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MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)

SECRETARIAT FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL SECURITY (SMS)

Costa Rica

Evaluation Report on Drug Policies

2019



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COSTA RICA

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PREFACE

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), under the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS), measures the progress achieved and challenges to member nations of the Organization of American States (OAS) in implementing the CICAD Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020. Mandated by the 1998 Summit of the Americas held in Santiago, Chile, the MEM is the only multilateral tool of its kind in the world.

MEM evaluations are based on information provided by OAS member states, which is then analyzed by the MEM's Governmental Expert Group (GEG), composed of experts from OAS countries. For this round, the GEG performed its work from mid-2018 to mid-2019. The evaluation process was transparent and inclusive in nature, with no experts involved in the evaluation of their own country.

The GEG analyzed the following areas: institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, and international cooperation, and its evaluation is based on the 29 objectives and corresponding priority actions of the CICAD Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020. (A few priority actions were not considered, given they are not measurable.) In addition, the seventh round reports include a discussion of member states' progress over time during the seven MEM rounds.

Prior to the GEG's work, the MEM Inter-Governmental Working Group, also composed of representatives from OAS member states, designed the seventh evaluation round instrument during 2017, and the resulting questionnaire was then completed by member states.

The MEM reports focus on key themes important not only to CICAD but to the OAS as a whole, such as human rights, gender, age, culture and social inclusion. The reports also take into account the recommendations of the outcome document of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS 2016) and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

We hope the MEM reports serve as a useful diagnostic tool to improve drug policies and strategies, both at a national and regional level.

This report and all other MEM seventh round evaluation reports are available at <http://www.cicad.oas.org>

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

OBJECTIVE 1

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN NATIONAL DRUG AUTHORITIES, PLACING THEM AT A HIGH POLITICAL LEVEL AND PROVIDING THEM WITH THE NECESSARY CAPABILITIES AND COMPETENCIES TO COORDINATE NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES IN THE STAGES OF FORMULATION, IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION.

The Costa Rican Institute on Drugs (ICD) is the national drug authority of Costa Rica. It was created in 2001 by Law 8204 of 2002. The ICD is a body attached to the Ministry of the Presidency, and has legal personality to conduct its contractual activity and administer its resources and assets. The ICD coordinates the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, drug observatory, international cooperation, and program evaluation.

The annual ICD budget amounts for 2014-2018 are as follows:

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Amount of the annual budget (U.S. dollars)	\$8.678.541	\$10.097.350	\$9.328.167	\$13.467.811	\$13.536.517

Costa Rica has an ongoing coordination and organization mechanism among agencies and other levels of government, in order to implement the National Drug Strategy. This mechanism operates by means of meetings of the Directing Council, which is made up of the agencies that form part of that Strategy.

OBJECTIVE 2

FORMULATE, IMPLEMENT, EVALUATE AND UPDATE NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES AND/OR STRATEGIES THAT WILL BE COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED, BASED ON EVIDENCE THAT INCLUDE A CROSS-CUTTING HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE, CONSISTENT WITH OBLIGATIONS OF PARTIES UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW¹ WITH A FOCUS ON GENDER AND EMPHASIZING DEVELOPMENT WITH SOCIAL INCLUSION.

Costa Rica has a National Drug Strategy for the period 2018-2022, which was approved by the Directing Council of ICD through Agreement 012-02 of 2018. This Strategy covers the areas of institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures and international cooperation.

The relevant actors from priority areas involved in drafting, implementation, evaluation and updating of the 2018-2022 National Drug Strategy are Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MTSS), Ministry of Justice and Peace, Ministry of the Status of Women / National Women's Institute (INAMU), The Judicial Investigation Body (OIJ), Ministry of Public Security (MPS), Public Ministry (MP), the Ministry of Public Education (MEP), Ministry of the Presidency, the scientific community and academia, civil society and other social actors.

Municipalities and local governments have transferred responsibilities on drug issues (specific or related) and have enough autonomy with legal basis to take responsibility for and implement concrete actions, in coordination with the ICD.

The ICD has an office that focuses on the coordination and training of local governments or stakeholders in the area of drug use prevention and the organization of information. However, Costa Rica does not have coordinators, offices or representatives in the territories as part of a decentralized operational and coordination structure at the local level, to respond to the drug problem.

The country has a stable mechanism to transfer funds and finance drug initiatives and projects implemented by municipalities or local governments, chiefly through funding of prevention projects or programs carried out by the municipalities and other authorities in order to improve community social wellbeing. The funds are drawn from assets forfeited or confiscated in accordance with Law 8204 of 2002 and its reforms.

The 2018-2022 National Drug Strategy takes into account the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda. It also includes a human rights perspective, taking an approach to the drug problem that centers on human development and that ensures access, inclusiveness and full participation in every strategic action that is taken. It also incorporates a gender approach in its 2007-2017 Policy on Gender Equality and Equity (PIEG) and development with social inclusion through its efforts and actions to work with all groups of society and particularly those who are vulnerable or at high risk.

¹ Full respect for international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, observing the principles of sovereignty and the territorial integrity of States, nonintervention in the internal affairs of States, fundamental liberties, inherent human dignity, and equal rights and mutual respect among States.

OBJECTIVE 3

DESIGN AND COORDINATE NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES AND/OR STRATEGIES WITH OTHER PUBLIC POLICIES AND/OR STRATEGIES THAT ADDRESS FUNDAMENTAL CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE DRUG PROBLEM.

Costa Rica coordinates the 2018-2022 National Drug Strategy with the national social public policy. It includes crime prevention, social exclusion, equality and equity, social opportunities and balance, improvement in the quality of life, a person-centered approach, and the rational use of resources, in order to address the socioeconomic causes and consequences of the drug problem.

OBJECTIVE 4

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN NATIONAL OBSERVATORIES ON DRUGS (OR SIMILAR TECHNICAL OFFICES) FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL DRUG INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND FOSTERING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THIS AREA.

