



MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Evaluation Report on Drug Policies

2019

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.

In the Dominican Republic, the National Drug Council (CND), under the Office of the President, is the national drug authority. The statutory basis for the CND, which was established in 1988, lies in Law 50-88 of 1988 on Drugs and Controlled Substances. The CND coordinates and organizes the areas of demand reduction, the Observatory on Drugs, international cooperation and program evaluation. The Council does not coordinate comprehensive sustainable alternative development programs and control measures.

The National Directorate for Drug Control (DNCD) is the national authority charged with coordinating supply reduction and control measures.

The CND has an independent annual budget with the following amounts for the years 2014-2018:

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Annual budget amounts (US dollars)	\$2,546,329	\$2,963,416	\$2,900,526	\$3,009,828	\$2,805,215

The Dominican Republic has a mechanism in place for ongoing coordination and engagement among agencies and with other levels of government that operates through interagency agreements, working groups and information sharing.

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.

The Dominican Republic currently has a National Strategic Drug Plan 2016-2020. The Plan covers the areas of institutional strengthening and policy coordination; research, information and monitoring and evaluation; demand reduction; control measures; a gender approach and human rights perspective; and international cooperation.

The National Strategic Drug Plan 2016-2020 takes the goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG) into account and adopts a human rights perspective, gender approach and social inclusion.

Relevant actors in the formulation, implementation, evaluation and updating of this Plan include the Ministry of Public Health (MSP), the Ministry of the Interior and Police, the Supreme Court of Justice and the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, regional and/or local governments, the scientific community/academia, civil society and other social actors, the Ministry of Women and the Ministry of Education.

Local governments have been transferred responsibilities for implementing drug programs or interventions through formal agreements and coordinated work with local governments in the provinces. For this purpose, the CND has an office focused on promoting, coordinating, training and providing technical support on drug-related issues to local governments and stakeholders through the Demand Reduction Directorate and the Planning and Development Department. The CND implements structured programs and preventive activities at the local and provincial level through local and regional coordinators and delegations in the territories for coordination, training and monitoring. For this purpose, there are four regional offices and seven provincial divisions. However, the country does not have a mechanism or specific programs for transferring funds or financing drug initiatives or projects implemented by municipalities or local governments.

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 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.

In the Dominican Republic, when drafting national social policy, issues such as drug prevention and public safety, the prevention of violence and crime and social inclusion were included to address the socioeconomic causes and consequences of the drug problem.

OBJECTIVE 4

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

The Dominican Republic has a National Observatory on Drugs (OND) with human and technological resources but lacks a budget for discharging its duties. The OND has a national drug information network consisting of the following stakeholders: universities, health institutions, statistical and census institutions, private consultants, civil society and other social stakeholders and international cooperation agencies.

The country did not conduct any studies on 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 surveys (12-64 year olds)		X	
Patient register in 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	
Studies on drug-related morbidity		X	
Studies on gender conditions associated with drug problems		X	

The following data and information were collected on 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		2017
Number of seizures of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production		X	
Quantity of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production seized		X	
Number of seizures of controlled chemical substances (precursors)		X	
Quantity of seized controlled chemical substances (precursors)		X	
Number of seizures of pharmaceutical products		X	
Quantity of seized pharmaceutical products		X	
Number of persons formally charged with drug use, possession, and trafficking	X		2017
Number of persons formally 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		2017
Chemical composition of seized drugs		X	
Sale price of drugs (to consumers)		X	
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 related materials	X		2017
Number of persons formally charged with diversion of chemical substances		X	
Number of persons convicted of diversion of chemical substances		X	

The OND provides data disaggregated by gender, age, socioeconomic and educational level, and ethnicity.

The country is conducting a mid-term evaluation process on demand reduction.

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.

The law of the Dominican Republic does not provide for alternatives to incarceration for low-level drug offenses. In such cases, the current legislation is applied.

