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MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

*Evaluation Report on Drug Policies:
Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit
Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and
Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their
Causes and Consequences*

El Salvador

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)
Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS)

2022



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EL SALVADOR

Evaluation Report on Drug Policies:

Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their Causes and Consequences

EIGHTH EVALUATION ROUND

2022

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PREFACE

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), established by a mandate from the Second Summit of the Americas (Santiago, Chile - 1998), is a unique multilateral evaluation tool designed to measure the progress made and challenges faced by the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) in implementing the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs of the OAS Hemispheric Drug Strategy, currently in force.

The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS) is the OAS specialized agency in charge of implementing this Mechanism.

The current MEM round is based on the objectives of the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2021-2025 of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy 2020 and their respective priority actions. These documents take into account the recommendations of the outcome document of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS 2016) and the United Nations 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, as well as cross-cutting issues, such as the gender perspective and human rights, cultural context, and social inclusion approaches, among others.

Seven evaluation rounds have been completed from 1998 to 2019 and, during 2020, the MEM Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG), composed of member state delegates, agreed on a new methodology for the eighth round, consisting of annual thematic evaluations with the support of independent technical consultants, as follows: 2021 – Measures for Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Support; 2022 – Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their Causes and Consequences; 2023 – Institutional Strengthening; Research, Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation; International Cooperation; and 2024 – Comprehensive Evaluation based on updated information from all thematic areas.

MEM evaluations are carried out based on information provided by the member states' National Coordinating Entities (NCEs), which is analyzed by the MEM Governmental Expert Group (GEG), composed of experts designated by the countries, who do not participate in their own country's evaluation, thus ensuring the transparency and impartiality of the process. The GEG is always supported by the group of independent technical consultants and the MEM Unit. The eighth round represents a more rigorous evaluation process, in which countries are requested to provide valid means of verification to support the information submitted and ensure compliance of each priority action.

Specifically, the GEG's work for the thematic assessment for the area of “Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their Causes and Consequences” was conducted during 2022 and covers the 2019 to 2022 period (unless otherwise specified). This work was adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic with

the use of technology and virtual tools, as well as taking it into consideration in the evaluation assessments.

Finally, it should be noted that one of the main purposes of MEM evaluation reports is to serve as a useful diagnostic tool to identify opportunities for improvement in drug policies and strategies, both at the national and regional levels.

OBJECTIVE
1

DEVELOP AND/OR STRENGTHEN NATIONAL- AND REGIONAL-LEVEL INTERDICTION CAPACITY, AS WELL AS THE CAPACITY TO REDUCE THE ILLICIT CULTIVATION, PRODUCTION, TRAFFICKING, AND DISTRIBUTION OF PLANT-BASED AND SYNTHETIC DRUGS THROUGH THE USE OF COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED PROGRAMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REALITIES OF EACH COUNTRY'S DOMESTIC LEGISLATION AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

Priority Action 1.1: Develop or strengthen intelligence and interdiction capabilities to detect, investigate, and dismantle laboratories or facilities used in the illicit manufacture of drugs.

El Salvador does not implement nor participate in ongoing training programs to detect, investigate, and dismantle laboratories or facilities used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, for personnel involved in interdiction operations.

On the other hand, although the National Civil Police does not have continuous training courses on new synthetic substances, there are efforts to provide police personnel with basic knowledge of the subject. There is a need for ongoing training with international support, for the comprehensive training of investigators and police personnel in general. There is also a need to enhance the capacity to investigate clandestine laboratories and New Psychoactive Substances (NPS).

El Salvador does not have protocols and operating procedures to detect, investigate, and dismantle clandestine laboratories or facilities for the illicit processing or manufacture of drugs.

Priority Action 1.2: Implement policies that promote gender mainstreaming in agencies and organizations in charge of drug control.

El Salvador's Office of the Attorney General of the Republic is the drug control agency that implements policies that promote gender mainstreaming, through the following laws:

- Gender equity and equality policy
- Criminal Prosecution Policy and Criminal Prosecution Policy on Violence against Women, 2018
- Special Comprehensive Law for a Violence-Free Life for Women, published by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Academy for Security Analysis, National Council of the Judiciary (CNJ), and College of Criminal Justice, 2018

Priority Action 1.3: Design, implement, and strengthen programs aimed at land, riverine, maritime, and aerial interdiction.

El Salvador has programs and strategies aimed at land, riverine, maritime, and aerial interdiction, through monitoring, inspections, or checkpoints.

Priority Action 1.4: Review and update, as appropriate, legal frameworks related to the use of specialized investigation tools and techniques.

El Salvador has the following laws providing for the use of specialized investigation tools and techniques to prevent and reduce drug trafficking:

- Law Regulating Drug-Related Activities
- Money Laundering Law
- Special Law for the Extinction of Ownership (*Extinción de Dominio*) and Management of Assets of Illicit Origin or Destination

Priority Action 1.5: Review and/or update mechanisms countries use to monitor the evolution of drug trafficking and related crimes, for the purpose of identifying and responding to new trends and threats.

El Salvador updates diagnostic assessments and studies to identify new trends and threats in relation to drug trafficking and related crimes.

Priority Action 1.6: Define and implement coordinated actions between national and regional entities to dismantle organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes.

El Salvador takes the following steps to identify organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes:

- Deployment of counter-narcotics intelligence teams
- Strategic Analysis
- Implementation of the Technical Analysis Roundtable (META-SIN)
- Implementation of a Risk Monitoring and Management Room. Exchange of information with other control agencies
- Field work
- Exchange of information with other countries
- Telephone tapping
- Teamwork between prosecutors and agents of the Anti-Narcotics Division of the National Civil Police

The country implements inter-institutional collaboration and cooperation mechanisms to coordinate activities aimed at dismantling organized crime groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes. In this sense, the country has agreements, accords, protocols, and processes to streamline information. Likewise, the Attorney General's Office works in coordination with the Navy, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the Public Prosecutors' Offices in the area.

El Salvador has participated in operations and investigations in cooperation with other countries aimed at dismantling organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes. In this sense, the country employs the following mechanisms:

- Cooperation agreements in the fight against drugs with the United States and the Sub-committee of Chiefs and Directors of Police of Central America and the Caribbean
- Joint Operations with Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua
- Regular meetings, use of mutual legal assistance in criminal matters
- Subregional Strategy (Colombia, Costa Rica, and El Salvador) of Cooperation to Improve Interdiction of Drug Trafficking and Chemical Precursors, within the framework of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)/United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Project

Priority Action 1.7: Enhance the capacity of national and regional forensic laboratories or similar investigation entities to analyze and identify chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances (NPS) and facilitate information sharing with global repositories and across governmental counterparts.

El Salvador's Laboratory on Controlled Substances of the Forensic Science Technical Analysis Division of the Forensic Science Technical Sub directorate of the National Civil Police is responsible for, and capable of, analyzing chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances (NPS).

The country does not have or participates in ongoing training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including NPS.

El Salvador has mechanisms to facilitate and share information at the national level across governmental counterparts, as well as with global repositories on chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including NPS. Accordingly, joint inspections are conducted between the Anti-Narcotics Division of the National Civil Police and Inspectors of the Inspection, Control and Good Practices Unit of the National Directorate of Medicines, in order to control the correct use of chemical precursors, thereby preventing their diversion for illicit use in the illicit manufacture of drugs.

