in Venezuela responsible for designing, financing, implementing, and monitoring programs, offering human resource training and controlling and regulating the provision of treatment. Moreover, CICAD acknowledges that the country has “Standards of Operation for Drug Treatment Centers in the Public and Private Sector”, in addition to official licensing procedures authorizing the operation of specialized drug treatment facilities for persons with problems related to drug use.

CICAD notes that the entities that form part of the Primary Health Care (PHC) network in the country do not implement specific activities aimed at addressing problems related to drug use, nor has the country set up information mechanisms that generate data on patients’ level of satisfaction with treatment programs.

Regarding statistics on consumption, CICAD notes that in 2009, Venezuela conducted a National Study on the Prevalence of Alcohol and Drug use among the School-based Population (primary and secondary), ages 12 to 18. Nevertheless, CICAD notes with concern that Venezuela has not carried out studies of drug use among the general or university populations.

In the area of supply reduction, with particular reference to drug production, CICAD notes that Venezuela has undertaken activities to detect illicit crops, and implemented a formal program to eradicate (forced manual) coca, poppy and marijuana crops. In addition, the country has been carrying out operations to dismantle laboratories for illicit drugs of natural origin.



With regard to alternative, integral and sustainable development, CICAD takes note of the implementation of programs linked to preventive alternative development in the country.

In relation to the control of pharmaceutical products, CICAD acknowledges that Venezuela has a normative framework and regulations in place governing control activities and enforcement of penal and administrative sanctions related to the diversion of controlled pharmaceutical products.

CICAD notes that Venezuela does not monitor distribution of pharmaceutical products (sales from wholesalers to retailers).

CICAD notes that Venezuela does not provide information on training courses for staff in the private sector involved in the handling of pharmaceutical products.

CICAD recognizes that there are laws in place for the application of penal and administrative sanctions for the illicit production, diversion and illicit trafficking in pharmaceutical products.

Regarding the control of chemical substances, CICAD notes that the country has laws and national regulations governing the control of chemical substances, which include the control and monitoring of all substances found in international conventions. CICAD notes that Venezuela implements activities aimed at controlling the diversion of chemical substances under a comprehensive process involving several entities.

CICAD views with concern that the country has not taken the necessary steps to make the unified registry of chemical substance operators fully operational, through an automated information system to facilitate the monitoring of the diversion of these substances.

In the area of control measures, with regard to illicit drug trafficking, CICAD notes the efforts undertaken by Venezuela to control illicit drug trafficking and exchange information with the responsible and relevant authorities. CICAD notes that Venezuela has a normative and legislative framework that criminalizes the illicit possession of drugs and utilizes public safety measures to penalize illicit drug possession for personal consumption. Venezuela has control mechanisms and records of persons that are formally charged and convicted, however, these do not include public officials.

CICAD notes that the country has provided specialized training for police security forces, customs officials, prosecutors and the judiciary.

CICAD recognizes that Venezuela has laws and general regulations that can be applied to control drug sales over the Internet and implements awareness-raising initiatives on the illicit sale of drugs over the Internet targeting administrative, judicial, customs, law enforcement and postal service authorities. Responsible institutions have procedures, investigative techniques, training and equipment at their disposal to detect illicit drug sales over the Internet.

Regarding firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials, CICAD notes that Venezuela has official agencies and legal norms and regulations in place, as well as administrative



controls governing the regulation and authorization of the manufacture, import, export, transit, acquisition, sale, delivery, transportation, transfer, registration, labeling, transport, possession, carrying, storage and marketing of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials.

In relation to money laundering, CICAD acknowledges that Venezuela has a normative framework that criminalizes money laundering as an autonomous offense under the title “Legitimación de Capitales” and provides special investigative techniques in cases involving money laundering.

CICAD notes that the provisions of bank secrecy, confidentiality or proprietary information do not constitute obstacles to obtaining documents in money laundering cases.

CICAD notes that there is an entity responsible for the administration of seized and forfeited assets in cases of illicit drug trafficking and money laundering which forms part of the infrastructure of the National Anti-drug Office.

CICAD notes that the country does not provide information on registers that would permit the compilation of information on investigations initiated based on financial intelligence reports, or on criminal proceedings initiated for money laundering.

