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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*

Trinidad and Tobago

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

2022



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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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EIGHTH EVALUATION ROUND

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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.

Trinidad and Tobago 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 does not have specific 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.

Trinidad and Tobago does not have any formal protocol or policy that promotes gender mainstreaming and consequently no agency in charge of drug control implements policies that promote gender mainstreaming.

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

Trinidad and Tobago has programs or strategies aimed at land, riverine, maritime, and aerial interdiction, through monitoring, inspections, or checkpoints. The coastal and Riverine Unit monitors, inspects and conducts maritime interdictions and conducts operations in rivers and mangroves. This unit also provides support to the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard and the Trinidad and Tobago Customs and Excise Division in their maritime efforts. The Trinidad and Tobago Customs and Excise Division are involved in both Seaport Cooperation Program (SEACOP) and Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) programs which are aimed at bolstering interdictions.

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

Trinidad and Tobago has the Interception of Communications Act, Chapter 15:08, which authorizes interception of communication under specific and strict conditions, as a specialized investigation tool 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.

Trinidad and Tobago 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.

Trinidad and Tobago implements the following actions to identify organized crime groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes:

- The Strategic Services Agency (SSA) and supporting law enforcement agencies work in conjunction with several other local and international agencies towards the identification and detection of narcotics trafficking. There is always a thrust to explore the Mutual Assistance Legislative Treaties (MALT) for extradition
- The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) in particular has been mandated to identify Organised Crime Gangs (OCGs) across the twin-island state, thereby conducting overt and covert intelligence gathering activities, surveillance, interviews, interrogations, and other forms of investigative operations under the guidance of the governing Departmental Order (DO) and the Anti-Gang Act
- Use of Confidential Sources, Interception of Communications Act, Communication with other Regional and International Law Enforcement Agencies

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, several joint intelligence operations, meetings, presentations to heads of institutions, and training are held in person and virtually. This is further facilitated using newsletters and information bulletins. Some of the strategies were outlined in the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) Strategic Plan 2017-2019 with Rolling Feature to 2021, in a general sense. Departments such as the SIU have refined these roles via their departmental standard operation procedures (SOP).

Trinidad and Tobago has participated in operations and investigations in cooperation with other countries aimed at dismantling organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes. In this sense, there is intelligence-led inter-country initiatives. This is mainly done through the Transnational Organized Crime Unit (TOCU); however, occasional operations may be

conducted through receipt of requests from regional and other international agencies.

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.

Trinidad and Tobago's Ministry of Health (Food and Drug Division) and Forensic Sciences Centre (TTFSC) are responsible for, and capable of, analyzing chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances (NPS).

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

- Internal Training Sessions conducted by the TTFSC
- TTFSC also conducts training with local stakeholders in the identification of NPSs

Trinidad and Tobago also participated in training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including NPS offered by international agencies.

The Early Warning System of Trinidad and Tobago (EWS) is the mechanism by which to facilitate and 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.

Trinidad and Tobago has mechanisms to investigate and disrupt drug trafficking through the Internet. In this sense, the Cyber Crime Unit is made up of police officers who are trained in the investigation of crimes that take place over the internet or through the use of a computer. Their primary role is to provide technical assistance in the detection and investigations of crime wherein the computer is the target, or the means used.

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.

Trinidad and Tobago does not have partnerships or 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, the Precursor Export Notification system (PEN) is used.

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

Trinidad and Tobago has 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. This is outlined in the Proceeds of Crime Act, Chapter 11:27.

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.

Trinidad and Tobago has 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. This information is shared by the EWS Trinidad and Tobago Working Group with regional and international partners.

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

Trinidad and Tobago improves its capabilities to detect and analyze NPS through the use of special investigative techniques, updated equipment, acquisition of technology. In this sense, seizure agencies utilize handheld Raman Spectrometer devices for field testing of suspected NPSs. The database of substances utilized by these devices are periodically updated. The Transnational Organized Crime Unit (TOCU) uses advance Drug Detection Narcotic Kits, advance narcotics training.

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.

Trinidad and Tobago has the following regulatory frameworks to identify and address the challenges posed by the onset of NPS and emerging synthetic drugs:

- The Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, No. 24 of 2019
- Dangerous Drugs (Amendment of the Second Schedule) Order, 201
- Food & Drug Regulations, Pesticides & Toxic Chemicals Act

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.

