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MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)

SECRETARIAT FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL SECURITY (SMS)

United States of America

Evaluation Report on Drug Policies

2019



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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 United States of America’s (U.S.) national drug authority is the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), established by the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 and is a component of the Executive Office of the President. The Director of ONDCP evaluates, coordinates and oversees both the international and domestic anti-drug efforts of executive branch agencies, and ensures that such efforts sustain and complement state, local, and tribal anti-drug activities.

ONDCP coordinates the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, alternative, integral and sustainable development programs, control measures, drug observatory, international cooperation and program evaluation.

ONDCP has an annual budget. Said budget for the years 2014-2018 is as follows:

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Annual budget amount (US dollars, millions)	\$25,733.1	\$25,892.9	\$26,874.0	\$28,812.5	\$29,419.7

The country has an ongoing coordination and organization mechanism among agencies and other levels of government, in order to implement the National Drug Control 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 LAW WITH A FOCUS ON GENDER AND EMPHASIZING DEVELOPMENT WITH SOCIAL INCLUSION.

The U.S. has a National Drug Control Strategy that covers the areas of institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures and international cooperation.

There are 16 federal drug control departments or agencies. All of them contribute in some way to the development and review of the Drug Strategy. Key roles are played by the Departments of Health and Human Services, State, Justice, Homeland Security, and Defense. Input is solicited by ONDCP from state and local governments, scientific community/academia, civil society and other social actors. Drug policy initiatives are administered at all levels of government throughout the U.S. – federal, state, local, and tribal.

ONDCP has, in its central structure, an office or operational unit to promote, coordinate, and provide technical support on drug-related issues to local governments or stakeholders. The ONDCP administers and coordinates two primary grant programs (the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area and Drug Free Communities programs) as part of a decentralized operational and coordination structure at the local level, to respond to the drug problem. The country has a specific and stable mechanism to transfer funds and finance drug initiatives and projects implemented by local governments.

The National Drug Control Strategy reflects an appreciation of the importance of human rights and takes into account issues faced by both women and girls, in line with the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS) 2016 Outcome Document and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. This Strategy also references issues related to social inclusion and to reintegration of those in recovery within the community, overcoming stigma and misunderstanding, and providing an opportunity for minor, non-violent offenders to receive treatment, instead of incarceration.

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.

To address the socio-economic causes and consequences of the drug problem, the issues of preventing crime, violence, and victimization, and disrupting and dismantling drug distribution groups are central tenets of U.S. drug policy. These efforts are designed to prevent drug use before it starts and to encourage those that have initiated drug use or other illegal activities to seek help as early as possible. These

efforts, combined with Federal, state and local prevention and enforcement efforts, help communities address the socio-economic 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.

The U.S. has a national observatory on drugs with financial, human and technological resources. The observatory has a national drug information network that includes universities, health institutions, statistical and census institutions, private consultants, civil society and other social stakeholders, and international organizations of cooperation.

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		2018
National household surveys (12-64 years)	X		2017
Patient register of treatment centers	X		2018
Cross-section survey of patients in treatment centers	X		2016
Survey of patients in emergency rooms	X		2017
Survey of higher education students	X		2017
Survey of populations in conflict with the law		X	
Studies on drug-related mortality	X		2017
Studies on drug-related morbidity		X	
Studies on gender conditions related to drug problems	X		2017
Survey of other target populations. YOUTH	X		2017

The following is the information 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	
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 products	X		2017
Quantities 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 (via the National Seizure System)	X		2017
Chemical composition of seized drugs	X		2017
Sale price of drugs (for consumers)	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, ammunition and related materials	X		2017
Number of persons convicted of trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition and related materials	X		2017
Number of persons formally charged with diversion of chemical substances	X		2017
Number of persons convicted of diversion of chemical substances	X		2017

Evaluative studies on drug programs were carried out by the country in relation to demand reduction, supply reduction and control measures. These evaluations were carried out through the National Drug Control Strategy: Performance Reporting System, Report 2016 in accordance with the ONDCP Reauthorization Act 2006.

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.

U.S. law provides for alternative legislative measures to incarceration for low-level drug offenses, but the alternative measures do not take into account gender differences. The country also has mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the impact of implementing alternative measures.

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.

The U.S. has interinstitutional and multisectoral programs that promote the social integration of individuals affected by the drug problem.

