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# MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

*Evaluation Report on Drug Policies:  
Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit  
Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and  
Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their  
Causes and Consequences*

## Belize

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

2022





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**Evaluation Report on Drug Policies:  
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**EIGHTH EVALUATION ROUND**

**2022**

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## PREFACE

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

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

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

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

MEM evaluations are carried out based on information provided by the member states' National Coordinating Entities (NCEs), which is analyzed by the MEM Governmental Expert Group (GEG), composed of experts designated by the countries, who do not participate in their own country's evaluation, thus ensuring the transparency and impartiality of the process. The GEG is always supported by the group of independent technical consultants and the MEM Unit. The eighth round represents a more rigorous evaluation process, in which countries are requested to provide valid means of verification to support the information submitted and ensure compliance of each priority action.

Specifically, the GEG's work for the thematic assessment for the area of "Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their Causes and Consequences" was conducted during 2022, and covers the 2019 to 2022 period (unless otherwise specified). This work was adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic with

the use of technology and virtual tools, as well as taking it into consideration in the evaluation assessments.

Finally, it should be noted that one of the main purposes of MEM evaluation reports is to serve as a useful diagnostic tool to identify opportunities for improvement in drug policies and strategies, both at the national and regional levels.

**OBJECTIVE**

1

**DEVELOP AND/OR STRENGTHEN NATIONAL- AND REGIONAL-LEVEL INTERDICTION CAPACITY, AS WELL AS THE CAPACITY TO REDUCE THE ILLICIT CULTIVATION, PRODUCTION, TRAFFICKING, AND DISTRIBUTION OF PLANT-BASED AND SYNTHETIC DRUGS THROUGH THE USE OF COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED PROGRAMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REALITIES OF EACH COUNTRY’S DOMESTIC LEGISLATION AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.**

**Priority Action 1.1: Develop or strengthen intelligence and interdiction capabilities to detect, investigate, and dismantle laboratories or facilities used in the illicit manufacture of drugs.**

Belize participates in ongoing training programs to detect, investigate, and dismantle laboratories or facilities used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, for personnel involved in interdiction operations. Said programs are periodic clandestine laboratory training (investigation and dismantling) for various agencies, delivered by U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) with support by U.S. State Department International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Bureau (INL). Also, the country offers clandestine lab and precursor chemical usage training.

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

**Priority Action 1.2: Implement policies that promote gender mainstreaming in agencies and organizations in charge of drug control.**

The agencies in charge of drug control in Belize do not implement policies that promote gender mainstreaming.

**Priority Action 1.3: Design, implement, and strengthen programs aimed at land, riverine, maritime, and aerial interdiction.**

Belize does not have programs or strategies aimed at land, riverine, maritime, or aerial interdiction, through monitoring, inspection, or checkpoints.

**Priority Action 1.4: Review and update, as appropriate, legal frameworks related to the use of specialized investigation tools and techniques.**

Belize has the following laws providing for the use of specialized investigation tools and techniques to prevent and reduce drug trafficking:

- Laws of Belize - Chapter 103 - Misuse of Drugs Act

**Priority Action 1.5:** Review and/or update mechanisms countries use to monitor the evolution of drug trafficking and related crimes, for the purpose of identifying and responding to new trends and threats.

Belize does not have updated assessments or studies to identify new trends and threats on drug trafficking and related crimes.

**Priority Action 1.6:** Define and implement coordinated actions between national and regional entities to dismantle organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes.

Belize implements actions to identify organized crime groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes. In this sense, information is analyzed and collated into a matrix to capture organized crime network.

The country does not carry out inter-institutional collaboration or cooperation mechanisms to coordinate activities aimed at dismantling organized crime groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes.

Belize has not participated in operations or investigations in cooperation with other countries aimed at dismantling organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes.

**Priority Action 1.7:** Enhance the capacity of national and regional forensic laboratories or similar investigation entities to analyze and identify chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances (NPS) and facilitate information sharing with global repositories and across governmental counterparts.

Belize's National Forensic Science Service is responsible for, and capable of, analyzing chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances (NPS).

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

- Internal training program at Forensic Laboratory
- Precursor trainings provided by DEA and other agencies
- Drug Chemist training provided by DEA

Belize does not have mechanisms to facilitate or share information at the national level across relevant government counterparts, as well as with global repositories on chemical substances,



precursors, pharmaceuticals products, and synthetic drugs, including NPS.

**Priority Action 1.8: Enhance the capacity of relevant drug control and financial regulatory competent authorities to identify and address new challenges whereby synthetic drugs and their precursors and pharmaceutical products, being illicitly sold online and shipped through land, riverine, maritime, and aerial means.**

Belize does not have mechanisms to investigate or disrupt drug trafficking through the Internet.

**Priority Action 1.9: Enhance coordination with private sector entities to prevent diversion of chemical substances and precursors and deny criminals access to the materials, platforms, and services of the licit supply chain, which are exploited by criminal organizations for the illicit manufacture, sale, and trafficking of drugs.**

Belize does not have partnerships and information exchange mechanisms with private sector entities to prevent access to materials and services exploited for illicit drug trafficking purposes.

The country uses tools and resources of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) to strengthen cooperation with the private sector to prevent the diversion of chemicals. In this sense, workshops and Informative sessions are held yearly to inform importing companies on the requirements for importing precursor chemicals as well and impromptu audit inspections to ensure compliance.

**Priority Action 1.10: Enhance capacities for forfeiture, seizure, and management of assets, tools, or products related to illicit drug markets.**

Belize does not have national authorities with the appropriate budget, human or material resources, nor ongoing training for the forfeiture, seizure, or management of assets, tools, or products related to illicit drug markets.

