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MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)

SECRETARIAT FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL SECURITY (SMS)

Argentina

Evaluation Report on Drug Policies

2019



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PREFACE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

OBJECTIVE 1

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

In Argentina, national policies on drugs are planned and executed by the Secretariat for Comprehensive Drug Policies of Argentina (SEDRONAR) and the Ministry of Security of the Nation (MINSEG), through the Undersecretary for the Fight Against Drug Trafficking (SSLN). These entities have a budget.

SEDRONAR was established in 1989 and, until 2014, it was the only body responsible for both drug demand and supply reduction. In 2014, the SSLN was established by Decree 48/2014, as a dependency of the MINSEG and charged with helping the Secretary for Security in the drafting of national policies and in the planning of strategies for combating the illicit supply of narcotics and diversion of chemical precursors.

The changes in the structure of SEDRONAR and MINSEG, produced by the Decrees 15/16, 342/16 and 174/18 of the National Executive Branch made the MINSEG responsible for illicit supply reduction and SEDRONAR responsible for demand reduction.

Via a Framework Agreement for Cooperation and Assistance, SEDRONAR and the MINSEG coordinate and organize the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, drug observatory, international cooperation and program evaluation.

The country has a mechanism for coordination and organization among the government agencies involved in the different aspects of the drug problem. SEDRONAR and the MINSEG organize and coordinate with each other and with other national agencies by means of working groups, councils and committees in order to develop and execute national drug policies.

OBJECTIVE 2

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

Argentina has a National Drug Demand Reduction Plan 2016-2020, an Argentina without Drug Trafficking Plan 2016-2019, and the National Program for Education and Prevention of Addictions and Drug Abuse (adopted by Law 26.586, which has been in effect since 2009). These plans are still in place and are currently being implemented, covering the areas of institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures and international cooperation.

Furthermore, these plans take into account the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the 2030 Agenda and include the human rights perspective, the gender approach and development with social inclusion.

The relevant actors from priority areas involved in the drafting, implementation, evaluation and updating of the National Drug Demand Reduction Plan are: The National Ministry of Health and Social Development, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the National Institute of Women, regional and/or local governments, the scientific community/academia, civil society organizations and other social actors, the Judiciary and the Legislature.

The country has a stable mechanism to transfer funds and finance drug initiatives or projects implemented in the provinces by local governments, which have transferred responsibilities on drug issues and enough autonomy with the legal basis to take responsibility of and implement concrete actions. Accordingly, SEDRONAR conducts activities designed to strengthen local governments, such as the Municipalities in Action Program, which is geared to reinforcing the capacity of the country's municipalities to build and strengthen the areas dealing with the drug problem.

The Argentine Observatory on Drugs helps to establish and strengthen provincial drug observatories. The Federal Council on Drugs (COFEDRO) also plays a part in forging consensus with the provinces regarding the development of drugs policies. Training is provided and methodologies shared on preventing drug use in different spheres and agreement is reached on how to implement the various types of community-based comprehensive approach to the drug problem in Argentina's municipalities.

SEDRONAR and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology coordinate to provide their (teaching and non-teaching) staff with orientation materials and manuals.

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

In addition, the Ministry of Health and Social Development has the “Lic. Laura Bonaparte”, which is the National Hospital Network specializing in mental health and addictions, to provide training and support for subnational governments and local stakeholders.

OBJECTIVE 3

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

To address the socio-economic causes and consequences of the drug problem, national public policy focuses on removal of stigma and a rights perspective, social vulnerability, access to health services and comprehensive health promotion, a gender approach, inclusion in society and the labor market, crime prevention, reduction in the homicide rate, increased operability, greater presence in high-conflict neighborhoods, and better control over chemical precursors.

OBJECTIVE 4

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

Argentina has a national observatory on drugs with financial, human and technological resources, which was formally incorporated into the organizational structure of SEDRONAR by Decree 33 of 2017. Additionally, the observatory has a national drug information network linking a number of public, academic and social sector stakeholders.

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

Demand reduction			
Studies	Studies carried out and published		Year of most recent study
	Yes	No	
National surveys of secondary school students	X		2014
National study on population from 12 to 65 years to psychoactive substance use	X		2017
Register of patients in treatment centers	X		2017
Study of psychoactive substance use and therapies applied to youths in juvenile detention centers	X		2018
Studies on drug-related mortality	X		2017

Demand reduction			
Studies	Studies carried out and published		Year of most recent study
	Yes	No	
Studies on drug use-related mortality. Base year 2016.	X		2018
Studies on gender conditions related to drug problems	X		2017
Others: Survey at a Meeting of Youth in the Sports and Art with a Voice (<i>Deporte y Arte con Voz</i>) Program. San Fernando del Valle de Catamarca, Province of Catamarca	X		2017
Survey of substance use among children and adolescents in rugby clubs	X		2017
Survey at a Meeting of Youth in the Sports and Art with a Voice (<i>Deporte y Arte con Voz</i>) Program. Crespo, Province of Entre Ríos	X		2018
Study on opinions and attitudes to psychoactive substance use (people aged 18 and older living in large urban centers)	X		2014
Municipal epidemiological studies in secondary schools (secondary school students in schools in specified towns or cities) Municipality of Gualeguaychu, Entre Ríos Municipality of Coronel Dorrego, Buenos Aires Municipality of Crespo, Entre Ríos Municipality of Campana, Buenos Aires Municipality of Mar del Plata, Buenos Aires Municipality of Tres Arroyos, Buenos Aires Municipality of Adolfo Alsina, Buenos Aires	X		2017
Municipal epidemiological studies in primary health care centers (people aged 12 and older who visit health units in specified towns or cities) Municipality of Gualeguaychu, Entre Ríos Municipality of Coronel Dorrego, Buenos Aires Municipality of Mar del Plata, Buenos Aires	X		2017
Epidemiological studies in Local Comprehensive Treatment Mechanism (<i>Dispositivo Integral de Abordaje Territorial - DIAT</i>) Municipality of Mar del Plata, Buenos Aires	X		2018
Local studies of problem use and ease of access (people aged 15-65 in specified areas)	X		2015
Description of the care and treatment offered to users of smokable cocaines (treatment centers and support facilities in localities or areas where there is heavy use of smokable cocaines)	X		2016
Exploratory study of psychoactive substance use at rave parties (audience attending rave parties in the city of Buenos Aires)	X		2014
Substance use and the worlds of work (workers aged 18-70 working in specified fields of employment)	X		2015

