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MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)

SECRETARIAT FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL SECURITY (SMS)

El Salvador

Evaluation Report on Drug Policies

2019



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EL SALVADOR

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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.

In El Salvador, the National Antidrug Commission (CNA) is the national drug authority. It was established in 2003 under Legislative Decree 153 and the Law to Regulate Drug-Related Activities of 2003. This institution answers directly to the President of the Republic.

The CNA coordinates the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, drug observatory and international cooperation, but does not coordinate program evaluation.

The CNA has an annual budget, which is part of the budget of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security. The budget amounts for 2014-2018 are as follows:

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Annual budget amount (US dollars)	\$359,335	\$369,030	\$322,815	\$338,335	\$336,500

The country has established an interagency technical group as a mechanism of coordination and organization to implement the national drug 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.

El Salvador has the National Antidrug Strategy (ENA) 2016-2021, which is in force and is being implemented. The ENA was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers who make up the CNA and covers the areas of institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures and international cooperation.

Relevant actors participating in the design, implementation, evaluation and updating of the Strategy include the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Education, the National Medicines Board, the High Council of Public Health, the National Institute on Youth, the Ministry of National Defense, the National Civilian Police, the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, the Supreme Court of Justice, the National Asset Management Council, the Superintendence of the Financial System, the Ministry of the Economy, the Autonomous Executive Committee on Ports, the Maritime Port Authority, the scientific community and the academic sector, civil society and other social actors.

Municipalities and local governments do not have transferred responsibilities on drug issues, nor do they have sufficient autonomy within the legal framework to take responsibility for and implement concrete actions in coordination with the CNA. The CNA focuses on promoting, coordinating, training and providing technical support for public and private agencies working on the drug issue nationwide.

The ENA takes into account the United Nations 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its guiding principles include a human rights perspective and a gender approach.

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.

In order to address some of the fundamental causes and consequences of the drug problem, the country implements the Plan called “El Salvador Seguro” to reduce the levels of violence and crime in municipalities, which have been prioritized on the basis of a range of indicators. The focus is on strengthening local organization by creating Municipal Violence Prevention Committees (CMPV) and on

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

conducting comprehensive prevention programs based on diagnostic assessments performed in each participating municipality.

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.

El Salvador has a national drug observatory with human, technological and financial capacities and resources. This observatory has a legal basis under the organizational structure of the Executive Office of the CNA. The observatory has a national drug information network linking government authorities, academics and civil society.

The following is the data and information collected in the area of demand reduction:

Demand reduction			
Studies	Studies carried out and published		Year of most recent study
	Yes	No	
National surveys of secondary school students	X		2017
National household surveys (12-64 year olds)	X		2014
Register of patients in treatment centers	X		2016
Cross-section survey of patients in treatment centers		X	
Survey of patients in emergency rooms		X	
Survey of higher education students		X	
Survey of populations in conflict with the law		X	
Studies on drug-related mortality		X	
Studies on drug-related morbidity		X	
Studies on gender conditions related to drug problems		X	
Other			
Types of psychoactive substances associated with drug dependency among inmates in different correctional centers in El Salvador	X		2013

Association of prior use of psychoactive substances and the type of crime committed by inmates in different correctional centers in El Salvador	X		2014
Characterization of children and adolescents who are users of the Salvadoran Institute for the Comprehensive Development of Children and Adolescents (ISNA)/Comprehensive Center for Children and Adolescents (CINNA) programs	X		2017

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

Supply reduction, trafficking and related crimes			
Information	Available information		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		2017
Quantities of seized controlled chemical substances (precursors)	X		2017
Number of seizures of pharmaceutical substances	X		2017
Quantity of seized pharmaceutical products	X		2017
Number of persons formally charged with drug use, possession and trafficking	X		2017
Number of persons convicted of drug use, possession and trafficking	X		2017
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		2017
Sale price of drugs (to consumer)	X		2017
Number of persons formally charged with money laundering	X		2017
Number of persons convicted of money laundering	X		2017
Number of persons formally charged with trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunitions and related materials		X	
Number of persons convicted of trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition and related materials		X	
Number of persons formally charged with diversion of chemical substances		X	
Number of persons convicted of diversion of chemical substances		X	

Generally, studies and information regarding both demand and supply reduction, control measures and related crimes include data broken down by gender, age, socioeconomic and education level.

