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# MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

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

## Colombia

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

2023





## MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

# COLOMBIA

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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.**

Colombia has the National Narcotics Council (CNE) as the national drug authority, which was established in 1986 through Law 30. This body is comprised of nine entities at the national level. The CNE is chaired by the Ministry of Justice and Law and the technical secretariat is that Ministry's Directorate of Drug Policy and Related Activities.

In addition, the Ministry of Justice and Law, in accordance with the functions granted by Decree 1427, is in charge of "formulating, adopting, promoting, coordinating, directing, monitoring, and evaluating public policy and strategies on drugs and related activities, in coordination with the corresponding bodies", through the Directorate of Drug Policy and Related Activities.

The CNE is an advisory body attached to the Ministry of Justice and Law, for the performance of the functions set forth in Law 30 of 1986, especially that of "formulating, for adoption by the National Government, the policies, plans, and programs that public and private entities must implement to combat the production, trade, and use of drugs that may cause dependence. Likewise, the Council shall propose measures for the control of the illicit use of such drugs."

**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.**

The CNE has a legal basis in Law 30 of 1986, which establishes the National Narcotics Statute and its functions. Moreover, the Ministry of Justice and Law, is the national entity that is in charge of coordinating the development, implementation, and evaluation of public policy in the area of drugs, in accordance with article 22 of Decree Law 1427 of 2017.

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

In Colombia there is an annual budget for the CNE as the national drug authority. However, it is important to specify that this agency, as an advisory body, does not have its own budget to finance its operations. Instead, the corresponding budget is integrated into the budget of the Ministry of Justice and Law. The resources allocated to the CNE come from the Fund for Rehabilitation, Social Investment and Fight against Organized Crime (FRISCO) and from the Fund for the Fight against Drugs. These resources are assigned to the Directorate of Drug Policy and Related Activities of the Ministry of Justice and Law, which coordinates and executes drug policy



actions in the country.

It is worth noting that the CNE performs the function of approving the FRISCO budget, which is used to finance projects and activities related to drug policy within various institutions.

The amounts of the annual budget for the resources of the Fund for Rehabilitation, Social Investment and Fight against Organized Crime (FRISCO), the Fund for the Fight against Drugs and transfers from the National Government to the Directorate of Drug Policy and Related Activities of the Ministry of Justice and Law for years 2019-2023 is presented below:

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Annual budget amount (U.S. dollars)</b>	\$9,207,337	\$6,297,069	\$14,120,780	\$12,428,266	\$11,152,269

**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.

Colombia has an ongoing coordination and collaboration mechanism among agencies and other levels of government (national and sub-national), to formulate, implement, monitor, evaluate, and update evidence-based national drug policies and/or strategies.

The main coordinating body for drug policy is the National Narcotics Council, which comprises the various ministries and entities with related competencies.

Through Decree 1427 of 2017, the Ministry of Justice and Law is also in charge of formulating, adopting, directing, coordinating, and executing public policy on drugs. To fulfill this mission, the same Decree establishes that the Directorate of Drug Policy and Related Activities will be part of the structure of the Ministry.

The Directorate of Drug Policy and Related Activities also has the Subdirectorate of Strategy and Analysis and the Subdirectorate of Control and Supervision of Chemical Substances and Narcotics. Through this structure, drug policy coordination is carried out at the territorial, national, and international levels, headed by the technical secretariat of the CNE, and there are specific functional groups to coordinate the different components of the policy with other institutions.

Additionally, the CNE issued Resolution No. 001 of 2023 “through which spaces for interinstitutional coordination and civil society participation are created for the development, implementation, follow-up, and evaluation of the National Policy of Drugs 2023 – 2033, and other provisions are dictated.

Colombia's national drug authority coordinates the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, comprehensive, and sustainable alternative development programs, preventive alternative development programs, control measures, drug observatory, international cooperation, and program evaluation, which have been organized by the country under the following or thematic areas<sup>1</sup>:

- Area 1: Territorial Transformation for transit to licit models of subsistence
- Area 2: Environmental conservation and climate action
- Area 3: Comprehensive care for public health, people, families and communities: promotion, prevention, and risk and damage reduction
- Area 4: Fair and Responsible Regulation
- Area 5: Human Security and Total Peace
- Area 6: Social Justice and Dignification
- Area 7: International Leadership
- Area 8: Cultural Inclusion and Narrative Change

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<sup>1</sup> Within the framework of the seventy-fourth regular session of CICAD, from December 11 to 14, 2023, Colombia indicated that the National Drug Policy 2023-2033 “Sowing life, we banish drug trafficking”, which was under development, was enacted on October 3, 2023 and that the national drug authority of Colombia coordinates with different entities the implementation of said policy, which have been organized by the country under the following components and thematic areas:

Oxygen:

- Transition to legal economies in rural and special management areas
- Environmental care of territories affected by the illicit drug economy
- Attention to at-risk populations in the face of urban drug markets
- Consumption of psychoactive substances from comprehensive care, public health, and human rights

Suffocation:

- Impact on strategic and high-value actors in the drug trafficking system
- Prevent, mitigate, and combat corruption by shielding the implementation of the National Drug Policy

Integrating Areas:

- Fair and responsible regulation
- Change of narratives
- International diplomacy for change

**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 Colombia, the Drug Observatory (ODC) collects and uses evidence as a basis for formulating and updating national drug policies and/or strategies.

Resolution 0006 of 2005, issued by the National Narcotics Council, reads as follows: "To establish the Colombian Drug Observatory (ODC) as the source of official information on drugs, so as to provide the national and international community with timely, objective, reliable, continuous, updated, and comparable information on the drug problem and related crimes, with the view to analyzing trends in their different manifestations and contributing to the formulation and adjustment of policies, decision making, and the design and evaluation of programs and projects."

In addition, the ODC is consolidating its position as a knowledge center that contributes to a better understanding of the different manifestations of the drug phenomenon and, in turn, contributes to the formulation of related policies, plans, and programs.

To collect and analyze evidence, the ODC structures its work as follows:

- Production of studies, research, and analysis on drugs
  - Early Warning Systems (EWS)
- ODC Technology Platform
  - Information System
  - Web portal
  - Information management
  - ODC social networks

Additionally, Decree 1427 of 2017, which modifies the organizational structure and determines the functions of the units of the Ministry of Justice and Law, assigns the following functions to the Strategic and Analysis Subdirectorate in relation to the ODC:

- To direct, coordinate, and manage the ODC, as a strategy to generate evidence that contributes to the construction of guidelines and the formulation of public policy, in

coordination with and without prejudice to the functions of the Directorate of Information Technology and Management in judicial matters

- To conduct studies and research on drugs and related activities within the framework of the ODC, in order to generate evidence that contributes to the construction of guidelines and the formulation of public policy
- To manage the "Information System of the Colombian Drug Observatory," which promotes coordination with the competent entities, in order to comply with the information requirements and commitments acquired at the national and international levels
- To coordinate the EWS of the ODC for the timely detection of emerging drugs and promotion of actions to control, prevent, and reduce risks associated with drug use

These activities are currently providing inputs for the construction of the national drug policy, its strategies, plans, and actions<sup>2</sup>. Technical evidence was also provided for the formulation of the drug policy that was in effect until 2022.

**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 Colombia the following relevant actors from 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	X	X
Interior Ministry	X	X		X
Justice Ministry	X	X	X	X
Education Ministry	X	X		X
Regional and/or local governments	X	X		X
Scientific community/academia	X	X		X
Civil Society	X	X	X	X
Private sector	X	X		X
National Department of Planning	X	X	X	X

<sup>2</sup> Within the framework of the seventy-fourth regular session of CICAD, from December 11 to 14, 2023, Colombia indicated that the National Drug Policy 2023-2033 "Sowing life, we banish drug trafficking", which was under construction, was enacted on October 3, 2023.