OBJECTIVE 7

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

The U.S. has legislation on proportionate sentencing, in particular for low-level drug-related offenses. The country also has special courts or tribunals for the aforementioned offenses.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD views with satisfaction that throughout the seven rounds (1999-2018), the U.S. has had a national drug authority. In the seventh round (2014-2018) the national drug authority coordinates the areas of demand reduction; supply reduction; alternative, integral and sustainable development programs; control measures; drug observatory; international cooperation and program evaluation. In addition, CICAD notes that there has been an annual budget and a legal basis for the national drug authority.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that during the seven rounds (1999-2018), the U.S. has had a national drug strategy. In the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has a National Drug Control Strategy that includes the areas of institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures and international cooperation. This Strategy takes into account the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, includes a human rights perspective, a gender approach and development with social inclusion. The country also has a specific and stable mechanism to transfer funds and finance drug initiatives and projects implemented by local governments.

CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the U.S. has social policies that address the socioeconomic causes and effects of the drug problem.

CICAD views with satisfaction that through the seven rounds (1999-2018), the U.S. has had a national observatory on drugs. In the seventh round (2014-2018), the observatory on drugs has financial, human and technological resources and a national drug information network. The country has priority studies and information on demand and supply reduction, trafficking and related crimes. CICAD also notes that the U.S. has carried out studies to evaluate drug programs on demand reduction, supply reduction and control measures.

CICAD notes that during the sixth and seventh rounds (2013-2018), the U.S. has had legislation that incorporates alternative measures to incarceration for low-level drug-related offenses, and mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the impact of implementing alternatives to incarceration for low-level drug offenses.

CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the U.S. has interinstitutional and multisectoral programs for social integration in vulnerable populations.

CICAD views with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the U.S. has legislation on proportional sentencing for low-level drug-related offenses, and has special courts for said 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.

The U.S. has demand reduction policies that include programs in the areas of prevention, treatment, and social integration. Those programs include human rights, inter-cultural, age differences, gender and other approaches. Related to other approaches, the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Drug Free Communities (DFC) and the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Activities (CARA) programs focus on local solutions to local problems. These programs also focus on implementing strategies and activities that take into account the community's demographics.

The country takes into account the guidelines and recommendations of specialized international organizations in establishing demand reduction programs for prevention, treatment, and social integration programs. The policies of the U.S. are informed by the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (UNGASS) 2016 Outcome Document for prevention, treatment, and social integration programs, while the country looks to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) International Standards on Drug Use Prevention for guidelines on prevention programs.

The U.S. carries out process and intermediate outcome evaluations of the following drug use prevention programs:

- Strategic Prevention Framework-Partnerships for Success (SPF-PFS), Process/Outcome, 2013-2018
- Strategic Prevention Framework-State Incentive Grants (SPF-SIG), Process, 2004-2018
- Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI), Process/Outcome, 2013-2018
- Strategic Prevention Framework-Prescription Drugs (SPF-Rx), Process/Outcome, 2016-2021
- Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program, Process/Outcome, published in September 2017.

The country has also conducted a recent impact evaluation on the "Partnership for Success" drug use prevention program. The evaluation was carried out by Substance Abuse and Mental Services Administration (SAMHSA) and RTI International and the results are pending publication. Availability of additional grant funds for follow on work in this area was announced in May of 2018. At their discretion, states/tribes may also use grant funds to target up to two additional, data-driven substance

abuse prevention priorities, such as the use of marijuana, cocaine, or methamphetamine, among others by individuals ages 9 and above. The SPF-PFS program is designed to ensure that prevention strategies and messages reach the populations most impacted by substance abuse.

The U.S. implements coordination mechanisms for the development and implementation of demand reduction programs that allows for the participation of and coordination with civil society and other social stakeholders. The 12 sectors include the following: youth; parents; schools; law enforcement; healthcare; religious/fraternal organizations; State/local/Tribal government; youth serving organizations; civic and volunteer groups; business; the media; and other organizations with substance abuse expertise.

The country implements measures aimed at reducing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug use using the technical guide that was jointly published by the World Health Organization (WHO), UNODC and the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

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.

The U.S. implements prevention strategies and programs in the following populations:

Population group	Name of program	Type of program
School children and university students:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Middle school and High school youth 	Strategic Prevention Framework – Partnerships for Success	Universal
	Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act Grants	Universal
	Drug Free Communities Support Program	Universal
	Community Anti-Drug Coalition Institute	Universal
	Prevention Technology Transfer Network	Universal