OBJECTIVE 6

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

The Dominican Republic does not have inter-institutional and multisectoral programs that promote the social integration of individuals affected by the drug problem.

OBJECTIVE 7

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

The Dominican Republic does not have legislation on proportionate sentencing, particularly for low-level drug offenses.

The country does not have special courts and tribunals for low-level drug offenses. However, a court-supervised drug treatment (TSJ) pilot project, based on conditional suspension of the proceeding, has been under way in the National District since 2015.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD notes that from the first to the seventh rounds (1999-2018), the Dominican Republic has had a national drug authority with a budget, which is responsible for coordinating the areas of demand reduction, drug observatory, international cooperation and evaluation programs. It also observes that the country has a government authority in charge of coordinating the areas of supply reduction and control measures.

CICAD acknowledges that from the first to the fourth rounds (1999-2006), the Dominican Republic had the National Anti-Drug Plan 2000-2005. For the fifth round (2007-2009), the country had the National Strategic Drug Plan 2008-2012; for the sixth round (2013-2014), the Dominican Republic did not have a drug plan. CICAD observes with satisfaction, however, that for the seventh round (2014-2018), the country implemented the National Strategic Drug Plan 2016-2020, which covers the areas of institutional strengthening and policy coordination, research, information, monitoring and evaluation, demand reduction, control measures, and international cooperation. Additionally, this Plan also takes the United Nations 2030 Agenda SDGs into account and a gender perspective, a human rights and social inclusion approach.

CICAD views with satisfaction that for the seventh round (2014-2018), the Dominican Republic includes drug prevention and public safety, the prevention of violence and crime, and social inclusion in its National Public and Social Policy to address the socioeconomic causes and consequences of the drug problem.

CICAD observes that as of the second through the seventh rounds (2001-2018), the Dominican Republic has had an Observatory on Drugs. CICAD also acknowledges that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country had a national drug information network and conducted a process evaluation of the Building Strong Families in the Dominican Republic Project. However, CICAD views with concern that the Dominican Republic does not have some studies on demand reduction and some information on supply reduction, trafficking and related crimes.

CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the law of the Dominican Republic does not provide for alternative measures to incarceration for low-level drug-related offenses.

CICAD is concerned that for the seventh round (2014-2018), the Dominican Republic does not have interinstitutional or multisectoral programs promoting the social integration of people affected by the drug problem or legislation establishing proportionate sentencing, especially for low-level drug offenses. However, CICAD notes with satisfaction that as of 2015, the country has had a pilot project for the TSJ in the National District based on the conditional suspension of the proceeding.

DEMAND REDUCTION

OBJECTIVE 1

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

The Dominican Republic has demand reduction policies that include prevention, treatment and social integration programs with intercultural, human rights and gender approaches, but not an age difference approach. These policies are addressed in Law 50-88 and in the Strategic Drug Plan 2016-2020.

The activities for training facilitators for the prevention programs include a section on the human rights of children, conducted by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) personnel, and another on gender, conducted by the Ministry of Women and United Nations Women (UN Women).

In establishing prevention programs, the guidelines and recommendations of specialized international organizations are taken into account. However, it does not do so in establishing treatment or social integration programs.

The country has conducted intermediate outcome evaluations of the “Building Strong Families in the Dominican Republic” pilot project, under which the Strong Families, Parenting Skills and Building Families programs were implemented for integration into the Ministry of Education’s structure.

The country is establishing coordination mechanisms for the development and implementation of demand reduction programs that permit the engagement of civil society and other social stakeholders.

The measures implemented aimed at minimizing the adverse social and public health consequences of drug abuse, are done using 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 and AIDS (UNAIDS) as a reference.

