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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*

Ecuador

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

2022



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ECUADOR

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.

Ecuador does not implement or participate 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.

The country has 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 Ecuador 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.

Ecuador has programs or strategies for land, riverine, maritime, and aerial interdiction, through monitoring, inspections, or checkpoints.

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

Ecuador has regulations set forth in the Constitution of the Republic and the Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code providing for the use of specialized investigation tools and techniques to prevent and reduce drug trafficking.

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.

Ecuador has updated assessments and 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.

Ecuador implements actions to identify organized crime groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes, such as the characterization of organized crime groups as part of the activities of the Binational Annual Operational Plans, as well as the Transnational Crime Threat Assessment Organized in Latin America (IDEAL) and its platforms for entering information on organized criminal groups.

The country carries out inter-institutional collaboration and cooperation mechanisms to coordinate activities aimed at dismantling organized crime groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes. In this sense, the David 2012 System was established as an online software corresponding to the Ministry of the Interior and the National Police, with access via token, storing digitized documents from 2010 onward (1,145,611 crime reports). As a real-time web application, the database is used to conduct criminological analysis, enabling statistical data to be stored and represented graphically or referentially through cross-referencing the following databases: crimes (Prosecutor's Office), Homicides and Murders (National Directorate for the Investigation of Crimes Against Life, Violent Deaths, Disappearances, Kidnapping and Extortion - DINASED), Micro-trafficking (National Anti-Narcotics Directorate), National Traffic Control and Road Safety Agency (ANCTSV), Detainees (National Directorate of Judicial Police), Decentralization Model (District and Circuit Decentralization Project), Police Personnel (General Personnel Directorate), and Logistics (Directorate General of Logistics). Additionally, information from emergency calls (ECU-911), Web Police, and other systems will be incorporated, enabling the organization, interpretation, and evaluation of data for generating police and public security policy interventions up to decentralized levels (by zone, subzone, district, circuit, and subcircuit).

In addition, in the National Plan for the Comprehensive Prevention and Control of the Socioeconomic Phenomenon of Drugs 2017-2021, in point 4.6 entitled "Intersectoral Coordination for the Plan Execution," Pilar 2—"Supply Reduction"—mentions several institutions involved in reducing the drug supply and preventing production. Moreover, the National Plan for Comprehensive Prevention and Control of the Socio-Economic Phenomenon of Drugs 2017-2021, in point 4.6 "Intersectoral Articulations for the execution of the Plan", Axis 2 "Supply Reduction", mentions several institutions involved in reducing the supply and preventing the illicit production of drugs. Likewise, the country maintains, through the National Directorate of Anti-Drug Investigations, the Anti-Narcotics Incident Record Form (FRIA) system, which allows the registration of all anti-narcotics incidents related to illicit drug trafficking, money laundering and chemical precursors, carried out by the National Police of Ecuador and other control entities, initiating anti-narcotics investigation processes that are carried out in coordination with the General Secretary of the State.

Ecuador has participated in operations and investigations in cooperation with other countries aimed at dismantling organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes, such as the Orion international naval campaign and the operations Reappearance II, Great Impact 81, and Rescue Ecuador Great Impact 96.

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.

Ecuador has the Legal Medicine and Forensic Science Service and the National Directorate of Police Technical Investigation as the institutions responsible for, and capable of, analyzing chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances (NPS).

The country participates in ongoing training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including NPS, such as those offered by Operation Azure of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's (UNODC) global CRIMJUST program.

Ecuador does not have mechanisms to facilitate or share information at the national level across relevant governmental counterparts, as well as with global repositories on chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical 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.

Ecuador 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.

Ecuador has partnerships and information exchange mechanisms with private sector entities to prevent access to materials and services exploited for illicit drug trafficking purposes. In this sense, the country has a Code of Conduct for the Responsible Management of Substances Subject

to Control and Surveillance, prepared in conjunction with the industrial sector that handles said substances, which from the beginning of 2019 to the end of 2021, has been signed by 222 companies that commit to designate a contact person, implement internal control measures and mechanisms, and report suspicious or unusual activities.

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, *Agrocalidad*, through the Agricultural Input Registry Office and the Laboratories Office, coordinates the procedures for controlling medicines for veterinary use, together with the INCB, because certain medicines have a tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) level greater than or equal to one. Additionally, permits are granted based on medication imports by private companies.

For its part, the Ministry of Government used the “Quick Guide: Preparation and Application of a Voluntary Code of Practice for the Chemical Industry Formalized Through a Memorandum of Understanding between a Government and the Private Sector” and the INCB Guidelines to develop a voluntary code of practice for the chemical industry.

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

Ecuador has a national authority with an adequate budget, human and material resources for the administration of products related to illicit drug markets, such as narcotic drugs, psychotropic drugs, chemical precursors and specific chemicals.