Population group	Name of program	Type of program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior high & high school (secondary school) 	Strategic Prevention Framework – Partnerships for Success	Universal
	Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act Grants	Universal
	Drug Free Communities Support Program	Universal
	Community Anti-Drug Coalition Institute	Universal
	Prevention Technology Transfer Network	Universal
	Good Behavior Game	Universal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> University/tertiary education 	Strategic Prevention Framework – Partnerships for Success	Selective
	Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act Grants	Selective
	Prevention Technology Transfer Network	Selective
Family	The Family Check Up Guide	Universal
	Strengthening Families	Universal
Street Population:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults 	Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI)	Selective
Gender		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women 	MAI	Selective
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men 	MAI	Selective
LGBTI	MAI	Selective
Individuals in the workplace	Drug-Free Workplace Programs (SAMHSA)	Universal

Federal support for prevention programs is provided through grant programs. The largest block grant funds (Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment - SAPT and State Targeted Response - STR), which include significant funds for treatment and prevention, are provided by the Health and Human Services department to state governments, who then allocate a portion of those funds for prevention, providing local grants to schools, providers, or state agencies depending on their preference. The Drug Free Communities program, administered by ONDCP in partnership with Substance Abuse and Mental Services Administration (SAMHSA), awards grants directly to community coalitions, which define their own target population and coverage areas, based on their assessment of the challenge they face within their regions.

Additionally, support for indicated prevention response is allowable under federal and state prevention grant guidelines and many states and school systems incorporate indicated prevention initiatives that employ counseling, referral to treatment and other program elements. Overall efforts related to indicated prevention include, but are not limited to specific programs, such as those from SAMHSA (Substance Abuse & HIV/AIDS Prevention & New Media, Grants to Prevent Prescription Drug/Opioid Overdose-Related Deaths, First Responders – Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act Grants, Improving Access to Overdose Treatment Grants), and the High School Graduation Initiative also known as School Dropout Prevention Program.

The country does not implement prevention programs in the following populations: pre-school students, street children and youths, community, indigenous people, migrants and refugees, incarcerated individuals.

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.

The U.S. has a national system for comprehensive drug treatment and social integration, for people with problematic drug use, guaranteeing non-discrimination. The system includes early intervention (brief intervention, counseling), crisis intervention, diverse treatment modalities, dual pathology (co-morbidity), social integration and services related to recovery support. As the lead agency in the development of this system, the SAMHSA, through its Center for Integrated Health Solutions (CIHS), a national training and technical assistance center, seeks to promote the development of an integrated primary and behavioral health service that enables Americans to find effective treatments and services in their communities for mental and substance use disorders. These programs and devices do take into account the International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders of UNODC and WHO. These programs and devices also are monitored for compliance by state/local governments and evaluated by SAMHSA under discretionary grants.

The country has mechanisms in place to facilitate access to and to ensure the quality of treatment services for those with problematic drug use. This effort is facilitated by SAMHSA's Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC) Network, which facilitates alliances among front line counselors, treatment and recovery services agency administrators, faith-based organizations, policy makers, the health and mental health communities, consumers and other stakeholders. In the U.S., the public health system, private institutions, non-governmental organizations, and religious institutions provide both outpatient and residential services.

Many treatment services incorporate training on gender differences related to Substance Use Disorders (SUDs), gender-responsive services, trauma-informed care, cultural sensitivity, and developing healthy relationships.

The country has established and maintained cooperative relationships with governmental/non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that provide social and community support services, with a gender perspective, for the social integration of vulnerable populations. Services are provided by governmental and NGOs, religious and secular organizations, clinical, and peer-led recovery community organizations.

The U.S. has mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment and social integration programs. Gender and human rights approaches are taken into account during evaluation and monitoring.

The country also has mechanisms to protect the rights of people with problematic drug use in treatment programs and services. These mechanisms have protocols to protect the confidentiality of the information provided by the recipients of these services and they include the process of providing adequate information on treatment and informed consent.

The Federal Government created confidentiality laws to protect the information of individuals under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996, which all federally assisted drug and alcohol treatment centers must follow. Further, as a patient, one can sue anyone who discloses your information without your consent. In the U.S., there are legal rights to treatment and a person cannot be discriminated against for present or past participation in medically needed substance abuse treatment. Treatment for problematic drug use is protected from discriminatory practices by a number of federal and state initiatives, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Fair Housing Act and the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

Any medically-related information that employers may have access to for insurance purposes, Medicaid, or any other purpose, is also completely confidential and cannot be revealed without the client's consent. Additionally one cannot be discriminated against for any publicly available governmental support program based on a past history of substance abuse. Programs may include social assistance or welfare, housing assistance, job or employment assistance or licensing programs.

The U.S. has supervisory mechanisms for establishments that offer treatment and rehabilitation services for those with problematic drug use. State/local governments monitor compliance with standards and SAMHSA evaluates programs under discretionary grants they may monitor.