Trinidad and Tobago participates in the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)'s Project ION (International Operations on NPS). The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS), Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard (TTCG), Customs and Excise Division, the Integrated Threat Assessment Centre (ITAC), and the Drug Inspectorate serve as the focal points.

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.

Trinidad and Tobago has innovative legislation and regulatory approaches to synthetic opioids for non-medical use and NPS:

- Customs Act Chapter 78:01 sections 154, 213A, 214 and 231
- The Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, No. 24 of 2019
- Dangerous Drugs (Amendment of the Second Schedule) Order 2019
- Food & Drug Regulations, Pesticides & Toxic Chemicals Act

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.

Trinidad and Tobago does not have a 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 does not have instruments or mechanisms to inform the industry and users in general of applicable controls and cooperation methods, to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances.

Trinidad and Tobago 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?
Pesticides & Toxic Chemicals Inspectorate	Yes. Premises licenses are valid for 3 years. Mandatory inspection required once every three years but annual monitoring of facilities performed	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.

Trinidad and Tobago 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.

Trinidad and Tobago has the Dangerous Drugs Act, the Toxic Chemicals Regulations of 2007, and the Food and Drug 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.

Trinidad and Tobago 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	

<p>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</p>	<p>x</p>	
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Trinidad and Tobago 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.

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

The country uses 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.

Trinidad and Tobago does not have training for drug control personnel and for the identification and handling of controlled chemical substances.

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 Trinidad and Tobago 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, through annual budgetary requests from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Finance.

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.

Trinidad and Tobago 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.

Trinidad and Tobago 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 following table indicates how long it takes, on average, for an import or export authorization to be issued:

Product type	Average time to issue import permits	Average time to issue export permits
Narcotic or psychotropic raw materials for the manufacture of medicines	3 working days to 2 weeks	3 working days to 1 week
Medication containing narcotic or psychotropic drugs	2 working days to 2 weeks	1 week
Analytical patterns classified as narcotic or psychotropic	-	-
Medication classified as narcotic or psychotropic for the personal use of travelers entering or leaving the country	-	-

The country has an updated register of individuals 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.

Trinidad and Tobago does not have training or 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.

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.

Trinidad and Tobago has the following regulatory framework to govern the acquisition of

substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes:

- Dangerous Drugs Act Chap 11:25
- Food and Drugs Act Chap 30:01

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.

Trinidad and Tobago has an updated register of individuals and corporations handling pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances. In this sense, the following outlines the information recorded in the register:

- Name of individual as set out by the legislation
- Name and address of storage location
- Description of substance
- Information on distribution of substance
- Name of organization
- Name of pharmacist
- Quantity of substance imported

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

Trinidad and Tobago 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.

Trinidad and Tobago has the following criminal, civil, and administrative 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	2016 (Laws of Trinidad and Tobago, Chap. 30:01, Food and Drugs Act)
Civil	
Administrative	

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.

Trinidad and Tobago does not offer 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.

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.

Trinidad and Tobago's Food and Drugs Division of the Ministry of Health-Chemistry uses the International Narcotics Control Board's (INCB) International Import and Export Authorization System (I2ES).

The country has not 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.

Trinidad and Tobago implements and participates in the following periodic training programs for personnel involved in drug investigations in specialized investigative techniques and intelligence collection, analysis, and operations:

- Principles and development in Investigative Techniques, Surveillance methods
- Special Investigations Unit of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service - TTPS (Training and development in investigative techniques)

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.

Trinidad and Tobago implements and participates in the following periodic training programs and other capacity-building activities to investigate and counter crimes associated with drug trafficking, such as corruption and money laundering:

- Ethics, Accountability and Good Governance
- Combatting Trade-Based Money Laundering (TBML)
- Illegal Wildlife Trade as a Financial Crime
- Money Laundering and Illegal Wildlife Trade
- Advance Strategic Analysts Training
- Anti-Corruption Training Workshop for Investigating & Prosecuting Techniques for Cases of Corruption
- Money Laundering and Asset Forfeiture
- Judicial workshop on Money Laundering and Asset Forfeiture Human Trafficking Illicit Financial Flows
- The Financial Investigations Branch (FIB) engages in regular training of its staff, coupled with a developed Outreach Programme on money laundering and other financial crimes which is delivered to other investigative units responsible for drugs and other serious crimes within Trinidad and Tobago
- Financial Investigations Branch – TTPS (Training and development in financial crimes)
- Financial Investigations Branch – Asset Recovery and Unexplained Wealth Orders in accordance with Act 8 of 2019

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.

