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# MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

*Evaluation Report on Drug Policies:  
Institutional Strengthening; Research,  
Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation;  
and International Cooperation*

## Antigua and Barbuda

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

2023





**MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)**

# ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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**EIGHTH EVALUATION ROUND**

**2023**

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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 areas of "Institutional Strengthening; Research, Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation; and International Cooperation" was conducted during 2023, and covers the 2019 to 2023 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.

# INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

**OBJECTIVE**

**1**

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

**Priority Action 1.1: Place national drug authorities at a high political level.**

Antigua and Barbuda has the National Drug Council (NDC) as the national drug authority, which was first established in 1989 and is positioned under the Office of the Prime Minister within the government administrative structure.

**Priority Action 1.2: Grant national drug policy entities the authority to guide and coordinate the formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of national drug policies.**

Antigua and Barbuda’s national drug authority has a legal basis, through the Misuse of Drugs Act (2019).

**Priority Action 1.3: Allocate the necessary resources (material, financial, and human) for the effective functioning of the national drug authorities.**

**(Question 3)** In Antigua and Barbuda there is an annual budget for the national drug authority, which is integrated into the budget of Office of National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy (ONDCP).

The amount of the annual budget of the national drug authority for the years 2019-2023 is listed below:

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Annual budget amount (US dollars)	\$44,595.78	\$55,317.46	\$54,253.70	\$39,88.75	\$88,829.77

**Priority Action 1.4: Design or optimize mechanisms to facilitate effective coordination and collaboration among government institutions for the formulation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and updating of evidence-based national drug policies and/or strategies.**

Antigua and Barbuda has an ongoing coordination and collaboration mechanism among agencies and other levels of government to formulate, implement, monitor, evaluate, and update national drug policies and/or strategies. In this sense, the NDC through its members is responsible for ensuring the execution of activities relative to the implementation of the National Drug Plan.



The national drug authority of Antigua and Barbuda coordinates the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, drug observatory, international cooperation, and program evaluation.

**OBJECTIVE**  
**2**

**FORMULATE, IMPLEMENT, EVALUATE, AND UPDATE COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES AND/OR STRATEGIES THAT PROMOTE BALANCED, MULTIDISCIPLINARY, AND EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACHES, WHILE FULLY RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, UNDER THE PRINCIPLE OF COMMON AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITY, CONSISTENT WITH OBLIGATIONS OF PARTIES UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND TAKE INTO ACCOUNT GENDER, AGE, COMMUNITY, CULTURAL CONTEXT, AND SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT.**

**Priority Action 2.1: Collect and use evidence as a basis for the formulation and updating of national drug policies and/or strategies.**

In Antigua and Barbuda, the Anti-Drug Strategy Unit of the Office of National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy (ONDCP) collects and uses evidence as a basis for formulating and updating national drug policies and/or strategies. In that sense, there is a biannual collection of data for the Drug Information Network (DIN).

**Priority Action 2.2: Promote and establish collaborative relationships with the scientific community, public policy experts, community and/or civil society actors, and other relevant stakeholders, to contribute to the evidence-based development, implementation, evaluation, and updating of national drug policies.**

In Antigua and Barbuda, the following relevant actors from the priority areas are involved in the development, implementation, evaluation, and update of national drug policies and/or strategies:

Relevant actors	Development	Implementation	Evaluation	Update
Health Ministry	X	X		X
Ministry of Interior				
Justice Ministry				X
Education Ministry	X	X		X
Regional and/or local governments				
Scientific community/academia				
Civil society				
Private sector	X			
Others: - Ministry of Social Transformation - ONDCP - Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda - Directorate of Gender Affairs	X	X	X	X

The country's Interior Ministry, scientific community/academia, and civil society are not involved in the development, implementation, evaluation, or updating of national drug policies and/or strategies.

**Priority Action 2.3:** Promote sub-national/local management of drug policies and/or strategies through greater coordination and/or delegation of responsibilities, as appropriate, between sub-national/local and national agencies, taking into account the socio-cultural, demographic and other differences of each region.

Not applicable.

