



**ORGANIZATION OF
AMERICAN STATES (OAS)**



MEM

**MULTILATERAL EVALUATION
MECHANISM (MEM)**

**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)**

**SECRETARIAT FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL
SECURITY (SMS)**

Colombia

Evaluation Report on Drug Control

2014



Organization of
American States

OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.56
CICAD/doc.2148/14 Add.10

**Organization of American States (OAS)
Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS)
Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)**

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)

Colombia

**EVALUATION REPORT ON DRUG CONTROL
2014**



PREFACE

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) is a diagnostic tool, designed by all member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), to periodically carry out comprehensive, multilateral evaluations on the implementation level of the Plan of Action of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy of member states of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD). As part of the Secretariat of Multidimensional Security (SMS), CICAD is the OAS specialized agency responsible for the implementation of this Mechanism, pursuant to a mandate from the Second Summit of the Americas held in Santiago, Chile in 1998.

The MEM is not only an evaluation instrument, but has also become a valuable source of information on the progress achieved by the individual and collective efforts of the governments of OAS member states, thus strengthening hemispheric cooperation, promoting dialogue among governmental authorities of member states and precisely channeling assistance to areas requiring greater attention by optimizing resources. The MEM process in itself is assessed by the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) comprised of delegations from all member states, which meets before the onset of each evaluation round to review and strengthen all operational aspects of the mechanism.

The national evaluation reports for the Sixth Round collect the results of the level of implementation of the 27 recommendations, emanating from the Plan of Action 2011-2015 of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy 2010, and were drafted by experts in the different areas, assigned by each member state. Experts do not work on their own country's report, guaranteeing the transparent, objective and multilateral nature of the MEM. Each chapter is based on countries' responses to a survey covering the main thematic areas of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy: institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction¹, control measures and international cooperation, as well as additional and updated information, provided by the government-appointed coordinating entities.

This report covers the country evaluation for the MEM Sixth Evaluation Round, which covers the 2013 to mid-2014 period. All MEM reports are available through the following webpage: <http://www.cicad.oas.org>.

¹ In accordance with the CICAD Commissioner's agreement at their fiftieth regular session (November 2011), the supply reduction chapter refers exclusively to the topic of illicit crops. For this reason, the CICAD Commissioners decided, at their fifty-fourth regular session (December 2013), that the recommendations in this chapter (11 to 15) would only be applied to those countries that have significant illicit crops.



INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

RECOMMENDATION 1

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN NATIONAL DRUG AUTHORITIES, PLACING THEM AT A HIGH POLITICAL LEVEL, WITH THE MISSION TO COORDINATE THE EFFECTIVE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES.

Evaluation: Complete

Colombia has a national drug authority, the National Narcotics Council, under the Ministry of Justice and Law and regulated by the National Narcotics Statute. The Council has a legal basis and a budget. The national authority coordinates the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, alternative, integral and sustainable development, drugs observatory, international cooperation and program evaluation. The country has a coordination mechanism to carry out the effective planning and implementation of national drug policies.



INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

RECOMMENDATION 2

DESIGN, IMPLEMENT, STRENGTHEN AND UPDATE NATIONAL EVIDENCE-BASED STRATEGIES AND POLICIES ON DRUGS.

Evaluation: Complete

Colombia has the National Development Plan 2010-2014, which includes the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures and international cooperation. The relevant actors from priority areas participate in the design, drafting and execution of the National Plan. The Plan includes a monitoring and evaluation framework. The country has undertaken activities to update policies, plans and programs in accordance with the evaluation of the National Plan.



INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

RECOMMENDATION 3

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN NATIONAL OBSERVATORIES ON DRUGS OR SIMILAR TECHNICAL OFFICES TO DEVELOP NATIONAL DRUG INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND FOSTER SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON THIS SUBJECT.

Evaluation: Complete

Colombia has a national observatory on drugs. The country has all of the priority studies in the demand reduction and supply reduction areas. The country disseminates information on drug demand and supply to all relevant parties.



DEMAND REDUCTION

RECOMMENDATION 4

DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT COMPREHENSIVE DEMAND REDUCTION POLICIES, PLANS AND/OR PROGRAMS.

