

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)

Achievements

1997 - 2007

MEM



Organization of American States (OAS)

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)



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1. Introduction

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) has become a model of multilateral cooperation within the Organization of American States (OAS) and the hemisphere. The evaluation of countries' efforts and progress made in addressing the drug problem has been carried out within the framework of transparency, impartiality and equality, with a view to ensuring an objective assessment of hemispheric progress in this area. Looking to the future, the MEM process will continue to confront many challenges, but we have seen that it is an effective mechanism for drug abuse control in the hemisphere.

Maintaining the required level of participation of 34 member states has been challenging but has been made possible through the combined efforts of all who form part of this process: the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) Commissioners and CICAD's Executive Secretariat, the National Coordinating Entities, the members of the Inter-Governmental Working Group (IWG) and of the Governmental Expert Group (GEG) who have participated fully in this multifaceted work throughout the three evaluation rounds.

This MEM Achievements Report provides an account of the experience of this unique instrument's first ten years (1997-2007) through constant dialogue among participating countries, generating, and in some cases strengthening, mutual confidence among the nations of the hemisphere. The report reflects the specific positive results, which as a consequence of the evaluation process, have been achieved by member states and shows also the need for countries to continue to apply and strengthen their public policies for their national antidrug strategies to be more effective.

The report presents a historic overview of the mechanism, including the background of the evaluation process and the changes and modifications which have taken place throughout the period under review. It also reflects the progress made in implementation of the recommendations assigned during the first three evaluation rounds, together with the achievements of the member states as a result of the MEM.

The objective of this collective review is not only to provide transparency to the MEM, but also to present to the reader – from Commissioners to non-specialized individuals – a clear and objective summary of the ten years which have passed since the MEM's inception.

2. Operative Background

2.1 Historical overview of the MEM

The multilateral approach to the common problem of drug production, trafficking and abuse in the Americas has a substantial developmental history. It originated from the Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere of 1996, which established hemispheric acceptance of the concept of shared responsibility among nations for the problems resulting from the illicit trafficking and the illicit use of drugs.

The OAS, through the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, agreed to convene consultative meetings in Washington, D.C. in 1997 to analyze country proposals to create an evaluation mechanism, and decide on the procedure for designing a multilateral mechanism consistent with the Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere adopted by CICAD in Buenos Aires and signed in Montevideo in December 1996.



In 1998, the Santiago Summit, acting through the OAS, proposed the creation of a multilateral evaluation mechanism which would make periodic recommendations to member states on improving their capacity to control illicit drug trafficking and abuse and enhance multilateral cooperation.

The Heads of State and Governments of the Americas declared in the Plan of Action that their countries would undertake the following specific action:

“Continue to develop their national and multilateral efforts in order to achieve full application of the Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere, and strengthen this alliance based on the principles of respect for the sovereignty and territorial jurisdiction of the States, reciprocity, shared responsibility and an integrated, balanced approach in conformity with their domestic laws;

With the intention of strengthening mutual confidence, dialogue and hemispheric cooperation and on the basis of the aforementioned principles, develop, within the framework of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD-OAS), a singular and objective process of multilateral governmental evaluation in order to monitor the progress of their individual and collective efforts in the Hemisphere and of all the countries participating in the Summit, in dealing with the diverse manifestations of the problem.”

Based on these mandates and in order to execute them, the Intergovernmental Working Group of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (IWG-MEM) was formed with representatives from the 34 member states. The group assembled six times between 1998 and 1999 to negotiate the design of the mechanism. This process was completed in September of 1999 in Canada, and put into its first application by decision of the Commission in October of 1999.

2.2 Characteristics

In designing the MEM, the Commission agreed that the Mechanism would be applicable to all member states, individually and collectively; that it would be governmental, unique and objective, with the participation of specialized representatives of the governments; that it will be transparent, impartial, and equitable so as to ensure objective evaluation; that it would ensure full, timely participation by the states, based on generally applied norms and procedures, established by mutual agreement in advance, in order to ensure an equitable evaluation process; that it would not contain sanctions of any nature; and that it would respect the confidentiality of deliberations and information administered by the states, in accordance with the norms and procedures established in advance.

2.3 Objectives and goals

The MEM is a tool for CICAD member states to effectively address the drug problem by strengthening their control policies, programs, and projects. This is achieved through monitoring and evaluating the progress of individual and collective efforts of all the countries, indicating both results achieved, as well as obstacles faced by member states. Additionally, the MEM assigns recommendations to countries in order to promote action in areas which need improvement. Key objectives of the MEM also include:

- Identifying strengths, weaknesses, progress and setbacks in the anti-drug policies and programs of each member state and in the hemisphere.
- Strengthening mutual confidence, dialogue and hemispheric cooperation in order to face the various aspects of the drug problem with greater efficacy.



- Assisting countries in the generation of internal support in their fight against drugs, stimulating changes and the development of drug control systems.
- Offering countries the opportunity to request technical, financial, or training assistance to implement assigned recommendations.

2.4 Process

The evaluation process is conducted through the Governmental Expert Group (GEG), which produces periodic reports that measure both the progress of public and civil society anti-drug policies of the 34 CICAD member states and by the hemisphere as whole. The GEG is composed of 34 experts in the various aspects that comprise the drug problem, and each country designates a main expert and can assign an alternate. The GEG is headed by a General Coordinator and a Deputy General Coordinator, chosen by their peers at the beginning of each evaluation round. The governmental experts do not participate in the evaluation of their own country.

Through this transparent and participatory peer-review process, which examines institutional capacity, demand and supply reduction efforts, and control measures, member states become more aware of the strengths and weaknesses of their anti-drug programs, and are encouraged through recommendations to correct deficiencies, seeking assistance from the CICAD Commission or from its member states if needed. The MEM has already completed three evaluation rounds and it has begun the Fourth Evaluation Round. Each round has two phases, the first dealing with the complete evaluation, and the second with the follow-up to the recommendations.

All 34 member states participate in the MEM process at many levels: through their National Coordinating Entity which provides information from various national agencies and institutions; country experts and alternate(s), who carry out the individual and hemispheric evaluations (while not participating in their own country's evaluation); the CICAD Commission (which is the highest political body of CICAD) which reviews and approves all evaluation reports; and, through the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) which reviews all details of the MEM process with a view to improving all rounds.

Participants in the MEM Process

BODY	FUNCTION	PARTICIPATION
National Coordinating Entities (NCE)	Provides the official data and responses to indicators gathered from national agencies and institutions. Coordinates all information provided by the country requested by experts	34 government appointed institutions / officials from 34 member states
Governmental Expert Group (GEG)	Analyzes information and carries out national and hemispheric evaluations	34 governmental experts from 34 member states and alternates
CICAD Commission	Approves the reports drafted by the GEG and recommended changes by the IWG	34 Commissioners from 34 member states
Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG)	Reviews the process and presents recommended changes to the Commission	34 delegations from 34 member states
The MEM Section - CICAD	Coordinates all activities of the process and provides technical support	6 Staff members of the CICAD/OAS Executive Secretariat



Phase 1 - FULL EVALUATION REPORTS

Countries being evaluated provide data in response to a standardized questionnaire. Beginning with the Fourth Evaluation Round, each country is also asked to present a document prepared by its government on the situation of the country's drug problem. This document illustrates achievements that the country has made, as well as the difficulties it faces and areas which it has prioritized as well those in which cooperation should be strengthened.

The indicators within the questionnaire are divided into four main categories: Institutional Strengthening; Demand Reduction; Supply Reduction; and Control Measures. These indicators serve as tools for measuring national and hemispheric efforts to combat illicit drug use, production and trafficking. They provide feedback on how nations are meeting goals in a wide range of areas, including the development of anti-drug strategies and national plans, drug seizure operations, the creation of prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation programs, reduction in illicit crop production, diversion of pharmaceutical products and controlled chemical substances, prevention of money laundering and arms trafficking, among others.

The Governmental Expert Group (GEG) reviews and analyzes the information provided by the questionnaire and the introductory document presented by each country. The drafts of the final evaluations are presented during the corresponding CICAD regular sessions so they can be discussed and approved.

Phase 2 - RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOW-UP

Countries report on progress made in response to recommendations assigned as well as the priority accorded to individual recommendations. Responses include a description of the methods and specific measures used to achieve progress on implementing each recommendation, as well as obstacles overcome or still to be overcome. Countries may include requests for technical or other assistance related to the implementation of recommendations. Based on these responses, the Group of Experts drafts the recommendation implementation report.

2.5 Developments and adjustments over the past evaluation rounds

The MEM is continuously adjusting to the new realities of the drug problem which are ever changing. The Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) therefore meets before the onset of each MEM evaluation round to review and improve all operational aspects of the mechanism. This includes all indicators of the questionnaire, the evaluation cycle, periodicity of reports and the process in general.

2.5.1 Questionnaire of indicators

During the First Round in 1999, the MEM was focused on establishing a base line of data. Consequently, many of the 61 indicators were designed with this in mind and measured existence more than results. For the Second Round the 83 indicators in the questionnaire covered the subject of effectiveness of systems and mechanisms within a country's anti-drug policy while for the Third and Fourth Rounds (86 and 51 indicators respectively) the MEM had established enough data to focus more on progress and results.

Over the various rounds, new indicators have been included as well as eliminated from the MEM questionnaire. For example, in the Second Evaluation Round, member states were asked for the first time to inform on corruption-related issues, such as the number of government officials charged and convicted in connection with drug trafficking as well as progress on the



implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption. Indicators on displacement of illicit crops and transnational organized crime were also introduced for that particular round, while the fourth round includes a new indicator on the use of the internet to sell pharmaceutical products and other drugs.

2.5.2 In situ visits

The Commission agreed that country visits should be an integral part of the MEM process, to determine the country's situation and the obstacles encountered; obtain political support from the member states; promote cooperation and improve the quality of dialogue among them and CICAD; promote countries' full participation in the MEM process; and provide training and promote technical assistance, as appropriate.

The first in-situ country visits were carried out during the Third Evaluation Round, to Antigua and Barbuda (2005) and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (2006). They included interviews with authorities and technical personnel of the countries together with the hosting of awareness workshop for those responsible for completing the MEM Questionnaire of Indicators and reporting on the implementation of recommendations.

2.6 Training Workshops for National Coordinating Entities (NCEs)

The National Coordinating Entities of the MEM (NCEs) are designated by each one of the 34 member states participating in the MEM process. The NCEs provide the official response to the MEM Questionnaire of Indicators and coordinate collection and transmittal of the information requested by the Governmental Expert Group (GEG) so that it can conduct its evaluation.

During the four evaluation rounds, the NCEs in each member state have been responsible for compiling all the information requested in each Questionnaire of Indicators, answering the queries or requests for clarification of this information by the Governmental Expert Group (GEG), and adding the comments to the draft evaluation reports. In most countries, this function, which is fundamental to the MEM process, is carried out by professionals who work on national drug committees and, in some cases, by experts of the national observatories on drugs. Thus, the NCEs are made up of professionals who are familiar with the different dimensions of the drug problem and the areas involved in it, both from the standpoint of demand reduction and supply reduction. However, in order to collect the information required for the MEM, the NCEs need the collaboration of other agencies and institutions in their countries.

After the experience acquired from the First Evaluation Round, it became clear that NCEs in each country needed to be trained on certain fundamental areas of the process. This training was done for the Second, Third, and Fourth Evaluation Rounds. It should be noted that before the beginning of each MEM Evaluation Round, the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) has recommended modifications and updates to key aspects of the process, including the Questionnaire of Indicators. Because of these changes, and the variation of the NCEs from one institution or person to another within a country, NCE training sessions were organized before starting the Second, Third, and Fourth rounds.

These sessions or workshops shared common objectives, namely, to train NCEs in all aspects of the MEM process for the next round and to inform NCE representatives of the role they would be playing throughout the evaluation cycle. The workshops focused primarily on the role of NCEs, the MEM process, and the history of and responses to the indicators in the Questionnaire of Indicators. Guidelines were offered to NCEs on technical aspects of the process, including how to use the MEM Web Processing System to process information for the MEM Evaluation Reports.



The following table shows the place, year, and participants for each training workshop offered to the National Coordinating Entities (NCEs) from 2002 to 2006.

**Training Sessions for the MEM National Coordinating Entities
2002-2006**

Evaluation Round	Location	Date	NCE Participants
Second Evaluation Round (2001-2002)	San Jose, Costa Rica	11-12 February 2002	Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Dominican Republic
	Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago	15-16 February 2002	Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago
	Lima, Peru	18-19 February 2002	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela
Third Evaluation Round (2003-2004)	Washington, D.C. USA	2-3 October 2003	Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, United States, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, St. Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela
Fourth Evaluation Round (2005-2006)	Montego Bay, Jamaica	11-12 July 2006	Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Dominica, United States, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago
	San Salvador, El Salvador	18-19 July 2006	Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Dominican Republic
	Bogota, Colombia	27-28 July 2006	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela

2.7 Activities to promote the MEM

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) has benefited from the continuous participation of the 34 member states. As a result of this participation and the work done by the countries, the MEM is emerging as a model of multilateral cooperation within the OAS and the Hemisphere in general. Nevertheless, for a number of reasons, some countries do not find it easy to maintain a high level of participation.



*Training for national institutions,
Asuncion, Paraguay (September 2006)*

During the Third Evaluation Round, the NCEs themselves expressed their concern over the obstacles encountered with some institutions in their countries in their attempts to obtain either the information requested or organized data to respond to a given indicator. This problem was also detected by the experts in analyzing the information provided by the countries. In view of this situation, the main stakeholders involved in the MEM process endeavored to find a way to improve not only the quantity but also the quality of the information provided through the indicators. For this purpose it was necessary to approach the different institutions providing the data for each of the indicators, to analyze the evolution of the mechanism itself after

its first few years in operation, and the steps that should be taken in the future.

Both the NCEs and the governmental experts and Commissioners in each country were familiar with the MEM and its operations and benefits. However, in some instances one of the pillars of the MEM, namely the agencies and institutions that provide the information, were not acquainted with the mechanism, nor of its reports or the benefits that could be derived from its use.

In order to improve not only the quantity but also the quality of the information provided, to promote the participation of countries, and more importantly, to encourage countries to implement the recommendations, the results and original objectives of the MEM had to be expanded to include all the stakeholders involved in both national and hemispheric drug policies.

To achieve this end, CICAD's Executive Secretariat, together with the GEG and the NCEs, prepared a proposal to be transmitted to CICAD. The main objectives of this proposal were as follows:

- To establish MEM as a diagnostic tool to be used in designing and implementing anti-drug programs and policies in each country and internationally;
- To promote the transparent and multilateral aspects of MEM, which are its unique characteristics and the main strength of the national and hemispheric reports;
- To emphasize the unique nature of MEM, and differentiate it from other evaluation processes or reports, by highlighting the benefits that institutions and governments can derive from the mechanism;
- To strengthen the participation of member states in the MEM process.

Consequently, in April 2005, the MEM Section began planning and developing activities to promote MEM nationally and internationally. These activities are designed with the active participation of all stakeholders, and are based on the unique reality of each country. In some member countries, the coordinating entities took the initiative and began developing activities to promote the MEM before the idea was adopted by CICAD.



*International Anti-Narcotics Conference,
Paramibo, Suriname (October 2006)*

It is important to note that it is also the responsibility of governments to accord the necessary importance to the Mechanism and to disseminate their national report to the public. Given that the drug problem affects society as a whole, making the results public contributes to an informed dialogue on the challenges and priorities to be addressed in each country, thus contributing to basic agreements with regard to actions and policies to follow.

The initial events coordinated by CICAD were planned on the basis of the individual needs of each country, taking into account first those countries that had encountered the most difficulties in maintaining their

level of participation or in collecting and transmitting information. Based on the positive experience of early events, the countries on their own began asking the Section to assist them in planning promotional events and workshops.

MEM promotional activities have primarily taken three forms, based on each country's situation and needs:

- **MEM Training Workshops:** These are one- or two-day workshops in which all agencies and institutions that provide information through the MEM Evaluation Questionnaire of Indicators or the form for following up on recommendations. These workshops are coordinated by the country's National Coordinating Entity or its MEM Section contact, and focus on explaining how the mechanism operates, the stage in the evaluation process that the country is going through, and finally on interaction with participants to identify the problems the country is facing and find solutions to them. These workshops are usually geared to collecting information and transmitting data, and so they are designed for the technicians who perform these tasks. In some cases, CICAD's Inter-American Observatory on Drugs has also participated.