The country has not conducted studies to evaluate drug programs and interventions in the areas of demand and supply reduction and control measures.

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.

El Salvador provides for the application of alternatives to incarceration for low-level drug-related offenses, pursuant to the Law to Regulate Drug-Related Activities of 2003 and other legal instruments. Such measures do not take gender differences into account.

The country has not developed mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the impact of implementing alternative measures to incarceration for low-level drug offenses.

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.

El Salvador has interagency and multisectoral programs that promote the social integration of individuals affected by the drug problem. The 2014-2019 Five-year Development Plan: A Productive, Educated and Safe El Salvador (PQD 2014-2019) establishes general guidelines for ensuring that public policies incorporate human rights, gender and life-cycle approaches, prioritizing equity, inclusion and social protection strategies. Interagency and multisectoral efforts have also been directed to promoting the social integration of individuals, families and groups directly impacted by social violence, alcohol and drug use and other problems and to attempt to mitigate those problems.

The country created the National Prevention and Social Programs Directorate in the Ministry of Education to address comprehensive prevention from an interagency coordination perspective, bolster teachers' skills and the abilities of students to prevent and be resilient to risks and strengthen family education, monitoring and investigation. One objective seeks to "promote coordinated actions to prevent the use of tobacco, alcohol and other psychoactive substances."

The Ministry of Health drafted the 2015-2019 National Health Policy, laying out how addictions are to be addressed. A National Mental Health Policy has also been defined in order to enhance the subjective wellbeing, development and optimal use of the psychological, cognitive, emotional and relational potential of the inhabitants of El Salvador.

OBJECTIVE 7

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

El Salvador has the 2003 Law to Regulate Drug-Related Activities, which establishes proportionate sentences, in particular for low-level drug-related offenses. Nevertheless, the country does not have special drug courts or tribunals for such offenses.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD notes that from the first to the seventh rounds (1999-2018), El Salvador has had a national drug authority, which has a legal basis and coordinates the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, drug observatory and international cooperation. During the seventh round (2014-2018), this authority has an annual budget and a legal basis.

CICAD is pleased that throughout the seven rounds (1999-2018), El Salvador has implemented national drug plans. CICAD also acknowledges that from the sixth through the seventh rounds (2013-2018), the country has made progress in bolstering its ENA, which remains in effect and is being implemented during the 2016-2021 period. This strategy covers institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures and international cooperation and takes into account the SGDs of the United Nations 2030 Agenda, the human rights perspective and a gender approach, but not a social inclusion approach.

CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), in order to address the socioeconomic causes and consequences of the drug problem, the country has its “El Salvador Seguro” Plan, which seeks to reduce violence and crime rates at the municipal level.

CICAD views with satisfaction that from the second to the seventh rounds (2001-2018), El Salvador has had a national drug observatory, which remains active and has made significant progress in compiling statistical data. It also has the requisite capacities and human and technological resources, as well as a national drug information network. Likewise, CICAD acknowledges that the country has made progress and efforts to develop priority demand reduction studies and supply reduction information. However, CICAD is concerned that during the seventh round (2014-2018), El Salvador has not conducted some priority studies in the area of demand reduction and does not have certain information in the areas of supply reduction, trafficking and related crimes. Generally speaking, the studies and information on drugs include data disaggregated by gender, age, socioeconomic and education levels. CICAD is concerned that the country does not have studies to evaluate programs in the area of demand reduction, supply reduction and control measures.

CICAD acknowledges that in the seventh round (2014-2018), El Salvador has legislation providing for alternative measures to incarceration for low-level drug-related offenses. Nevertheless, CICAD notes that the country does not have any mechanism in place to monitor and evaluate the impact of alternative measures to incarceration for such offenses, nor does it take into account gender differences in these measures.

CICAD is pleased that during the seventh round (2014-2018), El Salvador has interagency or multisectoral programs to promote social integration of individuals affected by the drug problem.

CICAD notes that during the seventh round (2014-2018), El Salvador has a law establishing proportionate sentencing, particularly for low-level drug-related offences. Notwithstanding, the country does not have special courts or tribunals for these offenses.

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.

El Salvador has demand reduction policies that include programs in the areas of prevention, treatment and social integration that incorporate human rights, intercultural, age difference and gender approaches.

