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MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)

SECRETARIAT FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL SECURITY (SMS)

Panama

Evaluation Report on Drug Policies

2019



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PREFACE

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), under the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS), measures the progress achieved and challenges to member nations of the Organization of American States (OAS) in implementing the CICAD Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020. Mandated by the 1998 Summit of the Americas held in Santiago, Chile, the MEM is the only multilateral tool of its kind in the world.

MEM evaluations are based on information provided by OAS member states, which is then analyzed by the MEM's Governmental Expert Group (GEG), composed of experts from OAS countries. For this round, the GEG performed its work from mid-2018 to mid-2019. The evaluation process was transparent and inclusive in nature, with no experts involved in the evaluation of their own country.

The GEG analyzed the following areas: institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, and international cooperation, and its evaluation is based on the 29 objectives and corresponding priority actions of the CICAD Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020. (A few priority actions were not considered, given they are not measurable.) In addition, the seventh round reports include a discussion of member states' progress over time during the seven MEM rounds.

Prior to the GEG's work, the MEM Inter-Governmental Working Group, also composed of representatives from OAS member states, designed the seventh evaluation round instrument during 2017, and the resulting questionnaire was then completed by member states.

The MEM reports focus on key themes important not only to CICAD but to the OAS as a whole, such as human rights, gender, age, culture and social inclusion. The reports also take into account the recommendations of the outcome document of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS 2016) and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

We hope the MEM reports serve as a useful diagnostic tool to improve drug policies and strategies, both at a national and regional level.

This report and all other MEM seventh round evaluation reports are available at <http://www.cicad.oas.org>

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

OBJECTIVE 1

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN NATIONAL DRUG AUTHORITIES, PLACING THEM AT A HIGH POLITICAL LEVEL AND PROVIDING THEM WITH THE NECESSARY CAPABILITIES AND COMPETENCIES TO COORDINATE NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES IN THE STAGES OF FORMULATION, IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION.

Panama's national drug authority is the National Commission for the Study and Prevention of Drug-related Crimes (CONAPRED), established in 1986 under Law 23 and its amendments. CONAPRED is chaired and administered by the Attorney General of the Nation. This institution has administrative, interagency, multidisciplinary and intergovernmental jurisdiction throughout the country and is made up of senior officials of the following entities: Ministry of Health; Ministry of Economy and Finances; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Public Security; the Superior Court for Children and Adolescents of the Judiciary; the National Assembly's Committee on Government, Justice and Constitutional Matters; the Financial Analysis Unit of the Ministry of the Presidency; the University of Panama; the Catholic Church; the Panamanian White Cross; the Ministry of Social Development; the Ministry of the Interior; and the National Customs Authority. CONAPRED coordinates demand reduction, supply reduction, comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, control measures, the drug observatory, international cooperation and program evaluation.

CONAPRED has an annual budget. The amounts of that budget for the 2014–2018 are as follows:

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Annual budget amount (US dollars)	\$1,463,545.00	\$448,657.00	\$383,077.00	\$481,212.00	\$710,755.11

The country has an ongoing coordination and organization mechanism among agencies and other levels of government to implement the national drug strategy. This mechanism is led by CONAPRED, which is the authority responsible for promoting, coordinating, training and providing technical support to key actors through the operational units for demand reduction, the Panamanian Drug Observatory, projects, seized assets, legal counsel and administration and finances.

OBJECTIVE 2

FORMULATE, IMPLEMENT, EVALUATE AND UPDATE NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES AND/OR STRATEGIES THAT WILL BE COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED, BASED ON EVIDENCE THAT INCLUDE A CROSS-CUTTING HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE, CONSISTENT WITH OBLIGATIONS OF PARTIES UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW¹ WITH A FOCUS ON GENDER AND EMPHASIZING DEVELOPMENT WITH SOCIAL INCLUSION.

Panama has the 2012-2017 National Drug Strategy, which is approved by the members CONAPRED, and covers the areas of institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures and international cooperation.

Responsibilities for drug issues have been transferred to local governments. The municipalities have enacted special legislation allowing them to implement actions directly and indirectly. The municipal system has the power to take prevention actions and administer to at-risk persons and those affected by the abuse of psychoactive substances. However, CONAPRED does not have coordinators, offices or representatives in the territories as part of a decentralized operational and coordination structure at the local level to respond to the drug problem. In addition, the country does not have a stable mechanism to transfer funds or finance drug initiatives or projects implemented by local municipalities or governments.

The 2012-2017 National Drug Strategy takes into account some of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the 2030 Agenda. The guiding principles of the strategy include a human rights perspective and a gender approach. However, they do not encompass development with social inclusion.

OBJECTIVE 3

DESIGN AND COORDINATE NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES AND/OR STRATEGIES WITH OTHER PUBLIC POLICIES AND/OR STRATEGIES THAT ADDRESS FUNDAMENTAL CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE DRUG PROBLEM.

To address the socioeconomic causes and consequences of the drug problem, Panama has the Inter-institutional Youth Strategy Plan of Panama 2015-2019 that promotes cross-cutting measures to encourage comprehensive public policies for the prevention of crime, violence, victimization, social exclusion and corruption. The plan is carried out by the National Social Policies Directorate of the Ministry of Social Development.

