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MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

*Evaluation Report on Drug Policies:
Institutional Strengthening; Research,
Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation;
and International Cooperation*



Barbados

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

2023



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Evaluation Report on Drug Policies:

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EIGHTH EVALUATION ROUND

2023

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PREFACE

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), established by a mandate from the Second Summit of the Americas (Santiago, Chile - 1998), is a unique multilateral evaluation tool designed to measure the progress made and challenges faced by the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) in implementing the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs of the OAS Hemispheric Drug Strategy, currently in force.

The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS) is the OAS specialized agency in charge of implementing this Mechanism.

The current MEM round is based on the objectives of the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2021-2025 of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy 2020 and their respective priority actions. These documents take into account the recommendations of the outcome document of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS 2016) and the United Nations 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, as well as cross-cutting issues, such as the gender perspective and human rights, cultural context, and social inclusion approaches, among others.

Seven evaluation rounds have been completed from 1998 to 2019 and, during 2020, the MEM Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG), composed of member state delegates, agreed on a new methodology for the eighth round, consisting of annual thematic evaluations with the support of independent technical consultants, as follows: 2021 – Measures for Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Support; 2022 – Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their Causes and Consequences; 2023 – Institutional Strengthening; Research, Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation; International Cooperation; and 2024 – Comprehensive Evaluation based on updated information from all thematic areas.

MEM evaluations are carried out based on information provided by the member states' National Coordinating Entities (NCEs), which is analyzed by the MEM Governmental Expert Group (GEG), composed of experts designated by the countries, who do not participate in their own country's evaluation, thus ensuring the transparency and impartiality of the process. The GEG is always supported by the group of independent technical consultants and the MEM Unit. The eighth round represents a more rigorous evaluation process, in which countries are requested to provide valid means of verification to support the information submitted and ensure compliance of each priority action.

Specifically, the GEG's work for the thematic assessment for the areas of "Institutional Strengthening; Research, Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation; and International Cooperation" was conducted during 2023, and covers the 2019 to 2023 period (unless otherwise specified). This work was adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic with the use of technology and virtual tools, as well as taking it into consideration in the evaluation assessments.

Finally, it should be noted that one of the main purposes of MEM evaluation reports is to serve as a useful diagnostic tool to identify opportunities for improvement in drug policies and strategies, both at the national and regional levels.

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, RESOURCES, AND COMPETENCIES TO COORDINATE FORMULATION, IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION OF NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES.

Priority Action 1.1: Place national drug authorities at a high political level.

Barbados has the National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA) as the national drug authority, which was established in 1995 and is positioned within the government administrative structure as a state-owned enterprise under the Ministry of Home Affairs and Information.

Priority Action 1.2: Grant national drug policy entities the authority to guide and coordinate the formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of national drug policies.

Barbados's national drug policy entity has a legal basis, through the National Council on Substance Abuse Act.

Priority Action 1.3: Allocate the necessary resources (material, financial, and human) for the effective functioning of the national drug authorities.

In Barbados there is an annual budget for the national drug authority, which is independent.

The amount of the annual budget of the national drug authority for the years 2019-2023 is listed below:

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Annual budget amount (US dollars)	\$955,249	\$1,087,222	\$1,050,000	\$961,101	\$1,124,918

Priority Action 1.4: Design or optimize mechanisms to facilitate effective coordination and collaboration among government institutions for the formulation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and updating of evidence-based national drug policies and/or strategies.

Barbados has an ongoing coordination and collaboration mechanism among agencies and other levels of government to formulate, implement, monitor, evaluate, and update national drug policies and/or strategies. In this sense, the national drug authority uses memoranda of understanding (MOU). Each MOU is tailored for each agency based on the information required.

The national drug authority of Barbados coordinates the areas of demand reduction, and drug

observatory, but does not coordinate the areas of supply reduction, control measures, international cooperation, or program evaluation.

**OBJECTIVE
2**

FORMULATE, IMPLEMENT, EVALUATE, AND UPDATE COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES AND/OR STRATEGIES THAT PROMOTE BALANCED, MULTIDISCIPLINARY, AND EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACHES, WHILE FULLY RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, UNDER THE PRINCIPLE OF COMMON AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITY, CONSISTENT WITH OBLIGATIONS OF PARTIES UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND TAKE INTO ACCOUNT GENDER, AGE, COMMUNITY, CULTURAL CONTEXT, AND SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT.

Priority Action 2.1: Collect and use evidence as a basis for the formulation and updating of national drug policies and/or strategies.

In Barbados, National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA) collects and uses evidence as a basis for formulating and updating national drug policies and/or strategies. In that sense, the NCSA collects data via primary and secondary research as well as through monitoring mechanisms such as the Barbados Drug Information Network and the Early Warning System (EWS). Analysis is dependent on the type and nature of the data. Reports are prepared and key findings are shared with policy makers and professionals in the demand reduction and supply control fields with a view to informing national drug policies and/or strategies.

Priority Action 2.2: Promote and establish collaborative relationships with the scientific community, public policy experts, community and/or civil society actors, and other relevant stakeholders, to contribute to the evidence-based development, implementation, evaluation, and updating of national drug policies.

In Barbados, the following relevant actors from the priority areas are involved in the development, implementation, evaluation, and updating of national drug policies and/or strategies:

Relevant actors	Development	Implementation	Evaluation	Update
Health Ministry	x	x		
Interior Ministry				
Justice Ministry				
Education Ministry	x	x		
Regional and/or local governments				
Scientific community/academia			x	
Civil society		x		x
Private sector		x		x
Others: - Ministry of Home and Information and Office of the Attorney General - Ministry of People Empowerment		x		x

and Elder Affairs - Ministry of Youth Sports and Community Empowerment				
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The country's Interior Ministry, Justice Ministry and, Regional and/or local Governments are not involved in the development, implementation, evaluation, or updating of national drug policies and/or strategies.

Priority Action 2.3: Promote sub-national/local management of drug policies and/or strategies through greater coordination and/or delegation of responsibilities, as appropriate, between sub-national/local and national agencies, taking into account the socio-cultural, demographic and other differences of each region.

