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MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

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



Dominican Republic

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

2023



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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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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.

The Dominican Republic has the National Drug Council (CND) and the National Drug Control Directorate (DNCD) as national drug authorities, which were established in 1988 and are positioned within the administrative structure of the State in the Executive Branch or Central Government.

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 Dominican Republic's national drug authorities have a legal basis in Law 50-88, Articles 10, 11, 19, and 20.

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

In the Dominican Republic there is an annual budget for the national drug authorities, which in the case of the CND is integrated with the budget of the Administrative Ministry of the Presidency. Following is the amount of the annual budget of said national drug authority for the years 2019-2023:

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Annual budget amount (U.S. dollars)	3,143,320	2,924,250	3,038,405	3,312,022	3,429,456

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.

The Dominican Republic has an ongoing coordination and collaboration mechanism among agencies and other levels of government (national and subnational) to formulate, implement, monitor, evaluate, and update national drug policies and/or strategies. In this regard, the Dominican Republic, through the CND, coordinates the formulation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and updating of national drug policies and/or strategies through

interinstitutional roundtables and agreements, pursuant to the provisions of Article 20 of Law 50-88: "The National Drug Council shall have the right to require, for the fulfillment of its mission, the cooperation of all governmental agencies, when such cooperation is deemed necessary for the achievement of its objectives."

The national drug authorities of the Dominican Republic coordinate the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, drug observatory and international cooperation. However, they do not coordinate the area of program evaluation.

**OBJECTIVE
2**

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

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

In the Dominican Republic, the Dominican Drug Observatory (ODD) collects and uses evidence as a basis for formulating and updating of national drug policies and/or strategies. In this regard, the National Drug Council (CND), through the ODD, has set up a National Drug Network, which reports information on specific drug indicators, although it has not established a systemic process for compiling and analyzing the evidence.

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 the Dominican Republic, 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
Ministry of Health	X	X	X	X
Ministry of the Interior		X		
Ministry of Justice		X		
Ministry of Education	X	X	X	X
Regional and/or local governments		X	X	X
Scientific community/academia	X	X	X	X
Civil Society				
Private sector				
Others: Ministry of Women	X	X		X

The country's civil society and private sector are not involved in the development, implementation, evaluation, or updating of national drug policies and/or strategies.

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

The Dominican Republic has not delegated partially or fully responsibilities on drug issues to subnational/local governments to implement concrete actions related to drug policies and strategies.

The CND has, in its central structure, an office or operational unit to promote, coordinate, train, and provide technical support to local/subnational governments or agencies on drug issues. In this regard, in the Dominican Republic, the CND and its Directorate of Strategies for Drug Prevention and Health Promotion and Directorate of Strategies for Care, Treatment, and Social Integration are responsible for: Directing, coordinating, and supervising the work of the staff under their charge; engaging in inter-agency and intersectoral coordination for the articulation of comprehensive policies and strategies; including drug demand reduction strategies and programs based on evidence of their effectiveness among key social sectors; promoting participation, international collaboration, and the exchange of best practices; monitoring the quality assurance of demand reduction interventions at the national level; fostering institutional capacity building aimed at promoting wellbeing and health among individuals, families, and communities; and developing and disseminating campaigns aimed at preventing the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

The CND has coordinators, offices, or representatives within the subnational/local territories, as part of a decentralized operational and coordination structure at the local level to respond to the drug problem. In this regard, the Dominican Republic, through the CND, has Regional Departments, which by their nature are decentralized, their main purpose being to represent the CND in all regions of the country. Their functions include organizing joint actions at the institutional level with public and private sector agencies, in addition to coordinating the activities of the committee for coordinating drug demand reduction and supply control policies. In addition, the Council currently has four active Regional Departments: Northern Cibao Regional Department located in Santiago de los Caballeros, Northeast Cibao Regional Department located in San Francisco de Macorís, Enriquillo Regional Department located in Barahona, and the Higüamo Regional Department located in San Pedro de Macorís, as well as six Departments in the process of being authorized.