Priority Action 1.8: Enhance the capacity of relevant drug control and financial regulatory competent authorities to identify and address new challenges related to synthetic drugs and their precursors and pharmaceutical products being illicitly sold online and shipped through land, riverine, maritime, and aerial means.

El Salvador does not have mechanisms to investigate or disrupt drug trafficking through the

Internet.

Priority Action 1.9: Enhance coordination with private sector entities to prevent diversion of chemical substances and precursors and deny criminals access to the materials, platforms, and services of the licit supply chain, which are exploited by criminal organizations for the illicit manufacture, sale, and trafficking of drugs.

El Salvador has partnerships and information exchange mechanisms with private sector entities to prevent access to materials and services exploited for illicit drug trafficking purposes. In this sense, there is a legal mechanism through which the National Directorate of Medicines regulates and authorizes the import, export, manufacture, marketing, and use of chemical precursors, whereby companies are required to submit monthly information on the use of these substances, which is sent to the Anti-Narcotics Division of the National Civil Police for joint inspection purposes.

The country does not use tools or resources of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) to strengthen cooperation with the private sector to prevent the diversion of chemicals.

Priority Action 1.10: Enhance capacities for forfeiture, seizure, and management of assets, tools, or products related to illicit drug markets.

El Salvador has national authorities, human and material resources for the forfeiture, seizure, and management of assets, tools, or products related to illicit drug markets. However, it does not have an appropriate budget for the forfeiture, seizure, and management of goods, instruments, or products related to illicit drug markets.

El Salvador's competent personnel does not receive ongoing training for the forfeiture, seizure, and management of assets, tools, or products related to illicit drug markets.

OBJECTIVE

2

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES POSED BY NPS AND ILLICIT SYNTHETIC DRUGS, AND THE THREAT OF FENTANYL-RELATED SUBSTANCES, NON-MEDICAL SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS, AND ILLICIT AMPHETAMINE DERIVATIVES.

Priority Action 2.1: Establish and/or strengthen early warning systems (EWS) at the national level to promote collaboration and the exchange of information with other existing regional or international systems.

El Salvador has an early warning system (EWS) to identify and track new psychoactive substances (NPS), illicit synthetic drugs, and the threat of substances related to fentanyl, non-medical synthetic opioids, and illicit amphetamine derivatives, as well as other substances that are under international control. This information is shared via e-mail with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global Smart Program and the EWS on NPS. Information is also shared with the Early Warning System of the Americas (SATA) of the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs of Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS).

In practice, El Salvador works with the Autonomous Port Executive Commission (CEPA), which shares information on incoming shipments of suspicious products or substances, with a view to having the containers inspected by the entities that participate in the Global Container Control Program-CCP (National Civil Police and General Directorate of Customs), as well as the Attorney General's Office and the National Directorate of Medicines.

Priority Action 2.2: Improve domestic capabilities to detect and analyze NPS by making resources and tools available for those responsible in this area.

El Salvador improves its capacity to detect and analyze NPS through the use of special investigation techniques, updated equipment, and the acquisition of new technologies. In this sense, in 2019, the UNODC Global Smart Program donated to El Salvador portable RAMAN TruNarc drug analyzing electronic devices, two of which were delivered to the Anti-Narcotics Division of the National Civil Police. One device was delivered to the Laboratory of Controlled Substances of the Forensic Science Technical Division of the National Civil Police and one device was delivered to the Airport Communications Program (AIRCOP) that operates in El Salvador international airport facilities and has strengthened capabilities for the detection and identification of NPS and synthetic drugs in the country.

The special techniques used by the National Civil Police include Undercover agents, supervision of purchases, and wiretapping.

The equipment available to the Anti-Narcotics Division of the National Civil Police includes: Trunarc, lonscan, and scanners.

The equipment available to the Controlled Substances Laboratory of the Forensic Science Technical Subdirectorate of the National Civil Police includes RAMAN, TruNarc, and Gas Chromatographs with Mass Spectrometry Detector (GC-MS), which are used by chemists specializing in the analysis of Controlled Substances.

Priority Action 2.3: Design and implement, when appropriate, national regulatory tools to address the challenges posed by NPS and national controls on emerging illicit synthetic drugs and their precursor chemicals.

El Salvador has the following regulatory frameworks or guidelines to identify and address the challenges posed by NPS and emerging illicit synthetic drugs:

- The Law Regulating Drug-Related Activities
- The Medicines Law
- Rules of Procedure regarding Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Drugs, Precursors, Chemical Substances and Products, and Aggregates

Priority Action 2.4: Promote participation in the Incident Communication System of the ION Project (IONICS) to facilitate real-time communication of incidents involving suspicious shipments of, trafficking in, or illicit manufacture or production of NPS, including fentanyl-related substances and other non-medical synthetic opioids and amphetamine derivatives.

El Salvador takes part in the International Operations on NPS (ION) project of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). The General Directorate of Customs of the Ministry of Finance serves as the focal point.

Priority Action 2.5: Develop innovative regulatory approaches, such as generic controls, analogue legislation, and temporary or emergency controls, to enhance national controls on synthetic opioids for non-medical use, and NPS, particularly when scheduling fentanyl-related substances by class.

El Salvador does not have legislation or innovative regulatory approaches to control synthetic opioids for non-medical use or NPS.

OBJECTIVE
3

STRENGTHEN OR DEVELOP LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR THE EFFECTIVE MONITORING AND CONTROL OF ESSENTIAL CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES AND PRECURSORS TO PREVENT DIVERSION OF THESE SUBSTANCES TO THE MANUFACTURING OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND COUNTER THEIR TRAFFICKING, INCLUDING PERIODICALLY UPDATING NATIONAL LISTS OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES.

Priority Action 3.1: Promote interagency coordination with industry to prevent diversion of controlled chemical substances.

El Salvador has the National Directorate of Medicines as the competent national authority responsible for developing guides, codes of conduct, and other instruments to inform industry and users in general of controlled chemical substances.

El Salvador has developed/conducted the following instruments and mechanisms to inform industry and users in general of applicable controls and cooperation methods, to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances:

- Annual publication of the List of Controlled Substances
- Face-to-face and virtual training
- Publication of regulations on the website

El Salvador has an updated register of all individuals and corporations handling controlled chemical substances.

The competent Salvadoran authorities carry out regular inspections and audits of the establishments run by individuals and corporations authorized to handle controlled chemical substances, as indicated in the following table:

Name of the competent authority	Does it perform regular inspections and audits?	Is it responsible for monitoring domestic trade?	Does it take CICAD's model regulations into account?
National Directorate of Medicines	Yes, at least one monthly inspection is carried out on a scheduled basis of companies that handle chemical precursors.	Yes	Yes
Counternarcotics Division/ National Civil Police	Yes/ Random	Yes	Yes

Priority Action 3.2: Conduct analyses, including through existing mechanisms of information exchange, on substances, their analogues, and precursors, which pose a threat to public health in member states, to identify substances for expedited international control.

El Salvador carries out analyses that include the exchange of information through existing international mechanisms of substances, their analogues, and precursors which pose a threat to public health, that include the following systems:

- RELIEF database (Interpol): Database that stores trademark data. Member countries can check the database to see if the same tag has been used to compress another drug package seized elsewhere in the world. It also contains information on compressed logos (*logotipos comprimidos*) and the chemical composition of different drugs.
- Early Warning System (EWS).