Evaluation: Mostly complete

Colombia has comprehensive demand reduction programs that include the areas of prevention, early intervention, treatment and rehabilitation, social reinsertion, and recovery support services. These programs have been designed taking into account available evidence. The country conducts monitoring of its demand reduction programs using computer systems and other tools such as periodic reports. The country evaluates its universal prevention programs and updates those programs in accordance with the outcomes of their process evaluations. The country has adopted a multisectoral approach in its demand reduction programs with the participation of various sectors.

Colombia does not evaluate its selective and indicated prevention programs, nor its early intervention, treatment and rehabilitation, social reinsertion or recovery support services.



DEMAND REDUCTION

RECOMMENDATION 5

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF EVIDENCE-BASED UNIVERSAL, SELECTIVE, AND INDICATED PREVENTION PROGRAMS, WITH MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES, AIMED AT DISTINCT TARGET POPULATIONS, INCLUDING AT-RISK GROUPS.

Evaluation: Mostly complete

Colombia has universal, selective, and indicated drug use prevention programs, targeting various population profiles. The selective and indicated prevention programs vary according to the presence of risk factors.

Colombia does not have a comprehensive prevention system.



DEMAND REDUCTION

RECOMMENDATION 6

PROMOTE THE INTEGRATION OF TREATMENT AND RECOVERY PLANS AND PROGRAMS INTO THE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM AND ADDRESS DRUG DEPENDENCE AS A CHRONIC, RELAPSING DISEASE.

Evaluation: Complete

Colombia has a network of public health system facilities responsible for health care within its territory. These facilities carry out actions to detect drug use, have screening instruments in place for early detection of drug use, offer guidance and brief intervention and follow-up services and systematically refer persons affected by drug use to treatment. The country provides public and private outpatient and residential treatment services for persons affected by drug use. Colombia has recovery support services. The country has an accreditation system for the treatment and rehabilitation services that are offered. The public health system's facilities coordinate with other sectors that provide treatment and rehabilitation services for persons affected by drug use, and have program monitoring systems, as well as professional staff trained to implement and use them.



DEMAND REDUCTION

RECOMMENDATION 7

FACILITATE ACCESS FOR DRUG-DEPENDENT PERSONS TO A SYSTEM OF DRUG TREATMENT, REHABILITATION, SOCIAL REINSERTION, AND RECOVERY SERVICES THAT ARE EVIDENCE-BASED AND FOLLOW INTERNATIONALLY-ACCEPTED QUALITY STANDARDS.

Evaluation: Mostly complete

Colombia undertakes actions to facilitate access to treatment, rehabilitation, and social reinsertion for the different population groups affected by drug use.

Colombia does not have treatment and rehabilitation and social reinsertion interventions tailored to the population profiles being served.



DEMAND REDUCTION

RECOMMENDATION 8

EXPLORE THE MEANS OF OFFERING TREATMENT, REHABILITATION, SOCIAL REINSERTION AND RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES TO DRUG-DEPENDENT CRIMINAL OFFENDERS AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTION OR IMPRISONMENT.

Evaluation: Not started

Colombia has no national or administrative guidelines that establish and provide for alternatives to incarceration for drug-dependent criminal offenders.



DEMAND REDUCTION

RECOMMENDATION 9

STRENGTHEN GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS AND SPECIALIZED NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs), IN ORDER TO GENERATE EVIDENCE ON THE DEMAND FOR DRUGS.

Evaluation: Complete

Colombia has a national drug authority that maintains cooperative relationships with academic and research institutions and relevant civil society organizations that address topics related to reducing the demand for drugs. In addition, an Advisory Committee on Drug Policy was created, which addresses demand reduction issues. The information produced has been used as input for updating the Drug Law, and for improving departmental drug plans.



DEMAND REDUCTION

RECOMMENDATION 10

PROMOTE AND STRENGTHEN TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION OF PROFESSIONALS, TECHNICIANS AND OTHERS INVOLVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DEMAND REDUCTION ACTIVITIES.

Evaluation: Mostly complete

Colombia has introductory training programs and continuing education for personnel involved in implementing drug demand reduction activities. In addition, the country offers training programs at the certificate, diploma, undergraduate and graduate levels, focused on science-based approaches and best practices in this field, with the aim of building knowledge and strengthening skills in their areas of technical or professional specialization. The technical experts and professionals participate in advanced training programs on this subject at the regional and international levels. Specialized training in demand reduction includes a gender perspective.