- **Institutional visits:** In some countries, the NCE has identified a need to visit the authorities of certain institutions, ministries, or agencies to emphasize the importance of maintaining active participation in MEM and to support their staff to ensure the country's continued participation in collecting and transmitting data, the work of the NCE, and the participation of its governmental expert. Generally, the NCEs, the Coordinator of the MEM Section, the Section contact of the country in question, and, in some cases, CICAD's Executive Secretary participate in these visits.



*Training for national institutions
San Salvador, El Salvador (July 2006)*

- **The media:** Media participation in the opening of workshops has been encouraged, and NCEs have been encouraged to issue press releases after the publication of MEM reports. Additionally, during the first evaluation rounds, CICAD Commissioners held press conferences during the regular sessions to present the MEM reports. In some countries, CICAD representatives are interviewed and articles on the MEM are published in the national press. Moreover, the NCEs have used their different publications to include articles on the MEM.



Since the initial experiences in the course of 2005, significant improvements have been noted in collection and transmittal of information in some countries where workshops have been organized. The countries themselves have spoken of the benefits achieved through visits by the MEM Section or support for their promotional initiatives.

The following table highlights some examples of national and international events developed in 2004, 2005 and 2006 which included the MEM.

Country:	Date:	Event:
<i>El Salvador</i>	September 2004	Meeting of Ministers: Presentation on the MEM and the participation of El Salvador in the MEM Process.
<i>Barbados</i>	June 2005	Meeting of Caribbean National Drug Observatories Bridgetown, Barbados. A three-day meeting, coordinated by CICAD's Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID) was held to highlight the critical role that research and information plays within national drug observatories, and to demonstrate the link between observatories and the MEM process, among other issues.
<i>Jamaica</i>	June 2005	Meeting of the chiefs of supply and demand reduction. Organized by the National Council on Drug Abuse.
<i>Haiti</i>	June 2005	Several activities were held in conjunction with the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Drug Trafficking . Organized by CONALD - <i>Comision Nationale de Lutte Contre la Drogue</i> .
<i>Mexico</i>	June 2005	Several activities were held in conjunction with the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Drug Trafficking . Organized by the <i>Dirección General para Temas Globales</i> , of the <i>Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores de México</i> .
<i>Peru</i>	June 2005	High Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean Mechanism A presentation of the MEM was conducted and the MEM national report for Peru was distributed to delegates from the national anti-drug commissions of the Andean countries, European Union, and the Andean Community (CAN). Organized by DEVIDA and CAN.
<i>United States</i>	June 2005	XXXV General Assembly of the OAS Florida, USA Press Conference: Presentation of National and Hemispheric Evaluation Reports from the Third Evaluation Round, 2003-2004 of the MEM. The reports were presented to OAS member state representatives.
<i>Grenada</i>	July 2005	Meeting of the Grenada Drug Information Network (GRENADIN). A presentation on the MEM was made during the meeting, organized by the National Council on Drug Control.
<i>Ecuador</i>	August 2005	Visit by the CICAD Executive Secretary. This visit was organized by the <i>Consejo Nacional de Control de Sustancias Estupefacientes y Psicotrópicas</i> (CONSEP) of Ecuador and consisted of meetings with different national authorities implementing drug control strategies.

continues



Country:	Date:	Event:
Saint Kitts and Nevis	August 2005	Promotional Workshop on the MEM and the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID).
Dominica	September 2005	Promotional and MEM Awareness Visit to Dominica. A MEM Promotional Visit to raise awareness among various government agencies was made to Dominica. The visit also highlighted the importance and the benefits of the MEM. Visit organized by CICAD and the National Drug Abuse Prevention Unit, Ministry of Health and Social Security.
Guyana	September 2005	Training and MEM Promotional Workshop for national institutions that compile information for the MEM Questionnaire of Indicators. This meeting was organized by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of the Interior of Guyana and CICAD. The meeting was inaugurated by the Minister of the Interior.
Jamaica	November 2005	Meeting of Directors of Drug Councils of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM): presentation on the MEM and its recommendations to the Caribbean.
Austria	November 2005	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Presentation on the MEM at the Group of Experts Meeting on the Progress of Demand Reduction.
Dominican Republic	March 2006	Model General Assembly of the OAS The 23 rd Model OAS General Assembly (MOAS) for university students from OAS member states. The MEM Section participated as a consultant reviewing resolutions related to the MEM.
Colombia	July 2006	Training for Colombian National Institutions Ministry of Foreign Relations - Bogota, Colombia
El Salvador	July 2006	Training for National Coordinating Agencies
Belize	August 2006	A MEM Promotional Visit to Belize organized by CICAD and National Drug Abuse Control Council (NDACC). The visit consisted of meetings with authorities from various government agencies involved with the MEM process. The meetings highlighted the roles of the governmental agencies during the evaluation period, how the MEM functions, and the benefits to the country provided by the MEM.
Venezuela	September 2006	Training for Venezuelan national institutions Organized by <i>the Oficina Nacional Antidrogas de Venezuela</i> (ONA) and CICAD.
Paraguay	September 2006	Training for national institutions. Organized by the <i>Secretaría Nacional Antidrogas</i> (SENAD) / CICAD.
Costa Rica	October 2006	A MEM Promotional visit was made to Costa Rica organized by CICAD and by the <i>Instituto Costarricense sobre Drogas</i> (ICD). This visit included meetings with various government ministries and institutions involved in the MEM process. The objective of these meetings was to promote the MEM and to enhance coordination between the various government agencies and institutions involved in Costa Rica's anti-drug efforts.

continues



Country:	Date:	Event:
Guatemala	October 2006	A MEM Promotional Visit to raise awareness among various government agencies was made to Guatemala. The visit included a training workshop for national agencies involved in the collection of information for the Questionnaire of Indicators. The workshop was hosted with the collaboration of CICAD and the <i>Comisión contra las Adicciones y el Tráfico Ilícito de Drogas</i> (SECCATID). Meetings were also held with various government ministries that are involved in the MEM process. These meetings were held to enhance inter-institutional cooperation and dialogue in order to strengthen Guatemala's anti-drug policies.
Suriname	October 2006	A training workshop was held for national institutions of Suriname responsible for collecting information for the Questionnaire of Indicators. The workshop was sponsored by the National Anti-Drug Council (NAR) and its objective was to increase the awareness of the MEM process among the national institutions of Suriname. The workshop was attended by members of NAR and by representatives from various sectors involved in drug control in Suriname. Presentations were made by a member of the MEM Section, NAR, and by the Governmental Expert from Suriname.
Suriname	October 2006	International Anti-Narcotics Conference The main purpose of this Conference was to determine policy on coordinating and intensifying bilateral, regional and global efforts aimed at limiting narcotics' trafficking and dismantling drug-related criminal organizations. A presentation on the MEM Evaluation process was delivered by the MEM Section.

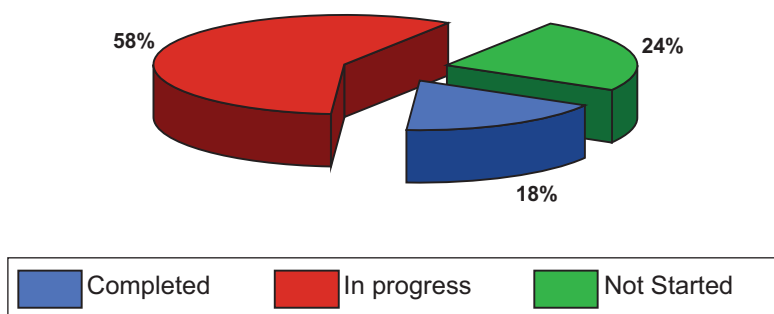
3. MEM Recommendations

3.1 Recommendations

3.1.1 Implementation status of recommendations

The First Evaluation Round assigned a total of 444 recommendations to member states. During the follow up of implementation of recommendations a year later, 18% of these actions were reported as completed, 58% reported in progress and 24% were considered as not having started.

Graphic 1:
Implementation of Recommendations from
the First Evaluation Round 1999-2000





The breakdown of First Round recommendations by thematic area can be observed in the following table:

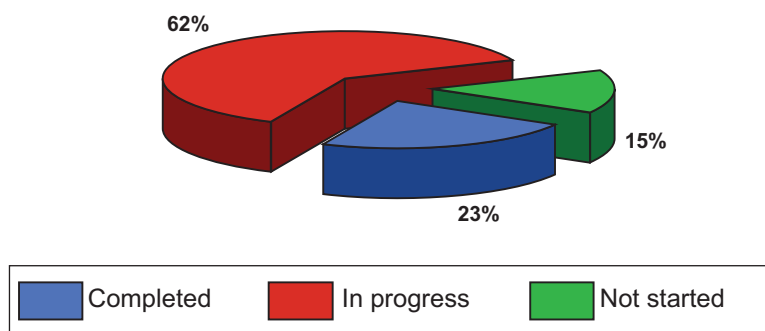
THEMATIC AREA	Completed	In Progress	Not started	Total
INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING	15	79	41	135
National Anti-Drug Strategy	6	22	5	33
International Conventions	8	29	3	40
National Information System	1	28	33	62
DEMAND REDUCTION	12	66	27	105
Prevention	7*	41*	18*	66*
Treatment	5*	23*	14*	42*
Drug Use Statistics	1	16	5	22
SUPPLY REDUCTION	19	43	19	81
Production and Alt. Development	10	14	7	31
Control of Pharmaceutical Products	5*	5*	5*	15*
Control of Chemical Substances	8*	28*	10*	46*
CONTROL MEASURES	30	60	16	106
Illicit Drug Trafficking	8*	8	1	17*
Firearms	12	29	13	54
Money Laundering	11	23	2	36
TOTAL	76	248	103	427**
NOT REPORTED		17		444

* This total includes one or more recommendations which belong to two different thematic areas, and are therefore counted only once for purposes of calculating totals.

** This total does not include the 17 recommendations assigned to Guyana, as the country did not report on their implementation status.

The Second Evaluation Round assigned a total of 342 recommendations to member states. During the follow up of implementation of recommendations a year later, 23% of these actions were reported as completed, 62% reported in progress and 15% were considered as not having started.

**Graphic 2:
Implementation of Recommendations from
the Second Evaluation Round 2001-2002**





The breakdown of Second Round recommendations by thematic area can be observed in the following table:

THEMATIC AREA	Completed	In Progress	Not started	Total
INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING	26	75	12	113
National Anti-Drug Strategy	5	9	1	15
International Conventions	18	49	9	76
National Information System	3	17	2	22
DEMAND REDUCTION	15	37	18	70
Prevention	8	15*	9*	32*
Treatment	6	16*	8*	30*
Drug Use Statistics	1	13	5	19
SUPPLY REDUCTION	14	42	12	68
Production and Alt. Development	2	10	5	17
Control of Pharmaceutical Products	5*	15*	3*	23*
Control of Chemical Substances	10*	28*	6*	44*
CONTROL MEASURES	21	48	6	75
Illicit Drug Trafficking	4*	8	0	12*
Firearms	8	19	3	30
Money Laundering	9*	17	2	28*
Corruption	1	4	1	6
TOTAL	76	202	48	326**
NOT REPORTED		16		342

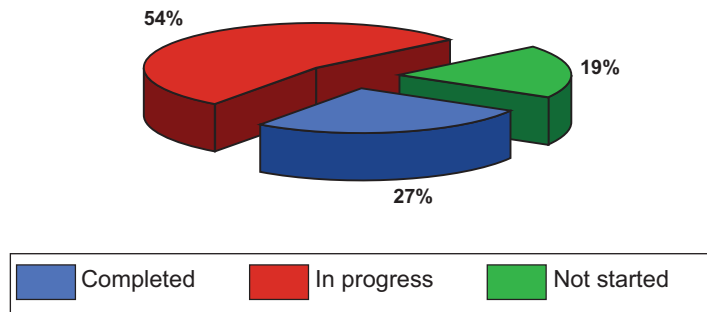
* This total includes one or more recommendations which belong to two different thematic areas, and are therefore counted only once for purposes of calculating totals.

** This total does not include the 16 recommendations assigned to Guyana, as the country did not report on their implementation status.



The Third Evaluation Round assigned a total of 506 recommendations¹ to member states. During the follow up of implementation of recommendations a year later, 27% of these actions were reported as completed, 54% reported in progress and 19% were considered as not having started.

**Graphic 3:
Implementation of Recommendations from
the Third Evaluation Round 2003-2004**



¹A total of 506 recommendations were assigned in the Third Evaluation Round reports. However, for the purposes of the analysis made in this report, 498 recommendations are being taken into account: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines did not report on the implementation of its 16 recommendations and therefore could not be evaluated. However, Antigua and Barbuda was reincorporated into the process and the implementation of eight recommendations pending in the Second Evaluation Round was analyzed.



The breakdown of Third Round recommendations by thematic area can be observed in the following table:

THEMATIC AREA	Completed	In Progress	Not started	Total
INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING	11	56	17	84
National Anti-Drug Strategy	4	5	3	12
International Conventions	2	35	13	50
National Information System	5	16	1	22
DEMAND REDUCTION	39	82	31	152
Prevention	11	30*	6	47*
Treatment	7	31*	15	53*
Drug Use Statistics	21	22	10	53
SUPPLY REDUCTION	27	49	21	97
Production and Alt. Development	10	6	3	19
Control of Pharmaceutical Products	8*	25*	8*	41*
Control of Chemical Substances	10*	19*	12*	41*
CONTROL MEASURES	56	82	27	165
Illicit Drug Trafficking	10	7	4	21
Firearms	11	15	10	36
Money Laundering	27	46	10	83
Corruption	5	10	1	16
Organized Crime	3	4	2	9
TOTAL	133	269	96	498**
NOT REPORTED		16		514

* This total includes one or more recommendations which belong to two different thematic areas, and are therefore counted only once for purposes of calculating totals.

** This total does not include the 16 recommendations assigned to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, as the country did not report on their implementation status.

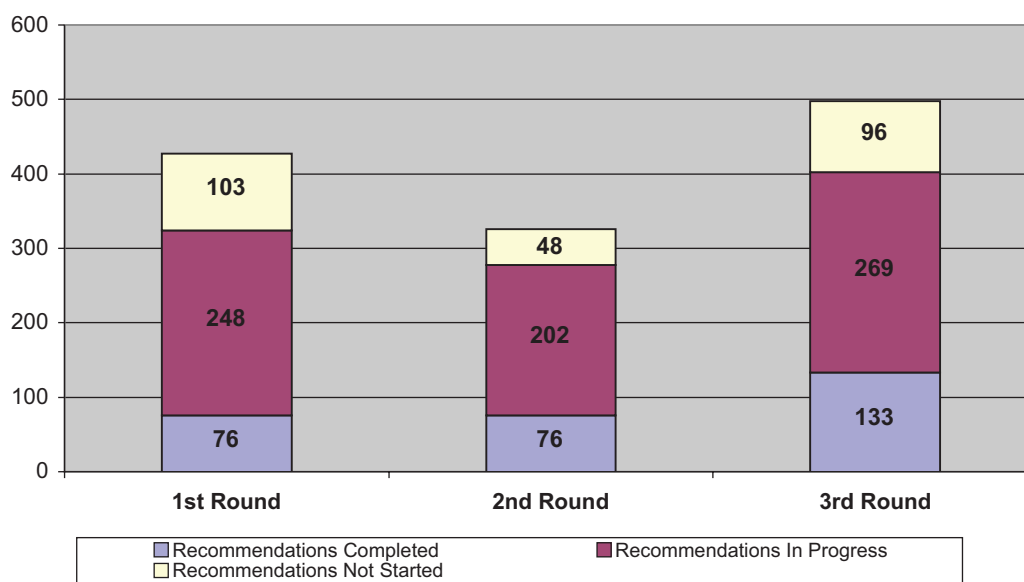


3.1.2 Progress of implementation of recommendations throughout three evaluation rounds

During the three evaluation rounds of the MEM, a total of 1,033 recommendations have been formulated. Taking the results of the recommendation follow up evaluations, approximately one third have been reported as fulfilled in total. Furthermore, among the pending recommendations at the end of the Third Evaluation Round, a significant percentage of them are in progress (54%) and only 19% of pending recommendations have not been started.

The implementation of recommended actions has helped the countries to adequately direct their anti-drug efforts. During the First Evaluation Round, 1999-2000, 76 were fulfilled; during the Second Evaluation Round, 2001-2002, countries implemented a similar number of recommendations, amounting to 152 completed recommendations; and during the Third Evaluation Round, 2003-2004, another 133 recommendations were implemented, for a total of 285 fulfilled recommendations from May 2001 (publication date of the national reports of the First Evaluation Round) to May 2006 (publication date of the reports on the implementation of recommendations of the Third Evaluation Round of the MEM).