Priority Action 3.3: Strengthen the existing international control system to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances, pharmaceutical products, and precursors used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, as well as interdiction to counter the trafficking of chemical substances.

El Salvador has the following legislation incorporating the control measures in Article 12, Paragraphs 8 and 9 of the 1998 United Nations Convention to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances towards illicit activities:

- Law Regulating Drug-Related Activities
- Medicines Law
- Rules of Procedure regarding Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Drugs, Precursors, Chemical Substances and Products, and Aggregates.

Priority Action 3.4: Strengthen or develop appropriate domestic controls over precursors including measures to control the international trade in precursor chemicals and other controlled chemical substances, consistent with the framework established in the United Nations Drug Conventions and law enforcement measures.

El Salvador has adopted the following control measures listed in Article 12, Paragraph 8 of the 1988 United Nations Convention:

Control measures	Yes	No
Control all persons and companies engaged in the manufacture or distribution of controlled chemical substances	X	
Control, under license, the establishment and premises where the aforementioned manufacture or distribution is carried out	X	

Require licensees to obtain authorization for the manufacture or distribution of controlled chemical substances	X	
Prevent the accumulation by manufacturers and distributors of quantities of such substances in excess of those required for the normal conduct of business and prevailing market conditions	X	

The country has adopted the following control measures listed in Article 12, Paragraph 9 of the 1988 United Nations Convention:

Control measures	Yes	No
A system for monitoring international trade in controlled chemical substances to facilitate the detection of suspicious transactions	X	
The surveillance system should be implemented in close cooperation with manufacturers, importers, exporters, wholesalers, and retailers, who should report suspicious orders and transactions to the competent authorities	X	
Order the seizure of any controlled substance if there is sufficient evidence that it is to be used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances	X	
Notify, as soon as possible, the competent authorities and services if there are reasons to presume that the import, export, or transit of a substance is intended for the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances, providing, in particular, information on the means of payment and any other essential elements on which this presumption is based	X	
Require imports and exports to be properly labeled and documented. Commercial documents such as invoices, cargo manifests, customs, transport, and other documents relating to the shipment should contain the names of the substances being imported or exported, the quantity imported or exported and the name and address of the importer, exporter, and where possible, the consignee. These documents must be kept for at least two years and may be inspected by the competent authorities	X	

El Salvador requests the information in Article 12, Paragraph 10 of the 1988 United Nations Convention.

Likewise, as an additional measure to control chemical precursors, companies importing chemical precursors must have a control system authorized by the National Directorate of Medicines and report the movements made during the month in their inventories (purchases, consumption, and sales) on a monthly basis.

Additionally, at the time of entry of the controlled product into the country, as well as at the time of exit, importers or exporters must obtain authorization from the General Directorate of Customs, which issues the authorization by means of the following documents: Central American Single Declaration and Export Declaration.

Priority Action 3.5: Promote participation in the Pre-Export Notification (PEN) Online system and Precursor Incident Communication System (PICS) to facilitate information exchange on controlled chemical substances.

El Salvador uses the International Narcotics Control Board's (INCB) information system for pre-

export notifications (PEN Online) of controlled chemical substances.
 The country uses the INCB's Precursor Incident Communication System (PICS).

Priority Action 3.6: Train relevant drug investigation, control, and interdiction personnel and researchers on the identification and handling of precursors and other controlled chemical substances used in the illicit manufacture of drugs.

El Salvador receives the following training programs for drug control personnel and for the identification and handling of controlled chemical substances:

Training programs	Institution in charge (national or foreign)
Chemical Safety and Emerging Threats	INTERPOL
First International Symposium on New and Emerging Psychotropic Substances	AMERIPOL
Diploma course in Illicit Drug Production Control	INTERPOL
Control of Controlled Substances Training Course	INL El Salvador
Drug Identification Technician Certification	Forensic Science Technical Sub-Directorate-PNC
Precursor Chemical Research Course	INL El Salvador
Narcotics projections system	INCB through the INCB Learning Program
Psychotropic substances projections system	INCB through the INCB Learning Program
Legitimate annual requirements projections (ALR) for imports of precursors of amphetamine-type stimulants	INCB through the INCB Learning Program
International Drug Control Framework and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)	INCB through the INCB Learning Program
Webinar on "GRIDS operational tools to combat trafficking of NPS and other hazardous substances"	INCB through the Global Programme for the Rapid Interdiction of Dangerous Substances (GRIDS)

Priority Action 3.7: Allocate resources to acquire necessary equipment and supplies for the preliminary identification of substances, and the protective equipment required by personnel in charge of these tasks.

In El Salvador there are budgetary mechanisms to ensure allocation of resources to acquire necessary equipment and supplies for the preliminary identification of substances and the protective equipment required by personnel in charge of these tasks. However, such budgets are limited.

Priority Action 3.8: Use, as appropriate, CICAD's Model Regulations for the control of Chemical Substances Used in the Illicit Production of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (2019) in the formulation of national chemical control regulations.

The National Directorate of Medicines of El Salvador uses the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) Model Regulations for the Control of Chemical Substances Used in the Illicit

Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances for the control of imported or exported substances, as well as for the control of the use of the substances included in said Regulations.

OBJECTIVE

4

ENSURE ADEQUATE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF SUBSTANCES SUBJECT TO INTERNATIONAL CONTROL FOR MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES, WHILE ALSO PREVENTING THEIR DIVERSION TOWARDS ILLICIT ACTIVITIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL CONVENTIONS.

Priority Action 4.1: Streamline, in accordance with national legislation and international obligations, the process for issuing authorizations for national production, and to import and export controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes.

El Salvador has special processes conducted by the National Directorate of Medicines for issuing authorizations for the national production, import, and export of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. The average time it takes to issue an import or export authorization is shown in the following table:

Type of product	Average time taken to issue export licenses	Average time taken to issue export licenses
Narcotic or psychotropic raw materials for the manufacture of medicines	3 working days (Monday to Friday)	3 working days (Monday to Friday)
Medications containing narcotic or psychotropic drugs	3 working days (Monday to Friday)	3 working days (Monday to Friday)
Analytical patterns classified as narcotic or psychotropic	3 working days (Monday to Friday)	3 working days (Monday to Friday)
Medication classified as narcotic or psychotropic for the personal use of travelers entering or leaving the country	3 working days (Monday to Friday)	3 working days (Monday to Friday)

El Salvador has an updated register of individuals or companies importing and exporting substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes.

Priority Action 4.2: Adopt measures, in accordance with national laws, to train competent authorities and health professionals on ensuring access to substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes.

El Salvador has training or awareness-raising activities for competent national authorities and health professionals regarding proper access to substances subject to international control solely for medical and scientific purposes. In this sense, the National Directorate of Medicines gives lectures to professional associations, doctors, pharmacists or persons pursuing similar careers and medical students.

Priority Action 4.3: Improve access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes by addressing existing barriers, including those related to laws, regulations, and measures to promote access and build capacity for health care systems.

El Salvador has the Medicines Law and its enabling regulations (2012) and the Law Regulating Drug Activities, which govern the acquisition of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes.