Colombia does not monitor or evaluate the training programs it offers.



SUPPLY REDUCTION

RECOMMENDATION 11

ADOPT AND/OR IMPROVE COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED MEASURES AIMED AT REDUCING THE ILLICIT SUPPLY OF DRUGS.

Evaluation: Complete

Colombia has a regulatory framework that defines the policies on the reduction of the illicit supply of drugs at the national level. The country has carried out studies identifying the dynamics of illicit drug cultivation, which were used as the basis for the preparation of the reduction of illicit supply of drugs national policies and plans, taking risk factors into consideration.



SUPPLY REDUCTION

RECOMMENDATION 12

ADOPT AND/OR IMPROVE DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS MECHANISMS WITH A VIEW TO CARRYING OUT ASSESSMENTS THAT WILL FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC POLICIES AIMED AT THE REDUCTION OF THE ILLICIT SUPPLY OF DRUGS.

Evaluation: Complete

Colombia, through the Army Counterdrug Brigade, the Directorate of Naval Operations of the Navy, the Directorate of Naval Intelligence, the Air Force, the National Police Anti-Narcotics Directorate, the Center for Strategic Studies against Drug Trafficking, the Drug Observatory and the Special Administrative Unit for Territorial Consolidation, compiles and analyzes information that serves as the basis for the development and implementation of policies on the reduction of the illicit supply of drugs. The country has periodic reports that consolidate the results and level of progress made in meeting indicators established for national policies and plans on the reduction of the illicit supply of drugs. Colombia has estimates on illicit coca cultivation and illicit drug production, based on the interpretation of satellite images (LANDSAT, ETM, SPOT), which cover the entire national territory. Military personnel and the national police have been trained in the management of Geographic Information Systems.



SUPPLY REDUCTION

RECOMMENDATION 13

PROMOTE STUDIES AND RESEARCH THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND MONITORING OF NEW AND EMERGING TRENDS THAT COULD PROVIDE UPDATED INFORMATION ON THE ILLICIT SUPPLY OF DRUGS.

Evaluation: Complete

Colombia has studies that allow for the identification of new trends in illicit coca cultivation, and shares this information with neighboring countries within the framework of bilateral intelligence meetings of the Bi-national Border Commissions (COMBIFRON) and of joint commissions on drugs. The country carries out assessments of the illicit supply of drugs and its links with other forms of transnational organized crime.



SUPPLY REDUCTION

RECOMMENDATION 14

ACCORDING TO THE NEEDS OF EACH COUNTRY, ADOPT COMPREHENSIVE MEASURES, SUCH AS INTEGRAL AND SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVES.

Evaluation: Complete

Colombia carries out illicit coca, marijuana and poppy crop eradication programs. The country has manually eradicated 35,204 hectares of coca in 2011; 30,487 hectares in 2012; and 9,886 hectares in 2013. In addition, through aerial fumigation, the country eradicated 103,302 hectares of coca in 2011; 100,549 hectares in 2012; and 47,053 hectares in 2013. Colombia eradicated 228 hectares of marijuana in 2011, 211 hectares in 2012, and 27 in 2013. In addition, it eradicated 304 hectares of poppy in 2011, 320 hectares in 2012, and 431 hectares in 2013. The country carries out monitoring and periodic follow-up of the eradication programs and of new illicit planting, and periodically reviews, via flyovers, eradicated zones to detect re-planting of illicit crops. The country carries out alternative, integral and sustainable development programs, such as the "Forest Ranger Families Program for Prosperity," as a post-eradication and contention model, which benefitted 122,995 families, and other models that focus on organizations that were created and supported by the alternative development framework. The Special Administrative Unit for Territorial Consolidation is responsible for the implementation of the National Policy for Territorial Consolidation and Reconstruction with Social Inclusion; and the Illicit Crops Program Bureau coordinates eradication and alternative development activities to prevent the re-planting and expansion of illicit crops, creating licit development alternatives. The Community Committee for Verification and Social Control is a civil society organization that represents communities on matters related to the post-eradication and contention models, and alternative development programs.