OBJECTIVE 2

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

The Dominican Republic implements prevention programs for the following populations:

Type of population	Name of program	Type of program
School children and university students		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary/elementary 	“Construyendo familias”	Selective
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Middle school/baccalaureate/high school 	“Servicio Social Estudiantil”	Universal
Family		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fathers/mothers/guardians 	“Habilidades parentales”	Universal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families with children aged 10-14 	“Familias Fuertes”	Universal
Community	CADCA	Universal

The country does not carry out programs with a gender focus or on street populations, LGTBI, indigenous or migrant, nor for workers in the workplace or the prison 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.

The Dominican Republic does not have a national system of comprehensive treatment and social integration programs and devices for people with problematic drug use that guarantees non-discrimination. The various services, such as early intervention (brief intervention, counseling) and crisis intervention, are currently offered on an individual basis by private professionals and organizations.

The country has an outpatient service for drug users and drug-dependent individuals, an outpatient service that provides comprehensive care for children and adolescents, some small crisis intervention units, and an assisted treatment pilot project for heroin users.

The Dominican Republic does not have mechanisms to facilitate access and guarantee the quality of treatment services for people with problematic drug use. It has not established or maintained cooperative relationships with governmental or nongovernmental organizations (NGO) that provide social and community support services with a gender perspective for the social integration of affected populations. It does not have mechanisms for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the outcomes of care, treatment and social integration programs or for supervising facilities that offer treatment and rehabilitation services for people with problematic drug use.

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

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

The Dominican Republic offers ongoing competency-based training in the areas of prevention, treatment and social integration. In the area of prevention, training is offered in the methodology of the Strong Families and Parenting Skills programs. In the area of treatment and social integration, it offers the Training and Certification Program for Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation of Drug Abuse and Violence (PROCCER) of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States (CICAD/OAS) for the human resources that provide treatment and rehabilitation services. The country's programs have been offered at the following levels:

- Training of Facilitators: At this level, participants are trained in the methodology of universal prevention programs, so that they can serve as multiplier agents.
- Training in the use of universal prevention tools and resources geared to the ultimate beneficiaries (mothers, fathers, youth, among others).

As established in the Strategic Drug Plan 2016-2020, the National Drug Council (CND), through the Directorate of Care, Rehabilitation and Social Integration Policies, also trains medical students with the objective of contextualizing drug use in key populations and identifying basic areas for intervention in primary care, including screening for substance abuse.

The country certifies personnel who work in prevention and treatment services, but not in social integration services. The certification is granted in coordination with the University of Santo Domingo, the CND, the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND-UN) and the CICAD/OAS. In prevention, the certification levels are basic, intermediate and advanced; and in treatment, basic and intermediate.

OBJECTIVE 5

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

The Dominican Republic has an accreditation process for treatment centers. The Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance is the official agency for the qualification and accreditation of all national health services and programs, which must include care for drug users and drug dependents.

The country has supervisory mechanisms to ensure that the quality criteria in the “Familias Fuertes” and “Habilidades Parentales” prevention programs are met. The institution responsible for implementing these mechanisms is the CND. However, the country does not have supervisory mechanisms to ensure that quality criteria in the care and treatment services are met.

The Dominican Republic has conducted an assessment to determine national needs regarding care and the supply of care and treatment services. In the year 2015-2016, CND, with technical and financial support from CICAD/OAS PROCER program, conducted the Assessment of the Current Situation in the operation of treatment organizations in the country.

DEMAND REDUCTION

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD notes with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the Dominican Republic has demand reduction policies that include prevention, treatment and social integration programs. These programs incorporate human rights, intercultural and gender approaches, as well as measures aimed at minimizing the adverse social and public health consequences of drug abuse, pursuant to the guidelines of international organizations. The country also implements coordination mechanisms with different stakeholders. With regard to program evaluation, CICAD recognizes the progress in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country evaluates the intermediate outcomes of a prevention program, given that from the first to the sixth rounds (1999-2018), programs were not evaluated.

CICAD observes that from the first to the seventh rounds (1999-2018), the Dominican Republic has had prevention programs targeting the school population as well as the community. Similarly, in the seventh round (2014-2018), there are programs aimed for families. However, CICAD notes with concern that some populations still lack coverage, some of which were covered in previous rounds.