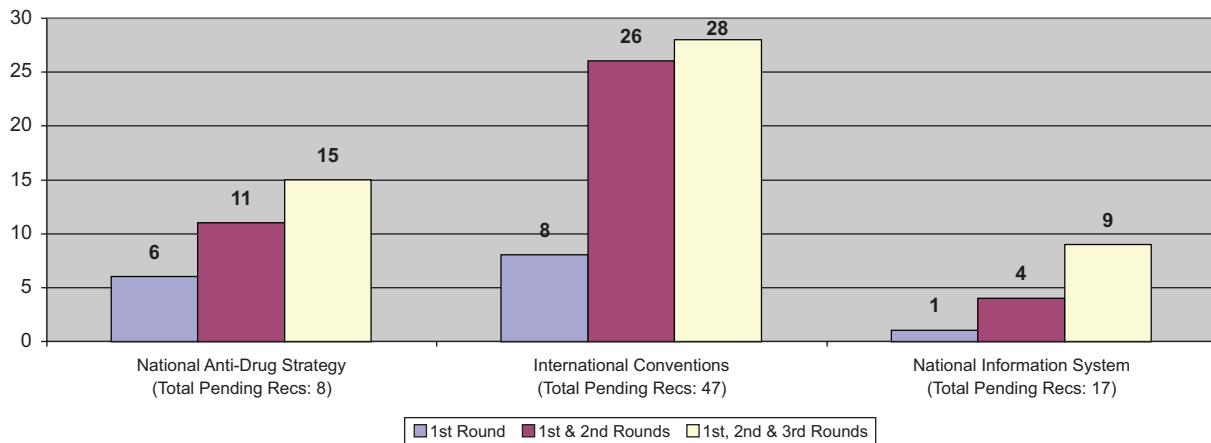
Graphic 4:
Progress of the Implementation of Recommendations through the Three Evaluation Rounds of the MEM





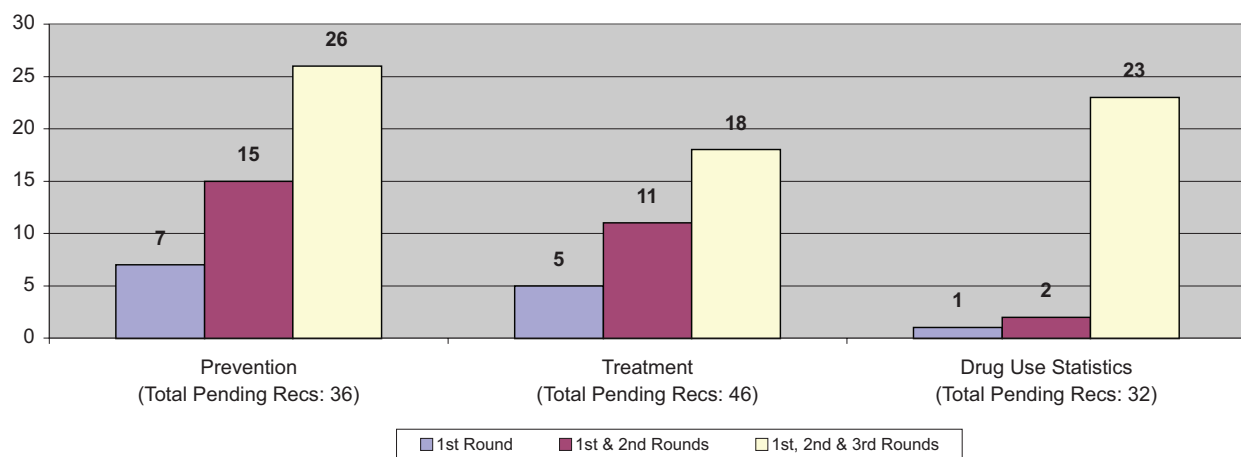
Regarding the analysis of recommendations by thematic area of the Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere, in the thematic area of institutional strengthening, the largest number of completed recommendations are related to international conventions, followed by those related to the national anti-drug strategy, and national information systems.

**Graphic 5:
Progress of the Implementation of Recommendations in the Area of
Institutional Strengthening through the Three Evaluation Rounds of the MEM**



In the area of demand reduction, countries have directed their efforts more towards implementing recommendations related to drug use prevention, followed closely by those related to drug use statistics through national studies, and less so by those related to drug abuse treatment, which is at the same time the subject that has the largest number of pending recommendations in this area.

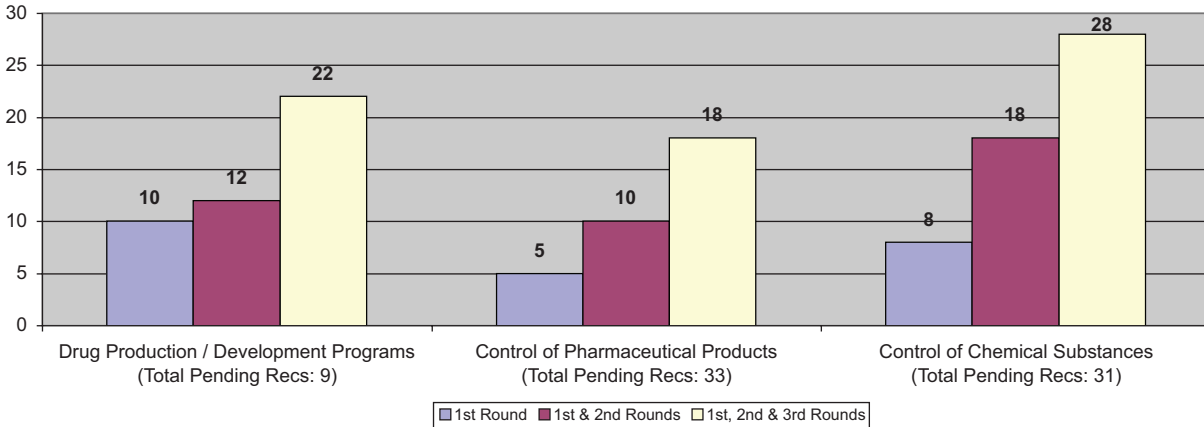
**Graphic 6:
Progress of the Implementation of Recommendations in the Area of
Demand Reduction through the Three Evaluation Rounds of the MEM**





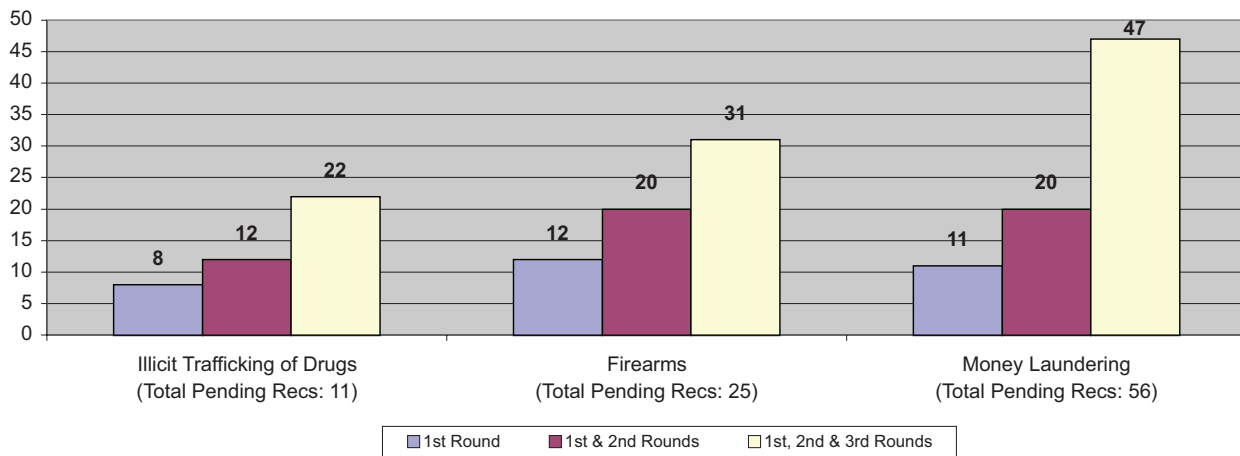
In the area of supply reduction, the largest number of recommendations that countries have implemented are related to the control of chemical substances, followed by those related to drug production and alternative development programs, and those related to the control of pharmaceutical products, which at the same time have the largest number of pending recommendations.

**Graphic 7:
Progress of the Implementation of Recommendations in the Area of
Supply Reduction through the Three Evaluation Rounds of the MEM**



Finally, with respect to the area of control measures, countries have completed a greater amount of recommendations related to money laundering, followed by those related to firearms and illicit drug trafficking, respectively. Moreover, the greater number of recommendations pending completion by countries are related to money laundering.

**Graphic 8:
Progress of the Implementation of Recommendations in the Area of
Control Measures through the Three Evaluation Rounds of the MEM**





3.2 Highlights of achievements in member states

The following section highlights the main achievements reached and the benefits each of the 34 member states has experienced as a result of the MEM during the first three rounds.



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Establishment of a mechanism for the management and administration of assets seized and forfeited from drug trafficking.
- Establishment of a mechanism for recording specific data on the number of administrative or regulatory sanctions applied by supervisory agencies to financial institutions or judicial sanctions issued by the competent authority.
- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, 1996.
- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), 1997.
- Ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000.
- Strengthening and integration of the collection of drug related statistics by incorporating data on illicit crop cultivation and eradication.
- Establishment of a database, operational since 2004, to record information relating to money laundering, including specific records of all failures to comply by financial institutions that could lead to administrative or judicial sanctions.
- Execution of two national surveys in secondary schools (2002 and 2005) to determine the nature and extent of drug use among the country's youth in secondary schools, identify patterns and specific problems faced by young people, determine their attitudes toward drug use, and create a social and demographic correlated database.
- Enactment of legislation for receiving and replying to pre-export notifications.



ARGENTINA

Argentina reported on the main achievements reached as a result of the MEM from three evaluation rounds as follows:

Achievement 1: Ratification of International Conventions: Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), and the three Protocols to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

This has enabled the country to adopt regulatory guidelines on the subject matter of the conventions and demonstrate its ongoing commitment to aligning its domestic laws and policies with international standards.

Achievement 2: Enactment of new laws on controlled chemical substances (Decree 1161/00 and Law 26.045).

The MEM permitted the country to move forward more quickly with the promulgation of the aforementioned legislation by the executive and legislative branches, providing the country with a more complete set of rules and regulations to control diversion of chemical substances, including introduction of operational improvements in the national register of chemical precursors and an increase in the number of administrative infractions subject to punitive measures.

Achievement 3: Creation of the Argentine Observatory on Drugs.

The Observatory has carried out a significant number of studies that provide up-to-date analyses of the scale of drug use in the country. Furthermore, the repetition of such studies over time allows comparison of results in the long term. The MEM has also helped the country to gain access to technical and financial assistance with which to equip various provincial-level intelligence units and carry out specific studies (at treatment centres and hospital emergency rooms).

Achievement 4: Adoption of the National Anti-Drug Plan.

The plan constitutes a guide for the various national and provincial agencies involved in the fight against drugs to implement prevention and control measures, as well as enabling them to discuss and agree on lines of action to pursue in each area of the drug problem. The MEM made it possible for the Argentina to receive financial assistance in order to hold a meeting attended by representatives from all its provinces to discuss and approve the final text of the Plan. Accordingly, this document represents a basic consensus on all aspects of the national anti-drug policy.

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Implementation of a coordination mechanism for the exchange of information and collaboration among authorities responsible for the control of illicit drug trafficking and the diversion of chemical precursors.



- Establishment of a permanent registry system of persons arrested, processed and convicted for breaking the Law on Narcotics and the Law to Prevent and Control Money Laundering, including seized assets.
- Implementation of prevention programs targeting specific populations, such as street children and university students.
- Establishment of the Financial Information Unit, in accordance with the provisions made in Law 25.246, related to the prevention and control of money laundering.



THE BAHAMAS

The Bahamas reported on the main achievements reached as a result of the MEM from three evaluation rounds as follows:

Achievement 1: Completion of a National Anti-Drug Plan which covers all aspects of the illicit drug spectrum.

There is closer collaboration between all the relevant players in both the supply and demand areas of illicit drugs, thereby bringing a complete perspective to the problem.

Achievement 2: Establishment of a National Anti-Drug Secretariat.

This leads to a cohesiveness amongst those agencies mandated to deal with the illicit drug issue because representatives from both the supply and demand sides are housed in the same building allowing for a more timely degree of information sharing. The establishment of a National Anti-Drug Secretariat also allows for a more focused approach to the national anti-drug programs.

Achievement 3: Enactment of a Precursor Chemical Act (2006).

The Precursor Chemical Act (2006) will allow for a better control of the movement of precursor chemicals.

Achievement 4: Establishment of a Joint Intelligence Center and Heads of National Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA).

The creation of the Joint Intelligence Center and Heads of National Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) allows for the improvement in the coordination of intelligence gathering.

Achievement 5: Allocation of a budget to the National Anti-Drug Secretariat.

The allocation of a budget gives the National Anti-Drug Secretariat the ability to finance the Drug Plan.

Achievement 6: Conducted a secondary school drug use survey in 2001.

Allows for the determination of the prevalence of drug use amongst secondary school students.

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Establishment of a mechanism by the Drug Enforcement Unit of the Royal Bahamas Police Force consisting of weekly flights to survey the territory of The Bahamas in the search for illicit crops which can later be eradicated by law enforcement forces on the ground.



- Establishment of legislation that contains provisions for the application of criminal, civil, or administrative sanctions for the diversion of pharmaceuticals and controlled chemical substances through the detailing of penalties for persons contravening the relevant law and the establishment of the Bahamas Drug Agency.
- Creation of a system that provides data on the number of persons accused and convicted of the illicit manufacture and trafficking of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.
- Approval of the 2003-2008 National Anti-Drug Plan budget for its implementation.
- Launch of drug abuse prevention programs evaluations in schools. The results obtained indicated a need for an increase in such programs at the primary level.
- Maintenance of a register of arms legitimately imported as well as those seized, licensed and in transit.
- Implementation of evaluations of treatment and prevention programmes. A workshop was held in The Bahamas on drug programme evaluations, specifically to train the trainers.



BARBADOS

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Implementation of the United Nations Declaration of the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction in all the activities of the National Drug Commission.
- Implementation of a mechanism that provides information on the number of persons convicted for illicit drug trafficking and the number of requests for international cooperation to investigate and prosecute drug trafficking cases.
- Establishment of a formal committee comprising certain heads of strategic agencies to evaluate the effectiveness of operational information exchange and collaboration related to drugs and other important issues.
- Establishment of an information collection mechanism to compile information regarding the amount of drugs seized from persons accused of illicit drug possession and illicit drug trafficking.
- Development of a registry to maintain a record by dates, description and serial or lot numbers of firearms imported or in-transit.
- Establishment of "Minimum Standards for the Operation of Drug Treatment Facilities in Barbados" as mandatory national guidelines on standards of care for drug abuse treatment.
- Implementation of special investigative techniques, such as the use of informants in investigations and controlled deliveries.
- Establishment of a mechanism for interagency coordination and information exchanges between the Barbados police and international law enforcement agencies on firearms, ammunitions, explosives and other related materials.
- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials (CIFTA), 1997.



BELIZE

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Accession to the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol.
- Accession to the United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971.
- Accession to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000 and the Protocol to this Convention to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.
- Designation of the Courts as responsible entities for the administration and/or disposal of assets seized and confiscated in relation to the offenses of illicit drug trafficking and money laundering, and designation of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) as the competent authority and mechanism for the implementation of this process.
- Establishment of a new structure for the purpose of evaluating the collection data related to the drug problem, including demand reduction aspects. The data is evaluated by the Head of Intelligence, Commander of Operations and the Commissioner of Police.
- Establishment of six Drug Resource Centers in the six districts. Each site is staffed with a Drug Coordinator and members of the District Drug Demand Reduction Task Force.
- Establishment of a database that allows the district police stations to feed the relevant data on drug use on arrestees directly to the system. The Police are also involved in a working relationship with various companies where alcohol and drug use prevention “workplace policies” are being developed and implemented. These policies are developed by the company in collaboration with the National Drug Abuse Control Council (NDACC).
- Creation of a National Crimes Commission with major responsibility for evaluating and liaising with all national entities involved in controlling illicit drug trafficking.
- Implementation of an integrated data collection system with regards to the types of weapons and ammunition that were confiscated as well as their sources and destination.
- Creation of a special unit within the Police Department for the disposal of assets seized and confiscated in relation to money laundering.