Costa Rica has the Costa Rican Observatory on Drugs, created by Law 8204 of 2002, with financial, human and technological resources. The observatory has a national drug information network, which involves the following stakeholders: universities, health institutions, statistics and census institutions, Prison Police, Judicial Police, Municipal Police, the 911 Emergency System, and the Judiciary's forensic sciences, civil society and other social stakeholders.

The following are the studies in the area of demand reduction:

Demand reduction			
Studies	Studies carried out and published		Year of most recent study
	Yes	No	
Survey of secondary school students	X		2015
National household surveys (12-64 years)	X		2015
Patient register of treatment centers	X		2018
Cross-section survey of patients in treatment centers		X	
Survey of patients in emergency rooms		X	
Survey of higher education students	X		2018
Survey of populations in conflict with the law	X		2015

Demand reduction			
Studies	Studies carried out and published		Year of most recent study
	Yes	No	
Studies on drug-related mortality		X	
Studies on drug-related morbidity		X	
Studies on gender conditions related to drug problems	X		2014

The following is the information in the areas of supply reduction, trafficking and related crimes:

Supply reduction, trafficking and related crimes			
Information	Information available		Year of most recent information
	Yes	No	
Quantification of illicit crop cultivation including crops grown indoors	X		2017
Number of seizures of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production	X		2017
Quantities of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production seized	X		2017
Number of seizures of controlled chemical substances (precursors)		X	
Quantities of seized controlled chemical substances (precursors)		X	
Number of seizures of pharmaceutical products		X	
Quantities of seized pharmaceutical products		X	
Number of persons formally charged with drug use, possession and trafficking	X		2016
Number of persons convicted of drug use, possession and trafficking	X		2016
Number of laboratories producing illicit plant- based drugs detected and dismantled		X	
Number of laboratories producing illicit drugs of synthetic origin detected and dismantled		X	
Chemical composition of seized drugs		X	
Sale price of drugs (for consumers)		X	
Number of persons formally charged with money laundering	X		2016
Number of persons convicted of money laundering	X		2016
Number of persons formally charged with trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition and related materials	X		2016

Supply reduction, trafficking and related crimes			
Information	Information available		Year of most recent information
	Yes	No	
Number of persons convicted of trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition and related materials	X		2016
Number of persons formally charged with diversion of chemical substances		X	
Number of persons convicted of diversion of chemical substances		X	

The indicators and information managed by Costa Rican Observatory on Drugs, include and systematically analyze data disaggregated by gender, age, socio-economic and educational level, and ethnicity.

In the area of demand reduction, the Institute on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (IAFA) conducted an evaluation in 2016 to assess the efficacy of the school-based program for prevention of psychoactive substance use called “Aprendo a Valerme por Mí Mismo,” which is conducted in public schools.

OBJECTIVE 5

ENCOURAGE THE DESIGN, ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION FOR LOW-LEVEL DRUG-RELATED OFFENSES, WHILE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT NATIONAL, CONSTITUTIONAL, LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS.

Costa Rica has the 2017 Public Policy on Restorative Juvenile Justice, providing for alternative measures to incarceration for low-level drug offenses. These measures are governed by the Law 7576 on Juvenile Criminal Justice of 1996 and provide for conciliation and suspension of the trial proceedings.

The restorative methodology allows for a comprehensive response to the proceeding, by including a psychosocial team in constructing the content of the alternative measure as well as its monitoring. There is a technical approach to detect an offender’s drug problem, linked to the commission of the crime. In addition, the existing link to the health component through the Intersectoral Support Network makes the alternative measure feasible in addition to providing adequate accessibility to the supply of treatment services required in each specific case.

In order to achieve the goals established in the government’s policy on Restorative Juvenile Justice at the national level, an action plan was developed with seven specific strategic areas, leading to the need to develop inter-institutional links. In this regard, the inclusion of Restorative Justice in all areas of the

juvenile criminal process has been established as a strategic area, including the penalty enforcement stage, whether involving alternatives or imprisonment, and social reintegration.

The process of implementing and applying Restorative Justice in juvenile criminal proceedings has taken into account drug problems and their relationship to the commission of crimes among children and adolescents. These problems have been addressed by incorporating the community (health component) through the Intersectorial Support Network so as to encompass this aspect in the construction and enforcement of alternative measures for resolving juvenile criminal cases. In addition, alternative measures to incarceration for low-level drug-related offenses take gender differences into account, in accordance with the relevant international instruments.

The Judiciary is the body responsible for implementing the mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the impact of implementing alternative measures to incarceration for low-level drug-offenses. These mechanisms do not involve academic or research institutions. Monitoring and evaluation tasks are carried out by various Restorative Juvenile Justice teams, the Judiciary, Auxiliary Justice offices, the administrative area of the Judicial Branch and the Planning Directorate. In this regard, a series of mechanisms have been developed to monitor juvenile criminal proceedings conducted using the Restorative Juvenile Justice methodology.

OBJECTIVE 6

PROMOTE AND IMPLEMENT, AS APPROPRIATE, COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICIES, LAWS AND NEEDS OF EACH COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE VULNERABLE POPULATIONS, WITH DIFFERENT LEVELS AND FORMS OF INVOLVEMENT.

Costa Rica has inter-institutional and multisectoral programs that promote the social integration of individuals affected by the drug problem. These programs form part of the 2018-2022 National Drug Strategy and include: the *Fresh Chance* program (prisons), program of Care for the Juvenile Prison Population (prisons), the project called *Young People on the Fringes* (prisons), *Genesis* selective prevention (social sector), Children's Homes and Listening Homes (social and education sectors).

OBJECTIVE 7

FOSTER PROPORTIONATE SENTENCING, WHERE APPROPRIATE, THAT ADDRESSES THE SERIOUSNESS OF DRUG OFFENSES AND SAFEGUARDING LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Costa Rica has legislation, Law 9161 of 2013, amending Law 8204 of 2002 on Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances, Unauthorized Drugs, Related Activities, Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing.

