



**ORGANIZATION OF
AMERICAN STATES (OAS)**



MEM

**MULTILATERAL EVALUATION
MECHANISM (MEM)**

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

**SECRETARIAT FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL
SECURITY (SMS)**

Venezuela

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)

Venezuela

**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

Venezuela's national drug authority is the National Anti-drug Office (ONA), under the Ministry of Popular Power for Internal Affairs, Justice and Peace. The ONA has a legal basis and a budget. The ONA coordinates the areas of supply reduction, demand reduction, preventive alternative development programs, control measures, drugs observatory, international cooperation, and program evaluation, as well as in prevention of money laundering, and administration and disposal of seized and forfeited assets. 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

Venezuela has a National Anti-Drug Plan 2009-2013, which includes the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures and international cooperation. The relevant actors were involved in the designing, drafting and execution of the Plan which has a monitoring and evaluation framework. The country has carried out activities to update its policies, plans and programs based on the evaluation of its 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

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

Venezuela 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: Complete

Venezuela has comprehensive demand reduction plans and programs in the areas of prevention, early intervention, treatment and rehabilitation, social reinsertion and recovery support services. The programs have been designed using available evidence. Prevalence data and trends in drug use derived from demand related studies are used in the design of universal and selective prevention programs, and recovery support services. Venezuela monitors implementation of its demand reduction programs, evaluates them using process evaluation and updates them based on the results of the evaluation. The treatment and rehabilitation programs include a gender perspective. The country has adopted a multisectoral approach to implementing its demand reduction 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: Complete

Venezuela has universal and selective prevention programs addressing drug use and targeting different population groups. Selective prevention programs vary based on the presence of risk factors.



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

Venezuela has a network of public health system facilities responsible for health needs within its territory. These facilities carry out drug use screening; have screening instruments available for early detection of drug use, offer guidance and brief intervention; and systematically refer persons affected by drug use to treatment. The public health system, which coordinates with other sectors, along with private institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), provides outpatient and residential treatment, aftercare, rehabilitation and recovery support services for people affected by drug use. The country has an accreditation process for its drug treatment centers. The public health system facilities offering treatment and rehabilitation services include monitoring systems for their programs, have professionals trained to implement and use them, and allow for the collection and organization of information on the treatment and rehabilitation programs.



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: Complete

Venezuela takes actions to facilitate access to treatment, rehabilitation, and social reinsertion for the various population groups affected by drug use. Treatment and rehabilitation, and social reinsertion interventions are 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 applicable



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

Venezuela has a national drug authority that maintains cooperative relationships with academic and research institutions and civil society organizations dealing with drug demand reduction related issues. The information produced by these institutions and organizations is used in the development of its policies, plans and programs. Venezuela improves the capacity of academic and research institutions and civil society organizations by providing financing for research projects in several demand reduction areas.



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: Partially complete

Venezuela offers introductory training programs and continuing education on all aspects of demand reduction to personnel involved in implementing activities in this area. The country offers its personnel training programs at the certificate, diploma, undergraduate and graduate levels focused on science-based approaches and best practices in drug demand reduction.

Venezuela does not offer its technical and professional experts advanced training programs in demand reduction at the regional or international level. The country does not conduct regular monitoring or evaluations to ensure that the training in this area meets the country's personnel needs.



SUPPLY REDUCTION

RECOMMENDATIONS 11–15

Evaluation: Not applied

In consideration of Venezuela'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: Complete

Venezuela has mechanisms available to detect and identify laboratories for the illicit manufacturing of plant-based and synthetic drugs, in the form of military operations. The country has a national database on this type of laboratory and some of this information is published in National Anti-drug Office (ONA) newsletters. There are protocols for the dismantling of laboratories manufacturing illicit drugs, which include safety measures to be followed by law enforcement agents taking part in the dismantling, as well as measures to minimize the environmental impact. Ongoing training programs are offered bi-annually by ONA, for agents responsible for control activities related to the dismantling of laboratories for the illicit manufacture of drugs.