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

OBJECTIVE 4

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN NATIONAL OBSERVATORIES ON DRUGS (OR SIMILAR TECHNICAL OFFICES) FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL DRUG INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND FOSTERING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THIS AREA.

Panama has a National Observatory on Drugs (OPADRO), created by CONAPRED Resolution 10 of 2017, with financial, human and technological capacities and resources.

The OPADRO has a national drug information network, in which the following stakeholders participate: universities, health institutions, statistical and census institutions, private consultants, civil society and other social stakeholders, the Panamanian Sports Institute (PANDEPORTES), the National Institute of Culture, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Public Security and non-governmental organizations that provide care and rehabilitation for addicts.

The following are the studies in the area of demand reduction:

Demand reduction			
Studies	Studies carried out and published		Year of most recent study
	Yes	No	
National surveys of secondary school students		X	
National household survey (12-64 year olds)	X		2015
Patient register of treatment centers		X	
Cross-cutting survey of patients in treatment centers		X	
Survey of patients in emergency rooms		X	
Survey of higher education students		X	
Survey of populations in conflict with the law		X	
Studies on drug-related mortality	X		2017
Studies on drug-related morbidity	X		2017
Studies on gender conditions related to drug problems		X	

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

Supply reduction, trafficking and related crimes			
Information	Available information		Year of most recent information
	Yes	No	
Quantification of illicit crop cultivation including crops grown indoors		X	
Number of seizures of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production	X		2017
Quantities of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production	X		2017
Number of seizures of controlled chemical substances (precursors)	X		2017
Quantities of seized controlled chemical substances (precursors)	X		2017
Number of seizures of pharmaceutical products	X		2017
Quantity of seized pharmaceutical products	X		2017
Number of persons formally charged with drug use, possession and trafficking	X		2017
Number of persons convicted of drug use, possession and trafficking	X		2017
Number of laboratories producing illicit plant-based drugs detected and dismantled		X	
Number of laboratories producing illicit drugs of synthetic origin detected and dismantled		X	
Chemical composition of seized drugs	X		2017
Sale price of drugs (to consumer)	X		2017
Number of persons formally charged with money laundering	X		2017
Number of persons convicted of money laundering	X		2017
Number of persons formally charged with trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition and related materials	X		2018
Number of persons convicted of trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition and other related materials	X		2018
Number of persons formally charged with diversion of chemical substances		X	
Number of persons convicted of diversion of chemical substances		X	

The National Household Survey on Drug Use 2015 includes data disaggregated by gender, age, socioeconomic and educational level and ethnicity. The country does not have studies to evaluate drug programs and/or interventions.

OBJECTIVE 5

ENCOURAGE THE DESIGN, ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION FOR LOW-LEVEL DRUG-RELATED OFFENSES, WHILE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT NATIONAL, CONSTITUTIONAL, LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS.

Panama has the pilot Judicial Drug Treatment Program (PJTD), which provides for the implementation of alternative measures to incarceration for low-level drug-related offenses. This program allows referral to treatment for first-time offenders with problematic drug use problems through the alternative disposition of conditional suspension of the proceeding. The principal objective is to reduce or halt the use of licit and illicit drugs and thus to reduce repeat offenses. It also seeks social and labor force reintegration of the accused. In addition, the Criminal Code establishes alternative measures to incarceration such as house arrest, community service, conditional suspension of sentence and short sentence substitution. However, these measures for low-level drug-related offenses do not take into account gender differences in accordance with relevant international instruments.

The PJTD program has developed mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the impact of implementing alternative measures to incarceration for low-level drug-related offenses.

OBJECTIVE 6

PROMOTE AND IMPLEMENT, AS APPROPRIATE, COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICIES, LAWS AND NEEDS OF EACH COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE VULNERABLE POPULATIONS, WITH DIFFERENT LEVELS AND FORMS OF INVOLVEMENT.

Panama has interinstitutional and multisectoral programs that promote the social integration of individuals affected by the drug problem. In addition, these policies target children, youth, women, senior adults and the disabled. The country subsidizes trusts and foundations, associations and non-profit organizations dedicated to the development of social programs that help strengthen the family, the community and vulnerable population groups in the country. The institutions granted a subsidy include treatment and rehabilitation facilities for problematic drug users.

OBJECTIVE 7

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

Panama has legislation establishing proportionate sentencing, particularly for low-level drug-related offenses. The Criminal Code states that simple drug possession is punished with fines or weekend detention. Special courts and tribunals for low-level drug-related offenses were established under the

PJTD and the Alternative Measures to Incarceration Pilot Program. With the implementation of the new Adversarial Criminal System, the competent courts that oversee these cases are presided by the Constitutional Protection Judges.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD notes with satisfaction that from the first to the seventh rounds (1999-2018), Panama has had a national drug authority, responsible for coordinating the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, sustainable and integral alternative development programs, control measures, the drug observatory, international cooperation and program evaluation. This authority was statutorily established and has its own annual budget allocation, which was increased in 2018.

CICAD ascertains that from the first through the sixth rounds (1999-2014), Panama implemented national drug strategies. Moreover, in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country approved an extension of the National Drug Strategy 2012-2017 covering the areas of institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures and international cooperation. CICAD also notes that this strategy takes into account some of the United Nations 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the human rights perspective and the gender approach. Nevertheless, it does not encompass development with social inclusion.