The purpose of this law is to introduce proportionality and gender specificity by adding an article stipulating that: “the sentence shall be three to eight years imprisonment when a woman is guilty of or aids and abets in the introduction of toxic substances, narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances into a prison facility and meets one or more conditions” specified in that law. In the case of women living in poverty, women heads of household in vulnerable situations, who are in charge of minors, elderly women or people with all forms of disability, or elderly women in vulnerable situations; “the competent judge or in the enforcement of sentence, may order the enforcement of the sentence imposed, in modality of home detention, assisted liberty, trust centres, limited freedom with non-stigmatizing electronic devices or any type of alternative measure to prison.”

The country has special courts or tribunals for low-level drug-related offenses, through the Restorative Criminal Justice Program.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD notes that from the first to the seventh rounds (1999-2018), Costa Rica has had a national drug authority responsible for coordinating the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, drug observatory, international cooperation and program evaluation. In addition, CICAD notes that this authority has a legal basis and an operating annual budget.

CICAD views with satisfaction that during the first six rounds (1999-2014), Costa Rica implemented national drug plans. In the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has a 2018-2022 National Drug Strategy that covers the areas of institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures and international cooperation. This strategy also takes into account the SDGs of the United Nations 2030 Agenda, the human rights perspective, the gender approach through the 2007-2017 Policy on Gender Equality and Equity and the development with social inclusion. In addition, CICAD is pleased that the country has a stable mechanism to transfer funds and finance drug initiatives and projects implemented by municipalities or local governments.

CICAD takes note that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Costa Rica incorporates actions in the national social public policy to address the socio-economic causes and consequences of the drug problem.

CICAD notes that in the second round (2001-2002), Costa Rica had a uniform national statistics system. In the third round (2003-2004), the national drug authority had a National Drug Information and Statistics Unit as part of its internal structure. CICAD also notes with satisfaction that from the sixth to the seventh rounds (2013-2018), the country has had the Costa Rican Observatory on Drugs with financial, human and technological resources, a national drug information network, priority studies on demand reduction and information on supply reduction, trafficking and related crimes. The country carries out studies to evaluate drug programs in demand reduction, but not in supply reduction and control measures.

CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Costa Rica has a Public Policy on Restorative Juvenile Justice, providing for alternative measures to incarceration for low-level drug-related offenses for adolescents. The country also has mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the impact of implementing such alternative measures.

CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Costa Rica has inter-institutional and multisectoral programs that promote the social integration of individuals affected by the drug problem in the context of the 2018-2022 National Drug Strategy.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that from the sixth to the seventh rounds (2013-2018), Costa Rica has had legislation on proportionality and gender specificity for drug-related offenses. The country also has special courts and tribunals for low-level drug-related offenses in the Restorative Criminal Justice Program.

DEMAND REDUCTION

OBJECTIVE 1

ESTABLISH DEMAND REDUCTION POLICIES WITH A PUBLIC HEALTH FOCUS THAT ARE EVIDENCE-BASED, COMPREHENSIVE, MULTIDISCIPLINARY, MULTISECTORAL, AND RESPECTFUL OF HUMAN RIGHTS, CONSIDERING THE GUIDELINES AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS OF SPECIALIZED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

Costa Rica has demand reduction policies that include programs in the areas of prevention, treatment, and social integration and incorporate the following approaches: human rights, age differences, and gender, but not intercultural.

The country takes into account the guidelines and recommendations of specialized international organizations in establishing demand reduction programs in prevention, treatment and social integration.

Costa Rica has conducted process and impact evaluations of drug abuse prevention programs. The “*Aprendo a valerme por mí mismo*” program has a process evaluation and impact evaluation, and is conducted by the Interdisciplinary Professional Advisory (API). In addition, the “*Saber Eligir, Saber Ganar*” program has an impact evaluation conducted by the Central American Institute of Public Administration.

Costa Rica implements coordination mechanisms to develop demand reduction programs allowing for the participation of and coordination with civil society and other social stakeholders. The principal coordination mechanism is the leadership capacity and coordination of the Institute on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (IAFA), as well as policy support through the National Policy on Care for Homeless and Street People and the National Treatment Policy.

Measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse are implemented using the technical guide jointly published by the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) as a reference. In this regard, Costa Rica issues the public policy on harm reduction among people living on the street.

OBJECTIVE 2

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF UNIVERSAL, SELECTED AND INDICATED PREVENTION PROGRAMS ON DRUG USE, GIVING PRIORITY TO VULNERABLE AND AT-RISK POPULATIONS, EVIDENCE-BASED AND INCORPORATING A HUMAN RIGHTS, GENDER, AGE AND MULTICULTURAL APPROACH.

Costa Rica implements prevention programs for the following populations:

Population group	Name of program	Type of program
School children and university students:		
• Pre-school	“Aprendo a Valerme por Mí Mismo”	Universal
• Elementary/primary	“Aprendo a Valerme por Mí Mismo”	Universal
• Junior high & high school (secondary school)	CEPREDE	Universal
Street Population		
• Adults	“Chepe se baña”	Universal
Family	“Aprendo a Valerme por Mí Mismo” (for parents)	Universal

The country does not implement prevention programs in the following populations: university students, children and youth living on the street, gender, LGBTI, the community, indigenous people, migrants and refugees, individuals in the workplace, and the prison population.

OBJECTIVE 3

ESTABLISH AND STRENGTHEN, AS APPROPRIATE, A NATIONAL TREATMENT, REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION SYSTEM FOR PEOPLE WITH PROBLEMATIC DRUG USE, INCLUDING A HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER-BASED APPROACH, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED QUALITY STANDARDS.

Costa Rica has a national system for comprehensive treatment and social integration programs and devices for people with problem drug use, guaranteeing non-discriminatory access. This national system includes early intervention (brief intervention, counseling), crisis intervention, diverse treatment modalities, dual pathology (co-morbidity), social integration and recovery support services. These programs and devices take into account the *International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders* of the UNODC and the WHO. To ensure that these standards are met, the country uses the accreditation mechanisms of the IAFA.