Trinidad and Tobago 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. In this sense, the following agencies are responsible for intelligence gathering and analysis locally and regionally:

- Strategic Services Agency (SSA)
- Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS)
- Domestic: Law Enforcement Working Group; MOUs with Intelligence and Investigative Authorities in Trinidad and Tobago and Intelligence Reports (financial intelligence) from the Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago (FIUTT) to Law Enforcement and Intelligence Agencies
- Regional/International: Egmont Secure Website (Egmont Financial Intelligence Units - FIUs) and MOUs with non-Egmont FIUs
- The Central Authority, The Office of the Attorney General, and Ministry of Legal Affairs
- International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), TTPS
- Joint Intelligence Group – National Security Secretariat
- Defense Force Intelligence Unit (DFIU)

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.

Trinidad and Tobago has the following tools that promotes and strengthens cooperation and the exchange of information and intelligence among domestic law enforcement agencies responsible for drug interdiction and effective border control:

- The Supply Reduction Pillar of the National Operational Plan for Drug Control in Trinidad and Tobago 2021-2025
- The formation of the National intelligence Fusion Center (NIFC) facilitates the sharing of intelligence and exchange of intelligence of all partner agencies. The newly formed National Operations Task Force is ideally charged with the Law Enforcement component for intelligence forthcoming from the NIFC

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.

Trinidad and Tobago 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 Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) - Special Investigations Unit (SIU), Strategic Services Agency (SSA), Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force Intelligence Unit, and the National Drug Council through the DIN-TT.

The Crime and Problem Analysis Branch (CAPA) - A comprehensive analysis is done in respect of data collected from crime reporting which is later used to inform decisions and policies on crime and the required resources. The Drug Information Network of Trinidad and Tobago (DIN-TT) also fulfills its role in this regard. The DIN-TT is a national repository for drug-related data for Trinidad and Tobago.

The FIUTT disseminates typologies, Advisories and Alerts on related crimes (pattern, trends, and modus operandi) to Competent Authorities and the public (sanitized cases).

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.

Trinidad and Tobago has strengthened the legislative frameworks to counter money laundering derived from drug trafficking. In this sense, the country has the following:

- The Proceeds of Crime Act, Chapter 11:27, as amended in 2018
- The Gambling (Gaming and Betting) Control Act, No. 18 of 2021
- The Real Estate Act, No. 12 of 2020
- The Civil Asset Recovery and Management and Unexplained Wealth Act, No. 8 of 2019
- Miscellaneous Provisions (Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, Proceeds of Crime, Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago, Customs and Exchange) Act No. 2 of 2018 which, inter alia, makes the offence of money laundering both a summary and an indictable offence
- Miscellaneous Provisions (Registrar General, Registration of Deeds, Conveyancing and Law of Property, Real Property, Stamp Duty and Registration of Title to Land) Act (Act No. 17 of 2020)

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.

Trinidad and Tobago 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:

- The Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago (FIUTT) conducts training/awareness sessions for the Supervised Entities, which includes Non-Regulated Financial Institutions, Listed Businesses and NPOs (asset size 500k and above), on their anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) obligations, vulnerabilities, and trends/typologies, among other areas. Sector specific training is also conducted. As of September 30, 2021, there were 4,060 Supervised Entities registered with the FIUTT. For fiscal 2021, the FIUTT conducted 30 virtual outreach sessions to 1,633 participants to the Supervised Entities. The Financial Investigations Branch (FIB) developed an Outreach Program which is delivered to several key stakeholders, including Credit Unions. Internal compliance training by companies and organizations by compliance officers

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

Trinidad and Tobago has protocols that enable the authorities to conduct financial and asset investigations parallel to drug trafficking investigations. In this sense, the protocols are outlined within the Trinidad and Tobago Police Departmental Order 107 that allows for joint or parallel investigations between the FIB and other investigative units.

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.