OBJECTIVE

5

ADOPT OR STRENGTHEN CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DIVERSION OF CONTROLLED PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS CONTAINING NARCOTIC DRUGS AND/OR PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, AND THOSE CONTAINING PRECURSOR SUBSTANCES USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

Priority Action 5.1: Strengthen or implement control measures on pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or controlled psychoactive substances, to prevent their diversion for non-medical purposes, abuse, and trafficking.

El Salvador has an updated register of individuals and corporations handling pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances. For import, manufacture, marketing, and use, the National Directorate of Medicines issues prior authorizations for individuals to carry out any of the aforementioned processes. To that end, it gathers information from natural or legal persons, including general identification data, physical location of the premises to be used, and it verifies compliance with Best Manufacturing and Storage Practices.

The country issues licenses to manufacturers and distributors authorizing the handling of pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances.

Likewise, El Salvador carries out regular inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle pharmaceutical products containing precursors, narcotics, or psychotropic substances.

Priority Action 5.2: Update existing and other regulations and control measures to prevent diversion of pharmaceutical products containing narcotic drugs and/or psychotropic substances.

El Salvador has the following penalties for infractions or violations by individuals or corporations that handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances:

Type of penalty	Year of last update
Criminal	2016
Civil	2016
Administrative	2012

Priority Action 5.3: Strengthen national capacity and regional cooperation to prevent trade in and diversion of materials and equipment for illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including pill presses and encapsulating equipment.

El Salvador does not offer periodic training programs for personnel responsible for preventing trade in and diversion of materials and equipment for illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

The country shares information with the following regional and global systems on the diversion of materials and equipment for illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances:

- Web systems formulated by the International Narcotics Control Board, INCB
- Relief Database (Interpol)
- PEN Online System
- Early Warning System (EWS)

Priority Action 5.4: Promote the incorporation of competent national authorities in the International Import and Export Authorization System (I2ES) of the International Narcotics Control Board, a secure online platform, ready to issue, upload, and expeditiously exchange import and export authorizations of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical use, between countries.

El Salvador does not use the International Narcotics Control Board's (INCB) International Import and Export Authorization System (I2ES). However, it does have alternative mechanisms in place which are ready to expeditiously issue, upload, and exchange import and export authorizations for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical use between countries, such as computerized information systems and interagency mails with responsible authorities in trading partner countries.

The country received training on the INCB's I2ES system.

OBJECTIVE

6

STRENGTHEN OR DEVELOP SPECIFIC OPERATIONAL AND INTELLIGENCE GATHERING AND SHARING MECHANISMS TO DETECT METHODS USED BY CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE EXPLOITATION OF LAND, RIVERINE, MARITIME, AND AERIAL ROUTES.

Priority Action 6.1: Train law enforcement agencies involved in counternarcotics investigations in special investigative techniques and in intelligence gathering, analysis, and operations, as well as in the use of existing information sharing and intelligence systems.

El Salvador implements the following periodic training programs for personnel involved in drug investigations in specialized investigative techniques and intelligence collection, analysis, and operations:

- The World of PETs for Consultation of Police Data
- Operational Case Analysis Diploma
- Cyber Elements of Drug Trafficking, Open-Source Investigation
- Basic Course for Women on Drug Research
- Course on Sociology of Crime
- Advanced Criminal Investigation Course
- Basic Anti-Drug Diploma
- Operational Case Analysis Diploma
- The Science Behind Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) Databases
- Feedback on the use of the Telecommunications Intervention Tool
- Investigation and Prosecution Training
- Cyber Elements of Drug Trafficking Training, Open-Source Investigations
- Training course titled “Technical roundtable to identify multinational cooperation in cases involving international criminal organizations,” held at the International Law Enforcement Academy, ILEA San Salvador, in December 2021. Prosecutors from the Drug Trafficking Unit of the Department of San Salvador participated in the event
- Advanced course on special investigations against gangs as organized crime structures, held in November-December 2021, at ILEA, San Salvador. Drug Trafficking Prosecutors from the department of Sonsonate participated
- Anti-gang course, held in May-June 2019, at ILEA, San Salvador, attended by Drug Trafficking Prosecutors from the department of Santa Ana.

Priority Action 6.2: Enhance the capabilities of law enforcement agencies that investigate and counter drug trafficking and the crimes that facilitate and are associated with trafficking, such as corruption and money laundering, through ongoing training of the involved personnel.

El Salvador implements and participates in periodic training programs and capacity-building activities to investigate and counter crimes associated with illicit drug trafficking, such as

corruption and money laundering. In this sense, for the various kinds of operators in the system, there are training programs on money laundering coordinated through a number of training schools, which are financed with their own funds or international cooperation.

El Salvador has also participated in the following training courses on money laundering and corruption, given at the International Law Enforcement Academy, ILEA, San Salvador:

- Money and Asset Laundering Course
- Money Laundering Course (*Lavado de Capitales*)
- Fight Against Cash Smuggling
- Money and Asset Laundering Investigation Course
- Diploma in Anti-Drug Trafficking Strategies at Air and Maritime Terminals
- Webinar titled "National DNA Data Bank Law, from a legal and scientific perspective"

Priority Action 6.3: Strengthen cooperation and the exchange of information among the domestic, regional, and international law enforcement agencies to carry out operations and investigations to counter drug trafficking and related crimes.

El Salvador has information gathering mechanisms to exchange intelligence information at a domestic, regional, and international level, to detect routes and methods used by criminal drug trafficking criminal organizations. In this sense, the country conducts a monthly operational analysis and participates in meetings of the Sub-committee of Central American Anti-Drug Chiefs.

Likewise, through the Joint Airport Interdiction Task Force (GTCIA) and the Airport Communications Program (AIRCOP) operational group, which operates at El Salvador's international airport, information is exchanged with other counterpart groups in different countries, which are connected through a secure communications network: Customs Enforcement Network Communication Platform (CENComm), provided and administered by the World Customs Organization (WCO), which allows sensitive information to be shared immediately with their international counterparts. In addition, these entities have direct access to the International Criminal Police Organizations' (INTERPOL) tools and databases through System I 24/7.

Priority Action 6.4: Promote and strengthen the exchange of information and intelligence on matters of drug interdiction and effective border control measures to prevent drug trafficking by land, river, sea, and air.

El Salvador has tools that promote and strengthen cooperation and the exchange of information and intelligence among domestic law enforcement agencies responsible for drug interdiction and effective border control. In this sense, in the case of cash at borders, or the cash that is subject to withholding at borders, information regarding persons of interest may be requested from the General Customs Directorate of the Ministry of Finance, since they are the ones who have the

legal obligation to conduct this control, using the form that each person entering or leaving the country must provide.

In the case of cash seized at borders, the information may be requested from the National Civil Police or the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, which are the entities recording this type of information, as they are the entities in charge of processing cash seizures,

through interagency coordination with the National Civil Police (PNC), the General Directorate of Migration and Immigration (DGMA) and the General Directorate of Customs (DGA).

Priority Action 6.5: Improve the information systems on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on changing behavior patterns and modus operandi of criminal drug trafficking organizations.