The country takes into account the guidelines and recommendations of specialized international organizations in establishing prevention and treatment programs, but not for social integration programs. The international standards that are considered for drug prevention are issued by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). El Salvador also takes into account the hemispheric guidelines on prevention in schools issued by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States (CICAD/OAS).

With respect to treatment-related actions, the Ministry of Health has produced guidelines and regulations for treating drug-dependent persons, which establish the criteria and steps to be followed when caring for patients in health centers nationwide.

El Salvador has not carried out and process or intermediate outcome evaluations, nor has it conducted impact evaluations for drug abuse prevention programs.

The country has not implemented coordination mechanisms to develop and implement demand reduction programs allowing for the participation of and coordination with civil society and other social stakeholders.

Measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse have been implemented using the technical guide jointly published by the World Health Organization (WHO), the UNODC and the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) as a reference.

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.

El Salvador implements prevention programs in the following populations:

Population group	Name of program	Type of program
School children and university students		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary/primary 	“Miles de manos”	Universal
	“Familias Fuertes”	Universal
	Strategy to Prevent Abuse of Alcohol and other Psychoactive Substances	Universal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior high & high school (secondary school) 	“Miles de manos”	Universal
	“Familias Fuertes”	Universal
	Strategy to Prevent Abuse of Alcohol and other Psychoactive Substances	Universal
	“Salvando Vidas del Alcohol y Tabaco”	Universal
Community	Prevention Strategy and Use of Psychoactive Substances	Universal
Family	“Miles de Manos”	Universal
	“Familias Fuertes”	Universal
	“También soy Persona”	Universal
Individuals in the workplace	“Prevención de Riesgos en Lugares de Trabajo”	Universal

The country does not have selective or indicated prevention programs aimed at people with problematic drug use. Furthermore, El Salvador does not implement prevention programs in the following populations: pre-school and university students, people living on the street, LGBTI, indigenous people, migrants and refugees or 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.

El Salvador has a national system for comprehensive treatment and social integration programs and devices for people with problematic drug use, guaranteeing access without discrimination. This system includes early intervention (brief intervention, counseling), crisis intervention, diverse treatment modalities and dual pathology (co-morbidity), but not social integration or services related to recovery support. These programs and devices take into account the International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders of the UNODC and the WHO, and compliance with those standards is monitored using standardized oversight tools, which includes the enforcement of institutional rules, periodic monitoring and a series of health-related and psychological actions set forth in the “Technical Guidelines for Comprehensive Care of Persons with Psychoactive Substance Use Problems.”

The country has mechanisms to facilitate access and ensure the quality of treatment services for individuals with problematic drug use. Outpatient treatment services are provided by the public health system, private institutions, nongovernmental organizations and religious institutions; and residential services are provided by nongovernmental organizations and religious institutions. The gender perspective is included in the treatment services provided.

El Salvador 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. Under this cooperation framework, institutional regulations were drafted. These regulations were based on the Law on Equality, Equity and the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, in which the State ratifies its commitment to full enforcement of the constitutional principle of the equality of persons and the fulfillment of the obligations derived from that principle in respect of domestic legislation and effective action on the part of national institutions. The Ministry of Health has likewise issued the Agreement entitled “Policy for Gender Equality and Equity in Health,” which mainstreams the gender perspective in all policies, programs and projects of the National Health System and fosters equitable and egalitarian relations, without violence or discrimination.

The country has mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment and social integration programs, incorporating a human rights and gender perspective. Those mechanisms include strategies based on the “Policy for Gender Equality and Equity in Health” that guarantee gender equality and equity based on human rights in the comprehensive care provided in the National Health System.

El Salvador also has supervisory mechanisms for establishments that offer treatment and rehabilitation services for individuals with problematic drug use. The Higher Council for Public Health is responsible for authorizing these kinds of establishments, based on its monitoring of their compliance with the technical and administrative requirements for each level of care provided, and has a mechanism to receive reports of alleged malpractice.

It also has mechanisms to protect the rights of individuals with problematic drug use in treatment programs and services, through technical guidelines for comprehensive care, technical guidelines for mental health and clinical guidelines for mental health and psychiatric care.

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

El Salvador does not offer ongoing competence-based training in the areas of prevention, treatment and social reintegration. However, it did implement the CICAD/OAS Training and Certification Program for Drug Abuse and Violence Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation (PROCCER), and a Procedural Manual was drafted for certifying human resources as Socio-Therapeutic Operators.