The country’s competent personnel receive ongoing training for the forfeiture, seizure, and management of assets, tools, or products related to illicit drug markets, through training workshops organized by the Ministry of the Interior, the Undersecretary for Control and Administration of Controlled Scheduled Substances, the Directorate for the Control and Administration of Controlled Scheduled Substances and the Program for the Safe Management and Elimination of Seized Drugs and Chemicals (GLOU54) of the UNODC.

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.

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

Ecuador does not improve its capabilities to detect and analyze NPS through the use of special investigative techniques, updated equipment, and/or acquisition of technology

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.

Ecuador 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.

Ecuador participates in Project ION (International Operations on NPS) of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). The following institutions function as focal points:

- Department of Control of Scheduled Substances Subject to Control of the Ministry of Government
- National Anti-Drug Investigation Bureau of the National Police
- National Customs Service of Ecuador (SENAE)
- Correos del Ecuador (in liquidation)

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.

Ecuador does not have innovative legislation or a regulatory approach to synthetic opioids for non-medical use and 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.

Ecuador has the Plant and Animal Health Regulation and Control Agency (AGROCALIDAD), the Ministry of the Interior and the National Sanitary Regulation, Control and Surveillance Agency (ARCSA), as competent national authorities responsible for developing guides, codes of conduct, and other instruments to inform the industry and users in general of controlled chemical substances.

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

- Code of Conduct for the responsible management of substances subject to control and surveillance
- Guidelines for applying the Code of Conduct for the responsible management of substances subject to control and surveillance
- Manual for registering companies and products for veterinary use

Ecuador 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 presented in the following table:

Name of the competent authority	Conducts regular inspections and audits?	Responsible for controlling internal commerce?	Incorporates the CICAD model regulations?
Ministry of the Government	Monthly	Yes	No
ARCSA	Annually	Yes	No

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.

Ecuador carries out analyses that include the exchange of information through existing international mechanisms of substances, their analogs, and precursors, which pose a threat to public health. In this sense, the coordination of records management for livestock supplies and other substances with legal uses is carried out jointly by Agrocalidad and the Ministry of Government, with support from the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). Likewise, experiences are exchanged during bilateral meetings, in accordance with the action plans established by the Mixed Committees.

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.

Ecuador has the following legislation 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:

- Organic Law for the Comprehensive Prevention of the Socioeconomic Phenomenon of Drugs and the Regulation and Control of the Use of Scheduled Substances Subject to Supervision
- General regulations of the Organic Law for the Comprehensive Prevention of the Socioeconomic Phenomenon of Drugs and the Regulation and Control of the Use of Scheduled Substances Subject to Supervision
- Regulations for the control and administration of scheduled substances subject to control

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.

Ecuador has incorporated the following control measures listed in Article 12, Paragraph 8 of the 1988 United Nations Convention into its legislation:

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 incorporated the following control measures listed in Article 12, Paragraph 9 of the 1988 United Nations Convention into its legislation:

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 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.	X	

Ecuador requests the information set forth in Article 12, Paragraph 10 of the 1988 United Nations Convention.

Likewise, the country has a registry of technical representatives as an additional measure of control of chemical precursors.

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.

Ecuador uses the INCB's information system for pre-export notifications (PEN Online) of controlled chemical substances

The country does not use the INCB 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.

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

Training Programs:	Institution responsible (national or foreign)
Diploma in Control and Supervision of Chemical Substances	International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) Office of the United States Embassy in Quito, Ecuador, through the United States-Colombia Action Plan (USCAP)

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 Ecuador there are no 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.

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.

Ecuador 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.

Ecuador has special processes for issuing authorizations for the national production, import, and export of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. The time it takes, on average, to issue an import or export authorization is presented in the following table:

Product type	Average time to issue import permits	Average time to issue export permits
Narcotic or psychotropic raw materials for the preparation of medicines	8 hours	8 hours
Medications containing narcotic or psychotropic drugs	7 business days	7 business days
Analytical patterns classified as narcotic or psychotropic	8 hours	8 hours
Medications classified as narcotics or psychotropics for the personal use of travelers entering or leaving the country	7 business days	7 business days

The country has an updated register or database of individuals and/or companies importing and exporting 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.

Ecuador has the following training and 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:

- The Ministry of Government has accessed training activities through the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) e-learning system
- The National Agency of Health Regulation, Control and Surveillance (ARCSA) has received

training on good practices for pharmacies and medicine cabinets, including on managing drugs subject to control and on good manufacturing practices, including the management of drugs subject to control

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.