The country's competent personnel do not receive ongoing training for the forfeiture, seizure, or management of assets, tools, or products related to illicit drug markets.

## OBJECTIVE

2

**STRENGTHEN NATIONAL MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES POSED BY NPS AND ILLICIT SYNTHETIC DRUGS, AND THE THREAT OF FENTANYL-RELATED SUBSTANCES, NON-MEDICAL SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS, AND ILLICIT AMPHETAMINE DERIVATIVES.**

**Priority Action 2.1: Establish and/or strengthen early warning systems (EWS) at the national level to promote collaboration and the exchange of information with other existing regional or international systems.**

Belize does not have an early warning system (EWS) to identify or trace new psychoactive substances (NPS), illicit synthetic drugs, or the threat of fentanyl-related substances, non-medical synthetic opioids, illicit amphetamine derivatives, not other substances subject to international control.

**Priority Action 2.2: Improve domestic capabilities to detect and analyze NPS by making resources and tools available for those responsible in this area.**

Belize improves its capabilities to detect and analyze NPS through the use of special investigative techniques, updated equipment, and acquisition of technology. In this sense, there is the gas-chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) and portable Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) instrument for field use.

**Priority Action 2.3: Design and implement, when appropriate, national regulatory tools to address the challenges posed by NPS and national controls on emerging illicit synthetic drugs and their precursor chemicals.**

Belize does not have regulatory frameworks or guidelines to identify and address the challenges posed by the onset of NPS and emerging synthetic drugs

**Priority Action 2.4: Promote participation in the Project ION Incident Communication System (IONICS) to facilitate real-time communication of incidents involving suspicious shipments of, trafficking in, or illicit manufacture or production of NPS, including fentanyl-related substances and other non-medical synthetic opioids and amphetamine derivatives.**

Belize does not participate in the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)'s Project ION (International Operations on NPS).

**Priority Action 2.5:** Develop innovative regulatory approaches, such as generic controls, analogue legislation, and temporary or emergency controls, to enhance national controls on synthetic opioids for non-medical use, and NPS, particularly when scheduling fentanyl-related substances by class.

Belize does not have innovative legislation or regulatory approaches to synthetic opioids for non-medical use or NPS.

**OBJECTIVE**  
**3**

**STRENGTHEN OR DEVELOP LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR THE EFFECTIVE MONITORING AND CONTROL OF ESSENTIAL CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES AND PRECURSORS TO PREVENT DIVERSION OF THESE SUBSTANCES TO THE MANUFACTURING OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND COUNTER ITS TRAFFICKING, INCLUDING PERIODICALLY UPDATING NATIONAL LISTS OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES.**

**Priority Action 3.1: Promote inter-agency coordination with industry to prevent diversion of controlled chemical substances.**

Belize has the National Drug Abuse Control Council as the competent national authority responsible for developing guides, codes of conduct, or other instruments to inform the industry and users in general of controlled chemical substances.

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

- Statutory Instrument #5 of 2014

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

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

Name of the competent national authority	Does it carry out regular inspections and audits?	Is it responsible for controlling domestic trade?	Does it consider the CICAD Model Regulations?
Ministry of Health & Wellness	Yes, yearly re-licensing inspections along with biannual routine inspections	Yes	Yes

**Priority Action 3.2: Conduct analyses, including through existing mechanisms of information exchange, on substances, their analogues, and precursors, which pose a threat to public health in member states, to identify substances for expedited international control.**

Belize does not carry out analyses that include the exchange of information through existing international mechanisms of substances, their analogs, and precursors, which pose a threat to public health.

**Priority Action 3.3:** Strengthen the existing international control system to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances, pharmaceutical products, and precursors used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, as well as interdiction to counter the trafficking of chemical substances.

Belize has Misuse of Drugs Act incorporating the control measures in Article 12, Paragraphs 8 and 9 of the 1988 United Nations Convention to prevent diversion of controlled chemical substances towards illicit activities.

**Priority Action 3.4:** Strengthen or develop appropriate domestic controls over precursors including measures to control the international trade in precursor chemicals and other controlled chemical substances, consistent with the framework established in the United Nations Drug Conventions, and law enforcement measures.

Belize has implemented the following control measures listed in Article 12, Paragraph 8 of the 1988 United Nations Convention:

Control measures	Yes	No
Control of all persons and enterprises engaged in the manufacture and distribution of controlled chemical substances	x	
Control, under license, the establishment and premises in which manufacture or distribution of controlled chemical substances may take place	x	
Require that licensees obtain a permit for manufacturing or distributing controlled chemical substances	x	
Prevent the accumulation of controlled chemical substances in the possession of manufacturers and distributors, in excess of the quantities required for the normal conduct of business and the prevailing market conditions	x	

The country has implemented the following control measures listed in Article 12, Paragraph 9 of the 1988 United Nations Convention:

Control measures	Yes	No
A system to monitor international trade in controlled chemical substances to facilitate the identification of suspicious transactions	x	
The monitoring system shall be used by manufacturers, importers, exporters, wholesalers, and retailers to inform the competent authorities of suspicious orders and transactions	x	
Any controlled substance is seized if there is sufficient evidence that it will be used in the illicit manufacture of narcotics or psychotropic substances	x	
The competent authorities are notified, as soon as possible, if there is reason to believe that the import, export, or transit of a substance is destined for the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances, including, in particular, information about the means of payment and any other essential elements which led to that belief	x	
Requirements to ensure that imports and exports are properly labelled and documented. Commercial documents such as invoices, cargo manifests, customs, transport, and other shipping documents must include the names of the substances, the quantity, and the name and address	x	

<p><b>of the exporter, the importer and, when available, the consignee. These documents are kept for a period of no less than two years and may be made available for inspection by competent authorities</b></p>		
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Belize complies with the request for information in Article 12, Paragraph 10 of the 1988 United Nations Convention.