The country also took part in the pilot training course for the module of the Universal Treatment Curriculum for Health Professionals of CICAD/OAS at the Autonomous National University of Mexico (UNAM).

The National Anti-Drug Commission (CAN) certifies basic-level competence of the human resources providing treatment services, but not for prevention or social reintegration services.

OBJECTIVE 5 | ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES TO REGULATE, ENABLE, ACCREDIT AND SUPERVISE PREVENTION PROGRAMS AND, CARE AND TREATMENT SERVICES.

El Salvador has an accreditation process for treatment centers.

El Salvador has supervisory mechanisms to ensure that the quality criteria of care and treatment services are met, through the “Technical Guidelines for Comprehensive Care of Individuals with Psychoactive Substance Use Problems,” which were established by the Ministry of Health. In addition, in order to guarantee the quality of those services, El Salvador takes part in the validation and piloting of basic demand reduction criteria in treatment programs run under the Cooperation Program between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drug Policies (COPOLAD II). It has also organized a

pilot project in specialized ambulatory care centers and plans to include said standards to ensure the fulfillment of quality criteria in prevention programs.

El Salvador has conducted a diagnostic assessment to determine national care needs and the provision of care and treatment services.

DEMAND REDUCTION

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), El Salvador has demand reduction policies with programs in the areas of prevention, treatment and social integration. These programs incorporate human rights, intercultural, age-difference and gender approaches into account, as well as measures designed to minimize the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse that are based on international organization guidelines. CICAD also notes that the country does not implement coordination mechanisms to implement demand reduction programs that allow for the participation of civil society and other social stakeholders, nor has it conducted evaluations of drug abuse prevention programs.

CICAD highlights that from the second through the seventh rounds (2001-2018), El Salvador has had universal prevention programs for primary and secondary school students. In the seventh round (2014-2018), the country also has programs targeting the community, families, primary and secondary school students and individuals in the workplace. However, CICAD notes with concern that for the past six rounds (2001-2018), programs have been sporadic for the prison population, families and street children and youths.

CICAD views with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), El Salvador has a national system of comprehensive treatment and social integration programs and devices offering the whole range of services on the continuum of care, guaranteeing access without discrimination. CICAD is pleased to observe that during the sixth and seventh rounds (2013-2018), the country has had mechanisms in place to guarantee accessibility and quality, along with mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the outcomes of care, treatment and social integration programs and for supervising establishments that offer treatment programs and services. Furthermore, El Salvador has mechanisms to protect the rights of individuals with problematic drug use in treatment programs and services.

CICAD acknowledges the progress made by El Salvador between the third and seventh rounds (2003-2018) with regard to its provision of training in the area of demand reduction and notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country certifies human resources working in treatment services at the basic level, but does not certify those working in prevention or social integration.

CICAD views with satisfaction that during the seventh round (2014-2018), El Salvador has an accreditation process for treatment centers, as well as monitoring mechanisms to guarantee the fulfilment of quality criteria for care and treatment programs as well as for prevention programs. Additionally, the country has conducted an assessment to determine the national needs regarding 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.

The Antinarcotics Division of the National Civilian Police designs, implements and updates national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit crops and the illicit production of drugs.

El Salvador does not take into account traditional licit uses when designing and implementing policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs, nor does it include environmental protection measures in said policies and programs.

Drug supply reduction programs implemented by El Salvador are supplemented by drug-related crime prevention initiatives that address social and economic risk factors and include civil society participation.

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.

El Salvador has mechanisms for collecting and analyzing information relating to the illicit supply of drugs. The Antinarcotics Division of the National Civilian Police is the institution that participates in these mechanisms.

The country does not carry out periodic studies or research on the structural and socioeconomic factors influencing the illicit supply of drugs situation and does not prepare or update studies or research on medical and scientific uses and other legal use of crops containing narcotic or psychotropic substances subject to the international control system.

El Salvador promotes and implements mechanisms to identify chemical profiles and characteristics of drugs subject to the international control system and new psychoactive substances (NSP).

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.

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

The country does not promote sustainable urban development initiatives in urban populations affected by illicit activities related to drug trafficking and related crimes.

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.

El Salvador 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, given that no significant illicit crops areas have been detected.

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.

El Salvador has an institutional information database for the characterization of micro-drug trafficking or small-scale drug trafficking, with territorial and socio-economic approaches, and information on the effects on public health, the economy, social cohesion and citizen security.