**Priority Action 2.4:** Engage private sector entities to develop innovative approaches to implementation of drug policy, including the exchange of information on emerging substances and new drug trafficking modalities that may affect the private sector, and best practices for denying criminals access to the private sector platforms and technologies that facilitate international trade.

Antigua and Barbuda does not engage private sector entities to develop innovative approaches in the implementation of drug policies and exchange information and best practices.

**Priority Action 2.5:** Formulate or update national drug policies and/or strategies in line with the 2020 OAS Hemispheric Strategy on Drugs and this accompanying Plan of Action, taking into account the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Antigua and Barbuda takes into account the OAS 2020 Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its corresponding Plan of Action to formulate or update national drug policies and strategies. In this regard, the country's policy and plans of action partially take into account the 2020 Hemispheric Strategy. The policy came into effect before the 2020 Strategy.

The country's national drug policies and strategies do not take into account the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Priority Action 2.6:** Integrate a human rights, gender, and social inclusion approach, particularly with respect to at-risk populations, in the process of formulating, implementing, and updating national drug policies and/or strategies.

Antigua and Barbuda's national drug policies and strategies take into account the human rights approach. In this sense, programs and policies, among others, ensure the protection of human rights. The country has a policy of no discrimination, biases, or prejudices with respect to gender or human rights when it comes to drugs. In Antigua and Barbuda gender plays a role in the specific

type of treatment/counselling which may be provided.

This all-inclusive approach is indicative of the culture of the island and ensures nondiscrimination and equal opportunities for all residents. Within the schools, programs are developed with gender-specific policies in mind. As an example, there are conversations as part of one of the programs, Youth Against Substance Use (YAS), that targets boys as it relates to dynamics of cultural issues, such as early use of alcohol and substances as a rite of passage to manhood or a coping mechanism to challenges experienced which sometimes leads to domestic violence.

The country's national drug policies and strategies take into account the gender perspective. In this sense, Antigua and Barbuda has a policy of no discrimination, biases, or prejudices with respect to gender or human rights when it comes to drugs. As an example, within the schools, programs are developed with gender-specific policies in mind. There are conversations as part of one of the programs, YAS, that targets boys as it relates to dynamics of cultural issues, such as early use of alcohol and substances as a rite of passage to manhood or a coping mechanism to challenges which sometimes leads to domestic violence. This all-inclusive approach is indicative of the culture of the island and ensures non-discrimination and equal opportunities for all genders.

The Directorate of Gender Affairs operates a support and referral center that facilitates individuals who are facing gender-based violence and abuse getting services and referral to meet their needs in a gender responsive way, also can make referrals for clients that come into the center who have indicated that they are facing drug or alcohol challenges. Referrals were able to be made to both a local private international drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility, as well as the government entity that has been mandated with addressing assessment and rehabilitation of people suffering from addiction or drug abuse.

Additionally, the Directorate of Gender Affairs collects data and information that tracks the level and number of gender-based violence cases in which drugs or alcohol have been involved by both alleged perpetrator and clients, both males and females.

Furthermore, said Directorate has a yearly program called the Men's Critical Issues Series, in which various topics that are pertinent to men and boys are discussed on national media and in person, to raise awareness on the issues, and to shape programmatic solutions by the Directorate. The susceptibility of men and boys to alcohol and drug use and abuse is a topic prominently discussed as part of this program and series.

The national drug authority of Antigua and Barbuda requires technical support to develop and implement programs with a gender perspective. In that sense, Antigua and Barbuda could benefit from technical support in developing and implementing programs with a gender perspective which highlights the imbalance in the impact of drug policies geared to differing genders.

The country's national drug authority works closely with the Directorate of Gender Affairs in relation to collecting relevant data in terms of the intersections of gender-based violence and

drug and alcohol abuse, however there could be more technical support provided in relation to understanding how to more comprehensively mainstream gender considerations into programming and policy formulation related to drug control.

Men, women, boys, girls, as well as vulnerable groups such as persons living with disabilities, and the elderly, all have unique challenges and social realities which will contribute to their psychosocial well-being, as well as their susceptibility to drug and alcohol use and abuse, and their gender can also have implications on the likelihood of them engaging in positive health seeking behavior, that could lead to rehabilitation and recovery.