**Priority Action 3.5: Promote participation in the Pre-Export Notification (PEN) Online system and Precursor Incident Communication System (PICS) to facilitate information exchange on controlled chemical substances.**

Belize uses the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)’s information system for pre-export notifications (PEN Online) of controlled chemical substances.

The country does not use the INCB’s Precursor Incident Communication System (PICS).

**Priority Action 3.6: Train relevant drug investigation, control and interdiction personnel and researchers on the identification and handling of precursors and other controlled chemical substances used in the illicit manufacture of drugs.**

Belize receives the following training for drug control personnel and for the identification and handling of controlled chemical substances:

Training Programs	Institution in charge (national or international)
Training on forensic testing of controlled substances provided U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Special Testing Lab	National Forensic Science Service and DEA/U.S. State Department International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Bureau (INL)
Participation in UNODC ICE exercises	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
DEA Advanced Precursor Training	DEA

**Priority Action 3.7: Allocate resources to acquire necessary equipment and supplies for the preliminary identification of substances, and the protective equipment required by personnel in charge of these tasks.**

In Belize there are budgetary mechanisms to ensure allocation of resources to acquire necessary equipment and supplies for the preliminary identification of substances and the protective equipment required by personnel in charge of these tasks. In this sense, the Government of Belize has an annual budget planning exercise for the National Forensic Science Service. In the Yearly Governmental Fiscal Budget allocations are made for the procurement of personal protective equipment, Coveralls both, Tyvex and Tychem.

**Priority Action 3.8:** Use, as appropriate, CICAD’s Model Regulations for the control of Chemical Substances Used in the Illicit Production of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (2019) in the formulation of national chemical control regulations.

Belize does not use the OAS/CICAD Model Regulations for the Control of Chemical Substances Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

**OBJECTIVE**

4

**ENSURE ADEQUATE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF SUBSTANCES SUBJECT TO INTERNATIONAL CONTROL FOR MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES, WHILE ALSO PREVENTING THEIR DIVERSION TOWARDS ILLICIT ACTIVITIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL CONVENTIONS.**

**Priority Action 4.1:** Streamline, in accordance with national legislation and international obligations, the process for issuing authorizations for national production, and to import and export controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes.

Belize has special processes for issuing authorizations for the import of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. The following table indicates how long it takes, on average, for an import authorization to be issued for medication containing narcotic or psychotropic products:

Product type	Average time to issue import permits	Average time to issue export permits
Narcotic or psychotropic raw materials for the manufacture of medicines	2-3 weeks	-
Medication containing narcotic or psychotropic drugs	2-3 weeks	-
Analytical patterns classified as narcotic or psychotropic	2-3 weeks	-
Medication classified as narcotic or psychotropic for the personal use of travelers entering or leaving the country	<10 working days	-

The country has an updated register of individuals or companies importing substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes.

**Priority Action 4.2:** Adopt measures, in accordance with national laws, to train competent authorities and health professionals on ensuring access to substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes.

Belize has awareness activities for competent national authorities and health professionals on the proper access to substances subject to international control solely for medical and scientific purposes. In this sense, during the routine annual license inspection for establishments that import or retail pharmaceuticals that includes controlled substances, the Inspectors ensure that these establishments are operating in accordance with the Misuse of Drugs Act regarding the importation, storage and distribution of controlled drugs.



**Priority Action 4.3: Improve access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes by addressing existing barriers, including those related to laws, regulations, and measures to promote access and build capacity for health care systems.**

Belize has Chapter 103 – Misuse of Drugs Act as its regulatory framework to govern the acquisition of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. In that sense, this Act defines which drugs are subject to international control and their regulations in addition to sample copies of the permits that are issued based on requests made for the importation of controlled drugs whether Narcotics or Psychotropics.

**OBJECTIVE**

5

**ADOPT OR STRENGTHEN CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DIVERSION OF CONTROLLED PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS CONTAINING NARCOTIC DRUGS AND/OR PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, AND THOSE CONTAINING PRECURSOR SUBSTANCES USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.**

**Priority Action 5.1:** Strengthen or implement control measures on pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or controlled psychoactive substances, to prevent their diversion for non-medical purposes, abuse, and trafficking.

Belize has an updated register of individuals and corporations handling pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances. In this sense, the register includes name of company, address, business type, and stated yearly quota.

The country issues licenses to manufacturers and distributors authorizing the handling of pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances.

Belize carries out regular inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances.

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

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

Type of Penalty	Year when it was last updated
Criminal	2011
Civil	2011
Administrative	2017

**Priority Action 5.3:** Strengthen national capacity and regional cooperation to prevent trade in and diversion of materials and equipment for illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including pill presses and encapsulating equipment.

Belize offers periodic training for personnel responsible for preventing trade in and diversion of materials and equipment for illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In this sense, an informative session is done yearly with the Customs and Excise personnel to inform them of the items that require third party approval from the Ministry of

Health and Wellness prior to importation, as well as a review of the importation requirements for precursor chemicals controlled via the SI #5 of 2014.