**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.**

In Colombia, territorial entities have the constitutional and legal power to develop strategies and actions to address the production, trafficking, illegal commercialization of psychoactive substances, the prevention of consumption, the promotion of mental health, social coexistence, improving coverage, access and quality of care to people using psychoactive substances, and other related activities.

In the process of decentralization or regionalization of drug policy in Colombia, the responsibilities of local/subnational governments have not been partially or fully delegated, but compliance with the principle of harmonious collaboration, as set out in article 113 of the National Constitution, referring to which the different organs of the State have separate functions but collaborate harmoniously to achieve their goals to address the issue of drugs.

In this sense, the Departments have Sectional Narcotics Councils (CSE) as consultative bodies for drug policy in their territories. Law 30 of 1986 establishes that CSEs are in charge of ensuring that the policies, plans and programs created by the National Narcotics Council are carried out, and of developing plans and programs, to be carried out at the regional level, for the adoption of the Sectional Government. Additionally, Decree 3788 of 1986 indicates that CSEs will carry out activities and campaigns in the different regions, as needed and when convenient to undertake, to prevent drug trafficking and prevent the population, particularly youth, from becoming victims of drug addiction.

The budget for actions, projects, and programs comes from, inter alia, own resources, the general participation system, the collective intervention plan, the Territorial Citizen Security and Coexistence Fund (FONSET), and the general royalties system.

Colombia's national drug authority has, in its central structure, the Directorate of Drug Policy and Related Activities of the Ministry of Justice and Law, which is focused on promoting, coordinating, training, and providing technical support on drug-related issues to departmental and/or municipal governments.

The Directorate of Drug Policy and Related Activities of the Ministry of Justice provides technical assistance and promotes the development of public policies on drugs by helping to formulate and monitor departmental and/or municipal drug plans, and to establish and operate Regional Drug Councils. This is mandated by the National Narcotics Statute (Law 30 of 1986).

Additionally, Decree 1427 of 2017 specifically assigns the following functions to this Directorate:

"10. Advise and assist the Regional Drug Councils with providing tools to strengthen the implementation of public drug policy at the territorial level, in accordance with the policies

outlined by the National Drug Council-CNE, and in coordination with other competent entities.

11. Assist departmental and local administrations with the formulation, implementation, follow-up, and evaluation of the Departmental Comprehensive Drug Plans, in accordance with the provisions of the National Narcotics Council (CNE), and the regulations in force, and in coordination with the Strategic and Analysis Subdirectorate, the Subdirectorate for Control and Control of Chemical Substances and Narcotics, and other State entities with competence in this area."

Colombia's national drug authority does not have coordinators, offices, or representatives in the subnational or local territories, 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 ongoing mechanism to transfer funds or finance drug-related initiatives or projects implemented by municipalities or local governments. Thus, the Ministry of Justice and Law, through the Directorate of Drug Policy and Related Activities, is implementing the Project Bank, which focuses on establishing methodological, technical, and operational guidelines for the formulation, execution, operation, and ex post evaluation stages of projects to strengthen regional and territorial efforts to combat drugs in Colombia, as well as technical support and assistance in the execution and ex post evaluation of projects.

In addition, the Project Bank is a tool that allows territorial entities, with the technical and financial support of the Ministry of Justice and Law, to formulate and execute projects, aimed at facilitating effective adoption of the Policy and its implementation. Participating in this initiative are departmental, municipal, and regional territorial entities, indigenous reserves, and community councils of black, raizal, Afro-Colombian, and Palenquero communities, with administrative, financial, and territorial autonomy.

**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.**

Colombia engages private sector entities to develop innovative approaches in the implementation of drug policies and exchange information and best practices. Thus, the Ministry of Justice and Law enters into voluntary and non-binding cooperation agreements with companies that use controlled substances and chemicals.

Voluntary cooperation agreements are signed between the Ministry of Justice and Law and a trade association or a company for the exchange of information on unusual or suspicious activities related to the handling of controlled substances and chemicals, with a view to reducing the risk of their diversion to illegal drug production centers, thereby guaranteeing transparency

measures and end-use controls.

Through the voluntary and non-binding cooperation agreements, commitments are entered into to ensure that the Ministry of Justice and Law and companies share information on unusual or suspicious activities in the handling of controlled substances or chemical products, thereby guaranteeing transparency measures and controls on the final use of the substances.

**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.**

Colombia takes into account the 2020 OAS Hemispheric Strategy on Drugs and its corresponding Plan of Action to formulate or update national drug policies and strategies. While forging the new drug policy, the Ministry of Justice and Law takes international commitments into account, especially those derived from the United Nations and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, such as the Hemispheric Drug Strategy, which guides the objectives, approaches, components, and special issues such as, inter alia, those related to national drug observatories, early warning systems, promotion of alternative measures to incarceration for drug-related crimes, and reduction of consumption of psychoactive substances.

The country's national drug policies and strategies take into account the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Particularly noteworthy, in connection with the commitments entered into by the Colombian State in the special session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGASS) 2016, is the inclusion of the rights and public health approach in drug policies. In the formulation of the 2018-2022 drug policy, a category called "objects of special protection" was included, which cuts across all its pillars, and actions were carried out to guarantee and protect the human rights of certain population groups<sup>3</sup>.

Intervention strategies and actions were implemented that have a differential impact on the various segments of the population affected by the illegal drug market, such as: women, children, adolescents and young people, ethnic groups, problematic consumers, National Natural Parks, and at-risk rural population. Twenty-eight specific activities have been formulated within the Drug Policy Action Plan with a view to preventing and repairing the damage that the illegal drug system has inflicted on those segments of the population.

One of the objectives of the national drug policy currently being formulated<sup>4</sup> is to promote

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<sup>3</sup> Within the framework of the seventy-fourth regular session of CICAD, from December 11 to 14, 2023, Colombia indicated that the National Drug Policy 2023-2033 "Sowing life, we banish drug trafficking", which was under construction, was enacted on October 3, 2023, which puts people and their vulnerabilities at the center, as well as the human rights and public health approach.

<sup>4</sup> Within the framework of the seventy-fourth regular session of CICAD, from December 11 to 14, 2023, Colombia indicated that the National Drug Policy 2023-2033 "Sowing life, we banish drug trafficking", which was under construction, was enacted on October 3, 2023.

territorial development models that foster compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and improve the quality of life of the inhabitants.

**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.**

Colombia's national drug policies and strategies take into account the human rights approach (EBDH).

Item 4 of the Final Agreement for the Construction of a Stable and Durable Peace refers to the agreement to solve the problem of illicit drugs, which promotes a new vision that provides a distinct and differentiated treatment for the phenomenon of consumption, for the problem of crops for illicit use, and organized crime associated with drug trafficking.

The national drug policy that is currently being formulated<sup>5</sup> addresses the structural causes of the illicit drug market, promoting fair and responsible regulation, through a focus on human rights, public health, social and environmental justice and sustainable development, with the objective of contributing to the consolidation of total peace.

Accordingly, the national drug policy focuses on guaranteeing the Human Rights of at-risk groups in the drug trafficking chain, addressing the Human Rights, Public Health, Human Security, Environmental, Gender, and Subjects of Special Protection approaches. This has been incorporated into the Peace Agreement with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People's Army (FARC-EP) with the following objectives:

- Rural development: Improve rural areas affected by illicit crops, offering sustainable economic alternatives
- Replacement of illicit crops: Implement voluntary programs to replace coca and maple crops with legal and alternative ones
- Drug use prevention: Strengthen community and educational prevention, raising awareness about risks and promoting healthy lifestyles
- Dismantling drug trafficking: Dismantle drug trafficking structures and networks, focusing on the prosecution of those responsible and "strong links"

The policy is being validated with competent entities and civil society to prepare a concrete action plan based on the approaches described.

