



**ORGANIZATION OF
AMERICAN STATES (OAS)**



MEM

**MULTILATERAL EVALUATION
MECHANISM (MEM)**

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

**SECRETARIAT FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL
SECURITY (SMS)**

Costa Rica

Evaluation Report on Drug Control

2014



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

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)

Costa Rica

**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

Costa Rica has a national drug authority, the Costa Rican Drug Institute (ICD), under the Ministry of the Presidency. The ICD has a legal basis and a budget. The national authority coordinates the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, alternative, integral and sustainable development programs, control measures, 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: Mostly complete

Costa Rica has the National Drug, Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism Plan 2013-2017, which includes the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, and international cooperation. The relevant actors participate in the execution of the National Plan. Said 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 Plan.

In Costa Rica, the relevant actors do not participate in the design and drafting 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: Mostly complete

Costa Rica has the Costa Rican Observatory on Drugs. The country has carried out all of the priority studies in the demand reduction area, and has all of the priority supply reduction information. Drug demand and supply reduction information is disseminated to all relevant parties.

Costa Rica has not carried out a study on the economic and social costs of drugs during the last 10 years.



DEMAND REDUCTION

RECOMMENDATION 4

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

Evaluation: Partially complete

Costa Rica has demand reduction programs that include the areas of prevention, early intervention, treatment and rehabilitation, and recovery support services. These programs have been designed using the information available on the extent of and trends in drug use. The country carries out monitoring and evaluation of its universal prevention programs, and uses the information obtained to update them. It also monitors its treatment and rehabilitation programs. Prevention programs include a gender perspective. Costa Rica has adopted a multisectoral approach to its demand reduction programs, with the participation of various sectors.

Costa Rica does not monitor or evaluate its selective or indicated prevention programs, nor its early intervention or recovery support services. The country does not evaluate treatment and rehabilitation programs, and does not have social reinsertion programs.



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: Partially complete

Costa Rica has universal and selective drug use prevention programs. Selective prevention programs vary according to risk factors.

Costa Rica does not have indicated prevention programs, or 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: Mostly complete

Costa Rica has a network of public health system facilities responsible for health care within its territory. These establishments systematically refer persons affected by drug use to treatment, provide detoxification services and outpatient consultations, and inpatient treatments for socially at-risk minors. The public health system provides residential and outpatient treatment services, rehabilitation and aftercare for persons affected by drug use. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) mostly provide inpatient treatment services as well as recovery support. There is an accreditation process for drug treatment centers. In addition, the country has monitoring systems for its programs, and professional personnel trained to implement and use them. These monitoring systems enable information on treatment and rehabilitation programs to be compiled and computerized.

Costa Rica does not undertake actions to detect drug use and has no screening instruments for early detection of drug use. It does not offer guidance services or brief intervention. The public health system facilities do not coordinate with other sectors that provide treatment and rehabilitation services for persons affected by drug use.



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

Costa Rica undertakes actions to facilitate access to treatment and rehabilitation for the different population groups affected by drug use. The treatment and rehabilitation interventions are tailored to the population profiles being served.

Costa Rica does not have 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: Mostly complete

Costa Rica has the criminal code as its national administrative guideline that establishes and provides for alternatives to incarceration for drug-dependent criminal offenders. The country has standardized operating procedures to identify and select candidates who meet the requirements for participating in the alternatives to incarceration that are implemented, and monitors their progress.

Costa Rica does not evaluate the alternatives to incarceration programs.



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

Costa Rica has a national drug authority that maintains cooperative relations with public and private academic institutions, research institutions and relevant civil society organizations that address issues related to reducing the demand for drugs. The information produced has been used both to generate national reports on the drug situation in the country and to develop policies and interventions in this area. The country undertakes a variety of actions to support and improve the capacity of academic and research institutions and civil society organizations to regularly compile data and produce reports on drug use trends.



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: Complete

Costa Rica has introductory training programs on some aspects of demand reduction, as well as continuing education programs on all aspects of drug demand reduction, for personnel involved in implementing activities in this area. The country offers training programs at the certificate and diploma, undergraduate and graduate levels, focused on science-based approaches and best practices, aimed to increase participants' knowledge and strengthen skills in their areas of technical or professional specialization. Also, facilitates access to introductory and advanced training programs offered at the regional and international levels. Specialized training in demand reduction incorporates a gender perspective. The country carries out evaluations of the training programs it offers, in order to keep them updated and ensures that its drug demand reduction training meets the country's needs.



SUPPLY REDUCTION

RECOMMENDATIONS 11–15

Evaluation: Not applied

In consideration of Costa Rica's situation, CICAD agreed not to apply any category from the evaluation scale to the following recommendations, given that the country does not have significant illicit crop areas:

RECOMMENDATION 11: ADOPT AND/OR IMPROVE COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED MEASURES AIMED AT REDUCING THE ILLICIT SUPPLY OF DRUGS.

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.

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.

RECOMMENDATION 14: ACCORDING TO THE NEEDS OF EACH COUNTRY, ADOPT COMPREHENSIVE MEASURES, SUCH AS INTEGRAL AND SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVES.