The country does not share information with other regional or global systems on the diversion of materials and equipment for illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

**Priority Action 5.4: Promote the incorporation of competent national authorities to the International Import and Export Authorization System (I2ES) of the International Narcotics Control Board, a secure online platform, ready to issue, load, and exchange expeditiously import and export authorizations of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical use, between countries.**

The Ministry of Health and Wellness of Belize uses the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)'s International Import and Export Authorization System (I2ES).

The country has received training on the INCB's I2ES.

**OBJECTIVE**

6

**STRENGTHEN OR DEVELOP SPECIFIC OPERATIONAL AND INTELLIGENCE GATHERING AND SHARING MECHANISMS TO DETECT METHODS USED BY CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE EXPLOITATION OF LAND, RIVERINE, MARITIME, AND AERIAL ROUTES.**

**Priority Action 6.1:** Train law enforcement personnel involved in drug investigations in specialized investigative techniques and intelligence collection, analysis, and operations, including through the use of existing information systems and intelligence data exchanges.

Belize participates in the following U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) sponsored periodic training programs for personnel involved in drug investigations in specialized investigative techniques and intelligence collection, analysis, and operations:

- Chemical Diversion and Precursor Chemical Investigations Course, May 2019
- Advanced Narcotics Investigations for Senior Officers Course, June 2021
- Narcotics Investigation Tactical Safety and Planning Course, August 2021

**Priority Action 6.2:** Enhance the capabilities of law enforcement agencies that investigate and counter drug trafficking and the crimes that facilitate and are associated with trafficking, such as corruption and money laundering, through ongoing training of the involved personnel.

Belize does not implement or participate in periodic training programs and other capacity-building activities to investigate and counter crimes associated with drug trafficking, such as corruption and money laundering.

**Priority Action 6.3:** Strengthen cooperation and the exchange of information among the domestic, regional, and international law enforcement agencies to carry out operations and investigations to counter drug trafficking and related crimes.

Belize does not have information gathering mechanisms to exchange intelligence information, at a domestic, regional, or international level, to detect routes and methods used by drug trafficking criminal organizations.

**Priority Action 6.4:** Promote and strengthen the exchange of information and intelligence on matters of drug interdiction and effective border control measures to prevent drug trafficking by land, river, sea, and air.

Belize does not have tools that promote and strengthen cooperation or the exchange of information and intelligence among domestic law enforcement agencies responsible for drug interdiction and effective border control.

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

Belize has a national information system on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on changing behaviors and modus operandi of criminal organizations. The agencies which provide information for the system are the Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center and CompStat.

The national information system is the Crime Information Management System.

**OBJECTIVE**  
**7**

**ESTABLISH, UPDATE, OR REINFORCE, AS APPROPRIATE, THE LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS IN THE AREAS OF PREVENTION, DETECTION, INVESTIGATION, PROSECUTION, AND CONTROL OF MONEY LAUNDERING DERIVED FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING, SUCH AS THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE (FATF).**

**Priority Action 7.1: Strengthen implementation of the legal, regulatory, and operational frameworks in the areas of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and control of money laundering associated with drug trafficking.**

Belize has strengthened the legislative frameworks to counter money laundering derived from drug trafficking. In this sense, the country has the Money Laundering and Terrorism (Prevention) Act (MLTPA) and the Financial Intelligence Unit Act.

**Priority Action 7.2: Develop and implement specialized ongoing training in areas of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and control of money laundering derived from drug trafficking, consistent with known and emerging risks.**

Belize has the following periodic training programs for officials and those in vulnerable sectors on prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of money laundering derived from drug trafficking:

- Training for law enforcement, intelligence and regulatory and supervisory staff members in the public sector is in response to needs as they arise, or to take advantage of potentially useful offerings by external institutions (e.g., The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime - UNODC's work to build capacity in combatting cash smuggling and trade-based money laundering). The country has also engaged with technical assistance providers and donor countries who are able to support capacity development targeted at building the capacity of the country to investigate and prosecute financial crimes as well as recover the proceeds of crimes. Some of these entities include but are not limited to the U.S. Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), U.S. Department of Treasury, UNODC, Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS), OAS CICAD, and the World Bank. The authorities have received training and undergone capacity building workshops on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT), combatting online child sexual abuse and exploitation, financial crime and migrant smuggling, financial investigations into wildlife crimes, financial investigative techniques, and asset recovery.

The Financial institutions and DNFBPs are required to provide ongoing AML/CFT training for their staff members, and to arrange for independent reviews of their AML/CFT regimes. On-site and desk reviews of reporting entities by supervisory authorities help to identify knowledge deficiencies, resulting in training requirements being included in reports

provided to entities at the conclusion of examinations.

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

Belize has protocols that enable the authorities to conduct financial and asset investigations parallel to drug trafficking investigations. In this sense, the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) has the power to conduct financial and asset investigations parallel to drug trafficking investigations. As the FIU has the statutory authority to request financial information by virtue of section 9 of the FIU Act (FIUA), parallel investigations are accomplished through working in collaboration with the Belize Police Department.

The FIU aids all investigative units of the Belize Police Department, including the Anti-Narcotics Unit by conducting underlying financial and asset investigations of subjects and providing tactical and operational analysis in that regard. Requests to pursue financial and asset investigations are made to the FIU who then vets them and, if appropriate, conducts the financial investigation. Presently, there is no written protocol in place governing this collaborative effort; however, the FIU does have in place a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Belize Police Department which provides for joint operations. The contents of the MOU are confidential; however, a copy of the press release that was circulated upon signing is available. The Director of the FIU is also empowered to conduct investigations into financial crimes on his own initiative per section 7 of the FIUA. As such, the FIU may spontaneously initiate its own financial and asset investigations.