El Salvador has a national information system on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on changing behaviors and modus operandi of criminal organizations. The institutions that provide information for this system are:

- The Salvadoran Navy
- Coastal Police Division/ National Civil Police
- Counternarcotics Division/ National Civil Police
- National Civil Police Intelligence Sub-Directorate
- State Intelligence Agency (OIE, by its Spanish acronym)

The national reports on the drug situation, which include drug-related indicators, are drawn up by the Salvadoran Drug Observatory (OSD) of the National Anti-Drug Commission (CNA), while strategic analysis of retail drug dealing, and new drug trafficking routes is carried out by the National Civil Police (PNC).

OBJECTIVE
7

ESTABLISH, UPDATE, OR REINFORCE, AS APPROPRIATE, THE LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS IN THE AREAS OF PREVENTION, DETECTION, INVESTIGATION, PROSECUTION, AND CONTROL OF MONEY LAUNDERING DERIVED FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING, SUCH AS THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE (FATF).

Priority Action 7.1: Strengthen implementation of the legal, regulatory, and operational frameworks in the areas of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and control of money laundering associated with drug trafficking.

El Salvador has strengthened the legislative frameworks to counter money laundering derived from drug trafficking, which allows for the prosecution of any person who obtains illicit profits from drug trafficking, as well as from any illicit activity that yields profits, since the current Anti-Money-Laundering Law came into force on June 2, 1999. In addition, the country has the following laws:

- Reforms to the Anti-Money Laundering Law
- New Instructions of the Financial Investigation Unit for the Prevention of Money Laundering (ML), Financing of Terrorism (FT), and financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (FPADM) - (ML/FT/FPADM)
- NRP-08: Technical standards for ML/FT risk management issued by the Central Reserve Bank.
- Special Law on the Extinction of Ownership and Management of Assets of Illicit Origin or Destination

Priority Action 7.2: Develop and implement specialized ongoing training in areas of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and control of money laundering derived from drug trafficking, consistent with known and emerging risks.

El Salvador has periodic training programs for officials and those in other vulnerable sectors on prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of money laundering derived from illicit drug trafficking. In this sense, for the different operators of the system, there are training programs on money laundering coordinated through different training schools, which are financed with their own funds or international cooperation.

The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) provides training, either in person or virtually, to the regulated entities sectors on the following topics: Money laundering crime, Development of compliance manuals, Detection of unusual transactions and suspicious transaction reporting, Implementation of the new FIU instructions for the prevention of ML/FT/FPADM.

- Training offered at the International Law Enforcement Academy, ILEA, San Salvador on Money Laundering Course and Corruption
- Money and Asset Laundering Course

- Money Laundering Course (*Lavado de Capitales*)
- Fight Against Cash Smuggling
- Money Laundering Investigation Course
- Diploma in Strategies Against Drug Trafficking in Maritime and Air Terminals
- Webinar titled National DNA Data Bank Law, from a Legal, and Scientific Perspective

The Unit of the Attorney General's Office specializing in Anti-Money-Laundering has participated in the following training courses:

- Money Laundering Level I Workshop, delivered by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (March 2019)
- Course on Preventing and Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing, given by the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (September 2019)
- Anti-Money Laundering Specialization Program: Current Trends, Prosecution of Cases and Challenges Posed by Cryptocurrencies, delivered by the International Co-operation and Tax Administration Division of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Centre for Tax Policy and Administration (October 2021)
- Money Laundering Level I Workshop, delivered by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (November 2019)
- Webinar: Global Anti-Money Laundering Regulatory Framework and the Recommendation 3 of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), issued by the Attorney General's Office and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (July 2020)
- Certification of Experts in the Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing, provided by the Office of Development, Training, and Technical Assistance of the U.S. Department of Justice, DOJ-OPDAT and the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, INL (September 2020)
- Pan-American Seminar on Special Investigative Techniques and Judicial Strategies to Combat Money Laundering by Transnational Organized Crime, given by the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Bureau, INL and the Office of Development, Training and Technical Assistance of the United States Department of Justice, DOJ-OPDAT (October 2020).
- Technical Assistance - Prevention of Money Laundering Risks course, delivered by the Development Bank of the Republic of El Salvador (BANDESAL) (October 2020).
- VII Central American Congress on Prevention of Money Laundering and Financial Crimes, organized by the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic (April 2021).
- Seminar titled "Addressing Money Laundering Risks in Free Trade Zones", given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UNODC (October 2021)
- Money Laundering Course, given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (October 2021)

Priority Action 7.3: Enhance investigations by competent authorities into drug trafficking cases linked to money laundering and illicit use of assets.

El Salvador has in place protocols that enable the authorities to conduct financial and asset investigations parallel to drug trafficking investigations. In this sense, the Attorney General's Office has internal guidelines that establish joint investigation by the various Prosecution Units or Offices of criminal activities committed by criminal structures, and have led to positive outcomes, including:

- The case of the criminal organization of drug trafficker Daniel Quezada Fernández, who was convicted of drug trafficking and money laundering offenses by the two prosecutorial units in charge of investigating these types of crimes
- The case of the criminal organization run by drug trafficker Jorge Ernesto Ulloa Sibrián, who was convicted of crimes related to drug trafficking and money laundering by the two prosecutorial units in charge of investigating this type of crime

There is also a Criminal Prosecution Policy. This Policy has been in force since 2017. Its application is mandatory for all prosecutors and employees of the Attorney General's Office (FGR, by its Spanish acronym). Its criteria and guidelines are established with a view to resolving and prosecuting cases impartially and respecting the rights and guarantees of each person involved.

Priority Action 7.4: Strengthen interagency coordination and cooperation in relation to the development of national anti-money laundering strategies, including through coordinating committees and task forces.

El Salvador has mechanisms that allow for interagency coordination and cooperation in the prevention and control of money laundering. The Financial Investigation Unit (FIU) has cooperation agreements signed between the Superintendency of the Financial System (SSF), the Ministry of Justice and Public Security (MJSP), the Ministry of Finance (MH), and the Attorney General's Office (FGR).

An agreement has also been signed between the Sub directorate of Investigations and the Sub directorate of Anti-Corruption Investigations of the National Civil Police, the Attorney General's Office, and the National Council for Asset Management (CONAB).

Priority Action 7.5: Strengthen the exchange of financial intelligence as related to money laundering, including through the standardization of information systems.

El Salvador has a Financial Intelligence Unit, which was created by Article 70 of the Organic Law of the Attorney General's Office and Article 3 of the Anti-Money-Laundering Law.

El Salvador does not have information systems aimed at the investigation and prosecution of money laundering in analyzing cases deriving from drug trafficking. However, there is a Corruption Information Analysis Division composed of analysts that provide support for the

financial analysis of cases under investigation

The Superintendency of the Financial System, based on Article 3 paragraphs c) and i) of the Supervision and Regulation of the Financial System Law, has the power to preventively monitor the risks faced by members of the financial system and the way in which they manage them, and to require that the supervised entities and institutions be managed and controlled in accordance with best international risk management practices.

For this purpose, the first paragraph of Article 31 establishes that the Superintendent and the Deputy Superintendents shall establish and develop the principles and characteristics of the supervision process and its objectives and phases and will inform financial system institutions of the criteria and policies they will adopt to implement risk-based supervision and to verify compliance with the legal framework, taking international best practices into account. Risk-based supervision includes risks associated with the crimes of ML and FT.

Priority Action 7.6: Identify and analyze money laundering threats to mitigate risks through public policies that strengthen the regime for preventing and countering money laundering, in accordance with applicable international instruments.