BOLIVIA

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Consolidation of the National Council against Illicit Drug Trafficking (CONALTID).
- Establishment of the Bolivian Observatory on Drugs.
- Ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, 2003.
- Ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000, and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.
- Development of a database to record the types and quantities of firearms confiscated or forfeited in connection with illicit drug trafficking.
- Systematization at the central level of information on controlled psychotropic substances and narcotics. Also, activities were carried out with a view to harmonize intersectoral administration of the control of pharmaceutical products, and a manual for the management of psychotropic substances and narcotics was prepared to govern the activity of health professionals, public and private institutions, industrial pharmaceutical laboratories, importers, distributors, branch offices, and pharmaceutical establishments in general.
- Strengthening of border control mechanisms in order to prevent new routes for illicit drug trafficking. This has included the establishment of border control posts at strategic points throughout Bolivian territory (Copacabana, on the border with Peru; Villa Busch, on the border with Brazil; Tambo Quemado, on the border with Chile; and Bermejo, on the border with Argentina).
- Implementation of long and medium term crop reduction policies: the Coca and Controlled Substances Regime Act (Law 1008) and a comprehensive strategy, as well as institutional mechanisms that have enabled the objectives and goals of the country's crop reduction policies to be attained.
- Execution of systematic professional development training programs on drug abuse prevention for municipal teams.
- Development of a computer program containing structured information on individuals arrested and convicted for different types of crimes in general, including illicit drug trafficking.
- Implementation of integral alternative development programs and projects to offset the negative impact of coca crop reduction on farmer income.
- Execution of the GLEAM project to evaluate the natural resources of the traditional coca-producing area of los Yungas de La Paz.



BRAZIL

Brazil reported on the main achievements reached as a result of the MEM from three evaluation rounds as follows:

Achievement 1: Improvement of internal coordination on the war on drugs.

Additionally, the improvement of internal coordination has enhanced the work of Brazilian delegations participating in international forums.

Achievement 2: Consolidation of data on the war on drugs.

Brazil has easy access to data concerning the war on drugs (such as information on extradition of persons involved in illicit drug trafficking).

Achievement 3: Accession to international instruments.

The MEM process has acted as a catalyst for the country's accession to international instruments on drugs.

Achievement 4: Reproduction of the MEM review model in other spheres.

The MEM has served as a model for other mutual evaluation mechanisms, such as the Mechanism for Follow-up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC) and the Mechanism to Follow-up on Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI).

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Establishment of international cooperation to investigate and prosecute offenses involving the manufacture and illicit trafficking of firearms.
- Enactment of Law 10.826, which criminalizes the offences of illicit possession, use, trafficking, and trading of firearms, their components, and ammunition and establishes the corresponding sanctions.
- Creation of a computerized registry to record the responses to extradition requests made and received in relation to illicit drug trafficking and money laundering.
- Incorporation of data pertaining to judicial cooperation requests made or received by Brazil in relation to illicit drug trafficking into the National Justice and Public Security Information System (INFOSEG) of the National Secretariat for Public Security.
- Creation of the Corruption Prevention Secretariat.



- Creation of the Brazilian Drug Information Observatory (OBID).
- Strengthening of the application of the pre-export notification mechanism for controlled substances through coordinated action between the National Health Surveillance Agency and the Federal Police Department.
- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (1996).
- Ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000) and two of the three related Protocols, the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.



CANADA

Canada reported on the main achievements reached as a result of the MEM from three evaluation rounds as follows:

Achievement 1: Increased Partnerships, Coordination and Institutional Development.

In Canada, the MEM process has facilitated the development of partnerships and has enhanced networks. In addition, there has been a growth in the body of data related to substance use and abuse, and better coordination of efforts to address the issue. In general, the MEM has helped to promote institutional development.

Achievement 2: Collection of Information.

An important benefit of the MEM process is its requirement to pull together large volumes of drug-related information. Further, through the completion of the MEM, Canada is better able to identify gaps in information that would not have been previously identifiable. The MEM has provided Canada with a more centralized resource from which information can be gleaned. Lastly, the MEM process in general has allowed Canada to better define its priorities with respect to providing technical assistance to other member states.

Achievement 3: Benefit of GEG Recommendations.

The GEG recommendations have been beneficial to Canada, providing important expert advice, guidance, and direction. These recommendations have focused on the most pressing drug issues that require attention within Canada. They reflect the need for concrete action in a specific area, with the goal of enhancing Canada's response to a particular issue. The nature of this advice has helped to facilitate Canada's efforts in implementing various actions. Furthermore, there have also been strong links between recommendations and their value in identifying the technical assistance needs of a particular country.

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Creation of a National Framework for Action to Reduce the Harms Associated with Alcohol, Other Drugs and Substances.
- Establishment of a Clearinghouse under the Canadian Center on Substance Abuse, a national NGO mandated to provide a centralized source of information on alcohol and other drugs.
- Development of a system to estimate, monitor and eradicate illicit marijuana crops. In doing this a National Marijuana Grow Operation Coordinator was created to ensure a fully integrated effort with various government agencies. Other measures taken were the Operation Green Sweep, the Grow Busters Project, and the Operation High Seas.



- Enhancement of the detection and monitoring of illegal crop production, through the use of ground and aerial surveys as well as data collected from plant seizure reports and enforcement and crop eradication programs. A new program was also launched by the police and the Canadian Space Agency to enhance detection and monitoring of illegal crop production.
- Evaluation of the Drug Treatment Court Program in Toronto and Vancouver, with discussions of implementing further programs in Edmonton, Regina, Winnipeg, and Ottawa.
- Implementation of a program that contributes to international/multilateral efforts to control illicit drugs under the International Drug Issues Committee (IDC).
- Destruction by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police of synthetic drug processing facilities, with the help of the Drug Analysis Service of Health Canada. The new program "The National Precursor Chemical Diversion Program" has also aided in the prevention of the drug processing facilities.
- Strategic placement of clandestine lab teams throughout the country to deter, detect and dismantle illegal laboratories that produce synthetic drugs. The effort is funded through the National Drug Control Strategy.
- The implementation of The Uniform Crime Reporting Survey to register and identify the number of individuals charged and convicted for crimes related to drug trafficking. Data on convictions are obtained through the Adult Criminal Court Survey and the Youth Court Survey.
- Introduction of a new regulatory framework for the control and monitoring of precursor chemicals called "Precursor Control Regulations". The Precursor Control Regulations control and monitor Table 1 and Table 2 chemicals listed in the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.
- Development of a compliance and enforcement strategy for controlled substances, using both centralized monitoring and the expertise of field inspectors to ensure that the systems monitoring pharmaceutical products and controlled substances are effectively combating violations associated with these products.
- Execution of a survey to better allow a systematic review to ensure that the demand for drug abuse treatment and professional training in this area was being met. The survey was later reviewed by the key stakeholders to identify roles and priorities and establish Canada's National Treatment Workforce Agenda.
- Maintenance of a database that records numbers and amounts of seizures of controlled chemicals.
- Maintenance and collection of comprehensive data and trends on drug trafficking and drug possession offenses and on convictions for illegal drug possession and trafficking.
- Maintenance and collection of comprehensive data on money laundering convictions.
- Development of the Seized Property Management System, to track and compile at the federal level data associated with the freezing of assets connected to money laundering.
- Maintenance of a system to identify public officials who are charged and/or convicted with acts of corruption, which are punishable under the Canadian Criminal Code.



CHILE

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials, 1997 (CIFTA).
- Increase of resources to existing drug abuse prevention programs, as well as school and community demand reduction programs. Coverage of school programs rose from 20% of all students in 1999 to 63% in 2001. At the community level, the number of direct beneficiaries of the program rose from approximately 200,000 in 1999 to over 300,000 in 2001.
- Creation and implementation of various demand reduction projects in the workplace, and the preparation of a manual to assist specialists in developing and implementing workplace drug abuse prevention policies in different organizations.
- Execution of three specific research studies to evaluate different drug abuse treatment approaches and modalities, which confirmed the need to change the way these kinds of programs operated.
- Fulfillment of the national demand for professional training on drug-related topics at the post-certification and graduate levels at Chilean universities.
- Enactment of Law 19.913, which expands the definition of money laundering to include additional predicate offences; imposes an obligation to report transactions suspected of involving money laundering assets on the entire financial system and other pertinent sectors of the economy; establishes the Financial Analysis Unit as a public and decentralized service; and imposes on a wide range of parties the obligation to report suspicious transactions. The Law also establishes the Financial Analysis Unit as a public and decentralized service, which is originated in the Finance Ministry.
- Determination of the rates of morbidity and mortality attributable to illegal drug use in the country, through the Technical Study on the Direct Cost of Drugs.
- Creation of a system to register the number of sanctions for violations of legal provisions to control the diversion of pharmaceutical products. The system provides data on the outcome of cases that constituted the criminal justice caseload in a given period and indicates the number of punishments for violations of legal provisions designed to control the diversion of pharmaceutical products throughout Chile.
- Implementation of an online one-stop device for electronic transactions to promote inter-agency information and communication networks among the agencies responsible for the control of pharmaceutical products. This system involves the National Customs Service, the country's health services, and Chile's Public Health Institute.



- Creation of a registry listing all juridical or natural persons who produce, manufacture, prepare, import, or export chemical precursors or substances that could be used to illicitly manufacture narcotics or psychotropic substances.



COLOMBIA

Colombia reported on the main achievements reached as a result of the MEM from three evaluation rounds as follows:

Achievement 1: Progress in the anti-drug policy of the Colombian government reflected in the National Anti-Drug Plan 2002-2006.

The concept of prevention and rehabilitation in demand reduction was broadened to include prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation for licit and illicit drug abuse.

Efforts to strengthen justice administration were broadened and a new institution-building component was included, which covers aspects of coordination and follow-up on drug-related cases.

In the framework of Colombia's international drug policy, international cooperation on drugs was widened to include multilateral and bilateral relations with respect to drugs, follow-up on international instruments signed by Colombia, and representation of Colombia abroad.

A new environmental management component was included, the purpose of which is to quantify the harm caused by the cultivation of illicit crops and illegal drug processing, as well as to design environmental impact mitigation measures.

The Democratic Security strategy was included in the National Development Plan. This strategy is viewed as a government tool to consolidate its institutional presence nationwide and, at the same time, pave the way for the economic recovery and an improvement in the well-being of society at large.

Achievement 2: State infrastructure and legal framework for prevention, control, and punishment of money laundering.

The country enacted national anti-money-laundering legislation. Thanks to this measure, the number of persons convicted and amounts of assets seized have risen considerably.

Achievement 3: Ratification of international instruments on illicit drug trafficking and related crimes.

The country has signed bilateral and multilateral agreements to contain illicit drug trafficking and related crimes. It has also signed judicial cooperation agreements for requesting evidence in judicial proceedings concerning drug trafficking and money laundering cases.

Achievement 4: Survey of Drug Use in Schools.

A survey was conducted of the number of persons who use licit and illicit drugs in the main cities of Colombia. This information was used to shape national and subnational demand reduction policies. The survey also provides information on use of specially controlled medications.

**Achievement 5: Creation of the information system for control of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.**

The system provides a record of seizures of firearms, ammunition, and explosives at the national and regional level, as well as basic information with which to analyze different activities in this area.

Achievement 6: Strengthening of the Colombian Drug Observatory.

The Observatory was created as the official source of government information on drugs in Colombia. It is also the clearinghouse for all information on drugs, which ensures the validity of the response of the government of Colombia to information requests at the national and international levels, providing objective, comparable, and timely information on drugs. A drug research program has also been implemented.

Achievement 7: Creation of the Specially Controlled Medications Information System.

The system provides online access to automatic responses to request on the status of their procedures, thereby improving the service. The system also facilitates the appropriate management of provisions approved by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for the country and distributed at the national level in accordance with international conventions. The system also seeks to ensure the permanent availability of specially controlled medications and medications that contain specially controlled substances for the general population. It also ensures efficient monitoring and control of raw materials and specially controlled medications. Thanks to the system the country has an up-to-date database on information that it can exchange with external users so as to provide them with reliable data in accordance with national and international commitments.

Achievement 8: Dissemination of the commitment of the Colombia and the OAS member states with regard to the international drug problem.

The MEM highlights the main challenges that states must tackle in order to bring about the progressive and systematic reduction of the drug problem. It also draws the attention of states to successful experiences of confronting drug production, trafficking, and abuse in other states, and enables them to make requests for international cooperation in order to apply those experiences successfully in their own countries.

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Implementation of a record-keeping system on drug abuse treatment patients treated in order to supplement the efforts made to develop a national directory of treatment centers.
- Consolidation of the information gathering system on convictions for illicit trafficking of firearms and ammunition. The country has been implementing new and improved technologies for collecting statistical information, and is continually improving its procedures to optimize the timeliness, reliability, and quality of the information produced.
- Implementation of the Project for the Administration of Proceeds Seized in Connection with Drug Trafficking (FARO), which executes a physical inventory and appraisal of all proceeds seized and turned over to the National Narcotics Division (DNE); maintains an administration system for each category of proceeds; and audits the administration of proceeds.



- Implementation of drug use prevention programs at the regional level, through an ongoing decentralization process. The National Demand Reduction Commission has designed the framework of responsibilities and duties for the intersectoral work, and has two national prevention programs: 1) National Program for Drug Abuse Prevention in the Workplace and 2) National School Drug Abuse Program. Colombia notes that since drug abuse prevention is one of the public health priorities of the 2002–2006 Strategic Health Plan, it has prepared, disseminated, and developed in all the sub national entities the guidelines set at the national level for preventing drug use as a mandatory action in the strategic and operational plans of all the country's departments and municipalities for the period 2004–2007.
- Creation of a method to evaluate psychoactive substance use prevention actions. This method has been reviewed and reformulated and, as a result, a new management component was incorporated to determine the response capacities of the respective departmental bodies.
- Establishment of mechanisms verifying compliance with certification requirements for drug addiction treatment centers by means of pre-established procedures, which includes a training component for personnel responsible for carrying out these procedures.
- Completion of a national mental health study and a national school drug use survey to measure the prevalence, the average age of first use among adults and adolescents, and how youth perceive the harm caused by drug abuse.
- Establishment of the Money Laundering Data Monitoring System to provide information on all the measures adopted by authorities against money laundering; and of the Financial Information and Analysis Unit's data system, which contains statistics on receipt, processing and analysis of suspicious transaction reports.
- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials – CIFTA, (1997).
- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (1992).
- Ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000) and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking of Persons, Especially Women and Children.



COSTA RICA

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials, 1997 (CIFTA) by enacting Law No. 8042.
- Ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000 and its Protocols against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; and against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition.
- Enactment of the Law on Narcotics, Psychotropic Substances, Unauthorized Drug Use, and Related Activities (Law 8204, January 2002), which established the Costa Rican Institute on Drugs. This institution is responsible for coordinating, designing and implementing policies, plans and strategies for the prevention of drug consumption, and the treatment, rehabilitation and reinsertion of drug dependent persons; and the policies, plans and strategies against the illicit trafficking of drugs, money laundering related to drug trafficking, related activities and major crimes.
- Enactment of various executive decrees to regulate aspects related to law 8204 with regard to controlled chemical substances, money laundering, and procedures for the administration of seized and confiscated assets.
- Adoption of National Anti-Drug Plans, for the 2001-2004 and 2005-2007 periods.
- Establishment of an accreditation office and an accreditation committee within the Institute of Alcoholism and Addictions (IAFA), to apply minimum standards for drug treatment programs.
- Establishment of a mechanism to control the register of the manufacture, import, export, and transit of firearms, explosives, ammunition, and other related materials through Law No. 7530.
- Establishment of an entity responsible for the coordination of information exchange regarding the manufacture, export, and transit of firearms, explosives, ammunition, and other related materials both nationally and internationally through Law No. 427-2001. Also, a General Director of Firearms was appointed to carry out and coordinate information exchange at an international level.
- Designation of the Firearms Office as the central contact point to enable interagency coordination to be established with the General Customs Office and the judiciary, to prevent illicit diversion of firearms.
- Organization of training events on drug issues. An international conference was held on ecstasy and club drugs that made possible a wide-ranging exchange of experiences. The country has



conducted several training activities for government officials and representatives of organized communities on the basis of these materials. In 2003, the Costa Rican Institute on Drugs officially launched a synthetic drug awareness campaign.