CICAD views with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Panama has the Inter-Institutional Strategic Plan for the Youth of Panama 2015-2019 to address the socio-economic causes and consequences of the drug problem, promoting cross-cutting measures to foster comprehensive public policies for the prevention of crime, violence, victimization, social exclusion and corruption.

CICAD observes the progress made from the second to the fifth rounds (2001-2009) in compiling data and information, conducting key studies on demand reduction through the OPADRO. CICAD notes with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), OPADRO has a national drug information network, it updates the key studies on demand reduction and has some indicators on supply reduction, trafficking and related crimes.

CICAD is pleased that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Panama implements the PJTD, which provides for the use of alternative measures to incarceration for low-level drug-related offenses and that this program is developing mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the impact of the use of such measures. However, CICAD notes that the PJTD does not take gender differences into account.

CICAD views with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Panama has interinstitutional and multisectoral programs to promote the social integration of individuals affected by the drug problem, which are implemented through the Ministry of Social Development.

CICAD is pleased that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Panama has legislation establishing proportionate sentencing, particularly for low-level drug-related offenses; additionally, special courts and tribunals have been established for these offenses through the PJTD and the Alternative Measures to Incarceration Pilot Program.

DEMAND REDUCTION

OBJECTIVE 1

ESTABLISH DEMAND REDUCTION POLICIES WITH A PUBLIC HEALTH FOCUS THAT ARE EVIDENCE-BASED, COMPREHENSIVE, MULTIDISCIPLINARY, MULTISECTORAL, AND RESPECTFUL OF HUMAN RIGHTS, CONSIDERING THE GUIDELINES AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS OF SPECIALIZED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

Panama has demand reduction policies that include programs in the areas of prevention, treatment and social integration. These programs incorporate human rights, intercultural, age differences, and gender approaches. The policies are implemented by the institutions responsible for the country's social, educational and health policy, and target the at-risk and high-risk population of children and youths, their families and their communities.

The country takes into account the guidelines and recommendations of specialized international organization in establishing prevention, treatment and social integration programs.

The country has carried out process and intermediate outcome evaluations of drug abuse prevention programs, although it has not carried out impact evaluations of these programs.

Panama implements coordination mechanisms to develop and implement demand reduction programs allowing for the participation of and coordination with civil society and other social stakeholders.

The country does not use the technical guide jointly published by the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) as a reference, but it does implement measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse within the framework of the guidelines set in the National Mental Health Plan and the Mental Health Program.

OBJECTIVE 2

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF UNIVERSAL, SELECTED AND INDICATED PREVENTION PROGRAMS ON DRUG USE, GIVING PRIORITY TO VULNERABLE AND AT-RISK POPULATIONS, EVIDENCE-BASED AND INCORPORATING A HUMAN RIGHTS, GENDER, AGE AND MULTICULTURAL APPROACH.

Panama implements prevention programs in the following populations:

Population group	Name of program	Type of program
School children and university students		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-school 	<u>Ministry of Health (MINSA)</u> "Programa de Salud Mental"	Universal
	<u>Ministry of Education (MEDUCA)</u> "Cazadores de Humo"	Universal
	<u>MEDUCA</u> "Somos Triunfadores"	Universal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary/primary 	<u>MINSA</u> "Programa de Salud Mental"	Universal
	<u>MEDUCA</u> "Jóvenes contra el Delito"	Universal
	<u>Ministerio de Desarrollo Social (MIDES)</u> "Movimientos Juveniles"	Selective
	<u>MIDES</u> "Proyecto Acciones por una esperanza (ENFOCA)"	Selective
	"Centro de Formación y Desarrollo de Adolescentes (CEFODEA)"	Selective
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior high & high school (secondary school) 	<u>MINSA</u> "Programa de Salud Mental"	Universal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> University level 	<u>MINSA</u> "Programa de Salud Mental"	Universal
Street Population	"Casa Esperanza"	Universal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boys/girls 	"Casa Esperanza"	Universal
	<u>MINSA</u> "Cazadores de Humo"	Universal
	ANCEC	Universal

Population group	Name of program	Type of program
• Street youths	<u>Cruz Blanca</u> "Jóvenes Construyendo Un Mundo Mejor"	Universal
	<u>MINSA/Instituto Nacional de Salud Mental (INSAM)/Clínica Margarita de la Cruz Blanca</u> Outpatient program for high-risk youths	Universal
	"Reto Joven y Teatro del Oprimido"	Selective
	<u>Arraiján, Veracruz, La Chorrera</u> "Corregimiento de Pedregal"	Selective
Family	"Familias Fuertes"	Universal
Community	<u>MINSA</u> "Programa de Salud Mental"	Universal
	<u>MIDES</u> ENFOCA	Universal
Indigenous people	<u>MINSA/Management for Indigenous People</u> "Programa de Salud Mental"	Universal
	"Política Pública de los Pueblos Indígenas"	Universal
Migrants and refugees	<u>MINSA</u> Programa de Salud Mental	Universal
Individuals in the workplace	<u>MINSA</u> "Programa de Salud Mental"	Universal
	<u>MISNA</u> "Programa de Salud Ocupacional"	Universal
Incarcerated individuals	<u>MINSA</u> "Programa de Salud Mental"	Universal

However, the country does not implement prevention programs targeting adults living on the street, gender, or the LGBTI population.