The country exchanges information on the effects of small-scale drug trafficking or micro-drug trafficking in the security sector through the Commission of Police Chiefs and Directors of Central America, Mexico and Colombia (CJPCAMCC). The aforementioned exchanges are conducted using digital communication platforms, mainly e-mail. In addition, face-to-face meetings to evaluate operations are carried out.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD notes that no significant areas of illicit crops have been detected in El Salvador. During the seventh round (2014-2018), the country designs, implements and updates national policies and programs to prevent and decrease crops and the illicit production of drugs that include crime prevention initiatives addressing social and economic risks factors with civil society participation. However, CICAD observes that those programs do not include environmental protection measures.

CICAD recognizes that during the seventh round (2014-2018), El Salvador has mechanisms for collecting and analyzing information related to the illicit supply of drugs. Nevertheless, CICAD observes that the country does not conduct periodic studies or research on the structural and socioeconomic factors influencing the illicit supply of drugs situation and does not prepare or update studies or research on medical, scientific and other legal uses of crops containing narcotic or psychotropic substances. CICAD likewise acknowledges that El Salvador promotes and implements mechanisms for identifying profiles and for the chemical characterization of NPS. CICAD highlights that in the seventh round, the country carries out studies to identify chemical profiles and characteristics of drugs, which were not implemented during the sixth round (2013-2014).

CICAD notes that in all seven rounds (1999-2018), El Salvador has not designed or implemented comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs. Additionally, CICAD views with concern that during the seventh round (2014-2018), the country does not have sustainable urban development programs in urban populations affected by illicit activities associated with drug trafficking and related crimes.

CICAD observes that during the seventh round (2014-2018), El Salvador 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.

CICAD acknowledges that during the seventh round (2014-2018), El Salvador has an institutional database for characterizing, with territorial and socio-economic approaches, micro-drug trafficking or small-scale drug trafficking and, moreover, it exchanges information about the effects of this phenomenon on public health, the economy, social cohesion and citizen security.

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.

El Salvador has the Manual for Use by National Laboratories of the United Nations, “Recommended Methods for the Detection and Assay of Heroin, Cannabinoids, Cocaine, Amphetamine, Methamphetamine and Ring-Substituted Amphetamine Derivatives,” which includes the protocols and procedures to detect, investigate and dismantle laboratories or facilities dedicated to the illicit processing or manufacture of drugs.

The country has a strategy for detecting and seizing drugs by overland, riverine, aerial, and maritime monitoring, inspections and checkpoints. In addition, the Law Regulating Drug-Related Activities of 2003, set forth in Decree 153, provides for the use of specialized investigative tools and techniques to prevent and reduce illicit drug trafficking and also includes a human rights perspective.

El Salvador participates in continuing training programs for the personnel involved in interdiction operations on laws, processes and procedures related to illicit drug trafficking and related crimes, as well as in specialized investigative and intelligence techniques.

The country performs updated assessments to identify new trends and threats related to illicit drug trafficking and related crimes.

The National Bureau of Drugs (DNM) and the Technical-Scientific Police Division (DPTC) of the National Civilian Police are the institutions in charge of analyzing chemical substances, precursors and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances (NPS). The country has and participates in continuing training programs for the personnel of the institutions involved in analyzing those substances.

OBJECTIVE 2

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

In El Salvador, the DNM is the competent authority responsible for regulating domestic commerce to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances to illicit activities, which is governed by the

Law on Medicines of 2012 and its General Regulation and the Regulation on Narcotics, Psychotropics, Precursors, Chemical Substances and Products and Aggregates. That Bureau, through its website, has developed instruments and mechanisms to inform the industry and users in general about the applicable controls and ways to cooperate that make it possible to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances.

The country performs analyses that include the exchange of information through existing international mechanisms on substances, their analogues and their precursors that pose a threat to public health. That exchange is done using information technology tools, such as online portals, that make it possible to keep the information on NPS used illicitly up to date.

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

El Salvador uses the Pre-Export Notification Online information system (PEN Online) of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for controlled chemical substances.

The country has a training program called “Application of the Legal Framework on the Control of Substances subject to Special Control,” which is provided to drug control personnel, and to identify and handle controlled chemical substances. It is offered by the DNM and the DPTC of the National Civilian Police.

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.

