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MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)

SECRETARIAT FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL SECURITY (SMS)

The Bahamas (COMMONWEALTH OF)

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.

The Bahamas has the National Anti-Drug Secretariat (NADS), which is the national drug authority established in 2008, by the Cabinet and is located within the Ministry of National Security. NADS coordinates the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, drug observatory and international cooperation, but not alternative, integral and sustainable development programs or program evaluation.

The annual budget for the NADS is integrated with the budget of the Ministry of National Security and the amount for the evaluation period 2014-2018 is as follows:

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Annual budget amount (US dollars)	\$60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00

NADS functions as the main national coordinating agency and works collaboratively with other government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in implementing the National Anti-Drug Strategy 2017-2021.



OBJECTIVE 2

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

The Bahamas has a National Anti-Drug Strategy 2017-2021, approved by Cabinet and includes the areas of institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures and international cooperation. The institutions and agencies involved in the implementation of the National Anti-Drug Strategy are: the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development, the Ministry of National Security, the Office of the Attorney General and the Ministry of Legal Affairs, regional and/or local governments, scientific community/academia/University of The Bahamas, The Bahamas Association for Social Health, the National Lead Institute and, the Great Commission Ministry and Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture. NADS coordinates the implementation of the Drug Strategy.

The country has a specific and stable mechanism to transfer funds and finance drug initiatives or projects implemented by local governments. NADS serves as a potential funding source through the Confiscated Assets Fund where stakeholders can seek funds to build their institution's capacity.

The National Anti-Drug Strategy takes into account the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the 2030 Agenda, and includes a gender-based and human rights approach. These approaches are included in the national treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration system for people with problematic drug use. There are drug-related programs tailored for women and operated by national stakeholder institutions.

The Anti-Drug Strategy also includes development with social inclusion where persons affected by the drug problem receive assistance in housing and other welfare related matters, employability skills and other life skills and self-esteem building opportunities. Prison Fellowship Bahamas also assists with the social integration of inmates released from prison by providing welfare assistance to those in need.

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

OBJECTIVE 3

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

In The Bahamas, the Citizen Security and Justice Programme launched by the Ministry of National Security in November 2017, responds to the socio-economic causes and consequences of crime including the drug problem. This program has a multisectoral and multi-disciplinary approach that requires the expertise of multiple ministries and governmental bodies, including the Office of the Attorney General, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, the Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development, the Department of Rehabilitative/Welfare Services, the Department of Correctional Services and the National Training Agency.

OBJECTIVE 4

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

The Bahamas has a national observatory on drugs with human and technological resources. The country has a national drug information network that includes universities, health institutions, statistical and census institutions, civil society and other social stakeholders and international organizations of cooperation.

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	
Survey of secondary school students	X		2012
National household surveys (12-64 years)	X		2017
Patient register of treatment centers		X	
Cross-section survey of patients in treatment centers		X	
Survey of patients in emergency rooms		X	
Survey of higher education students		X	
Survey of populations in conflict with the law		X	
Studies on drug-related mortality		X	

Demand reduction			
Studies	Studies carried out and published		Year of most recent study
	Yes	No	
Studies on drug-related morbidity		X	
Studies on gender conditions related to drug problems		X	
Others			
A Survey of Patients with Substance Use Disorders at Government Treatment Centers.	X		2013
Global School-based Health Survey	X		2013

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

Supply reduction, trafficking and related crimes			
Information	Available information		Year of most recent information
	Yes	No	
Quantification of illicit crop cultivation including crops grown indoors	X		2017
Number of seizures of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production	X		2017
Quantities of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production seized	X		2017
Number of seizures of controlled chemical substances (precursors)		X	
Quantities of seized controlled chemical substances (precursors)		X	
Number of seizures of pharmaceutical products		X	
Quantities 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	
Number of laboratories producing illicit plant- based drugs detected and dismantled		X	
Number of laboratories producing illicit drugs of synthetic origin detected and dismantled		X	
Chemical composition of seized drugs		X	
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	

Supply reduction, trafficking and related crimes			
Information	Available information		Year of most recent information
	Yes	No	
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		2017
Number of persons formally charged with diversion of chemical substances		X	
Number of persons convicted of diversion of chemical substances		X	

The survey of secondary school students, persons arrested/charged for drug trafficking, persons arrested/charged for firearms that The Bahamas's national observatory on drugs manages, include and systematically analyze data that is disaggregated by gender, age, socio-economic and educational level, and ethnicity.