OBJECTIVE 3

ESTABLISH AND STRENGTHEN, AS APPROPRIATE, A NATIONAL TREATMENT, REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION SYSTEM FOR PEOPLE WITH PROBLEMATIC DRUG USE, INCLUDING A HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER-BASED APPROACH, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED QUALITY STANDARDS.

Panama has a national system for comprehensive treatment and social integration programs and devices for people with problematic drug use, guaranteeing non-discrimination. This system includes the specialized programs and devices in early intervention (brief intervention, counseling), crisis intervention, diverse treatment modalities, dual pathology (co-morbidity), social integration and services related to recovery support. These programs and devices take into account the UNODC and WHO International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders. Compliance with these standards is monitored through the Ministry of Health's Department for Monitoring and Evaluating the Provision of Services and its Statistics Department, as well as the Social Security Fund (CSS).

The country has mechanisms to facilitate access and ensure the quality of treatment services for those with problematic drug use disorders through the MINSA. Outpatient services are provided by the public health system, private institutions, nongovernmental organizations and religious institutions. Residential services are provided by the public health system, nongovernmental organizations and religious institutions.

Panama has established and maintained cooperative relationships with governmental and non-governmental organizations that provide social and community support services with a gender perspective, for the social integration of vulnerable populations.

The country has mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment, and social integration programs. Furthermore, it considers human rights and gender approaches in said monitoring and evaluation.

Panama does not have mechanisms to protect the rights of people with problematic drug use in treatment programs and services.

The country has supervisory mechanisms for establishments that offer treatment and rehabilitation services for those with problematic drug use, pursuant to Agreement 04 of 2011, which asserts that the National Council on the Study and Prevention of Crimes Related to Drugs (CONAPRED) implements legislation and procedure for the creation and operation of treatment or rehabilitation centers and programs.

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

Panama offers ongoing competence-based training in the areas of prevention, treatment and social integration in the context of executing the Training and Certification Program for Human Resources Providing Treatment and Rehabilitation Services for Persons Affected by Drug Problems (PROCCER) of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States (CICAD/OAS). Various training modalities are offered, such as seminars, courses, diploma courses and specialization programs.

The country does not certify personnel working to provide prevention, treatment and social integration services.

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

Panama has an accreditation process for treatment centers under Agreement 04 of 2011 on the minimum standards for the creation and operation of treatment centers. However, treatment centers have not been qualified or accredited in the country yet.

The country also has supervisory mechanisms to ensure that the quality criteria of care in prevention programs and care and treatment services are met through the Mental Health Program at MINSA.

Panama has not conducted an assessment to determine national needs for care and the supply of care and treatment services.

DEMAND REDUCTION

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Panama has demand reduction policies that include programs in the areas of prevention, treatment, and social integration. These programs include human rights, intercultural, age differences, and gender approaches. The policies consider the guidelines of international organizations and are implemented using coordination mechanisms with various stakeholders. With regard to program evaluation, CICAD notes with satisfaction that from the first to the seventh rounds (1999-2018), the country has evaluated drug abuse prevention programs. CICAD recognizes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Panama implements measures to minimize the adverse effects of drug abuse on society and public health in the context of the guidelines of the National Mental Health Plan and the Mental Health Program. However, these do not follow the international guidelines.

Regarding prevention programs, CICAD is pleased to see that during the seven rounds (1999-2018), Panama has maintained wide coverage for vulnerable and at-risk populations through universal and selective prevention programs. However, the country does not cover some populations.

Throughout the seven rounds (1999-2018), CICAD ascertains that Panama has had a national system of comprehensive treatment and social integrations programs and devices that offers all services in the continuum of care, guaranteeing non-discrimination. Furthermore, CICAD acknowledges with satisfaction the progress made in the last two rounds, in that in the sixth round (2013-2014), mechanisms were implemented to facilitate access and ensure the quality of treatment services to those with problematic drug use. Then, in the seventh round (2014-2018), mechanisms were implemented to continually monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment and social integration programs, as well as supervisory mechanisms of the establishments that offer treatment and rehabilitation services to people with problematic drug use and mechanisms to protect the rights of people.

CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Panama offers ongoing competence-based training in the areas of prevention, treatment and social integration. However, CICAD expresses its concern that the country does not certify personnel that work in prevention, treatment and social integration services.

CICAD acknowledges that from the fourth to the seventh rounds (2005-2018), Panama has had an accreditation process for treatment centers. Nevertheless, these treatment centers have not been qualified or accredited in the country so far. CICAD additionally notes with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has made strides with respect to supervisory mechanisms that ensure the quality of treatment services and prevention programs are met. However, CICAD views with concern that the country does not conduct assessments to determine the national needs regarding care and the supply of care and treatment services.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

OBJECTIVE 1

DESIGN, IMPLEMENT AND STRENGTHEN COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED POLICIES AND PROGRAMS, AIMED AT PREVENTING AND DECREASING THE ILLICIT SUPPLY OF DRUGS, IN ACCORDANCE TO THE TERRITORIAL REALITIES OF EACH COUNTRY AND RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS.

Panama designs, implements and updates national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit crops and the illicit production of drugs. The institutions responsible for these policies and programs are the National Air Service (SENAN), the National Border Service (SENAFRONT), the Special Anti-Narcotics Force (FAN) and the National Police, together with the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Drug-Related Crimes.