The Dominican Republic does not have a specific and ongoing mechanism or program to transfer funds or finance drug-related initiatives or projects implemented by sub-national/local governments.

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

The Dominican Republic does not engage private sector entities in the development of innovative approaches to drug policy implementation or the exchange of information and best practices.

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

The Dominican Republic takes into account the 2020 Organization of American States (OAS) Hemispheric Strategy on Drugs and its Plan of Action to formulate or update national drug policies and strategies. Accordingly, the 2016-2020 National Strategic Plan on Drugs was oriented and aligned with the approach of the Hemispheric Strategy of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)/OAS and the vision of the 2016-2020 Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs. The latter was used as a guideline for addressing the causes of the drug problem, its challenges, and the particular circumstance of the Dominican Republic. It was also used for creating objectives and establishing strategic axes for comprehensive policies seeking to reduce drug demand and supply.

The Dominican Republic's national drug policies and strategies take into account the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this regard, the 2016-2020 National Strategic Plan on Drugs is in line with the National Development Strategy (END) of the Dominican Republic, which reflects the goals and commitments to society contained in the 2013-2016 National Multi-year Public Sector Plan. These documents state that the presidential targets and the way they are couched should respond to sustainable development goal number 3, "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages", having alignment with targets "3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being" and "3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol."

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.

The Dominican Republic's national drug policies and strategies take into account the human rights approach. In this regard, the 2016-2020 National Strategic Plan on Drugs for the development of public policies on drugs has respect for human rights as its central axis. Article

37 of the 2010 Dominican Constitution affirms that the right to life is inviolable from conception until death; Article 38 promotes respect for human dignity; and Article 61 emphasizes the right to comprehensive health. In addition, the country embraces the guidelines of the CICAD/OAS Hemispheric Strategy, which focuses on health as a fundamental right, thereby allowing human rights to permeate all the actions of this Plan from beginning to end.

The country's national drug policies and strategies take into account the gender perspective. In this regard, the 2016-2020 National Drug Strategy is based on the principles that underpin the culture and values embraced by Dominican society, which offer guarantees for human rights, gender equity, universality, solidarity, and shared responsibility, allowing for the recognition that all people have by nature the same dignity and rights.

The Dominican Republic's national drug authorities require technical support to develop and implement gender-sensitive programs. Thus, the country requires technical assistance to enable it to:

- Incorporate a gender perspective in the public policy on drugs
- Develop plans, programs, and projects seeking to mainstream the gender perspective
- Contribute to strengthening the capacities of the people who collaborate in the CND and offer tools for analysis and decision-making with a gender perspective
- Monitor, evaluate, and in general strengthen gender-sensitive actions, plans, and strategies
- Promote reflection and actions for equity and equal opportunities for women and men and for strengthening the rule of law, where justice prevails

The country's national drug policies and strategies do not take into account the social inclusion approach.

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

The Dominican Republic 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.

The Dominican Republic has interagency and multisectoral policy and technical coordination mechanisms to address the drug problem in a comprehensive, balanced, and multi-disciplinary approach, including its causes and consequences. In this regard, the Dominican Republic, through the National Drug Council (CND), establishes interagency agreements to strengthen the co-responsibility of the parties involved under the principle of shared responsibility, in order to make the approach to the drug problem more efficient with comprehensive policies from a human rights, health, gender, community, and age perspective. Likewise, Article 20 of Law 50-88 states: "The National Drug Council shall have the right to require, for the fulfillment of its mission, the cooperation of all governmental agencies, when such cooperation is deemed necessary for the achievement of its objectives."

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.

The Dominican Republic has no concrete multisectoral plans or programs to address the socioeconomic causes and consequences of the drug problem.