OBJECTIVE 4

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

The U.S. offers competency-based training in the areas of prevention, treatment and social reintegration at varying levels and by a number of organizations. These include:

- The Association for Addiction Professionals (The National Association for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC))
- The National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc.
- The International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC)
 - Alcohol & Drug Counselor (ADC)
 - Advanced Alcohol & Drug Counselor (AADC)
 - Clinical Supervisor (CS)
 - Prevention Specialist (PS)
 - Certified Criminal Justice Addictions Professional (CCJP)
 - Peer Recovery (PR)

The country also certifies personnel working in prevention, treatment and social reintegration services, primarily, through NAADAC and IC&RC, which provide the majority of addiction credentialing in the U.S.

OBJECTIVE 5

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

The U.S. has an accreditation process for treatment centers. The Joint Commission's accreditation process concentrates on operational systems critical to the safety and quality of care, treatment or services provided to the individual.

The country has supervisory mechanisms to ensure that the quality criteria of prevention services and care and treatment are met. Supervisory mechanisms are determined at the state levels and state governments monitor compliance with overseeing their standards.

The U.S. also has conducted assessments to determine the national needs regarding care and treatment services offered. This assessment has revealed that serious workforce shortages exist for health professionals and paraprofessionals across the U.S.

DEMAND REDUCTION

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD recognizes with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the U.S. has demand reduction programs that incorporate human rights, inter-cultural, age differences, and gender approaches, that also implement measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse. CICAD notes that these demand reduction programs consider the guidelines and recommendations of international organizations, and implemented through coordination mechanisms with various stakeholders. CICAD notes with satisfaction that during the seven rounds (1999-2018), the country has been carrying out evaluations of processes, intermediate results and the impact of prevention and treatment programs.

CICAD is pleased to note that through the seven rounds (1999-2018), the U.S. has maintained a wide variety of prevention programs for a large part of the population. In the seventh round (2014-2018), there is a universal prevention program for secondary school students families, and selective programs for university students, street adults, gender, the LGBTI community, and individuals in the workplace; however, there are populations that are not covered.

CICAD sees with satisfaction that during the seven rounds (1991-2018), the U.S. has had a system of integrated programs and devices for treatment and social integration that guarantees access without discrimination and offers all services in the continuum of care, with the gender perspective. Likewise, CICAD acknowledges that since the fifth to the seventh rounds (2007-2018), the country has had mechanisms that guarantee the accessibility and quality of treatment services, as well as for monitoring and evaluating the results of treatment programs. There are also have been mechanisms to protect the rights of people with problematic drug use in treatment services and programs, and supervisory mechanisms of facilities offering treatment and rehabilitation services.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that throughout the seven rounds (1999-2018), the U.S. has been offering a wide variety of training in the academic field as well as other courses in the area of prevention, treatment and social integration. Moreover, the country has been certifying the personnel who work in prevention, treatment and social integration services.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that since the second to the seventh rounds (2001-2018), the U.S. has had institutional capacities to accredit treatment centers at the federal and state levels. In the seventh round (2014-2018), CICAD observes that the U.S. also has monitoring mechanisms to ensure compliance with quality criteria in prevention and treatment programs, which are defined and implemented at the state level. Likewise, CICAD notes that the country has conducted an assessment to determine the national needs for care and treatment services offered.

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 U.S. designs, implements and updates national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit crops and the illicit production of drugs.

Traditional licit use is taken into account when designing and implementing policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs. Federal law permits peyote use among members of the Native American communities, and to non-Native Americans in Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Nevada, and Oregon.

The country includes environmental protection measures in its policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs. In this regard, the country conducts the following research: “Hazards of Illicit Methamphetamine Production and Efforts at Reduction: Data from the Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance System (NIH);” “Investigating environmental sinks of macrolide antibiotics, and illicit drugs, with analytical chemistry (EPA);” “Anticoagulant Rodenticides on Our Public and Community Lands: Spatial Distribution of Exposure and Poisoning of a Rare Forest Carnivore.”

Drug supply reduction programs implemented in the country are supplemented by drug-related crime prevention initiatives that address social and economic risk factors and include participation from civil society and other social stakeholders. The efforts to protect the American public from the risks posed by methamphetamine laboratories are conducted by federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. Civil society is generally not involved.

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.

The U.S. has mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs. These involve the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Departments of Homeland Security, Defense, and Justice, and state, local and tribal agencies (which contribute to the National Seizure System run by the Department of Justice and based at the El Paso Intelligence Center).

The country carries out periodic studies and research on the structural and socioeconomic factors influencing the illicit supply of drugs situation, such as “What American Users Spend on Illegal Drugs.” The U.S. also prepares and updates studies and research on medical and scientific uses and other legal use of crops containing narcotic or psychotropic substances subject to the international control system.