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

- The National Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism Committee (NAMLC) was established in law [the Miscellaneous Provisions (Proceeds of Crime, Anti-Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Unit) Act, No. 20 of 2018, as the national coordinating body for all Competent Authorities in the AML/CFT/CPF regime. Administratively, NAMLC falls within the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs. The Attorney General is the Prime Contact in Trinidad and Tobago for FATF and CFATF on AML/CFT/CPF matters. The FIUTT is a member of the NAMLC. The Law Enforcement Authority Working Group (LEAWG) was established to provide a forum for inter-agency co-operation and collaboration. The LEAWG allows for more productive planning and co-ordination of ML/TF investigations, sharing of intelligence, evidence gathering and building expertise. The Supervisory Steering Group (SSG) and the Supervisory Working Group (SWG), collaborate to ensure that Reporting Entities comply with their AML/CFT/CPF obligations. Meetings are held among the three Supervisory Authorities, i.e., the FIUTT, the Central Bank and the TT Security Exchange Commission. The Supervised Entities Partnership Engagement (SEPE) was established by the FIUTT to provide a forum for discussion of AML/CFT/CPF issues. Through Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), the FIUTT exchanges information between LEAs and Public Authorities to action appropriately, matters of ML/TF. The Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI) in collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago Police Academy, the FIUTT provide awareness sessions to regional Law Enforcement Officers, on current trends/typologies to prevent, detect, investigate ML/TF matters. The Financial Investigations Branch, The Anti-Corruption Investigative Bureau and The Fraud Squad was merged into the White Collar Division.

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

Trinidad and Tobago has a financial intelligence unit named the Financial Intelligence Unit of

Trinidad and Tobago (FIUTT).

The country has information systems aimed at the investigation and prosecution of money laundering in analyzing cases deriving from drug trafficking. In this sense, it is outlined in the Trinidad and Tobago Police Departmental Orders. The LEAWG consists of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), Special Investigation Unit (SIU), Financial Investigations Branch (FIB), Customs, Immigration, Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), Special Branch, and Anti-Corruption Investigation Bureau (ACIB) which meets monthly to treat with matters relating to money laundering (ML). There are existing MOUs between several of the agencies in the law enforcement arena who are involved in aspects of money laundering investigations. Inter-Agency task forces have also been established wherein specific tactical investigations are collaboratively worked on. In addition, a LEAWG was established by the FIUTT in 2011. This LEAWG seeks to cut across organizational boundaries to allow for more effective co-ordination of Money Laundering investigations, sharing of intelligence, evidence gathering and building expertise. In fiscal year 2017, the LEAWG was restructured with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions being selected as the chair. The LEAWG includes the Customs and Excise Division, Immigration Division, Board of Inland Revenue and several arms of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, inclusive of the FIB, Special Branch, Fraud Squad, SIU, and the Anti-Corruption Bureau.

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.

Trinidad and Tobago has mechanisms for analyzing money laundering risks, in accordance with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations. In this sense, Trinidad and Tobago conducts National Risk Assessments in accordance with Recommendation 1 of the Financial Action Task Force Standards. In addition, the FIUTT provides Sector Specific Guidance to the various sectors. Caribbean Financial Task Force, FIU - Suspicious Activity Report disseminates to the Fraud Squad and the Financial Intelligence Branch - TTPS. Additionally in accordance with recommendation 2, the National Anti-Money laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism Committee (NAMLC) was established in law (the Miscellaneous Provisions (Proceeds of Crime, Anti-Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Unit) Act, No 20 of 2018) as the national coordinating body for all Competent Authorities in the AML/CFT regime.

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.

Trinidad and Tobago 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 and the supervisory authorities, including the FIUTT, the Central Bank and the Securities Exchange Commission, have engaged the financial institutions and listed

businesses (collectively, the reporting entities), to strengthen partnerships as follows:

- The Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago:
 - Is the liaison between the Reporting Entities and Law Enforcement authorities
 - Established quarterly meetings with Listed Businesses and Non-Regulated Financial Institutions and the topics covered are listed in the FIUTT's annual reports
 - Established its Public-Private Partnership (PPP) initiative in 2018 with the Financial Institutions and the areas covered are listed in the FIUTT's annual reports
 - Disseminates and publishes AML/CFT guidelines, advisories, trends, typologies, and alerts to the Reporting Entities to assist them to identify money laundering and other crimes and to encourage the reporting of suspicious transactions to the FIUTT

- The Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago:
 - Holds regular meetings with the banking and insurance sectors
 - Published guidelines on AML/CFT for the financial institutions

- The Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission:
 - Holds regular meetings with the securities sector
 - Published guidelines on AML/CFT for the securities industry

- The Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) Meetings:
 - Holds annual meetings with Reporting Entities to discuss observations in the STR/SAR submissions, and areas to strengthen quality of reporting. Also, the PPP meetings also serve to enhance co-operation between the FIUTT and its stakeholders
 - Coordinates meetings with the Bankers Association of Trinidad and Tobago (BATT) to discuss matters related to AML/CFT

The financial sector is represented on the National Anti-money Laundering Committee (NAMLC) by its regulators the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago. Communication liaison between the Fraud Squad and Financial Intelligence Branch of the TTPS and private institutions will develop through relationships between and among department heads and by means of developed memoranda.