In addition, drug supply reduction programs are supplemented by crime prevention initiatives that address social and economic risk factors and include the participation of civil society and other social stakeholders.

OBJECTIVE 2

DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT MECHANISMS TO COLLECT AND ANALYZE INFORMATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES AND ACTIONS AIMED AT DECREASING THE ILLICIT SUPPLY OF DRUGS.

Panama has mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs. The Center for Strategic Analysis (CAE) of the Ministry of Public Security and the intelligence directorates of the State security forces (SENAN, SENAFRONT, the Institutional Protection Service-SPI and National Police) participate in these mechanisms.

The Ministry of Public Security carried out the 2017 Drug Trafficking Study on the structural and socioeconomic factors influencing the illicit supply of drugs situation. The country has not prepared or updated studies or research on medical and scientific uses and other legal uses of crops containing narcotic or psychotropic substances subject to the international control system.

The country does not promote or implement mechanisms to identify chemical profiles and characteristics of drugs subject to the international control system or mechanisms for the identification of new psychoactive substances (NPS). The country does not use standardized and comparable methodologies to measure illicit crops and drug production.

OBJECTIVE 3

DESIGN, IMPLEMENT AND/OR STRENGTHEN LONG-TERM PROGRAMS WHICH ARE BROAD AND AIMED AT DEVELOPMENT THAT INCLUDES RURAL AND URBAN ALTERNATIVE, INTEGRAL AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, AND, AS APPROPRIATE, PREVENTIVE ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICIES, LEGISLATIONS AND NEEDS OF EACH COUNTRY, AS APPROPRIATE.

Panama has not designed or implemented alternative, integral and sustainable development programs or preventive alternative development programs as part of the strategies to control and reduce illicit crops. The country also does not promote sustainable urban development initiatives in urban populations affected by illicit activities related to drug trafficking and related crimes.

OBJECTIVE 4

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT PLANS AND/OR PROGRAMS TO MITIGATE AND REDUCE THE IMPACT OF ILLICIT CROPS AND DRUG PRODUCTION ON THE ENVIRONMENT, WITH THE INCORPORATION AND PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NATIONAL POLICIES OF MEMBER STATES.

Panama does not carry out research or studies to determine the characteristics and extent of the environmental impact caused by the illicit cultivation of crops and illicit drug production because no significant areas of illicit crops have been detected.

OBJECTIVE 5

ESTABLISH, AS APPROPRIATE, AND BASED ON EVIDENCE THE EFFECTS CAUSED BY SMALL-SCALE DRUG TRAFFICKING ON PUBLIC HEALTH, THE ECONOMY, SOCIAL COHESION AND CITIZEN SECURITY.

In Panama, the police intelligence sections of the different security departments have methods to identify and combat micro-drug trafficking or small-scale drug trafficking to reduce the effects on health, the economy and citizen security.

The country annually exchanges information on small-scale drug trafficking or micro-drug trafficking in the security sector with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Police Community of the Americas (AMERIPOL) and the Central American Integration System (SICA).

SUPPLY REDUCTION

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD takes into account that no significant areas of illicit crops have been detected in Panama. During the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has national policies and programs to prevent and reduce illicit crops and the illicit production of drugs. CICAD notes that Panama has drug supply reduction policies and programs that are supplemented by crime prevention initiatives that address social and economic risk factors, with the participation of civil society and other social stakeholders.

In addition, CICAD notes that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Panama has mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs. Nonetheless, CICAD notes with concern that the country does not carry out scientific studies or research on the medical, scientific or other legal uses of plants that contain narcotic or psychotropic substances. CICAD also notes with concern that Panama did not have mechanisms to identify profiles and characteristics of drugs subject to the international control system or mechanisms for the identification of NPS.

CICAD observes that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Panama does not design or implement alternative, integral and sustainable development or preventive programs. Additionally, CICAD views with concern that the country does not promote sustainable urban development programs in urban populations affected by illicit activities related to drug trafficking and related crimes.

CICAD takes note that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Panama does not carry out research or studies to determine the characteristics and the extent of the environmental impact caused by activities related to illicit crops and illicit drug production.

CICAD emphasizes that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Panama has methods to identify and combat micro-drug trafficking or small-scale drug trafficking, and that it exchanges information on the effects on the social, economic and security sectors.

CONTROL MEASURES

OBJECTIVE 1

ADOPT AND/OR STRENGTHEN COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED PROGRAMS AIMED AT PREVENTING AND REDUCING DRUG TRAFFICKING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERRITORIAL REALITIES OF EACH COUNTRY AND RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS.

Panama does not have protocols or procedures for detecting, investigating or dismantling laboratories or facilities for the illicit processing or manufacture of drugs. The country has programs and strategies for detecting and seizing drugs through overland, riverine, aerial and maritime monitoring, inspections and checkpoints.

Panama has Law 121 of 2013, which regulates the Techniques for Investigating Organized Crime and Law 63 of on the Code of Criminal Procedure of 2008. These legal instruments consider the use of specialized investigative tools and techniques to prevent and reduce drug trafficking and include a human rights perspective.

The country implements and participates in continuing training programs for personnel on laws, processes and procedures related to illicit drug trafficking and related crimes and specialized investigative and intelligence techniques.

Panama does not produce updated assessments or studies to identify new trends and threats related to drug trafficking and related crimes.

The Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences is the institution responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances.