Colombia's national drug policies and strategies take into account the gender perspective. Thus,

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<sup>5</sup> Within the framework of the seventy-fourth regular session of CICAD, from December 11 to 14, 2023, Colombia indicated that the National Drug Policy 2023-2033 "Sowing life, we banish drug trafficking", which was under construction, was enacted on October 3, 2023.



the gender approach to drug policy has been incorporated since the Final Accord for the Termination of the Conflict and the Construction of a Stable and Lasting Peace, establishing: "That these new policies, will have a general human rights and public health, differentiated, and gender perspective, and should be adjusted over time based on evidence, lessons from good practices, and recommendations from experts and specialized national and international organizations."

Each of the points of the Accord contains specific actions that respond to the realities and at-risk factors associated with, inter alia, age, gender, disability, socioeconomic status, and geographic location or membership in the LGBTI population, among others.

In this context, one of the guidelines of the National Drug Policy is the differential approach that will be implemented based on age or stage of the life cycle, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, and disability.

Colombia's national drug authority requires technical support in the following areas to develop and implement programs with a gender perspective:

- Studies on different forms of violence and the impacts on women and LGBTI population from an intersectional perspective: ethnicity, level of education, socioeconomic stratum, and sexual orientation.
- Actions to address the rights of women and LGBTI persons deprived of liberty for drug manufacturing and trafficking.
- Studies from a gender perspective, on criminalization and persecution of ethnic populations.
- Updating of figures on the role of women and LGBTI people in the various links in the drug-trafficking chains.
- Analyses of the impacts on families and society associated with the various links in the drug-trafficking chains.
- Measurement of public health impacts of drug use among women and LGBT people.

The country's national drug policies and strategies take into account the social inclusion approach in the health promotion, coexistence, and treatment components.

Colombia has a Judicial Follow-up Program for the Treatment of Drug Use in the Criminal Responsibility of Adolescents System, which is an alternative measure to incarceration for adolescents with problematic drug use, based on a comprehensive approach that includes treatment for drug use and social inclusion measures.

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

Colombia 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.

Colombia has interagency and multisectoral policy and technical coordination mechanisms to address the drug problem through a comprehensive, balanced, and multidisciplinary approach, including its causes and consequences. The main coordinating body for drug policy is the National Narcotics Council (CNE), which, together with the Ministry of Justice and Law, is responsible for formulating, adopting, directing, coordinating, and executing public policy on drugs.

The following advisory committees operate within the framework of the CNE and are also governed by the CNE Technical Secretariat:

- CNE - Fund for Rehabilitation, Social Investment and the Fight against Organized Crime (FRISCO) Technical Committee: Established by Resolution 0006 of 2016 and Resolution 0002 of 2020 of the CNE.
- Interagency Technical Committee of the Program for the Eradication of Illicit Crops through Terrestrial Spraying (PECAT): Established by Resolution 0009 of 2016 and Resolution 0001 of 2017 of the CNE.
- Technical Committee of the Integrated Monitoring System for Illicit Crops (SIMCI): Established by Resolution 0003 of 2021 of the CNE.
- Technical Committee for the Control and Supervision of Chemical Substances and Products, regulated by Resolution 0001 of 2015 of the CNE.
- Early Warning System (EWS) within the framework of the Colombian Drug Observatory (ODC), regulated by Resolution 0001 of 2016.

**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.

Colombia has concrete multisectoral plans and programs to address the socioeconomic causes and consequences of the drug problem, based on the principles of human rights, public health, and development:

- **National Comprehensive Program for the Substitution of Illicit Crops (PNIS)**  
As part of the Peace with Legality Stabilization Policy, and in line with point 4 of the Final Accord, Solution to the Illicit Drugs Problem, the PNIS is the strategy through which the National Government intends to: "generate material and immaterial conditions of well-being

and for a good life for the populations affected by illicit crops, particularly for the poor peasant communities whose subsistence depends on these crops, and in this way also find a sustainable and definitive solution to the problem of illicitly used crops and all the problems associated with them in the national territory." In order to achieve that goal, the PNIS promotes voluntary substitution of illicit crops through the implementation of Immediate Care Plans (PAI) and Comprehensive Municipal and Community Plans for Substitution and Alternative Development (PISDA), agreed upon in a participatory manner with the targeted communities.

- **"Tailor-made" alternative substitution strategy or model**

Within the framework of this strategy, the Directorate of Substitution of Illicit Crops of the Territory Renewal Agency (DSCI-ART) supports the structuring of illicit crop substitution projects led by regional entities, national entities, international cooperation agencies, or private enterprise, for non-PNIS families and communities. To that end, the strategy enlists the participation of the aforementioned partners leading the initiative and tries to get communities or families to agree to substitute crops as part of a specific project. These are specific substitution projects that are financially and technically structured to serve specific communities or families, after the necessary resources have been obtained under a co-financing arrangement.

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

Colombia participates in international cooperation programs at the bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen policies, programs, institutions, and their internal processes:

- The Cooperation Program between Latin America and the European Union concerning Drug Policies (COPOLAD): supports the strengthening of national information systems and regional networks, the differential and rights-based approach, and the strengthening of Early Warning Systems. COPOLAD will provide technical assistance for the following projects:
  - Exchange of experiences on the System of Social Control of coca leaf production implemented in the Plurinational State of Bolivia
  - Exchange of experiences on the transition from the monitoring of the area under coca cultivation conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Peru to that conducted by the Peruvian Drug Observatory (OPD)
- Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD/OAS): promotes activities related to the strengthening of Early Warning Systems, especially in response to the opioid and new psychoactive substances (NPS) situation in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Bilateral Holistic anti-drug strategy Colombia-United States: implementation of the strategy and generation of indicators and strategy baseline report
- Triangular Project on comprehensive and shared solutions to the common problem of illicit crops in natural protected areas and their buffer zones in Colombia and Peru (CIAPCOPE)

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

Colombia promotes comprehensive and cross-cutting public policies to reduce and prevent crime, violence, social exclusion, and corruption. These policies address the Territorialized Strategy for strengthening investigation and prosecution capacities aimed at dismantling organized crime (ETCO) and disrupting its financial circuits.

ETCO is part of the implementation of the criminal policy guidelines within the framework of the National Criminal Policy Plan. It contemplates measures to enhance the presence of the judiciary in territories where the State is largely absent and with a high incidence of organized crime and illegal economies, such as drug trafficking. Those measures include:

- Providing technology and training officials in the municipalities and departments to improve criminal investigation processes
- Establishing mobile courts and supervisory courts in municipalities that require a greater state presence to combat organized crime
- Implementing a technical assistance program targeting decision-makers and officials in the sector with a view to improving capacities in the area of criminal policy, through training, mock trials, pilot schemes for interagency coordination, among other actions
- Carrying out periodic opportunities for the victim population to have access to mobile courts
- Taking steps to prevent crime, gender-based violence, and forced recruitment, as well as other factors that impair the daily lives of citizens

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

Colombia implements measures that promote equal access to justice and due process, taking into account gender, age, community, and cultural context through the Therapeutic Justice Program in the Criminal Responsibility for Adolescents System (SRPA), which seeks to guarantee, prevent, and restore the rights of young people and adolescents affected by the use of psychoactive substances and crime.