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.

Trinidad and Tobago has the Civil Asset Recovery and Management Agency, Fraud Squad Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, Financial Intelligence Branch (TTPS), and the Financial Intelligence Unit as the designated competent authorities responsible for the administration and disposition of seized and forfeited assets, through Civil Assets Recovery and Management and Unexplained Wealth Act and the Proceeds of Crime Act.

The country has the Proceeds of Crime Act, Chapter 11:27, to facilitate the accountability and transparency of the management of seized and forfeited assets. Pursuant to this Act, the Seized Assets Advisory Committee was appointed on March 18, 2021. The functions of this committee include advising on the use of funds from the Seized Assets Fund for community development, drug abuse treatment, rehabilitation projects and law enforcement.

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.

Trinidad and Tobago 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.

Trinidad and Tobago has the Proceeds of Crime Act, Chapter 11:27, 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.

Trinidad and Tobago does not have any specific policies or programs to prevent and decrease illicit cultivation production or manufacture of drugs. However, it has a legal framework that regulates dangerous drugs and guides the anti-drug operations of the police. Such operations are additionally guided by the Police Standard Operation Procedures.

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

Trinidad and Tobago has direct budgetary allocations towards financing counternarcotics programs. In that sense, there is a national budget allocation for Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, however specific allocations for Counter-narcotics are unknown.

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.

Trinidad and Tobago takes into account the licit traditional use in designing and implementing policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs. In this sense, there is medicinal uses, and religious purposes among specific faiths.

The country does not include environmental protection measures in its policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs. However, it is a standard practice that the destruction of illicit drugs is done by cutting and burning. Burning is done by using incinerators in controlled environments.

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.

Trinidad and Tobago has not established mechanisms for inter-institutional 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.

Trinidad and Tobago does not supports 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.

Trinidad and Tobago has not designed or implemented comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs or preventive alternative development, as appropriate, 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.

Trinidad and Tobago 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.

Trinidad and Tobago 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. In this sense, the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) implements various plans, approaches, and strategies to reduce gang-related and drug trafficking activities. Micro trafficking is largely perpetrated by street gangs locally and the TTPS has paid particular attention to this sector, evident by the anti-gang drive for the period 2020-2022. Several gangs were targeted, and arrests made for drug and gang-related offences. Several operations were spearheaded by the TTPS under “Operation Strike Back I”, and “Operation Strike Back II” targeted brothels aiding in the detection of Ketamine. Additionally, Customs & Excise continue focus on the courier companies/freight forwarders to detect micro trafficking.

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.

Trinidad and Tobago promotes the interagency exchange of information on the effects of small-scale drug trafficking in the health, social, economic, and security sectors. These exchanges are carried out in accordance with the following table:

Entities among which information was exchanged	Means of exchange	Year
National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme (NADAPP), Ministry of Health	Public meetings	2019 to present
<u>National Security Agencies</u> -TTPS -Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force (TTDF) -Strategic Services Agency (SSA)	Intelligence exchange	2019 to present

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.

Trinidad and Tobago has programs and strategies that prevent the exploitation of at-risk populations affected by drug trafficking networks, at the national and international level. These

programs are implemented by a number of governmental and non-governmental agencies and target different sectors of the population, including men, women and children, young adults, adolescents and all age group farmers.