Barbados has not delegated responsibilities on drug issues to local or sub-national governments to implement concrete actions related to drug policies and strategies.

The national drug authority of Barbados has, in its central structure, an office or operational unit to promote, coordinate, train, and provide technical support to local/sub-national governments or agencies on drug-related issues. In this sense, the NCSA plays a critical role in safeguarding the future human potential of Barbados by discouraging and preventing drug use. Throughout its years of existence, the NCSA has remained committed to its drug demand reduction mandate which includes the following:

- Research and Information
- School-Based Prevention
- Community-Based Prevention
- Treatment & Rehabilitation

From time to time, the NCSA also:

- Conducts and coordinates sessions to raise awareness and train stakeholders in the demand reduction and supply sectors on relevant issues
- Provides technical support where applicable to partner agencies e.g., in the areas of counseling and research

The national drug authority of Barbados does not have coordinators, offices, or representatives in the sub-national or local territories, as part of a decentralized operational and coordination structure at the local level to respond to the drug problem.

Barbados does not have a specific and ongoing mechanism or program to transfer funds or finance drug initiatives or projects carried out by sub-national or local governments.

Priority Action 2.4: Engage private sector entities to develop innovative approaches to implementation of drug policy, including the exchange of information on emerging substances and new drug trafficking modalities that may affect the private sector, and best practices for denying criminals access to the private sector platforms and technologies that facilitate international trade.

Barbados does not engage private sector entities to develop innovative approaches in the implementation of drug policies and exchange information and best practices.

Priority Action 2.5: Formulate or update national drug policies and/or strategies in line with the 2020 OAS Hemispheric Strategy on Drugs and this accompanying Plan of Action, taking into account the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Barbados takes into account the OAS 2020 Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its corresponding Plan of Action to formulate or update national drug policies and strategies.

The country's national drug policies and strategies take into account the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this sense, the NCSA utilized the goals of said Agenda to guide the draft National Anti-Drug Plan, mainly focusing on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3, 5 and 12. Below are some of the ways said SDGs are taken into account:

- Goal 3 – the NCSA has increased staff complement to address the needs of persons negatively impacted by substance use and abuse. Of note is the expansion of counselling services through the employment of an additional counsellor
- Goal 5 – the NCSA has included gender-specific programming as part of the programming strategy for the period 2022-25. Barbados (and the NCSA) also participates in the Program of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States (CICAD/OAS) for Strengthening Gender Equality in Counterdrug Law Enforcement Agencies (GENLEA)
- Goal 12 – Barbados has participated in the Caribbean Community's (CARICOM) move to upgrade all tobacco legislation throughout the region. The NCSA is leading the process for the country

Priority Action 2.6: Integrate a human rights, gender, and social inclusion approach, particularly with respect to at-risk populations, in the process of formulating, implementing, and updating national drug policies and/or strategies.

Barbados's national drug policies and strategies do not take into account the human rights approach.

The country's national drug policies and strategies do not take into account the gender perspective.

Barbados's national drug policies and strategies take into account the social inclusion approach. In this sense, Barbados ratified the Sacramental Cannabis Act which allows the Rastafarian community to use cannabis for religious purposes.

Priority Action 2.7: Provide adequate financial and other necessary resources for the implementation of drug policies and programs.

Barbados has the necessary resources to implement drug policies and programs.

OBJECTIVE
3

DESIGN AND COORDINATE NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES, THAT CAN BE HARMONIZED ACROSS RELATED GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND/OR STRATEGIES, THAT ADDRESS THE FUNDAMENTAL CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE DRUG PROBLEM.

Priority Action 3.1: Establish and/or strengthen interagency and multisectoral policy and technical coordination mechanisms, to achieve a comprehensive, balanced, and multi-disciplinary approach to the drug problem, including its causes and consequences.

Barbados has interagency and multisectoral policy and technical coordination mechanisms to address the drug problem in a comprehensive, balanced, and multidisciplinary approach, including its causes and consequences. In this sense, there are the following mechanisms:

- The Early Warning System (EWS) is a multi-sectoral mechanism used to monitor the emergence of non-traditional and new psychoactive substances as well as new uses for traditional drugs. It is made up of public and private sector organizations in the demand reduction and supply control sectors. The information generated is used to craft alerts and responses to the drug situation as well as inform drug policies and drug education
- The Barbados Drug Information Network (BARDIN) is a multi-sectoral mechanism designed to strengthen the capacity of Barbados to respond to changing drug use trends by providing relevant and up-to-date information for the planning, evaluation, and management of drug control programs
- Airport Communications Project (AIRCOP) - Barbados signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the implementation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) - World Customs Organization (WCO) - International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) - AIRCOP on February 3, 2016. The project promotes national and international intelligence and information sharing as well as an intelligence-led approach to counter drug trafficking. It enables the real-time transmission of operational information to other international airports with the objective of intercepting illicit shipments
- Seaport Cooperation Project (SEACOP) - Barbados signed the MOU for the implementation of the SEACOP on December 13, 2016. The project encourages international cooperation and information exchange. It also provides specialist search and intelligence training, along with equipment and IT tools necessary to effectively combat illicit maritime trafficking
- Joint Regional Communications Centre (JRCC) - The JRCC is the central clearing house for the Advanced Passenger Information (API) and acts on behalf of individual CARICOM member states for the purpose of pre-screening passengers from air and sea carriers traversing the region. It promotes effective communication among regional law enforcement personnel and assists in the detection of persons who are travelling with stolen, lost, and fraudulent travel documents. The JRCC also assists in identifying and monitoring the movements of persons of interest, including those who may be a high security threat to the safety and security of the region

Priority Action 3.2: Design, implement, and evaluate multisectoral plans and programs based on the principles of human rights, public health, and development, to address and counter the socioeconomic causes and the consequences of the drug problem.

Barbados does not have concrete multisectoral plans or programs to address the causes and socioeconomic consequences of the drug problem.

Priority Action 3.3: Participate in international cooperation programs at the bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen policies, programs, institutions, and their internal processes.