The Bahamas has not conducted studies to evaluate drug programs or interventions in demand reduction, supply reduction or control measures.

OBJECTIVE 5

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

The Bahamas's law does not provide for alternative measures to incarceration for low-level drug offenses.

OBJECTIVE 6

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

The Bahamas has interinstitutional and multisectoral programs which promote the social integration of individuals affected by the drug problem. The Bahamas Association for Social Health (BASH) is an NGO/civil society organization (CSO) that provides residential and outpatient treatment services, intervention



programs, and rehabilitation. BASH primarily targets adult males with substance use disorders, including persons marginalized and living with HIV/AIDS.

OBJECTIVE 7

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

The Bahamas does not have legislation on proportionate sentencing, in particular for low-level drug-related offenses. There also are no special courts or tribunals for low-level drug-related offenses.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD views with satisfaction that from the second to the seventh rounds (2001-2018), The Bahamas has had a national drug authority with the corresponding budgets. In the seventh round (2014-2018), the drug authority coordinates the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, drug observatory and international cooperation, but not alternative, integral and sustainable development programs or program evaluation.

CICAD expresses its satisfaction that from the second to seventh rounds (2001-2018), The Bahamas has had a national drug plan. In the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has a National Anti-Drug Strategy that includes the areas of institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures and international cooperation. This Anti-Drug Strategy takes into account the UN Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, and includes a human rights perspective, a gender approach and development with social inclusion. In addition, the country has a specific and stable mechanism to transfer funds or finance drug initiatives and projects implemented by local municipalities or governments.

CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), The Bahamas has social policies that address the socioeconomic causes and consequences of crime including the drug problem.

CICAD observes that during the first and second rounds (1999-2002), The Bahamas did not have a national observatory or similar technical office on drugs, but by the third round (2003-2004), there was a National Information Unit. However, the Unit did not exist in the fourth round (2005-2006). Then, there was a technical office from the fifth to sixth rounds (2007-2014). CICAD views with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country established a national observatory on drugs with financial, human and technological resources, and has a national drug information network. The Bahamas, from the fifth to the seventh rounds (2007-2018), also has had some priority studies and information on demand and supply reduction, trafficking and related crimes. However, CICAD sees with concern that during the seventh round, the country does not carry out studies to evaluate programs on drug demand, supply reduction and control measures.

CICAD also notes that in the sixth and seventh rounds (2014-2018), The Bahamas has not had legislation that incorporates alternative measures to incarceration for low-level drug-related offenses.

CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), The Bahamas has interinstitutional and multisectoral programs that promote the social integration of individuals affected by the drug problem.

CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), The Bahamas does not have laws on proportionate sentencing for low-level drug-related offenses. There also are no 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.

The Bahamas has demand reduction policies that include programs in the area of prevention, treatment, and social integration. The country's treatment programs take into account human rights, age differences, and gender approaches, but not an intercultural approach.

The country takes into account the guidelines and recommendations of specialized international organizations in treatment and social integration programs, but not in prevention programs. The Bahamas has implemented the Mental Health Global Action Program (MH-GAP) pilot program in September 2014, which expanded to a wider scale in 2018.

The Bahamas has not carried out any process or intermediate outcome evaluations of drug abuse prevention programs or conducted impact evaluations or any other related and current study of drug abuse prevention programs.

Coordination mechanisms are implemented in the country to develop and implement demand reduction programs allowing for the participation of and coordination with civil society and other social stakeholders.

The country does not implement measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse, in line with 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).

OBJECTIVE 2

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

The Bahamas implements prevention programs in the following populations:

Population group	Name of program	Type of program
School children and university students		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary/primary 	CARICOM/UNICEF Life Skills and Family Life	Universal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior high & high school (secondary school) 	CARICOM/UNICEF Life Skills and Family Life	Universal
	Community Counseling and Assessment Center	Indicated
	Teen Challenge	Selective
Community	Community Counseling and Assessment Center	Indicated
	LEAD MRT	Indicated
Incarcerated individuals	Drug Challenge Program	Universal

However, the country does not implement prevention programs targeting pre-school or university students, the street population, gender, LGBTI, indigenous people, or 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.