CONTROL MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 17

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

Evaluation: Complete

Venezuela has criminalized those acts set out in Article 3 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, and has regulations for the control of chemical substances subject to control under the terms of Article 12 of that Convention. The country has an updated register of all individuals and corporations handling controlled chemical substances for local and international commerce. The country's regulations include inspections or audits of the individuals and corporations establishments handling controlled chemical substances and establish administrative and civil penalties for infractions or violations of the regulations regarding controlled chemical substances. Venezuela's legislation establishes a competent authority responsible for coordinating control activities for these substances. The country has mechanisms for issuance of timely pre-export notifications for controlled substances to other States, as well as for timely response to pre-export 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

Venezuela has legislation for the control of narcotics, psychotropic substances and preparations that contain them, as called for 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 responsible for coordinating control activities for narcotics, psychotropic substances and psychoactive pharmaceutical products; this authority's functions and powers are duly assigned. The country has a mechanism to estimate the requirements for licit narcotics, using the consumption-based method and variants from the International Narcotics Control Board's (INCB) Guide to Estimating Requirements for Substances under International Control. This control system enables the country to gather the information called for in Article 19 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961. Venezuela's legislation provides for the application of administrative and civil penalties in the event of infractions or violations of the regulations on narcotics, psychotropic substances and psychoactive pharmaceutical products by medical professionals, administrators, and legal representatives of establishments that handle these types of substances or products.



CONTROL MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 19

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

Evaluation: Complete

Venezuela conducts periodic evaluations of the availability of narcotics and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific use, which include: periodic verification of the selection process for controlled substances necessary to provide medical treatment in the country, based on trends in medical use; calculation of requirements; the process to acquire those substances; recordkeeping for the purpose of monitoring and control of stock; and use of an appropriate prescription system and best practices for distribution in order to ensure the security, effectiveness and quality of medicines, as well as their availability to the segment of the population that needs them. The country also analyzes impediments to adequate availability in order to address them quickly.



CONTROL MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 20

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

Evaluation: Mostly complete

Venezuela has formal mechanisms for the exchange of information among the entities responsible for the control of drug trafficking and related crimes. The country participates in ongoing training programs on the control of drug trafficking and related crimes. The country has legal frameworks to address the prevention of drug trafficking, as well as laws or regulations for the safe and final disposal of seized drugs. The country also has provisions for environmental safeguards to be taken into account in the final disposal of seized substances.

Venezuela does not conduct periodic evaluations of the strengths and weaknesses of entities responsible for the control of drug trafficking and related crimes.



CONTROL MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 21

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

Evaluation: Complete

Venezuela has studies on recent trends in drug trafficking and related crimes. The country updates 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: Partially complete

Venezuela has national statistics on drug trafficking and related crimes, which are provided by the various authorities involved and categorized by year. The information is collected using a duly standardized data-gathering tool.

Venezuela does not have a national early warning system on new behaviors of criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking, nor has it carried out technical studies or research on drug trafficking and related crimes. The country also does not conduct studies on impurity profiles or characterization of drugs.



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

Venezuela has a formal mechanism for the secure and effective exchange of intelligence information in the investigation of cases of drug trafficking and related crimes. Training programs on the exchange of intelligence information in the investigation of cases related to this issue are provided by national and international organizations. The country has legal frameworks for the investigation of assets during drug trafficking cases.

Venezuela does not have formal mechanisms for coordination and 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: Complete

Venezuela criminalizes the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives and 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 being imported or exported, as well as those in transit. The appropriate marking of firearms is required, permitting the identification of the manufacturer's name, place of manufacture and serial number. The country also requires the appropriate marking of any firearms confiscated or forfeited. The country maintains a system of licenses for the importation, exportation and international transit of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials. Venezuela 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 include the measures called for 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.