El Salvador has an updated registry of those individuals and businesses that handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics or psychotropic substances. In addition, the country issues licenses to manufacturers and distributors and performs regular inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and businesses that have been authorized to handle those products.

The 2012 Law on Medicines of the DNM includes criminal, civil and administrative penalties for infractions or violations perpetrated by individuals or businesses that handle these products.

OBJECTIVE 4

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

El Salvador has special processes for granting concessions for the import and export of narcotics or psychotropic substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes.

The country has training and awareness-raising activities, offered to the competent national authorities and health professionals, regarding adequate access to substances subject to international control solely for medical and scientific purposes, through talks on the manufacture, import, export, commercialization and use of narcotics, psychotropic substances and chemical precursors, as well as on legal aspects.

The 2012 Law on Medicines and the Regulation of Narcotics, Psychotropic Substances, Precursors, Chemical Substances and Products and Aggregates establishes the regulatory framework that governs 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.

El Salvador has an early warning system to identify and trace NPS and amphetamine stimulants, as well as all other substances subject to international control. The information is shared with the Drug Information Center (DIC).

The country has incorporated to its operational technical capabilities updated equipment and new technologies, such as TruNarc, loscan, and Hazmatid 360, acquired and used to detect and analyze NPS.

El Salvador does not have regulatory frameworks or guidelines to identify and address the challenges posed by NPS and amphetamine stimulants.

OBJECTIVE 6

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

El Salvador has not updated or strengthened the regulatory and institutional frameworks for countering money laundering derived from illicit drug trafficking.

The country does not have protocols that enable authorities to pursue financial and asset investigations in parallel to an investigation into illicit drug trafficking.

The Office of the Attorney General of the Republic of El Salvador has the Prosecutorial Process Information and Automated Management System (SIGAP), a mechanism that facilitates interinstitutional coordination and cooperation to prevent and control money laundering.

The Financial Investigation Unit (FIU) is under the Office of the Attorney General, answering directly to the Attorney General. This unit acts as the Department of Financial Intelligence and is in charge of receiving, processing, analyzing and transmitting to the competent authority information for preventing and detecting money laundering.

El Salvador does not have mechanisms that make possible an analysis of risks of money laundering, as per the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

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.

El Salvador has the Special Law on Asset Forfeiture and on the Administration of Assets of Illicit Origin or Use of 2013, which establishes the National Council for the Administration of Assets (CONAB), in charge of administering seized and forfeited assets and other specific measures. This Law is in keeping with the relevant international treaties and conventions to facilitate the seizure and forfeiture of assets, instruments or proceeds from illicit drug trafficking and related crimes.

To facilitate accountability and transparency in the administration of seized and forfeited assets, the country has the Law on Access to Public Information of 2010, which is established in Decree 534.

El Salvador participates in specialized training programs for the administration and disposal of seized and forfeited assets.

OBJECTIVE 8

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

El Salvador has national information gathering mechanisms for the exchange of intelligence information to detect routes and methods used by criminal drug trafficking organizations through the Antidrug

Intelligence Centers of the various countries, the National Civilian Police, the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, the Autonomous Executive Port Commission and the Armed Forces. In addition, the country has implemented the Global Container Control Program (CCP) to fight illicit drug trafficking, contraband of merchandise, arms trafficking and other criminal activity, making it possible to have an impact on organized crime.

In addition, the National Civilian Police has a national information system on illicit drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on the changing conduct and modus operandi of the criminal organizations. It also participates in the High-Level Security Group that involves Mexico and El Salvador.

CONTROL MEASURES

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD notes that in the sixth and seventh rounds (2013-2018), El Salvador has had protocols or procedures to detect, investigate and dismantle laboratories or facilities for the illicit processing or manufacture of drugs. CICAD also highlights that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has strategies for detecting and seizing drugs through overland, riverine, aerial and maritime monitoring, inspections and checkpoints and participates in continuing training programs on these issues. Similarly, El Salvador performs assessments to identify new trends and threats related to illicit drug trafficking and related crimes and has regulations that consider the use of specialized investigative tools and techniques to prevent and reduce illicit drug trafficking. CICAD also views with satisfaction that El Salvador has an institution entrusted with analyzing chemical substances, precursors and pharmaceutical products, including NPS, and also has and participates in continuing training programs for the personnel involved in analyzing those substances.