CICAD views with concern that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the Dominican Republic does not have a national system of comprehensive programs and mechanisms for treatment and social integration, although it does have some services offered on an individual basis by private professionals and organizations. However, CICAD observes that from the first to the sixth rounds (1999-2014), between the public and the private sectors, the country offered all services in the continuum of care. CICAD likewise notes with concern that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the Dominican Republic does not have mechanisms to facilitate access and guarantee the quality of services for treatment, monitoring and evaluation of the outcomes of care, treatment and social integration programs, nor does it have supervisory mechanisms for treatment centers or mechanisms to protect the rights of people in treatment programs and services.

CICAD acknowledges the Dominican Republic's progress in promoting the ongoing training and certification of human resources, since during all the rounds (1999-2018), the country has gradually increased its supply of academic training and other courses. The Dominican Republic provides basic, intermediate and advanced certification for personnel working in prevention services and basic and intermediate certification for personnel working in treatment services.

CICAD observes that in the sixth and seventh rounds (2013-2018), the Dominican Republic had government institutional capacity to accredit treatment centers and monitoring mechanisms to guarantee the quality of prevention services, but not treatment programs. CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country performed an assessment to identify national care needs 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.

The Dominican Republic does not design, implement or update national policies or programs to prevent and decrease illicit crop cultivation and illicit drug production.

OBJECTIVE 2

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

The Dominican Republic has mechanisms to collect and analyze information on the illicit supply of drugs. The National Directorate for Drug Control (DNCD) and the Ministry of Public Health's (MSP) Directorate General of Drugs and Food (DIGEMAF) participate in these mechanisms.

The country does not conduct periodic studies or research on the structural and socioeconomic factors influencing the illicit supply of drugs, nor does it update studies or scientific research on the medicinal, scientific and other licit uses of plants containing narcotic or psychotropic substances subject to the international control system.

The Dominican Republic does not promote or implement mechanisms for the identification of profiles and chemical characterization of drugs subject to the international control system or for the identification of new psychoactive substances (NPS).

OBJECTIVE 3

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

The Dominican Republic has not designed or implemented alternative, integral and sustainable development programs or preventive alternative development as part of its strategies to control and reduce illicit crops.

The country does not promote sustainable urban development initiatives in urban populations affected by illicit activities related to drug trafficking and related crimes.

OBJECTIVE 4

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

The country does not conduct research or studies to determine the characteristics and extent of the environmental impact of activities related to illicit crops and the illicit production of drugs, since it has not detected significant areas of illicit cultivation.

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 PUBLIC SAFETY.

The Dominican Republic does not have methodologies with territorial and socioeconomic approaches for characterizing illicit small-scale or microtrafficking and the effects on public health, the economy, social cohesion and public safety.

The country does not share information on the effects of small-scale or microtrafficking on the health, social, economic or public safety sectors.

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 the Dominican Republic, therefore they are not addressed in the design, implementation and strengthening of comprehensive policies, plans or strategies.

CICAD notes that during the seventh round (2014-2018), the Dominican Republic does not design, implement or update national policies or programs to prevent or reduce the cultivation of illicit crops and illicit drug production.

CICAD also recognizes that during the seventh round (2014-2018), the Dominican Republic has mechanisms in place to collect and analyze information on the illicit supply of drugs. CICAD notes, however, that the country does not conduct any studies on the medicinal, scientific and other licit uses of plants containing narcotic or psychotropic substances subject to the international control system. CICAD further notes that the Dominican Republic does not conduct periodic studies or research on the structural and socioeconomic factors influencing the illicit supply of drugs, nor did it conduct or update scientific studies or research on the medicinal, scientific and other licit uses of plants containing narcotic or psychotropic substances subject to the international control system. CICAD observes with concern, moreover, that the country did not promote or implement mechanisms for the identification of NPS or for the identification of profiles and chemical characterization of drugs subject to the international control system, despite having reported on their existence in the sixth round (2013-2014).