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

Reduction of supply, trafficking and related offenses			
Information	Available information		Year of most recent information
	Yes	No	
Quantification of illicit crop cultivation, including crops grown indoors		X	
Number of seizures of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production	X		2017
Quantities of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production seized	X		2017
Number of seizures of controlled chemical substances (precursors)	X		2017
Quantities of seized controlled chemical substances (precursors)	X		2017
Number of seizures of pharmaceutical substances		X	
Quantity of seized pharmaceutical products		X	
Number of persons formally charged with drug use, possession and trafficking	X		2017
Number of persons convicted of drug use, possession and trafficking	X		2016
Number of laboratories producing illicit plant- based drugs detected and dismantled	X		2017
Number of laboratories producing illicit drugs of synthetic origin detected and dismantled	X		2017
Chemical composition of seized drugs	X		2017
Sale price of drugs (for consumers)	X		2017
Number of persons formally charged with money laundering		X	
Number of persons convicted of money laundering	X		2018
Number of persons formally charged with trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition and related materials		X	
Number of persons convicted of trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition and related materials		X	
Number of persons formally charged with diversion of chemical substances		X	
Number of persons convicted of diversion of chemical substances		X	

Demand reduction studies include data disaggregated by gender, age, socio-economic and educational level and ethnicity.

The country has conducted the following studies to evaluate drug demand reduction programs and interventions: “Being in Prevention” program, Formation of a network of comprehensive treatment facilities for problem psychoactive substance use in juvenile detention centers in the province of Buenos

Aires, and the role of the security officer in addressing problem drug use in contexts of incarceration (training for officers of the Higher Institute of Correctional Sciences).

OBJECTIVE 5

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

Law 23.737 of 1989 and the Argentine Criminal Code of 1984 provide for alternative measures to incarceration for low-level drug offenses and take gender differences into account. In the case of pregnant women and women with children under the age of five, and persons with disabilities, the Criminal Code (as amended by the Law on Enforcement of the Sentence, Law 24.660 of 2008) includes two special conditions that would allow for house arrest.

The country developed the Therapeutic Justice Pilot Program “Comprehensive Treatment of Wrongdoers with Psychoactive Substance Use Problems.” The program aims to reduce the use of psychoactive substances, avoid recidivism and support the social integration of participants.

The pilot program was evaluated through a process, outcomes and impact assessment conducted, with technical assistance from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), by the Latin American Center for Studies on Insecurity and Violence (CELIV) of Argentina’s “Tres de Febrero” National University (UNTref). The program’s impact was examined in three areas: reduction in the use of multiple substances, recidivism and social integration of participants.

The measurement tools were designed, in accordance with the 2014 OAS/CICAD Manual, by the Under-Secretariat for Penitentiary Matters and Relations with the Judiciary and the Academic Community of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, with the support of the Inter-American Development Bank’s Citizen Security Cluster.

OBJECTIVE 6

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

Argentina has inter-institutional and multisectoral programs that promote the social integration of individuals affected by the drug problem. The country carries out a comprehensive care, assistance and integration program for persons with problematic substance use, which includes individual subsidies

for people who require treatment and do not have the necessary resources. As a therapeutic option, it offers access to the Care and Community Assistance Homes (CAAC) and to the Local Comprehensive Treatment (DIAT), which are low-threshold subnational centers for highly vulnerable sectors of society. Also noteworthy is the social and workplace integration program (PRISCO) geared to people receiving treatment in therapeutic centers.

In coordination with SEDRONAR, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology offers training courses for court personnel, a project on health counseling in secondary schools and a social and workplace integration project that provides training and professional technical education for people who help providers of addiction assistance and treatment. In addition, the Ministry of Health and Social Development established the National Register of Shanty Towns Program, which aims to generate an integrated and community care and prevention network capable of reaching the shanty town population, within the framework of inter-ministerial activities and interventions.

The Ministry of Security created the Safe Neighborhoods Program in an effort to pacify certain high-conflict areas, bring them under State control, and eradicate drug trafficking.

OBJECTIVE 7

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

The Law 23.737 of 1989 provides for proportionate sentencing, particularly for low-level drug-related offenses.

A pilot is now being conducted of special courts and tribunals for low-level drug-related offenses. Thus, the Drug Treatment Tribunals (TTD) Pilot Program was established in the province of Salta. The Therapeutic Justice Program, promoting comprehensive treatment for drug-dependent first-time, low-level offenders, will be applied in the national criminal justice system of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires.