Ecuador has the following regulatory framework governing the acquisition of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes:

- General regulations of the Organic Law for the Comprehensive Prevention of the Socioeconomic Phenomenon of Drugs and the Regulation and Control of the Use of Scheduled Substances Subject to Supervision
- Resolution ARCSA-DE-2021-006-AKRG, Technical Sanitary Regulations for the regulation and control of medicines that contain scheduled substances subject to control.

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.

Ecuador has an updated register of individuals and corporations handling pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances. In this sense, Agrocalidad, together with the General Coordination of Registries of Agricultural Inputs, works with suppliers of medicines for veterinary use. In this context, the institution has individual records for each marketing permit applicant, thus maintaining databases that contribute to the execution of daily activities.

For its part, the National Agency of Health Regulation, Control and Surveillance (ARCSA) reports that, according to Ecuadorian regulations, all establishments that produce, import, market, distribute, and/or store medicines containing scheduled substances subject to control must be registered. The information provided must include: the address of the establishment, representatives (technical legal and warehouse manager), and a list of medications handled. This information must be kept up to date.

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

Ecuador 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.

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

Sanction type	Year of the most recent update
Criminal	2016
Administrative	2016

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

Ecuador offers periodic training programs for personnel responsible for preventing trade in and diversion of materials and equipment for illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In this sense, the country carries out an annual training plan for qualified pharmaceutical establishments on topics including:

- Good practices for pharmacies and medicine cabinets, where the management of drugs subject to control is included
- Good storage, distribution, and transportation practices
- Good practices for manufacture, where the management of drugs subject to control is included

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.

In Ecuador, the ARCSA uses the International Narcotics Control Board's (INCB) International Import and Export Authorization System (I2ES).

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

OBJECTIVE

6

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

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.

Ecuador participates in periodic training programs for personnel involved in drug investigations in specialized investigative techniques and intelligence collection, analysis, and operations, such as those offered within the framework of Operation Azure of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) CRIMJUST global program.

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.

Ecuador implements periodic training programs or other capacity-building activities to investigate and counter crimes associated with drug trafficking, such as corruption and money laundering. In this sense, as a measure to prevent the crime of money laundering and the financing of crimes, the Financial and Economic Analysis Unit (UAFE) conducts the following programs:

- Program to strengthen the implementation of the Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) initiative of UNODC. This initiative operates at the air borders of Quito and Guayaquil. Its main purpose is to establish a space in which the border operations groups (INTERPOL, Antinarcotics, Human Trafficking, Migration, and the National Customs Service of Ecuador - SENA) can work together to facilitate cooperation and exchange of information
- Program to promote the Binational Security Plan with Colombia. This plan is led by the Ministry of Defense in conjunction with several national institutions
- Cross-Border Cash Control Training Program at air and land borders
- Training Program under an agreement with the United States Department of the Treasury

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.

Ecuador has information gathering mechanisms to exchange intelligence information, at a domestic, regional, and international level, to detect routes and methods used by drug trafficking criminal organizations, such as mechanisms for coordination, exchange of information and

cooperation between police and military establishments, derived from the Binational Annual Operational Plans (POAB) signed with Colombia and Peru. Similarly, the permanent presence of an officer of the Ecuadorian Armed Forces is maintained at the International Maritime Center for Drug Trafficking Analysis (CIMCON), located in Cartagena, Colombia, for coordination and communication with other states, as well as the study of the phenomenon from a regional perspective. In addition, the country analyzes unusual and unjustified economic operations or transactions, together with the financial intelligence information it receives through the Egmont Group, and alerts the State Attorney General's Office to initiate a possible investigation.

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.

Ecuador has tools that promote and strengthen cooperation and the exchange of information and intelligence among domestic law enforcement agencies responsible for drug interdiction and effective border control. In this sense, the actions taken in the framework of the intelligence communities, instruments of inter-agency cooperation of the Sectorial Security Cabinet, and the protocol of support for the national maritime authority from the Maritime Police by the National Police are highlighted.

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.

Ecuador does not have 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).

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.

Ecuador has a regulatory framework to combat money laundering derived from illicit drug trafficking through the Organic Law for Preventing, Detecting, and Eradicating the Crime of Money Laundering and the Financing of Crimes of 2016, amended in August of 2021.

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.

Ecuador has periodic training program(s) for officials and those in vulnerable sectors on prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of money laundering derived from drug trafficking, which are provided by the Financial and Economic Analysis Unit (UAFE) School of Continuing Education (SCE), created in September 2021.