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

The Dominican Republic participates in international cooperation programs at the bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen policies, programs, institutions, and their internal processes. In this regard, the International Relations Department of the CND exchanges information with international organizations and permanent diplomatic missions abroad, as well as coordinating the Department's own work. Activities carried out include:

- Coordination and follow-up on the control requirements of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), sending us the requests made by Governments, in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988
- Coordination through the diplomatic personnel of the Dominican Republic accredited at the Permanent Missions in: Vienna, Brussels, and Washington, D.C., for meetings, assemblies,

conventions, and sessions held under the auspices of the Organization of American States (OAS), the United Nations (UN), and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)

- Coordination and liaison for training, conferences, workshops, and congresses organized by international organizations, for which officials and technical staff from the CND and other related institutions were designated, who had the required qualifications for the topic to be discussed

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

The Dominican Republic promotes comprehensive and cross-cutting public policies to reduce and prevent crime, violence, social exclusion, and corruption. Thus, the State guarantees by law the adoption of the necessary measures to reduce and prevent crime, violence, social exclusion, and corruption, and to punish and eradicate violence.

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

The Dominican Republic implements measures that promote equal access to justice and due process, taking into account gender, age, community, and cultural context. In this regard, the measures implemented are based on the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution of the Dominican Republic, the Code of Criminal Procedure, and the National Gender Equality and Equity Plan (PLANEG).

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

The Dominican Republic does not implement measures to foster citizen participation in crime prevention, build community cohesion, increase public safety, or emphasize social inclusion.

OBJECTIVE

4

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

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.

The Dominican Republic's law provides for alternative measures to incarceration for minor drug-related offenses. However, the legislation only contemplates the application of alternative measures to incarceration for typical and illegal conduct on a minimal scale, using the procedural law provisions of conditional suspension of proceedings and timeliness criteria according to Articles 34, 40, and 41 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and the conditional suspension of the sentence, in accordance with the terms of Article 341 of the same code. Current procedural regulations establish alternative mechanisms to incarceration for all misdemeanors, but not specifically for drug-related offenses. Those regulations apply to offenses defined as carrying a lesser penalty.

These measures respect human rights and take into account the gender perspective in accordance with relevant international instruments. Thus, from the start and throughout, regulatory procedures require that a judge adopt a pro-person viewpoint, rather than ruling on the basis of an analogy. However, they still do not fully specify what is meant by a gender perspective.

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.

The Dominican Republic does not develop monitoring or evaluation mechanisms for alternative measures to incarceration for minor drug offenses.

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

The Dominican Republic promotes a common understanding of national legal norms, regulations, and internal procedures for the implementation of alternatives to incarceration. In this regard, the high-level interinstitutional roundtable involving the National Drug Council (CND), the Judiciary, the Public Prosecutors' Office, and the Ministry of Public Health promotes restorative justice, treatment under judicial supervision, and a therapeutic approach.

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.

The Dominican Republic does not have inter-agency or 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.

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

The Dominican Republic disseminates best practices and lessons learned to improve institutional responses to the needs of at-risk populations, such as mechanisms, programs, and interventions, through publications, meetings, workshops, among others. Thus, the National Drug Council (CND) disseminates best practices and lessons learned through interventions, training, conferences, and workshops, showing and applying knowledge acquired inside and outside the country, and seeking to improve interventions on behalf 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.

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

The Dominican Republic promotes proportional legal sentencing for minor drug-related offenses under the Code of Criminal Procedure (Article 2).

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

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

The Dominican Republic promotes legal reforms regarding proportional sentencing for minor drug-related offenses. Accordingly, it has a bill to amend Law 50-88 on Drugs and Controlled Substances and an interinstitutional roundtable that promotes a differentiated approach by the National Drug Council (CND) and the Judiciary.

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.

The Dominican Republic has the Dominican Drug Observatory (ODD), which was created by Decree 749-08.

The ODD does not have an allocation of financial and human resources to carry out its functions. Thus, the ODD requires a budget of its own to develop and perform the functions established in the aforementioned decree; it also requires staff training and technological and financial resources.

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.

The Dominican Republic has established and maintained working relationships with academic and research institutions. In this regard, the National Drug Council (CND) has signed agreements with universities, among them, the agreement with the Universidad Nacional Pedro Henríquez Ureña (UNPHU). Likewise, the country has agreements with institutions, such as the National Council on Population and Family (CONAPOFA), that work on behalf of communities and conduct population studies.