Finally, the country has and participates in continuing training programs for the personnel involved to analyze chemical substances, precursors and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances; and to prevent the diversion of chemical substances. The programs are offered by specialized international agencies and promoted by the National Commission for the Study and Prevention of Drug-related Crimes (CONAPRED).

OBJECTIVE 2

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

In Panama, the Chemical Control Unit (UCQ), an interinstitutional entity under the CONAPRED, is responsible for the administrative control of precursors and controlled chemical substances and for regulating domestic commerce to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances to illicit activities. The UCQ is made up of the Judicial Technical Police of the General Customs Bureau, the National Police, the National Bureau of Pharmacy and Drugs, the National Maritime Service and any other office of the State which, based on the nature of its functions, should be included in its efforts to control chemicals.

The country has Law 19 of 2005 and its Regulation and Decision 07 of 2012, establishing the mechanisms for informing industry and users in general of the controls applicable for preventing the diversion of controlled chemical substances to illicit activities. These instruments also incorporate the control measures contained in paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article 12 of the 1988 United Nations Convention. Moreover, Panama exchanges information, through international mechanisms, on substances, their analogs, and their precursors that pose a threat to public health.

To facilitate control of the diversion of chemical substances, Panama has an automated system for the safe and efficient handling of information. The UCQ has a database with all the information needed to regulate the businesses that handle controlled chemical substances. In addition, Panama uses the Pre-Export Notification Online system (PEN Online) of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for controlled chemical substances.

The UCQ holds meetings, workshops and lectures for the control and surveillance of chemical substances for industrial use, as part of the training programs for drug control personnel in the area of identifying and handling controlled chemical substances.

OBJECTIVE 3

ADOPT AND/OR STRENGTHEN CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DIVERSION TOWARDS ILLICIT ACTIVITIES OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS CONTAINING PRECURSOR SUBSTANCES OR THOSE CONTAINING NARCOTIC DRUGS AND/OR PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, ENSURING THE ADEQUATE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESS SOLELY FOR MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES.

Panama has an updated registry of individuals and businesses that handle pharmaceutical products that contain precursor substances, narcotics or psychotropic substances.

The country grants licenses to manufacturers and distributors of pharmaceutical products that contain precursor substances, narcotics or psychotropic substances to regulate them, and performs regular

inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and businesses that have been authorized to handle those products.

Panama also provides for criminal, civil and administrative penalties for infractions or violations perpetrated by individuals or businesses handling pharmaceutical products that contain precursor substances, narcotics or psychoactive substances in Law 14 of 2016, which regulates the activities and the uses of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes and includes other provisions.

OBJECTIVE 4 | ENSURE ADEQUATE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF SUBSTANCES SUBJECT TO INTERNATIONAL CONTROL SOLELY FOR MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES, PREVENTING THEIR DIVERSION.

Panama has a regulatory framework and guidelines that govern the acquisition of narcotics or psychotropic substances subject to international control for medical and scientific uses. It also has special procedures for authorizing the import and export of narcotics and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes.

The country does not have training or awareness-raising activities, offered to the competent national authorities and health professionals, regarding adequate access to substances subject to international control solely for medical and scientific purposes.

OBJECTIVE 5 | STRENGTHEN NATIONAL MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGE OF NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES AND THE THREAT OF AMPHETAMINE STIMULANTS.

Panama does not have an early warning system to identify and trace new psychoactive substances (NPS) or amphetamine-type stimulants, nor other substances subject to international control. In addition, the country does not have regulatory frameworks or guidelines for identifying and addressing the challenges posed by those substances.

The country has the following updated equipment and new technologies, acquired and used to detect and analyze NPS:

- Color tests;
- Gas chromatography with FID;
- High efficiency liquid chromatography;
- Fourier-transform infrared spectrometry;

- Gas chromatography with mass detector;
- TruNArc; and
- Accreditation under ISO Standard 17025.

OBJECTIVE 6

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

Panama has created, updated and strengthened the normative and institutional frameworks for countering money laundering stemming from illicit drug trafficking. Panama has Law 23 of 2015 and the Regulation established in Executive Decree 363 of 2015, aimed at preventing money laundering, terrorism financing and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as mechanisms that facilitate interinstitutional coordination and cooperation in the prevention and control of money laundering.

The country has the Financial Analysis Unit (UAF) for Preventing Money Laundering and the Financing of the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, situated within the Ministry of the Presidency, as a national center for the prevention of such crimes.

Panama has protocols that allow the authorities to pursue, in tandem, an investigation into illicit drug trafficking and financial and asset investigations.

Finally, the country has mechanisms that facilitate analyses of the risks of money laundering, in keeping with the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

OBJECTIVE 7

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN AGENCIES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND DISPOSITION OF SEIZED AND/OR FORFEITED ASSETS IN CASES OF DRUG TRAFFICKING, MONEY LAUNDERING AND OTHER RELATED CRIMES.

Panama has Law 57 of 2013 and Law 23 of 1986 as amended, as well as other specific measures, in keeping with the relevant international treaties and conventions, to facilitate the seizure and forfeiture of assets, instruments, or proceeds from drug trafficking and related crimes. In addition, these laws facilitate accountability and transparency in the administration of seized and forfeited assets.

In addition, the country has the Bureau for Administration of Apprehended Assets of the Ministry of Economy and Finance for the administration of seized and forfeited assets, based on Executive Decree 24 of 2015.