The Bahamas has a national system for comprehensive treatment and social integration programs and devices for people with problematic drug use, guaranteeing non-discrimination. This national system includes early intervention/brief intervention/counseling [(Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre (SRC)], crisis intervention, diverse treatment modalities (Bio Psychosocial Approach provided by the SRC), dual pathology/co-morbidity (SRC Co-occurring Program), and social integration and services related to recovery support (UNODC). These programs and devices take into account the International Standards

for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders of UNODC and WHO. However, the country does not monitor compliance with these standards.

There are mechanisms to facilitate access and ensure the quality of treatment services for those with problematic drug use. The public health system, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and religious institutions provide outpatient services and residential services. A gender perspective is included in treatment services through improved care for women and taking into account special groups with senior citizens, migrant women, refugees, different cultures, and those with HIV/AIDS.

The Bahamas has established and maintained cooperative relationships with governmental/non-governmental organizations that provide social and community support services, with a gender perspective, for the social integration of vulnerable populations. The cooperative relationships are maintained during the planning and implementation for the social programs.

The country does not have mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment and social integration programs. Additionally, there are no supervisory mechanisms for establishments offering treatment and rehabilitation services for those with problematic drug use.

However, there are mechanisms to protect the rights of people with problematic drug use in treatment programs and services as outlined in the Public Hospital Authority (PHA)-Patients' Bill of Rights and the Bahamas Association for Social Health (BASH) Client Charter of Right and Responsibilities.

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

The Bahamas offers ongoing competence-based training in the areas of prevention, treatment and social reintegration, which include a gender perspective. The country also participates in prevention, treatment and social reintegration training programs offered by specialized international organizations.

The Colombo Plan and the Training and Certification Program for Drug and Violence Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation (PROCCER) of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States (CICAD/OAS) certify prevention and social reintegration services at the basic level, and treatment services at the intermediate level.



OBJECTIVE 5

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

The Bahamas does not have an accreditation process for treatment centers. The country also does not have supervisory mechanisms in place to ensure that the quality criteria of prevention, care or treatment services are met.

The country has not conducted an assessment to determine the national needs regarding care and treatment services offered.

DEMAND REDUCTION

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD notes with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), The Bahamas has a national system of demand reduction policies that include programs in the areas of prevention, treatment and social integration and incorporate human rights, generational and gender approaches, but not an intercultural approach. Likewise, CICAD views that the country takes into account international guidelines for the implementation of treatment and social integration programs, but not for prevention programs. Coordination mechanisms are implemented to develop and implement demand reduction programs with various social stakeholders. However, CICAD observes with concern that The Bahamas does not implement measures aimed at minimizing the adverse consequences of drug abuse for society and public health, taking into account international guidelines. Regarding program evaluation, CICAD notes with concern that the country does not carry out process or outcome evaluations of drug abuse prevention programs nor impact evaluations.

CICAD views that The Bahamas has had universal prevention programs throughout the seven rounds (1999-2018). Similarly, CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country covers the incarcerated population, primary and secondary school students, and the community. CICAD notes that there was progress from the sixth to the seventh rounds (2013-2018), but that many target populations are still not covered.

CICAD takes note that during the seven rounds (1999-2018), The Bahamas has had a network of specialized facilities in the public health system. CICAD views that in the seventh round (2014-2018), this network offers all services of the continuum of care, guaranteeing access without discrimination and including a gender perspective. CICAD observes that the country has mechanisms to facilitate access to treatment and guarantee the quality of treatment services, and mechanisms to protect the rights of people. However, there are no mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment and social integration programs. There also are no supervisory mechanisms for establishments offering these services for those with problematic drug use.

CICAD views that throughout the seven rounds (1999-2018), The Bahamas has been offering training courses to professionals working in the field of demand reduction. In the fourth round (2005-2006), as well as in the seventh round (2014-2018) training has been provided on an ongoing basis. CICAD is pleased the country certifies personnel that work in prevention and social integration at the basic level, and treatment services at the intermediate level.

CICAD observes with concern that during the seven rounds (1999-2018), The Bahamas has not had an accreditation process for treatment centers, or supervisory mechanisms to ensure that the quality criteria for prevention and treatment services are met. CICAD notes that the country has not made an assessment to determine the national needs for 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.

The Bahamas does not design, implement or update national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit crops and the illicit production of drugs.