In the National Justice system, a Therapeutic Justice Pilot Program called “Comprehensive Treatment of Offenders with Problematic Psychoactive Substance Use” was implemented in a Criminal Law Enforcement Court. It was approved on October 18, 2018, by Resolution 899/2018 of the National Ministry of Justice and Human Rights.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

DRUG POLICY EVALUATION THROUGHOUT THE MEM PROCESS: 1999-2018

CICAD observes that from the first to the sixth rounds (1999-2014), Argentina had a national drug authority with its own budget. That national authority coordinated the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, drug observatory, international cooperation and program evaluation. As of the seventh round (2014-2018), CICAD ascertains that the country has two entities as national drug authorities, each with its own spheres of competence. Together, they coordinate and organize, according to their specific competencies, the following areas: demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, drug observatory, international cooperation and program evaluation.

CICAD notes that during the first and second rounds (1999-2002), Argentina lacked a national drug plan and that from the third to the sixth rounds (2003-2014), the country implemented several national plans for comprehensive prevention of drug dependence. CICAD observes with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country adopts several plans, such as the national Drug Demand Reduction Plan 2016-2020, the Argentina without Drug Trafficking Plan 2016-2019 and the National Program for Education and Prevention of Addictions and Drug Abuse. CICAD notes with satisfaction that these plans incorporate the human rights perspective, a gender approach and development with social inclusion; and take into account the United Nations SDGs of the 2030 Agenda. The country has mechanisms to transfer funds for drug-related initiatives and projects implemented in the provinces by local governments endowed with autonomy and devolved powers to address drug issues. The provinces have drug observatories.

CICAD recognizes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Argentina incorporates the gender approach, social and workplace integration, crime prevention, reduction of the homicide rate, increased operability, an increased State presence in high-conflict neighborhoods and tighter control of chemical precursors in social public policy for addressing the socio-economic causes and consequences of the drugs problem.

In the first and second rounds (1999-2002), CICAD highlights that Argentina had scattered and sporadic statistics and documents for gathering and storing information on demand reduction, supply reduction and control measures. CICAD notes with satisfaction that from the third to the seventh rounds (2003-2018), the country has made considerable progress and has the Argentine Observatory on Drugs, with financial, human and technological resources, and conducts priority demand reduction studies. CICAD likewise acknowledges that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country carries out studies to evaluate demand reduction programs and interventions, and has information for some indicators on supply reduction, trafficking and related offenses. CICAD further observes that, as of 2017, the Observatory was incorporated into SEDRONAR's current organizational structure and has a national drug information network. CICAD views with concern that Argentina lacks information on some of the indicators related to supply reduction and control measures.

CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Argentina's legislation provides for alternative measures to incarceration for low-level drug-related offenses and takes gender differences into account. CICAD also notes that the country has developed a pilot program of drug treatment courts to monitor and evaluate the impact of the implementation of those measures within the Therapeutic Justice Program.

CICAD views with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Argentina has interinstitutional and multisectoral programs that promote the social integration of individuals affected by the drug problem. CICAD is likewise pleased to observe that the country implements the comprehensive care, assistance and integration program for persons with problematic substance use. As a therapeutic option, it also offers access to the CAAC and to Local Comprehensive Treatment Mechanisms, as well as the Social and Workplace Integration Program, all of which are highly vulnerable sectors of society.

CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Argentina has legislation on proportionate sentencing, in particular for low-level drug-related offenses. A pilot is now being conducted of special courts and tribunals for low-level drug-related offenses.

DEMAND REDUCTION

OBJECTIVE 1

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

Argentina has demand reduction policies that include programs in the areas of prevention, treatment and social integration. Those programs incorporate human rights, intercultural, age differences and gender approaches.

The guidelines and recommendations of specialized international organizations are taken into account in establishing prevention, treatment and social integration demand reduction programs.

In 2017 and 2018, the country conducted process evaluations on the program “Espacios Territoriales de Articulación de Redes de Prevención (ESTAR)” in the educational sector, and on the program “Estrategias Preventivas en Contextos de Encierro.” However, Argentina has not conducted impact evaluations of prevention programs.

Argentina implements coordination mechanisms to develop and implement demand reduction programs allowing for the participation of and coordination with civil society and other social stakeholders. Coordination mechanisms include the Honorary Scientific and Ethical Advisory Board and the Council for the Comprehensive Approach in Public Policies on Addictions in High Vulnerability Context.

Additionally, the country implements measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse, using the technical guide jointly published by the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) as a reference.

OBJECTIVE 2

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

Argentina implements prevention programs in the following populations:

Population group	Name of program	Type of program
School children and university students		
• Pre-school	Preventive strategies in the area of education	Universal
• Elementary/primary	Preventive strategies in the area of education	Universal
• Junior high & high school (secondary school)	Preventive strategies in the area of education	Universal
• Pre-primary, primary, and secondary school students, special education students, youth and adults	“Espacio Territorial de articulación de redes en prevención (ESTAR)”	Selective
• Primary and secondary school students	Guidelines for intervention in cases of problematic substance use in school	Indicated
• School students Higher (tertiary) level	Preventive strategies in the area of education	Universal
• University level	Preventive strategies in the area of education	Universal
Street population		
• Boys/girls	“Dispositivos de Abordaje Integral	Selective
	Tratamiento Comunitario (DIAT)”	Selective
	“Casas de Atención y Acompañamiento Comunitario (CAAC)”	Selective
• Street youths	DIAT	Selective
	CAAC	Selective
• Adults	DIAT	Selective
	CAAC	Selective
Gender		
• Women	Training sessions on problematic use of psychoactive substances and comprehensive approach in safe houses.	Selective