El Salvador has mechanisms for analyzing money laundering risks, in accordance with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations. The country is currently organizing a new national risk assessment based on the methodology developed by an international organization.

Priority Action 7.7: Strengthen partnerships with the financial industries to identify and investigate illicit transactions and money laundering operations related to the proceeds of drug trafficking activities.

El Salvador has established partnerships with the financial industries to identify and investigate illicit transactions and money laundering operations related to the proceeds of drug trafficking. In this sense, the Attorney General's Office, through the FIU, has encrypted and private communication channels to request and receive information from the regulated entities, which include the entire financial sector of the country, from private banks to savings and loans associations.

OBJECTIVE

8

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN AGENCIES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND DISPOSITION OF SEIZED AND/OR FORFEITED ASSETS IN CASES OF DRUG TRAFFICKING, MONEY LAUNDERING, AND OTHER RELATED CRIMES, IN LINE WITH APPLICABLE INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND IN LINE WITH RELEVANT STANDARDS, SUCH AS THE FATF RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON PREVENTIVE FREEZING OF ASSETS.

Priority Action 8.1: Establish and/or strengthen, as appropriate, national entities responsible for the administration and disposition of assets seized and/or forfeited in cases of drug trafficking, money laundering, and other related crimes.

Priority Action 8.2: Establish specialized agencies and appropriate mechanisms for the transparent administration of seized and forfeited assets, in accordance with national laws and international standards.

El Salvador has the National Council for the Administration of Assets (CONAB) as the competent authority designated for the management of seized and forfeited assets, through Article 60 of the Special Law on the Extinction of Ownership and the Administration of Assets of Illicit Origin or Destination (LEDAB).

The country has regulations to facilitate accountability and transparency of the management of seized and forfeited assets. In this sense, the second paragraph of Article 94 of the LEDAB, titled "Destination of Money and Income from the Disposal of Assets", establishes that the activities of the Fund will be supervised by the Court of Accounts of the Republic and subject to an Internal Audit. The fund mentioned in this article is the Special Fund for Money Subject to Precautionary Measures or Extinction.

The provision is intended to control the financial movements resulting from the money and income generated by the disposal of the extinguished assets.

Likewise, all of CONAB's actions are presented in a report prepared and proposed by the Executive Director, which reflects all of the activities carried out by CONAB during the course of a calendar year.

Priority Action 8.3: Develop and implement specialized, ongoing training programs for law enforcement officials charged with the administration and disposition of seized and forfeited assets.

El Salvador participates in the following specialized periodic training programs for the management and disposition of seized and forfeited assets:

	Name and type of training received
National Institutions	Use of Chemical Substances
	Enforcement of the Anti-Money-Laundering Law
	Regional Symposium on Asset Forfeiture, Asset Management, and Complex Issues
	Extinction of ownership and management of extinguished assets and assets under protective custody
	Courses on the Prevention of Money Laundering
	Training on Extinction of Ownership Matters
International organizations	Trade Business Money Laundering Training
	ACAMS Certification

Priority Action 8.4: In accordance with each country’s constitutional principles, apply legislative and regulatory measures to facilitate the seizure, forfeiture and management of assets, instruments, or products of illicit drug-related activities.

El Salvador has the following legislation and regulations in accordance with international conventions and treaties, to facilitate the seizure, forfeiture, and management of assets, instruments, or proceeds derived from drug trafficking and other related crimes:

- Special Law on the Extinction of Ownership and Management of Assets of Illicit Origin or Destination (Article 56)
- Regulation of the Special Law on the Extinction of Ownership and Management of Assets of Illicit Origin or Destination
- Anti-Money Laundering Law

El Salvador has also signed and ratified the following international treaties:

- United Nations Convention against Illicit Drug Trafficking-Vienna 1988
- Palermo Convention- 2002
- United Nations Convention against Corruption
- C.A. Convention for the Prevention and Repression of Money Laundering Crimes.
- The Seized and Forfeited Asset Management Project (BIDAL)
- Guide for the Management of Seized Businesses -American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States
- Model Law on the Extinction of Ownership.

OBJECTIVE

9

DESIGN, IMPLEMENT, AND STRENGTHEN COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED NATIONAL PROGRAMS TO REDUCE THE ILLICIT CULTIVATION, PRODUCTION, AND MANUFACTURE OF DRUGS THROUGH THE ADOPTION OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES, SUCH AS COMPREHENSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT, ENHANCED LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PARTICULAR NEEDS OF SUB-NATIONAL REGIONS OF EACH COUNTRY, RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS.

Priority Action 9.1: Design, implement, and update national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit cultivation, production, and manufacture of drugs.

Through the National Anti-Drug Commission (CNA), El Salvador designed, implemented, and updated the following national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit cultivation, production, and manufacture of drugs:

- National Anti-Drug Strategy 2016-2021 (ENA 2016-2021)
- Country Strategy for Institutional Strengthening in the Interdiction of Drug Trafficking and Chemical Precursors, El Salvador/ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)Project (2019)
- Subregional Cooperation Strategy (Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador) to strengthen the Interdiction of Drug Trafficking and Chemical Precursors, UNDESA Project (2021)

It is important to note that the country is not considered a drug producer.

Priority Action 9.2: Establish budgetary mechanisms to ensure sufficient and consistent allocation of resources to counternarcotics programs.

El Salvador directs budgetary allocations towards financing counternarcotics programs. In this sense, the National Civil Police and the Attorney General's Office have institutional budgets to finance execution of their constitutional mandate.

Priority Action 9.3: Promote supply reduction measures that take into account licit traditional uses, whenever there is historical evidence of such uses, as well as environmental protection.

El Salvador does not take traditional licit uses into account in the design and implementation of policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs. The country does not include environmental protection measures in policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs.

Priority Action 9.4: Strengthen interagency cooperation to provide a comprehensive response against the illicit production of drugs, including collaboration among the public and private sectors and the international community.

El Salvador has not established mechanisms for institutional cooperation between public and private institutions to provide a comprehensive response to the illicit production of drugs.

Priority Action 9.5: Support supply reduction programs with crime prevention initiatives, in cooperation with civil society and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to address social and economic risk factors.

El Salvador supports the development of drug supply reduction programs with drug-related crime prevention initiatives that address social and economic risk factors and contemplate the participation of civil society and other social actors:

- The Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) program
- The Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program
- Community Police Program.

OBJECTIVE

10

DESIGN, IMPLEMENT, OR STRENGTHEN LONG-TERM ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, INCLUDING RURAL AND URBAN ALTERNATIVES, COMPREHENSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, AND, AS APPROPRIATE, PREVENTIVE ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICIES, LAWS, AND NEEDS OF EACH COUNTRY, AS APPROPRIATE, WHILE RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS.

Priority Action 10.1: Design and implement comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, while respecting human rights.

El Salvador has not designed or implemented comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs or preventive alternative development as part of the strategies to control and reduce illicit crops.

Priority Action 10.2: Exchange experiences and best practices in the design and implementation of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate.

Not applicable.

Priority Action 10.3: Promote and disseminate the results of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, and the benefits they provide to affected communities.

Not applicable.