Additional technical support would allow for more capacity building opportunities and sensitization for drug control practitioners that strengthen the collaboration between relevant stakeholders in gender and drug control and would also allow for the easier identification of areas where gender considerations should be prioritized, and policy subsequently can be formulated and specifically tailored to address gaps and deficiencies.

Antigua and Barbuda's national drug policies and strategies do not take into account the social inclusion approach.

**Priority Action 2.7: Provide adequate financial and other necessary resources for the implementation of drug policies and programs.**

Antigua and Barbuda does not have the necessary resources to implement drug policies and programs. In relation to drug treatment, while the country has a private treatment center there is no national treatment facility. Further regarding demand reduction there is a need for training of personnel dealing with prevention and enhanced coordination. Many of the agencies involved in supply reduction require equipment and training.

**OBJECTIVE**  
**3**

**DESIGN AND COORDINATE NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES, THAT CAN BE HARMONIZED ACROSS RELATED GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND/OR STRATEGIES, THAT ADDRESS THE FUNDAMENTAL CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE DRUG PROBLEM.**

**Priority Action 3.1:** Establish and/or strengthen interagency and multisectoral policy and technical coordination mechanisms, to achieve a comprehensive, balanced, and multi-disciplinary approach to the drug problem, including its causes and consequences.

Antigua and Barbuda has an interagency and multisectoral policy and technical coordination mechanisms to address the drug problem in a comprehensive, balanced, and multidisciplinary approach, including its causes and consequences. In this sense, according to the Misuse of Drug Act 2019 Section 3A, the National Drug Council (NDC) consists of an Executive Committee, Technical Working Groups, and an Executive Secretary.

The Executive Committee comprises of The Office of National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy (ONDCP)/Anti-Drug Strategy Unit (ADSU) - National Drug Observatory (NDO) and the Office of the Prime Minister are dedicated to realizing the advancement of programs geared towards combatting social disintegration. The Technical Working Group consists of the Department of Analytical Services, Crossroads Centre Antigua, Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC), Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda (RPFAB) Narcotics Unit, His Majesty's Prison Reform Council, Customs and Excise Division, Family and Social Services (SPARC), Ministry of Education Schools' Counselors, Clarevue Psychiatric Hospital, and the Antigua Pharmaceuticals Division.

The listed stakeholder groups have appointed specific focal points who attend quarterly meetings to share and address the successes and challenges relating to the drug problem. One such meeting is the Early Warning Systems (EWS) meeting which seeks to gather information on drugs use within the nation, new and emergent drugs, as well as new psychoactive substances and adulterants. The data is collected using "reporting forms" which are specific to the nature of the EWS and the agency within the stakeholder group.

**Priority Action 3.2:** Design, implement, and evaluate multisectoral plans and programs based on the principles of human rights, public health, and development, to address and counter the socioeconomic causes and the consequences of the drug problem.

Antigua and Barbuda does not have concrete multisectoral plans or programs to address the causes and socioeconomic consequences of the drug problem.

**Priority Action 3.3:** Participate in international cooperation programs at the bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen policies, programs, institutions, and their internal processes.

Antigua and Barbuda participated in the following international cooperation programs at the bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen policies, programs, and institutions and their internal processes:

The country participated in programs provided by the following partner agencies:

- 2019 - Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States (CICAD/OAS), Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF), Egmont Group, Regional Security Systems (RSS), Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS), Cooperation Programme between Latin America, Caribbean and the European Union on Drugs Policies (COPOLAD)
- 2020 - Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF), Egmont Group
- 2021 – CICAD/OAS, CFATF, Egmont Group, RSS, IMPACS
- 2022 - Anti-Money Laundering and Financial Crimes (AMLFC) Institute, IMPACS, Caribbean Regional Drug Law Enforcement Training Centre (REDTRAC), CICAD, International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA)
- 2023 - Egmont Group, COPOLAD, United States Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) and the National Center for State Courts (NCSC)

**Priority Action 3.4: Promote comprehensive and cross-cutting public policies to reduce and prevent crime, violence, social exclusion, and corruption.**

Antigua and Barbuda promotes comprehensive and cross-cutting public policies to reduce and prevent crime, violence, social exclusion, and corruption. The issues addressed in these policies include the Integrity in Public Life Committee, the Anti-Corruption Committee, fraud, and trends on cybercrime and scamming, which are communicated to the public as a preventative measure once observations are made; reports on drug trends and typologies, which also are communicated to other law enforcement agencies at the national, regional, and international levels; and social exclusion of population groups, such as persons with disabilities, LGBTQ, and immigrants, among others.