- Evaluation and publication of the "Mapping out the Path" Program, and "I'm Learning to Take Care of Myself" program and the "Mapping out the Path on Special Education" program. Programs aimed at university, adult, workplace, and prison inmate populations are envisaged in a strategy called "Promoting Healthy Lifestyles".
- Development of an information system for processing morbidity and mortality data associated with the use of psychoactive substances.
- Creation of a national drug control system, and implementation of a formal mechanism to evaluate the effectiveness of controls in place on the use and distribution of pharmaceutical products by health care professionals.
- Maintenance of centralized records of information for use by the authorities with responsibility for control of illicit drug trafficking by the Costa Rican Drug Institute (ICD)'s Records and Inquiries Unit, which is governed by a handbook of procedures for processing and replying to queries. Furthermore, the ICD implemented the so-called Interagency Results Measurement and Evaluation System (SIMEI), whose essential purpose is to measure and evaluate the results obtained from implementation of the actions, projects, and programs included in the National Anti-Drug Plan 2005–2007.
- Execution of specialized training for judges and public prosecutors for the enforcement of laws criminalizing money laundering.



DOMINICA

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, 1992.
- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, 1996.
- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials, 1997 (CIFTA).
- Enactment of the laws necessary for the control of pharmaceuticals and controlled chemical substances, and the creation of a Medical Board to control and guarantee adherence to the regulations of these laws.
- Enactment of the Money Laundering (Prevention) Act No. 20 of 2000, that provides for the reporting of auspicious transactions.
- Development of new formulas for estimating the area in use for illicit crop cultivation.
- Enactment of the Law of Integrity In Public Office Act, which is now part of Dominica's Laws, (Act. No.6/ 2003).
- Training of officers in the drug abuse prevention area by the Caribbean Institute on Alcoholism and other Drug Problems (CARIAD).
- Development of a non-computerized registry of the number of eradicated illicit cannabis plants.
- Inclusion of a data collection component within the National Anti-Drug Strategy.
- Establishment of the Police and Customs Agreement on Drug Interdiction to investigate, control, and combat illicit drug trafficking.
- Establishment of the National Drug Prevention Unit to coordinate the Anti-Drug actions.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Establishment of the Internal Revenue Office as an agency responsible for other agents subject to receive, request, analyze, and disseminate information on the financial transactions or to expand the powers of the existing agency.
- Implementation of drug use prevention programs in the penitentiary system, targeting certain groups of the prison population and prison officials.
- Follow-up of countries that export controlled chemical substances in order to verify that they are compliant with the pre-export notification requirement established by the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.
- Inclusion of controls for the transport of controlled chemical substances in the Dominican Republic's regulations, that require one copy of the relevant import permit to accompany the chemical substance to its destination, and must be available upon request.
- Establishment of an integrated mechanism for the control of firearms seized in different operations, and maintenance of records of firearms registered in the country and of war material.
- Development of a criminological information system that covers the entire process, starting at the time of arrest and including case details, evidence handling, court proceedings, and ending with the individual's release or conviction.
- Establishment of the Student Social Service Drug Abuse Prevention Project. In this project, the candidates for a regular bachelor's and/or master's degree in prevention activities or the equivalent are required to perform social service, which includes activities in the area of drug abuse.



ECUADOR

Ecuador reported on the main achievements reached as a result of the MEM from three evaluation rounds as follows:

Achievement 1: Performance of a situation analysis on management of narcotic and psychotropic medications in hospital and non-hospital pharmacies.

The study identified the risk factors that occur in both supply and demand of controlled medications in pharmacies.

Achievement 2: Design and preparation of a legal and technical instrument for control and oversight of pharmaceutical facilities that handle narcotic and psychotropic medications.

The country has the instruments that will be applied in 2007 for the issuance of licenses for handling controlled medications to individuals, legal persons, and professionals.

Achievement 3: Definition of the roles of each of the agencies responsible for control of narcotic and psychotropic medications, delineating areas of action to ensure effective control of these substances.

Coordination and cooperation agreements were reached with the agencies responsible for control of narcotic and psychotropic medications, which contain the procedural guidelines and functions that each of these institutions must comply with.

Achievement 4: Performance of a study on the northern border of Ecuador to identify possible areas of illicit cultivation.

The steps carried out in three phases by the Anti-Drug Police in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), led to the location of areas under coca cultivation on the northern border; these crops were subsequently eradicated. The country has managed to eradicate a total of 38 hectares of coca.

Achievement 5: Reform of the legal framework regarding controls on roads, at international airports, and at sea ports to suppress illicit drug trafficking.

The legal instruments reinforced the interagency cooperation agreements signed to combat illicit drug trafficking organizations. From 1999 to 2006 counter-drug operations against criminal organizations led to the seizure of some 155 tons of drugs. These results are the outcome of interagency cooperation and the efforts of the antinarcotics service.

Achievement 6: Implementation of a drug abuse prevention campaign in schools and in public and private institutions.

This campaign did not have an evaluative component, therefore, its impact could not be determined.

**Achievement 7: Creation of a drugs hotline (1-800 DRUGS) for information on reporting illicit drug trafficking activities.**

The hotline (1-800 DRUGS) permits the community to denounce in a confidential and safe manner illicit drug related crimes allowing the timely intervention of the antinarcotics police.

Achievement 8: Adoption of the Law against Money Laundering.

The adoption of this Law in August 2005 led to the initiation of investigations that resulted in the detection of organizations that launder money illicitly introduced into the country's financial system. The Law recognizes money laundering as an autonomous offense and categorizes as predicate offences trafficking in firearms, persons, and organs; prostitution; pornography; abduction; extortion; corruption; terrorism and its financing; and fraud. The Law has also led to the creation of a Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) that conforms to the Egmont Group recommendations.

Achievement 9: Effective coordination among control agencies as a result of the efforts of CONSEP.

The procedures for coordination and appropriate handling of information meant that each institution provided information specific to its field of action, which was then shared with the other control agencies.

Achievement 10: Training of approximately 20% of the staff of the Customs Surveillance Service.

The country has a larger number of trained professionals for the improvement of control techniques used by the Customs to control drugs, psychotropic substances, precursors, and money laundering.

Achievement 11: Creation of an entity to manage warehouses for medications and controlled chemical products.

The Technical Directorate for Administration of In-Bond Goods was legally appointed as the entity responsible for storage of all medications and chemical products seized by the National Police. It is also in charge of the disposal of those substances and provides information on the warehouses where they are stored.

Achievement 12: Ratification of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000.**Achievement 13: Development of the second study on drug use in secondary schools.**

The results of this study revealed an increase in the prevalence of drug use of 12.8% in relation to the results of 1998 of 6.1%. This study is a reference point for the design of prevention programs in the middle school sector.

The study has also strengthened the technical and operating capacity of the Ecuadorian Observatory on Drugs and has, therefore, become an important reference for consultations on drug use research.

**Achievement 14: Establishment of programs that offer technical, university degree, and professional education courses in demand reduction.**

Ecuadorian professionals participated in the online masters program offered by CICAD/OAS, although they are not directly related to the areas of drug abuse prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation.

Achievement 15: Since 2005 prevention programs have been implemented in inner city communities in the cities of Guayaquil, Quito, Cuenca.

The programs filled previous deficiencies since programs in this specific sector was not previously implemented.

Achievement 16: Capacity building in drug abuse awareness raising.

An awareness campaign was carried out based on the drug consumption study conducted on secondary school students. This campaign also targeted other members of the education community, such as parents, teachers, and students.

Achievement 17: Implementation of the anti-drug policy decentralization project through municipal governments.

The municipalities are involved in the organization and preparation of social proposals in the drug prevention field.

Achievement 18: Implementation of standards of care in drug abuse treatment.

The country has standards of care for drug abuse treatment which allows for the verification of quality as outlined by the Pan American Health Organization.

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Establishment of the drug problem as a national priority through an Executive Decree in 2003.
- Implementation of a pre-export notification system for controlled substances, in compliance with Article 12 of the United Nations Convention Against Traffic In Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 1988. The country contacts the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) with regard to those countries that fail to make notification of chemical substances transactions.
- Execution of training for officials responsible for enforcing laws against transnational organized crime and for persons working in the judiciary system and the Attorney General's Office.



EL SALVADOR

El Salvador reported on the main achievements reached as a result of the MEM from three evaluation rounds as follows:

Achievement 1: Approval of the National Anti-Drug Plan.

The national strategy was defined, and the course of actions geared towards drug demand and supply reduction was established, based on the hemispheric strategy. Also, coordination mechanisms among responsible entities were implemented, based on the provisions made by the Law.

Achievement 2: Establishment of the Salvadorian Observatory on Drugs.

The Observatory launched its website, established databases with information on drugs, and undertook various surveys in school populations and in the general population. It also carried out a study on costs associated with drug in emergency rooms of the hospital system, and another on the human, economic and social costs of the abuse of psychoactive substances in the country. Furthermore, the responsible entities strengthened their mechanisms for the gathering of statistics on drug supply control, and links to web pages of other entities that participate in the implementation of the national anti-drug plan were established.

Achievement 3: Establishment of the National Anti-Drug Commission.

Through Legislative Decree No. 153, the country created the National Anti-Drug Commission, positioning it at a high political level, and defining, through the law, the responsibility of each of the entities which are part of the Commission in their respective areas of action.

Achievement 4: Development of the legal and normative framework for the application and implementation of minimum standards of care for persons with addictive behavior towards psychoactive substances.

The country defined and approved the following documents: 1) Minimum Standards of Care for Persons with Addictive Behavior towards Psychoactive Substances; 2) Clinic Guidelines to Treat Persons with Addictive Behavior towards Psychoactive Substances; 3) Regulations for the Management of Institutions and Establishments that Provide Treatment to Persons Affected by Drugs; 4) Guide for the Authorization of Opening and Functioning for Institutions and Establishments that Provide Treatment to Persons Affected by Drugs; 5) Profile of the Integral Care Program for Persons Affected by Drugs.

Achievement 5: Expansion of the coverage of the prevention system, in order to include specific populations.

A life skills education component was incorporated in the Education Plan 2021, which includes actions geared towards the prevention of drug consumption, sexual education, gender perspective, promotion of integral development, solidarity and school coexistence. These actions are implemented in school centers at the national level.

**Achievement 6: Expansion of training provided to administrative officers in money laundering topics.**

Training courses were imparted to improve relations between judges, prosecutors and investigators, and to uniform the knowledge on the legal framework applicable to money laundering.

Also, various training seminars related to money laundering were organized and, with the support of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF), workshops were held on "Transparency and know-your-client policies, in Societies, Corporate Groups and Other Juridical Entities", and on the "Penal Framework on Money Laundering".

Achievement 7: Strengthening of the Financial Investigation Unit of the Attorney General's Office.

The country developed the Financial Intelligence Unit's organizational design and the information systems design, acquired technological resources and trained the personnel.

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Strengthening of collaboration and coordination among the security organisms of Central America and the Caribbean, which signed a declaration to implement mechanisms for investigation and prosecution through the exchange of information and cooperation. This fosters improved control measures in the region including interdiction and combating crime, in addition to arms trafficking.
- Ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000, and the three related protocols.
- Ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, 2003.
- Establishment of a broad inter-institutional framework, where both public and private entities develop prevention activities targeting different populations in the context of the national anti-drug strategy.
- Registration of statistics on persons arrested, tried, and convicted for illicit trafficking and possession of firearms and ammunitions in all national penitentiary centers.
- Development of a program to facilitate the production of all types of reports needed on persons prosecuted and convicted of drug-related offenses.
- Provision of training for police officers in the framework of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program.



GRENADA

Grenada reported on the main achievements reached as a result of the MEM from three evaluation rounds as follows:

Achievement 1: Ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and all its Protocols.

Grenada is now able to implement the necessary action against transnational organized crime and related issues mentioned in the protocols.

Achievement 2: Utilization of both the Inter-American Drug Use Data System (SIDUC) and the Uniform Statistical System on Control of the Supply Area (CICDAT) in policy-making and program design at the national level.

The information obtained through SIDUC and CICADAT provides Grenada with relevant data and information to advise on the formulation of policies and programs.

Achievement 3: Implementation of extensive evaluation of drug treatment aftercare and reintegration programs in 2005.

The results of the evaluation are being used to improve the implementation and delivery of treatment, aftercare, and reintegration programs.

Achievement 4: Evaluation of the efficacy and efficiency of prevention programs.

The results of these evaluations were used to improve the design and implementation of the programs.

Achievement 5: Formulation and approval of the National Anti-Drug Master Plan in 2004.

The implementation of the National Anti-Drug Master Plan has contributed immensely to efforts in the fight against drugs and related issues. It has strengthened the national capacity to respond effectively to the drug problem.

Achievement 6: Implementation of minimum standards of care, in accordance with those developed by CICAD.

The implementation of these standards serves to strengthen the treatment and rehabilitation programs.

Achievement 7: Completion of two secondary schools drug prevalence surveys using the SIDUC methodology.

The SIDUC methodology has improved the data collection capacity. The data can then be used in the development of drug prevention programs for students.

**Achievement 8: Completion of one public service employee drug prevalence survey using the SIDUC methodology.**

The SIDUC methodology has improved the data collection capacity. The data can then be used in the development of drug prevention programs for employees.

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, 1992.
- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), 1997.
- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, 1996.
- Implementation of methods to estimate and prevent the growth of cannabis cultivation.
- Implementation of the Grenada Pharmacy Council to serve as a centralized point for effecting information exchange and coordination among countries in relation to pharmaceuticals and controlled chemical substances.
- Enactment of a law to counter money laundering, appointment of an oversight authority, training of the financial intelligence unit, and transmission of guidelines to financial institutions on fighting money laundering. Also, experts, police and customs officials were trained in combating money laundering.
- Strengthening of the epidemiological monitoring system in place by the Grenadian Drug Information Network (GRENADIN).
- Implementation of training programs to drug use prevention practitioners. Training was also provided to each intake of police recruits and nursing students. In addition, various training programs were conducted for prevention practitioners targeting high risk populations.
- Implementation of drug use prevention program evaluations, by convening periodic meetings with relevant practitioners and the chief medical officer and his team from the Ministry of Health.
- Establishment of a mechanism to evaluate the effectiveness of the pharmacy council, in order to identify problems and make recommendations to the various government departments for action and progress checked at subsequent meetings.
- Establishment of the Pharmacy Unit as a centralized mechanism for information exchange and coordination among countries in relation to pharmaceuticals and controlled substances.
- Establishment of a mechanism to collect and report statistics showing the relationship between morbidity and the use of drugs.



GUATEMALA

Guatemala reported on the main achievements reached as a result of the MEM from three evaluation rounds as follows:

Achievement 1: Strengthening of institutional coordination.

The MEM process encourages institutional coordination, helping to overcome obstacles in the national anti-drug planning processes.

Achievement 2: Enactment of national legislation related to the drug problem.

The country has signed all of the international conventions related to drugs, corruption and organized crime. It has also enacted complementary legislation to prevent and control the financing of terrorism, and has a law against the laundering of money and other assets.

Achievement 3: Improvement of international positioning in the area of money laundering and in the fight against corruption.

The country has been removed from FATF's list of non-cooperating countries, has actively participated at the international level in combating money laundering, and has improved its international positioning in the fight against corruption.

Achievement 4: Establishment of minimum standards of care for drug dependent persons.

The country established minimum standards of care for drug dependent persons, which include aspects such as respect for their human rights and the types of services provided according to the type of center.

Achievement 5: Execution of a national survey on drugs in city households.

The first national survey to measure drug consumption in households was completed.

Achievement 6: Establishment of an administrative framework to control pharmaceutical products and chemical substances.

The country established an integrated administrative framework for monitoring and controlling of pharmaceuticals and chemical substances, which includes the adoption of regulations and the establishment of a Technical Committee to control these substances.

Achievement 7: Eradication of poppy plantations.

Guatemala has carried out special operatives during years 2006, in the western departments of the country, where 25 million poppy plants were eradicated.



Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols.
- Evaluation of the performance of the National Comprehensive Preventative Education Program among the population, particularly in the Education sector, and the preparation of the Integral Preventative Education Manual.
- Inclusion of prostitution, pornography, terrorism, and the financing of terrorism as predicate offenses of money laundering.
- Establishment of the Institutional Committee of the National Anti-drug Plan (CIPLAN) as a coordination mechanism to follow-up the implementation of the National Anti-drug Plan.
- Update of procedures for approval of the production, import and sale by prescription of narcotic and psychotropic substances.
- Creation of the judiciary's National Center for Judicial Documentation and Analysis (CENADOJ) to register information on individuals arrested, tried and convicted for illicit drug trafficking.
- Maintenance of records of seizures of firearms, ammunitions, and explosives.
- Establishment of a new regime applicable to those individuals who, because of the nature of their activities, would be required to submit to the Superintendency of Banks, through the Intendancy for Special Verification, information and reports when so requested thereby, through the Law on Prevention and Suppression of Financing of Terrorism. This special regime is applicable to individuals and corporations that perform real estate brokerage and property dealing.
- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), 1997.
- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, 1996.