SUPPLY REDUCTION

RECOMMENDATION 15

PROMOTE ACTIONS TO REDUCE THE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT CAUSED BY THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH NATIONAL POLICIES.

Evaluation: Complete

Colombia carries out studies and research that allow an evaluation of the environmental impact of activities related to the illicit supply of drugs, and uses environmental management tools. The country has signed an international agreement, the “Integrated System for Monitoring Illicit Crops in Colombia – SIMCI AD/COL/99E67,” with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to evaluate, prevent and mitigate the negative environmental consequences of illicit crops in the country.



CONTROL MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 16

IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS TO PREVENT AND REDUCE THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION OF PLANT-BASED AND SYNTHETIC DRUGS.

Evaluation: Complete

Colombia has mechanisms available to detect, identify and compile information related to laboratories for the illicit manufacturing of plant-based and synthetic drugs. The country has protocols for the dismantling of laboratories for the illicit manufacturing of plant-based and synthetic drugs, which are confidential. Also, the country implements and participates in ongoing training programs regarding the detection and dismantling of these types of laboratories.



CONTROL MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 17

ADOPT OR STRENGTHEN CONTROL MEASURES IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE DIVERSION OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES TOWARDS ILLICIT ACTIVITIES.

Evaluation: Complete

Colombia has legislation in accordance with the terms of Articles 3 and 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. The country has regulations for the control of controlled chemical substances in the international trade sector and cooperation with other States, as well as regulations on the manufacture of and domestic distribution chains for controlled chemical substances. Colombia has an updated register of all individuals and corporations handling these substances, and controls manufacturers and distributors via licensing, in order to monitor the production and use of the substances manufactured or distributed. Also, the country conducts regular inspections or audits of establishments authorized to handle controlled chemical substances and issues administrative and civil penalties for infractions or violations to establishments that handle controlled chemical substances. There is a competent authority with the powers necessary to coordinate actions to control the diversion of chemical precursors. Colombia has mechanisms for the timely issuance of pre-export notifications for controlled substances to other States and to respond to those sent by other countries.



CONTROL MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 18

ADOPT OR STRENGTHEN CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT THE DIVERSION OF NARCOTICS, PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS WITH PSYCHOACTIVE PROPERTIES AND THOSE USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF SYNTHETIC DRUGS.

Evaluation: Complete

Colombia has legislation for the control of narcotics, psychotropic substances and preparations containing them, implementing the mechanisms established in the United Nations Single Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1961, as amended by the 1972 protocol, and the United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. The country has national authorities that coordinate implementation of the control mechanisms to ensure the availability of narcotics, psychotropic substances and preparations containing them for medical and scientific purposes, and to prevent their diversion to illicit activities. Mechanisms are implemented to estimate requirements for narcotics and provides for the application of administrative and civil penalties and fines for infractions or violations of the regulations governing the work of medical professionals, professional managers, administrators, or legal representatives of establishments that handle narcotics, psychotropic substances, and psychoactive pharmaceutical products.



CONTROL MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 19

ENSURE THE ADEQUATE AVAILABILITY OF NARCOTICS NEEDED FOR MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC USE.

Evaluation: Complete

Colombia conducts periodic evaluations of the availability of narcotics and psychotropic substances that include trends in the use of licit substances under international control for medical and scientific purposes, bearing in mind, among others, the recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO). The evaluations include an analysis of the impediments to adequate availability, since State monopoly was created in order to optimize accessibility and timely availability of these medicines at low cost to the public. This guarantees an appropriate balance between the necessary controls and the demand for therapeutic use, and minimizes possible channels of diversion and illicit use. In Colombia, other controlled substances that have approved medical uses can be freely manufactured or imported, and the market regulates their availability. In the event of shortages, mechanisms such as parallel imports or exceptional importation or manufacturing in consideration of, unavailable vital medications, can be used to facilitate their rapid entry into circulation.



CONTROL MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 20

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE CONTROL OF ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING AND RELATED CRIMES.