Priority Action 10.4: Design and/or strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems for comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs aimed at reducing illicit crop cultivation and improving the well-being of communities, through the use of indicators that measure programs' effectiveness.

Not applicable.

Priority Action 10.5: Strengthen state presence in areas affected by or at risk of illicit drug cultivation, consistent with the circumstances of each member state.

Not applicable.

Priority Action 10.6: Promote, in accordance with national realities, the participation of local communities and relevant organizations in the development of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, taking into account their needs and capabilities.

Not applicable.

Priority Action 10.7: Promote partnerships and innovative cooperative initiatives with the private sector, civil society, and international financial institutions to spur investment and job creation in areas and communities affected by or at-risk of illicit drug cultivation and production, and share related practices, lessons learned, expertise, and skills.

Not applicable.

OBJECTIVE
11

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

Priority Action 11.1: Conduct research and studies on the environmental impact of illicit crop cultivation and illicit production of drugs.

During the evaluation period (2019-2022), El Salvador did not conduct research or studies to determine the characteristics and extent of the environmental impact caused by the illicit cultivation of crops and illicit drug production.

Priority Action 11.2: Design and implement specific research-based plans to mitigate the environmental impact of illicit crop cultivation and drug production, with the participation of local communities.

Not applicable.

Priority Action 11.3: Promote and strengthen the use of environmental management tools, as appropriate.

Not applicable.

OBJECTIVE
12
ADDRESS THE EFFECTS OF SMALL-SCALE DRUG TRAFFICKING ON PUBLIC HEALTH, THE ECONOMY, SOCIAL COHESION, AND CITIZEN SECURITY.

Priority Action 12.1: Develop and implement local approaches for controlling micro-trafficking and related crimes.

Priority Action 12.4: Encourage the development and implementation of comprehensive intervention strategies to counter local illicit distribution and sale of drugs.

El Salvador has not developed or implemented local approaches for controlling micro-trafficking and related crimes, which may include, but are not limited to, investigation methodologies that include territorial and socio-economic approaches, that take into account effects on public health, the economy, social cohesion, and citizen security.

Priority Action 12.2: Promote interagency exchange of information at the national level to better understand the scope and adverse effects of small-scale drug trafficking, including on health, society, the economy, and security.

El Salvador promotes the interagency exchange of information at the national level on the effects of small-scale drug trafficking on health and security. That exchange of information is described in the following table:

Entities with which information was shared	The medium used to share the information	Year
At the national level, with the following institutions: National Directorate of Medicines, General Directorate of Customs and National Anti-Drug Commission	Substance Control Group (Interagency Technical Coordination Board, coordinated by the Executive Directorate of the CNA)	2019-2022
At the international level, with DDIN, INTERPOL, and UNODC	With INTERPOL, via e-mail; with UNODC through the coordination of the National Anti-Drug Commission (CNA)	2019-2022

However, this exchange is not encouraged in the social or economic sector.

Priority Action 12.3: Promote programs and strategies to prevent the exploitation of at-risk populations by drug trafficking networks, at the national and international level.

El Salvador does not have programs or strategies that prevent the exploitation of at-risk populations affected by drug trafficking networks at the national and international level.

EVALUATIVE SUMMARY

Objective 1

Develop and/or strengthen national- and regional-level interdiction capacity, as well as the capacity to reduce the illicit cultivation, production, trafficking, and distribution of plant-based and synthetic drugs through the use of comprehensive and balanced programs in accordance with the realities of each country's domestic legislation and respect for human rights.

CICAD notes that El Salvador does not implement nor participate in ongoing training programs to detect, investigate, or dismantle laboratories or facilities used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, for personnel involved in interdiction operations, and also observes that the country does not have protocols or operating procedures to detect, investigate, and dismantle clandestine laboratories or facilities for the illicit processing or manufacture of drugs. On the other hand, CICAD observes that the agencies in charge of drug control in El Salvador implement policies that promote gender mainstreaming. Additionally, CICAD notes that the country has programs and strategies aimed at land, riverine, maritime, and aerial interdiction, through monitoring, inspections, and checkpoints. Moreover, CICAD notes that El Salvador has laws providing for the use of specialized investigation tools and techniques to prevent and reduce drug trafficking. CICAD also notes that the country has updated assessments and studies to identify new trends and threats on drug trafficking and related crimes. Additionally, CICAD observes with satisfaction that El Salvador implements actions to identify organized crime groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes, carries out inter-institutional collaboration and cooperation mechanisms to coordinate activities aimed at dismantling organized crime groups involved in these crimes, and has participated in operations and investigations in cooperation with other countries aimed at dismantling these groups. CICAD also notes that the country has an institution that is responsible for, and capable of, analyzing chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances (NPS). However, El Salvador does not have nor participate in ongoing training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of these substances. Moreover, CICAD recognizes that El Salvador has mechanisms to facilitate and share information at the national level across relevant governmental counterparts, as well as with global repositories on these substances. CICAD notes that the country does not have mechanisms to investigate or disrupt drug trafficking through the Internet. CICAD observes that the country has partnerships and information exchange mechanisms with private sector entities to prevent access to materials and services exploited for illicit drug trafficking purposes, but the country does not use tools and resources of the INCB to strengthen cooperation with the private sector to prevent the diversion of chemicals. CICAD notes that El Salvador has national authorities, human and material resources for the forfeiture, seizure, and management of assets, tools, or products related to illicit drug markets; however, the national authorities do not have the appropriate budget and its competent personnel does not receive ongoing training in this area.

Objective 2

Strengthen national measures to address the challenges posed by NPS and illicit synthetic drugs, and the threat of fentanyl-related substances, non-medical synthetic opioids, and illicit amphetamine derivatives.

CICAD observes that El Salvador have an early warning system (EWS) to identify or trace new psychoactive substances (NPS), illicit synthetic drugs, or the threat of fentanyl-related substances, non-medical synthetic opioids, illicit amphetamine derivatives, and other substances subject to international control. Likewise, CICAD notes that the country improves its capabilities to detect and analyze NPS through the use of special investigative techniques, updated equipment, and acquisition of technology. Furthermore, CICAD observes that El Salvador have a regulatory framework or guidelines to identify and address the challenges posed by the onset of NPS and emerging synthetic drugs. Additionally, CICAD notes that the country participates in the INCB's Project ION. CICAD observes that El Salvador does not have innovative legislation or regulatory approaches to synthetic opioids for non-medical use or NPS.

Objective 3

Strengthen or develop legal and institutional frameworks for the effective monitoring and control of essential chemical substances and precursors to prevent diversion of these substances to the manufacturing of illicit drugs and counter its trafficking, including periodically updating national lists of controlled chemical substances.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that El Salvador has a competent national authority responsible for developing guides, codes of conduct, or other instruments to inform the industry and users in general of controlled chemical substances and has developed such instruments and mechanisms. CICAD also observes that the country has an updated register of all individuals and corporations handling controlled chemical substances and that its competent authority carries out regular inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle these substances. Moreover, CICAD notes that the country carries out analyses that include the exchange of information through existing international mechanisms of substances, their analogs, and precursors, which pose a threat to public health. Additionally, CICAD observes that El Salvador has legislation incorporating the control measures in Article 12 of the 1988 United Nations Convention to prevent diversion of controlled chemical substances towards illicit activities, which include all the control measures in paragraphs 8, all the control measures in paragraph 9, and the requests for information set forth in Paragraph 10. Likewise, CICAD notes that the country uses the INCB's PEN Online information system for pre-export notifications of controlled chemical substances, as well as the PICS system. Additionally, CICAD observes that El Salvador receives training for drug control personnel and for the identification and handling of controlled chemical substances. Moreover, CICAD notes that the country has budgetary mechanisms to ensure allocation of resources to acquire necessary equipment and supplies for the preliminary identification of substances and the protective equipment required by personnel in charge of these tasks. CICAD also observes that El Salvador uses the OAS/CICAD Model Regulations for the Control of Chemical Substances Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic

Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

Objective 4

Ensure adequate availability and accessibility of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes, while also preventing their diversion towards illicit activities, in accordance with international drug control conventions.