Existing collaboration arrangements between the FIU and the Belize Police Department, enhanced by the existence of the Financial Crimes Working Group and facilitated by the intelligence leads produced by the FIU, and by the legislated ability of the FIU itself to investigate and prosecute financial crime, all contribute to the capacity to investigate and prosecute all predicate offences to ML/TF including drug trafficking, and to investigate and prosecute ML/TF as well.

**Priority Action 7.4: Strengthen interagency coordination and cooperation in relation to the development of national anti-money laundering strategies, including through coordinating committees and task forces.**

Belize has the following mechanisms allowing for inter-agency coordination and cooperation in the area of preventing and controlling money laundering:

- In 2013, provisions were added to Belize's Money Laundering and Terrorism (Prevention) Act (MLTPA) to create the National Anti-Money Laundering Committee (NAMLC) as a measure to strengthen domestic coordination and cooperation. The Committee is tasked, inter alia, with advising the Minister of Finance in relation to the detection and prevention

of money laundering, terrorist financing and the financing of proliferation. A complete list of the functions of NAMLC is included in section 77B of the MLTPA.

The following agencies consists of the present membership of NAMLC:

- The Director of the Financial Intelligence Unit, who sits as the Chair
- The Governor of the Central Bank of Belize
- The Supervisor of Insurance and Private Pensions
- The Director General of the Financial Services Commission, formerly the International Financial Services Commission
- The Solicitor General
- The Financial Secretary
- The Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry responsible for the Police Department
- The Commissioner of Police
- The Director General of the Belize Tax Service Department
- The Director of Public Prosecutions
- The Comptroller of Customs
- The Director of Immigration
- The procedures of NAMLC are prescribed in the National Anti-Money Laundering Committee Regulations, 2014

**Priority Action 7.5:** Strengthen the exchange of financial intelligence as related to money laundering, including through the standardization of information systems.

Belize has a Financial Intelligence Unit.

The country has information systems aimed at the investigation and prosecution of money laundering in analyzing cases deriving from drug trafficking. In this sense, The FIU is the central agency in Belize responsible for the receipt, analysis and dissemination of intelligence relating to financial crimes which include ML derived from drug trafficking. Certain institutions and persons, specifically financial institutions and DNFBPs are obligated to make reports to the FIU on transactions and attempted transactions that they suspect may be or is intended to be or derived from the money laundering, terrorism financing or a financial crime. These reports are considered suspicious transaction reports (STR). The FIU generates intelligence products based on these disclosures. Intelligence products driven by STRs, and the “Proceeds of Crime” database that is currently under development, together with access to information provided under the FIU Act and the MLTPA.



**Priority Action 7.6: Identify and analyze money laundering threats to mitigate risks through public policies that strengthen the regime for preventing and countering money laundering, in accordance with applicable international instruments.**

Belize has mechanisms for analyzing money laundering risks, in accordance with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations. In this sense, utilization of a World Bank tool for preparing National Risk Assessments. The tool has been updated to include virtual assets and virtual assets services providers, and to expand coverage on non-profit organizations since it was first used to prepare the current (2020) NRA; and the updated version will be used to update the NRA.

**Priority Action 7.7: Strengthen partnerships with the financial industries to identify and investigate illicit transactions and money laundering operations related to the proceeds of drug trafficking activities.**

Belize has established partnerships with the financial industries to identify and investigate illicit transactions and money laundering operations related to the proceeds of drug trafficking activities. In this sense, no formal partnerships are required since all financial institutions must be licensed and regulated either by the Central Bank of Belize, the Office of the Supervisor of Insurance and Private Pensions, or by the Financial Services Commission. All entities are required to follow directives involving Know Your Customer (KYC), Customer Due Diligence (CDD) and having mechanisms in place to detect and report suspicious transactions as well as the other AML/CFT requirements reporting entities as set out in the MLTPA.

**OBJECTIVE**

8

**ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN AGENCIES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND DISPOSITION OF SEIZED AND/OR FORFEITED ASSETS IN CASES OF DRUG TRAFFICKING, MONEY LAUNDERING, AND OTHER RELATED CRIMES, IN LINE WITH APPLICABLE INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND IN LINE WITH RELEVANT STANDARDS, SUCH AS THE FATF RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON PREVENTIVE FREEZING OF ASSETS.**

**Priority Action 8.1: Establish and/or strengthen, as appropriate, national entities responsible for the administration and disposition of assets seized and/or forfeited in cases of drug trafficking, money laundering, and other related crimes.**

**Priority Action 8.2: Establish specialized agencies and appropriate mechanisms for the transparent administration of seized and forfeited assets, in accordance with national laws and international standards.**

Belize has the Director of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) or Director of Public Prosecutions as the designated competent authorities responsible for the administration and disposition of seized and forfeited assets, through the Money Laundering and Terrorism (Prevention) Act (MLTPA).

The country has the following regulations to facilitate the accountability and transparency of the management of seized and forfeited assets:

- Standard civil service rules for the management of Government assets shall apply. Additionally, as it concerns property that has been forfeited and confiscated in accordance with the MLTPA, sections 50, 75 and 79 of the MLTPA apply. In particular, section 79 and 80 also provides that the Fund should be annually audited, and an annual report should be made to the National Assembly and available publicly concerning the following:
  - a) The amounts credited to the Fund
  - b) The investments made with the amounts credited to the Fund
  - c) The payments made from the Fund, including the specific purpose for which each payment was made and to whom it was made

**Priority Action 8.3: Develop and implement specialized, ongoing training programs for law enforcement officials charged with the administration and disposition of seized and forfeited assets.**

Belize does not offer nor participate in specialized, periodic training programs for the management and disposition of seized and forfeited assets.