CICAD is pleased to note that from the first to seventh rounds (1999-2018), El Salvador has had a competent authority responsible for regulating domestic commerce to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances to illicit activities. Similarly, CICAD observes that from the fifth to seventh rounds (2007-2018), the country has used the Pre-Export Notification information system (PEN Online) of the INCB on controlled chemical substances. CICAD also expresses its satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), El Salvador has mechanisms for informing the industry and users in general about applicable controls and ways to cooperate that make it possible to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances; and it performs analyses that include exchanging information through international mechanisms on substances, their analogs and their precursors that pose a threat to public health. Similarly, CICAD notes that the country has training programs for drug control personnel and for identifying and handling controlled chemical substances.

CICAD is pleased to observe that from the first to the seventh rounds (1999-2018) El Salvador's legislation has included criminal, civil, and administrative penalties for infractions or violations perpetrated by individuals or businesses that handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics or psychotropic substances. In addition, CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018) the country has an updated registry of the individuals and businesses that handle these products, grants licenses to their manufacturers and distributors and performs the required regular inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and businesses that have been authorized to handle such products.

CICAD acknowledges that in the seventh round (2014-2018), El Salvador has special processes for granting concessions for the import and export of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. In addition, CICAD observes that the country has training and awareness-raising activities offered to the competent national authorities and health professionals on adequate access to

substances subject to international control solely for medical and scientific purposes and it that has a regulatory framework that governs the acquisition of these substances.

CICAD expresses its satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), El Salvador has an early warning system for identifying and tracing NPS and amphetamine stimulants, as well as all other substances subject to international control. The country also has new special investigative techniques, updated equipment and new technologies acquired and used to detect and analyze NPS. Nonetheless, CICAD notes with concern that El Salvador does not have regulatory frameworks or guidelines to identify and address the challenges those substances pose.

CICAD highlights that in the seventh round (2014-2018), El Salvador has mechanisms that facilitate interinstitutional coordination and cooperation to prevent and control money laundering, as well as a financial intelligence unit. Nonetheless, CICAD is concerned that the country has not updated or strengthened the legal frameworks for countering money laundering stemming from illicit drug trafficking. In addition, CICAD observes with concern that El Salvador does not have protocols that enable the authorities to pursue financial and asset investigations in parallel with an investigation into illicit drug trafficking, nor mechanisms that make it possible to analyze risks of money laundering, as per the recommendations of the FATF.

CICAD is pleased to note that in the sixth and seventh rounds (2013-2018), El Salvador has had a competent authority to administer forfeited assets related to money laundering. In addition, CICAD is pleased to observe that the country has had specialized training programs for the administration and disposal of seized and forfeited assets. In addition, CICAD acknowledges that in the seventh round (2014-2018), El Salvador has legislation, regulations and procedures, in keeping with the relevant international treaties and conventions, to facilitate the seizure and forfeiture of assets, instruments or proceeds from illicit drug trafficking and related crimes, and provisions that facilitate accountability and transparency in the administration of seized and forfeited assets.

CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), El Salvador has national information gathering mechanisms for the exchange of intelligence information to detect routes and methods used by criminal drug trafficking organizations. In addition, the country has a national information system on illicit drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on the changing conduct and modus operandi of the 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.

El Salvador engages in technical assistance and horizontal cooperation activities with member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), third States and with relevant international organizations. The country has cooperated with other countries and international organizations by signing international cooperation agreements regarding outpatient care for children and adolescents exposed to risks and drug use. El Salvador also offers technical assistance by sharing its experience in implementing a national process for training and certifying human resources who provide treatment to individuals who use drugs.

The country does not exchange technologies with foreign counterparts on the systematization of regulations, studies, research or bibliographic material produced by countries and international organizations. However, El Salvador establishes secure communication channels for the exchange of intelligence information on drug interdiction and control through the Counter-Narcotics Division of the National Civil Police and the National Defense Ministry. It also promotes the exchange, with foreign counterparts, of best practices on training, specialization and professional development of the staff responsible for implementing the National Drug Strategy of 2016-2021.

El Salvador participates in regional coordination activities to prevent crimes related to drug trafficking, such as trafficking in firearms, extortion, kidnapping, money laundering and corruption, through the Counter-Narcotics Subcommittee of the Commission of Chiefs and Directors of Police of Central America and Mexico and by implementing the Global Container Control Programme (CCP), which set up a Container Control Unit (UCC) in the Port of Acajutla, in order to combat drug trafficking, contraband, arms trafficking and other criminal manifestations of organized crime. The country 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.