GUYANA

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Approval of the National Drug Strategy Master Plan for 2005-2009.
- Adoption of a budget to finance the National Drug Strategy Master Plan. The budget includes funding for control and reduction of supply, demand reduction, prevention and treatment and rehabilitation, legal issues, and administrative costs.
- Design and implementation of a program for drug abuse prevention, education, treatment and rehabilitation. It is focused on vulnerable groups including women, children, and students who have dropped out of school.
- Establishment of the Joint Information and Coordination Center (JICC), which serves the function of a national law enforcement drug information center.
- Ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.
- Adoption of the Uniform Statistical System on Control of the Supply Area (CICDAT) to collect, analyze and maintain narcotics-related statistics.
- Establishment of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU).
- Ratification of the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol.
- Ratification of the United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971.



HAITI

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Adoption of the Drug Trafficking Control Act and the Law on the Laundering of Proceeds of Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Offenses to control illicit drug trafficking and money laundering.
- Establishment of the Haitian Drug Observatory, which conducts surveys, runs a website, and maintains contacts with various institutions that provide data.
- Extension of controls to cover the full range of the chemical substances listed in the United Nations Conventions. The tables are appended to the Law on Control and Illicit Trafficking of Drugs. The Central Pharmaceutical Department also covers all substances controlled under the Conventions.
- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), 1997.
- Establishment of an Advisory Committee, with the mandate to make an inventory of treatment centers and programs currently in operation, to propose measures for the elaboration of new treatment programs, and to establish minimum standards for treatment.
- Development of a judicial monitoring mechanism in the National Drug Control Commission, with the purpose of collecting information from the Police, prosecutors, and clerks of court regarding drug possession and trafficking cases.
- Execution of training courses on the enforcement of laws criminalizing money laundering for judges and prosecutors.
- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, 1996.
- Establishment of the National Drug Control Commission (CONALD), to coordinate national anti-drug policies.



HONDURAS

Honduras reported on the main achievements reached as a result of the MEM from three evaluation rounds as follows:

Achievement 1: Publication of the Law on Control of Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Related Materials.

This law makes the Ministry of Security responsible for keeping the necessary records on arms and explosives and has led the ballistics department of the Attorney General's office to update its national firearms register database.

Achievement 2: Ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

Achievement 3: Increased coverage of the national system of prevention programs that target key populations.

Increased drug education was provided for parents, teachers, community leaders, judges, the fire department, and the police.

Achievement 4: Approval of the "Plan of Action for Control of Precursors and Other Chemical Substances".

This plan created an optional register of users of pharmaceutical products and conducted an inventory of controlled chemical substances.

Achievement 5: Adoption of a new law against money-laundering (replacement of Decree 202-97 with Decree 45-2002).

The law against money-laundering recognizes and punishes the crime of laundering of assets, proceeds, or instrumentalities that are the direct or indirect product of the crimes of illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, influence peddling, illegal arms trafficking, trafficking in human organs, theft or robbery of automotive vehicles, robbery of financial institutions, financial fraud in public or private activities, abduction, terrorism, and related offences; or for which there is no legal economic justification as to their provenance.

Achievement 6: Holding of 38 training courses on prevention and money laundering legislation with 1,280 participants.

Training was provided, *inter alia*, to banking system compliance officers; supervisors of the National Banking and Insurance Commission; representatives of private development-finance organizations; cooperatives, the stock market sector; students on undergraduate and master's degree courses in finance, the law, and social sciences; the Rotary Club; the Honduran Chamber of Insurance; police investigators, judges and prosecutors; money transfer companies; lotteries; and credit union federations.

**Achievement 7: Accession to the United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971.****Achievement 8: Implementation of control measures on licenses, imports, exports, and transit operations for firearms, ammunition, explosives, and related materials.****Achievement 9: Preparation of the report on "Magnitude of Drug Use in Honduran Secondary Schools," according to the SIDUC Standards on Secondary School Students.**

The report provides information at the national and departmental levels on prevalence (lifetime, last 12 months, and last 30 days) of drug use in students, as well as age of first use, risk perception, and parental involvement.

As much information as necessary may be drawn from this project in order to continue it, carry out new studies, or implement prevention programs in secondary schools.

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Expansion of the country's drug use prevention coverage by including students from all levels of education, parents, teachers, public officials, armed forces, community leaders, and gang members.
- Establishment of a registry with information on licenses, importations, exportations, and transit of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.
- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials (CIFTA), 1997.



JAMAICA

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Establishment of the Inter-Ministerial Committee to serve as a central coordinating entity for the operation of its National Anti Drug Plan.
- Assessment of prevention programs in schools. All universal programs contain monitoring and evaluation tools, as well as a component for impact assessment through pre- and post-testing using questionnaires or focus groups.
- Implementation of training and accreditation mechanisms for health entities and professionals in the country, particularly those treating addictions are conducted by the Medical Association of Jamaica and the Psychiatric Association of Jamaica.
- Development of an on-going study of 84 schools for the early detection of drug abuse, and execution of training for a cadre of teachers, peer educators and guidance counselors in the education system as well as other health professionals.
- Signature of agreements between the Police and Jamaica's Defense Force for the latter to use its air assets to conduct aerial surveys to identify marijuana cultivation and estimate the size of such cultivation.
- Reactivation of suspended illicit crop eradication exercises in 2005.
- Provision specialized training to judges and prosecutors for the application of penal legislation on control of money laundering in 2004.
- Implementation of workplace drug use prevention and employee assistance programs.
- Introduction of specialized training programs on drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation into the curriculum of social workers, physicians and health communicators.
- Establishment of the Nursing Homes Act (enforced by the Standards and Regulation Division of the Ministry of Health) as the mandatory national established guideline on standards of care for drug abuse treatment.
- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, 1992.
- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption, 1996.
- Ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its three related Protocols, 2000.



MEXICO

Mexico reported on the main achievements reached as a result of the MEM from three evaluation rounds as follows:

Achievement 1: Evaluation, re-estimation, and improvement of troop deployment.

The country has consolidated a mechanism through which to maintain border security, carry out the strategic plan against drug trafficking, and implement the Federal Law on Firearms and Explosives, all of which have brought outstanding results in the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime.

Achievement 2: Introduction of legislative reforms concerning persons required to report suspicious transactions.

Mexican law has been reformed in order to initiate reporting of transactions by designated non-financial persons, including, *inter alia*, notaries, accountants, lawyers, jewelers, real estate brokers, and sellers of luxury goods, all of whom are required to report to the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit any operations in cash or precious metals worth \$100,000 or more.

Achievement 3: Multilateral evaluation.

CICAD's member states carry out the evaluation process, as an alternative to unilateral certification exercises, through the Governmental Expert Group, so that each country can design its public policies in keeping with its national reality and internal needs for combatting drug trafficking and transnational organized crime.

The authority in charge of enforcing the law is aware of its strengths and weaknesses and has taken various steps to strengthen international cooperation and interagency coordination, particularly through real-time information exchange. In this way it has made progress in combating illicit trafficking (import and export) of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Achievement 4: Initiation of the process to measure illicit crop and drug productivity.

A system was devised to determine the potential output, area under cultivation, and new areas of illicit crops. The poppy study was completed in 2000, while the cannabis study was carried out in 2003 and the data analyzed in 2004.

The system for estimating cannabis and poppy crops provides Mexico with a tool to monitor and track developments in the area of illicit cultivation in the country and, therefore, evaluate the effectiveness of eradication measures. This system also makes it possible to determine the scale of the drug problem in Mexico because it distinguishes between potential drug output in the country and drugs of foreign origin trafficked into Mexico.



Achievement 5: Improvement in control of illicit drug trafficking via maritime vessels and routes commonly used by criminal organizations.

Compliance of legislation was strengthened regarding illicit traffic by sea, zones, and ports. Furthermore, the Ministry of the Navy of Mexico has adopted different measures, such as: a) interdiction operations to suppress drug trafficking along the coastal margins, territorial sea, and economic exclusion zone of Mexico; b) new ways of operating against drug trafficking, the purpose of which is to ensure an effective response to changes in routes, technology, and refinements in concealment and transport methods used by drug traffickers; and, c) the *Carena Program*, which is designed to keep the Mexican naval fleet fully operational. It is also believed that this achievement has led to an increase in information exchange on maritime interception and has led to the design of more effective strategies against illicit drug trafficking, which have brought better operational results.

Achievement 6: Establishment of information mechanisms to keep a record of numbers of persons arrested, prosecuted, and convicted for illicit drug trafficking or unlawful possession of drugs.

In 2006, the country implemented the Interagency Statistical Information System (SIIE) which is supplied with data from different areas of the Office of the Prosecutor General. The database contains information that dates from 2001 to 2005, *inter alia*, on crimes against health, drug trafficking, diversion of chemical precursors, and prescriptions of narcotic drugs issued by authorized medical staff.

The SIIE enables the authorities to perform quantitative analyses and evaluations to help combat the impunity associated with crimes against health. Furthermore, through this system, information regarding subjects involved with corruption offenses related to illicit drug trafficking is reported.

Achievement 7: Creation of the Control Subgroup for Synthetic Drugs, which is composed of the various government offices involved in this issue and is at present engaged in updating the laws governing chemical substances.

With the creation of this group the country is correcting legal loopholes to prevent the illicit use of chemical substances and precursors.

Achievement 8: Cross-border measures to tackle the problem of drug abuse bearing in mind that criminal organizations act on a regional and global level. In this context, the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products engages in permanent information exchange, which it is pivotal for interaction between law enforcement agencies to combat drug trafficking.

Efforts to combat drug trafficking and reduce drug supply and demand have had a positive public health impact.

Achievement 9: Reorganization of the powers of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) in the areas of money laundering, terrorism, and terrorist financing.

The reforms centered the powers and attributes in the area of money laundering in the FIU. Previously those powers were distributed among different areas of the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit. As a result the system to prevent and combat money laundering and terrorist financing has also been upgraded in terms of professional capabilities. This reorganization provided the FIU with the human resources and infrastructure necessary to perform its prevention and detection activities in this area more effectively.

**Achievement 10: Adjustment and improvement in the accuracy of follow-up indicators on the characteristics and trends of drug use in patients who seek treatment at Youth Integration Centers (*Centros de Integración Juvenil*).**

As a result of these adjustments, the country was able to identify the emergence of new problems in a timely manner, in particular, the gradual expansion of methamphetamine use and the displacement of cocaine use by crack use. Based on the foregoing, the Youth Integration Centers have spearheaded the development of specific alternative forms of treatment as well as prevention and training programs to supplement the effective care delivered to abusers of the aforementioned substances. Furthermore, information obtained from closer follow-up on the problem has completed the findings of population surveys carried out in the country.

Achievement 11: Creation of an Observatory on Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs.

The Mexican Observatory on Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs has been providing updated information for public policy design at the national and regional level.

Achievement 12: Implementation of a systematic evaluation program for drug abuse prevention and treatment services in which various evaluation and research techniques have been applied and refined.

The experience acquired from systematic program evaluation has not only provided an assessment and follow-up tool fully integrated in assistance programs, but also made it possible to implement methods to develop new prevention and treatment technologies.

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Implementation of drug use prevention programs for prisoners, prison officers, and out of school youth.
- Implementation of the System for the Epidemiological Monitoring of Addictions (SISVEA) to determine the incidence of new drug users.
- Creation of systematic register of data on the number of persons tried and convicted of offenses relating to drug trafficking, which was incorporated into the Statistical Case Control System of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic.
- Implementation of the Minimum Quality Criteria and a Quality Evaluation System to evaluate treatment and rehabilitation centers, and a system for the evaluation of the operation of professional and Residential Mutual Help Treatment Centers.
- Establishment of administrative verification mechanisms for individuals or companies effecting chemical substance transactions so as to strengthen prevention of the diversion of such substances.
- Implementation of a pre-export notification mechanism for controlled chemical substances, in keeping with Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.
- Preparation of guides, manuals, and brochures on the prevention of drug abuse, minimum standards of care, preventive models, and community development/awareness during 2004 and 2005.



- Incorporation of a specialized unit responsible for gathering data and compiling statistics on money laundering and financing of terrorism, with trends and definitions in the area, to the structure of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU). This unit has facilitated the systematic compilation of statistics on the reports filed by those required to do so and on the intelligence reports drawn up by the FIU, which are used as the basis for presenting the charges filed with the Office of the Attorney General.
- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, 1992.



NICARAGUA

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, 1992.
- Approval of minimum standards of care for users of psychoactive substances.
- Signature of institutional agreements among the agencies responsible for the exchange of operational information and the control of pharmaceutical products.
- Strengthening of methods for collecting data on seized goods, including firearms and ammunition.
- Creation of a registry to compile information on the seizures of firearms, ammunition and explosives in connection with illicit drug trafficking in 2004.
- Approval of the Act to Control and Regulate Firearms and Ammunition and other Related Materials and their Regulation in 2005, which established the Register and Control of Firearms, Ammunition, and other Related Materials and the establishment of an automated national registry that includes information on permits for the export of firearms and ammunition.
- Ratification of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
- Implementation of a computer system that maintains records of import applications for controlled chemical substances sent to it by exporting companies.
- Incorporation of the guiding principles of drug demand reduction into the national anti-drug plan with the purpose of providing the basic framework for the design and implementation of appropriate demand reduction policies and programs.
- Establishment of a system to locate areas of illicit crop cultivation.



PANAMA

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, 1992.
- Ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three related protocols, 2000.
- Establishment of a Sensitive Investigations Unit for the investigation of drug trafficking and other related offenses.
- Re-evaluation and reform of the minimum standards of care and of the operation of drug-dependence centers, to strengthen them and improve their capacity.
- Enactment of the Special Chemicals Law (Law No. 19) and its regulations.
- Creation of a coordination committee to adopt measures to analyze, investigate, and prosecute money laundering and financing of terrorism offenses, revise legal provisions sanctioning these offenses, and recommend legislative or regulatory initiatives to adjust and update the regulatory framework in this area.
- Enactment of Executive Decree No. 246, which contains a uniform code of ethics for transparency in public administration for public officials working in central government entities, which includes notaries.
- Development of outpatient treatment programs and training of specialized personnel in drug dependent care standards-related topics.
- Establishment of a Chemical Control Section, with units at the Paso Canoas border post, to control the entry and exit of these controlled substances, as well as a database to record all imports, exports, and local purchases.
- Conclusion of the First National Household Survey and a survey on drug use prevalence through SIDUC (2003).



PARAGUAY

Paraguay reported on the main achievements reached as a result of the MEM from three evaluation rounds as follows:

Achievement 1: Ratification of the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, 1992.

Achievement 2: Ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000, and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Sanction Human Trafficking, Especially of Women and Children.

Achievement 3: Drafting, approval and evaluation of the National Anti-Drug Plan 2001-2005, and support for the drafting of the National Strategy on Drugs 2008-2013.

Achievement 4: Enactment of Decree 5213/05, which updates the list of narcotic substances and dangerous drugs, and established guidelines for its handling and commerce. The decree also provides for the evaluation of existing controls in the area of controlled chemicals and strengthens the follow-up process of these substances.

Achievement 5: Implementation of the Paraguayan Observatory on Drugs, obtaining technical and financial assistance for the acquisition of equipment and the undertaking of studies on the general population, schools and treatment centers.

Achievement 6: Provision of technical and financial support for the establishment of minimum standards of care for drug dependents persons.

Achievement 7: Provision of technical and technical support for the implementation of the first pilot of "Leones Educando", a school-based drug prevention program based on life skills.

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Establishment of administrative control measures for money laundering, such as the requirement to identify customers, keep records, report any suspicious operations and means for identification (including mandatory ones).
- Implementation of controls for prescription renewals, and the establishment of provisions for the imposition of administrative sanctions as part of the control framework for the use and distribution of pharmaceutical products by health professionals.
- Implementation of a mechanism that provides effective responses to the controlled chemical substance pre-export notifications being received, including e-mail, telephone, and fax communications, as a result of the incorporation of new communication tools.



- Establishment of records for internal use on confiscations in illicit drug trafficking cases, and the signature of an inter-institutional cooperation agreement between the Directorate of War Materials (DIMABEL) to centralize information on the amount of firearms, ammunition, and explosives seized in cases of illicit drug trafficking.
- Enactment of Law 1910/02 (On Firearms, Munitions, Explosives, and Related Items) and Regulatory Decree 3625/04 which enabled the Directorate of War Materials (DIMABEL) to establish a record-keeping system on the transit of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials.
- Implementation of a system to follow-up on reports of suspicious transactions and their results at each link in the chain of agencies involved in combating money laundering.
- Training of judges and prosecutors to enforce criminal laws to repress money laundering.
- Implementation of a systematic register of arrests and convictions for illicit drug trafficking offenses and/or for corruption offenses related to illicit drug trafficking, through the Paraguayan Observatory on Drugs.