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

Colombia implements measures that foster citizen participation in crime prevention, building community cohesion, increasing public safety, and emphasizing social inclusion through "Somos Comunidad," an activity to build community resilience based on social cohesion and capacity building processes that forge trust between citizens and local institutions through:

- The adoption of self-protection and self-care strategies
- The generation and consolidation of capacities of civil society organizations, including community councils and traditional governance structures of the Afro-Colombian and indigenous population
- Dialogue between communities and institutions to enable the latter to respond more effectively to local needs
- Psychosocial support exercises
- Promoting of the protection and destigmatization of social leaders and community human rights defenders
- The inclusion of a cross-cutting gender and social inclusion perspective in all activities

## 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.

Colombia's legislation provides for the application of alternative measures to incarceration for minor non-violent drug-related offenses through Law 2292 of 2023, which adopts affirmative actions for women that are heads of household in criminal and penitentiary policy matters.

These measures respect human rights and take into account the gender perspective in accordance with relevant international instruments. The rule applies to women sentenced to less than eight years in prison. In exchange, they must provide unpaid public utility services that benefit the community and rebuild the social fabric that was affected by the commission of the crime.

Additionally, the rule is included in the 1961 Convention Article 36.1, which was ratified in Colombia Law 14 of 1974; Convention 1988 Article 3.4 ratified by Law 67 of 1993, and – in the manner it is being applied in Colombia – through Law 1098 of 2006 in the Criminal Responsibility for Adolescents System (SRPA). In addition, it is important to mention that public policy instruments – the National Criminal Policy Plan, the National Public Policy on Restorative Juvenile Justice and the Public Policy for Crime Prevention for Adolescents and Young People – have incorporated the adoption of therapeutic justice and restorative justice measures. Also noteworthy is the implementation of the Judicial Follow-up Program for Drug Treatment in the SRPA as a model of drug treatment courts (TTD) in Colombia and the TTD model as a criminal alternative, within the adult system.

**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.

Colombia has not developed mechanisms to monitor or evaluate alternative measures to incarceration for minor drug-related offenses because the corresponding measures have not yet been implemented, as they need to be regulated. It is expected that monitoring and evaluation mechanisms will be included in the regulations. The country is carrying out activities to develop these mechanisms within the framework of the Therapeutic Juvenile Justice Program for Drug Treatment (PJJD).

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

Colombia promotes a common understanding of national legal norms, regulations, and internal procedures for the implementation of alternatives to incarceration.

In response to the sentences of the Constitutional Court that created unconstitutional problems in the Colombian penitentiary system, Colombia committed itself to reducing the punitive attitude of society and its representatives. In this context, the Ministry of Justice and Law carried out campaigns, in collaboration with civil society, media outlets, and authorities in 2020, with the purpose of raising awareness and providing support in relation to alternatives to incarceration. Moreover, in 2021, an educational campaign was carried out through a course and a diploma program on restorative justice as an option for conventional justice and prison, with the participation of several judicial stakeholders and citizens.

The Colombian government has been collaborating with the Assistance Program against Organized Crime (PAcCTO) since 2021 to form an Interinstitutional Technical Group within the Supreme Council of Criminal Policy, whose objective is to raise awareness among the public and political decision-makers about the importance of financing alternative measures. This group has not yet been established and is currently in the implementation process. Furthermore, through the Children and Adolescents Code, Colombia has adopted the Principle of Integral Protection of Children and Adolescents, moving away from the tutelary approach. Law 1098 of 2006 introduces the SRPA, which seeks to guarantee integral protection, establish differentiated pedagogical measures for young offenders, and promote restorative justice, truth, and reparation for damages.

This approach can be observed in the PJJD in the SRPA, which offers multidisciplinary treatment for adolescents and their families seeking rehabilitation and reintegration in different areas of their lives. The Public Policy for Restorative Juvenile Justice and the National Development Plan 2022-2026 also support the implementation of restorative approaches and the promotion of measures that do not require incarceration. In short, Colombia is working on several initiatives to reform its penal system, focusing on restorative justice, alternative measures, and the integral protection of adolescents.

**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.

Colombia has its Proyecto Enclave Comuna 3, a project that promotes the social inclusion of individuals, families, and communities affected by the drug problem, taking into account the specific needs of at-risk populations.

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

Colombia disseminates best practices and lessons learned to improve institutional responses to the needs of at-risk populations, such as mechanisms, programs, and interventions, through meetings, and workshops, among others. Particularly noteworthy is the Conceptual, Methodological and Operational Guide for the Strengthening of Community Provisions: A Challenge for Social Inclusion.



## 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 proportionate legal sentencing for minor drug-related offenses in accordance with domestic law.

Colombia does not promote proportional legal sentencing for minor drug-related offenses in accordance with domestic law.

The country does not have special courts or tribunals for minor drug-related crimes. However, the country implements the Therapeutic Justice Program for the Adolescent Penal Responsibility System, without it being necessary to have a specific court.

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

Colombia promotes legal reforms regarding proportional penalties 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.

Colombia has the Colombian Drug Observatory (ODC), which was created by Resolution 0006 of 2005 of the National Narcotics Council.

The ODC has been assigned financial and human resources to carry out its functions, provided by the Fund for Rehabilitation, Social Investment and the Fight against Organized Crime (FRISCO), and the Fund for the Fight against Drugs. The breakdown of the budget allocations is as follows:

**2022**

**Strengthen the management of knowledge and evidence on the drug problem through the Colombian Drug Observatory**

- Fund for Rehabilitation, Social Investment, and Fight against Organized Crime FRISCO COP \$ 9,511,958,885 (US\$ 2,234,923)
- Fund for the Fight against Drugs COP \$ 2,164,237,151 (US\$ 508,514)

**Total COP \$ 11,676,196,036 (US\$ 2,743,467)**

**2023**

**Strengthen the management of knowledge and evidence on the drug problem through the Colombian Drug Observatory, and follow up on the adequate implementation of the new Drug Policy**

- Fund for Rehabilitation, Social Investment, and Fight against Organized Crime FRISCO COP \$ 7,028,000,000 (US\$ 1,491,454)
- Fund for the Fight against Drugs COP \$ 1,051,351,835 (US\$ 223,114)

**Total COP \$ 8,079,000,000 (US\$ 1,714,568)**

**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.

Colombia has established working relationships with academic and research institutions, such as: Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Universidad del Rosario, Universidad CES, Universidad de Caldas, Universidad de Antioquia, Universidad Industrial de Santander, Universidad de los Andes, Universidad Pedagógica, Universidad Javeriana, Universidad de la Salle, and Universidad Externado de Colombia.

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

- Study of analysis of drugs of abuse in wastewater in three capitals of the Eje Cafetero (Armenia, Pereira and Manizales) 2020, in coordination with Universidad Caldas
- Study of prevalence of HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Syphilis, and associated behaviors in people who inject drugs in the cities of Armenia and Cúcuta in 2021, in coordination with the CES University of Colombia
- Additionally, via coordination between the CES University, the University of Antioquia, the Salutia Foundation, Enterritorio, and the Drug Observatory of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health, studies were conducted in 2021 on people who inject drugs in six cities in Colombia (Bogota, Cali, Medellín, Pereira/ Dosquebradas, Armenia, and Cúcuta). A joint face-to-face meeting was held in Cali, in May 2022 to share findings and studies of people who inject drugs in six cities in Colombia in 2021 (Bogotá, Cali, Medellín, Pereira/ Dosquebradas, Armenia and Cúcuta), with the participation of people from academia, research centers, civil society, and national and territorial government institutions

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

Colombia has developed and adopted quantitative and qualitative methodologies and information-gathering mechanisms that allow for the comparison of data among countries, such as the Analysis of Mortality associated with psychoactive substance use, Sampling in wastewater treatment plants in three cities in Colombia, Analysis of wastewater for identified substances, and the National Study of Psychoactive Substance Use in the general population in 2019, which was carried out applying the Inter-American Uniform Drug Use Data System (SIDUC) methodology.