CICAD takes note that during the seventh round (2014-2018), the Dominican Republic does not have alternative, integral and sustainable development programs as part of the strategies to control and reduce illicit crops, nor did it promote sustainable urban development initiatives in urban populations affected by illicit activities related to drug trafficking and related crimes.

CICAD ascertains that during the seventh round (2014-2018), the Dominican Republic has not conducted research or studies to determine the characteristics and extent of the environmental impact of activities linked with illicit crops and drug production.

CICAD observes with concern that during the seventh round (2014-2018), the Dominican Republic does not have methodologies with a territorial and socioeconomic approach for characterizing small-scale drug trafficking or microtrafficking and the effects on public health, the economy, social cohesion and public safety, nor does it share information on the effects on the health, social, economic and public safety 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.

The Dominican Republic does not have protocols or operating procedures to detect, investigate, and dismantle laboratories or facilities for the illicit processing or manufacture of drugs. The country does not have programs or strategies to detect or seize drugs through monitoring, inspections or checkpoints on land, river, air or sea routes.

Law 50-88 of 1988 on Drugs and Controlled Substances provides for the use of specialized investigative tools and techniques to prevent and reduce drug trafficking. It does not include a human rights perspective.

The country implements and participates in ongoing training programs for personnel involved in interdiction operations, regulation, trials and proceedings pertaining to drug trafficking and related crimes. It also offers training in specialized investigative techniques and intelligence gathering.

The Dominican Republic does not conduct assessments or update studies to identify new trends and threats from drug trafficking and related crimes.

The National Forensic Science Institute (INACIF) is the entity responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors and pharmaceutical products, including NPS. The country does not have ongoing training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of these substances.

OBJECTIVE 2

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

In the Dominican Republic, the National Directorate for Drug Control (DNDC) is the competent authority for controlling domestic trade to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances toward illicit activities, pursuant to Law 50-88 (Drugs and Controlled Substances Law).

The country enacted this law as the instrument or mechanism for informing the industry and users in general about applicable controls and cooperation methods to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances. The DNDC is the competent authority for controlling domestic trade. It conducts regular inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and companies authorized to handle controlled chemical substances.

The Dominican Republic conducts assessments that include information sharing on substances, their analogues and precursors that pose a threat to public health using existing international mechanisms. These information exchanges are carried out in keeping with international agreements with the signatory countries of the various conventions signed by the country.

Law 50-88 of 1988 incorporates the control measures found in Article 12, paragraphs 8 and 9 of the 1988 United Nations Convention to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances toward illicit activities.

The country uses the information system (PEN Online) of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for the pre-export notification of controlled chemical substances.

The Dominican Republic does not have training programs for drug control personnel and for the identification and handling of 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.

The Dominican Republic has an updated register of individuals and companies that handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics or psychotropic substances. The country issues licenses to the manufacturers and distributors of pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances for their control. The Dominican Republic conducts regular inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and companies authorized to handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics or psychotropic substances.

The country has criminal, civil and administrative penalties for infractions or violations by individuals or companies that handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics or psychotropic substances. These penalties are spelled out in Law 50-88 on Drugs and Controlled Substances Law.

OBJECTIVE 4

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

The Dominican Republic has special procedures for issuing import and export authorizations for substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes.

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

In the Dominican Republic, Law 50-88 of 1988 on Drugs and Controlled Substances Law governs the procurement of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. This law provides standards and administrative measures for improving access to these substances by the medical and scientific communities.

OBJECTIVE 5

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

The Dominican Republic does not have an early warning system (EWS) to identify and trace NPS, amphetamine-type stimulants and other substances subject to international control. The country does not have new special investigative techniques, up-to-date equipment or new technologies to detect and analyze NPS.