Barbados participates in international cooperation programs at the bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen policies, programs, and institutions and their internal processes. In this sense, Barbados partners with the UNODC, International Society of Substance Abuse Professionals (ISSUP), Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) regarding training for professionals working in the demand reduction and supply control fields to build capacity and promote the use of best practices on the island. Below are examples of the programs Barbados participated in:

- 2019 training on new psychoactive substances (NPS) conducted by UNODC. These training sessions focused on the identification and handling of NPS for law enforcement personnel
- Online training provided by ISSUP for demand reduction professionals. These programs included a focus on monitoring and evaluation, drug education programs for schools, and counselling

Law enforcement professionals also receive continuous training from international bodies, such as the European Union, the U.S. State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), and the U.S. Southern Command.

Priority Action 3.4: Promote comprehensive and cross-cutting public policies to reduce and prevent crime, violence, social exclusion, and corruption.

Barbados promotes comprehensive and cross-cutting public policies to reduce and prevent crime, violence, social exclusion, and corruption. In this sense, the Barbados Police Service partnered with the Barbados Defence Force for joint patrols. This was in response to an upsurge in street crimes which included the use of firearms. As a result, the President of Barbados signed off on an instrument authorizing the joint patrols between the mentioned parties (Operation Restore Order). The Attorney General's Office also has a minister responsible for crime prevention. They are responsible for crafting policies and setting up programs to divert youth away from a life of crime.

Priority Action 3.5: Implement measures that promote equal access to justice and due process, taking into account gender, age, community, and cultural context.

Barbados implements measures that promote equal access to justice and due process, taking into account gender, age, community, and cultural context approaches. In this sense, all persons encountering the criminal justice system are considered to be innocent until proven guilty and all are entitled to due process. Persons under the age of 13 are not seen to have criminal responsibility and those between 13 and 18 years are tried before a juvenile court. A draft legislation, the juvenile justice bill is under revision and is awaiting Cabinet approval.

Priority Action 3.6: Implement measures that foster citizen participation in crime prevention, build community cohesion, increase public safety, and emphasize social inclusion.

Barbados implements measures, at the national level, that foster citizen participation in crime prevention, build community cohesion, increase public safety, and emphasize social inclusion. In this sense, a Crime Prevention Minister was established in the Office of the Attorney General to address crime prevention issues while encouraging community cohesion and social inclusion with a view to increasing public safety. This is buttressed with crime prevention officers and community officers in the Barbados Police Service to assist with these matters.

Additional measures to foster citizen participation include the Crime Stoppers Hotline, which allows members of the public to submit tips regarding crimes. This program is web- and telephone-based and allows people to input information related to crime matters anonymously. This information is accessed by the local intelligence unit and disseminated for further action. A reward is given if the information leads to apprehension of a suspect or the resolution of the crime.

OBJECTIVE
4

DESIGN, ADOPT, AND IMPLEMENT ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION FOR MINOR OR NON-VIOLENT DRUG OR DRUG-RELATED OFFENSES, WHILE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT NATIONAL, CONSTITUTIONAL, LEGAL, AND ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS.

Priority Action 4.1: Adopt alternative measures to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug-related offenses, where appropriate, while safeguarding the sovereignty of states, and ensuring individual accountability, respecting human rights and the gender perspective.

Barbados's law provides for alternative measures to incarceration for minor drug-related offenses through the Amendment to the Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act and the Drug Treatment Court Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

These measures take into account the human rights approach and the gender perspective in accordance with relevant international instruments. In this sense, all human rights and gender specific issues are enshrined in the Constitution of Barbados.

Priority Action 4.2: Develop mechanisms to monitor and evaluate alternative measures to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug-related offenses, in collaboration with academic and research institutions, as well as civil society.

Barbados does not develop mechanisms to monitor or evaluate alternative measures to incarceration for minor drug-related offenses.

Priority Action 4.3: Promote common understanding of national legal norms, regulations, and internal procedures for the implementation of alternatives to incarceration.

Barbados promotes a common understanding of national legal norms, regulations, and internal procedures for the implementation of alternatives to incarceration through the Government Information Service programming on television and social media platforms. Town hall meetings and panel discussions were also held across the country, chaired by government officials and key stakeholders.

**OBJECTIVE
5**

PROMOTE AND IMPLEMENT, AS APPROPRIATE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICIES, LAWS AND NEEDS OF EACH COUNTRY, COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION, ESPECIALLY TO THOSE AT-RISK POPULATIONS.

Priority Action 5.1: Design and implement, in accordance with the characteristics, interests, and needs of each country, inter-agency and multisectoral programs that promote the social inclusion of individuals, families, and communities affected by the drug problem, taking into account the specific needs of at-risk populations.

Barbados has inter-agency and multisectoral programs that promote the social inclusion of individuals, families, and communities affected by the drug problem, taking into account the specific needs of at-risk populations. In this sense, below is a list of related programs:

Probation Department:

- Acquiring Skills Men Actually Need (ASMAN) - caters to males 13 to 16 years
- Girls Circle - caters to females 13 to 16 years
- Tomorrow's Leaders - caters to in-school youth (males and females) 13 to 18 years

Substance Abuse Foundation (SAF):

- Residential Drug Treatment Programme for males and females 18+ years. Through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Health/Psychiatric Hospital and the SAF, residential treatment is provided free of cost to Barbadian nationals, residents of Barbados and Caribbean Community (CARICOM) nationals residing in Barbados.
- Continuing Care Programme - caters to males and females 18+ years who have graduated from either primary or secondary level treatment
- The Family Programme - caters to families of clients in treatment
- Teen Intervene geared to assist at-risk youth with bullying, low self-esteem, anger management and mental health issues
- School Out-Reach to educate children about addiction and its effects from a personal, mental, and social perspective
- Employee Assistance Programme

Psychiatric Hospital:

- After-Care Programme - caters to males and females 18+ years who have completed treatment
- Quarter-Way House Programme - caters to males and females 18+ years (for both patients in treatment and those who have completed treatment)
- Out-Patient Addiction and Mental Health treatment

Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives:

- Mental Health Crisis Hotline – people requiring assistance can call this hotline and receive the necessary referrals to meet their specific needs.

Priority Action 5.2: Disseminate best practices and lessons learned to improve institutional responses to the needs of at-risk populations.