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 Trinidad and Tobago 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 and does not have protocols and procedures to detect, investigate, and dismantle clandestine laboratories or facilities for the illicit processing or manufacture of drugs. CICAD also notes that the agencies in charge of drug control in Trinidad and Tobago do not implement policies that promote gender mainstreaming. However, CICAD observes that the country has programs or strategies aimed at land, riverine, maritime, and aerial interdiction of drugs through monitoring, inspections, or checkpoints. Moreover, CICAD notes that Trinidad and Tobago has a legislation 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. Additionally, CICAD observes with satisfaction that Trinidad and Tobago implements actions to identify organized criminal 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 participated in operations and investigations with other countries aimed at dismantling these groups. Moreover, CICAD notes that the country has institutions that are responsible for, and capable of, analyzing chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances (NPS) and has ongoing training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of these substances. CICAD also observes that Trinidad and Tobago has mechanisms to facilitate and share information at the national level across government counterparts, and global repositories on these substances. CICAD notes that the country has mechanisms to investigate and disrupt drug trafficking through the Internet. However, CICAD observes that the country does not have partnerships or information exchange mechanisms with private sector entities to prevent access to materials and services exploited for illicit drug trafficking purposes. On the other hand, CICAD notes that Trinidad and Tobago uses tools and resources of the INCB to strengthen cooperation with the private sector to prevent the diversion of chemicals. Also, CICAD notes that Trinidad and Tobago has 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 but its competent personnel do not 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 with satisfaction that Trinidad and Tobago has 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. Additionally, CICAD notes that the country improves its capabilities to detect and analyze NPS through the use of special investigative techniques, updated equipment, and acquisition of technology. Additionally, CICAD observes that Trinidad and Tobago has regulatory frameworks to identify and address the challenges posed by the onset of NPS and emerging synthetic drugs, and participates in the INCB's Project ION. Furthermore, CICAD observes that Trinidad and Tobago has innovative legislation and 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 that Trinidad and Tobago does not have a 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 nor instruments or mechanisms to inform the industry and users in general of applicable controls and cooperation methods, to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances. However, CICAD observes that the country has an updated register of all individuals and corporations handling controlled chemical substances and that its competent authority carries out regular inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle these substances. On the other hand, CICAD notes that Trinidad and Tobago 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. Also, CICAD observes that Trinidad and Tobago 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 include all of the control measures listed in Paragraph 8, those listed in Paragraph 9, and incorporate the requests for information established in Paragraph 10. Likewise, CICAD notes that the country uses the INCB's PEN Online system for pre-export notifications of controlled chemical substances as well as the PICS system. However, CICAD observes that Trinidad and Tobago does not have training for drug control personnel and for the identification and handling of controlled chemical substances. On the other hand, CICAD 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 Trinidad and Tobago 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 Trinidad and Tobago 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 that it has an updated register of individuals or companies importing and exporting substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. However, CICAD observes that the country does not have training or awareness activities for competent national authorities and health professionals on proper access to substances subject to international control solely for medical and scientific purposes. On the other hand, CICAD 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 Trinidad and Tobago 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 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. However, CICAD notes that Trinidad and Tobago does not offer periodic training programs for personnel responsible for preventing trade in and diversion of materials and equipment for the illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, or shares 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 but has not received training on the use of the 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.

CICAD notes that Trinidad and Tobago implements and participates in periodic training programs for personnel involved in drug investigations in specialized investigative techniques and intelligence collection, analysis, and operations. Furthermore, CICAD observes that the country implements and participates in 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 with satisfaction that Trinidad and Tobago 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. Moreover, CICAD notes that Trinidad and Tobago 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 Trinidad and Tobago has strengthened its legislative frameworks to counter money laundering derived from drug trafficking, and has periodic training programs for officials and those in vulnerable sectors on prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of money laundering derived from drug trafficking. Additionally, CICAD notes that Trinidad and Tobago 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 further that Trinidad and Tobago has a Financial Investigation Unit and information systems aimed at the investigation and prosecution of money laundering in analyzing cases deriving from illicit drug trafficking. CICAD observes that the country has mechanisms for analyzing money laundering risks, in accordance with FATF recommendations. Additionally, CICAD notes that Trinidad and Tobago has established partnerships with 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 with satisfaction that Trinidad and Tobago has designated competent authorities responsible for the administration and disposition of seized and forfeited assets and regulations to 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 Trinidad and Tobago 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 Trinidad and Tobago does not have specific policies or programs to prevent and decrease illicit cultivation, production, and manufacture of drugs. However, CICAD observes that the country has direct budgetary allocations towards financing counternarcotics programs. Additionally, CICAD notes that Trinidad and Tobago takes into account licit traditional uses when designing and implementing policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs but does not include environmental protection measures in these policies and programs. On the other hand, 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. Additionally, CICAD notes that Trinidad and Tobago 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 Trinidad and Tobago has not designed nor 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 Trinidad and Tobago 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 Trinidad and Tobago 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 interagency exchange of information on the effects of small-scale drug trafficking in the health, social, economic, and security sectors. Additionally, CICAD notes with satisfaction that Trinidad and Tobago has programs and strategies to prevent the exploitation of at-risk populations affected by drug trafficking networks, at the national and international level.



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