PERU

Peru reported on the main achievements reached as a result of the MEM from three evaluation rounds as follows:

Achievement 1: Implementation of the Peruvian Observatory on Drugs (OPD).

The OPD provides official statistics on use, production, trafficking, and distribution of illicit drugs in Peru, which facilitates decision-making on design, implementation, and evaluation of anti-drug strategies and policy.

It also provides transparent, online access to timely information for the general public and civil society organizations on the results of counter-drug efforts, and exchanges information with international organizations and drug observatories in other parts of the world.

Achievement 2: Creation of a legal framework for control of all chemical substances contained in Tables I and II of the UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

The enactment of an adequate legal framework permitted the creation of interagency coordination mechanisms among the entities responsible for controlling diversion of chemical substances, as well as the creation of an Interagency Coordination Committee.

Achievement 3: Creation of a Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU).

Peru has an FIU, which is currently under the Ministry of Economy and Finances. This institution manages the national system for the control of money laundering and the financing of terrorism, preventing and detecting suspicious operations and the financing of terrorism, and participating in national and international joint investigations.

Achievement 4: Creation of the Crime Observatory.

The creation of the Crime Observatory led to the setting up of an information system to consolidate data on persons arrested, convicted and imprisoned for different crimes, including corruption, money laundering, and illicit drug trafficking.

Activities carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Approval of the National Anti-Drug Strategy 2002-2007.
- Execution of drug abuse prevention training courses in the Peruvian penitentiary system for prisoners and prison officers. Nongovernmental organizations have participated in these activities and cooperation agreements have been signed with a Peruvian university aimed at establishing a scholarship program for a master's degree in addictive behavior and violence.



- Implementation of several courses on drug use prevention in connection with the offense of drug trafficking, domestic violence, health – especially AIDS – prevention among adolescent groups, self-esteem and educational methods for communication for prison staff, the family and community in general for agents of the National Center for Criminological and Penitentiary Studies and for prisoners.
- Implementation of an information system to gauge the impact of coca supply reduction activities in Peru, and of a monitoring and evaluation system for the Alternative Development Program (ADP). This system centralizes the statistics, verifies the outcomes of program execution, and assesses the impact of the aforementioned program.
- Ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000 and of its Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components, and Ammunition.
- Execution of studies to obtain up-to-date estimates on drug prevalence and average age of first use of drugs to improve the country's understanding of the national drug use problem.
- Extension of the coverage of drug abuse prevention programs to include indigenous populations in the rural area of the departments of Junín, Cajamarca, and Ayacucho, San Martín, Ucayali, Huánuco, and Puno.
- Development of drug abuse prevention programs in the workplace for private companies.
- Implementation of drug use prevention projects at the national level during 2004-2006, within communities and educational facilities, which include base lines and pre and post test designs.
- Evaluation of two drug use prevention programs. The first evaluation was conducted on the Drug Use Prevention Program for the professional training activities that have been implemented in Occupational Education Centers in the cities of Lima, Ayacucho, Piura, and Trujillo; and the second evaluation was conducted on the Program for Drug Use Prevention and Rehabilitation of Drug Addicts, involving preventive work carried out by 27 multisectoral drug use prevention committees scattered throughout the country.
- Signature and enforcement of international instruments to control all the pharmaceutical products listed in the annexes to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971.
- Establishment of a mechanism to evaluate the efficacy of the entities in charge of control and supervision of controlled chemical substances by fostering effective coordination between them.
- Establishment of a communication system among the institutions responsible for fighting illicit drug trafficking, through an Intersectoral anti-drug committee.
- Establishment of coordination channels for inter-institutional communications on the status of investigations into the cases referred to the Public Prosecution Service by the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU). The FIU also works with the Public Prosecution Service in order to streamline the handing of those complaints.



FEDERATION OF SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Adoption of the National Anti-Drug Master Plan on October 30, 2000.
- Update of the existing legal and regulatory provisions addressing issues related to drugs, money laundering, and trafficking in firearms.
- Implementation of guidelines on the minimum standards of care for drug treatment.
- Creation of a national drug surveillance unit known as the Anti-Narcotics Unit (ANU), which will make it possible to develop mechanisms for estimating and controlling illicit crops.
- Creation of a national drug surveillance unit known as the Anti-Narcotics Unit, to monitor and eradicate illicit crops.
- Establishment of a national advisory body responsible for regulating pharmaceuticals imported into the country.
- Implementation of a system to issue pre-export notifications for controlled chemical substances was established. National legislation and regulations were adopted to strengthen this implementation.
- Implementation of national laws and regulations to develop and establish the necessary legal and administrative framework to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances.
- Creation of a system to identify the number of seizures, operations, and persons arrested, charged and convicted for illicit drug trafficking offenses. The Geographical Information System (GIS) was approved to be incorporated into the drug surveillance and control mechanism.
- Establishment of a mechanism to identify the origins or routing of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials.
- Establishment of an international cooperation mechanism for the investigation and prosecution of offenses involving the manufacturing and illicit trafficking of firearms.
- Criminalization of money laundering as an autonomous offense, through the Proceeds of Crime Act, 2000 Part II, and the Anti-Money Laundering Regulations No. 15 of 2001.
- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials, CIFTA (1997).
- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption (1996).



- Ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000, and its three Protocols to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition; and against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea.



SAINT LUCIA

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Establishment of regulations according to international conventions or agreements and CICAD Model Regulations for the control of chemical substances.
- Ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988.
- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption, 1996.
- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials, 1997 (CIFTA).
- Update of the 1957 Firearms Legislation through Firearms Act Order # 9 in order to reflect current international minimum standards, including the Inter-American Convention against Illicit Manufacturing or and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials, as well as the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
- Inclusion of lawyers, notaries, and accountants as being subject to administrative controls related to money laundering, through Money Laundering (Prevention, Amendment of Schedule) Order # 59.
- Provision of training in money laundering investigation for all financial investigators within the Financial Intelligence Authority. These officers provide training for police officers on the same topic. Similar training has also been provided for magistrates and persons from the Crown Prosecution Service. Saint Lucia also held a money laundering training workshop for judges in 2004.
- Ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000.
- Development and implementation of drug abuse prevention programs targeted at officers and inmates of the adult correctional facility, the wards of the male juvenile correctional facility, secondary school students, and the workplace population in both the private and public sectors.
- Accession to the United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971.
- Implementation of drugs in the workplace program for the general public sector as well as workers in the tourism industry.



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Establishment of a mechanism for operational exchange of counter-narcotics information between national authorities responsible for the control of chemicals and pharmaceuticals.
- Creation of a system within the Police Department to identify the origin and routing of firearms and other explosives.
- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, 1996.
- Establishment of treatment and rehabilitation facilities.
- Establishment of the National Drug Information Network for the control of and prevention of the diversion of pharmaceutical products and controlled chemical substances.
- Ratification of The United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol.
- Ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988.
- Incorporation of the United Nations Guiding Principles into the National Demand Reduction Strategy.
- Implementation of an on-going program to detect, monitor and eradicate illegal marijuana cultivations in the country and collaborate with the United States law enforcement agencies in this drug-control area.
- Ratification of the United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971.



SURINAME

Suriname reported on the main achievements reached as a result of the MEM from three evaluation rounds as follows:

Achievement 1: Implementation of the Drug Demand Reduction Program.

The coordinated approach to the drug program helped strengthen National policy by creating the National Drug Master Plan. The Drug Plan launched many drug awareness programs. The awareness programs were even conducted in eight languages. Personnel were also trained in primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention stages.

Achievement 2: Establishment of two monitoring and research networks, namely Suriname Epidemiological Network on Drug Use (SURENDU) and National Drug Supply Reduction Network (NDSRN).

The SURENDU reports are the basis of the drug awareness programs. The Drug Supply Reduction Network has been named as the forum for data collection in the area of law enforcement, narco-trafficking and drug related crime.

Achievement 3: Creation of a Data Management System for the Office of the Attorney General.

The Data Management System has information on drug related criminals which can be accessed through the Office of the Attorney General, Police Force, and the Courts of Justice.

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Approval of the National Drug Master Plan 2006-2010.
- Introduction of international measurement systems for the assessment of crops and cultivations. The Judicial Department and the Narcotic Squad comply in their reports with these guidelines.
- Establishment of the National Coordination Centre Suriname (NCCS) to collect information on illicit drug trafficking. The NCCS is formed by personnel involved in combating drug trafficking and acts under the authority of the Attorney General.
- Creation of a registry of persons convicted for illicit possession and trafficking of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.
- Creation of a register of persons arrested, tried, and convicted for money laundering.
- Designation of the Office of the Attorney General as the entity in charge of the administration and disposal of seized and forfeited assets in cases of illicit drug trafficking and money laundering.
- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption, 1996.



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Trinidad and Tobago reported on the main achievements reached as a result of the MEM from three evaluation rounds as follows:

Achievement 1: Increase in cooperation and communication among the primary and secondary agencies involved in the Anti-Drug initiative.

Created opportunities to work together in an understanding and cooperative environment. The creation of a "MEM Team" has fostered greater understanding among many of the agencies and created opportunities for "Functional Overlap" and reduction of duplication.

Achievement 2: Provision of an overview of the country.

The MEM process has assisted in providing the country with an overview of its drug situation, and the recommendations assist in prioritizing matters.

Achievement 3: Utilization of the MEM and other reports to promote action and recommendations to the political directorate, especially in the area of international conventions and legislative matters.

This has allowed for an increased focus in order to act quicker in solving problems.

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Strengthening of international cooperation to investigate and prosecute drug trafficking, through the enactment of the Proceeds of Crime Act, and the Bill to Amend the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act.
- Enactment of legislation requiring financial institutions and others responsible to report suspicious or unusual transactions to the competent authorities, as well as laws stipulating that financial institutions and others responsible are to comply with this and other control measures, through the Proceeds of Crime Act.
- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), 1997.
- Amendment to the National Firearms Act and establishment of the Firearms Interdiction Unit of the Police Service to ensure consistency between national laws on firearms and ammunition and the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), as well as with the CICAD model regulations.
- Completion of studies to determine the prevalence of drug use in the country, such as the Rapid Assessment Survey of Out of School Youth with respect to their knowledge, attitude, and/or use



of drugs; Rapid Assessment survey of Residents in Children Homes; and the National Secondary School Survey Report by the Caribbean Drug Information Network. There have also been follow up studies to these surveys.

- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, 1992.
- Launch of the National Observatory on Drugs and a National Drug Information System to collect statistical data and to share this information with relevant authorities.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Eradication of laboratories producing illicit drugs, with participation of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in close cooperation with the relevant federal, state, and local agencies.
- Strengthening of the information mechanism for international cooperation for the investigation and prosecution for crimes related to illicit drug trafficking, including the Office of International Affairs of the Department of Justice and representatives of law enforcement entities in other United States embassies throughout the world.
- Designation of the Office of International Affairs in the Department of Justice and the Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Networks as the mechanisms used in the exchange of information regarding international cooperation for the investigation and prosecution for crimes related to money laundering.
- Maintenance of a data collection system on drug-related offenses, such as the number of persons arrested, charged, and convicted for drug offenses, that covers federal, state, and local data.
- Implementation of drug abuse prevention and treatment training programs for prison guards in the federal prison system. All newly-hired prison staff participate in orientation, training and information sessions on these topics. Correctional officers are also trained to detect when inmates are under the influence of drugs. Prison staff must also subscribe to and follow the Drug Free Workplace Policy.
- Establishment of regulations and thorough internal policies to ensure that exporters provide the required import approval from the importing country. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives modified its regulations to ensure that importers provide a proper export license from the exporting country prior to authorizing any import.
- Execution of regular training courses for health professionals on prescribing, dispensing, and distributing pharmaceutical products and listed chemicals. The country also organizes hosts national conferences on this topic annually.
- Monitoring of trends in prescription issuing practices on an ongoing basis through coordination among law enforcement authorities, the pharmaceutical industry, health professionals, internet service providers and courier postal services. Other efforts to combat the illicit sale of pharmaceutical controlled substances include the establishment of the Automation of Reports and Consolidated Order System (ARCOS). ARCOS monitors trends in prescription practices of selected controlled substances. Also, the Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs), assists states in identifying diversion trends as they emerge.
- Execution of regular evaluations of the performance and effectiveness of agencies involved in the control of domestic and international markets for firearms, ammunitions, and explosives



through systems of inspectors general, offices of professional responsibility, and Congressional overview.

- Issuance of the requirement to financial institutions to establish and implement a Customer Identification Program as part of a comprehensive anti-money laundering compliance program. Financial Institutions are also strongly encouraged to use reasonable employment screening processes to minimize the risk of fraud, embezzlement, money laundering, and other crimes. Federal Banking Agencies also conduct background checks to comply with the regulatory requirement that assesses a person's competence, experience, integrity, financial ability, and to determine the person's qualification to serve in the proposed capacity.
- Maintenance of permanent records of all requests received from foreign financial intelligence units and all requests forwarded to foreign financial intelligence units, named Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) Database. The Office of International Affairs of the U.S. Department of Justice also keeps a database to track the number of mutual legal assistance requests received by the United States to freeze assets.
- Designation of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) as responsible for the administration of the Bank Secrecy Act and of pursuing civil enforcement actions against those entities that are determined to be in significant noncompliance.
- Ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000) and two of the three related Protocols: the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.



URUGUAY

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Establishment of a separate budget for the national drug board to carry out its activities.
- The allocation of additional funding in the National Budget Act for National Drug Board investments for the period 2006–2009.
- Collection of records on the number of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials seized in drug trafficking cases.
- Ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000, and its Protocols against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, and to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children
- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials (CIFTA), 1997.
- Development of an ongoing studies system within the Uruguayan Observatory on Drugs with regard to demand control data; and of a continuous record-keeping system on treatment centers.
- Execution of training workshops for primary care workers nationwide, with a view to establishing a network of care services ranging from initial care to highly specialized services in this area.
- Inclusion of a chapter on evaluation in all of the country's drug demand reduction projects.
- Installation of the United Nations' National Database System (NDS) program, and execution of training to its experts for its implementation.
- Approval of the Regulations on Precursors and Chemicals.
- Establishment of guidelines for minimum standards of care in drug treatment.
- Implementation of prevention programs for street children.



VENEZUELA

Venezuela reported on the main achievements reached as a result of the MEM from three evaluation rounds as follows:

Achievement 1: Performance of a secondary school survey on drug-risk perception and trends in drug use in 2001.

The survey examined attitudes of secondary school students to drug use, and the operational programs and plans targeting this population were strengthened.

Achievement 2: Performance of a nationwide epidemiological study on drug use in university students in 2003.

The study led to the strengthening of drug use prevention policies aimed at university students as well as the signing of agreements for implementing programs with this population.

Achievement 3: Performance of a household epidemiological survey on drug use in 2005.

The survey permitted the epidemiological categorization of psychoactive substance use in the Venezuelan population aged 15 to 70, by sex, age, education level, marital status, income, and employment situation.

Achievement 4: Performance of a school-based (seventh to ninth grade) epidemiological survey on drug use prevalence as well as risk and prevention factors in 2005.

Achievement 5: Use of the Inter-American Uniform Drug Use Data System (SIDUC).

This enabled the country to determine ages of first use of drugs and to have a uniform information system for treatment centers.

Achievement 6: Initiation of comprehensive drugs-in-the-workplace prevention programs in both public and private sectors.

An analysis was carried out on the situation and perceptions of workers and their families, and drug use prevention plans and programs were implemented.

Training materials were also designed for public and private sector companies and, through the business advisers program underway in the country since 2005, training was provided for employees and staff who work in these programs.

Achievement 7: Widening of prevention program coverage in key populations, including indigenous groups.

A line of action entitled "Comprehensive Prevention" was included in the National Anti-Drug Plan 2002-2007. This line of action targets indigenous communities and its purpose is to design comprehensive prevention plans, programs, and projects for those communities in Venezuela.

**Achievement 8: Enhancement of the national coverage of data collection on drug supply and demand, and insertion of this information in a unified database.**

This achievement was possible thanks to the strengthening of the Venezuelan Observatory on Drugs and the creation of the National Drug Information System (SINADRO), using a centralized database model with information on supply and demand reduction.

Databases were also installed at 13 treatment centers in order to implement the SIDUC system, which ensures uniform statistics.

This achievement has provided the Venezuelan Observatory on Drugs with a database that contains up-to-date information on the number of drug seizures and quantities of drugs seized in the country.