OBJECTIVE 2

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

The Bahamas has mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs. The Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF), the Royal Bahamas Defence Force (RBDF), The Bahamas Customs Service (BCS) and The Bahamas Department of Corrections Services (BDCS) participate in these mechanisms.

No periodic studies or research is carried out on the structural and socioeconomic factors influencing the illicit supply of drugs situation. There also are no updated studies or research on medical and scientific uses and other legal use of crops containing narcotic or psychotropic substances subject to the international control system.

The country does not promote or implement mechanisms to identify chemical profiles and characteristics of drugs subject to the international control system. The Bahamas promotes and implements mechanisms for the identification of new psychoactive substances (NPS) by receiving assistance for the analysis of these substances from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) laboratories.

The country does not use standardized and comparable methodologies to measure illicit crops and drug production. In terms of marijuana, the number of plants uprooted is counted.

OBJECTIVE 3

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

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

The country does not promote sustainable urban development initiatives in urban populations affected by illicit activities related to drug trafficking and related crimes, however, in November 2017, the Ministry of National Security launched the Citizen Security and Justice Programme (CSJP), in partnership with the Department of Labour. The Programme seeks to address four major pillars, which include community crime prevention, employability and training of at-risk youth, improving the efficiency of the court system and methods of reducing the recidivism rate through a parole system.

OBJECTIVE 4

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

The Bahamas 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, since no significant areas of illicit crops 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.

The Bahamas does not have characterization methodologies with territorial and socio-economic approaches on micro-drug trafficking or small-scale drug trafficking and the effect on public health, the economy, social cohesion and citizen security.

The country exchanges information on the effects of small-scale drug trafficking or micro-trafficking in the security sector. The exchanges in the security sector occur at weekly meetings among the heads of law enforcement agencies and annually at the International Drug Enforcement Conference. However, no exchange occurs in the health, society or economic sectors.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD takes into account that no significant areas of illicit crops have been detected in The Bahamas, therefore they are not addressed in the design, implementation and strengthening of comprehensive policies, plans or strategies.

CICAD observes that during the seventh round (2014-2018), The Bahamas does not design, implement or update national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit crops and the illicit production of drugs.

CICAD notes that The Bahamas has carried out illicit crop eradication activities from the first to the seventh rounds (1999-2018). CICAD views with satisfaction that during the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs and also promotes and implements mechanisms to identify NPS. However, CICAD notes with concern that The Bahamas does not carry out periodic studies or research on the structural and socioeconomic factors influencing the illicit supply of drugs situation. Additionally, the country does not update studies or research on medical and scientific uses and other legal uses of crops containing narcotic or psychotropic substances subject to the international control system. CICAD also observes that The Bahamas does not promote or implement mechanisms to identify chemical profiles and characteristics of drugs subject to the international control system nor does it use standardized and comparable methodologies to measure illicit crops and drug production.

CICAD recognizes that during the seventh round (2014-2018), The Bahamas has a program that seeks to address four major pillars, which include community crime prevention, employability and training of at-risk youth, improving the efficiency of the court system and methods for reducing the recidivism rate through a parole system. CICAD also notes that the country does not design or implement alternative, integral and sustainable development programs or preventive alternative development as part of strategies to control and reduce illicit crops. Furthermore, The Bahamas does not promote sustainable urban development initiatives in urban populations affected by illicit activities related to drug trafficking and related crimes.

CICAD observes that throughout the seventh round (2014-2018), The Bahamas 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.

CICAD views with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), The Bahamas exchanges information on the effects of small-scale drug trafficking or micro-drug trafficking in the security sector. However, the country does not have characterization methodologies with territorial and socio-economic approaches on such trafficking and the effect on public health, the economy, social cohesion and citizen security.

CONTROL MEASURES

OBJECTIVE 1

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

The Bahamas does not have protocols to detect, investigate, and dismantle laboratories or facilities for the illicit processing or manufacturing of drugs. However, there are strategic programs to detect and seize drugs, through monitoring, inspections or checkpoints through land, air and sea routes of transportation. The country has the Listening Devices Act of 1972 and the Statute Laws of The Bahamas, which provides for the use of specialized investigation tools and techniques to prevent and reduce drug trafficking.

The country participates in ongoing training programs linked to regulations, processes and procedures on drug trafficking and related crimes, as well as specialized investigative techniques and intelligence for personnel involved in interdiction operations.