Evaluation: Complete

Colombia conducts periodic evaluations of the strengths and weaknesses of the entities responsible for the control of drug trafficking and related crimes. Also, the country participates in ongoing training programs on the control of this issue. Colombia has formal mechanisms for the exchange of information among entities responsible for the control of drug trafficking and related crimes. In addition, the country has laws or regulations related to interdiction and border controls, which provide a suitable framework for the prevention of drug trafficking by air, land and sea, as well as provisions for the safe and final disposal of seized drugs. There are plans to address the prevention of drug trafficking, through regular advertising campaigns.



CONTROL MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 21

IDENTIFY NEW TRENDS AND PATTERNS REGARDING ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING AND RELATED CRIMES.

Evaluation: Complete

Colombia conducts up-to-date assessments of recent trends in drug trafficking and related crimes, carried out in coordination with, jointly and across agencies with regard to seizures and interdiction operations against criminal organizations. The country georeferences the operations carried out, which provides a more comprehensive view of the trends, methods and *modus operandi* of these organizations. Data is compiled and analyzed daily and is for the exclusive use of government entities, who have updated legislation based on the identification of new trends in drug trafficking and related crimes.



CONTROL MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 22

PROMOTE IMPROVEMENTS IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS ON ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING AND RELATED CRIMES.

Evaluation: Mostly complete

Colombia has statistical information and carries out studies and technical research on drug trafficking and related crimes, as well as on drug characterization and impurity profiles, based on priorities determined by the specific characteristics of the drug trafficking problem in its territory.

Colombia does not have a national early warning system on new behaviors of criminal organizations in drug trafficking.



CONTROL MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 23

ADOPT MEASURES FOR EFFECTIVE COOPERATION IN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS, INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES, COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE, AND THE EXCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION AMONG COUNTRIES, ASSURING DUE RESPECT FOR THE VARIOUS NATIONAL LEGAL SYSTEMS.

Evaluation: Mostly complete

Colombia has formal mechanisms for the secure and effective exchange of intelligence information in the investigation of cases of drug trafficking and related crimes. In addition, the country takes part in training workshops on the exchange of information in cases relating to this issue, and implements training on the use of special investigative techniques and managing the chain of custody for evidence in cases of drug trafficking and related crimes. The country has legal frameworks and operational guidelines for the investigation of all assets within the scope of drug trafficking cases.

Colombia does not have formal mechanisms for coordination or the exchange of information and best practices for the prevention, investigation and control of activities relating to drug trafficking via the Internet.



CONTROL MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 24

ADOPT OR STRENGTHEN, AS APPLICABLE, CONTROL MEASURES FOR THE ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS ASSOCIATED WITH ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING.

Evaluation: Mostly complete

Colombia criminalizes the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials. In order to prevent losses or diversion, the country takes the necessary measures to ensure the security of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials that are imported, exported, or in transit. Appropriate marking is required of firearms, permitting identification of the name of the manufacturer, the place of manufacture, and the serial number. The country maintains a system of export and import licenses for firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials. Colombia has a national authority responsible for coordinating control activities for the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials, which includes the measures in Article 8 of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials of 1997. In addition, the country maintains a register of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials seized in drug trafficking operations.

Colombia does not require appropriate marking of confiscated or forfeited firearms, and does not have a licensing system for the international transit of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials.



CONTROL MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 25

ESTABLISH, UPDATE, OR STRENGTHEN LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS IN MATTERS OF PREVENTION, DETECTION, INVESTIGATION, AND PROSECUTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING.

Evaluation: Complete

Colombia criminalizes money laundering according to the terms of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime of 2000. Regulations for the prevention of money laundering were approved on the basis of the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF); it also has a Financial Information and Analysis Unit (FIAU), in accordance with the operating principles of the EGMONT Group and the recommendations of the FATF on Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs). The county has regulations for the forfeiture of assets related to money laundering, including provisional measures for freezing and embargo to prevent the use, transfer, or disposal of said assets.



CONTROL MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 26

CREATE OR STRENGTHEN, IN ACCORDANCE WITH NATIONAL LEGISLATION, THE COMPETENT NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF SEIZED AND/OR FORFEITED ASSETS, AND THE DISPOSITION OF FORFEITED ASSETS.