**Priority Action 8.4:** In accordance with each country’s constitutional principles, apply legislative and regulatory measures to facilitate the seizure, forfeiture and management of assets, instruments, or products of illicit drug-related activities.

Belize has the following legislation in accordance with international conventions and treaties, to facilitate the seizure, forfeiture, and management of assets and instruments derived from drug trafficking and other related crimes:

- The applicable legislation includes the MLTPA and the MDA. While arrangements exist for the seizure and forfeiture, the arrangements for asset management (particularly during a pre-trial period when assets might only be “detained”) are not adequately developed; work is currently underway to remedy the deficiencies as well as to provide for court action under civil procedures

**OBJECTIVE**

9

**DESIGN, IMPLEMENT, AND STRENGTHEN COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED NATIONAL PROGRAMS TO REDUCE THE ILLICIT CULTIVATION, PRODUCTION AND MANUFACTURE OF DRUGS THROUGH THE ADOPTION OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES, SUCH AS COMPREHENSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT, ENHANCED LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PARTICULAR NEEDS OF SUB-NATIONAL REGIONS OF EACH COUNTRY, RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS.**

**Priority Action 9.1: Design, implement, and update national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit cultivation, production, and manufacture of drugs.**

Belize has not designed, implemented, or updated national policies or programs to prevent and decrease illicit cultivation, production, or manufacture of drugs.

**Priority Action 9.2: Establish budgetary mechanisms to ensure sufficient and consistent allocation of resources to counternarcotics programs.**

Belize does not have direct budgetary allocations towards financing counternarcotics programs.

**Priority Action 9.3: Promote supply reduction measures that take into account licit traditional uses, whenever there is historical evidence of such uses, as well as environmental protection.**

Belize does not take into account the licit traditional use in designing and implementing policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs.

The country does not include environmental protection measures in its policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs.

**Priority Action 9.4: Strengthen interagency cooperation to provide a comprehensive response against the illicit production of drugs, including collaboration among the public and private sectors and the international community.**

Belize has not established mechanisms for interinstitutional cooperation between public and private institutions to provide a comprehensive response to the illicit production of drugs.

**Priority Action 9.5:** Support supply reduction programs with crime prevention initiatives, in cooperation with civil society and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to address social and economic risk factors.

Belize does not support the development of supply reduction programs with drug-related crime prevention initiatives that address social and economic risk factors.

**OBJECTIVE**

10

**DESIGN, IMPLEMENT OR STRENGTHEN LONG-TERM ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, INCLUDING RURAL AND URBAN ALTERNATIVES, COMPREHENSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, AND, AS APPROPRIATE, PREVENTIVE ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICIES, LAWS AND NEEDS OF EACH COUNTRY, AS APPROPRIATE, WHILE RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS.**

**Priority Action 10.1: Design and implement comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, while respecting human rights.**

Belize has not designed or implemented comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs or preventive alternative development as part of the strategies to control and reduce illicit crops.

**Priority Action 10.2: Exchange experiences and best practices in the design and implementation of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate.**

Not applicable.

**Priority Action 10.3: Promote and disseminate the results of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, and the benefits they provide to affected communities.**

Not applicable.

**Priority Action 10.4: Design and/or strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems for comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs aimed at reducing illicit crop cultivation and improving the well-being of communities, through the use of indicators that measure programs' effectiveness.**

Not applicable.

**Priority Action 10.5: Strengthen state presence in areas affected by or at risk of illicit drug cultivation, consistent with the circumstances of each member state.**

Not applicable.

**Priority Action 10.6:** Promote, in accordance with national realities, the participation of local communities and relevant organizations in the development of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, taking into account their needs and capabilities.

Not applicable.

**Priority Action 10.7:** Promote partnerships and innovative cooperative initiatives with the private sector, civil society, and international financial institutions to spur investment and job creation in areas and communities affected by or at-risk of illicit drug cultivation and production, and share related practices, lessons learned, expertise, and skills.

Not applicable.

**OBJECTIVE**

**11**

**DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT PLANS AND/OR PROGRAMS TO MITIGATE AND REDUCE THE IMPACT OF ILLICIT CROPS AND DRUG PRODUCTION ON THE ENVIRONMENT, IN COOPERATION WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND NATIONAL POLICIES OF MEMBER STATES.**

**Priority Action 11.1: Conduct research and studies on the environmental impact of illicit crop cultivation and illicit production of drugs.**

Belize has not carried out, during the evaluation period (2019-2022), research or studies to determine the characteristics and extent of the environmental impact caused by the illicit cultivation of crops and illicit drug production.

**Priority Action 11.2: Design and implement specific research-based plans to mitigate the environmental impact of illicit crop cultivation and drug production, with the participation of local communities.**

Not applicable.

**Priority Action 11.3: Promote and strengthen the use of environmental management tools, as appropriate.**

Not applicable.



## OBJECTIVE

12

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

**Priority Action 12.1:** Develop and implement local approaches for controlling micro-trafficking and related crimes.

**Priority Action 12.4:** Encourage the development and implementation of comprehensive intervention strategies to counter local illicit distribution and sale of drugs.

Belize has not developed or implemented approaches for controlling micro-trafficking or related crimes, that take into account effects on public health, the economy, social cohesion, or citizen security.

**Priority Action 12.2:** Promote the interagency exchange of information at the national level to better understand the scope and adverse effects of small-scale drug trafficking, including on health, society, the economy, and security.