There are updated studies to identify new trends and threats on drug trafficking and related crimes. The Scientific Support Services of the Royal Bahamas Police Force is the agency responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors and pharmaceuticals, including new psychoactive substances (NPS).

The Bahamas participates in ongoing training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of chemical substances, precursors and pharmaceutical products, including NPS.

OBJECTIVE 2

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

The Bahamas National Drug Agency of the Ministry of Health is the competent authority responsible for controlling domestic trade to prevent diversion of controlled chemical substances towards illicit activities.

The Dangerous Drugs Act of 2000 and Precursor Chemicals Act of 2007 makes provisions for informing the industry and users on general applicable controls and cooperation methods, to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances.

Analyses are carried out that include the exchange of information through existing mechanisms in the international field on substances, their analogs and precursors, which pose a threat to public health.

The country incorporates in the Pharmacy Act of 2009, the Dangerous Drug Act of 2000, the Precursors Chemical Act of 2007 and the Customs Management Act of 2010, the control measures in Article 12, paragraphs 8 and 9 of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs to prevent diversion of controlled chemical substances towards illicit activities. The Bahamas uses the information system for pre-export notifications (International Narcotics Control Board-INCIB PEN Online) of controlled chemical substances.

There are no training programs 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.

The Bahamas has an updated register of individuals and corporations handling pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics or psychotropic substances. However, the country does not issue licenses to manufacturers and distributors of said pharmaceutical products under their control. The country does not carry out regular inspections or audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle said pharmaceutical products. However, whenever there is a complaint filed, the Bahamas Pharmacy Council conducts an inspection.

There are criminal, civil and administrative penalties for violations by individuals and corporations that mishandle said pharmaceutical products, as incorporated in the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2000, Precursor Chemicals Act of 2007 and the Customs Management Act of 2010.

OBJECTIVE 4

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

The Bahamas has special processes for issuing import and export authorizations for substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. The country issues permits for the importation of narcotic or psychotropic medicines for dispensation and for personal use by travelers and those for analytic patterns.

The country does not conduct training or awareness activities for competent national authorities and health professionals on the proper access to said substances.

The Bahamas has a regulatory framework to govern the acquisition of said substances. Adopting the Dangerous Drugs (Application Order) of 1994 improved access to these substances by the medical and scientific communities.

OBJECTIVE 5

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

The Bahamas does not have an early warning system (EWS) to identify and trace NPS, amphetamine-type stimulants and other substances subject to international control.

The country does not have new special investigative techniques. However, there is updated equipment and technology to detect and analyze NPS. Field officers at the Drug Enforcement Unit have access to an updated handheld device that is able to identify NPS. These officers received training on the use of these devices in a regional training exercise sponsored by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in March 2018. There are no regulatory framework to identify and address the challenges posed by the onset of NPS and amphetamine-type stimulants.

OBJECTIVE 6

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

The Bahamas has updated and strengthened the legislative and institutional frameworks to counter money laundering derived from drug trafficking, through the Proceeds of Crime Act of 2018 and the Financial Transactions Reporting Act of 2015.

The protocols that enable the authorities to conduct financial and asset investigations parallel to drug trafficking investigations, are included in the Proceeds of Crime Act of 2018 and in the Mutual Legal Assistance (Criminal Matters) Act of 2008.

The mechanism allowing for interagency coordination and cooperation in the area of preventing and controlling money laundering is the Identified Risk Framework Steering Committee, which consists of law-enforcement officials and all financial regulators that meet to discuss matters relating to anti-money laundering and terrorist financing.

The country also has a Financial Intelligence Unit under the Ministry of Finance, created in the Financial Intelligence Unit Act of 2000.

The Bahamas has mechanisms for analyzing money laundering risks, in accordance with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations using the National Risk Assessment (NRA) document.

OBJECTIVE 7

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

The Bahamas has the Proceeds of Crime Act of 2018 and other specific measures, 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.

The Confiscated Assets Committee, established under the Proceeds of Crime Act of 2018, is the competent authority responsible for the administration of seized and forfeited assets.

There are regulations in the country to 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.

The Bahamas has national information gathering mechanisms to exchange intelligence and information to detect routes and methods used by drug trafficking criminal organizations.

The country has a national information system on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on changing behaviors and modus operandi of criminal organizations. The Royal Bahamas Police Force, the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, the Bahamas Department of Corrections, the Bahamas Customs, and the Bahamas Department of Immigration provide information to this system.