Population group	Name of program	Type of program
LGBTI	Development of LGBTI Agents and Prevention of Problematic Consumption	Selective
Community	DIAT	Selective
	CAAC	Selective
Indigenous peoples	Preventive strategies in the area of education	Universal
Individuals in the workplace	“Buenas Practicas en la Prevención de los consumos de sustancias en el ámbito laboral”	Universal
	“Promoviendo Espacios Laborales Saludables”	Universal
Prison population	Comprehensive approach to problematic use	Selective
Other		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art and sports 	“Arte y deporte con Voz”	Universal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nightlife 	Comprehensive Prevention in Recreational and Nighttime Leisure Contexts	Selective

However, the country does not implement prevention programs in the following populations: family, men and migrants and refugees.

OBJECTIVE 3

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

Argentina has a national system for comprehensive treatment and social integration programs and devices for people with problematic drug use, guaranteeing non-discrimination. This system includes early intervention (brief intervention, counseling), crisis intervention, diverse treatment modalities, dual pathology (co-morbidity), social integration and services related to recovery support. These programs and devices take into account the UNODC and the WHO International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders. To monitor compliance with these standards, the country has the National Mental Health Law (No. 26.657 of 2010) for protecting the human rights of those using mental health services.

The country has mechanisms to facilitate access and ensure the quality of treatment services for those with problematic drug use disorders, through the National Mental Health Law of 2010, Ministry of Health Resolutions 1.484 of 2015, 1.876 and 1.924 of 2016, and the Secretariat for Comprehensive Drug

Policies of Argentina (SEDRONAR) Resolution 266 of 2014. In the case of treatment centers that have signed an agreement with SEDRONAR, the Care Audit Area and the Architecture Team of the Under-Secretariat of Administrative Coordination certify treatment providers' compliance with quality criteria. Outpatient and residential services are provided by the public health system, private institutions, non-governmental organizations and religious institutions. The gender perspective is included in the treatment services provided, through the design of specific devices for young women, mothers and pregnant women. Training courses are developed to include the gender and sexual diversity perspective in treatment centers for people with problematic drug use.

Argentina has established and maintained cooperative relationships with governmental and non-governmental organizations that provide social and community support services with a gender perspective, for the social integration of vulnerable populations. SEDRONAR coordinates with the Ministry of Social Development of the Nation for training on the transgender population. It also coordinates with the National Institute of Women; the LGBTI Ombudsman's Office of the Transvestite, Transsexual, and Transgender Association of Argentina (ATTA) and the LGBTI Federation.

The country has mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment and social integration programs. SEDRONAR's Care Audit Program considers the human rights and gender approaches while monitoring and evaluating care, treatment and social integration programs.

Argentina has mechanisms to protect the rights of people with problematic drug use in treatment programs and services through both the National Mental Health Law 26.657 of 2010 that creates the Reviewing Entity of the Mental Health Law within the Public Ministry of Defense, with the purpose of protecting mental health service recipients' human rights, as well as Law 26.529 of 2009 on Patient Rights in Relation to Health Professionals and Institutions.

The country has supervisory mechanisms for establishments that offer treatment and rehabilitation services for those with problematic drug use.

OBJECTIVE 4

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

Argentina offers ongoing, competence-based training in the areas of prevention, treatment and social integration. SEDRONAR offers a range of training courses in the academic sphere, as well as face-to-face, partly face-to-face and on-line courses. Argentina participates in training programs with a gender perspective, offered by specialized international organizations in prevention, treatment and social integration. Regarding treatment services, a variety of specialized training resources are available, either at the postgraduate level or in the form of the Socio-Therapeutic Operator Courses organized by the Argentine Federation of Non-governmental Organizations for the Prevention and Treatment of Drug Abuse (FONGA), the training courses provided by SEDRONAR and other training courses.

The country does not certify personnel providing prevention, treatment or social integration services, but it does certify the role of Facilitator for Addiction Prevention in the Workplace.

OBJECTIVE 5

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

In Argentina, the Ministry of Health and Social Development and the provincial Health Ministries are responsible for the accreditation of institutions providing prevention, care and treatment services. Ministry of Health and Social Development Resolutions 1.484 of 2015, 1.876 and 1.924 of 2016 adopt the minimum standards for the accreditation of Mental Health and Addictions Establishments and Services. These norms regulate the services provided, the roster of professionals, premises and/or minimum areas of equipment facilities and construction requisites. Regarding the accreditation (authorization) process, Resolution 1.484 of 2015 requires prior municipal authorization for construction, safety, urban planning and any other factors that the municipality deems necessary. Given the federative nature of the Argentine Republic, the provinces reserve the power to regulate health matters, as per the aforementioned resolutions.

The country has supervisory mechanisms in place to ensure that the quality criteria of prevention programs are met. Thus, the Argentine Drug Observatory is responsible for the monitoring of prevention programs. The country also has supervisory mechanisms in place to ensure that the quality criteria of care and treatment services are met.