Barbados disseminates best practices and lessons learned to improve institutional responses to the needs of people in at-risk situations, such as mechanisms, programs, and interventions, through publications, meetings, workshops, among others. In that sense, this is done through training workshops and publications with professionals in drug demand sectors conducted by the National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA) and the SAF.

OBJECTIVE
6

PROMOTE PROPORTIONATE SENTENCING FOR DRUG-RELATED CRIMES THAT PROVIDES FOR PENALTIES COMMENSURATE WITH THE RELATIVE SERIOUSNESS OF OFFENSES, IN LINE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONVENTIONS AND RESPECTING THE PRINCIPLES OF DUE PROCESS, WITH GENDER PERSPECTIVE, AGE, COMMUNITY, AND A HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH.

Priority Action 6.1: Promote proportional legal sentencing for minor drug-related offenses in accordance with domestic law.

Barbados does not promote proportional legal sentencing for minor drug-related offences, in accordance with domestic law.

The country does not have special courts or tribunals for minor drug-related offenses.

Priority Action 6.2: Promote legal reforms as needed, to promote proportional sentencing for minor drug-related offenses.

Barbados does not promote legal reforms regarding proportional sentencing for minor drug-related offenses.

RESEARCH, INFORMATION, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION

OBJECTIVE

1

ESTABLISH OR STRENGTHEN NATIONAL OBSERVATORIES ON DRUGS, OR SIMILAR TECHNICAL OFFICES, STRENGTHENING NATIONAL DRUG INFORMATION SYSTEMS, AND FOSTER SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TO GENERATE, COLLECT, ORGANIZE, ANALYZE, AND DISSEMINATE INFORMATION TO INFORM THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EVIDENCE-BASED DRUG POLICIES AND STRATEGIES.

Priority Action 1.1: Develop and strengthen national drug observatories (NDO) or similar technical offices ensuring they have adequate human and financial resources.

Barbados has a National Drug Observatory (NDO) which was created by National Council on Substance Abuse Act.

The NDO has been assigned financial and human resources to carry out its functions, which are funded by the National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA). The breakdown of budget allocations is broken down in two categories as follows:

- Grants to public institutions
- Capital grants to public institutions

The above two categories are broken down further into the following sub-categories:

- Statutory personal emoluments
- Rental of property
- Library books and publications
- Supplies and materials
- Maintenance of property
- Operating expenses
- Professional Services
- Machinery and equipment
- Furniture and fixtures
- Vehicles
- Computer software

Priority Action 1.2: Strengthen ties to academic and research institutions, as well as specialized non-governmental organizations, to foster scientific research and studies on the various aspects of the drug phenomenon.

Barbados has established and maintained working relationships with academic and research institutions. In this sense, using the Institutional Review Board at the University of the West Indies to review/approve research. Also, through collaborative research conducted by the University of the West Indies, the NCSA, and other organizations responsible for conducting research on the drug phenomenon and related issues.

The country has carried out the following studies on the drug problem through academic and research institutions:

- “Fully Legal or Only Medical and Religious Purposes? Public Support for Cannabis Policies in the Eastern Caribbean. *Drugs and Alcohol Today*.” Griffith, A. and Jackman, M. and Wickham, P. Early Cite, December 1st, 2021. DOI: 10.1108/DAT-03-2021-0015
- “Peers or Parents?: An Examination of Risk and Protective Factors Influencing Use of and Curiosity about Marijuana Among Adolescents in the Caribbean Island of Barbados. *Journal of Child and Adolescent Substance Abuse Online*.” May 2020. Griffith, A. and Jackman, M. DOI: 10.1080/1067828X.2020.176388

Priority Action 1.3: Develop and adopt quantitative and qualitative methodologies and information-gathering mechanisms that allow for the comparison of data among countries.

(Question 5) Barbados has developed and adopted quantitative and qualitative methodologies and information-gathering mechanisms that allow for the comparison of data among countries. In this sense, the country has used Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission’s (CICAD) protocols and indicators to collect data and facilitate comparisons across countries, for example, the following:

- CICAD treatment intake form/database
- CICAD standardized indicators for drug information networks (DINs)

However, the country has not carried out studies on drug use applying the Inter-American Uniform Drug Use Data System (SIDUC) methodology or a national methodology harmonized with SIDUC.

On the other hand, Barbados has used CICAD’s standardized indicators for drug information networks to collect, analyze, and report national drug-related information.

Barbados has not carried out studies using methods that are non-representative of the population or qualitative methodologies to obtain information on drugs that can be shared with other countries that have carried out studies with similar methodologies.

Priority Action 1.4: Establish and strengthen national drug information networks (DINs) to carry out long-term monitoring and early warning systems (EWS), including the use of a broad range of research methods and information sources, to develop rapid responses to emerging threats.

Priority Action 1.5: Contribute to the Early Warning System of the Americas (Spanish acronym SATA) to gather the available national alerts and disseminate them to member states, so that member states can respond in the shortest possible time to new threats.

Priority Action 1.6: Publish updates annually, when possible, on drug supply and drug demand utilizing the information provided on the national drug situation by using information from the national DINs.

The NDO has a national drug information network (DIN), which interacts through the following means:

Means	Yes	No	Frequency
Meetings	X		Annually
Document exchange	X		Annually
Others: - Informal consultations/ collaboration	X		Continuous

The following actors participate in the DIN:

Stakeholders	Yes	No
Universities/Academia		X
Health institutions	X	
Drug treatment facilities	X	
Law enforcement	X	
Forensic laboratories		X
Statistical and census institutions		X
Private consultants		
Civil society and other social stakeholders	X	
International organizations of cooperation		
Others: - Criminal Justice Research and Planning Unit (Government department established to research crime and related issues) - Edna Nicholls Centre (Educational institution that provides out-of-school rehabilitative programming for students who have been referred, suspended or expelled from school) - Penal institutions (Barbados Prison Service, Government Industrial School) - Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) - NCSA	X	

The DIN publishes a periodic report.

Barbados has an early warning system (EWS) to identify new psychoactive substances (NPS) and other emerging drug-related threats.

The NDO leads the EWS.

The EWS does not share information, alerts, or reports with the Early Warning System of the Americas (SATA) and does not have a mechanism to share information in real-time.