The U.S. promotes and implements mechanisms to identify chemical profiles and characteristics of drugs subject to the international control system, such as the DEA National laboratories that conduct analysis of chemical profiles.

The country promotes and implements mechanisms for the identification of new psychoactive substances (NPS).

The U.S. utilizes standardized and comparable methodologies to measure illicit crops and drug production. For this purpose, a required specific form is filled out in reporting seizures from illegal drug producing lab sites to the National Seizure System.

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.

The U.S. has not designed or implemented alternative, integral and sustainable development programs or preventive alternative development 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.

The U.S. carries out research and studies to determine the characteristics and extent of the environmental impact caused by the illicit cultivation of crops and illicit drug production. Included among these are:

- Cannabis, an emerging agricultural crop, leads to deforestation and fragmentation. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, 2017; 15 (9): 495

- Impacts of Surface Water Diversions for Marijuana Cultivation on Aquatic Habitat in Four Northwestern California Watersheds

The country does not design and implement specific plans based on the results of research or studies carried out to mitigate and reduce the negative environmental impact of the illicit cultivation of crops and illicit drug production, with the participation of local communities.

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.

The U.S. does not have characterization methodologies with territorial and socio-economic approaches on micro-drug trafficking or small-scale drug trafficking and the effect on public health, the economy, social cohesion and citizen security.

The country also does not exchange information on the effects of small-scale drug trafficking or micro-drug trafficking.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD notes that during the sixth round (2013-2014), the U.S. had a regulatory framework that defined the national policy on reducing the illicit supply of drugs, and notes with satisfaction that, during the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has designed, implemented and updated national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit crops and the illicit production of drugs. CICAD also is pleased to note that in the U.S., traditional licit use is taken into account when designing and implementing policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs, and that environmental protection measures are taken to reduce the illicit supply of drugs. CICAD also notes with satisfaction that the drug supply reduction programs implemented by the U.S. are supplemented by drug-related crime prevention initiatives that address social and economic risk factors, and that these programs include participation by civil society and other social stakeholders.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that the U.S. has measured illicit crops and has carried out eradication programs during the seven rounds (1999-2018), and there have been mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs in the sixth and seventh rounds (2013-2018). CICAD notes with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country also carries out periodic studies and research on the structural and socioeconomic factors influencing the illicit supply of drugs, and prepares and updates studies and research on medical and scientific uses and other legal uses of crops containing narcotics or psychotropic substances subject to the international control system. CICAD observes with satisfaction that the U.S. promotes and implements mechanisms for the identification of NPS. CICAD also is pleased to note that the country promotes and implements mechanisms to identify chemical profiles or characteristics of drugs subject to the international control system. The U.S. also uses standardized and comparable methodologies to measure illicit crops and drug production.

CICAD observes that throughout the seventh round (2014-2018), the U.S. does not have alternative, integral and sustainable development programs or preventive alternative development programs as part of the strategies to control and reduce illicit cannabis crops.

CICAD is pleased to note that in the sixth and seventh rounds (2013-2018), the U.S. carried out research and studies to determine the characteristics and extent of the environmental impact caused by the illicit cultivation of crops and illicit drug production. However, the country has not designed or implemented specific plans, based on the results of research or studies carried out, to mitigate and reduce the negative environmental impact of the illicit cultivation of crops and illicit drug production.

CICAD notes that during the seventh round (2014-2018), the U.S. does not have characterization methodologies with territorial and socio-economic approaches on micro-drug trafficking or small-scale drug trafficking and the effect on public health, the economy, social cohesion and citizen security, and does not exchange information on its effects.

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.

The U.S. has protocols or operating procedures to detect, investigate, and dismantle laboratories or facilities for the illicit processing or manufacture of drugs.

The country has strategic programs to detect and seize drugs, through monitoring, inspections or checkpoints through land, riverine, air and sea transportation routes.

There are laws providing for the use of specialized investigation tools, and techniques to prevent and reduce drug trafficking and they include a human rights perspective.

The U.S. participates in ongoing training programs linked to regulations, processes and procedures on drug trafficking and related crimes, as well as, specialized investigative techniques and intelligence for personnel involved in interdiction operations.

The country has updated diagnoses to identify new trends and threats on drug trafficking and related crimes; also, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is the agency responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors and pharmaceuticals, including new psychoactive substances (NPS).

The U.S. offers and participates in ongoing training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of chemical substances, precursors and pharmaceutical products, including NPS. The country also actively engages with international partners through a number of bilateral and multilateral cooperative agreements to prevent and reduce drug trafficking.