Belize does not promote the interagency exchange of information on the effects of small-scale drug trafficking in the health, social, economic or security sectors.

**Priority Action 12.3:** Promote programs and strategies to prevent the exploitation of at-risk populations by drug trafficking networks, at the national and international level.

Belize has the following programs that prevent the exploitation of at-risk populations affected by drug trafficking networks, at the national and international level:

- Restore Belize Program
- Conscious Youth Development Programme (CYDP)

## EVALUATIVE SUMMARY

### **Objective 1**

**Develop and/or strengthen national- and regional-level interdiction capacity, as well as the capacity to reduce the illicit cultivation, production, trafficking, and distribution of plant-based and synthetic drugs through the use of comprehensive and balanced programs in accordance with the realities of each country's domestic legislation and respect for human rights.**

CICAD notes that Belize participates in ongoing training programs for personnel to detect, investigate, and dismantle laboratories or facilities used in the illicit manufacture of drugs for personnel involved in interdiction operations; however, the country does not have protocols or procedures to detect, investigate, or dismantle clandestine laboratories or facilities used for the processing or illicit manufacture of drugs. CICAD also observes that the agencies in charge of drug control in Belize do not implement policies that promote gender mainstreaming. Additionally, CICAD notes with concern that the country does not have programs or strategies for land, maritime, riverine or aerial interdiction of drugs through monitoring, inspections, or checkpoints. CICAD observes that Belize has laws providing for the use of specialized investigation tools and techniques to prevent and reduce drug trafficking. However, CICAD notes that the country does not have updated assessments or studies to identify new trends and threats related to drug trafficking and related crimes. On the other hand, CICAD observes that Belize implements actions to identify organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes; however, it does not carry out inter-institutional collaboration or cooperation mechanisms to coordinate activities aimed at dismantling organized crime groups involved in these crimes. Furthermore, it has not participated in operations or investigations with other countries aimed at dismantling these groups. CICAD notes that the country has an institution that is responsible for and capable of analyzing chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances (NPS) and participates in ongoing training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of these substances. However, CICAD observes that Belize does not have mechanisms to facilitate or share information at the national level across government counterparts, as well as with global repositories on these substances. CICAD also notes that the country does not have mechanisms to investigate or disrupt drug trafficking through the Internet. CICAD further observes that the country does not have partnerships and information exchange mechanisms with private sector entities to prevent access to materials and services exploited for illicit drug trafficking purposes; however, it does use tools and resources of the INCB to strengthen cooperation with the private sector to prevent the diversion of chemicals. CICAD also notes that Belize does not have national authorities with the appropriate budget, human and material resources for the forfeiture, seizure, and management of assets, tools, or products related to illicit drug markets nor do its competent personnel receive ongoing training on this area.

### **Objective 2**

**Strengthen national measures to address the challenges posed by NPS and illicit synthetic drugs, and the threat of fentanyl-related substances, non-medical synthetic opioids, and illicit amphetamine derivatives.**

CICAD observes that Belize does not have an early warning system (EWS) to identify or trace new psychoactive substances (NPS), illicit synthetic drugs, or the threat of fentanyl-related substances, non-medical synthetic opioids, illicit amphetamine derivatives, and other substances subject to international control. On the other hand, CICAD notes with satisfaction that the country improves its capabilities to detect and analyze NPS through the use of special investigative techniques, updated equipment, and acquisition of technology. However, CICAD observes that Belize does not have regulatory frameworks or guidelines to identify and address the challenges posed by the onset of NPS and emerging synthetic drugs. CICAD also notes that the country does not participate in the INCB's Project ION. Further, CICAD observes that Belize does not have innovative legislation or regulatory approaches to synthetic opioids for non-medical use or NPS.

### **Objective 3**

**Strengthen or develop legal and institutional frameworks for the effective monitoring and control of essential chemical substances and precursors to prevent diversion of these substances to the manufacturing of illicit drugs and counter its trafficking, including periodically updating national lists of controlled chemical substances.**

CICAD notes with satisfaction that Belize has a competent national authority responsible for developing guides, codes of conduct, and other instruments to inform the industry and users in general of controlled chemical substances and has developed such instruments. CICAD further observes that the country has an updated register of all individuals and corporations handling controlled chemical substances, and its competent authorities carry out regular inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle these substances. However, CICAD notes that Belize does not carry out analyses that include the exchange of information through existing international mechanisms of substances, their analogs, and precursors, which pose a threat to public health. On the other hand, CICAD observes with satisfaction that Belize has legislation incorporating the control measures in Article 12 of the 1988 United Nations Convention to prevent diversion of controlled chemical substances towards illicit activities, which includes all the control measures listed in Paragraphs 8 and 9 and incorporates the requests for information set forth in Paragraph 10. CICAD notes that the country uses the INCB's PEN Online system to issue pre-export notifications of controlled chemical substances but does not use the PICS system. CICAD further observes that Belize receives training for drug control personnel and for the identification and handling of controlled chemical substances. CICAD also notes that the country has budgetary mechanisms to ensure allocation of resources to acquire necessary equipment and supplies for the preliminary identification of substances and the protective equipment required by personnel in charge of these tasks. However, CICAD observes that Belize does not use the OAS/CICAD Model Regulations for the Control of Chemical

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

#### **Objective 4**

**Ensure adequate availability and accessibility of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes, while also preventing their diversion towards illicit activities, in accordance with international drug control conventions.**

CICAD notes that Belize has special processes for issuing authorizations for the import of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes and that it has an updated register of individuals or companies importing substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. Additionally, CICAD observes that the country has awareness activities for competent national authorities and health professionals on proper access to substances subject to international control solely for medical and scientific purposes. CICAD also notes that the country has a regulatory framework to govern the acquisition of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes.