Argentina has conducted an assessment to determine the national needs of care and treatment services. The results of the census of treatment centers, published at the end of 2018, provide information regarding the supply of care and treatment services. In addition, information on the diagnosis is recorded in the National Drug Demand Reduction Plan (2016-2020). Finally, the 2017 National Study on the Use of Psychoactive Substances among people aged 12 to 65 provides a rough idea of Argentina's treatment needs.

DEMAND REDUCTION

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD observes with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Argentina has demand reduction policies that include programs in the areas of prevention, treatment and social integration, and that these programs take into account human rights, intercultural, age differences and gender approaches. CICAD takes note that these policies consider the guidelines of international organizations, and are also implemented through coordination mechanisms with various social stakeholders. Regarding program evaluation, CICAD is pleased to acknowledge that from the third through the seventh rounds (2003-2018), Argentina has been evaluating demand reduction programs. Likewise, CICAD recognizes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country evaluates processes and intermediate outcomes, but not impact evaluations of drug abuse prevention programs. CICAD also notes that Argentina implements measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug use, considering guidelines from international organizations.

CICAD acknowledges that throughout all seven rounds (1991-2018), Argentina has continually expanded coverage of its prevention programs aimed at target populations, such as pre-school, elementary, secondary and university students, as well as the street population, gender, community, indigenous people, individuals in the workplace, the prison population and art and sports. However, CICAD notes that the country still has populations that are not covered.

Throughout the seven rounds (1999-2018), CICAD views with satisfaction that Argentina has had a national system for comprehensive treatment and social integration programs and devices for people with problematic drug use, guaranteeing non-discrimination. This system includes specialized programs and devices that cover the full continuum of care. CICAD is pleased to note that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has mechanisms to facilitate access and ensure the quality of treatment services, mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment and social integration programs, mechanisms to protect the rights of people with problematic drug use and supervisory mechanisms for establishments that offer treatment and rehabilitation services.

CICAD acknowledges that from the third through the seventh rounds (2003-2018), Argentina has provided ongoing training in the areas of prevention and treatment, broadening the provision of courses in the fourth round (2005-2006) to include the areas of rehabilitation, social inclusion and drug use research, all with a gender perspective. CICAD notes with concern that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Argentina does not certify personnel working in the areas of prevention, treatment and social integration services. The country does, however, certify the role of Facilitator for Addiction Prevention in the Workplace.

In all seven rounds (1999-2018), CICAD views with satisfaction that Argentina has had an accreditation process for treatment centers, as well as monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to guarantee the

quality of prevention and treatment services. Additionally, CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Argentina has conducted an assessment to determine the national needs regarding care and treatment services offered.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

OBJECTIVE 1

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

Argentina's Sub-Secretariat for the Fight against Drug Trafficking of the Ministry of National Security (MINSEG) designs, implements and updates national policies and programs to prevent and decrease the illicit production of drugs.

The country takes traditional licit uses into account in designing and implementing policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs, pursuant to Article 15 of Drug Law 23.737 of 1989.

Drug supply reduction programs that Argentina implements, are supplemented by crime prevention initiatives that address social and economic risk factors. These programs include participation from civil society and other social stakeholders.

OBJECTIVE 2

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

Argentina has the Under-Secretariat for the Fight against Drug Trafficking of the MINSEG, which participates in the mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs. In addition, Argentina carries out periodic studies and research on the structural and socioeconomic factors influencing the illicit supply of drugs. However, Argentina has not completed studies or scientific research on medical and scientific uses or other legal use of crops containing narcotic or psychotropic substances subject to the international control system.

With regard to the identification of chemical profiles and characteristics of drugs subject to the international control system, the country has developed the Program of Studies of Characterization and Chemical Composition of Narcotic Drugs. The country also implements mechanisms for the identification of new psychoactive substances (NPS).

OBJECTIVE 3

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

Argentina does not design or implement alternative, integral and sustainable development programs or preventive alternative development, because it does not have illicit crops.

The country promotes sustainable urban development initiatives for community cohesion and the protection and safety of its inhabitants in urban populations affected by illicit activities related to drug trafficking and related crimes.

OBJECTIVE 4

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

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

OBJECTIVE 5

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

Argentina has characterization methodologies with territorial and socio-economic approaches on micro-drug trafficking or small-scale drug trafficking and the effects on public health, the economy, social cohesion and citizen security. This is carried out through the “*Barrios Seguros*” program, a public policy promoted by the Under-Secretariat for the Prevention of Crime and Violence of the MINSEG.

During the seventh round (2014-2018), the country did not present enough evidence to validate that it exchanges information on the effects of small-scale or micro-trafficking in the health, social, economic or public safety sectors.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD takes into account that no significant areas of illicit crops have been detected in Argentina. CICAD notes that during the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit crops and the illicit production of drugs that recognize traditional uses of the coca leaf and include crime prevention initiatives and the participation of civil society and other social stakeholders.

CICAD acknowledges that from the sixth to seventh rounds (2013-2018), Argentina has carried out periodic studies and research on the structural and socioeconomic factors influencing the illicit supply of drugs. CICAD views with satisfaction that during the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has mechanisms for gathering and analyzing information related to the illicit supply of drugs, but has not completed studies or scientific research on medicinal, scientific and other legal uses of plants containing narcotic or psychotropic substances subject to the international control system. CICAD also notes with satisfaction that Argentina identifies chemical profiles and characteristics of drugs subject to the international control system and that it implements mechanisms for identifying NPS.