OBJECTIVE 2

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

In the U.S., the Diversion Control Division of the DEA is the competent authority responsible for controlling domestic trade to prevent diversion of controlled chemical substances towards illicit activities, as per Title 21 U.S.C. § 830 (Regulation of listed chemicals and certain machines).

The DEA has instruments to inform the industry and users in general of applicable controls and cooperation methods, to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances. The country 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. Various components within DEA's Diversion Control Division exchange information with international partners. The Diversion Control Division's Synthetic Drugs and Chemicals Section exchange information through the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) initiatives, Project Prism and Project Cohesion, as well as through the Precursor Task Force, which oversees activities under these projects. Additionally, the Diversion's Drug and Chemical Evaluation Section of the DEA exchanges scientific information with international partners.

The U.S. has legislation including the control measures in paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article 12, of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances to prevent diversion of controlled chemical substances towards illicit activities. In addition, the country uses the information system for pre-export notifications (International Narcotics Control Board - INCB PEN Online) of controlled chemical substances.

There are training programs on the identification and handling of controlled chemical substances through the Basic Diversion Training and the Biennial Industry Conference Trainings by the DEA, Training Office and Diversion Control Division, respectively.

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.

The U.S. has an updated register of individuals and corporations handling pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics or psychotropic substances. Licenses are issued to manufacturers and distributors, and regular inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle these pharmaceutical products are carried out.

The country has criminal, civil and administrative penalties for infractions or violations by individuals or corporations that handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics or psychotropic substances, through Title 21 U.S.C. § 841 (Distribution or Possession with the Intent to Distribute a controlled substance) and Title 21 U.S.C 846 (Conspiracy to Distribute).

OBJECTIVE 4

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

The U.S. has special processes for issuing import and export authorizations for substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes.

The country issues imports and export authorization permits for narcotic and psychotropic raw materials to manufacture medicines, medications containing narcotic and psychotropic drugs and those for analytic patterns. The U.S. does not give permits to travelers for medication classified as narcotic or psychotropic for their personal use.

There are training awareness activities for competent national authorities and health professionals on the proper access to substances subject to international control solely for medical and scientific purposes. All specialists are trained and cross-trained prior to processing an import or export application or declaration.

There is a regulatory framework or guidelines to 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.

The U.S. has an early warning system (EWS) to identify and trace NPS, amphetamine-type stimulants and other substances subject to international control. The information is shared with the National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS), which systematically collects results from drug analyses conducted by state and local forensic laboratories across the country.

Regarding new special investigative techniques, updated equipment and technology acquired or used to detect and analyze NPS, the country has made available to the organization entitled the Scientific Working Group for the Analysis of Seized Drugs (SWGDRUG). Additionally, DEA created an Emerging Drug Trends group (EDT) at a Special Testing and Research Laboratory to comprehensively evaluate

the NPS phenomenon from an analytical perspective. One of the responsibilities of the EDT group is to synthesize NPS reference standards that either are not commercially available or cost prohibitive to obtain.

The country has regulatory frameworks to identify and address the challenges posed by the onset of 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.

The U.S. has updated and strengthened the legislative and institutional frameworks to counter money laundering derived from drug trafficking. In addition, there are protocols that enable the authorities to conduct financial and asset investigations parallel to drug trafficking investigations.

The country has mechanisms allowing for interagency coordination and cooperation in the area of preventing and controlling money laundering. The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), a bureau within the U.S. Treasury Department, is the U.S. financial intelligence unit (FIU).

There are 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.

The U.S. has legislation, regulations and procedures as well as other specific measures, in accordance with international conventions and treaties, to facilitate the seizure and forfeiture of assets, instruments, or products deriving from drug trafficking and other related crimes.

There is a competent authority responsible for the administration of seized and forfeited assets. In the country, money laundering offenses are governed by statute under federal law. The relevant statutes for the provisional freezes are 18 U.S.C. 981 and 982 (general civil and criminal forfeiture provisions, respectively), and 21 U.S.C. 853 and 881 (controlled substances-related criminal and civil forfeiture-related provisions, respectively).

The statutes of the U.S. facilitate the accountability and transparency of the administration of seized and forfeited assets. Moreover, the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) Asset Forfeiture Academy offers training to national and international organizations on the management 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.

The U.S. has national information gathering mechanisms to exchange intelligence information to detect routes and methods used by drug trafficking criminal organizations.

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 DEA El Paso Intelligence Center, Special Operations Division, and Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) Fusion Center are the agencies providing the information. Additionally, the Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF South) and Joint Interagency Task Force West (JIATF West) share both actionable and general intelligence with participating U.S. and international agencies.