The country has mechanisms to facilitate access and ensure the quality of treatment services for those with problematic drug use. Ambulatory treatment services are provided by the IAFA in what are called Comprehensive Drug Treatment Centers (CAID). The National Treatment Center for Minors who are Drug Users also provides residential treatment according to the needs of each minor. In addition, non-governmental organizations offer short-, medium- and long-term residential treatment for drug users. The gender perspective is included in all treatment services offered and there is a programmatic supply of care differentiated by gender.

Costa Rica has established and maintained cooperative relationships with governmental and non-governmental organizations that provide social and community support services, with a gender perspective, for the social integration of vulnerable populations.

The country has mechanisms for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the results of care, treatment and rehabilitation and social reintegration programs. These mechanisms consider human rights and gender approaches.

Costa Rica also has mechanisms to protect the rights of people with problematic drug use in treatment programs and services through the program accreditation mechanisms of the IAFA.

The country also has supervisory mechanisms for establishments that offer treatment and rehabilitation services for problem drug users.

OBJECTIVE 4 | FOSTER ONGOING TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION OF HUMAN RESOURCES THAT PROVIDE PREVENTION, TREATMENT, REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL REINTEGRATION SERVICES.

Costa Rica offers ongoing competence-based training in the areas of prevention, treatment and social reintegration, including:

- Care for persons with problems associated with psychoactive substance use, levels I, II and III;
- Care for persons with problems associated with psychoactive substance use, level I for professional staff;
- Training in counseling on alcohol and other drugs, levels I, II and III;
- Care for persons with problems associated with psychoactive substance use, for staff of the Judiciary, module I;
- Training in the management by the Traffic Police of situations of persons with psychoactive substance use;

- Care for persons with psychoactive substance use who are in conflict with the law, using a harm reduction model, for staff of the Ministry of Justice, module I; and
- Care for street people who use psychoactive substances, using a harm reduction model.

The Costa Rican Social Security System (CCSS) provides training in the intervention guides of the Mental Health Gap Action (mhGAP) program for mental, neurological and drug abuse disorders at the unspecialized primary care level. There is also a training module for staff of the CCSS mental health interdisciplinary teams.

The IAFA is in charge of carrying out certification processes for personnel. This institute ensures that treatment staff in non-governmental and governmental organizations are properly certified to provide care to drug users, and also enhances the quality and effectiveness of the services provided to the population. Universities or teaching centers that offer academic training provide certificates or diplomas, ensuring that those participating in this training process have the knowledge necessary according to the proposed curriculum.

OBJECTIVE 5

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES TO REGULATE, ENABLE, ACCREDIT AND SUPERVISE PREVENTION PROGRAMS AND, CARE AND TREATMENT SERVICES.

Costa Rica has an accreditation process for treatment centers that is carried out by the IAFA.

The IAFA has supervisory mechanisms in place to ensure that the quality criteria of prevention services are met, as well as supervisory mechanisms for care and treatment services.

Costa Rica has not conducted an assessment to determine national needs for care and the offer of treatment and care services.

DEMAND REDUCTION

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD notes with satisfaction that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Costa Rica has demand reduction policies that include programs in the areas of prevention, treatment, and social integration. These programs incorporate human rights, age difference, and gender approaches, but not an intercultural approach. Furthermore, CICAD observes that the country implements measures to minimize the adverse consequences of drug abuse on society and public health, considering the guidelines of international organizations. These policies are implemented through coordination mechanisms with various stakeholders. With respect to program evaluation, CICAD notes with satisfaction that from the first to the sixth rounds (1999-2014), Costa Rica evaluated drug abuse prevention programs. CICAD also recognizes progress made in the seventh round (2014-2018) compared to earlier rounds, as it now carries out process as well as impact evaluations of drug abuse prevention programs.

CICAD emphasizes that from the first to the seventh rounds (1999-2018), Costa Rica has had a national prevention system, and from the fifth to the seventh rounds (2007-2018), it has implemented universal prevention programs targeting the school population, adults living on the street, and families. On the other hand, CICAD notes that Costa Rica some populations are still not covered by prevention programs.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that from the second to the seventh rounds (2001-2018), Costa Rica has had a national health system that offers all the services in the continuum of care, guaranteeing access without discrimination and keeping in mind a gender perspective. CICAD is pleased to note that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has mechanisms to facilitate access and ensure the quality of treatment services. Costa Rica also has mechanisms for continuous monitoring and evaluation of the results of care, treatment and social integration programs, as well as supervisory mechanisms for establishments that offer treatment and rehabilitation services.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that from the first to the seventh rounds (1999-2018), Costa Rica has offered a wide variety of training programs in the academic setting as well as other courses in the area of prevention, treatment and social integration. Furthermore, CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country certifies personnel working to provide care for drug users.

CICAD recognizes that from the third to the seventh rounds (2003-2018), Costa Rica has had an accreditation process for treatment centers, as well as supervisory mechanisms to guarantee the quality of prevention, care and treatment services. However, CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has not conducted an assessment to determine national needs for care and the supply of care and treatment services.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

OBJECTIVE 1

DESIGN, IMPLEMENT AND STRENGTHEN COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED POLICIES AND PROGRAMS, AIMED AT PREVENTING AND DECREASING THE ILLICIT SUPPLY OF DRUGS, IN ACCORDANCE TO THE TERRITORIAL REALITIES OF EACH COUNTRY AND RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS.

In Costa Rica, the Ministry of Public Security (MSP) designs, implements and updates national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit crops and the illicit production of drugs.

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

Costa Rica includes environmental protection measures in its policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs. In this regard, the country does not use agrochemical sprays, but rather carries out manual eradication.

Drug supply reduction programs implemented by the country are supplemented by drug-related crime prevention initiatives that address social and economic risk factors. These programs include participation from civil society and other social stakeholders.

OBJECTIVE 2

DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT MECHANISMS TO COLLECT AND ANALYZE INFORMATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES AND ACTIONS AIMED AT DECREASING THE ILLICIT SUPPLY OF DRUGS.