The following stakeholders participate in the EWS:

Stakeholders	Yes	No
Universities/Academia	x	
Health institutions	x	
Drug treatment facilities	x	
Law enforcement	x	
Forensic laboratories	x	
Statistical and census institutions		x
Private consultants		x
Civil society and other social stakeholders	x	
International organizations of cooperation	x	
Others: - Criminal Justice Research and Planning Unit - Barbados Association of Principals of Public Secondary Schools - Association of Public Primary School Principals	x	

Priority Action 1.7: Build capacity among relevant stakeholders to enhance the collection, management, and dissemination of drug related information.

The NDO does not carry out training sessions with local stakeholders to enhance data collection and management.

The NDO convenes meetings and other workshops where the results of studies and other information gathering activities are shared with local stakeholders.

Priority Action 1.8: Establish or strengthen forums at which drug researchers can present their findings to policymakers, and encourage their participation in CICAD experts groups.

Barbados has not established forums that allow drug researchers to present their findings to policymakers.

Priority Action 1.9: Foster and disseminate best practices and the exchange of successful experiences in research among member states.

The NDO does not promote or disseminate good practices or the exchange of successful research experiences among member states.

OBJECTIVE
2

EXPAND ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON DRUG USE AND RELATED ISSUES THROUGH THE USE OF SOUND, SYSTEMATIC DATA COLLECTION PRACTICES, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, AND STANDARDIZED METHODOLOGIES, ENSURING THAT COUNTRIES HAVE THE INFORMATION NECESSARY TO DEVELOP SOUND DEMAND REDUCTION PROGRAMS AND POLICIES.

Priority Action 2.1: Generate information on the incidence, prevalence, and modes of drug use and health impacts of drug use (e.g. non-fatal overdose, fatal overdose, infectious disease transmission), as well as drug use and health impact trends over time using sound, systematic data collection practices, scientific research, and standardized methodologies to monitor use across the general public and in key populations, whenever possible utilizing the Inter-American Drug Use Data System (SIDUC) as the standard methodology for epidemiological surveillance.

Barbados has not carried out demand reduction studies within the evaluation period (2019-2023).

Priority Action 2.2: Develop drug treatment information systems that record the number of patients treated, diagnoses, clinical history, and available information on treatment outcomes.

Barbados has no national system for the collection of data on the number of patients treated, diagnoses, clinical history, or available information on treatment outcomes.

Priority Action 2.3: Evaluate and monitor the impact and the results of treatment and prevention programs using scientific methodologies and make recommendations to update programs based on findings.

Barbados has not carried out studies to evaluate treatment and prevention programs or interventions.

The country has not carried out process or intermediate outcome evaluations of prevention and treatment programs.

Barbados has not carried out impact evaluations of its prevention or treatment programs.

The country does not have mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment, rehabilitation, or recovery and social integration programs and services in the public health or social protection network.

OBJECTIVE
3

EXPAND AND ENHANCE THE COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON ILLICIT DRUG PRODUCTION, TRAFFICKING, AND RELATED ISSUES, THROUGH THE USE OF SOUND, SYSTEMATIC DATA COLLECTION PRACTICES, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, AND STANDARDIZED METHODOLOGIES.

Priority Action 3.1: Generate information on illicit drug production, trafficking, drug markets, and related issues, using systematic data collection practices, scientific research, and wherever possible applying comparable methodologies.

Barbados has mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs. The Barbados Police Service, the Criminal Justice Research and Planning Unit, the National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA), the Barbados Drug Service, the Barbados Defence Force, and the Forensic Sciences Centre participate in these mechanisms.

The country has the following information related to 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		2021
Number of seizures of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production	X		2021
Quantities of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production seized	X		2021
Number of seizures of controlled chemical substances (precursors)		X	None seized
Quantities of seized controlled chemical substances (precursors)		X	None seized
Number of seizures of pharmaceutical products	X		2022
Quantities of seized pharmaceutical products	X		2021
Number of persons formally charged with drug use, possession, and trafficking	X		2021
Number of persons convicted of drug use, possession, and trafficking	X		2021
Number of laboratories producing illicit plant-based drugs detected and dismantled	X		2021
Number of laboratories producing illicit drugs of synthetic origin detected and dismantled	X		2021
Chemical composition of seized drugs	X		2023
Sale price of drugs (for consumers)	X		2021
Number of persons formally charged with money laundering	X		2021

Supply reduction, trafficking, and related crimes			
Information	Available information		Year of most recent information
	Yes	No	
Number of persons convicted of money laundering	X		2021
Number of persons formally charged with trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition, and related materials	X		2021
Number of persons convicted of trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition, and related materials	X		2021
Number of persons formally charged with diversion of chemical substances		X	
Number of persons convicted of diversion of chemical substances		X	

Barbados does not carry out periodic studies and research on the illicit drug market.

The country does not carry out studies on the medical and scientific use and other legal uses of narcotics or psychotropic substances, subject to international control systems.

Priority Action 3.2: Conduct studies on the price, purity or concentration, and chemical profile of drugs.

Barbados does not collect information for the development of studies on the drug price, purity or concentration, or chemical profile of drugs.

The country conducts chemical characterizations and tests of purity for substances that may or may not be subject to international control.

Barbados does not have mechanisms through which substances that have been identified as not being under international control can be placed under control.

Priority Action 3.3: Establish and strengthen the relationship between the NDOs, or similar technical offices, and national, and when applicable, local, or sub-national forensic laboratories to bolster the collection of data on the chemical composition of substances and precursors seized.

In Barbados, the Forensic Science Centre is responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances (NPS), and is part of the national early warning system (EWS), however, not of the national drug information network (DIN).

The country does not implement or participate in periodic training programs for personnel

involved in the analysis of chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including NPS.

Priority Action 3.4: Strengthen drug information networks in member states by improving the mechanisms used to gather and analyze data to inform the development of public policies that control the illicit supply of drugs.

Barbados's national DIN has standardized indicators for the collection of data on drug supply.

The country participates in training activities for DIN stakeholders to improve and strengthen the mechanisms that are needed for the collection and exchange of information on drug supply.