CONTROL MEASURES

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD notes that since the sixth to the seventh rounds (2013-2018), the U.S. has had protocols and operating procedures to detect, investigate, and dismantle laboratories and facilities for the illicit processing or manufacture of drugs. Likewise, CICAD recognizes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has programs to detect and seize drugs, there are laws providing for the use of specialized investigation tools and techniques to prevent and reduce drug trafficking. CICAD also notes that the U.S. participates in ongoing training programs linked to regulations, processes and procedures on drug trafficking and related crimes. Furthermore, CICAD observes that the country has updated diagnoses to identify new trends and threats on drug trafficking and related crimes, and offers and participates in ongoing training programs for personnel involved in the said diagnoses. Moreover, CICAD observes that the U.S. has an agency responsible for analyzing chemical substances and ongoing training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of chemical substances.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that during the seven rounds (1999-2018), the U.S. has had a competent authority responsible for controlling domestic trade to prevent diversion of controlled chemical substances towards illicit activities. Likewise, CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has instruments to inform the industry and users in general of applicable controls and cooperation methods, to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances. CICAD also notes that the U.S. 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. Furthermore, the country uses the information system for pre-export notifications (International Narcotics Control Board - INCB PEN Online) of controlled chemical substances. Moreover, CICAD observes that the U.S. has training programs on the identification and handling of controlled chemical substances.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that throughout the seven rounds (1999-2018), the U.S. has had measures to prevent diversion of pharmaceutical products. CICAD also observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has an updated register of individuals and corporations handling pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics or psychotropic substances. Likewise, CICAD takes note that licenses are issued to manufacturers and distributors, and regular inspections or audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle these pharmaceutical products are carried out. CICAD also observes that the country has criminal, civil and administrative penalties for infractions or violations by individuals or corporations that handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics or psychotropic substances.

CICAD takes note that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the U.S. has special processes for issuing import and export authorizations for substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. Likewise, CICAD notes that permits are not given to travelers for medication

classified as narcotic or psychotropic for their personal use. The country also has a regulatory framework or guidelines to govern the acquisition of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. Moreover, CICAD notes that the U.S. has training awareness activities for competent national authorities and health professionals on the proper access to these substances.

CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the U.S. has a EWS to identify and trace NPS, amphetamine-type stimulants and other substances subject to international control. CICAD also observes that the country has new special investigative techniques, updated equipment and technology to detect and analyze NPS and has regulatory frameworks to identify and address the challenges posed by the onset of these substances.

CICAD is pleased to note that during the seven rounds (1999-2018), the U.S. has updated and strengthened the legislative and institutional frameworks to counter money laundering derived from drug trafficking. Likewise, CICAD recognizes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has a financial intelligence unit. The U.S. also has protocols that enable the authorities to conduct financial and asset investigations parallel to drug trafficking investigations, and mechanisms allowing for interagency coordination and cooperation in the area of preventing and controlling money laundering. CICAD also notes that the country has mechanisms for analyzing money laundering risks, in accordance with the FATF recommendations.

CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the U.S. has legislation, regulations and procedures as well as other specific measures, to facilitate the seizure and forfeiture of assets, instruments, or products deriving from drug trafficking and other related crimes. CICAD also notes that the country has a competent authority responsible for the administration of seized and forfeited assets and has statutes that facilitates the accountability and transparency of the administration of these assets, and offers and participates in specialized training programs for these subjects. Furthermore, the U.S. offers training to national and international organizations on the management of seized and forfeited assets.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the U.S. has national information gathering mechanisms to exchange intelligence information to detect routes and methods used by drug trafficking criminal organizations. CICAD also observes that the country 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.

The U.S. carries out activities of technical assistance and horizontal cooperation among member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), third States and with relevant international organizations. The country has exchanged technologies with foreign counterparts on the systematization of regulation, studies, research, and bibliographic material produced by countries and international organizations. These exchanges occurred through funding for the development and dissemination of the Universal Treatment Curriculum (UTC) and the Universal Prevention Curriculum (UPC).

In the country there are secure communication channels for the exchange of intelligence information on drug interdiction and control, through communication with partner governments in a variety of ways; sometimes through secure networks and other times working through liaison officers working out of U.S. embassies. The Joint Interagency Task Forces South (JIATF South) and West (JIATF West) share intelligence with participating U.S. and international agencies, employing secure systems, embedded partner nation military, law enforcement and intelligence liaison officers as well as analysts deployed to partner nations. The U.S. 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 Control Strategy.