In the Dominican Republic, Law 50-88 of 1988 on Drugs and Controlled Substances Law is the regulatory framework for identifying and tackling the challenges posed by NPS and amphetamine-type stimulants and the country has adopted international conventions in this regard.

OBJECTIVE 6

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

The Dominican Republic has established, updated and strengthened its legislative and institutional frameworks to counter money laundering derived from drug trafficking under Law 155-17 of 2017, aimed at fighting money laundering and the financing of terrorism and its implementing regulations. The country does not have protocols to allow the authorities to conduct parallel financial and asset investigations during drug trafficking investigations.

The country has mechanisms allowing for inter-institutional coordination and cooperation in the prevention and control of money laundering through the Financial Analysis Unit (UAF), whose responsibilities include sharing information and coordinating with the various competent authorities. The UAF is an autonomous government entity with the rank of General Directorate attached to the Ministry of Finance, pursuant to Law 155-17 of 2017 to fight money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

The Dominican Republic has a mechanism for analyzing money laundering risks, pursuant to the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). This mechanism is the National Assessment of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism Risk.

OBJECTIVE 7

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

The Dominican Republic has law 50-88 of 1988 on Drugs and Controlled Substances Law to facilitate the seizure and forfeiture of assets, instruments or products deriving from drug trafficking and other related crimes. Created by Resolution 013 of 2006, the Anti-Money Laundering Office of the Public Prosecutor's Office is the competent authority for the administration of seized and forfeited assets.

The country has Law 155-17 of 2017 against Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism, which facilitates accountability and transparency in the administration of seized and forfeited assets.

The Dominican Republic does not offer or participate in specialized training programs for the administration and disposition of seized and forfeited assets.

OBJECTIVE 8

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

The Dominican Republic has a protocol for action between the Armed Forces and the DNCD as a national mechanism for intelligence gathering and sharing to detect the routes and methods used by criminal drug trafficking organizations.

The country does not have a national information system on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on changes in the behavior and modus operandi of criminal organizations.

CONTROL MEASURES

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CICAD observes that as of the seventh round (2014-2018), the Dominican Republic has implemented and participated in ongoing training programs for personnel involved in interdiction operations, regulation, trials, and proceedings connected with drug trafficking and related crimes and provides training in specialized investigative and intelligence techniques. CICAD also observes that the country had an institution responsible for the analysis of chemical substances, precursors and pharmaceutical products, including NPS. Nevertheless, CICAD notes with concern that the country did not have or participate in ongoing training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of these substances. CICAD likewise notes with concern that the Dominican Republic does not have protocols or procedures in place for the detection, investigation and dismantling of laboratories or facilities for illicit drug processing or manufacturing. CICAD further notes with concern that the country did not have programs and strategies for the detection and seizure of drugs through monitoring, inspections and checkpoints on land, river, air, and sea routes. CICAD is also concerned that the country does not have regulations that consider the use of specialized investigative tools and techniques to prevent and reduce drug trafficking. In addition, CICAD notes with concern that the country has not carried out updated assessments or studies to identify new trends and threats posed by drug trafficking and related crimes.

CICAD observes with satisfaction that from the first to the seventh rounds (1999-2018), the Dominican Republic had a competent authority for controlling domestic trade to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances toward illicit activities. CICAD notes that, during the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has mechanisms to inform industry and users in general about the applicable controls and cooperation methods for preventing the diversion of controlled chemical substances. In addition, the Dominican Republic conducted studies that included information sharing through existing international mechanisms on substances, their analogues and precursors that pose a threat to public health. CICAD further notes that as of the fifth through the seventh rounds (2007-2018), the country used the information system (PEN Online) of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for the pre-export notification of controlled chemical substances. CICAD notes with concern, however, that the Dominican Republic did not have training programs for drug control personnel or for the identification and handling of controlled chemical substances.