OBJECTIVE

4

PARTICIPATE IN AND STRENGTHEN THE MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM) PROCESS, CONSIDERING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.

Priority Action 4.1: Regularly collect information and data to evaluate implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action.

For the eighth round of evaluation of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), Barbados collected information on the implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2021-2025 and submitted it in a timely manner for evaluation by the Group of Governmental Experts (GEG) in the following thematic areas:

- Measures of Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Support (2021)
- Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their Causes and Consequences (2022)
- Institutional Strengthening; Research, Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation; and International Cooperation (2023)

Priority Action 4.2: Support and facilitate active and timely participation in each of the MEM activities agreed to by member states.

For the eighth evaluation round of the MEM, Barbados designated delegates for the following MEM groups, actively participating and contributing to the evaluation process:

Thematic evaluation	National Coordinating Entities (NCEs)	Governmental Expert Group (GEG)
Measures of Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Support (2021)	Yes	Yes
Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their Causes and Consequences (2022)	Yes	Yes
Institutional Strengthening; Research, Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation; and International Cooperation (2023)	Yes	Yes

Priority Action 4.3: Disseminate MEM evaluation reports by member states among national stakeholders, other pertinent organizations, and the general public.

Barbados has not carried out periodic activities to promote and raise awareness of the MEM Drug Policy Evaluation Reports aimed at national institutions.

Priority Action 4.4: Promote use of the MEM's findings to identify technical assistance needs.

Barbados has not promoted the analysis of the findings of MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies for national institutions to identify areas where technical assistance is needed to improve national drug-related policies and programs.

Priority Action 4.5: Increase hemispheric cooperation and partnerships among member states and sharing of best practices and lessons learned.

Barbados has not reviewed the MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies or identified opportunities to increase cooperation and partnerships with other member states or share best practices and lessons learned (horizontal cooperation).

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.

Priority Action 1.1: Develop and implement a plan for promoting and strengthening technical assistance and horizontal cooperation among member states and with states outside of the Western Hemisphere, and with relevant international and regional organizations, and related initiatives and programs.

Barbados develops and implements a plan for the promotion and strengthening of technical assistance and horizontal cooperation among member states and with states outside the Western Hemisphere, as well as with relevant international and regional organizations, and related initiatives and programs. In this sense, training is offered to law enforcement agencies to build capacity. Also, technical assistance is given to Law enforcement agencies to assist with crime fighting.

The country has established secure communication channels for the exchange of intelligence information on drug interdiction and control through the following communication channels at the regional and local levels:

Regional Level:

The Joint Regional Communications Centre (JRCC): This is the central clearing house for the Advanced Passenger Information (API) and acts on behalf of individual Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member states for the purpose of pre-screening passengers from air and sea carriers traversing the region. It promotes effective communication among regional law enforcement personnel and assists in the detection of persons who are travelling with stolen, lost, and fraudulent travel documents. The JRCC also assists in identifying and monitoring the movements of persons of interest, including those who may be a high security threat to the safety and security of the region.

Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS): as part of the regional framework for crime and security, law enforcement agencies communicate through secure internet communication and telephone exchanges. This is facilitated via Memoranda of Understandings (MOUs) between the specified agencies.

Local Level:

The Barbados Defence Force and The Barbados Police Service speak daily.

Barbados promotes the exchange, with member states and with states outside of the Western Hemisphere, and with relevant international and regional organizations, of best practices on training, specialization, and professional development of the staff responsible for implementing the national drug policies and strategies. In this sense, the country receives training on key topics

related national drug policies and/or strategies from international organizations such as:

- Cooperation Programme between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drug Policies (COPOLAD)
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)
- International Society of Substance Use Professionals (ISSUP)

Examples of training topics include:

- New Psychoactive Substances (UNODC)
- Early Warning Systems (COPOLAD, CICAD)
- Monitoring and evaluation of national drug policies (CICAD)
- Monitoring and evaluation of drug treatment courts (CICAD)
- Monitoring and evaluation of drug prevention programs (ISSUP)
- Drug prevention programmes for schools (ISSUP)

Barbados participates in regional coordination activities to prevent crimes related to drug trafficking, such as firearms trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, money laundering, and corruption, among others. In this sense, the following activities the country has participated in:

- Tradewinds – multilateral engagement between CARICOM member states and the United States with a view to building security capacity within the region through training exercises
- UNEX – Unity Exercise – Theme-based training exercises. Some include drug interdiction and maritime security to support routine counternarcotic exercises

In the country, 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 with the U.S., England, and Canada. These mechanisms are used on a continuous/ongoing basis.

Priority Action 1.2: Promote technology transfers and information sharing among and between member states and international organizations.

Barbados has promoted technology transfers among and between Organization of American States (OAS) member states and international (including regional) organizations. In this sense, this is done through educational training. This is concentrated mainly on cybercrimes.

The country has promoted information sharing among and between OAS member states and international (including regional) organizations. In this sense, the Barbados Defence Force and the Barbados Police Service contribute to the information sharing process between countries who are signatories to the Regional Security System (RSS) Treaty. Under this treaty, information and intelligence is shared on drug and firearm trafficking.

Priority Action 1.3: Promote the dissemination of good practices and exchange of successful research experiences among and between member states and international organizations.

Barbados promotes the dissemination of good practices and the exchange of successful research experiences among and between member states and international organizations on drug policies. In this sense, via the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA), which is a training program where law enforcement agencies throughout the hemisphere share best practices and exchange experiences. There is also a developmental follow-up for participants on how they use the training on a yearly basis.

**OBJECTIVE
2**

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

Priority Action 2.1: Strengthen regional and international cooperation by competent authorities to investigate and prosecute criminals on drug-related offenses.

The competent authorities in Barbados carry out cooperative activities at the regional and international levels to investigate and prosecute criminals for drug-related offenses. In this sense, the Barbados Police Service shares information and intelligence with international and regional law enforcement agencies. This is facilitated through legislation and international treaties.

The country takes human rights into account when carrying out these activities since persons are afforded all human rights under the Constitution of Barbados. This includes the right to a fair trial and due process.