The country has used CICAD's standardized indicators for drug information networks to collect, analyze, or report national drug-related information.

Colombia has 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 conducted 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 ODC has a national drug information network (DIN), which interacts through quarterly meetings and document exchanges each time study results are obtained.

The following stakeholders 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	X	
Civil Society and other social stakeholders	X	
International cooperation organizations	X	

The DIN does not publish annual or periodic reports.

Colombia has an Early Warning System (EWS) to identify new psychoactive substances (NPS) and other emerging drug-related threats, which is led by the ODC and shares warning information and reports with the Early Warning System of the Americas (SATA).

The EWS has 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 cooperation organizations	X	

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

The ODC carries out trainings with local stakeholders to enhance data collection and management.

The ODC convenes meetings or other workshops where the results of studies and other data collection 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.**

Colombia has established the following drug-related forums with the participation of drug researchers:

Forum title	Frequency	Reports or publications from these forums
Forum on the analysis of drugs of abuse in wastewater with a view to learning about the global approach to wastewater epidemiology and the results of wastewater research in the capitals of the Eje Cafetero (Armenia, Pereira and Manizales). This forum was held virtually in July 2021 with the participation of people from academia, research centers, civil society, and national and territorial government institutions.	It was carried out once the results of the study were obtained	Yes
Exchange of national and international experiences on women and drug trafficking	It was held for the first time in 2021	Yes
Sharing of the Study on Strategies to address the Drug Problem in Indigenous Territories	The forum was carried out once the results of the study were obtained	Yes

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

The ODC promotes and disseminates best practices and the exchange of successful research experiences in research among the member states, through Joint Commissions on drugs with Brazil, Peru, and Argentina, and a virtual working meeting with Uruguay on generating knowledge on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**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.

Colombia has carried out and published the following demand reduction studies:

Demand Reduction			
Studies	Studies carried out and published		Year of most recent study
	Yes	No	
Survey of secondary school students <sup>6</sup>		X	
National household survey (12-64 years)	X		2019
Cross-section survey of patients in treatment centers		X	
Survey of patients in emergency rooms		X	
Survey of university students		X	
Survey of incarcerated individuals		X	
Studies on drug-related mortality	X		2022
Studies on drug-related morbidity	X		2021
Surveys of other target populations. Please specify: Synthetic Drug Monitoring Study 2016-2022	X		2022
Others: Analysis of psychoactive substance use with a gender perspective	X		2022

**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.

Colombia has a national system for the collection of data on the number of patients treated, diagnoses, clinical history, and available information on treatment outcomes.

<sup>6</sup> Within the framework of the seventy-fourth regular session of CICAD, from December 11 to 14, 2023, Colombia indicated that it published, in 2023, the “National Study of the Consumption of Psychoactive Substances Colombia in the School Population, 2022”, which includes a survey of students at the secondary education level.



The national system on treatment data includes the following modalities and interventions:

Modalities and interventions	Yes	No
Community-based services		X
Screening, brief interventions and referral to treatment		X
Medication-assisted treatment	X	
Short-term outpatient or residential treatment	X	
Outpatient treatment	X	
Long-term outpatient or residential treatment	X	
Recovery management		X

Information on patients treated is collected from the following institutions:

Institution	Yes	No
Public health system	X	
Private institutions	X	
Nongovernmental organizations		X
Religious institutions		X

**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.

Colombia has carried out the following studies to evaluate treatment and prevention programs and interventions:

Scope	Are evaluation studies carried out?		Title of the study and assessment year
	Yes	No	
Prevention	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evaluation of results of the "Emotions vital connection" Strategy (2021)</li> <li>- Evaluation of the Prevention Program: "Strong Families: Love and Limits" in Colombia (2020)</li> <li>- Assessing Community Readiness for Preventing Youth Substance Use in Colombia: A Latent Profile Analysis (2020)</li> </ul>
Treatment	X		Implementation of the MHGAP program in Colombia. Study on national implementation of mental health and psychoactive substance use services in Colombia
Other	X		Systematic review of the implementation of mental health services in Colombia

The country has not conducted process or intermediate outcome evaluations of prevention or

treatment programs.

Colombia has not conducted impact evaluations of its prevention or treatment programs.

The country has mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results of the following programs and services in the public health and/or social protection network:

Programs/Services	Mechanisms in place to continuously monitor and evaluate results		Name of the mechanisms
	Yes	No	
Care	X		Monitoring through the integrated social protection information system (SISPRO)
Treatment	X		
Rehabilitation	X		
Recovery and social integration		X	

**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.

Colombia has mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs. The following institutions participate in those mechanisms:

- Ministry of Justice and Law (Integrated Illicit Crop Monitoring System in coordination with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime - UNODC)
- Drug Observatory of Colombia (ODC)
- Ministry of National Defense
- Observatory for Human Rights and National Security

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		2023
Quantities of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production seized	X		2023
Number of seizures of controlled chemical substances (precursors)	X		2023
Quantities of seized controlled chemical substances (precursors)	X		2023
Number of seizures of pharmaceutical products	X		2023
Quantities of seized pharmaceutical products	X		2023
Number of persons formally charged with drug use, possession, and trafficking	X		2023
Number of persons convicted of drug use, possession, and trafficking	X		2023
Number of laboratories producing illicit plant-based drugs detected and dismantled	X		2023
Number of laboratories producing illicit drugs of synthetic origin, detected and dismantled	X		2023

Supply reduction, trafficking, and related crimes			
Information	Available information		Year of most recent information
	Yes	No	
Chemical composition of seized drugs	X		2021
Sale price of drugs (for consumers)	X		2021
Number of persons formally charged with money laundering	X		2023
Number of persons convicted of money laundering	X		2023
Number of persons formally charged with trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition, and related materials		X	
Number of persons convicted of trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition, and related materials		X	
Number of persons formally charged with diversion of chemical substances	X		2023
Number of persons convicted of diversion of chemical substances	X		2023
Others: Coca leaf productivity and yield estimation	X		2021

Colombia carries out the following periodic studies and research on the drug market for illicit drugs:

Type of study	Title of report	Year of publication
Market size estimation	Estimation of the size of the main illicit markets drug retailers in Colombia - year 2019	2021
Characterization	Characterization of Synthetic Drugs and NPS Ministry V1 (Agreement 315 of 2019)	2020
Characterization	Chemical Characterization of Illicit Drugs in Colombia 2020-2021 (Agreement 315 of 2019)	2021

The country carried out the study entitled "Technical Document for a Systematic Review of the Literature on Group Effectiveness and Safety for medical uses of cannabis and finished products derived from cannabis" in 2022 regarding the medical and scientific use and other legal use of narcotic or psychotropic substances subject to the international control system.