The U.S. participates in regional coordination activities to prevent crimes related to drug trafficking, such as, firearms trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, money laundering, corruption, among others. There are bilateral mechanisms for coordination and collaboration with other countries, focused on the dismantling of criminal groups linked to drug trafficking and related crimes. The country has targeted bilateral and regional coordination with a number of countries within the OAS, including those in Canada, Central America and Mexico, Caribbean nations and South America.

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.

The U.S. has updated its regulatory and procedural frameworks allowing for effective cooperation mechanisms with other countries and relevant international organizations on forfeiture and management of assets derived from drug trafficking, money laundering and other related crimes. The country has published a guide on obtaining evidence in the U.S., entitled, *U.S. Asset Recovery Tools & Procedures: A Practical Guide for International Cooperation*. This guide sets forth the various mechanisms available for obtaining assistance from the U.S. in asset recovery matters. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) evaluated the U.S. in December 2016.

There are 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. The country can and does assist in asset recovery matters requiring the timely identification and blocking of assets. The U.S. is a member of the Egmont Group. The competent authorities in the country have 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, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Regional Asset Recovery Network (RRAG) of Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (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.

The U.S. enacted and adopted legislation and administrative measures and actions, as appropriate, to improve implementation of obligations set forth within international legal instruments regarding the world drug problem, respecting human rights and gender equality. In 2016, the U.S. introduced measures to strengthen transparency and combat the use of companies for illicit activities.

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
		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.

The U.S. has bilateral and regional international cooperation agreements for mutual legal or judicial assistance on the control of drug trafficking and related crimes. The country has more than 80 bilateral Mutual Legal Assistance-MLA treaties and regional cooperation agreements, some of which are specific to drug offenses, some of which are broader than drug offenses, and some of which are related. The country has laws or other legal provisions to provide mutual legal or judicial assistance to third party States in investigations, trials, and legal proceedings for drug trafficking and related crimes. There are statutes that allow it to execute requests from foreign countries, such as Title 18 U.S. Code (U.S.C) § 3512 as of 2009, Title 28 U.S.C. § 2467 as of 2010.

The country has, under Title 18 U.S.C § 3184 as of 1996 - Fugitives from foreign country to U.S., permits extradition for drug trafficking and related crimes. The U.S. does not have extradition treaties that are specific to drug offenses. There are bilateral extradition treaties, and if the treaty itself does not include drug offenses among the extraditable offenses, the offenses enumerated in the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances are deemed to be included as extraditable offenses under the bilateral treaty. The country has extradition treaties with various countries. Also, has laws or other legal provisions that permit extradition of nationals for drug trafficking and related crimes, this is permitted pursuant to Title 18 U.S.C § 3196 as of 1990.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD recognizes that since the first to the seventh rounds (1999-2018), the U.S. has had mechanisms for the coordination and cooperation of drug-related information between countries. Similarly, CICAD notes with satisfaction that the country has had secure channels to exchange intelligence information on drug interdiction and control. Moreover, the U.S. carries out activities of technical assistance and horizontal cooperation among member states of the OAS, third States and with relevant international organizations.

CICAD notes that from the third to the seventh rounds (2003-2018), the U.S. has been sharing information with counterparts in other countries on money laundering matters. Also, CICAD expresses satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country updated its regulatory and procedural frameworks allowing for effective cooperation mechanisms with other countries and relevant international organizations on forfeiture and management of assets derived from drug trafficking, money laundering and other related crimes. Furthermore, the U.S. has competent authorities with the legal powers to exchange information on money laundering investigations, including identification and tracing of the instruments associated with this offense. There also are mechanisms and procedures to expeditiously undertake actions in response to mutual legal assistance requests.

CICAD notes that throughout the seven rounds (1999-2018), the U.S. has had laws and regulations on drug issues, money laundering, chemical substances, pharmaceutical products, corruption, and trafficking and manufacture of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials. CICAD notes that during the seven rounds (1999-2014), the U.S. ratified drug-related international legal instruments. However, CICAD notes with concern that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has not ratified the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition and the Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials (CIFTA) of 1997.

CICAD takes note that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the U.S. has bilateral agreements for mutual legal assistance on drug trafficking and related crimes. From the sixth to the seventh rounds (2013-2018), there has been legal provisions to provide reciprocal judicial assistance to third party States in investigations, trials, and legal proceedings for illicit drug trafficking and money laundering. Since the second to the seventh rounds (2001-2018), CICAD expresses with satisfaction, that the country has had extradition laws permitting the extradition including extradition of nationals, for both drug trafficking and money laundering crimes.

CICAD recognizes the U.S. 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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