The EFC of the Financial and Economic Analysis Unit has provided training aimed at citizens in general and at the following economic sectors:

- Institutions of the national financial system
- Administrators of funds and trusts/fiduciary businesses
- Insurance sector institutions
- Stock market institutions (stock exchanges and broker-dealers)
- Automotive dealers
- Traders and marketers of jewelry, metals, and precious stones
- Funds transfer and delivery companies
- Real estate and construction companies
- Political parties and national political groups
- National and international money transfer and currency and valuables moving companies, among others

The programs are aimed at reporting entities, regulatory agencies, competent control and monitoring entities (National Police, National Customs Service of Ecuador, Internal Revenue Service) and Complementary Units. Training is carried out virtually in real time and in person. For example:

- Program on money laundering and the financing of crimes, and their occurrences in the country for public officials and complementary organizations
- Training program for training prior to qualification as regular and/or alternate compliance officer for regulated entities
- Training program on due diligence aimed at compliance officers from different sectors.
- Guide for preparing the manual on preventing the crime of money laundering and the financing of crimes for regulated entities
- Training programs on responsibility for unusual and unjustified transaction reports (UUTR)
- Training programs on responsibility for reports on transactions that exceed the legal limit (RTELL)
- Best practices for anti-money laundering and the financing of terrorism regulations
- Training program for public servants on the fight against corruption

Training sessions are frequently imparted through "Webinars" offered by both the UAFE and international institutions and organizations on issues related to anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism.

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

Ecuador has protocols that enable the authorities to conduct financial and asset investigations parallel to drug trafficking investigations. As stated in the Organic Law for Preventing, Detecting, and Eradicating the Crime of Money Laundering and the Financing of Crimes, the UAFE will collaborate with the Prosecutor's Office and the competent jurisdictional bodies, when they require it, by providing all information needed to investigate, prosecute, and try money laundering and crime financing offenses.

In accordance with the General Regulations of the Organic Law for Preventing, Detecting, and Eradicating the Crime of Money Laundering and the Financing of Crimes, the UAFE must provide the State Attorney General's Office with, in writing and confidentially, the UUTR corresponding to the amounts, frequency, or recipient that do not match with the economic profile or habitual behavior or whose origin or destination cannot be justified.

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.

Ecuador has mechanisms allowing for inter-agency coordination and cooperation in the area of preventing and controlling money laundering. According to the Organic Law for Preventing, Detecting, and Eradicating the Crime of Money Laundering and the Financing of Crimes, in its Art 12, part d, the functions of the Financial and Economic Analysis Unit must include "Coordinating,

promoting, and executing cooperation programs with similar international organizations, as well as with related national units to, within the framework of their powers, exchange general or specific information related to money laundering and crime financing; as well as execute joint actions through cooperation agreements throughout the national territory;”

The UAFE has recently signed several inter-agency cooperation agreements, described below:

- On September 17, 2021, an inter-agency cooperation agreement was signed between the Superintendence of Banks and UAFE for the purpose of cooperation, collaboration and mutual aid, aimed at strengthening the financial system’s money laundering prevention system
- On October 14, 2021, UAFE and Superintendence of Popular and Solidarity Economy (SEPS), signed an Inter-agency Cooperation Agreement to establish joint actions for cooperation, collaboration, and mutual aid, aimed at strengthening the financial system’s money laundering prevention system
- On September 23, 2020, the UAFE and the Pan American Foundation (PADF) sign an Inter-agency Cooperation Agreement to establish cooperation mechanisms through technical assistance and training and facilitate the coordination and implementation of activities to strengthen institutional capacities for preventing and eradicating money laundering (ML) and the financing of crimes
- On October 12, 2020, an inter-agency cooperation agreement was signed whereby the Central Bank of Ecuador (BCE) would transfer to the UAFE, the source code, algorithm, and components of the technological tool for the UAFE to adapt it to the needs of the institution by producing a new system called the “Commonality Search System” to enable cross-referencing with different databases, including terrorists found on United Nations Security Council watchlists in order to locate commonalities with the customer, supplier, and employee lists that regulated entities report to the UAFE
- The UAFE and Global Financial Integrity (GFI) sign a cooperation agreement to promote research and studies of high-risk and vulnerable sectors in Ecuador; and facilitate training and technical assistance, to help strengthen the fight against Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism in Ecuador and the region
- On September 27, 2019, UAFE and ten other institutions (the State Attorney General's Office, the National Court of Justice, the Citizen Participation and Social Oversight Council, the State Attorney General's Office, the Council of the Judiciary, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, the Anticorruption Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic, the Internal Revenue Service - SRI, the Real Estate Management Service of the Public Sector and the Center for Strategic Intelligence - CIES), signed an cooperation agreement to form the Inter-agency Liaison and Asset Recovery Group (GEIRA)

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

Ecuador has the UAFE as its financial intelligence unit.

The country has an information system aimed at the investigation and prosecution of money laundering in analyzing cases deriving from drug trafficking. According to the Organic Law for Preventing, Detecting, and Eradicating the Crime of Money Laundering and the Financing of Crimes, in its Art 12, part h, the functions of the Financial and Economic Analysis Unit must include “Creating, maintaining and updating a confidential database with all the information obtained in the exercise of its powers.”