**Priority Action 3.5: Implement measures that promote equal access to justice and due process, taking into account gender, age, community, and cultural context.**

Antigua and Barbuda implements measures that promote equal access to justice and due process, taking into account gender, age, community, and cultural context approaches. In this sense, the Legal Aid Office within the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs provides advice and action on legal matters to the public who is not able to afford the cost. The Ombudsman provides an avenue for justice where the public has issues with the Government.

**Priority Action 3.6: Implement measures that foster citizen participation in crime prevention, build community cohesion, increase public safety, and emphasize social inclusion.**

Antigua and Barbuda implements measures that foster citizen participation in crime prevention, building community cohesion, increasing public safety, and emphasizing social inclusion. In this sense, the measures include Crime Stoppers and a Community Calendar.

As it relates to citizen participation and inclusion, Crime Stoppers is a local initiative, whereby the Antigua and Barbuda Royal Police Force (ABRPF) encourages citizens to report crimes via a 24hr telephone hotline and social media platforms. Also, citizens have the freedom to call into daily radio programs and to contribute to the editorial of online newspapers to voice concerns and to call attention to matters of social importance which may pose a threat to the community. On a national level, the Cabinet presents a weekly Community Calendar in the form of a press conference whereby the Chief of Staff, the Minister of National Security, as well as the Minister of Information, address the citizenry on important matters which may impact the nation.



**OBJECTIVE**

4

**DESIGN, ADOPT, AND IMPLEMENT ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION FOR MINOR OR NON-VIOLENT DRUG OR DRUG-RELATED OFFENSES, WHILE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT NATIONAL, CONSTITUTIONAL, LEGAL, AND ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS.**

**Priority Action 4.1: Adopt alternative measures to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug-related offenses, where appropriate, while safeguarding the sovereignty of states, and ensuring individual accountability, respecting human rights and the gender perspective.**

Antigua and Barbuda’s law provides for alternative measures to incarceration for minor drug-related offenses through the Prison (Extramural Sentences) Act and the Probation of Offenders Act.

These measures do not take into account the gender perspective or human rights approach.

**Priority Action 4.2: Develop mechanisms to monitor and evaluate alternative measures to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug-related offenses, in collaboration with academic and research institutions, as well as civil society.**

Antigua and Barbuda does not develop mechanisms to monitor or evaluate alternative measures to incarceration for minor drug-related offenses.

**Priority Action 4.3: Promote common understanding of national legal norms, regulations, and internal procedures for the implementation of alternatives to incarceration.**

Antigua and Barbuda does not promote a common understanding of national legal norms, regulations, or internal procedures for the implementation of alternatives to incarceration.

**OBJECTIVE**  
**5**

**PROMOTE AND IMPLEMENT, AS APPROPRIATE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICIES, LAWS AND NEEDS OF EACH COUNTRY, COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION, ESPECIALLY TO THOSE AT-RISK POPULATIONS.**

**Priority Action 5.1:** Design and implement, in accordance with the characteristics, interests, and needs of each country, inter-agency and multisectoral programs that promote the social inclusion of individuals, families, and communities affected by the drug problem, taking into account the specific needs of at-risk populations.

Antigua and Barbuda does not have inter-agency or multisectoral programs that promote the social inclusion of individuals, families, and communities affected by the drug problem, taking into account the specific needs of vulnerable populations.

**Priority Action 5.2:** Disseminate best practices and lessons learned to improve institutional responses to the needs of at-risk populations.

Antigua and Barbuda does not disseminate best practices or lessons learned to improve institutional responses to the needs of people in at-risk situations, such as mechanisms, programs, and interventions, through publications, meetings, workshops, among others.