CICAD highlights that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Argentina promotes sustainable urban development initiatives for urban populations affected by illicit activities related to drug trafficking and related crimes. CICAD also notes that the country does not design or implement alternative, integral and sustainable development programs or preventive alternative development programs, as part of its strategies to control and reduce crops, because no significant areas of illicit crops were detected.

CICAD notes that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Argentina does not carry out studies of the environmental impact caused by activities relating to the illicit cultivation of crops and illicit drug production.

CICAD also observes that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Argentina has methodologies for characterizing micro-drug trafficking or small-scale drug trafficking. CICAD could not make an assessment for this round on the exchange of information on the effects of this phenomenon, given that the country did not provide sufficient information.

CONTROL MEASURES

OBJECTIVE 1

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

Argentina has protocols and operating procedures to detect, investigate and dismantle laboratories or facilities for the illicit processing or manufacture of drugs.

The country has programs and strategies to detect and seize drugs, through monitoring, inspections or checkpoints on land, riverine, air and sea routes, in accordance with the 1981 Customs Code, Law 22.145. Based also on Law 27.319 of 2016 on Complex Crimes, and Law 23.737 on the Possession of and Trafficking in Narcotics of 1989, these programs and strategies provide for the use of specialized investigation tools and techniques to prevent and reduce drug trafficking. Said laws include a human rights perspective.

Argentina implements ongoing training programs on regulations, processes and procedures for personnel involved in interdiction operations. The country also conducts risk assessments, through the Financial Information Unit (FIU), to identify new trends and threats posed by illicit trafficking and related crimes and new specialized investigation and intelligence techniques.

The country has the Directorate-General of Customs, the Under-Secretariat against Drug Trafficking (SSLN) and the Federal Security Forces as the institutions responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors and pharmaceuticals, including new psychoactive substances (NPS). The National Drugs, Foods and Medical Technology Administration (ANMAT) and the SSLN provide ongoing training for personnel involved in substance analysis.

OBJECTIVE 2

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

The National Register of Chemical Precursors, which reports to the SSLN, is the competent authority responsible for controlling domestic trade to prevent diversion of controlled chemical substances towards illicit activities. This entity has developed mechanisms to inform the industry and users in general of applicable controls and cooperation methods to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances.

In addition, the Ministry of Security (MINSEG) conducts analyses that include information sharing through existing mechanisms regarding the international field of substances, their analogs and precursors that pose a threat to public health. The Ministry is increasing its participation in early warning systems such as the Communication System on NPS-Related International Operations Projects (IONICS), Early Warning Advisory on NPS (EWA), Precursor Incident Communication System (PICS) on chemical precursors and the Pre-Export notification on-line system for chemical products (PEN Online System of the International Narcotics Control Board-INCB). The country also participates in the Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices (RILO) Network of the World Customs Organization.

Law 23.737 of 1989 and its amendments incorporate the control measures contained in Article 12, paragraphs 8 and 9 of the 1988 United Nations Convention to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances toward illicit activities.

Argentina participates in ongoing training programs for drug control personnel on the identification and handling of controlled chemical substances.

OBJECTIVE 3

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

Argentina has an up-to-date register of all individuals and corporations handling pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics or psychotropic substances. Licenses are also granted to manufacturers and distributors of pharmaceutical products and regular inspections, and audits are carried out of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics and psychotropic substances.

Laws 17.818 of 1968 and 19.303 of 1971 establish criminal, civil and administrative penalties for infractions or violations by individuals or corporations that handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics or psychotropic substances.

OBJECTIVE 4

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

Argentina has special processes for issuing import and export authorizations for substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes.

Laws 17.818 of 1968 and 19.303 of 1971 govern the acquisition of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. ANMAT offers training and awareness activities for competent national authorities and health professionals on the proper access to substances subject to international control solely for medical and scientific purposes.

OBJECTIVE 5

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

Argentina has an early warning system (EWS) to identify and trace NPS and amphetamine-type stimulants, as well as other substances subject to international control. The information is shared bilaterally with other States and regional and global systems.

The country has the following regulatory frameworks or guidelines to identify and address the challenges posed by those new substances:

- Law 17.818 of 1968 on Narcotics;
- Law 23.737 of 1989 on Narcotics;
- Resolution 435 of 2011 of the MINSEG;
- Decree 852 and 743 of 2018 of the Federal Executive Branch; and
- Resolution 577 of 2016 of SEDRONAR.

Argentina uses special investigative techniques, updated equipment and new technology acquired and used to detect and analyze NPS.

OBJECTIVE 6

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

Argentina has established, updated and strengthened the legislative and institutional frameworks to counter money laundering derived from drug trafficking, through the Resolution of the Secretariat of

Security creating a Joint Operating Group to Combat Money Laundering derived from Drug Trafficking: Resolution UIF 30-E of 2017, Collaboration Agreement of 2017, between the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and the Supreme Court of the Nation, and Decree 27 of 2018.

The country has an Asset Investigation Manual issued by the Public Prosecutors' Office, which contains a protocol enabling the authorities to conduct asset investigations parallel to drug trafficking investigations.

The FIU Law 25.246 of 2000 and Resolution 30 of 2013 are the mechanisms allowing for inter-agency coordination and cooperation in the area of preventing and controlling money laundering.

The country has the FIU, created by Law 25.246 of 2000, as a decentralized government body that operates with financial autonomy and independence under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance.

Argentina has Resolution FIU 30-E of 2017 that requires financial institutions to establish a risk-based approach, as the mechanism for assessing money laundering risks, in accordance with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations.