The UAFE has a System for Preventing Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (SISLAFT) the use of which is mandatory for subjects required to report to the UAFE. It documents the following information:

- RTELL
- UUTR
- Requests for Additional Information (RAI)

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.

Ecuador has mechanisms for analyzing money laundering risks, in accordance with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations. In reference to FATF Recommendation 1, where it mentions that countries must identify, assess, and understand the money laundering and terrorism financing risks, the Financial and Economic Analysis Unit (UAFE) has prepared the National Risk Assessment (NRA) with the World Bank's analytical tool that guides the countries in preparing it. The tool aims to guide jurisdictions in assessing their risks, in order to use the information necessary to devise an effective action plan in the fight against money laundering and financing of terrorism.

Taking as a reference some results of the Fourth Round of Mutual Evaluations, Ecuador needs to deepen its understanding of the risks of certain sectors and/or activities in order to evaluate and mitigate them. Ecuador has managed to identify its main risks and threats in the NRA; however, a complement to this assessment is the Sectoral Risk Assessments (SRA), which will allow the application of a Risk-Based Approach (RBA) by both public and private organizations. In this framework, in April 2022, the UAFE presented the Risk Analysis of Asset Laundering in the Microfinance Sector, which concludes that the illicit trafficking of narcotic and psychotropic substances constitutes the second main threat.

Additionally, based on the functions established in the Organic Law of Prevention, Detection and Eradication of the Crime of Money Laundering and Financing of Crimes, in its article 12 literal K, the UAFE “Issues the corresponding regulations and assumes control over cases of the subjects required to deliver information who do not have specific control institutions.” Therefore, the UAFE is in the phase of implementing a tool called the Risk Administration and Management

System (SAR) for identifying, controlling, and monitoring risks in sectors that do not have control agencies.

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.

Ecuador 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. According to the Organic Law for Preventing, Detecting, and Eradicating the Crime of Money Laundering and the Financing of Crimes and other legal provisions, financial and insurance system institutions must maintain reliable, trustworthy, and reliable records on their institutions' transactions and operations and must submit information to the UAFE. In this framework, between 2019 and 2021, the UAFE signed inter-agency cooperation agreements with the Superintendence of Banks, the Superintendence of Companies, Securities, and Insurance, and the Central Bank of Ecuador, among others.

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.

Ecuador's Technical Secretariat for Real Estate Management of the Public Sector (INMOBILIAR) is the designated competent authority responsible for the administration of seized and forfeited assets, in accordance with article 4 of Executive Decree No. 798 of June 22, 2011.

The country has the Organic Law on Transparency and Access to Public Information (LOTAIP), which facilitates the accountability and transparency of the management of seized and forfeited assets.

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.

Ecuador does not offer or 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.

Ecuador has the Custody Regulations for Seized Assets received by INMOBILIAR, 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.

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

Ecuador, through the Secretariat of the Comprehensive Prevention Committee of the Socioeconomic Drug Phenomenon of the Ministry of Public Health, has designed, implemented, and updated national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit cultivation, production, and manufacture of drugs. The member institutions of the aforementioned Inter-agency Committee and other public and/or private institutions, such as the Decentralized Autonomous Governments, support the execution of policies and programs.

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

Ecuador does not 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.

Ecuador does not take into account licit traditional uses when designing and implementing policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs.

The country includes environmental protection measures in its policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs. In the National Plan for the Comprehensive Prevention and Control of the Socioeconomic Phenomenon of Drugs 2017-2021, Objective 4: Prevent the illicit production of drugs, it is established that the processes for concluding the life cycle of seized and confiscated substances through final disposal of them (destruction of drugs) are carried out under the principles of transparency, safety, immediacy, and respect for the environment.

Additionally, within the framework of the Environmental Management Law, the Codification of the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Ecological Transition is established to prevent and minimize production of pollution; as well as prevent, mitigate, correct, and compensate for environmental impacts on the population and ecosystems. In order to adopt cleaner technologies and practices for continuous improvement of environmental management; minimize and make

use of waste; and guarantee an environment where individuals can make decisions about their own lives, it is crucial to offer the means and inputs so that these decisions are informed and oriented towards the search for well-being and comprehensive health.

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.

Ecuador has established mechanisms for inter-institutional cooperation between public and private institutions to provide a comprehensive response to the illicit production of drugs. In this sense, joint and comprehensive actions are carried out by the members of the Inter-agency Committee within the framework of Chap. IV of the Organic Law for the Comprehensive Prevention of the Socioeconomic Phenomenon of Drugs and the Regulation and Control of the Use of Scheduled Substances Subject to Supervision. These actions may include agreements, memoranda of understanding, official letters, and other actions for internal use.