Evaluation: Complete

Colombia has a single entity responsible for the appropriate management and disposition of assets seized and forfeited in drug trafficking and money laundering cases. The country has a legal framework that establishes the procedures to be followed to determine the final disposition of seized and forfeited assets, and has manuals, regulations and directives on the management of those assets. In addition, the country participates in training programs on the management of seized and forfeited assets.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

RECOMMENDATION 27

REAFFIRM THE PRINCIPLE OF COOPERATION CONTAINED IN INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS TO ADDRESS THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM, THROUGH ACTIONS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS.

Evaluation: Complete

Colombia has ratified the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime of 2000, the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters of 1992 and has designated central authorities in accordance with the stipulations of said Conventions. The country has legal provisions that allow extradition for drug trafficking and money laundering crimes, and to allow for trial of an individual whose extradition has been denied on grounds of nationality or territoriality. Legal provisions enable the country to provide reciprocal judicial assistance to third party States in investigations, trials, and legal proceedings for drug trafficking and money laundering. The country has implemented measures authorizing the confiscation of proceeds derived from illicit drug trafficking, or property of equal value, and the materials, equipment or other instrumentalities used in or intended for use in any manner in the crime of drug trafficking. The country has mechanisms for administrative cooperation with agencies and services in other States in investigations into the identity, whereabouts, and activities of persons allegedly linked to drug trafficking, the movement of assets allegedly connected with drug trafficking, and the movement of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Colombia has laws or other legal provisions permitting the use of controlled delivery for narcotics and psychotropic substances in order to identify persons implicated in the crime of drug trafficking. Communication channels among the country's relevant agencies and services are available to facilitate the rapid, secure exchange of information on all aspects of the acts criminalized in accordance with Paragraph 1, Article 3 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.



CONCLUSIONS

The MEM Sixth Evaluation Round report reflects the country's internal reality regarding the implementation of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy (2010) and its Plan of Action (2011-2015) from 2013 to mid-2014. CICAD recognizes that among the 27 common recommendations, Colombia has completed 19, seven mostly completed and one not started.

In the area of Institutional Strengthening, Colombia has a national drug authority which is under the Ministry of Justice and Law and has a national anti-drug strategy. Also, the country has a national observatory on drugs, has carried out all of the priority demand reduction studies (3 of 3) and has all of the priority supply reduction information (11 of 11).

In the area of Demand Reduction, Colombia has comprehensive demand reduction programs, which are monitored. The country has universal, selective and indicated prevention programs, but not a comprehensive prevention system. Universal prevention programs are evaluated and brought up to date. However, Colombia does not evaluate its selective or indicated prevention programs, early intervention and treatment, rehabilitation, social reinsertion or recovery support services. Public health system facilities carry out early detection screening of drug use and provide guidance, brief intervention, systematic referrals for treatment, and follow-up services, and together with other sectors, provide treatment services. Private institutions and NGOs provide rehabilitation and recovery support services. There is an accreditation system for treatment centers. Colombia does not have alternatives to incarceration for drug-dependent criminal offenders. Policies, programs and plans are developed with the support of academic and research institutions and civil society organizations. Training and continuing education, from the certificate level to graduate degrees, for personnel working in demand reduction include evidence-based approaches and best practices.

In the area of Supply Reduction, Colombia has a regulatory framework that defines policies on the reduction of the illicit supply of drugs at the national level. The country compiles and analyzes information for the implementation policies on the reduction of the illicit supply of drugs, estimates illicit coca cultivation and illicit drug production and has studies that allow for the identification of new trends in illicit coca cultivation. Colombia carries out illicit crop eradication programs and implements alternative, integral and sustainable development programs. Additionally, the country carries out



studies and research that allow an evaluation of the environmental impact of activities related to the illicit supply, uses environmental management tools, and has signed an agreement to evaluate, prevent and mitigate the negative environmental consequences of illicit crops in the country.

In the area of Control Measures, Colombia has mechanisms to detect and identify laboratories for the illicit manufacture of plant-based and synthetic drugs, as well as protocols for their dismantling.

Regarding the control of pharmaceutical products and controlled chemical substances, Colombia has legislation for the control of such chemical substances, regulations regarding the manufacture of and internal distribution channels for controlled chemical substances, and a relevant authority with the powers necessary to coordinate activities to control the diversion of chemical precursors. In the case of narcotics, psychotropic substances and preparations containing them, the country estimates its projected needs, ensuring adequate availability for medical and scientific purposes through regular evaluations that include trends in the use of licit substances subject to international control and the analysis of impediments.