Costa Rica has mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs. The Costa Rican Observatory on Drugs of the Costa Rican Institute on Drugs (ICD) participates in these mechanisms.

The country carries out periodic studies and research on the structural and socioeconomic factors influencing the illicit supply of drugs situation, such as the “Territorial Patterns and Sociodemographic Factors Associated with Homicide and Drug Trafficking in Costa Rica” study.

Costa Rica does not prepare scientific studies or research on medical and scientific uses and other legal uses for crops containing narcotic or psychotropic substances subject to the international control system.

The country does not promote or implement mechanisms to identify chemical profiles and characteristics of drugs subject to the international control system.

Costa Rica promotes and implements mechanisms for the identification of new psychoactive substances (NPS). In this regard, the Judiciary's Forensic Sciences Analytical Chemistry Laboratory informs the Costa Rican Observatory on Drugs regarding the identification of NPS and the Observatory notifies the Costa Rican society of these findings through an information bulletin.

The country does not use standardized and comparable methodologies to measure illicit crops and drug production.

OBJECTIVE 3

DESIGN, IMPLEMENT AND/OR STRENGTHEN LONG-TERM PROGRAMS WHICH ARE BROAD AND AIMED AT DEVELOPMENT THAT INCLUDES RURAL AND URBAN ALTERNATIVE, INTEGRAL AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, AND, AS APPROPRIATE, PREVENTIVE ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICIES, LEGISLATIONS AND NEEDS OF EACH COUNTRY, AS APPROPRIATE.

Costa Rica has not implemented alternative, integral and sustainable development programs or preventive alternative development programs as part of the strategies to control and reduce illicit crops.

The country promotes sustainable urban development initiatives for crime prevention, community cohesion, citizen security and protection, the stimulation of innovation and entrepreneurship and the promotion of employment in urban populations affected by illicit activities related to drug trafficking and related crimes. These initiatives are included in the 2018-2022 National Drug Strategy.

Type of sustainable urban development initiative	Target populations
Crime prevention	School population and youth outside the educational system
Community cohesion	Vulnerable communities prioritized by the government, under the parameters of violence, poverty and insecurity
Citizen security and protection	Vulnerable communities prioritized by the government, under the parameters of violence, poverty and insecurity
Stimulate innovation and entrepreneurship	School population and youth outside the educational system Youths and adult women in the penitentiary system
Promotion of employment	Youths and adult women in the penitentiary system

OBJECTIVE 4

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

Costa Rica has not carried out research or studies to determine the characteristics and extent of the environmental impact caused by the illicit cultivation of crops and illicit drug production, since it has not detected significant illicit crop areas.

OBJECTIVE 5

ESTABLISH, AS APPROPRIATE, AND BASED ON EVIDENCE THE EFFECTS CAUSED BY SMALL-SCALE DRUG TRAFFICKING ON PUBLIC HEALTH, THE ECONOMY, SOCIAL COHESION AND CITIZEN SECURITY.

Costa Rica uses the “Territorial Patterns and Sociodemographic Factors Associated with Homicide and Drug Trafficking in Costa Rica” methodology for the characterization of micro- or small-scale drug trafficking, using territorial and socio-economic approaches, and the effects on public health, the economy, social cohesion and citizen security.

Since 2014, the country has been sharing information, through information bulletins, on the effects of small-scale or micro-drug trafficking in the social, economic and security sectors, between local governments, the Joint Institute of Social Assistance (IMAS) and the National Board of Children (PANI) and also between the National Financial System, the Financial Action Task Force and all police bodies of the Executive Branch, the Judicial Branch and local governments through reports, meetings and information bulletins.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), no significant areas of illicit crops have been detected in Costa Rica. The country designs, implements and updates national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit crops and the illicit production of drugs, which are supplemented by environmental protection measures and crime prevention initiatives.

CICAD acknowledges that during the first five rounds (1999-2009), Costa Rica has carried out activities to identify and monitor illicit crops, which continues in the seventh round (2014-2018). However, CICAD notes that during the seventh round, the country has not conducted scientific studies or research on medicinal, scientific or other licit uses of plants containing narcotics or psychotropic drugs and also does not promote or implement mechanisms to identify chemical profiles and characteristics of drugs subject to the international control system and does not use standardized and comparable methodologies to measure illicit crops and drug production. CICAD is pleased to see that the country promotes and implements mechanisms for the identification of NPS.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Costa Rica promotes sustainable urban development initiatives on crime prevention, community cohesion, protection and security of urban populations affected by illicit activities related to drug trafficking and related crimes.

CICAD observes that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Costa Rica does not conduct research or studies to determine the characteristics and extent of the environmental impact caused by activities related to illicit crops and illicit drug production.

CICAD highlights that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Costa Rica has characterization methodologies with territorial and socio-economic approaches on small-scale or micro-drug trafficking and also exchanges information on the effects of this phenomenon in the social, economic and security sectors.

CONTROL MEASURES

OBJECTIVE 1

ADOPT AND/OR STRENGTHEN COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED PROGRAMS AIMED AT PREVENTING AND REDUCING DRUG TRAFFICKING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERRITORIAL REALITIES OF EACH COUNTRY AND RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS.

Costa Rica has the Judiciary's Drug Packaging Procedures Manual, which serves as a protocol and guide to operating procedures to detect, investigate, and dismantle laboratories or facilities for the illicit processing or manufacture of drugs.

The country does not have programs or strategies to detect and seize drugs through monitoring, inspections or checkpoints on land, riverine, air, and sea routes.

Law 8204 of 2002 and its regulations on narcotics, psychotropic substances, illicit drugs, related activities, money laundering and the financing of terrorism provides for the use of specialized investigative tools and techniques to prevent and reduce drug trafficking. This law includes a human rights perspective.

Costa Rica participates in ongoing training programs for interdiction personnel regarding regulations, processes and procedures. In addition, the Judicial Investigation Agency (OIJ) carries out diagnoses and conducts updated studies to identify new trends and threats related to drug trafficking and related crimes, and on specialized investigation and intelligence techniques.