Achievement 9: Performance of a participatory review on drug use in Venezuela, continuing the institution-building program in the framework of the project on decentralization of demand control policy in Andean countries.

These reviews have enabled the country to identify the risk and protection factors that exist in the states and municipalities they covered, in order subsequently to design an operating plan that includes plans and training for the persons involved.

Achievement 10: Training and technical assistance in supply and demand reduction.

Training courses on demand and supply reduction were held by CICAD experts. Also provided were advisory and follow-up services on joint projects, in addition to specialized training courses on control measures, among other activities.

Achievement 11: Establishment of mechanisms to control diversion of pharmaceutical products and controlled chemical substances. Update of the regulations in place.

The country created the National Register of Chemical Substances through which to monitor and control all activities in the country that involve controlled chemical substances.

Achievement 12: Classification of money laundering as an autonomous offence and of its predicate offences in Venezuelan law.

The country enacted the Organic Law against Organized Crime which criminalizes money laundering as an autonomous offence.

Achievement 13: Training for health professionals on the drug problem through the Online Master's Degree Course in Addiction Studies.

Training on the drug problem for health staff has helped to improve operating plans and policy in this area.

Actions carried out by the country in relation to recommendations assigned during three evaluation rounds include:

- Systematic eradication of illicit crop cultivation, through the establishment of an annual four-monthly eradication schedule.



- Ratification of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), 1997.
- Enactment of a new Organic Law on Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances. Title VII of this Law covers the prevention and control of chemical substances.

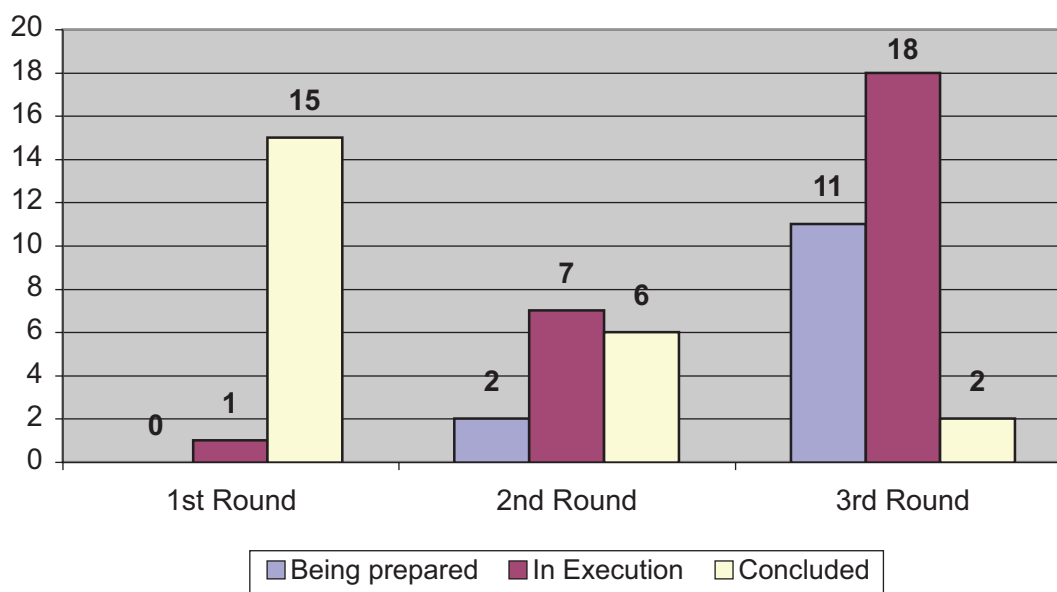


3.3 CICAD Assistance projects to implement recommendations

During the first three evaluation rounds of the MEM, countries have had the opportunity to receive technical assistance from CICAD to execute various projects that will allow them to fulfill recommendations that were considered as priorities by the countries and, in that way, make progress with regard to their anti-drug policies.

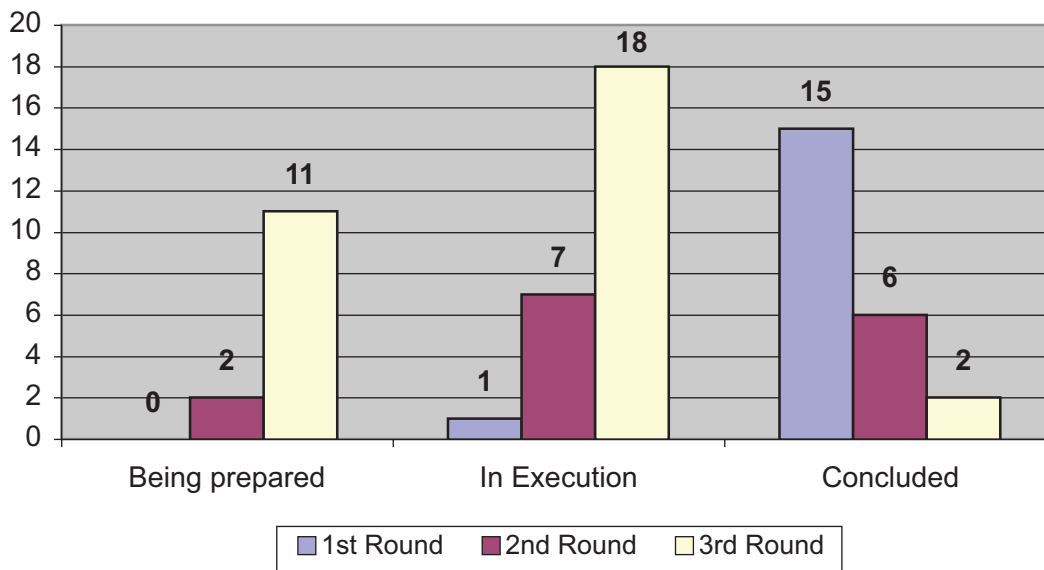
At the end of the First Evaluation Round, countries requested assistance to implement a total of 16 projects, of which 15 have already been completed and one is being executed. From the projects requested in the Second Round, six have been concluded, seven are currently being executed and two are being prepared. At the end of the Third Evaluation Round, the assistance requests have increased considerably (from 15 requests made in the second round to 31 in the third).

Graphic 9:
Number of Assistance Projects Requested, by
Evaluation Round



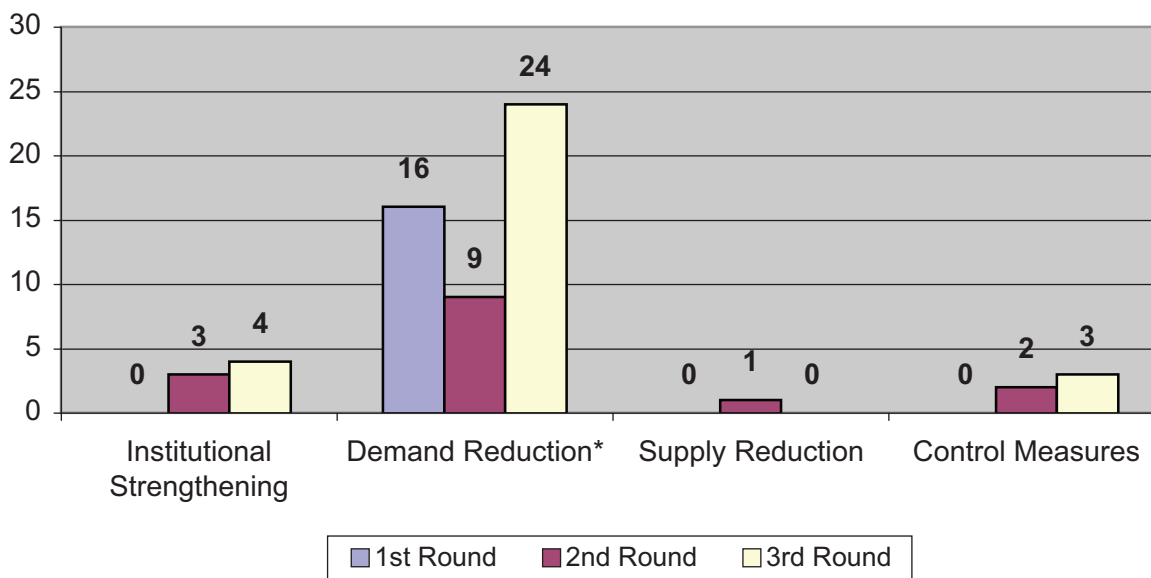


**Graphic 10:
Number of Assistance Projects Requested, by
by Implementation Status**



With respect to the classification of projects by thematic area, during the three evaluation rounds, the majority (79%) of requested projects are related to demand reduction, with a total of 23 projects of this type in South America, nine in Central America, and 17 in the Caribbean. Furthermore, most of the requests in this area are related to studies to measure the magnitude of drug consumption and to general or specific population surveys (19 projects). It is important to bear in mind that implementation of this type of project usually takes between 10 to 18 months.

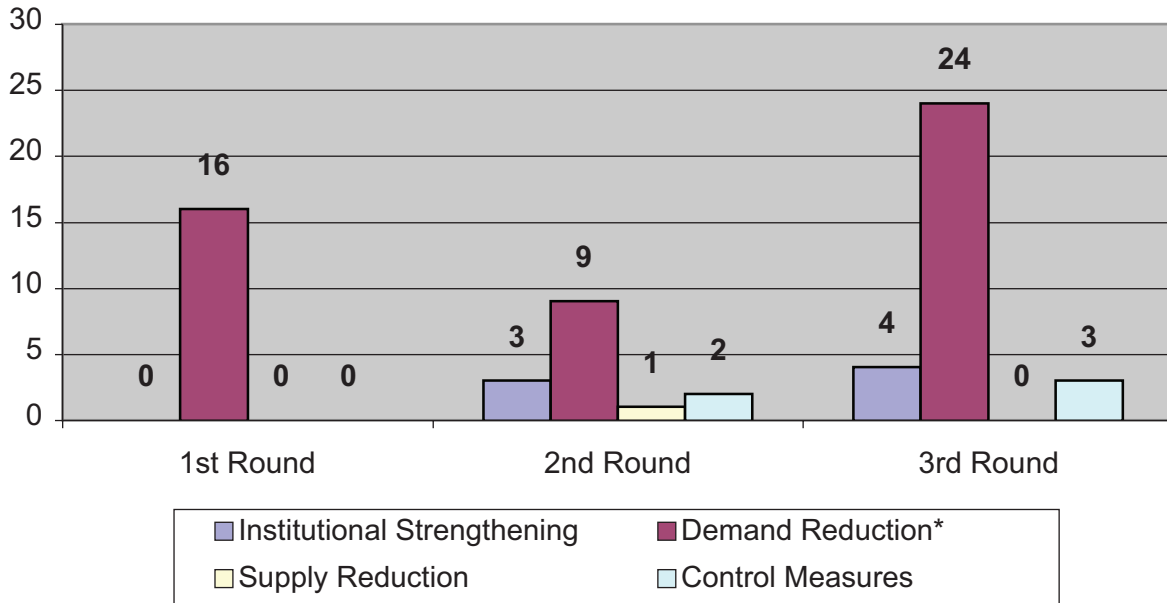
**Graphic 11:
Number of Assistance Projects Requested,
by Thematic Area**



* Includes projects related to drug use statistics, for example, the implementation of surveys.



**Graphic 12:
Number of Assistance Projects Requested,
by Evaluation Round**



* Includes projects related to drug use statistics, for example, the implementation of surveys.



4. Conclusions

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) was created in 1997 as a tool for member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) to effectively address the drug problem by strengthening their control policies, programs, and projects. This is achieved through monitoring and evaluating the progress of individual and collective efforts of all the countries, indicating both results achieved, as well as obstacles faced by states. Over the past three evaluation rounds it has evolved into a dynamic instrument that has enabled countries to collectively address this problem.

The MEM has strengthened the existing multidimensional, institutional and political framework for addressing problems arising from drug use and trafficking in the hemisphere. Likewise, it has increased mutual confidence, dialogue, and hemispheric cooperation in addressing the drug problem in its different manifestations. At the core of this framework is the CICAD Commission, a political forum for the discussion of ideas and solutions for joint action and the promotion of mutual cooperation. CICAD is guided by the Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere and its Action Plan, which sets out shared principles and general policy guidelines.

This collaborative effort was needed as it had become increasingly evident that the global drug phenomenon could only be addressed through a multilateral approach. The MEM has given each participating country a sense of ownership and responsibility in addressing the problem, leading to greater and more effective actions.

In the area of drugs, increasing globalization means that the success of each national strategy in connection with any aspect of this problem is closely tied to the advances or setbacks of other countries' strategies. Therefore, the outcome of each strategy and of the strategies as a whole will have a decisive impact on what occurs at the hemispheric level. This has reaffirmed the validity of and need for the MEM as the instrument for follow-up of public anti-drug policies and programs whose legitimacy is based on its applicability to all member states and its consensus-based procedures, principles, and rules.

Since 1999, as a direct response to this complex phenomenon, the anti-drug strategies of OAS member states have shown significant progress in the strengthening of their national plans and policies. This progress may also be attributed to the existence of the MEM and the impetus it has given to the formulation of national anti-drug policies as well as to the Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere.

The recommendations assigned through the MEM to each country in all relevant areas of the drug problem have become important sources of guidance for member states and help raise awareness for the need to improve existing policies. The Mechanism's key multilateral nature has not only ensured the transparency of evaluation but also the benefit to be gained from experience of the realities of different countries.

In its three evaluation rounds, the MEM has led states to implement specific actions in different areas. Moreover, in each round, it was determined that progress had been made in the implementation process of over 50% of assigned recommendations.

The following analysis of recommendation content by subject area underscores the relevance of national policy improvements made at the request of the MEM:

- **Institutional strengthening** - important progress has been made through recommendations that relate primarily to the adoption of national anti-drug strategies, the establishment of national anti-drug authorities, and the creation of national observatories or centralized offices with accurate information systems. Likewise, the MEM's ongoing promotion of ratification of international conventions should be highlighted, which has achieved a greater harmonization



of existing legal frameworks in the hemisphere to address the drug problem. In implementing recommendations in this thematic area, countries have carried out specific actions for the institutional and legal strengthening of their policies.

- **Illicit drug use prevention, treatment, and statistics** - recommendations have focused on the development of prevention programs for different target groups, expanding program coverage, and program evaluation. In the addiction treatment area, recommendations have focused mainly on encouraging countries to establish minimum standards of care and to implement treatment services, while ensuring proper oversight. Lastly, countries have been encouraged to ensure that information systems are in place to provide estimates of the scale of illicit drug use, recommending specific studies in keeping with each country's reality. In this thematic area, states have implemented recommendations through actions in the above-described areas, which has led to the strengthening of national policies.
- **Drug production and development programs related to the prevention or reduction of illicit crop cultivation, drug production or trafficking** – where appropriate, recommendations have been aimed at encouraging countries to develop systems enabling them to identify illicit crop areas, as well as eradication systems, and to implement alternative development programs.
- **Supply reduction** - recommendations have focused on the development of legal and institutional structures for adequate control of pharmaceutical products and of chemical substances. In particular, countries have been encouraged to develop information systems to facilitate such control and ensure the availability of information in this specific area. The recommendations implemented have enabled existing controls to be strengthened to prevent the diversion of these types of substances.
- **Control measures** - recommendations are aimed at encouraging countries to establish appropriate information and interagency coordination systems for the control of illicit drug trafficking and of firearms and related materials. Particular importance should be attached to recommendations for the prevention and control of money laundering that aim primarily at encouraging states to develop legal and institutional frameworks in keeping with existing international standards. Through the implementation of recommendations in these areas, policies to control illicit drug trafficking, illicit arms trafficking, and money laundering have clearly been strengthened.

Recommendations to member states have helped identify weaknesses and setbacks in their anti-drug strategies. Additionally, if needed, countries have the opportunity to request technical, financial, or training assistance for implementation of the assigned recommendations. Member states are in a continuous process of complying with recommendations. Although in cases where the recommendation has not been fully implemented, the actions that have been initiated to comply with the recommendation should be considered as substantial progress. Therefore, it is important to note that of all recommendations made, in the First Round, positive response was received from states in 76% of cases, in the Second Round, in 85%, and, in the Third Round, in 81%.

The MEM, a continuously evolving process, unquestionably poses an ongoing challenge. The experience of each evaluation round contributes to the periodic review of the mechanism, adjusting it to the challenges faced by the hemisphere and providing valuable information on a constantly changing problem.

Despite its achievements, the MEM evaluation will only fulfill its purpose if, based on an accurate assessment, it can generate policies and programs to strengthen positive aspects and correct deficiencies in the fight against drugs. After three evaluation rounds, it is evident that, through constant review and discussion, the MEM is complying with this objective.



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