CONTROL MEASURES

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD notes with satisfaction that during the seventh round (2014-2018), The Bahamas has programs to detect and seize drugs, through monitoring, inspections or checkpoints through land, air and sea routes of transportation. Likewise, CICAD takes notes that there are updated studies to identify new trends and threats on drug trafficking and related crimes. Additionally, CICAD observes that the country has an agency responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors and pharmaceuticals, including NPS. CICAD also observes that The Bahamas participates in ongoing training programs linked to regulations, processes and procedures on drug trafficking and related crimes. There also are specialized investigative techniques and intelligence for personnel involved in interdiction operations and for personnel involved in the analysis of chemical substances and, from the sixth to the seventh rounds (2013-2018), for agents responsible for control operations relating to the dismantling of laboratories for the illicit manufacture of drugs. However, CICAD expresses concern that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country does not have protocols to detect, investigate, and dismantle such laboratories.

CICAD views with satisfaction that through the seven rounds (1999-2018), The Bahamas has had a competent authority responsible for controlling domestic trade to prevent diversion of controlled chemical substances, and analyses are carried out that include the exchange of information through existing mechanisms in the international field of substances, their analogs and precursors that pose a threat to public health. CICAD acknowledges the progress made by the country in using the information system for pre-export notifications of controlled chemical substances (INCB PEN Online) from the sixth to the seventh rounds (2013-2018). CICAD observes 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. However, CICAD notes with concern that the country does not have training programs on the identification and handling of controlled chemical substances.

CICAD recognizes that during the sixth and seventh rounds (2013-2018), The Bahamas has had criminal, civil and administrative penalties for violations by individuals and corporations that mishandle these substances. CICAD also observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has an updated register of individuals and corporations handling pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics or psychotropic substances. However, CICAD notes with concern that The Bahamas does not issue licenses to manufacturers and distributors of pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics or psychotropic substances. Similarly, the country does not carry out regular inspections or audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle these substances.

CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), The Bahamas has special processes for issuing import and export authorizations for substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes and a regulatory framework to govern the acquisition of these substances. However, CICAD expresses its concern that the country does not have training or 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.

CICAD is pleased to know that in the seventh round (2014-2018), The Bahamas has updated equipment and technology to detect and analyze NPS. However, CICAD views with concern that the country does not have a EWS to identify and trace NPS, amphetamine-type stimulants and other substances. In addition, the country does not have new special investigative techniques or a regulatory framework to identify and address the challenges posed by the onset of NPS and amphetamine-type stimulants.

CICAD views with satisfaction that throughout the seven rounds (1999-2018), The Bahamas has updated and strengthened the legislative and institutional frameworks to counter money laundering derived from drug trafficking. CICAD also observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has protocols that enable the authorities to conduct financial and asset investigations parallel to drug trafficking investigations. Likewise, has a Financial Intelligence Unit, mechanisms allowing for interagency coordination and cooperation in preventing and controlling money laundering and mechanisms for analyzing money laundering risks, in accordance with the FATF recommendations.

CICAD recognizes with satisfaction that during the seven rounds (1999-2018), The Bahamas has had regulations to facilitate the accountability and transparency of the administration of seized and forfeited assets. In addition to having legislation, there have been other specific measures, 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. CICAD also notes that the country has had a competent authority responsible for the administration of seized and forfeited assets. However, CICAD expresses its concern that in the seventh round (2014-2018), The Bahamas does not offer or participate in specialized training programs for the administration and disposition of seized and forfeited assets.

CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), The Bahamas has a national information system and gathering mechanisms to exchange intelligence 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.

The Bahamas carries out activities of technical assistance and horizontal cooperation among member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), third States and with relevant international organizations.

The country exchanges technologies with foreign counterparts on the systematization of regulation, studies, research, and bibliographic material produced by countries and international organizations. There was a survey on methodologies for households by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD/OAS); methodologies for health related research by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO); drug information systems by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM); methodologies for crime and security related matters by the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC); and methodologies for demand reduction and drugs observatory capacity building by the Cooperation Program between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drug Policies (COPOLAD). The Bahamas has secure communication channels for the exchange of intelligence information on drug interdiction and control, through the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) of CARICOM and other foreign law enforcement agencies. The country promotes the exchange with foreign counterparts of best practices on training, specialization and professional development of the staff responsible for implementing the National Anti-Drug Strategy.