For example, the Ministry of Health, through the Secretariat of the Inter-agency Committee, makes official requests (communications) for the exchange of information on illicit crops and related activities, mapping, etc.

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.

Ecuador supports the development of supply reduction programs with drug-related crime prevention initiatives that address social and economic risk factors, which include the participation of civil society or other social actors. In this sense, it executes the Barrio Seguro program through the National Police of Ecuador, in order to prevent violence within the framework of citizen security, through articulated and collaborative work between the community, local authorities and the National Police.

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.

Ecuador has designed and implemented preventive alternative development (starting in 2000) and comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs (starting in 2018) as part of the strategies to control and reduce illicit crops. The Inter-agency Committee for Comprehensive Prevention of the Socioeconomic Phenomenon of Drugs of the Ministry of Public Health coordinates and evaluates the implementation of these programs.

These programs incorporate a human rights approach. In the National Plan for the Comprehensive Prevention and Control of the Socioeconomic Phenomenon of Drugs 2017-2021, drug policies are established using a human rights and public health approach. Currently, our country has defined the drug problem as a socio-economic phenomenon, which requires an intersectoral and inter-agency intervention with a human rights approach.

The Organic Law for the Comprehensive Prevention of the Socioeconomic Phenomenon of Drugs and the Regulation and Control of the Use of Scheduled Substances Subject to Supervision (hereinafter the Organic Comprehensive Prevention Law) establishes as follows in its article 3: “National Plan for the Comprehensive Prevention and Control of the Socioeconomic Phenomenon of Drugs 22 “(...) Declare of national interest the public policies issued to address the socio-economic phenomenon of drugs, as well as the plans, programs, projects and activities adopted or executed by the competent bodies, safeguarding human rights and fundamental freedoms, through social participation and public and private responsibility.”

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.

Ecuador exchanges experiences and best practices with other countries in the Hemisphere on the design and implementation of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, including preventive alternative development, through joint Ecuador-Colombia, Ecuador-Peru, and Ecuador-Bolivia meetings, as well as meetings with MERCOSUR countries, CICAD/OAS, the Group of Experts on Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development (GEDAIS) and the Cooperation between Latin America and the European Union on Drug Fight

Policies (COPOLAD III).

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

Ecuador does not promote or disseminate the results of these programs or the benefits obtained in the affected communities.

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.

Ecuador does not use outcome results indicators to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs in the medium and long terms.

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.

The comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs are complemented by public policies that strengthen the presence of the State in the areas affected by illicit crops. The programs are implemented by the following institutions:

Institutions that implement policies that complement the alternative development programs in affected areas	Yes	No
Ministry of Agriculture	X	
Agricultural Research Institute	X	
Ministry of Education	X	
Ministry of Health	X	
Ministry of Interior Affairs/National Police (law enforcement)	X	
Ministry of National Security/Defense	X	
Ministry of Transportation/Public Works		X
Ministry of Women/Family		X
Ministry of Commerce (International)	X	
Office of the Public Prosecutor	X	
Ministry of Labor/Social Affairs	X	
National Drug Authority	X	

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.

The communities and target groups in Ecuador do not participate in the design, implementation, and supervision processes of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, including preventive development.

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.

Ecuador does not promote partnerships and innovative cooperation initiatives with the private sector, civil society, and international financial institutions to establish programs that lead to job creation in areas affected by illicit drug cultivation and traffic.

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.

During the evaluation period (2019-2022), Ecuador did not carry out research and/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.

Ecuador has developed and implemented local approaches for controlling micro-trafficking and related crimes that take into account effects on public health, the economy, social cohesion, and citizen security. In this sense, the normative and operational strategies for dealing with micro-trafficking fall within the framework of application of the Comprehensive Criminal Organic Code, the Organic Law for the Comprehensive Prevention of the Socioeconomic Phenomenon of Drugs and the Regulation and Control of the Use of Scheduled Substances Subject to Supervision, the Public and State Security Law, the National Plan for Citizen Security and Peaceful Social Coexistence 2019-2030, and the National Plan for the Comprehensive Prevention and Control of the Socioeconomic Phenomenon of Drugs 2017-2021. From the different approaches, strategies are established that address territorial realities and respect for human rights.

Additionally, Ecuador conducts investigations and operations through the Special Units of the National Anti-Narcotics Police: Regional Center for Canine Training, Special Mobile Antinarcotics Group, Unit for the Fight against Organized Crime, Antinarcotics Investigations Unit, Ports and Airports Information Unit, and the Unit to Combat Internal Trafficking, this last unit having a presence throughout the national territory and the mission of dismantling criminal organizations that are dedicated to selling and marketing drugs within the country. The country has a 1800-DELITO hotline for reporting cases related to the most wanted criminals, which may include people linked to micro-trafficking. In addition, the National Anti-Narcotics Police provides training to citizens regarding security tips, programs executed by the Community Police, and services provided by the Community Police Units.