OBJECTIVE 7

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

Argentina has the following laws and regulations, in accordance with international conventions and treaties, to facilitate the seizure and forfeiture of assets, instruments or products deriving from drug trafficking and other related crimes:

- Law 23.737 of 1989;
- Decree 1148 of 1991, ratified by Law 24.061 of 1991;
- Decrees 530 of 1994 and 101 of 2001;
- Law 25.246 of 2000;
- Law 26.364 of 2008;
- The Penal Code; and
- Law 26.734 of 2011.

The administration of seized and forfeited assets is handled, depending on the alleged crime, by the Judicial Branch; the Mixed Commission for Registration, Administration and Disposal (through an agreement between SEDRONAR and the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation) or the FIU. Likewise, Decree 826 of 2011 and Agreements 1 of 2013, 33 of 2015 and 2 of 2018 of the Supreme Court of

Justice of the Nation, also facilitate the accountability and transparency of the administration of seized and forfeited assets.

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

OBJECTIVE 8

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

Argentina has the FIU, which is the national center for receiving reports of suspicious operations and serves as the national information gathering mechanism for exchanging intelligence information to detect routes and methods used by drug trafficking organizations and other related crimes.

The country has a national information system on drug trafficking and other related crimes, including alerts on changing behaviors and modus operandi of criminal organizations. Using integrated daily communication forms, the Federal Forces report on multiple aspects of the procedures they carry out. In addition, the Provincial Forces and Directorate General of Customs remit quarterly reports on their operations.

CONTROL MEASURES

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD observes that in the sixth and seventh rounds (2013-2018), Argentina has had protocols or procedures to follow for detecting, investigating and dismantling laboratories or facilities for the illicit processing or manufacturing of drugs. Likewise, CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014 -2018), the country has programs and strategies for detecting and seizing drugs through monitoring, inspections or checkpoints on land, riverine, air and sea routes, and implements and participates in ongoing training programs in these fields. Furthermore, CICAD ascertains that Argentina has regulations providing for the use of specialized investigation tools and techniques to prevent and reduce drug trafficking. In addition, CICAD acknowledges that the country conducts diagnostic assessments and has updated studies to identify new trends and threats in drug trafficking and related crimes. Similarly, CICAD views with satisfaction that Argentina has an institution responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors and pharmaceutical products, including NPS. Additionally, CICAD notes that the country has, and takes part in, ongoing training programs for personnel engaged in these analyses.

CICAD views with satisfaction that from the first to the seventh rounds (1999-2018), Argentina has had a competent authority responsible for monitoring domestic trade and preventing the diversion of controlled chemical substances toward illicit activities. Also, CICAD recognizes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has mechanisms to inform the industry and users in general of applicable controls and cooperation methods to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances. Likewise, CICAD observes that Argentina carries out analyses that include the exchange of information through existing mechanisms regarding the international field of substances, their analogs and precursors, which pose a threat to public health. Similarly, CICAD notes that the country has training programs for interdiction personnel on the identification and handling of controlled chemical substances. Additionally, CICAD highlights that from the first to the seventh rounds (1999-2018), Argentina has used the Pre-Export Notification (PEN) Online System of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for controlled chemical substances.

CICAD observes with satisfaction that from the first to the seventh rounds (1999-2018), Argentina's legislation has provided for criminal, civil and administrative penalties for infractions or violations by individuals or corporations that handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics or psychotropic substances. Likewise, CICAD recognizes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Argentina has an up-to-date register of persons and enterprises handling these products, grants licenses to their manufacturers and distributors and performs routine inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and companies authorized to handle them.

CICAD takes note that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Argentina has specific mechanisms for granting import and export permits for substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. Furthermore, CICAD observes that the country has a regulatory framework to govern the

acquisition of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. CICAD also ascertains that the country has training and awareness activities for competent national authorities and health professionals on the proper access to these substances.

CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Argentina has an EWS to identify and trace NPS and amphetamine-type stimulants, as well as other substances subject to international control. Additionally, CICAD acknowledges that the country has the regulatory frameworks or guidelines to identify and address the challenges posed by those new substances. Similarly, CICAD observes that Argentina has new special investigative techniques, updated equipment and new technologies acquired and used to detect and analyze NPS.

CICAD views with satisfaction that in all seven rounds (1999-2018), Argentina has had regulatory frameworks to counter the money laundering derived from drug trafficking. Also, CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Argentina has protocols that enable the authorities to conduct financial and asset investigations parallel to drug trafficking investigations. Similarly, CICAD notes that Argentina has mechanisms that allow for inter-agency coordination and cooperation to prevent and control money laundering, as well as a financial intelligence unit. In addition, CICAD ascertains that Argentina has mechanisms for analyzing money laundering risks, in accordance with the FATF recommendations.

CICAD views with satisfaction that in all seven rounds (1999-2018), Argentina has had a competent authority to administer assets seized in connection with money laundering. Also, CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has legislation, regulations and procedures, in accordance with international treaties and conventions, to facilitate the seizure and forfeiture of assets, instruments or products derived from drug trafficking and other related crimes. Likewise, CICAD notes that Argentina has regulations facilitating the accountability and transparency of the administration of seized and forfeited assets. However, CICAD views with concern that the country does not have specialized training programs for the administration and disposition of seized and forfeited assets, despite having had them in the sixth round (2013-2014).