Through academic and research institutions, the Dominican Republic has carried out a study of the drug problem entitled Consumption of Alcohol and Other Psychoactive Substances among Dominican Adolescents.

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

The Dominican Republic has developed and adopted quantitative and qualitative methodologies and information-gathering mechanisms that allow for the comparison of data among countries. In this regard, it adopted the Inter-American Uniform Drug Use Data System (SIDUC) methodology.

That methodology was used to conduct the 2019 School Survey on Drug Use.

In addition, the Dominican Republic has used the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission - CICAD's standardized indicators for drug information networks to collect, analyze, and report national drug-related data.

The Dominican Republic has not carried out studies using methods that are non-representative of the population or qualitative methodologies to obtain information on drugs that can be shared with other countries that have 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 ODD has a national drug information network (DIN), which interacts through the following means:

Means	Yes	No	Frequency
Meetings	X		Once a year
Document exchange	X		Statistical data are received every three months and annually
Others: Workshop	X		Annually

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 organizations of cooperation		X

The DIN does not publish an annual report or any other type of periodic report.

The Dominican Republic does not have an early warning system (EWS) or similar mechanisms to identify new psychoactive substances (NSP) and other emerging drug-related threats.

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

The ODD convenes training sessions with local stakeholders to enhance data collection and management.

The ODD does not convene 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.

The Dominican Republic has not established forums that allow drug researchers to present their findings to policymakers.

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

The ODD promotes and disseminates best practices and the exchange of successful research experiences among member states. In this regard, it has participated in various activities to promote best practices with the different international organizations that work with National Drug Observatories, including the exchange between countries of methods for the detection of controlled substances in wastewater, organized by CICAD and the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID). In addition, the country participated in the presentation of the methodology, experience, and data on the Epidemiology of Adolescent Substance Use in Puerto Rico in 2021.

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.

The Dominican Republic has carried out and published the following demand reduction study during the evaluation period (2019-2023):

Demand reduction			
Studies	Studies carried out and published		Year of most recent study
	Yes	No	
Survey of secondary school students	X		2019
National household survey (12-64 years old)		X	
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	
Studies on drug-related morbidity		X	
Surveys of other target populations		X	

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.

The Dominican Republic does not have a national system for the collection of data on the number of patients treated, diagnoses, clinical history, or available information on treatment outcomes.

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

The Dominican Republic has not carried out studies to evaluate treatment and prevention programs or interventions.

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

The Dominican Republic has not conducted impact evaluations of its prevention or treatment programs.

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

OBJECTIVE
3

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

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

The Dominican Republic has mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs, with the National Drug Control Directorate (DNCD) being the institution that participates in these mechanisms.

The country has the following information related to supply reduction, trafficking, and related crimes:

Supply reduction, trafficking, and related crimes			
Information	Available information		Year of most recent information
	Yes	No	
Quantification of illicit crop cultivation including crops grown indoors		X	
Number of seizures of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production		X	
Quantities of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production seized		X	
Number of seizures of controlled chemical substances (precursors)		X	
Quantities of seized controlled chemical substances (precursors)	X		2022-2023
Number of seizures of pharmaceutical products	X		2022-2023
Quantities of seized pharmaceutical products		X	
Number of persons formally charged with drug use, possession, and trafficking	X		2022
Number of persons convicted of drug use, possession, and trafficking	X		2019, 2020, 2021
Number of laboratories producing illicit plant-based drugs detected and dismantled		X	
Number of laboratories producing illicit drugs of synthetic origin detected and dismantled		X	
Chemical composition of seized drugs		X	
Sale price of drugs (for consumers)		X	
Number of persons formally charged with money laundering	X		2021
Number of persons convicted of money laundering	X		2021
Number of persons formally charged with trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition, and related materials		X	

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

The Dominican Republic does not carry out periodic studies and research on the drug market for illicit drugs.

The country does not carry out studies on the medical and scientific uses and other legal use of narcotics 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.