CICAD notes that El Salvador has special processes for issuing authorizations for the national production, import, and export of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes and an updated register of individuals or companies importing and exporting substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. Likewise, CICAD observes that the country has training or awareness activities for competent national authorities and health professionals on the proper access to substances subject to international control solely for medical and scientific purposes. Additionally, CICAD notes that the country has a regulatory framework to govern the acquisition of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes.

Objective 5

Adopt or strengthen control measures to prevent diversion of controlled pharmaceutical products containing narcotic drugs and/or psychotropic substances, and those containing precursor substances used in the production of controlled substances.

CICAD notes that El Salvador has an updated register of individuals and corporations handling pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances, issues licenses to manufacturers and distributors authorizing the handling of these substances and carries out regular inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle them. CICAD observes that the country has criminal, civil, and administrative penalties for infractions or violations by individuals or corporations that handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances. On the other hand, CICAD notes that El Salvador does not offer periodic training programs for personnel responsible for preventing trade in and diversion of materials and equipment for illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, but the country shares the information with other regional and global systems on this matter. Furthermore, CICAD notes that the country does not use the INCB's I2ES, however it has alternative mechanisms that are ready to issue, load, and exchange expeditiously import and export authorizations of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical use. Moreover, CICAD notes that the country has received training on the I2ES system.

Objective 6

Strengthen or develop specific operational and intelligence gathering and sharing mechanisms to detect methods used by criminal organizations, including the exploitation of land, riverine, maritime, and aerial routes.

CICAD notes that El Salvador implements periodic training programs for personnel involved in drug investigations in specialized investigative techniques and intelligence collection, analysis, and operations. Likewise, CICAD observes that the country implements and participates in periodic training programs and other capacity-building activities to investigate and counter crimes associated with drug trafficking, such as corruption and money laundering. Moreover, CICAD notes with satisfaction that El Salvador has information gathering mechanisms to exchange intelligence information, at a domestic, regional, and international level, to detect routes and methods used by drug trafficking criminal organizations. CICAD also notes that the country has tools that promote and strengthen cooperation and the exchange of information and intelligence among domestic law enforcement agencies responsible for drug interdiction and effective border control. Moreover, CICAD observes that El Salvador has a national information system on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on changing behaviors and modus operandi of criminal organizations.

Objective 7

Establish, update, or reinforce, as appropriate, the legislative and institutional frameworks in the areas of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and control of money laundering derived from drug trafficking, such as the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

CICAD notes with satisfaction that El Salvador has strengthened legislative frameworks to counter money laundering derived from drug trafficking. Additionally, CICAD observes that the country has periodic training programs for officials and those in vulnerable sectors on prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of money laundering derived from drug trafficking. Moreover, CICAD notes that El Salvador has protocols that enable the authorities to conduct financial and asset investigations parallel to drug trafficking investigations. CICAD also observes that the country has mechanisms allowing for inter-agency coordination and cooperation in the area of preventing and controlling money laundering. CICAD notes that El Salvador has a financial intelligence unit, but the country does not have information systems aimed at the investigation and prosecution of money laundering in analyzing cases deriving from drug trafficking. CICAD notes that the country has mechanisms for analyzing money laundering risks, in accordance with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations. Additionally, CICAD notes that El Salvador has established partnerships with the financial industries to identify and investigate illicit transactions and money laundering operations related to the proceeds of drug trafficking activities.

Objective 8

Establish and/or strengthen agencies for the administration and disposition of seized and/or forfeited assets in cases of drug trafficking, money laundering, and other related crimes, in line with applicable international law, and in line with relevant standards, such as the FATF recommendations and the recommendations on preventive freezing of assets.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that El Salvador has a designated competent authority responsible for the administration and disposition of seized and forfeited assets and with regulations to facilitate the accountability and transparency of the management of seized and forfeited assets. Additionally, CICAD observes that the country participates in specialized, periodic training programs for the management and disposition of seized and forfeited assets. Moreover, CICAD notes that El Salvador has legislation, in accordance with international conventions and treaties, to facilitate the seizure, forfeiture, and management of assets and instruments derived from drug trafficking and other related crimes.

Objective 9

Design, implement, and strengthen comprehensive and balanced national programs to reduce the illicit cultivation, production and manufacture of drugs through the adoption of effective measures, such as comprehensive and sustainable alternative development, enhanced law enforcement cooperation, and other appropriate policies and programs, taking into account the particular needs of sub-national regions of each country, respecting human rights.

CICAD notes that El Salvador has designed, implemented, and updated national policies or programs to prevent and decrease illicit cultivation, production, or manufacture of drugs. Additionally, CICAD observes that the country directs budgetary allocations towards financing counternarcotics programs. Moreover, CICAD notes that El Salvador does not take into account the licit traditional use in designing and implementing policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs and does not include environmental protection measures in policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs. CICAD observes that the country has not established mechanisms for interinstitutional cooperation between public and private institutions to provide a comprehensive response to the illicit production of drugs. Additionally, CICAD notes that El Salvador supports the development of supply reduction programs with drug-related crime prevention initiatives that address social and economic risk factors, which include the participation from civil society and other social stakeholders.

Objective 10

Design, implement or strengthen long-term alternative development programs, including rural and urban alternatives, comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, and, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, in accordance with the policies, laws and needs of each country, as appropriate, while respecting human rights.

CICAD notes that El Salvador has not designed or implemented comprehensive and sustainable

alternative development programs or preventive alternative development as part of the strategies to control and reduce illicit crops, therefore, the priority actions of this objective are not applicable.

Objective 11

Design and implement plans and/or programs to mitigate and reduce the impact of illicit crops and drug production on the environment, in cooperation with local communities and national policies of member states.

CICAD notes that El Salvador has not carried out, during the evaluation period (2019-2022), research or studies to determine the characteristics and extent of the environmental impact caused by the illicit cultivation of crops and illicit drug production, therefore, the priority actions of this objective are not applicable.

Objective 12

Address the effects of small-scale drug trafficking on public health, the economy, social cohesion, and citizen security.

CICAD notes that El Salvador has not developed nor implemented approaches for controlling micro-trafficking and related crimes, that take into account effects on public health, the economy, social cohesion, and citizen security. However, CICAD observes that the country promotes the interagency exchange of information on the effects of small-scale drug trafficking in the health and security sectors; however, it does not promote these exchanges in the social or economic sectors. Additionally, CICAD notes that El Salvador does not have programs or strategies that prevent the exploitation of at-risk populations affected by drug trafficking networks, at the national and international level.



**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)
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