**OBJECTIVE**  
**6**

**PROMOTE PROPORTIONATE SENTENCING FOR DRUG-RELATED CRIMES THAT PROVIDES FOR PENALTIES COMMENSURATE WITH THE RELATIVE SERIOUSNESS OF OFFENSES, IN LINE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONVENTIONS AND RESPECTING THE PRINCIPLES OF DUE PROCESS, WITH GENDER PERSPECTIVE, AGE, COMMUNITY, AND A HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH.**

**Priority Action 6.1: Promote proportional legal sentencing for minor drug-related offenses in accordance with domestic law.**

Antigua and Barbuda promotes the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court Sentencing Guidelines, which provides for proportional legal sentencing for minor drug-related offences, in accordance with domestic law.

The country has the Magistrate's Court for minor drug-related offenses. The court system is such that minor drug-related matters are heard by the magistrate and serious drug matters by a judge. The Misuse of Drug (Amendment) Act directs those drugs weighing less than two kilos or one liter in volume to be heard at the Magistrate Court and anything over to be heard by a judge.

**Priority Action 6.2: Promote legal reforms as needed, to promote proportional sentencing for minor drug-related offenses.**

Antigua and Barbuda does not promote legal reforms regarding proportional sentencing for minor drug-related offenses.

# **RESEARCH, INFORMATION, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION**

**OBJECTIVE**  
**1**

**ESTABLISH OR STRENGTHEN NATIONAL OBSERVATORIES ON DRUGS, OR SIMILAR TECHNICAL OFFICES, STRENGTHENING NATIONAL DRUG INFORMATION SYSTEMS, AND FOSTER SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TO GENERATE, COLLECT, ORGANIZE, ANALYZE, AND DISSEMINATE INFORMATION TO INFORM THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EVIDENCE-BASED DRUG POLICIES AND STRATEGIES.**

**Priority Action 1.1: Develop and strengthen national drug observatories (NDO) or similar technical offices ensuring they have adequate human and financial resources.**

Antigua and Barbuda has a National Drug Observatory (NDO), whose creation does not have a legal basis or other similar mechanism.

The NDO has been assigned financial and human resources to carry out its functions, which are funded by Subsidiary of the Office of National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy (ONDCP) budget from the Government. The breakdown of budget allocations is as follows: salaries; stationery; training; and transportation.

**Priority Action 1.2: Strengthen ties to academic and research institutions, as well as specialized non-governmental organizations, to foster scientific research and studies on the various aspects of the drug phenomenon.**

Antigua and Barbuda has not established or maintained working relationships with universities or specialized research centers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or other academic or research institutions.

The country has not carried out studies on the drug problem through universities or specialized research centers, NGOs, or other academic or research institutions.

**Priority Action 1.3: Develop and adopt quantitative and qualitative methodologies and information-gathering mechanisms that allow for the comparison of data among countries.**

Antigua and Barbuda has developed and adopted quantitative and qualitative methodologies and information-gathering mechanisms that allow for the comparison of data among countries.

In addition, the country has carried out studies on drug use applying the Inter-American Uniform Drug Use Data System (SIDUC) methodology.

Also, the country has used CICAD's standardized indicators for drug information networks to collect, analyze, and report national drug-related information.

Antigua and Barbuda has not carried out studies using methods that are non-representative of

the population or qualitative methodologies to obtain information on drugs that can be shared with other countries that have carried out studies with similar methodologies.

**Priority Action 1.4:** Establish and strengthen national drug information networks (DINs) to carry out long-term monitoring and early warning systems (EWS), including the use of a broad range of research methods and information sources, to develop rapid responses to emerging threats.

**Priority Action 1.5:** Contribute to the Early Warning System of the Americas (Spanish acronym SATA) to gather the available national alerts and disseminate them to member states, so that member states can respond in the shortest possible time to new threats.

**Priority Action 1.6:** Publish updates annually, when possible, on drug supply and drug demand utilizing the information provided on the national drug situation by using information from the national DINs.

The NDO has a national drug information network (DIN), which interacts through the following means:

Means	Yes	No	Frequency
Meetings		x	
Document exchange	x		Twice per year

The following actors participate in the DIN:

Stakeholders	Yes	No
Universities/Academia		x
Health institutions	x	
Drug treatment facilities	x	
Law enforcement	x	
Forensic laboratories	x	
Statistical and census institutions		x
Private consultants		x
Civil society and other social stakeholders	x	
International organizations of cooperation		x

The DIN publishes a periodic report.