The Dominican Republic does not collect information for the development of studies on drug prices, purity or concentration, or chemical profile of drugs.

The country does not conduct chemical characterization or tests of purity for substances that may or may not be subject to international 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 the Dominican Republic, the National Institute of Forensic Sciences (INACIF) is responsible for the chemical analysis of substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances, and is part of the national drug information network (DIN).

The country implements and participates in the following periodic training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances:

Implements or participates in the program	Type of Training	Targeted institutions	Year when training was last done
Implements	Training in the use of Raman	National Police	2021

	Spectrometry		
Implements	Training Activity in Fingerprint Analysis and Dermatoglyphics	Forensic Police	2021
Participates	Course on New Psychoactive Substances and how they are made	San Salvador, El Salvador	2022
Participates	Training Workshop on the Role of Forensic Laboratories in Early Warning Systems	Forensic Investigation Center, San Salvador, El Salvador	2022

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.

The Dominican Republic's DIN has standardized indicators for the collection of data on drug supply.

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

OBJECTIVE

4

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Dominican Republic carried out the following periodic activities to promote and raise awareness of the MEM Drug Policy Evaluation Reports aimed at national institutions:

Name of the activity	Date	Participating institutions
Awareness-raising meeting and dissemination of the national report with stakeholders responsible for responding to the MEM Questionnaire for 2021 on Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Support Measures 2021	December 16, 2021	National Drug Council (CND) Mental Health Department of the Ministry of Public Health Institute of Forensic Pathology Non-governmental organizations (NGO)
Awareness-raising meeting and dissemination of the National report with actors responsible for responding to the MEM Questionnaire for 2022 on Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their Causes and Consequences	December 14, 2022	National Drug Control Directorate (DNCD) Financial Analysis Unit (UAF)

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

The Dominican Republic has promoted the analysis of the findings of the MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies, in order for national institutions to identify areas where technical assistance is needed to enhance national drug policies and programs. In this regard, a workshop was held to identify the areas in which drug policies should be strengthened, to be applied in the National Drug Strategy and Annual Institutional Plan.

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

The Dominican Republic has not reviewed the MEM Drug Policy Evaluation Reports, nor has it 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.

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.

The Dominican Republic develops and implements a plan for the promotion and strengthening of technical assistance and horizontal cooperation among member states and with states outside of the Western Hemisphere, as well as with relevant international and regional organizations, and related initiatives and programs. In this regard, the country carries out continuous training under the Support Program for the Fight against Organized Crime in the Caribbean Region (ALCORCA).

The following seminars and courses were held as part of this program:

- Seminar on the Fight Against Drug Trafficking at Airports
- Course on technical and scientific police, crime scene, and ballistics in relation to drug trafficking
- Technical training in Port-au-Prince in Haiti on the subject "Use of technical means in the fight against organized crime"

The country has established secure communication channels for the exchange of intelligence information on drug interdiction and control through direct contacts with liaison officers and institutional couriers. The types of channels are:

- For Europe, Canada, Haiti, Jamaica, Cuba, Mexico, and other countries in the region, they are the Special Investigations Units (SIU) with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and similar units in the region
- The Transnational Drug Trafficking Investigations Division of the Transnational Drug Trafficking Directorate (DTCN) with the National Crime Agency (NCA) of the United Kingdom
- The Drug Information Center (CDI) of the Joint Information and Coordination Center (CICC) for the exchange of drug information
- LATITUD project for exchange of information on recreational boats
- Airport Communication Programme (AIRCOP) on passenger profiling and liaison officers from different countries in Europe, and Canada
- Container Control Programme (CCP) on container profiling
- National Drug Control Directorate – DNCD's Monitoring Center and Command and Control Division

The Dominican Republic promotes the exchange with member states and with states outside the

Western Hemisphere, as well as with international and regional organizations, of best practices in training, specialization, and professional development of the staff responsible for implementing their national drug policies and strategies. In this regard, the country participates in exchange activities under the framework of:

- Programs promoted by Spanish cooperation, such as the Multi-Country Border Security (MCBS) program
- ALCORCA Program
- Scholarship program of the German Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA)
- European Union programs on drug routes with African countries
- Container Control Programme (CCP), among others

The country participates in regional coordination activities to prevent crimes related to drug trafficking, such as firearms trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, money laundering, and corruption, among others. In this regard, the Dominican Republic has participated in information sharing, workshops, and training organized by:

- Colombian Police Academy
- Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), supported by the National Drug Council (CND)
- High level meetings with:
 - Heads of the International Drug Enforcement Conference (IDEC) and Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA)
 - Heroin Route organized by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)
- Meeting of the Criminal network disruption global programme (CRIMJUST)
- Meeting of the Central American Integration System (SICA)
- Meeting of the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI) of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

In the Dominican Republic, there are bilateral mechanisms for coordination and collaboration with other countries, focused on the dismantling of criminal groups linked to illicit drug trafficking and related crimes, with Spain, Holland, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria, Canada, the United States, and Colombia. These mechanisms are used as needed, on a daily, weekly, or occasional basis.

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

The Dominican Republic has promoted the transfer of technology among member states and between them and international (including regional) organizations. Accordingly, it does engage in the transfer of communications and geolocation technologies.

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

international (including regional) organizations. Thus, information is shared through reports and research findings on concluded cases, and through activities, seminars, workshops, and other means.

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

The Dominican Republic promotes the dissemination of good practices and the exchange of successful research experiences on drug policy among member states and international organizations. Accordingly, good practices are disseminated through investigation reports on concluded cases and exchanges through activities.

**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 for drug-related offenses.

The competent authorities of the Dominican Republic carry out cooperation activities at the regional and international level to investigate and prosecute criminals for drug-related offenses. In this regard, the National Drug Control Directorate (DNCD) uses the mechanisms provided by the 1988 Vienna Convention. The country has shared information and requested international legal assistance from the Netherlands, France, Germany, Portugal, Italy, the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States of America.

The Dominican Republic has carried out exchanges of operational technical assistance and supervised deliveries of controlled substances and has participated in the sharing with France and Belgium of impressions and work methodologies used in ports and international airports.

The country takes human rights into account when carrying out these activities through the DNCD, which acts in coordination with and under the guidelines of the Attorney General's Office, within the legal framework of Law 50-88, the Code of Criminal Procedure, Law 76-02, Law 155-5, and the Constitution, guaranteeing people due process, allowing detainees to make a phone call, guaranteeing their physical integrity, and complying with the deadline for their presentation before a judge.

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.

The Dominican Republic carries out activities to strengthen regional and international cooperation to facilitate, where appropriate, mutual legal assistance, extradition, and transfer of proceedings, in accordance with international legal instruments, when investigating and prosecuting criminals on drug-related offenses. In this regard, the Dominican Republic, through the DNCD, in order to strengthen international cooperation, participates in high-level international meetings such as the International Drug Enforcement Conference (IDEC), Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), and others, as well as in various international seminars on international drug trafficking and money laundering, and in bilateral and other meetings.

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.

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

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

The Dominican Republic has ratified or acceded to the following international legal instruments:

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

EVALUATIVE SUMMARY

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

Objective 1

Establish and/or strengthen national drug authorities, placing them at a high political level and providing them with the necessary capabilities, resources, and competencies to coordinate formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of national drug policies.

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

Objective 2

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

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

strategies. Moreover, these policies and strategies take into account the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. CICAD observes that the country's national drug policies and strategies take into account the human rights approach and the gender perspective but do not consider the social inclusion approach. Additionally, CICAD notes that the Dominican Republic has the necessary resources to implement drug policies and programs.

Objective 3

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

CICAD notes that the Dominican Republic 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. However, CICAD observes that the country does not have concrete multisectoral plans and programs to address the causes and socioeconomic consequences of the drug problem based on the principles of human rights, public health, and development. On the other hand, CICAD notes that the Dominican Republic 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. Also, CICAD notes that the Dominican Republic implements measures that promote equal access to justice and due process, taking into account gender, age, community, and cultural context approaches. Nevertheless, CICAD observes that the country does not implement measures that foster citizen participation in crime prevention, build community cohesion, increase public safety, and emphasize social inclusion.