RECOMMENDATION 15: PROMOTE ACTIONS TO REDUCE THE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT CAUSED BY THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH NATIONAL POLICIES.



CONTROL MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 16

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

Evaluation: Started

Costa Rica offers occasionally training sessions, but not training programs, on the detection and dismantling of laboratories for the illicit production of plant-based and synthetic drugs, for law enforcement agents responsible for control activities.

Costa Rica does not have mechanisms to detect, identify and compile information related to laboratories for the illicit production of plant-based and synthetic drugs. The country does not design or implement protocols for the dismantling of said 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

Costa Rica 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 on monitoring controlled chemical substances in the international trade sector, and in cooperation with other States, as well as regulations to control the manufacture of and domestic distribution channels for controlled chemical substances. In addition, Costa Rica 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. The country conducts regular inspections or audits of establishments that have been authorized to handle controlled chemical substances and issues administrative and civil penalties for violations or infractions by those handling controlled chemical substances. Costa Rica has a competent authority with the powers necessary to coordinate actions to control the diversion of chemical precursors. The country has mechanisms for the timely issuance of pre-export notifications for controlled substances exported to other States, and to respond to notifications received from 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

Costa Rica has legislation for the control of narcotics, psychotropic substances and preparations containing them, permitting the implementation of the mechanisms established in the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 protocol, and the United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. The country has a national authority that coordinates implementation of these 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. The application of administrative and civil penalties and fees are considered for infractions or violations of the regulations governing the work of medical professionals, professional managers, administrators, and 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

Costa Rica 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, *inter alia*, the recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO) and including an analysis of impediments to adequate availability.



CONTROL MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 20

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

Evaluation: Complete

Costa Rica, through international agencies, evaluates the strengths and weaknesses of the entities responsible for the control of drug trafficking and related crimes every four to five years. The country takes part in ongoing training programs on controls in this area and has formal mechanisms for the exchange of information among the entities responsible for the control of drug trafficking and related crimes. Also, Costa Rica has laws or regulations related to interdiction and border controls, which provide a suitable framework for the prevention of drug trafficking by air and land. The country has developed periodic plans to address prevention of drug trafficking, as well as provisions for the safe and final disposal of seized drugs.



CONTROL MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 21

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

Evaluation: Mostly complete

Costa Rica conducts assessments identifying new trends in drug trafficking and related crimes. The country issues bulletins every four months, as well as annually, which it publishes on the Costa Rican Drug Institute (ICD) website.

Costa Rica does not update its legislation based on the identification of new trends in this area.



CONTROL MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 22

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

Evaluation: Started

Costa Rica has statistical information on drug trafficking and related crimes.

Costa Rica does not conduct drug characterization and impurity profiling studies based on priorities determined by the specifics of the drug trafficking problem. The country does not have a national early warning system on new behaviors on criminal organizations in drug trafficking and does not conduct technical studies or research on this subject.



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: Complete

Costa Rica has formal mechanisms for the secure and effective exchange of intelligence information in the investigation of cases of drug trafficking and related crimes. There are formal mechanisms for coordination and the exchange of information and best practices for the prevention, investigation and control of activities related to drug trafficking via the Internet. The country participates in training workshops on the exchange of intelligence information in the investigation of cases in this area and implements training on the use of special investigation 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.



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: Partially complete

Costa Rica criminalizes the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, and explosives. 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; explosives that are exported; and firearms, ammunition, and explosives that are in transit. Appropriate marking is required of firearms, permitting identification of the name of the manufacturer and the serial number. Also, the country requires appropriate marking of any firearms confiscated or forfeited. The country maintains a licensing system for the importation and international transit of firearms, ammunition, explosives, or other related materials. The functions of a national authority are carried out by different law enforcement agencies, coordinating controls on the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials, which includes the measures established 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.

Costa Rica has not criminalized the illicit manufacture of or trafficking in other materials related to firearms, ammunition, and explosives. The country does not take the necessary measures to ensure the security of other materials related to firearms, ammunition, and explosives in transit, in order to prevent losses or diversion. Costa Rica does not require the marking of firearms to include identification of the place of manufacture. No register is maintained of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials seized in drug trafficking operations.



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

Costa Rica criminalizes money laundering in accordance with 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. There are regulations for the prevention and control of money laundering that conform to the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) conforms to the operating principles of the EGMONT Group and the recommendations of the FATF on FIUs. The country 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

Costa Rica has a single agency responsible for managing and disposal of assets seized and forfeited in drug trafficking and money laundering cases. The country has a legal framework that establishes operational procedures for determining the final disposition of seized and forfeited assets, and has manuals, regulations or directives regarding the management of such assets. Costa Rica 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