Priority Action 2.2: Strengthen regional and international cooperation to facilitate, where appropriate, mutual legal assistance, extradition, and transfer of proceedings, in accordance with international legal instruments, when investigating and prosecuting criminals on drug-related offenses.

Barbados carries out activities to strengthen regional and international cooperation to facilitate, where appropriate, mutual legal assistance, extradition, and transfer of proceedings, in accordance with international legal instruments, when investigating and prosecuting criminals on drug-related offenses. In this sense, Barbados cooperates with other countries in accordance with the Extradition Act, the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act, and the Criminal Assets Recovery Fund Act.

Priority Action 2.3: Enact national legislation and/or take administrative actions, as appropriate, to more fully implement the obligations set forth within these legal instruments.

Barbados has not enacted or adopted, during the evaluation period (2019-2023), legislative or administrative measures and actions to improve implementation of obligations set forth within international legal instruments related to the world drug problem, respecting human rights and gender equality.

Priority Action 2.4: Promote the accession, ratification, and implementation of the international legal instruments related to the world drug problem and related crimes.

Barbados has ratified or acceded 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

EVALUATIVE SUMMARY

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, resources, and competencies to coordinate formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of national drug policies.

CICAD notes that Barbados has a national drug authority, which has a legal basis. Moreover, CICAD observes that, in the country, there is an annual budget for the national drug authority, which is independent. Also, CICAD notes that Barbados has an ongoing coordination and collaboration mechanism among agencies and other levels of government to formulate, implement, monitor, evaluate, and update national drug policies and/or strategies and that the national drug authority coordinates the areas of demand reduction and the drug observatory, but does not coordinate the areas of supply reduction, control measures, international cooperation, or program evaluation.

Objective 2

Formulate, implement, evaluate, and update comprehensive national drug policies and/or strategies that promote balanced, multidisciplinary, and evidence-based approaches, while fully respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, under the principle of common and shared responsibility, consistent with obligations of parties under international law, and take into account gender, age, community, cultural context, and socially inclusive development.

CICAD notes that Barbados collects and uses evidence as a basis for formulating and updating national drug policies and/or strategies. Additionally, CICAD observes the involvement of relevant actors from the priority areas in the development, implementation, evaluation and updating of national drug policies and strategies, with the exception of the country's Interior Ministry, Justice Ministry and, Regional and/or local Governments. CICAD notes that Barbados has not delegated responsibilities on drug issues to local or sub-national governments to implement concrete actions related to drug policies and strategies. On the other hand, the national drug authority does have in its central structure an office or operational unit to promote, coordinate, train, and provide technical support to local/sub-national governments or agencies on drug-related issues. However, the country does not have coordinators, offices, or representatives in the sub-national or local territories, as part of a decentralized operational and coordination structure at the local level to respond to the drug problem. Moreover, Barbados does not have a specific and ongoing mechanism or program to transfer funds or finance drug initiatives or projects carried out by municipalities or local governments. CICAD observes that the country does not engage private sector entities to develop innovative approaches in the implementation of drug policies and exchange information and best practices. CICAD notes with satisfaction that Barbados takes into account the OAS 2020 Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its

corresponding Plan of Action to formulate or update national drug policies and strategies. Moreover, these policies and strategies take into account the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. However, CICAD observes that the country's national drug policies and strategies do not take into account the human rights approach nor the gender perspective. On the other hand, CICAD notes that Barbados' national drug policies and strategies take into account the social inclusion approach. Additionally, CICAD observes that Barbados has the necessary resources to implement drug policies and programs.

Objective 3

Design and coordinate national drug policies, that can be harmonized across related government policies and/or strategies, that address the fundamental causes and consequences of the drug problem.

CICAD notes that Barbados has interagency and multisectoral policy and technical coordination mechanisms to address the drug problem in a comprehensive, balanced, and multidisciplinary approach, including its causes and consequences. However, CICAD observes that the country does not have concrete multisectoral plans or programs to address the causes and socioeconomic consequences of the drug problem. On the other hand, CICAD notes that Barbados participates in international cooperation programs at the bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen policies, programs, and institutions and their internal processes. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country promotes comprehensive and cross-cutting public policies to reduce and prevent crime, violence, social exclusion, and corruption. Also, CICAD notes that Barbados implements measures that promote equal access to justice and due process, taking into account gender, age, community, and cultural context approaches. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country implements measures that foster citizen participation in crime prevention, build community cohesion, increase public safety, and emphasize social inclusion.

Objective 4

Design, adopt, and implement alternatives to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug or drug-related offenses, while taking into account national, constitutional, legal, and administrative systems, and in accordance with relevant international instruments.

CICAD notes that Barbados's law provides for alternative measures to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug-related offenses, which respect human rights and take into account the gender perspective in accordance with relevant international instruments. However, CICAD observes that the country does not develop mechanisms to monitor or evaluate these measures. On the other hand, CICAD notes that Barbados promotes a common understanding of national legal norms, regulations, and internal procedures for the implementation of alternatives to incarceration.

Objective 5

Promote and implement, as appropriate, in accordance with the policies, laws and needs of each country, comprehensive programs that promote social inclusion, especially to those at-risk populations.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that Barbados has inter-agency and multisectoral programs that promote the social inclusion of individuals, families, and communities affected by the drug problem, taking into account the specific needs of vulnerable populations. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country disseminates best practices and lessons learned to improve institutional responses to the needs of people in at-risk situations.

Objective 6

Promote proportionate sentencing for drug-related crimes that provides for penalties commensurate with the relative seriousness of offenses, in line with the international drug conventions and respecting the principles of due process, with gender perspective, age, community, and a human rights approach.

CICAD observes with concern that Barbados does not promote legislation that provides for proportional legal sentencing for minor drug-related offences, in accordance with domestic law and has no special courts for these offenses. Also, CICAD notes that the country does not promote legal reforms regarding proportional sentencing for minor drug-related offenses.

RESEARCH, INFORMATION, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION

Objective 1

Establish or strengthen national observatories on drugs, or similar technical offices, strengthening national drug information systems, and foster scientific research to generate, collect, organize, analyze, and disseminate information to inform the development and implementation of evidence-based drug policies and strategies.