The country has the Analytical Chemistry Laboratory in the Judiciary's Department of Forensic Sciences, as the agency responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors and pharmaceuticals, including new psychoactive substances (NPS). Costa Rica also participates in ongoing training programs for the personnel of that laboratory who are involved in the analysis of substances.

OBJECTIVE 2

ADOPT AND/OR STRENGTHEN CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DIVERSION OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES TOWARDS ILLICIT ACTIVITIES.

Costa Rica has the Precursor Control and Oversight Unit (UCFP) of the Costa Rican Drug Institute (ICD) as the competent authority responsible for controlling domestic trade to prevent diversion of controlled chemical substances towards illicit activities. That authority is defined in Law 8204 of 2002 and its enabling regulations.

The Guidelines for Users of Precursors, Essential Chemicals and Controlled Equipment is the instrument and mechanism used to inform the industry and users in general of applicable controls and cooperation methods to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances. This instrument is available on the ICD portal.

The UCFP carries out analyses that include the exchange of information through existing international mechanisms regarding substances, their analogs and precursors, which pose a threat to public health, and uses the Precursors Incident Communications System (PICS), the Incident Communication System of the International Operations Program on NPS (IONICS) and the Pre-Export Notification (PEN Online) system on controlled chemical substances of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).

Law 8204 incorporates the control measures contained in Article 12, paragraphs 8 and 9 of the 1988 United Nations Convention to prevent diversion of controlled chemical substances toward illicit activities.

Costa Rica does not have training programs for drug control personnel or for the identification and handling of controlled chemical substances, but it does conduct isolated training sessions. Such training is provided to police forces and are presented within the training sessions of the Police Training School, but at the request of those responsible for training and not as part of a program. In the judicial arena, informal talks are presented to prosecutors from the different regions of the country, both on topics related to precursors and synthetic drugs and NPS.

OBJECTIVE 3

ADOPT AND/OR STRENGTHEN CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DIVERSION TOWARDS ILLICIT ACTIVITIES OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS CONTAINING PRECURSOR SUBSTANCES OR THOSE CONTAINING NARCOTIC DRUGS AND/OR PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, ENSURING THE ADEQUATE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESS SOLELY FOR MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES.

Costa Rica has an up-to-date register of all individuals and corporations handling pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, and psychotropic substances. In addition, the country issues licenses to manufacturers and distributors and conducts regular inspections and audits

on the facilities of individuals and legal entities that have been authorized to handle such products. The country has recently implemented the Automated Digital Prescription System.

The country has the following legal framework establishing criminal, civil and administrative penalties for infractions or violations committed by individuals or corporations that handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics or psychotropic substances:

- Law 8204 of 2002 and its enabling regulations;
- Law 63, the Costa Rican Civil Code;
- General Health Care Law 5395 of 2014;
- Decree 37111-S of 2017, Regulations for Narcotic and Psychotropic Drugs Control;
- Decree 34728-S of 2008, General Rules governing the Issuance of Ministry of Health Operating;
- Decree 39984-S of 2016 as amended, Rules of Procedure for Using and Operating the Automated Digital Prescription System for Psychotropic Substances and Narcotics;
- Decree 34622-S of 2008 as amended, Rules of procedure regulating the use of fentanyl in vials;
- Decree 16765-S of 1985, Rules of Procedure of Private Pharmaceutical Establishments;
- Decree 31969-S of 2004, Manual of Rules governing the Accreditation of Pharmacies; and
- Decree 30694-S of 2002, Rules governing the Accreditation of Establishments providing General Medical and Surgical Care and/or Medical and Surgical Specialty Care with capacity for more than 20 beds.

OBJECTIVE 4

ENSURE ADEQUATE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF SUBSTANCES SUBJECT TO INTERNATIONAL CONTROL SOLELY FOR MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES, PREVENTING THEIR DIVERSION.

Costa Rica has special processes for issuing import and export authorizations for narcotics and psychotropic substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes.

The country does not have training and awareness activities for competent national authorities and health professionals on proper access to substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes.

General Health Care Law 5395 of 2014 and Decree 37111-S of 2017 as amended (Rules of Procedure for Narcotic and Psychotropic Drugs Control) govern the acquisition of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes.

OBJECTIVE 5

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGE OF NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES AND THE THREAT OF AMPHETAMINE STIMULANTS.

Costa Rica has an early warning system to identify and trace NPS, amphetamine-type stimulants and other substances subject to international control.

The country implemented the QuEChERS method as an extraction system for the detection and analysis of NPS.

Costa Rica does not have regulatory frameworks or guidelines to identify and address the challenges posed by NPS and amphetamine-type stimulants.

OBJECTIVE 6

ESTABLISH, UPDATE AND STRENGTHEN, AS APPROPRIATE, THE LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS TO COUNTER MONEY LAUNDERING DERIVED FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING.

Costa Rica has created, updated, and strengthened the legislative and institutional frameworks to combat money laundering derived from drug trafficking. The instruments that make up that framework are:

- Law 9387 of 2016;
- Executive Decree 40018 of 2016;
- Law 9416 of 2016 – Law to Bolster Efforts to Combat Tax Fraud;
- Law 9449 of 2017; and
- Decree 40959-MJP of 2018 – the regulations to establish functions in the area of money laundering, terrorism financing and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction within the National Directorate of Notaries.

The country created the Public Ministry's (PM) "Manual for Dealing with Money-Laundering Crimes" and operational guidelines for financial and asset investigation in the investigation of money-laundering. The country also has protocols that enable the authorities to conduct financial and asset investigations parallel to drug trafficking investigations.

The mechanisms allowing for inter-agency coordination and cooperation in the area of preventing and controlling money-laundering are the 2018-2022 National Drug Strategy, its Plan of Action, the Inter-Agency Technical Commission that monitors the implementation of that strategy, and the Inter-Agency Commission to Prevent Money-Laundering.