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

Colombia collects information on drug prices, purity or concentration, and chemical profile of drugs, and publishes it in the following:

Type of report/publication	Title of report/publication	Year of report/publication
Analysis	Bulletin on the prices of	2022

	illicit drugs	
Analysis	Study of alkaloid content and purity of samples seized with a view to determining the potential for cocaine hydrochloride production In Colombia	2021 (Not published)
Analysis	Continuous monitoring of the synthetic drug market in Colombia  Trends and developments 2016-2022	2022

The country conducts chemical characterization and tests of purity for substances that may or may not be subject to international control. The country does not have mechanisms that allow substances that have been identified as not under international control to 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 Colombia, the following agencies are responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances:

- The Attorney General's Office - Technical and Investigation Corps - Departmental Chemistry Groups and Criminalistics Sections (8 forensic laboratories)
- National Institute of Forensic Medicine and Forensic Sciences - Narcotics and Forensic Toxicology Laboratories (15 forensic laboratories)
- National Police of Colombia - Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Interpol - Forensic Chemistry Laboratories (2 forensic laboratories)
- Colombian National Police - Anti-Narcotics Directorate - International Center for Strategic Research against Drug Trafficking - Anti-Drug Investigation Laboratory (1 laboratory for investigation)

These agencies form part of the national early warning system (EWS) and the national drug information network (DIN).

Colombia implements the following periodic training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances. In 2022, the country implemented the "Virtual course for the transfer of knowledge to chemistry professionals in state laboratories," which included the following topics: instrumental analysis, statistical design, and interpretation of spectra focusing on synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances. The Attorney General's Office, the National Institute of Forensic Medicine and Forensic Sciences, and the Colombian National Police

participated in this course.

**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.

Colombia's national drug information network (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 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 MEM evaluation round, Colombia compiled 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 Governmental Expert Group (GEG) in the following thematic areas:

- Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Support Measures (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 MEM evaluation round, Colombia designated representatives for the following MEM groups, thereby actively participating in and contributing to the evaluation process:

Thematic Evaluation	National Coordinating Entities (NCEs)	Governmental Experts Group (GEG)
Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Support Measures (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.**

Colombia publishes the MEM country and hemispheric evaluation reports on drug policies on the website of the Colombian Drug Observatory and communicates this to the entities that provide information to the MEM. The MEM recommendations are taken into account by the country in the process of drafting drug policies.

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

Colombia, in the process of drafting its national drug policy, takes into account the analysis of the findings of the MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies, however, it has not promoted them within national institutions to identify areas where technical assistance is needed.

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

Colombia has reviewed the MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies and identified opportunities to increase cooperation and partnerships with other member states and share best practices and lessons learned (horizontal cooperation). In this sense, the country participates in projects and initiatives developed by CICAD that meet the recommendations of the MEM, such as: “Gender in the criminal justice system: exploring evidence-based alternatives to incarceration for drug-related crimes”; a round table on adulterants in illicit drugs; the second follow-up meeting for the plan of action for the fulfillment of commitments made in the second phase of the Inter-American Program for Strengthening Gender Equality in Counterdrug Law Enforcement Agencies (GENLEA), the Early Warning System in Response to Opioids and New Psychoactive Substances (NSP) in Latin America and the Caribbean Project; a virtual round table on safe management and the final disposal of chemical precursors used in the illicit manufacture of drugs; meeting of the working group on the control of drug trafficking by air; and recovery experiences and social integration of persons with disorders due to the substance abuse, among others.



# 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.

Colombia develops and implements a plan for promoting and strengthening 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. Through the Presidency of the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors (AIAMP), currently held by the Attorney General of Colombia, international judicial cooperation has been resolutely promoted with a view to effectively addressing the challenges related to Transnational Organized Crime and criminal investigation of crimes of common interest, such as, inter alia, drug trafficking, human trafficking, and the environment, among others.

To that end, the Presidency has outlined a robust work plan designed to promote a better coordinated and integrated AIAMP that can position itself at the international level and ensure that its trajectory, contributions, and products contribute to the major discussions related to the administration of justice, access to justice, and the fight against crime.

Likewise, the Attorney General's Office has been strengthening cooperation ties with its counterpart authorities abroad through official visits that have served to endorse joint efforts in the fight against organized crime and its sources of finance. In addition, international instruments have been signed with various authorities, including agencies of the United States, Andorra, El Salvador, and the Dominican Republic, the purpose of which is to strengthen judicial cooperation in order to coordinate joint actions to combat transnational organized crime.

Furthermore, the Colombian Navy is carrying out the "ORION" naval campaign, a national strategy of international cooperation, through which it plans and executes operations in the maritime areas of the participating countries, in the Caribbean Sea, the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and river borders of the South and East of Colombia, with a view to combating illicit drug trafficking and other related crimes, using the resources allocated for these operations in each country. The campaign involves Military and Police Forces, Intelligence (including Financial Intelligence) Agencies, Migration Authorities, Customs Authorities, Prosecutor's Offices and Agencies specializing in the fight against drug trafficking from Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Ireland, Cayman Islands, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal,

Spain, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Sweden, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, United States, and Uruguay.

Colombia has established secure communication channels for the exchange of intelligence on drug interdiction and control. The Colombian Navy shares actionable intelligence information aimed at developing operations to combat illicit drug trafficking through the different communication channels established for this purpose in cooperation instruments signed with other navies, foreign authorities of allied countries (15 in the Americas, 7 in Europe, and 1 in Asia) and multilateral organizations specializing in the fight against this scourge, such as the European Maritime Analysis and Operations Center against Drug Trafficking (MAOC-N).

The country promotes the exchange, with member states and with States outside 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/or strategies. Within the framework of AIAMP, the work of the Networks and Groups that make up the Association has been strengthened, including the Network against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, the Cybercrime Network, the Juvenile Criminal Justice and Restorative Justice Network, the Network against Corruption, and the Network of Anti-Drug Prosecutors -RFAI-. These scenarios are essential to promote the exchange of best practices, as well as the drafting of useful documents and guides for the work of Public Prosecutors' Offices.

With regard to the RFAI, meetings of Public Prosecutors' Offices are held periodically, as well as meetings of the points of contact, training activities, and the preparation of work plans.

There are also the Joint Drug Commissions (Comixtas), in which not only the Specialized Directorate against Drug Trafficking participates, but also other agencies of the Attorney General's Office, as well as representatives of other institutions, under the aegis of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In addition, various activities are conducted with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), by various entities, not just the Specialized Directorate against Drug Trafficking.

Moreover, the exchange of evidentiary material has been strengthened through the receipt and sending of requests for international legal assistance, the creation of Joint Investigation Teams (JITs), as well as promotion of the use of special investigation techniques, among others, all in application of internal regulations and the international legal instruments established for this purpose.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that in 2022, recognizing the importance of strengthening the capacities and knowledge of public servants to address crime in the region in a well-coordinated manner, the Colombian Attorney General's Office developed an international cooperation strategy so that officials of the Public Prosecutors' Offices in Latin America can benefit from the institutional virtual training courses envisaged in the Institutional Training and Capacity Building

Plan.

Thus, a course entitled "Investigation in the context of drug trafficking" was offered to public servants of the Public Prosecutors' Offices in the AIAMP.