Antigua and Barbuda has an early warning system (EWS) to identify new psychoactive substances (NPS) and other emerging drug-related threats. The NDO leads the EWS.

The EWS does not share information, alerts, or reports with the Early Warning System of the Americas (SATA)

The EWS does not have a mechanism to share information in real time.

The following stakeholders participate in the EWS:

Stakeholders	Yes	No
Universities/Academia		X
Health institutions	X	
Drug treatment facilities	X	
Law enforcement	X	
Forensic laboratories	X	
Statistical and census institutions		X
Private consultants		
Civil society and other social stakeholders	X	
International organizations of cooperation	X	
Others: Media	X	

**Priority Action 1.7:** Build capacity among relevant stakeholders to enhance the collection, management, and dissemination of drug related information.

The NDO carries out training sessions with local stakeholders to enhance data collection and management.

The NDO convenes meetings and other workshops where the results of studies and other information gathering activities are shared with local stakeholders.

**Priority Action 1.8:** Establish or strengthen forums at which drug researchers can present their findings to policymakers, and encourage their participation in CICAD experts groups.

Antigua and Barbuda has not established forums that allow drug researchers to present their findings to policymakers.

**Priority Action 1.9:** Foster and disseminate best practices and the exchange of successful experiences in research among member states.

The NDO does not promote or disseminate good practices or the exchange of successful research experiences among member states.

**OBJECTIVE**  
**2**

**EXPAND ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON DRUG USE AND RELATED ISSUES THROUGH THE USE OF SOUND, SYSTEMATIC DATA COLLECTION PRACTICES, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, AND STANDARDIZED METHODOLOGIES, ENSURING THAT COUNTRIES HAVE THE INFORMATION NECESSARY TO DEVELOP SOUND DEMAND REDUCTION PROGRAMS AND POLICIES.**

**Priority Action 2.1:** Generate information on the incidence, prevalence, and modes of drug use and health impacts of drug use (e.g. non-fatal overdose, fatal overdose, infectious disease transmission), as well as drug use and health impact trends over time using sound, systematic data collection practices, scientific research, and standardized methodologies to monitor use across the general public and in key populations, whenever possible utilizing the Inter-American Drug Use Data System (SIDUC) as the standard methodology for epidemiological surveillance.

Antigua and Barbuda has carried out and published the following demand reduction studies:

Demand reduction			
Studies	Studies carried out and published		Year of most recent study
	Yes	No	
Survey of secondary school students		X	
National household surveys (12-64 years)		X	
Cross-section survey of patients in treatment centers	X		2021
Survey of patients in emergency rooms		X	
Survey of university students		X	
Survey of incarcerated individuals		X	
Studies on drug-related mortality	X		2021
Studies on drug-related morbidity		X	
Survey of other target populations		X	

**Priority Action 2.2:** Develop drug treatment information systems that record the number of patients treated, diagnoses, clinical history, and available information on treatment outcomes.

Antigua and Barbuda has no national system for the collection of data on the number of patients treated, diagnoses, clinical history, or available information on treatment outcomes.



**Priority Action 2.3:** Evaluate and monitor the impact and the results of treatment and prevention programs using scientific methodologies and make recommendations to update programs based on findings.

Antigua and Barbuda has not carried out studies to evaluate treatment and prevention programs or interventions.

The country has not carried out process or intermediate outcome evaluations of prevention and treatment programs.

Antigua and Barbuda has not carried out impact evaluations of its prevention or treatment programs.

The country does not have mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment, rehabilitation, or recovery and social integration programs and services in the public health or social protection network.

**OBJECTIVE**  
**3**

**EXPAND AND ENHANCE THE COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON ILLICIT DRUG PRODUCTION, TRAFFICKING, AND RELATED ISSUES, THROUGH THE USE OF SOUND, SYSTEMATIC DATA COLLECTION PRACTICES, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, AND STANDARDIZED METHODOLOGIES.**

**Priority Action 3.1:** Generate information on illicit drug production, trafficking, drug markets, and related issues, using systematic data collection practices, scientific research, and wherever possible applying comparable methodologies.