The Bahamas participates in regional coordination activities to prevent crimes related to drug trafficking, such as firearms trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, money laundering and corruption, among others, through CARICOM-IMPACS and the Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police. There also are 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.

The Bahamas updated the Proceeds of Crime Act of 2018, the Mutual Legal Assistance (Criminal Matters) Act of 2008 and the Criminal Justice (International Cooperation) Act of 2002, allowing for effective cooperation mechanisms with other countries and relevant international organizations on forfeiture and management of assets derived from drug trafficking, money laundering and other related crimes. The Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) evaluated the country in 2015.

There are mechanisms and procedures enabling the competent authorities to undertake expeditious actions in response to mutual legal assistance requests on investigation and forfeiture of assets derived from drug trafficking and related crimes. In addition, the competent authorities of the country have legal powers to exchange information on money laundering investigations, including identification and tracking of the instruments associated with this offense, through information exchange networks, such as INTERPOL, the Caribbean Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network (ARIN-CARIB), among others. Further, the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) has the legal authority to share information and intelligence with foreign FIUs on matters surrounding money laundering and terrorism.

OBJECTIVE 3

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

The Bahamas has not enacted or adopted legislation or administrative measures and actions, to improve implementation of obligations set forth within international legal instruments regarding the world drug problem, respecting human rights and gender equality.

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

OBJECTIVE 4

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

The Bahamas has bilateral and regional international cooperation agreements for mutual legal or judicial assistance on the control of drug trafficking and related crimes, such as the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Treaties, Forfeited or Confiscated Assets or their Equivalent Sums Agreement and an Investigation of Drug Trafficking and Confiscation of the Proceeds of Drug Trafficking Agreement. The country also has laws or other legal provisions to provide mutual legal or judicial assistance to third party States in investigations, trials, and legal proceedings for drug trafficking and related crimes.

The Bahamas Extradition Act of 1994 permits extradition for drug trafficking and related crimes. The country has extradition agreements on drug trafficking and related crimes with different countries. The country also has laws that permit extradition of nationals for drug trafficking and related crimes.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD notes with satisfaction that from the third to the seventh rounds (2003-2018), The Bahamas has maintained technical assistance and horizontal cooperation among member states of the OAS, third States and relevant international organizations. CICAD also expresses satisfaction that throughout the seven rounds (1999-2018), the country has had mechanisms for national and international coordination, cooperation and timely exchanges of information on drug-related matters. Similarly, from the fourth to the seventh rounds (2005-2018), CICAD notes that The Bahamas has had mechanisms for the exchange of information on firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials. Furthermore, CICAD recognizes that the country has had mechanisms for the secure and effective exchange of intelligence information in the investigation of cases involving drug trafficking and related crimes.

CICAD recognizes that during the seventh round (2014-2018), The Bahamas updated legislation allowing for effective cooperation mechanisms with other countries and relevant international organizations on forfeiture and management of assets derived from drug trafficking, money laundering and other related crimes. There also are mechanisms and procedures enabling the competent authorities to undertake expeditious actions in response to mutual legal assistance requests on investigation and forfeiture of assets derived from drug trafficking and related crimes. The country also has legal powers to exchange information on money laundering investigations, including identification and tracing of the instruments associated with this offense, through information exchange networks.

CICAD expresses satisfaction that throughout the seven rounds (1999-2018), The Bahamas has had legislation on money laundering, firearms, ammunition, explosives, pharmaceuticals and controlled chemical substances. Also, during the third round (2003-2004), the country had laws criminalizing participation in organized criminal groups and corruption, and in the fourth round (2005-2006), there was legislation to criminalize trafficking in persons. CICAD notes that during the seven rounds (1999-2018), The Bahamas ratified all the conventions and protocols of the United Nations and conventions of the Organization of American States related to the world drug problem.

CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), The Bahamas has bilateral and regional cooperation agreements for mutual assistance on drug trafficking and related crimes. CICAD also observes that during the seven rounds (1999-2018), the country has had legal provisions and internal procedures to provide mutual legal assistance on drug trafficking and related matters. As for extradition, CICAD notes that from the fifth to the seventh rounds (2007-2018), The Bahamas has had legislation on extradition for drug trafficking and money laundering crimes, including extradition of nationals.

CICAD recognizes The Bahamas 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).



**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)
INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)**

1889 F Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20006
www.cicad.oas.org