In addition, the National Navy offers a wide range of academic courses and has its own facilities to conduct instruction, training, and professional development programs as part of the fight against illicit drug trafficking by sea and river, in which allied countries in the region and beyond can participate. In addition, activities have been carried out in a variety of international scenarios with expert personnel, to train foreign personnel and share the best practices developed thanks to the experience accumulated in this area. These include, notably:

- Global Maritime Crime Program (GMCP) of UNODC
- Global Container Control Program (CCP) of UNODC
- European Union Port Cooperation Program (SEACOP)
- Group of Experts of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS) on maritime trafficking
- Regional Training Courses on Illicit Drug Trafficking Control, organized by the Executive Secretariat of CICAD/OAS
- Regional Operational Legal Seminars on Anti-drug Maritime Cooperation, organized jointly with CICAD/OAS

Colombia participates in regional coordination activities to prevent related crimes associated with illicit drug trafficking, such as, inter alia, firearms trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, money laundering, and corruption, among others. In addition to the activities carried out within the framework of the "ORION" naval campaign, the Colombian Navy actively participates in a number of cooperation mechanisms and programs with allied countries and multilateral organizations specializing in the fight against illicit drug trafficking and related crimes including, in particular, the following:

- **Joint Drug Commissions.** Bilateral dialogue mechanism chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the participation of National Institutions and Authorities dedicated to formulating and executing national policies to address drug supply and demand, and their impact on public health. This mechanism is currently being developed with Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Brazil, Peru, the Dominican Republic, and Uruguay.
- **2+2 and 2+3 mechanisms.** Bilateral diplomatic-military dialogue forums, in which security and defense issues are coordinated. They are chaired by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Ministers of Defense, Ministers of the Interior and/or Security of neighboring countries (Brazil, Ecuador, and Peru).
- **Binational Annual Operating Plan (POAB)** Bilateral roadmap containing concrete security and defense tasks and actions with Ecuador, Panama, and Peru.
- **Binational Border Commission (COMBIFRON).** Bilateral mechanism to strengthen mutual trust, in which Intelligence Agencies, Military Forces, Police, and Migration Authorities exchange intelligence information to optimize coordinated operations against all threats and

risk factors in the common border area with Brazil, Ecuador, Panama, and Peru.

- **Regional Border Commanders Meeting.** Bilateral mechanism that allows for operational coordination between military and police units and immigration authorities that have jurisdiction in the border areas with Ecuador, Panama, and Peru.
- **Meeting of Joint Chiefs of Staff organized by the region's Navies.** Meetings held between the Colombian Navy's Deputy Commander and Chief of Naval Staff and his counterpart from the navies and/or Coast Guard of Ecuador, Peru, Costa Rica, the United States, Honduras, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, the United Kingdom, Panama, and the Netherlands, in which agreements were signed to strengthen cooperation on multiple issues, including the suppression of illicit drug trafficking by sea and river and related crimes.
- **Global Maritime Crime Program (GMCP).** UNODC initiative to support Latin American and Caribbean countries and to achieve greater cooperation at the national and regional levels with the view to providing broader law enforcement responses to maritime crime.
- **Global Container Control Program (CCP).** An initiative of UNODC to minimize the use of maritime containers in illicit drug trafficking and other transnational organized crime activities, as well as to promote training and institutional capacity building for the inspection, surveillance, and control of maritime cargo containers.
- **European Union Port Cooperation Program (SEACOP).** Aimed at contributing to the fight against illicit trafficking by sea and associated criminal networks in the program's partner countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, and West Africa and, in line with human rights, alleviating its negative impact on security, public health, and socioeconomic development.
- **Multiple scenarios organized by CICAD/OAS.**

In the country, there are bilateral mechanisms for coordination and collaboration with other countries focusing on the dismantling of criminal groups linked to illicit drug trafficking and related crimes. Thus, the Colombian Navy participates in bilateral cooperation mechanisms for cooperation in the fight against illicit drug trafficking with: Ecuador, Peru, Costa Rica, the United States, Honduras, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, the United Kingdom, Panama, and the Netherlands.

Each of these mechanisms is implemented on a permanent basis, in response to the different requirements and needs of the fight against illicit drug trafficking and related crimes, and meetings are held annually, biannually, or at the request of any of the parties, to monitor and control the implementation of the mechanism and establish the understandings needed to continue implementing it in the future.

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

Colombia has not promoted technology transfers among and between OAS member states and international (including regional) organizations.

The country has promoted information sharing among and between OAS member states and

international (including regional) organizations. Thus, the Attorney General's Office, promotes information sharing through the receipt and sending of requests for international legal assistance, a process that is set forth in the established multilateral and bilateral instruments.

Furthermore, the National Navy, during combined maritime and riverine operations with allied foreign authorities, the execution of the "ORION" naval campaign, and via various cooperation mechanisms (described under item No. 4), exchanges intelligence and operational information aimed at combating illicit drug trafficking, its related crimes, and the transnational organized crime organizations that promote them.

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

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

Colombia's competent authorities carry out cooperation activities at the regional and international level to investigate and prosecute criminals for drug-related offenses. Coordination and collaboration mechanisms with other countries are constantly used by the Attorney General's Office to prosecute crimes within the framework of the constitutional right to due process and international cooperation. The Specialized Directorate against Drug Trafficking of the Attorney General's Office is responsible for investigating the various crimes associated with drug trafficking, as well as the dismantling of drug trafficking organizations with a national/transnational scope, with a territorial approach, and in an analytical and comprehensive manner, thereby also impacting their finances.

To achieve this, judicial cooperation tools are used, including the creation of Joint Investigation Teams, the use of special investigative techniques, passive and active extradition processes, as well as the transfer of files, among others, always in accordance with international legal instruments.

The country takes human rights into account when carrying out these activities by respecting the provisions of international instruments, the Political Constitution of Colombia, and the law.

**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.**

Colombia 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. The Specialized Directorate against Drug Trafficking, as part of its functions, carries out various activities aimed at strengthening prosecution, through the use of the tools provided by judicial cooperation to obtain material evidence, physical evidence, and other information that may be necessary in the framework of a criminal proceeding. It does so in accordance with international legal instruments and, inter alia, through the sending and management of requests for legal assistance, the formation of Joint Investigation Teams, and the implementation of special investigation techniques, among others.

In addition, the country promotes and participates in national and international scenarios such as seminars and trainings courses that have encouraged the proper use of the channels and tools

available to international cooperation.

**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.

Colombia has enacted, during the evaluation period (2019-2023), the following legislative and 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:

	Enacted	Adopted	Name of the legislation/administrative measures or actions
Legislative Actions/Measures	X		Ministry of Health and Social Protection - Resolution 089 of 2019  Comprehensive Policy to Prevent and Address the Consumption of Psychoactive Substances  Law 2000 of 2019 amending the National Police and Coexistence Code, and the Code of Children and Adolescents regarding the consumption, bearing, and distribution of psychoactive substances in places where minors are present, and enacting other provisions.
Administrative Actions/Measures <sup>7</sup>	X		Comprehensive Policy to Tackle the Drugs Problem - Roadmap for the Future 2018 - 2022

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

Colombia has ratified or acceded to the following international legal instruments:

Conventions and Protocols		Yes	No
United Nations Conventions	Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000	X	
	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

<sup>7</sup> Within the framework of the seventy-fourth regular session of CICAD, from December 11 to 14, 2023, Colombia indicated that the National Drug Policy 2023-2033 “Sowing life, we banish drug trafficking”, which was under construction, was enacted on October 3, 2023, and constitutes another administrative measure related to this issue.



		Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition		
	<b>Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961</b>		X	
	<b>Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971</b>		X	
	<b>Convention against Corruption, 2003</b>		X	
<b>Inter-American Conventions</b>	<b>American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), 1997</b>		X	
	<b>Convention against Corruption, 1996</b>		X	
	<b>Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, 1992</b>		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 with satisfaction that Colombia has a national drug authority, which has a legal basis. Furthermore, CICAD notes that in the country there is an annual budget for the national drug authority, which is integrated into the budget of another government agency. Moreover, CICAD notes that Colombia has an ongoing coordination and collaboration mechanism among agencies and other levels of government (national and sub-national), to formulate, implement, monitor, evaluate, and update evidence-based national drug policies and/or strategies and that the national drug authority coordinates the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, comprehensive, and sustainable alternative development programs, preventive alternative development programs, control measures, drug observatory, international cooperation, and program evaluation, which have been organized by the country under eight thematic areas.