As regards training, Panama has participated in two seminars, one national and one international, on apprehended assets and asset forfeiture and in international seminars on best practices in relation to assets, asset forfeiture and administration of assets in different countries.

OBJECTIVE 8

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

Panama has national mechanisms for gathering information and exchanging intelligence information to detect routes and methods used by the criminal organizations engaged in drug trafficking. The police intelligence units of the various police agencies have technological platforms for the safe exchange of information between the intelligence community and the Center for Strategic Analysis (CAE).

The country has a national information system on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on the changing conduct and modus operandi of the criminal organizations. The institutions that provide this information are the country's various police agencies.

CONTROL MEASURES

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Panama has programs and strategies for detecting and seizing drugs through the overland, riverine, aerial and maritime monitoring, inspections and checkpoints. The country also has regulations that consider the use of specialized investigative tools and techniques for preventing and reducing drug trafficking; and it implements and participates in ongoing training programs on these matters. Similarly, CICAD is pleased to observe that Panama has an institution entrusted with analyzing chemical substances, precursors and pharmaceutical products, including NPSs. In addition, the country has and participates in ongoing training programs for the personnel involved in this analysis. Nonetheless, CICAD expresses its concern that Panama does not produce updated assessments or studies to identify new trends and threats related to illicit drug trafficking and related crimes. Similarly, CICAD views with concern that in the sixth and seventh rounds (2013-2018), Panama has not had protocols or procedures for detecting, investigating, and dismantling laboratories or facilities for the illicit processing or manufacture of drugs.

CICAD is pleased to observe that from the fourth to seventh rounds (2005-2018), Panama has had a competent authority responsible for regulating domestic commerce to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances to illicit activities. In addition, CICAD observes that from the first to the seventh rounds (1999-2018), the country has used the Pre-Export Notification Online system (PEN Online) of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for controlled chemical substances. CICAD also notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Panama has mechanisms for informing the industry and users in general of applicable controls and way of cooperating that make it possible to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances. In addition, the country performs analyses that include exchanging information through existing international mechanisms on substances, their analogs and their precursors that pose a threat to public health. In addition, Panama has training programs for drug control personnel for identifying and handling controlled chemical substances.

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

CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Panama has special processes for authorizing the import and export of narcotics or psychotropic substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. In addition, Panama has a regulatory framework that governs the acquisition of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. Nonetheless, CICAD

is concerned that Panama does not have activities for training or awareness-raising for the competent national authorities and health professionals regarding adequate access to substances subject to international control solely for medical and scientific purposes.

CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Panama updated equipment and new technologies, acquired and used to detect and analyze NPS. However, CICAD expresses its concern that the country does not have regulatory frameworks or guidelines for identifying and addressing the challenges posed by those substances. Moreover, Panama does not have an early warning system to identify and trace NPSs or amphetamine-type stimulants, as well as all other substances subject to international control.

CICAD is pleased to note that in the seven rounds (1999-2018), Panama has had legal frameworks for countering money laundering stemming from drug trafficking. In addition, CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has protocols that enable the authorities to pursue, in tandem, the investigation into illicit drug trafficking and financial and asset investigations. In addition, Panama has mechanisms that make possible interinstitutional coordination and cooperation on the prevention and control of money laundering, as well as a financial intelligence unit. CICAD also observes that the country has mechanisms that make it possible to analyze risks of money laundering, as per the recommendations of the FATF.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that in the seven rounds (1999-2018), Panama has had a competent authority for the administration of forfeited assets related to money laundering. In addition, CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has legislation, regulations, and procedures, in keeping with the relevant international treaties and conventions, to facilitate the seizure and forfeiture of assets, instruments or proceeds from illicit drug trafficking and related crimes. CICAD also notes that Panama has laws and regulations that facilitate accountability and transparency in the administration of seized and forfeited assets. In addition, CICAD is pleased to observe that in the sixth and seventh rounds (2013-2018), the country has had specialized training programs for the administration and disposal of seized and forfeited assets.

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

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

OBJECTIVE 1

PROMOTE AND STRENGTHEN COOPERATION AND COORDINATION MECHANISMS TO FOSTER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, IMPROVE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCES, AND SHARE BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED ON DRUG POLICIES AND RELATED CRIMES.

Panama carries out activities to promote and strengthen technical assistance and horizontal cooperation among the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), third party States and the relevant international organizations.

The country exchanges technologies with foreign counterparts on the systematization of regulations, studies, research and bibliographic material produced by countries and international organizations. Secure communication channels have been established in Panama for the exchange of intelligence information on drug interdiction and control. The country also promotes the exchange with foreign counterparts of best practices on training, specialization and professional development of staff responsible for implementing its drug policies.

Panama participates in regional coordination activities to prevent crimes related to drug trafficking such as firearms trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, money laundering and corruption, among others. However, there are no bilateral mechanisms for coordination and collaboration with other countries focused on the dismantling of criminal groups linked to drug trafficking and related crimes.

OBJECTIVE 2

STRENGTHEN THE MULTILATERAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION MECHANISMS IN THE AREA OF FORFEITURE AND MANAGEMENT OF ASSETS DERIVED FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING AND RELATED CRIMES.