CICAD notes that Barbados has the National Observatory on Drugs (NDO), which was created through a legal basis and has been assigned financial and human resources to carry out its functions. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country has established and maintained working relationships with academic and research institutions and has carried out studies on the drug problem through them. Additionally, CICAD notes that Barbados has developed and adopted quantitative and qualitative methodologies and information-gathering mechanisms that allow for the comparison of data among countries, however, it has not carried out studies on drug use applying the SIDUC methodology or a national methodology harmonized with SIDUC. On the other hand, Barbados has used the CICAD standard indicators for drug information networks for the collection, analysis, and reporting of national drug-related data and information. However, the country has not carried out studies that use methods that are non-representative of the population to obtain information on drugs that can be shared with other countries that have carried out studies with similar methodologies. CICAD observes that Barbados's observatory has

a national drug information network (DIN), which interacts through meetings, document exchanges, and informal consultations and collaboration and publishes a periodic report. Also, the country has an early warning system (EWS) to identify NPS or other emerging drug-related threats but does not share information, alerts, and reports with the Early Warning System of the Americas (SATA). Additionally, CICAD notes that Barbados's observatory does not carry out training sessions with local stakeholders to enhance data collection and management but convenes meetings and other workshops where the results of studies and other information-gathering activities are shared with local stakeholders. Additionally, CICAD observes that the country has not established forums that allow drug researchers to present their findings to policymakers. Moreover, CICAD notes that Barbados's observatory does not promote or disseminates good practices or the exchange of successful research experiences among member states.

Objective 2

Expand access to information on drug use and related issues through the use of sound, systematic data collection practices, scientific research, and standardized methodologies, ensuring that countries have the information necessary to develop sound demand reduction programs and policies.

CICAD notes with concern that Barbados has not carried out demand reduction studies during the evaluation period (2019-2023). Additionally, CICAD observes that the country has no national system for the collection of data on the number of patients treated, diagnoses, clinical history, or available information on treatment outcomes. Moreover, CICAD notes that Barbados has not carried out studies to evaluate treatment and prevention programs and interventions, as well as process, intermediate outcome, or impact evaluations of these programs. Additionally, the country does not have mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment, rehabilitation or recovery and social integration programs and services in the public health or social protection network.

Objective 3

Expand and enhance the collection and dissemination of information on illicit drug production, trafficking, and related issues, through the use of sound, systematic data collection practices, scientific research, and standardized methodologies.

CICAD notes that Barbados has mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs and has information related to supply reduction, trafficking, and related crimes. However, the country does not carry out periodic studies on the illicit drug market or on the medical and scientific use and other legal uses of narcotics or psychotropic substances, subject to international control systems. CICAD observes that Barbados does not collect information on the drug price, purity or concentration, or chemical profile of drugs, but conducts chemical characterizations or purity tests of substances that may or may not be subject to international control. However, the country does not have mechanisms through which

substances that have been identified as not being under international control can be placed under control. CICAD notes that Barbados has an institution that is responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances, and is part of the national early warning system (EWS) but not of the national drug information network (DIN). Also, the country does not implement or participate in periodic training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of these substances. CICAD observes that Barbados's DIN has standardized indicators for the collection of data on drug supply and that the country implements and participates in training activities for DIN stakeholders to improve and strengthen the mechanisms that are needed for the collection and exchange of information on drug supply.

Objective 4

Participate in and strengthen the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) process, considering its recommendations.

CICAD notes that, for the eighth round of evaluation of the MEM, Barbados collected information on the implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2021-2025 and submitted it in a timely manner for evaluation by the Group of Governmental Experts (GEG). CICAD observes that, for the eighth evaluation round of the MEM, the country designated delegates for all the MEM groups, actively participating and contributing to the evaluation process. CICAD notes that Barbados has not carried out periodic activities to promote and raise awareness of the MEM Drug Policy Evaluation Reports aimed at national institutions. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country has not promoted the analysis of the findings of MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies for national institutions to identify areas where technical assistance is needed to improve national drug-related policies and programs. Additionally, CICAD notes that Barbados has not reviewed the MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies or identified opportunities to increase cooperation and partnerships with other member states or share best practices and lessons learned (horizontal cooperation).

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.

CICAD notes that Barbados develops and implements a plan for the promotion and strengthening of technical assistance and horizontal cooperation among member states and with states outside the Western Hemisphere, as well as with relevant international and regional organizations, and related initiatives and programs. Additionally, the country has established secure communication channels for the exchange of intelligence information on drug interdiction and control. Moreover, Barbados promotes the exchange, with member states and with states outside of the

Western Hemisphere, and with relevant international and regional organizations, of best practices on training, specialization, and professional development of the staff responsible for implementing the national drug policies and strategies. Additionally, the country participates in regional coordination activities to prevent crimes related to drug trafficking, such as firearms trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, money laundering, and corruption, among others. Also, Barbados has bilateral mechanisms for coordination and collaboration with other countries, focused on the dismantling of criminal groups linked to drug trafficking and related crimes. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country has promoted technology transfers among and between OAS member states and international (including regional) organizations, as well as information sharing among them. Additionally, CICAD notes that Barbados promotes the dissemination of good practices and the exchange of successful research experiences among and between member states and international organizations on drug policies.

Objective 2

Strengthen international cooperation as defined in the international legal instruments related to the world drug problem, maintaining respect for human rights.

CICAD notes that the competent authorities in Barbados carry out cooperative activities at the regional and international levels to investigate and prosecute criminals for drug-related offenses. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country carries out activities to strengthen regional and international cooperation to facilitate, where appropriate, mutual legal assistance, extradition, and transfer of proceedings, in accordance with international legal instruments, when investigating and prosecuting criminals on drug-related offenses. However, CICAD notes that Barbados has not enacted or adopted, during the evaluation period (2019-2023), legislative or administrative measures to improve implementation of obligations set forth within international legal instruments related to the world drug problem, respecting human rights and gender equality. On the other hand, CICAD observes that the country has ratified or acceded to all of the international legal instruments of the United Nations and most of the OAS Inter-American legal instruments regarding the world drug problem and related crimes.



**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)
INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)**

1889 F Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20006
www.cicad.oas.org