Costa Rica 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 accordance with said conventions. The country has legal provisions permitting extradition for drug trafficking and money laundering offenses, as well as for trying individuals whose extradition for these crimes has been denied on grounds of nationality or territory. The country's legislation permits the provision of reciprocal judicial assistance to third party States in investigations, trials and legal proceedings for drug trafficking and money laundering. The country has adopted measures to authorize the confiscation of proceeds derived from drug trafficking, or property of equal value, as well as the materials and equipment or other instrumentalities used or intended for use in any manner in drug trafficking offenses. The country has mechanisms for administrative cooperation with services and agencies in other States for inquiries into the identity, whereabouts and activities of persons allegedly connected with drug trafficking; the movement of the proceeds of drug trafficking, and the movement of narcotics and psychotropic substances. Costa Rica has laws or other legal dispositions that permit the use of controlled delivery for narcotics and psychotropic substances in order to identify persons implicated in the crime of drug trafficking. Communication channels are available between the relevant agencies and services in order to facilitate the rapid and secure exchange of information on all aspects of the offenses criminalized in accordance with Paragraph 1, Article 3 of the UN 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, Costa Rica has completed 11, six mostly completed, three partially completed, two started and five do not apply.

In the area of Institutional Strengthening, Costa Rica has a national drug authority under the Ministry of the Presidency. The country has a national anti-drug strategy. Also, has a national observatory on drugs and has carried out all of the priority demand reduction studies (3 of 3) and has all of the priority supply reduction information (10 of 10).

In the area of Demand Reduction, Costa Rica has demand reduction programs in the areas of prevention, early intervention, treatment and rehabilitation, and recovery support services, but not for social reinsertion. Treatment and rehabilitation programs are monitored, and universal prevention programs are evaluated, monitored and updated. However, there is no evaluation or monitoring of programs for selective and indicated prevention, early intervention or recovery support services. The country has universal and selective prevention programs, but not indicated prevention programs or a comprehensive prevention system. The different population groups have access to treatment and rehabilitation services, but not to social reinsertion. The public healthcare system systematically refers patients to treatment and offers follow-up and rehabilitation services, but does not offer early detection screening of drug use or provide guidance and brief intervention. NGOs offer most of the residential treatment and recovery support services. Treatment centers have an accreditation system. Costa Rica offers various types of 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. The training and continuing education at the certificate level to the graduate degrees for personnel involved in demand reduction, covers evidence-based approaches and best practices.

In the area of Supply Reduction, CICAD agreed not to apply any category from the evaluation scale, given that Costa Rica does not have significant illicit crop areas.



In the area of Control Measures, Costa Rica does not have mechanisms to detect and identify laboratories for the illicit manufacture of plant-based and synthetic drugs, or protocols for their dismantling.

Regarding the control of pharmaceutical products and controlled chemical substances, Costa Rica regulates their manufacture and internal distribution channels and has a relevant authority with the powers necessary to coordinate actions to control the diversion of precursor chemicals. Regarding international trade, the country has legislation to control these substances and cooperates with other States. With respect to the control of narcotics, psychotropic substances and preparations containing them, Costa Rica estimates its projected needs, ensuring adequate availability of these substances for medical and scientific use, carrying out regular evaluations that include trends in the use of licit substances subject to international control and the analysis of impediments.

Costa Rica has formal mechanisms for the exchange of information among the institutions responsible for the control of drug trafficking and related crimes, and with formal mechanisms for the secure and effective exchange of intelligence information in the investigation of related cases. The country participates in ongoing training programs in the control of drug trafficking and related crimes, has statistical information in this area, and has legislation that provides for the safe and final disposal of seized drugs. However, the country does not update its legislation based on the identification of new trends, and does not have a national early warning system on new behaviors on criminal organizations in this area.

The legislation that criminalizes the manufacture of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, and explosives includes measures to prevent loss or diversion in the course of licit trade, and a national authority that carries out these measures. However, these laws do not include other materials related to firearms, ammunition or explosives. The country does not take the necessary measures to ensure the security of these materials in transit, in order to prevent loss or diversion.

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. Costa Rica has regulations for the management and disposal of assets seized and forfeited related to money laundering, which includes guidelines for the appropriate management of those assets, as well as an agency responsible for enforcing those regulations.



In the area of International Cooperation, Costa Rica 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. 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 Costa Rica 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.	MOSTLY 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.	MOSTLY COMPLETE
DEMAND REDUCTION		
4	Develop and implement comprehensive demand reduction policies, plans and/or programs.	PARTIALLY 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.	PARTIALLY 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.	MOSTLY 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.	MOSTLY COMPLETE
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.	COMPLETE
10	Promote and strengthen training and continuing education of professionals, technicians and others involved in the implementation of demand reduction activities.	COMPLETE



SUPPLY REDUCTION		
11	Adopt and/or improve comprehensive and balanced measures aimed at reducing the illicit supply of drugs.	NOT APPLIED
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.	NOT APPLIED
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.	NOT APPLIED
14	According to the needs of each country, adopt comprehensive measures, such as integral and sustainable alternative development and law enforcement initiatives.	NOT APPLIED
15	Promote actions to reduce the negative impact on the environment caused by the world drug problem, in accordance with national policies.	NOT APPLIED
CONTROL MEASURES		
16	Implement programs to prevent and reduce the illicit production of synthetic and plant-based drugs.	STARTED
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.	MOSTLY COMPLETE
22	Promote improvements in information systems on illicit drug trafficking and related crimes.	STARTED
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.	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.	PARTIALLY 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.



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