#### **Objective 5**

**Adopt or strengthen control measures to prevent diversion of controlled pharmaceutical products containing narcotic drugs and/or psychotropic substances, and those containing precursor substances used in the production of controlled substances.**

CICAD notes that Belize has an updated register of individuals and corporations handling pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances, issues licenses to manufacturers and distributors of these products, and it carries out regular inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle them. Additionally, CICAD observes that the country has criminal, civil, and administrative penalties for infringements or violations by individuals or corporations that handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances. CICAD further notes that Belize offers periodic training for personnel in charge of preventing the trade and diversion of materials and equipment for the illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; however, it does not share information with other regional or global systems on this matter. On the other hand, CICAD observes that the country uses the INCB's I2ES system and has received training in its use.

#### **Objective 6**

**Strengthen or develop specific operational and intelligence gathering and sharing mechanisms to detect methods used by criminal organizations, including the exploitation of land, riverine, maritime, and aerial routes.**

CICAD notes that Belize participates in periodic training programs for personnel involved in drug investigations in specialized investigative techniques and intelligence collection, analysis, and

operations. However, CICAD observes that the country does not implement or participate in periodic training programs or other capacity-building activities to investigate and counter crimes associated with drug trafficking, such as corruption and money laundering. Additionally, CICAD notes that Belize does not have information gathering mechanisms to exchange intelligence information, at a domestic, regional, or international level, to detect routes and methods used by drug trafficking criminal organizations. CICAD also observes that the country does not have tools that promote and strengthen cooperation or the exchange of information and intelligence among domestic law enforcement agencies responsible for drug interdiction and effective border control. However, CICAD notes that Belize has a national information system on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on changing behaviors and modus operandi of criminal organizations.

### **Objective 7**

**Establish, update, or reinforce, as appropriate, the legislative and institutional frameworks in the areas of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and control of money laundering derived from drug trafficking, such as the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).**

CICAD notes with satisfaction that Belize has strengthened its legislative frameworks to counteract money laundering derived from drug trafficking. Furthermore, CICAD observes that the country has periodic training programs for authorities and those in vulnerable sectors on prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of money laundering derived from drug trafficking. Additionally, CICAD notes that Belize has protocols that enable authorities to conduct financial and asset investigations parallel to drug trafficking investigations. CICAD also observes that the country has mechanisms allowing for interagency coordination and cooperation in the area of preventing and controlling money laundering. CICAD notes that Belize has a Financial Intelligence Unit and has information systems aimed at the investigation and prosecution of money laundering in analyzing cases deriving from drug trafficking. CICAD further observes that the country has mechanisms for analyzing money laundering risks, in accordance with FATF recommendations. Additionally, CICAD notes that Belize has established partnerships with financial industries to identify and investigate illicit transactions and money laundering operations derived from activities related to drug trafficking.

### **Objective 8**

**Establish and/or strengthen agencies for the administration and disposition of seized and/or forfeited assets in cases of drug trafficking, money laundering, and other related crimes, in line with applicable international law, and in line with relevant standards, such as the FATF recommendations and the recommendations on preventive freezing of assets.**

CICAD notes with satisfaction that Belize has competent authorities for the administration of seized and forfeited assets and has regulations that facilitate the accountability and transparency of the management of seized and forfeited assets. However, CICAD observes that the country

does not offer or participate in specialized, periodic training programs for the management and disposition of seized and forfeited assets. On the other hand, CICAD notes that Belize has legislation, in accordance with international conventions and treaties, to facilitate the seizure, forfeiture, and management of assets and instruments derived from drug trafficking and other related crimes.

### **Objective 9**

**Design, implement, and strengthen comprehensive and balanced national programs to reduce the illicit cultivation, production and manufacture of drugs through the adoption of effective measures, such as comprehensive and sustainable alternative development, enhanced law enforcement cooperation, and other appropriate policies and programs, taking into account the particular needs of sub-national regions of each country, respecting human rights.**

CICAD notes that Belize has not designed, implemented, or updated national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit cultivation, production, and manufacture of drugs. Furthermore, CICAD observes that the country does not direct budgetary allocations towards financing counternarcotics programs. CICAD also notes that Belize does not take into account licit traditional uses when designing and implementing policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs nor does it include environmental protection measures in these policies and programs. Additionally, CICAD observes that the country has not established mechanisms for interinstitutional cooperation between public and private institutions to provide a comprehensive response to the illicit production of drugs. Moreover, CICAD notes that Belize does not support the development of supply reduction programs with drug-related crime prevention initiatives that address social and economic risk factors.

### **Objective 10**

**Design, implement or strengthen long-term alternative development programs, including rural and urban alternatives, comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, and, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, in accordance with the policies, laws and needs of each country, as appropriate, while respecting human rights.**

CICAD notes that Belize has not designed or implemented comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs or preventive alternative development, therefore, the priority actions of this objective are not applicable.

### **Objective 11**

**Design and implement plans and/or programs to mitigate and reduce the impact of illicit crops and drug production on the environment, in cooperation with local communities and national policies of member states.**

CICAD notes that Belize has not carried out, during the evaluation period (2019-2022), research

or studies to determine the characteristics and extent of the environmental impact caused by the illicit cultivation of crops and illicit drug production, therefore, the priority actions of this objective are not applicable.

### **Objective 12**

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

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







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