CICAD observes with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Argentina has national information gathering mechanisms for exchanging intelligence information to detect routes and methods used by criminal drug trafficking organizations. Likewise, CICAD highlights that the country has a national information system on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on changing behaviors and modus operandi of criminal organizations.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

OBJECTIVE 1

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

Argentina engages in technical assistance and horizontal cooperation activities among member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), third States and with relevant international organizations. The country also has signed international cooperation agreements with countries and at the inter-agency level on security issues, combating cross-border crime and drug trafficking and transnational organized crime. With regard to money laundering, the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) cooperates with other countries in preventing and combating money laundering and related crimes.

The country exchanges technologies with foreign counterparts on the systematization of regulations, studies, research and bibliographic material produced by countries and international organizations, using a number of cooperation mechanisms, including South-South cooperation projects. Argentina has also established secure communication channels for the exchange of intelligence information on drug interdiction and control. Argentina has shared with foreign counterparts best practices on training, specialization and professional development of the staff responsible for implementing its drug policies. In relation to the South-South cooperation projects, there was training for officials responsible for implementing public policies on drugs. Within the framework of the South-South Cooperation Projects, officials responsible for the implementation of public policies on drugs were trained in topics related to drug observatories, georeferencing, epidemiology, prevention programs and community-based treatment programs.

Argentina also participates in regional coordination activities to prevent crimes related to drug trafficking, such as firearms trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, money laundering and corruption, among others. The country has bilateral mechanisms for coordination and collaboration with other countries, focused on the dismantling of criminal groups linked to drug trafficking and related crimes.

OBJECTIVE 2

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

Argentina has updated its regulatory and procedural frameworks for allowing effective cooperation mechanisms with other countries on the forfeiture and management of assets derived from drug trafficking, money laundering and other related crimes, by entering into bilateral treaties with several countries on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and extradition that in some cases provide for the identification, search for, embargoing and seizure of assets that constitute evidence. The Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT) evaluated the country in 2014.

The country has mechanisms and procedures enabling the competent authorities to undertake expeditious actions in response to legal mutual assistance requests on investigation and forfeiture of assets derived from drug trafficking and related crimes. Argentina has competent authorities with legal powers to exchange information on money laundering investigations, including identification and tracing of the instruments associated with this offense, through information exchange networks such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the Regional Asset Recovery Network (RRAG) of GAFILAT, among others.

OBJECTIVE 3

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

Argentina has enacted and adopted legislation and administrative measures and actions, respecting human rights and gender equality, to improve implementation of obligations set forth within international legal instruments regarding the world drug problem, namely the following: the Law on Medical and Scientific Research into Medicinal use of the Cannabis Plant and its Derivatives 27.350 of 2017, and the Comprehensive Plan for Addressing Problematic Uses 26.934 of 2014.

The country is party to the following international legal instruments:

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

OBJECTIVE 4

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

Argentina has established bilateral and regional international cooperation agreements for mutual legal or judicial assistance on the control of drug trafficking and related crimes. The country has treaties with other States on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. Argentina has legal provisions to provide for mutual legal or judicial assistance to third party States in investigations, trials and legal proceedings for drug trafficking and related crimes.

The country has laws that permit extradition for drug trafficking and related crimes and has extradition agreements with other States regarding drug trafficking and related crimes. Argentina also has a regulatory framework permitting the extradition of its nationals for drug trafficking and related crimes, pursuant to Law 24.767 of 1997 on International Cooperation in Criminal Matters, as well as through bilateral treaties with several countries on mutual legal in criminal matters.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD notes that from the first to the fourth rounds (1999-2006), Argentina has exchanged operational information and experiences with national authorities and other countries on matters relating to illicit drug reduction, trafficking and use. Furthermore, CICAD views with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country engages in technical assistance and horizontal cooperation activities on security matters, including drug trafficking, money laundering and transnational organized crime on issues of demand reduction, drug observatories, prevention programs and community approach. CICAD recognizes that from the fifth through the seventh rounds (2007-2018), Argentina has established secure communication channels and engages in international exchanges of information and intelligence.

CICAD observes that from the fifth through the seventh rounds (2007-2018), Argentina's FIU has been cooperating with other countries on money laundering and related crimes. As of the seventh round (2014-2018), CICAD views with satisfaction that the country has revised and updated its regulatory framework and rules of procedure allowing for cooperation mechanisms with other countries on the forfeiture of assets and administration of proceeds from drug trafficking, money laundering and related crimes. Similarly, CICAD observes with satisfaction that Argentina has mechanisms and procedures authorizing competent authorities in mutual legal assistance with investigating and seizing assets from drug trafficking and related crimes to operate through information exchange networks.

CICAD views with satisfaction that from the first through the seventh rounds (1999-2018), Argentina has been implementing legal and regulatory norms to address the drug problem, in accordance with international conventions and with specific legislation on control of money laundering, illicit trafficking in firearms, corruption, the diversion of chemical substances and control of pharmaceutical products. CICAD also observes that during the seven rounds (1999-2018), the country has ratified all the conventions and protocols of the United Nations and conventions of the OAS regarding the world drug problem.

CICAD takes note of the progress made by Argentina from the second through the seventh rounds (2001-2018), with respect to bilateral and regional international cooperation agreements on the provision of mutual legal assistance to third States in judicial investigations, trials and legal proceedings relating to drug trafficking and money laundering. Likewise, CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country's regulations allow for extradition of its nationals for drug trafficking and related crimes, following signing of the corresponding treaties.

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



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