#### **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 Colombia collects and uses evidence as a basis for formulating and updating national drug policies and/or strategies. Furthermore, CICAD observes the involvement of relevant actors from priority areas in the development, implementation, evaluation, and updating of national drug policies and strategies. CICAD notes that the country, in the process of decentralization or regionalization of drug policy, has not partially or fully delegated responsibilities to local/subnational governments, but that the different State bodies operate separately but collaborate harmoniously towards the fulfillment of its objectives to address the drugs issue, in coordination with the national authority on drugs, and that said authority, in its central structure, has with a Directorate focused on promoting, coordinating, training, and providing technical support on drug-related issues to departmental and/or municipal governments. However, does not have coordinators, offices, or representatives in the subnational or local territories, as part of a decentralized operational and coordination structure at the local level to respond to the drug problem. On the other hand, Colombia has a specific and ongoing mechanism to transfer funds or finance drug-related initiatives or projects implemented by municipalities or local governments. CICAD notes that the country engages private sector entities to develop innovative approaches in the implementation of drug policies and exchange

information and best practices. CICAD notes that Colombia takes into account the 2020 Hemispheric Strategy on Drugs of the OAS and its corresponding Plan of Action to formulate or update national drug policies and strategies. Moreover, these policies and strategies take into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations. CICAD observes that the country's national drug policies and strategies take into account the human rights approach, the gender perspective and the social inclusion approach. Moreover, CICAD notes that Colombia 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 with satisfaction that Colombia has interagency and multisectoral policy and technical coordination mechanisms to address the drug problem through a comprehensive, balanced, and multidisciplinary approach, including its causes and consequences. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country has concrete multisectoral plans and programs to address the socioeconomic causes and consequences of the drug problem, based on the principles of human rights, public health, and development. Furthermore, CICAD notes that Colombia participates in international cooperation programs at the bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen policies, programs, 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. Additionally, CICAD notes that Colombia implements measures that promote equal access to justice and due process, taking into account gender, age, community, and cultural context. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country implements measures that foster citizen participation in crime prevention, building community cohesion, increasing public safety, and emphasizing 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 Colombia's legislation provides for the application of alternative measures to incarceration for minor 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 has not developed mechanisms to monitor or evaluate these measures and which promotes a common understanding of national legal norms, regulations, and internal procedures for their implementation.

**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 Colombia has an inter-agency and multisectoral program that promotes the social inclusion of individuals, families, and communities affected by the drug problem, taking into account the specific needs of at-risk populations. Furthermore, CICAD observes that the country disseminates best practices and lessons learned to improve institutional responses to the needs of at-risk populations.

**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 notes that Colombia does not promote proportional legal sentencing for minor drug-related offenses in accordance with domestic law, nor does it have special courts or tribunals for these crimes. However, CICAD notes that the country has promoted legal reforms, when appropriate, regarding proportional penalties 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 Colombia has a National Drug Observatory (NDO), which has a legal basis and has been assigned financial and human resources to carry out its functions. Moreover, CICAD notes that the country has established working relationships with academic and research institutions and has carried out studies on the drug problem through them. Furthermore, CICAD notes that Colombia has developed and adopted quantitative and qualitative methodologies and information-gathering mechanisms that allow for the comparison of data among countries, has carried out studies on the use of drugs applying the SIDUC methodology and has used CICAD's standardized indicators for drug information networks to collect, analyze, or report national drug-related information. Additionally, the country has 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 conducted studies with similar methodologies. Moreover, CICAD observes that the Colombian observatory has a national drug information

network (DIN), which interacts through quarterly meetings and document exchanges, and publishes periodic reports. Furthermore, the country has an E Early Warning System (EWS) to identify NPS and other emerging drug-related threats, which shares information, alerts and reports with the Early Alert System of the Americas (SATA) and has a mechanism to share information in real time. Additionally, CICAD notes that the Colombian observatory carries out trainings with local stakeholders to enhance data collection and management, as well as meetings or other workshops where the results of studies and other data collection activities are shared with local stakeholders. Furthermore, CICAD notes that the country has established forums that allow drug researchers to present their research to policymakers. Moreover, CICAD notes that the Colombian observatory promotes and disseminates best practices and the exchange of successful research experiences in research among the 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 that Colombia has carried out and published five<sup>8</sup> demand reduction studies during the evaluation period (2019-2023). Moreover, CICAD observes that the country has a national system for the collection of data on the number of patients treated, diagnoses, clinical history, and available information on treatment outcomes. Furthermore, CICAD notes that Colombia has carried out studies to evaluate treatment and prevention programs and interventions, but has not carried out process, intermediate outcome, or impact evaluations of these programs. On the other hand, the country has mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment and rehabilitation programs and services in the public health network and/or social protection, but not for recovery and social integration services.

### **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 Colombia 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. Additionally, the country carries out periodic studies and research on the drug market for illicit drugs and on the medical and scientific use and other legal use of narcotic or psychotropic substances subject to the international control system. CICAD observes that the country collects information on drug prices, purity or concentration, and chemical profile of drugs and conducts

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<sup>8</sup> Within the framework of the seventy-fourth regular session of CICAD, from December 11 to 14, 2023, Colombia indicated that it published, in 2023, the “National Study of the Consumption of Psychoactive Substances Colombia in the School Population, 2022”, which includes a survey of students at the secondary education level.

chemical characterization and tests of purity for substances that may or may not be subject to international control. However, the country does not have mechanisms that allow substances that have been identified as not under international control to be placed under control. CICAD notes that the country has institutions responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances, which form part of the national early warning system (EWS) and the drug information network (DIN). Furthermore, the country implements periodic training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances. CICAD notes that Colombia's national drug information network (DIN) has standardized indicators for the collection of data on drug supply and that the country participates in training activities for DIN stakeholders to improve and strengthen the mechanisms 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 with satisfaction that, for the eighth round of evaluation of the MEM, Colombia compiled 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 Governmental Expert Group (GEG). CICAD notes that, for the eighth round of MEM evaluation, the country designated representatives for all MEM groups, actively participating in and contributing to the evaluation process. CICAD notes that Colombia publishes the MEM country and hemispheric evaluation reports on drug policies on the website of the Colombian Drug Observatory and communicates this to the entities that provide information to the MEM. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country, in the process of drafting its national drug policy, takes into account the analysis of the findings of the MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies, however, it has not promoted them within national institutions to identify areas where technical assistance is needed. Furthermore, CICAD notes that Colombia has reviewed the MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies and identified opportunities to increase cooperation and partnerships with other member states and 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 Colombia develops and implements a plan for promoting and strengthening 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. Furthermore, the country has established secure communication channels for the exchange of intelligence on drug interdiction and control. Additionally, Colombia promotes the exchange, with member states and with States outside 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/or strategies. Likewise, the country participates in regional coordination activities to prevent related crimes associated with illicit drug trafficking, such as, inter alia, firearms trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, money laundering, and corruption, among others. Furthermore, in Colombia there are bilateral mechanisms for coordination and collaboration with other countries focusing on the dismantling of criminal groups linked to illicit drug trafficking and related crimes. However, CICAD notes that the country has not promoted technology transfers among and between OAS member states and international (including regional) organizations, but it has promoted information sharing between them. Moreover, CICAD notes that Colombia 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 with satisfaction that Colombia's competent authorities carry out cooperation activities at the regional and international level 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. Furthermore, CICAD notes that Colombia has enacted, during the evaluation period (2019-2023), legislative and 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. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country has ratified or acceded to the majority of the international legal instruments of the United Nations and all the OAS Inter-American legal instruments regarding the world drug problem and related crimes.







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