CICAD observes with satisfaction that throughout the first to the seventh rounds (1999-2018), the legislation of the Dominican Republic has provided for criminal, civil and administrative penalties for infractions or violations by individuals or companies that handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics or psychotropic substances. CICAD further notes that during the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has an up-to-date register of individuals and companies that handle these products, as well as issued licenses to their manufacturers and distributors and duly conducted regular inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and companies authorized to handle such products.

CICAD takes note that throughout the seventh round (2014-2018), the Dominican Republic has special procedures for issuing import and export permits for substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. The country also has a regulatory framework governing the procurement of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. CICAD notes with concern, however, that the Dominican Republic does not offer training or awareness activities to competent national authorities or health professionals on adequate access to substances subject to international control solely for medical and scientific purposes.

CICAD notes that throughout the seventh round (2014-2018), the Dominican Republic has regulatory frameworks or guidelines to identify and address the challenges posed by NPS and amphetamine-type stimulants, as well as other substances subject to international control. CICAD observes with concern, however, that the country did not have an early warning system to identify and trace these substances. The country also does not have new special investigative techniques, up-to-date equipment, nor did it procure and use new technologies for the detection and analysis of NPS.

CICAD is pleased to see that during the seven rounds (1999-2018), the Dominican Republic had regulatory frameworks in place to counter money laundering derived from drug trafficking. CICAD also notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has mechanisms in place allowing for inter-institutional coordination and cooperation in the prevention and control of money laundering, as well as a financial intelligence unit. The Dominican Republic also has money laundering risk analysis mechanisms in place, pursuant to the recommendations of FATF. Nevertheless, CICAD observes with concern that the Dominican Republic did not have protocols allowing the authorities to conduct parallel financial and asset investigations during drug trafficking investigations.

CICAD is pleased to see that in the seven rounds (1999-2018), the Dominican Republic has had a competent authority for the administration of assets forfeited as a result of money laundering. CICAD likewise observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has legislation, regulations and procedures, pursuant to international treaties and conventions, to facilitate the seizure and forfeiture of assets, instruments or products deriving from illicit activities linked with drug trafficking and other related crimes. Furthermore, CICAD observes that the Dominican Republic has regulations facilitating accountability and transparency in the administration of the seized and forfeited assets. However, CICAD notes with concern that the country does not have specialized training programs for the administration and disposition of seized and forfeited assets, though it had them in the sixth round.

CICAD confirms that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the Dominican Republic had a national mechanism for gathering information to share intelligence information to detect routes and methods used by criminal drug trafficking organizations. CICAD notes with concern, however, that the country did not have a national information system on drug trafficking and its related crimes, including alerts on changes in the behavior and modus operandi of criminal organizations.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

OBJECTIVE 1

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

The Dominican Republic does carry out technical assistance and horizontal cooperation activities with the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), third-party States or relevant international organizations nor has it shared technologies with its counterparts on the systematization of regulations, studies, research and bibliographic material produced by countries or international organizations.

The country has established secure communication channels for sharing intelligence information on drug interdiction and control. The Dominican Republic promotes the sharing of good practices with its foreign counterparts in the areas of training, specialization and professional development of the personnel responsible for implementing its National Strategic Drug Plan.

The Dominican Republic participates in regional coordination activities to prevent crimes related to drug trafficking, such as illicit arms trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, money laundering and corruption, among others. The country has bilateral mechanisms for coordination and cooperation with other countries, focused on dismantling criminal enterprises 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.

The Dominican Republic, pursuant to Law 155-17 of 2017, has updated the regulatory and procedural frameworks allowing for effective cooperation mechanisms with other countries and relevant international organizations related to the forfeiture and administration of assets derived from drug trafficking, money laundering and other related crimes. The Financial Action Task Force on Latin America (GAFILAT) evaluated the country in 2018.

The country does not have mechanisms and procedures that enable the competent authorities to take expeditious action in response to requests for mutual legal assistance related to the investigation and forfeiture of assets derived from drug trafficking and related crimes. However, there are competent

authorities legally empowered to share information on money laundering investigations, including the identification and tracing of the instruments associated with this offense, through networks for information exchange such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the GAFILAT Asset Recovery Network (RRAG) and mechanisms and procedures for sharing secure information between financial intelligence units (WIF DIRECTO).