In the field of judicial cooperation, CICAD notes that Venezuela has an institutional framework in place allowing for judicial cooperation between countries of the region to suppress illicit drug trafficking and money laundering. To this end, the country has appointed an authority to receive, respond to and process requests for extradition. In addition, its legal system permits extradition for the crimes of illicit drug trafficking and money laundering. However, CICAD notes that extradition does not apply to Venezuelan nationals; nevertheless, regulations allow for Venezuelan nationals to be tried for the commission of these crimes in Venezuela.

CICAD recognizes Venezuela’s efforts in the context of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) and encourages the country to continue to participate actively in the process.



RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are assigned to Venezuela in order to assist the country in strengthening its policy to combat the problem of drugs and related activities and increase multilateral cooperation in the Hemisphere:

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

1. RATIFY THE PROTOCOL AGAINST THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, THEIR PARTS AND COMPONENTS AND AMMUNITION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME, 2000, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND, 2005-2006.

DEMAND REDUCTION

2. CARRY OUT EVALUATIONS OF DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAMS TARGETING KEY POPULATIONS, SUCH AS SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS.
3. IMPLEMENT SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH DRUG USE AT THE FACILITIES COMPRISING THE COUNTRY'S PRIMARY HEALTH CARE (PHC) SYSTEM.
4. CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE MAGNITUDE OF DRUG USE IN THE GENERAL POPULATION, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND, 2005-2006.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

5. OFFER TRAINING COURSES FOR PRIVATE SECTOR PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN THE HANDLING OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS.
6. TAKE THE STEPS NECESSARY TO MAKE THE UNIFIED REGISTRY OF OPERATORS OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES FULLY OPERATIONAL, WITH AN AUTOMATED INFORMATION SYSTEM TO FACILITATE THE CONTROL OF THE DIVERSION OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES, A RECOMMENDATION REITERATED FROM THE FOURTH EVALUATION ROUND, 2005-2006.

CONTROL MEASURES

7. IMPLEMENT A REGISTRY OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS FORMALLY CHARGED WITH AND CONVICTED OF ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING.



STATEMENT

The Heads of State and of Government of the Americas, gathering in 1998 within the framework of the Second Summit, created the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism as a useful tool to make periodic recommendations to Member States on improving their capacity to control illicit drug trafficking and use.

This Mechanism, which was developed within the framework of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States, is mandated to implement a singular and objective process of evaluation in order to monitor the progress of the individual and collective efforts of Member States in combating the diverse manifestations of the global drug problem.

It is the understanding of the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and, in this respect, it wishes to explicitly state that the evaluation of the progress of the individual efforts of States in combating the diverse manifestations of the global drug problem undertaken by the Mechanism uses the basic information provided by each country as a starting point, thus ensuring that each country is evaluated against its own progress and not against the individual or collective progress of other States. This is based on timely and transparent dialogue with the country to ensure - as far as possible and desirable – that recommendations are congruous with the current reality of the country under evaluation.

Given this premise, the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reiterates the value of the Mechanism as a tool for promoting mutual confidence, dialogue and hemispheric cooperation in combating the distinct manifestations of the global drug problem in the hemisphere. However, with respect to the recommendations assigned by the Mechanism's Governmental Expert Group in the Final Report on the Evaluation of Progress in Drug Control (2007 – 2009), the following statement must be made:

First, the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela acknowledges and respects the independence of the criteria of the Mechanism's Governmental Expert Group.

Second, the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, despite its appreciation of the recommendation made by the Mechanism's Governmental Expert Group to "undertake evaluations of the drug abuse prevention programs targeting key sectors of the population, such as school and university students", is forced – in the interest of strengthening the process and maintaining its transparency - to note that the country did not receive timely instructions regarding a recommendation on this issue and, in consequence, had no opportunity to react to the second drafting session of the Group.

Third, the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela takes note that the Mechanism's Governmental Expert Group reiterates its recommendation to "take the necessary steps to make the unique registry of chemical substance operators fully operational with an automated information system to facilitate control over the diversion of chemical substances". With respect to this particular point, and despite having found accordance between the efforts undertaken by the government to make this unique registry of chemical substance operators fully operational



and the recommendation made by the Group, the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela declares that the Group had no objective basis for formulating this recommendation, given that the country provided a due response to each and every one of the indicator questions comprising the chapter on control of chemical substances.

Finally, the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela wishes to express that the aforementioned can in no way be interpreted as complete or partial rejection of the Report.

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Organization of American States

1889 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
Tel: (202) 458 3000

www.cicad.oas.org

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