Colombia has formal mechanisms for the exchange of information among the institutions responsible for the control of drug trafficking and related crimes, as well as for the secure and effective exchange of intelligence information in the investigation of cases related to this subject. The country participates in ongoing training programs on controls in this area, has statistical information, and has updated its legislation based on the identification of new trends in this area. In addition, its laws provide for the safe and final disposal of seized drugs. However, Colombia does not have an early warning system on new behaviors of criminal organizations.

The legislation criminalizing the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials includes measures to prevent losses or diversion in the course of licit trade, and a national authority that carries out these measures. Colombia has a register of these items seized in operations and activities related to drug trafficking. However, it does not require the appropriate marking of seized or forfeited firearms, nor does it maintain a licensing system for the international transit of these items.



The country has legislation that criminalizes money laundering and regulations for its prevention and control, as well as a Financial Intelligence Unit and regulations for the seizure and forfeiture of assets related to money laundering. In addition, Colombia has legislation for the management and disposal of these assets, which includes guidelines for their appropriate management, and an agency responsible for enforcing these regulations.

In the area of International Cooperation, Colombia has ratified the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime of 2000, the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters of 1992 and has designated central authorities in said conventions. The country has legal provisions to permit the extradition for the crime of drug trafficking and money laundering. Also, the country has legal provisions for providing reciprocal judicial assistance to third party States in investigations, trials, and legal proceedings for drug trafficking and money laundering. In addition, the country has legal provisions that permit the use of controlled delivery of narcotics and psychotropic substances in order to identify persons involved in the crime of drug trafficking.

CICAD recognizes Colombia for its continued participation and commitment during the Sixth Evaluation Round of the MEM. In accordance with its national situation, the country is encouraged to fully implement the Plan of Action (2011-2015) of CICAD's Hemispheric Drug Strategy (2010).



SUMMARY OF THE STATUS OF COMPLIANCE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING		
NO.	RECOMMENDATION	EVALUATION
1	Establish and/or strengthen national drug authorities, placing them at a high political level, with the mission to coordinate the effective planning and implementation of national drug policies.	COMPLETE
2	Design, implement, strengthen and update national evidence-based strategies and policies on drugs.	COMPLETE
3	Establish and/or strengthen National Observatories on Drugs or similar technical offices to develop national drug information systems and foster scientific research on this subject.	COMPLETE
DEMAND REDUCTION		
4	Develop and implement comprehensive demand reduction policies, plans and/or programs.	MOSTLY COMPLETE
5	Design and implement a comprehensive system of evidence-based universal, selective, and indicated prevention programs, with measurable objectives, aimed at distinct target populations, including at-risk groups.	MOSTLY COMPLETE
6	Promote the integration of treatment and recovery plans and programs into the public health system and address drug dependence as a chronic, relapsing disease.	COMPLETE
7	Facilitate access for drug-dependent persons to a system of drug treatment, rehabilitation, social reintegration, and recovery services that are evidence-based and follow internationally-accepted quality standards.	MOSTLY COMPLETE
8	Explore the means of offering treatment, rehabilitation, social reinsertion and recovery support services to drug-dependent criminal offenders as an alternative to criminal prosecution or imprisonment.	NOT STARTED
9	Strengthen governmental relationships with academic and research institutions and specialized non-governmental organizations (NGOs), in order to generate evidence on the demand for drugs.	COMPLETED
10	Promote and strengthen training and continuing education of professionals, technicians and others involved in the implementation of demand reduction activities.	MOSTLY COMPLETE