Objective 4

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

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

Objective 5

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

CICAD notes that the Dominican Republic does not have 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. However, 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 observes that the Dominican Republic promotes legislation that provides for proportional legal sentencing for minor drug-related offenses in accordance with domestic law but does not have special courts for these offenses. On the other hand, CICAD notes that the country promotes legal reforms regarding proportional sentencing for minor drug-related offenses.

RESEARCH, INFORMATION, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION

Objective 1

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

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

CICAD notes that the Dominican Republic's observatory has a national drug information network (DIN), which interacts through meetings, workshops and document exchanges but does not publish an annual report or any other type of periodic report. Also, the country does not have an early warning system (EWS) to identify NPS or other emerging drug-related threats. However, CICAD notes that the Dominican Republic's observatory carries out training sessions with local stakeholders to enhance data collection and management, as well as meetings and other workshops where the results of studies and other information gathering activities are shared with local stakeholders. Nonetheless, CICAD observes that the country has not established forums that allows drug researchers to present their findings to policymakers. On the other hand, CICAD notes that the Dominican Republic's observatory promotes and disseminates best practices or the exchange of successful experiences in research among member states.

Objective 2

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

CICAD notes that the Dominican Republic has carried out and published one demand reduction study during the evaluation period (2019-2023). However, CICAD observes that the country does not have a national system for the collection of data on the number of patients treated, diagnoses, clinical history, and available information on treatment outcomes. Moreover, CICAD notes that the Dominican Republic has not conducted studies to evaluate treatment and prevention programs and interventions, nor process, intermediate outcome or impact evaluations of these programs. Also, the country does not have mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment, rehabilitation or recovery and social integration programs and services in the public health and/or social protection network.

Objective 3

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

CICAD notes that the Dominican Republic has mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs and has information related to supply reduction, trafficking, and related crimes. However, the country does not carry out periodic studies or research on the drug market for illicit drugs nor on the medical and scientific uses and other legal use of narcotics or psychotropic substances, subject to the international control system. CICAD observes that the Dominican Republic does not collect information for the development of studies on drug prices, purity or concentration, or chemical profile of drugs, and does not conduct chemical characterization or tests of purity for substances that may or may not be subject to international control. CICAD notes that the country has an agency that is responsible for analyzing chemical

substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances, which is part of the national drug information network (DIN). Moreover, the Dominican Republic implements and participates in periodic training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of these substances. CICAD observes that the country's DIN relies on 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 that are needed for the collection and exchange of information on drug supply.

Objective 4

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

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

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Objective 1

Promote and strengthen cooperation and coordination mechanisms to foster technical assistance, improve exchange of information and experiences, and share best practices and lessons learned on drug policies.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that the Dominican Republic develops and implements a plan for the promotion and strengthening of technical assistance and horizontal cooperation among member states and with states outside the Western Hemisphere, as well as with relevant international and regional organizations, and related initiatives and programs. Additionally, the country has established secure communication channels for the exchange of intelligence information on drug interdiction and control. Moreover, the Dominican Republic promotes the exchange, with member states and with states outside of the Western Hemisphere, and with relevant international and regional organizations, of best practices on training, specialization, and professional development of the staff responsible for implementing the national drug policies

and strategies. In addition, the country participates in regional coordination activities to prevent crimes related to drug trafficking, such as firearms trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, money laundering, and corruption, among others. Furthermore, the Dominican Republic has bilateral mechanisms for coordination and collaboration with other countries, focused on the dismantling of criminal groups linked to drug trafficking and related crimes. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country has promoted technology transfers among and between OAS member states and international (including regional) organizations but has promoted information sharing among them. Also, CICAD notes that the Dominican Republic has promoted the dissemination of good practices or the exchange of successful research experiences among and between member states and international organizations on drug policies.

Objective 2

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

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



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