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

Venezuela criminalizes money laundering according to the terms of the United Nations Convention against the Illicit Traffic of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime of 2000. The country has legislation for the prevention and control of money laundering, which adheres to the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Venezuela has the National Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) in accordance with the operating principles of the EGMONT Group and the FATF recommendations with regard to Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs). The country also has regulations for the forfeiture of assets related to money laundering.



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

Venezuela has a single agency responsible for the management and disposal of seized and forfeited assets in cases of drug trafficking and money laundering. 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 guidelines on asset management.



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

Venezuela 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, and the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters of 1992, and has designated central authorities, as required by these conventions. The country has legal provisions that permit extradition of foreigners for serious crimes, including drug trafficking and money laundering. Citizens are not extradited for these crimes, but tried in accordance with internal legislation, which permits extradition for the crime of money laundering, or the trial of an individual whose extradition for this crime has been denied on the basis of nationality. The country's legal provisions permit reciprocal judicial assistance to third-party States in investigations, trials and legal proceedings for drug trafficking and money laundering. The country has adopted other measures to strengthen international cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking. In addition, it has adopted measures to authorize the confiscation of proceeds derived from drug trafficking, or of property of equivalent value, as well the materials, equipment and other instrumentalities used or destined for use in any form in the commission of such offense. The country has laws or other legal provisions that permit the use of controlled delivery for narcotics and psychotropic substances in order to identify persons implicated in the crime of drug trafficking.



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, Venezuela has completed 16, three mostly completed, two partially completed, one not applicable and five did not apply.

In the area of Institutional Strengthening, Venezuela has a national drug authority which is under the Ministry of Popular Power for Internal Affairs, Justice and Peace. The country has a national anti-drug strategy. Also, the country has a national observatory on drugs that 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, Venezuela has comprehensive demand reduction programs, which are monitored, evaluated, and updated. The country has universal and selective prevention programs. The public health system facilities offer early detection screening of drug use and provide guidance and brief intervention, and systematic referrals to treatment. The public health system uses a multisectoral approach to the provision of treatment services, aftercare, rehabilitation and recovery support services; it also monitors treatment and rehabilitation programs. Treatment centers have an accreditation system. Policies, plans and programs are developed with the support of academic and research institutions and civil society organizations. Training and continuing education, from the certificate to the graduate levels, are offered to demand reduction personnel, and focus on the scientific approach and best practices.

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

In the area of Control Measures, Venezuela 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, Venezuela has adopted the measures provided for in international conventions to ensure their adequate availability for legitimate purposes and to prevent their diversion to illicit channels. These measures include: a legal framework, administrative controls



for domestic and international sales, cooperation with authorities in other countries and the designation of national authorities responsible for fulfilling these obligations. In the case of narcotics and psychotropic substances for medical use, measures have been taken to ensure access and availability for patients who require them.

The country has formal mechanisms for the exchange of information among the institutions responsible for the control of drug trafficking and related crimes, as well as formal mechanisms for the secure and effective exchange of intelligence information. The country has ongoing training programs for personnel in this area and compiles statistical information at the national level on drug trafficking and related crimes. In addition, the country updates its legislation based on the identification of new trends and has legislation providing for the safe and final disposal of seized drugs. However, the country does not have a national early warning system for new behaviors of criminal organizations.

Venezuela's legal system has criminalized offenses related to the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials, has designated an authority to coordinate controls in this area, and has implemented most of the relevant international provisions.

Venezuela has legislation to prevent and control money laundering, in accordance with international conventions, and has a Financial Intelligence Unit in line with international principles and requirements. In addition, the country has regulations for the confiscation of assets related to money laundering cases and an agency responsible for the management and disposal of seized and forfeited assets.

In the area of International Cooperation, Venezuela 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, there are 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 narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in order to identify persons involved in the crime of drug trafficking.



CICAD recognizes Venezuela 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.	MOSTLY COMPLETE
DEMAND REDUCTION		
4	Develop and implement comprehensive demand reduction policies, plans and/or programs.	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.	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.	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 APPLICABLE
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.	PARTIALLY 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.	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.	MOSTLY 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.	PARTIALLY 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.	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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