SUPPLY REDUCTION		
11	Adopt and/or improve comprehensive and balanced measures aimed at reducing the illicit supply of drugs.	COMPLETE
12	Adopt and/or improve data collection and analysis mechanisms with a view to carrying out assessments that will facilitate the development of public policies aimed at illicit supply of drugs reduction.	COMPLETE
13	Promote studies and research that contribute to the early identification and monitoring of new and emerging trends that could provide updated information on the illicit supply of drugs.	COMPLETE
14	According to the needs of each country, adopt comprehensive measures, such as integral and sustainable alternative development and law enforcement initiatives.	COMPLETE
15	Promote actions to reduce the negative impact on the environment caused by the world drug problem, in accordance with national policies.	COMPLETE
CONTROL MEASURES		
16	Implement programs to prevent and reduce the illicit production of synthetic and plant-based drugs.	COMPLETE
17	Adopt or strengthen control measures in order to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances towards illicit activities.	COMPLETE
18	Adopt or strengthen control measures to prevent the diversion of narcotics, psychotropic substances, pharmaceutical products with psychoactive properties and those used in the production of synthetic drugs.	COMPLETE
19	Ensure the adequate availability of narcotics needed for medical and scientific use.	COMPLETE
20	Strengthen national organizations for the control of illicit drug trafficking and related crimes.	COMPLETE
21	Identify new trends and patterns regarding illicit drug trafficking and related crimes.	COMPLETE
22	Promote improvements in information systems on illicit drug trafficking and related crimes.	MOSTLY COMPLETE
23	Adopt measures for effective cooperation in criminal investigations, investigation procedures, collection of evidence, and the exchange of intelligence information among countries, assuring due respect for the various national legal systems.	MOSTLY COMPLETE
24	Adopt or strengthen, as applicable, control measures for the illicit trafficking of firearms, munitions, explosives, and other related materials associated with illicit drug trafficking.	MOSTLY COMPLETE



25	Establish, update, or strengthen legislative and institutional frameworks in matters of prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of money laundering.	COMPLETE
26	Create or strengthen, in accordance with national legislation, the competent national organizations for the management of seized and/or forfeited assets, and the disposition of forfeited assets.	COMPLETE
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION		
27	Reaffirm the principle of cooperation contained in international instruments to address the world drug problem, through actions to ensure compliance and effectiveness.	COMPLETE



GLOSSARY

I. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

Relevant actors: includes civil society, scientific community, university based researchers, government at the national, regional and local levels.

II. DEMAND REDUCTION

Alternatives to incarceration: vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, but most involve suspension of the judicial process provided the offender volunteers to participate in a monitored drug treatment program.

Available evidence: use of information, from different sources, to support an effect with an adequate degree of confidence, so that it can be used as a basis for a particular recommendation. The quality of the information sources will indicate the level of confidence for the estimate of the effect.

Comprehensive (prevention) system: organizations and programs that provide addiction prevention services, and are interconnected with each other and with several organizations, programs and channels that provide support services.

Indicated prevention programs: a set of actions targeting persons who use drugs.

Public health system: Includes all organizations, institutions and resources whose principal objective is to carry out activities designed to improve health. The majority of national health systems include the public, private, traditional and informal sectors. The four primary functions of a health system include: provision of services, generation of resources, financing and management.

Selective prevention programs: a set of actions targeting a specific segment of the population, which, because of personal, social, family, or socio-cultural and related characteristics, is vulnerable to the diverse risk factors leading to drug use.



Social reinsertion: any social intervention with the aim of integrating former or current problem drug users into the community. The three 'pillars' of social reinsertion are (1) housing, (2) education and (3) employment (including vocational training). May also be referred to as "social re-integration."

Universal prevention programs: a set of preventive actions targeting the entire population independent of risk.

III. SUPPLY REDUCTION

Regulatory framework: the set of established laws and regulations that governs the activities of the institutions responsible for the formulation, development and application of drug supply reduction policies and/or programs.

Risk factors: risk factors are those conditions that contribute to the emergence or strengthening of illicit activities and/or to the neutralization of law enforcement activities.

Social inclusion: a situation which ensures that all citizens, without exception, are able to exercise their rights, use their skills, and take advantage of opportunities available to them.

Vulnerable populations: those sectors or population groups that, due to poverty, ethnic origin, health, age, gender or disability, are unable to develop and improve their circumstances. This vulnerability places such persons at a disadvantage with regard to exercising their full rights and freedoms.

IV. CONTROL MEASURES

Drug characterization and impurity profiling: use of scientific laboratory information in support of law enforcement operation work, aimed at establishing links between drug samples. It consists of the systematic collection and sharing, in a standardized form, of physical and chemical information on a drug seizure, including the analysis and use of trace impurities to link different drug samples.



ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)

INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)

1889 F STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20006
202.370.5000
WWW.CICAD.OAS.ORG