The country has the Financial Intelligence Unit in the ICD, which is a highly decentralized body attached to the Ministry of the Presidency. The country also has mechanisms for analyzing money-laundering risks, in accordance with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations.

OBJECTIVE 7

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.

Costa Rica has Law 8204 of 2002, which facilitates accountability and transparency in the administration of seized and forfeited assets. This law and Law 8754 of 2009 against Organized Crime, as well as other specific measures in accordance with international treaties and conventions, facilitate the seizure and forfeiture of assets, instruments, or products deriving from drug trafficking and other related crimes.

The country has the Asset Recovery Unit (URA), a dependency of the Costa Rican Drug Institute (ICD), which is the competent authority responsible for the administration of seized and forfeited assets. Costa Rica also offers and participates in specialized training programs on this subject.

OBJECTIVE 8

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL INFORMATION GATHERING SYSTEMS AND MECHANISMS FOR EXCHANGING INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION TO DETECT ROUTES AND METHODS USED BY CRIMINAL DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS.

Costa Rica has national mechanisms for compiling data for exchanging intelligence information to detect routes and methods used by criminal organizations engaged in drug trafficking and related crimes. These mechanisms are the Consultation and Registry System: Criminal Analysis Platform (SICORE) and the Inter-Agency Drug Data and Statistics Commission (CIDED).

The country has a national information system on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on changing behaviors and modus operandi of criminal organizations.

The entities that are legally allowed to provide information to the national system on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on changing behaviors and modus operandi of criminal organizations, are the Prosecutor's Offices, the Judicial Investigation Agency and the Drug Control Police.

CONTROL MEASURES

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD notes with satisfaction that from the sixth to the seventh rounds (2013-2018), Costa Rica has had protocols and operating procedures to detect, investigate and dismantle laboratories or facilities engaged in the illicit processing and manufacture of drugs. In addition, CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country participates in ongoing training programs on regulations, processes and procedures and substance analyses for personnel involved in interdiction operations. Furthermore, CICAD notes that Costa Rica carries out updated diagnoses and studies to identify new trends and threats related to drug trafficking and related crimes, and on specialized investigative techniques and intelligence. Additionally, CICAD notes that the country has an institution responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors and pharmaceutical products, including NPS. However, CICAD notes with concern that Costa Rica does not have programs and strategies for detection and seizure of drugs through monitoring, inspections or checkpoints on land, river, air and sea routes.

CICAD observes with satisfaction that from the first through the seventh rounds (1999-2000), Costa Rica has had a competent authority with the powers needed to coordinate actions to control the diversion of controlled chemical substances towards illicit activities. Similarly, CICAD recognizes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has mechanisms to inform the industry and users in general of applicable controls and cooperation methods to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances. Furthermore, CICAD observes that Costa Rica carries out analyses that include the exchange of information through existing mechanisms of substances in the international field, their analogs and precursors, which pose a threat to public health. Additionally, CICAD also notes that the country uses the information system for pre-export notifications (INCB PEN Online) of controlled substances, as well as other systems. However, CICAD notes with concern that the country does not have training programs for drug control personnel or for the identification and handling of controlled chemical substances, although it does conduct isolated training sessions.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that in the sixth and seventh rounds (2013-2018), Costa Rica has had a legal framework establishing criminal, civil and administrative penalties to control pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances. Moreover, CICAD also notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Costa Rica has an updated register of individuals and corporations that handle these products, issues licenses to manufacturers and distributors, and carries out regular inspections or audits of the establishments authorized to handle these products.

CICAD observes that from the sixth to the seventh rounds (2013-2018), Costa Rica has had special import and export concession processes regarding narcotic or psychotropic substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. Additionally, CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has a regulatory framework to govern the acquisition of these substances. However, CICAD notes with concern that Costa Rica does not have training and awareness activities for competent national authorities and health professionals on proper access to these substances.

CICAD is pleased to note that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Costa Rica has an early warning system to identify and trace NPS and amphetamine-type stimulants and other substances subject to international control. Additionally, CICAD observes that the country has updated equipment and new technology for detecting NPS. However, CICAD notes with concern that Costa Rica does not have regulatory frameworks or guidelines for identifying and addressing the challenges posed by NPS.

CICAD views with satisfaction that from the first round to the seventh rounds (1999-2018), Costa Rica has created, updated, and strengthened its legislative and institutional frameworks to counter money laundering. CICAD also notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has protocols that enable the authorities to conduct financial and asset investigations parallel to drug trafficking investigations. Furthermore, CICAD is pleased to observe that Costa Rica has specialized bodies and appropriate mechanisms allowing for inter-agency coordination and cooperation in the area of preventing and controlling money laundering. Similarly, CICAD notes the country has a financial intelligence unit as well as mechanisms allowing for analysis of money-laundering risks, in accordance with the FATF recommendations.

CICAD observes that from the first to the seventh rounds (1999-2018), Costa Rica has had a competent authority for the administration and disposal of seized and forfeited assets. In addition, CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has laws facilitating the seizure and forfeiture of assets, instruments, or products deriving from drug trafficking and other related crimes. Similarly, CICAD recognizes that Costa Rica has regulations facilitating the accountability and transparency of the administration of seized and forfeited assets. In addition, CICAD observes that in the sixth and seventh rounds (2013-2018), the country has offered and participated in specialized training programs in this area.

CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has national mechanisms for compiling data for exchanging intelligence information to detect routes and methods used by drug trafficking criminal organizations. Similarly, CICAD observes that Costa Rica has a national information system on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on changing behaviors and modus operandi of criminal organizations.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

OBJECTIVE 1

PROMOTE AND STRENGTHEN COOPERATION AND COORDINATION MECHANISMS TO FOSTER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, IMPROVE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCES, AND SHARE BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED ON DRUG POLICIES AND RELATED CRIMES.

Costa Rica carries out technical assistance and horizontal cooperation activities with Organization of American States (OAS) member states, third party States and relevant international organizations. The country holds meetings to strengthen the human rights approach in public policies on drugs.