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.

Ecuador promotes the interagency exchange of information at the national level on the effects of small-scale drug trafficking in the health and security sectors. These exchanges were made according to the following table:

Entities with which information was exchanged	Means of Verification:	Year
Ministry of Public Health, as president and secretary, entity that chairs is the Secretariat of the Inter-agency Committee on Drugs, and through which information can be shared with member institutions	Digital	2021
Ministry of National Defense and Military Geographic Institute	Digital	2021

However, this exchange is not encouraged in the social or economic 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.

Ecuador has programs to prevent the exploitation of at-risk populations affected by drug trafficking, which are aimed at all illicit activities related to drugs through the National Strategy for Preventive Alternative Development with populations of different age groups (youth and adults) in areas declared vulnerable. In addition, actions are carried out to socialize crime prevention techniques (actions with the community) that include activities with young people mainly. Specific strategies are also executed through the action of the Ministry of Government.

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 Ecuador does not implement or participate in ongoing training programs to detect, investigate, or dismantle laboratories or facilities used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, for personnel involved in interdiction operations; however, it observes that the country has protocols and operating procedures to detect, investigate, and dismantle clandestine laboratories or facilities for the illicit processing or manufacture of drugs. Additionally, CICAD observes that the agencies in charge of drug control in Ecuador do not implement policies that promote gender mainstreaming. However, CICAD notes that the country has programs or strategies aimed at land, riverine, maritime, and aerial interdiction, through monitoring, inspections, or checkpoints. Likewise, CICAD observes that Ecuador has regulations and codes providing for the use of specialized investigation tools and techniques to prevent and reduce drug trafficking. CICAD also notes that the country has updated assessments and studies to identify new trends and threats on drug trafficking and related crimes. Moreover, CICAD observes with satisfaction that Ecuador implements actions to identify organized crime groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes, carries out inter-institutional collaboration and cooperation mechanisms to coordinate activities aimed at dismantling organized crime groups involved in these crimes, and has participated in operations and investigations in cooperation with other countries aimed at dismantling these groups. Similarly, CICAD notes that the country has institutions responsible for, and capable of, analyzing chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances (NPS) and participates ongoing training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of these substances. However, CICAD observes that Ecuador does not have mechanisms to facilitate or share information at the national level across relevant governmental counterparts, as well as with global repositories on these substances. Moreover, CICAD notes that the country does not have mechanisms to investigate or disrupt drug trafficking through the Internet. On the other hand, CICAD observes that the country has partnerships and information exchange mechanisms with private sector entities to prevent access to materials and services exploited for illicit drug trafficking purposes and uses tools and resources of the INCB to strengthen cooperation with the private sector to prevent the diversion of chemicals. Additionally, CICAD notes that Ecuador has a national authority with an adequate budget, human and material resources for the administration of products related to illicit drug markets and its competent personnel receive ongoing training in 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 Ecuador 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. Moreover, CICAD notes that the country does not improve its capabilities to detect or analyze NPS through the use of special investigative techniques, updated equipment, or acquisition of technology. Additionally, CICAD observes that Ecuador does not have regulatory frameworks or guidelines to identify and address the challenges posed by the onset of NPS and emerging synthetic drugs. However, CICAD notes that the country participates in the INCB's ION Project. On the other hand, CICAD observes that Ecuador does not have innovative legislation or regulatory approach 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 Ecuador has competent national authorities responsible for developing guides, codes of conduct, or other instruments to inform the industry and users in general of controlled chemical substances and has developed such instruments and mechanisms. CICAD also observes that the country has an updated register of all individuals and corporations handling controlled chemical substances and that competent authorities carry out regular inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle these substances. Additionally, CICAD notes that Ecuador carries out analyses that include the exchange of information through existing international mechanisms of substances, their analogs, and precursors, which pose a threat to public health. Moreover, CICAD observes that Ecuador has legislation 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, which include all of the control measures in paragraph 8, all of the control measures in paragraph 9, and requests for information set forth in Paragraph 10. Additionally, CICAD notes that the country uses the PEN Online system for pre-export notifications of controlled chemical substances; however, it does not use the PICS system. On the other hand, CICAD observes that Ecuador receives training for drug control personnel and for the identification and handling of controlled chemical substances. However, CICAD notes that the country does not have budgetary mechanisms to ensure allocation of resources to acquire necessary equipment or supplies for the preliminary identification of substances and the protective equipment required by personnel in charge of these tasks. CICAD also observes that Ecuador 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 Ecuador has special processes for issuing authorizations for the national production, import, and export of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes and an updated register of individuals or companies importing and exporting these substances. Additionally, CICAD observes that the country has training and 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. 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 with satisfaction that Ecuador has an updated register of individuals and corporations handling pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances, issues licenses to manufacturers and distributors authorizing the handling of these products, and 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 and administrative penalties for infractions or violations by individuals or corporations that handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances. Moreover, CICAD notes that Ecuador offers periodic training programs for personnel responsible for preventing trade in and diversion of materials and equipment for illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; however, it 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 IE2S 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 with satisfaction that Ecuador participates in periodic training programs for personnel involved in drug investigations in specialized investigative techniques and intelligence collection, analysis, and operations. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country implements periodic training programs and other capacity-building activities to investigate and counter crimes associated with drug trafficking, such as corruption and money laundering. Additionally, CICAD notes that Ecuador has information gathering mechanisms to exchange intelligence information, at a domestic, regional, and international level, to detect routes and methods used by drug trafficking criminal organizations. CICAD also observes that the country has tools that promote and strengthen cooperation and the exchange of information and intelligence among domestic law enforcement agencies responsible for drug interdiction and effective border control. However, CICAD notes that Ecuador does not have a national information system on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on changing behaviors or 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 Ecuador has a legislative framework to counter money laundering derived from drug trafficking. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country has periodic training programs for officials and those in vulnerable sectors on prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of money laundering derived from drug trafficking. Also, CICAD notes that Ecuador has protocols that enable the authorities to conduct financial and asset investigations parallel to drug trafficking investigations. Additionally, CICAD observes that the country has mechanisms allowing for inter-agency coordination and cooperation in the area of preventing and controlling money laundering. CICAD recognizes that Ecuador has a financial intelligence unit and an information system aimed at the investigation and prosecution of money laundering in analyzing cases deriving from drug trafficking. CICAD observes that the country has mechanisms for analyzing money laundering risks, in accordance with the FATF recommendations. Moreover, CICAD notes that Ecuador 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.