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

The Dominican Republic has promoted policies to improve compliance with the obligations set forth in the international legal instruments related to the world drug problem during the evaluation period (2014-2018), respecting human rights and gender equality, in accordance with its National Strategic Drug Plan 2016-2020.

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 of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition	X	
	Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961		X	
	Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971		X	
	Convention against Corruption, 2003		X	
Inter-American Conventions	Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), 1997		X	
	Convention against Corruption, 1996		X	
	Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, 1992			X

OBJECTIVE 4

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

The Dominican Republic has entered into bilateral and regional international cooperation agreements on mutual legal or judicial assistance for the control of drug trafficking and related crimes. The country has laws and other legal mechanisms to provide mutual legal or judicial assistance to third-party States in investigations, trials, and legal proceedings related to drug trafficking and related crimes, pursuant to the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Dominican Republic of 2007; Law 489 of 2011; Law 50-88 of 1988; Law 155 of 2017; the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime of 2000 and its three protocols, the San Jose Agreement, the Maritime Counter-Drug Operations Agreement of 2003 and the Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters of 1992.

The country has Law 489 of 2011 and the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Dominican Republic of 2007 that permits extradition for drug trafficking and related crimes. The country's legal system also permits the extradition of nationals for drug trafficking and related crimes. In addition, there are extradition agreements for offenses related to drug trafficking and related crimes.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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CICAD expresses its concern that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the Dominican Republic did not carry out technical assistance and horizontal cooperation activities with the OAS member states, third-party States or international organizations. CICAD takes note that since the first to the seventh round (1999-2018), the country has shared operational information and collaborated with the authorities of other countries, and since the sixth to the seventh round (2013-2018), it has established secure communication channels for sharing intelligence information on drug interdiction and control. CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the Dominican Republic promoted the sharing of good practices with its foreign counterparts in the areas of training, specialization and the professional development of personnel responsible for implementing its National Strategic Drug Plan 2016-2020.

CICAD takes note that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the Dominican Republic reviewed and updated its legislative framework and rules of procedure, permitting effective mechanisms for cooperation with other countries and international organizations on the forfeiture and administration of assets deriving from drug trafficking, money laundering and related crimes. CICAD notes that from the third to the seventh round (2003-2018), the country had competent authorities legally empowered to share information on money laundering investigations, including the identification and tracing of instruments linked to this crime, through networks for information sharing. Nonetheless, CICAD observes with concern that in the seventh round, (2014-2018), the Dominican Republic did not have mechanisms and procedures empowering the competent authorities to take expeditious action in response to requests for mutual legal assistance in the investigation and forfeiture of assets deriving from drug trafficking and related crimes.

CICAD views with satisfaction that from the first to the seventh round (1999-2018), the Dominican Republic enacted legislation on the trade, carrying and ownership of firearms, the diversion of controlled chemical substances, money laundering and drugs and controlled substances. CICAD also notes that during the seven rounds (1999-2018), the country has ratified conventions and protocols of the United Nations and conventions of the Organization of American States. However, CICAD expresses concern that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the Dominican Republic has not ratified the Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters of 1992.

CICAD acknowledges that from the third to the seventh round (2003-2018), the Dominican Republic entered into bilateral and regional international cooperation agreements on mutual judicial assistance related to drug trafficking and related crimes and permitted the provision of mutual judicial assistance to third-party States in investigations and trials connected with drug trafficking and related crimes. CICAD also observes that from the third to the seventh round (2003-2018), the country had laws and other legal mechanisms permitting extradition for drug trafficking and related crimes. CICAD also takes note that the country's legal system permits the extradition of nationals for drug trafficking and related crimes.

CICAD recognizes the Dominican Republic 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).