The country has exchanged technologies with its counterparts on the systematization of regulations, studies, research and bibliographic material produced by countries and international organizations and uses the Asset Recovery Network (RRAG) of the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT). The Corporate Salaries System (SISALEM) provides facilities and tools for qualified individuals and legal entities in the National Council for the Control of Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances (CONSEP). As for precursors, the Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS) of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) provides a secure channel for exchanging information. Public prosecutors' offices form part of the platform of the Ibero-American Network of Anti-Drug Prosecutors (RFAI). In addition, Costa Rica has established secure channels of communication for exchanging information on intelligence in the area of interdiction and drug control. In addition, the country promotes the exchange with its foreign counterparts of best practices on training, specialization, and professional development of staff responsible for implementing the National Drug Strategy 2018-2022. Foreign experts have given courses to the Costa Rican Drug Institute (ICD) personnel on matters contained in said Strategy and the country has reciprocated by providing training abroad.

Costa Rica participates in regional coordination activities to prevent crimes related to drug trafficking, such as firearms trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, money laundering, and corruption, among others. The country also has bilateral mechanisms for coordination and collaboration with other countries, focused on the dismantling of criminal groups linked to drug trafficking and related crimes.

OBJECTIVE 2

STRENGTHEN THE MULTILATERAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION MECHANISMS IN THE AREA OF FORFEITURE AND MANAGEMENT OF ASSETS DERIVED FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING AND RELATED CRIMES.

Costa Rica has reviewed and updated various laws and decrees, such as Law 9449 of 2017, Law 9716 of 2012, and Law 9387 of 2016, which allow for effective cooperation mechanisms with other countries on forfeiture and management of assets derived from drug trafficking, money laundering and other related crimes. GAFILAT evaluated the country in 2015. The country has procedures enabling the competent authorities to undertake expeditious actions in response to mutual legal assistance requests on investigation and forfeiture of assets derived from drug trafficking and related crimes. There also are instruments for international criminal assistance requests.

Costa Rica has competent authorities with legal powers to exchange information on money laundering investigations, including identification and tracking of the instruments associated with this offense, through information exchange networks such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and RRAG of GAFILAT, among others.

OBJECTIVE 3

STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AS DEFINED IN THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS RELATED TO THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM, WITH RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

Costa Rica has not enacted legislation or adopted regulations to improve the implementation of obligations established in international legal instruments related to the world drug problem, with respect to human rights and gender equality. However, the country developed and published the National Policy Guide for Gender Equality and Equity 2007-2017.

The country is party to the following international legal instruments:

Conventions and protocols			Yes	No
United Nations Conventions	Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000	Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;	X	
		Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air	X	
		Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition.	X	
	The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961		X	
	Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971		X	
	Convention against Corruption, 2003		X	
Inter-American Conventions	Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), 1997		X	
	Convention against Corruption, 1996		X	
	Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, 1992		X	

OBJECTIVE 4

PROMOTE COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF NATIONAL LEGAL NORMS, REGULATIONS, AND INTERNAL PROCEDURES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HEMISPHERIC JUDICIAL COOPERATION MECHANISMS AND MUTUAL LEGAL OR JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE RELATED TO DRUG TRAFFICKING AND RELATED CRIMES.

Costa Rica has not established bilateral or regional international cooperation agreements for mutual legal or judicial assistance on the control of drug trafficking and related crimes, nor are there laws or other provisions to allow mutual legal or judicial assistance to third party States in investigations, trials and legal proceedings related to these crimes.

Laws 8930 of 2011 and 9139 of 2013 permit extradition for drug trafficking and related crimes. In addition, the country is party to multilateral conventions such as the Inter-American Convention on Extradition, the Extradition Treaty with South American Republics, the Central American Extradition Treaty, and the Extradition and Protection against Anarchy Treaty. The Costa Rica legal system does not include the extradition of its citizens.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD notes with satisfaction that from the first to the sixth rounds (1999-2014) Costa Rica exchanged information on activities and collaboration on drug trafficking and related crimes with national entities as well as with countries and international organizations through treaties related to the subject. In addition, in the fifth round (2007-2009), the country had authorities responsible for coordination and execution of antidrug port security programs. CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Costa Rica has secure communication channels for the exchange of intelligence information on interdiction and drug control.

CICAD views with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Costa Rica has reviewed and updated laws and decrees providing for cooperation mechanisms with other countries on forfeiture and management of assets derived from drug trafficking, money-laundering and other related crimes. Also, the country has procedures empowering the competent authorities to undertake expeditious action in response to requests for mutual legal assistance in asset investigation and seizure.

CICAD observes with satisfaction that from the first to the sixth rounds (1999-2014), Costa Rica incorporated in its legislation provisions and measures establishing administrative and criminal controls to prevent the diversion of chemical and psychotropic substances as well as firearms involved in drug trafficking, money-laundering, and other related crimes. CICAD notes that as of the seventh round (2014-2018), the country published the National Policy Guide for Gender Equality and Equity 2007-2017. CICAD recognizes that throughout all seven rounds (1999-2018), Costa Rica has ratified all the conventions and protocols of the United Nations and the conventions of the OAS related to the world drug problem. However, CICAD expresses its concern that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has not enacted legislation or adopted regulations to improve the implementation of obligations established in international legal instruments related to the world drug problem, with respect to human rights.

CICAD notes that from the fourth to the seventh rounds (2005-2018), the country has had an extradition law for drug trafficking and money laundering that does not allow the extradition of its nationals for the commission of this crime. CICAD notes with concern that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Costa Rica has not established bilateral or regional international cooperation agreements on mutual legal or judicial assistance related to the control of drug trafficking and related crimes, nor does it have laws and provisions that allow for providing mutual legal or judicial assistance in investigations, trials and legal proceedings related to these crimes.

CICAD recognizes Costa Rica for the continued participation and commitment during the seventh evaluation round of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM). In accordance with its national situation, the country is encouraged to fully implement the Plan of Action (2016-2020) of CICAD's Hemispheric Drug Strategy.



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