Panama updated the regulatory framework of Law 11 of 2015 on international legal assistance in criminal matters and Law 23 of 2015 on preventing money laundering, terrorism financing and financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Such laws provide for effective cooperation mechanisms with other countries and relevant international organizations on forfeiture and management of assets derived from drug trafficking, money laundering, and other related crimes. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) evaluated the country in 2018.

The country has mechanisms enabling the competent authorities to undertake expeditious actions in response to mutual legal assistance requests on investigation and forfeiture of assets derived from

drug trafficking and related crimes, such as Law 11 of 2015 on international legal assistance in criminal matters. In addition, there are competent authorities with legal powers to exchange information on money laundering investigations, including identification and tracing of the instruments associated with this offense, through information exchange networks, such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the Regional Asset Recovery Network (RRAG) of Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT). Panama is a member of the Egmont Group and, through the Financial Analysis Unit (UAF), it has signed memoranda of understanding with other Financial Intelligence Units (FIU) to facilitate the exchange of information on money laundering, terrorism financing and financing of the proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction (LA/FT/FPADM). There also is Law 23 of 2015, which regulates, supervises and provides for international coordination in matters of money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

OBJECTIVE 3 | STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AS DEFINED IN THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS RELATED TO THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM, WITH RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

Panama adopted measures and administrative actions to improve the implementation of obligations established in international legal instruments regarding the world drug problem, with respect for human rights and gender equality.

The country is party to the following international legal instruments:

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

OBJECTIVE 4

PROMOTE COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF NATIONAL LEGAL NORMS, REGULATIONS, AND INTERNAL PROCEDURES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HEMISPHERIC JUDICIAL COOPERATION MECHANISMS AND MUTUAL LEGAL OR JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE RELATED TO DRUG TRAFFICKING AND RELATED CRIMES.

Panama has bilateral and regional international cooperation agreements for mutual legal or judicial assistance on the control of drug trafficking and related crimes through the Office for the Execution of Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties and International Cooperation (TALM) of the Ministry of the Interior. Likewise, there are laws or other legal provisions to provide mutual legal or judicial assistance to third party States in investigations, trials and legal proceedings for drug trafficking and related crimes.

The country has laws that permit extradition for drug trafficking and related crimes. Panama's criminal law is applicable to crimes committed abroad when they have or may have effects in Panamanian territory and to extradition. The country also has bilateral and multilateral agreements on extradition for crimes related to drug trafficking and related crimes. Panama does not have laws or regulations permitting the extradition of its nationals for drug trafficking and related crimes.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD notes that from the first to the fifth rounds (1999-2009), Panama exchanged information among various national authorities related to the issue of drugs. CICAD notes with satisfaction that from the sixth to the seventh rounds (2013-2018), the country has had formal mechanisms for the effective and secure exchange of intelligence regarding the investigation of cases related to drug trafficking and related crimes. CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Panama carries out activities to promote and strengthen technical assistance and horizontal cooperation among OAS member states, third party States and relevant international organizations.

CICAD notes that from the second to the fourth rounds (2001-2006), Panama had agreements and has a central authority responsible for exchanging information on money laundering with third party States. In addition, CICAD views with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country updated its regulations on international legal assistance in criminal matters to prevent money laundering, terrorism financing and financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Similarly, CICAD notes with satisfaction that Panama has memoranda of understanding with other foreign intelligence units to facilitate the exchange of information, and has legislation that governs, supervises and controls the crime of terrorism. In addition, CICAD notes with satisfaction that Panama has mechanisms and procedures that enables the competent authorities to take expeditious action in response to requests for mutual legal assistance in the investigation and confiscation of assets derived from illicit drug trafficking and related crimes.

CICAD notes that in the first round (1999-2000), Panama had legal and regulatory provisions on money laundering, chemical substances and firearms. In the second round (2001-2002), the country had laws providing administrative penalties to supervise and control the importation, exportation, distribution and sale of chemical substances, narcotics and precursors for pharmaceutical use as well as civil criminal and administrative penalties against the diversion of these pharmaceutical products and substances. CICAD notes that from the third to the seventh rounds (2003-2018), Panama has had provisions establishing administrative controls and criminalizing the holding, possession, trafficking and illicit manufacture of firearms, ammunition and explosives, as well as acts of corruption, terrorism, drug trafficking, human trafficking, kidnapping and extortion. CICAD recognizes progress made in the seventh round (2014-2018), with the enactment of laws on drugs and related crimes. Similarly, CICAD notes that during the seven rounds (2014-2018), the country ratified all the conventions and protocols of the United Nations and the conventions of the OAS related to the world drug problem.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that from the third to the seventh rounds (2003-2018), Panama has had bilateral cooperation agreements related to control of drug trafficking. In addition, the country's domestic law allows reciprocal judicial assistance. Also in the seventh round (2014-2018), Panama has laws and regulations permitting the provision of mutual judicial assistance to third party States in investigations,

trials and judicial proceedings related to drug trafficking and related crimes. Moreover, from the third to the seventh rounds (2003-2018), the country has had provisions permitting the extradition for drug trafficking and related crimes. In addition, the country's legal system does not permit the extradition of its nationals for said crimes.

CICAD recognizes Panama for the continued participation and commitment during the seventh evaluation round of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM). In accordance with its national situation, the country is encouraged to fully implement the Plan of Action (2016-2020) of CICAD's Hemispheric Drug Strategy (2010).



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