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 that Ecuador has a designated competent authority responsible for the administration and disposition of seized and forfeited assets and a law to facilitate the accountability and transparency of the management of seized and forfeited assets. However, CICAD observes that the country does not offer nor participate in specialized, periodic training programs for the management and disposition of seized and forfeited assets. On the other hand, CICAD recognizes that Ecuador has regulations, 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 Ecuador has designed, implemented, and updated national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit cultivation/production/manufacture of drugs. However, CICAD observes that the country does not direct budgetary allocations towards financing counternarcotics programs. Moreover, CICAD notes that Ecuador does not take into account the licit traditional use in designing and implementing policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs; however, it includes environmental protection measures in these policies and programs. CICAD observes that the country has established mechanisms for interinstitutional cooperation between public and private institutions to provide a comprehensive response to the illicit production of drugs. Additionally, CICAD notes with satisfaction that Ecuador supports the development of supply reduction programs with drug-related crime prevention initiatives that address social and economic risk factors, which include the participation from civil society and other social stakeholders.

Objective 10

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

CICAD note with satisfaction that Ecuador has designed and implemented preventive alternative development programs since 2000 and comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs since 2018, as part of the strategies to control and reduce illicit crops, and has a national entity that coordinates and evaluates the implementation of these programs, which take into account the human rights perspective. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country exchanges experiences and best practices with other countries in the Hemisphere on the design

and implementation of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development and preventive alternative development programs. However, CICAD notes that Ecuador does not promote or disseminate the results of these programs, or the benefits they provide to affected communities. Additionally, CICAD observes that the country does not use results indicators to monitor or evaluate the effectiveness of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development and preventive alternative development programs in the medium and long terms. CICAD notes that Ecuador's comprehensive and sustainable alternative development and preventive alternative development programs are supplemented by public policies that strengthen the government's presence in areas affected by illicit crops, which are implemented by various institutions. However, CICAD observes that communities and target groups do not participate in the design, implementation, or supervision processes of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development or preventive alternative development programs. Additionally, CICAD notes that Ecuador does not promote partnerships or innovative cooperation initiatives with the private sector, civil society, or international financial institutions to establish programs that lead to job creation in areas affected by illicit drug cultivation and traffic.

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 Ecuador 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 with satisfaction that Ecuador has developed and implemented approaches for controlling micro-trafficking and related crimes, that take into account effects on public health, the economy, social cohesion, and citizen security. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country promotes the interagency exchange of information on the effects of small-scale drug trafficking in the health and security sectors; however, it does not promote these exchanges in the social or economic sectors. Additionally, CICAD notes that Ecuador has programs that prevent the exploitation of at-risk populations affected by drug trafficking networks, at the national and international level.



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