El Salvador has reviewed and updated the Law on Asset Forfeiture and Management of Assets of Illicit Origin or Use of 2013, making possible effective cooperation mechanisms with other countries in the area of forfeiture and the management of assets derived from drug trafficking, money laundering and other related crimes. The Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT) evaluated the country in 2010.

The country has mechanisms and 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. These mechanisms and procedures are designed by the International Legal Affairs Unit of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic. In El Salvador, there are mechanisms and controlled purchase techniques in place for the controlled delivery and investigation of drug-related crimes, in connection with the forfeiture of assets. The country has competent authorities with legal powers to exchange information on money laundering investigations, including identification and tracing of the instruments associated with this offense, through information exchange networks such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the Regional Asset Recovery Network (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.

El Salvador has adopted legislation and administrative measures and actions, respecting human rights and gender equality, to improve implementation of obligations set forth within international legal instruments regarding the world drug problem. Thus, the country enacted the Law on Asset Forfeiture and Management of Assets of Illegal Origin and Use of 2013, and its enabling regulations, and the Law against Money and Asset Laundering of 2015. Laws have also been adopted on gender equality, such as the Comprehensive Special law for a Life Free from Violence for Women of 2011 and the Law on Equality, Equity and the Eradication of Discrimination against Women of 2011.

El Salvador 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.

El Salvador has established bilateral and regional international cooperation agreements for mutual legal or judicial assistance on the control of drug trafficking and related crimes. The country has laws and other legal provisions that permit the provision of mutual legal or judicial assistance to third States in judicial investigations, trials and legal proceedings relating to drug trafficking and related crimes.

The country also has laws or other legal provisions that permit extradition for drug trafficking and related crimes, in line with the Constitution, and has subscribed extradition agreements for drug trafficking and related crimes. Moreover, El Salvador is party to the Montevideo Extradition Convention and the Central American Extradition Convention and has laws or other legal provisions that permit the extradition of nationals for the aforementioned crimes.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD notes that in the first round (1999-2000), El Salvador exchanged information and coordinated with other countries. During the third and fourth rounds (2003-2006), the country had entered into bilateral agreements on drugs and exchanged operations-related intelligence information with the national authorities of other countries responsible for drug trafficking matters. CICAD views with satisfaction that from the sixth to the seventh rounds (2013-2018), El Salvador has had formal mechanisms for the secure and effective exchange of intelligence information in the investigation of cases involving illicit drug trafficking and related crimes. During the seventh round (2014-2018), the country engages in technical assistance and horizontal cooperation activities with OAS member states, third States and relevant international agencies.

CICAD acknowledges the progress made by El Salvador in the seventh round (2014-2018), by updating laws providing effective mechanisms for cooperating with other countries on the seizure of assets and administration of the proceeds from drug trafficking and money laundering. CICAD also notes with satisfaction that the country also has mechanisms and 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. CICAD likewise observes that El Salvador has competent authorities legally empowered to share information on money laundering-related investigations, including the identification and tracing of instruments related to this crime.

CICAD recognizes that from the first to the sixth rounds (1999-2014), El Salvador had laws on money laundering control, the diversion of chemical substances, imports, exports, preventing the diversion of pharmaceutical products and controlled chemical substances, as well as the monitoring, production, manufacture, importing, exporting, distribution and marketing of narcotics, psychotropics and chemical precursors. CICAD also acknowledges that during the seventh round (2014-2018), the country enacted laws on trafficking in firearms, ammunition and explosives; organized crime; extradition; and the forfeiture of assets, as well as laws on gender equality. Additionally, CICAD observes that during the seven rounds (1999-2018), El Salvador has ratified all the conventions and protocols of the United Nations and the conventions of the Organization of American States regarding the world drug problem.

CICAD notes that, during the third round (2003-2004), El Salvador signed bilateral agreements for exchanging information on drugs and related crimes with authorities in other countries. CICAD views with satisfaction that, from the fifth to the seventh rounds (2005-2018), the country's laws have permitted the provision of mutual legal assistance to third States in investigations, trials and judicial proceedings relating to drug trafficking and money laundering. El Salvador also has laws permitting extradition for drug trafficking and money laundering, including regulations allowing the extradition of its nationals for such crimes.

CICAD recognizes El Salvador 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 (2010).



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