Antigua and Barbuda has mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs. The Customs and Excise Division, Office of National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy (ONDPCP), and the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda (RPFAB) participate in these mechanisms.

The country has the following information related to supply reduction, trafficking, and related crimes:

Supply reduction, trafficking, and related crimes			
Information	Available information		Year of most recent information
	Yes	No	
Quantification of illicit crop cultivation including crops grown indoors		X	
Number of seizures of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production	X		2022
Quantities of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production seized	X		2022
Number of seizures of controlled chemical substances (precursors)	X		2019
Quantities of seized controlled chemical substances (precursors)	X		2019
Number of seizures of pharmaceutical products	X		2019
Quantities of seized pharmaceutical products	X		2019
Number of persons formally charged with drug use, possession, and trafficking	X		2022
Number of persons convicted of drug use, possession, and trafficking	X		2022
Number of laboratories producing illicit plant-based drugs detected and dismantled		X	
Number of laboratories producing illicit drugs of synthetic origin detected and dismantled		X	
Chemical composition of seized drugs		X	
Sale price of drugs (for consumers)	X		2021
Number of persons formally charged with money laundering	X		2021
Number of persons convicted of money laundering	X		2021

Supply reduction, trafficking, and related crimes			
Information	Available information		Year of most recent information
	Yes	No	
Number of persons formally charged with trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition, and related materials	X		2022
Number of persons convicted of trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition, and related materials	X		2022
Number of persons formally charged with diversion of chemical substances		X	
Number of persons convicted of diversion of chemical substances		X	

Antigua and Barbuda does not carry out periodic studies and research on the illicit drug market.

The country does not carry out studies on the medical and scientific use and other legal uses of narcotics or psychotropic substances, subject to international control systems.

**Priority Action 3.2: Conduct studies on the price, purity or concentration, and chemical profile of drugs.**

Antigua and Barbuda does not collect information for the development of studies on the drug price, purity or concentration, or chemical profile of drugs.

The country does not conduct chemical characterizations or purity tests of substances that may or may not be subject to international control.

**Priority Action 3.3: Establish and strengthen the relationship between the NDOs, or similar technical offices, and national, and when applicable, local, or sub-national forensic laboratories to bolster the collection of data on the chemical composition of substances and precursors seized.**

In Antigua and Barbuda, the Department of Analytical Services is responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances (NPS), and is part of the national early warning system (EWS) and drug information network (DIN).

The country participates in the following periodic training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including NPS:

Implements or participates in the program	Type of Training	Targeted institutions	Year when training was last done
Participates	Training Webinar on Wastewater Analysis and Drugs	Department of Analytical Services Antigua	October 28, 2020
Participates	Online training on the Induction to the use of the Raman TruNarc device	ONDCP	December 16-17, 2020
Participates	Operation of the Raman TruNarc Device	Department of Analytical Services Antigua	June 8, 2021

**Priority Action 3.4:** Strengthen drug information networks in member states by improving the mechanisms used to gather and analyze data to inform the development of public policies that control the illicit supply of drugs.

Antigua and Barbuda’s DIN has standardized indicators for the collection of data on drug supply.

The country implements training activities for DIN stakeholders to improve and strengthen the mechanisms that are needed for the collection and exchange of information on drug supply.

**OBJECTIVE**

4

**PARTICIPATE IN AND STRENGTHEN THE MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM) PROCESS, CONSIDERING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.**

**Priority Action 4.1: Regularly collect information and data to evaluate implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action.**

For the eighth round of evaluation of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), Antigua and Barbuda collected information on the implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2021-2025 and submitted it in a timely manner for evaluation by the Group of Governmental Experts (GEG) in the following thematic areas:

- Measures of Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Support (2021)
- Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their Causes and Consequences (2022)
- Institutional Strengthening; Research, Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation; and International Cooperation (2023)

**Priority Action 4.2: Support and facilitate active and timely participation in each of the MEM activities agreed to by member states.**

For the eighth evaluation round of the MEM, Antigua and Barbuda designated delegates for the following MEM groups, actively participating and contributing to the evaluation process:

Thematic evaluation	National Coordinating Entities (NCEs)	Governmental Expert Group (GEG)
Measures of Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Support (2021)	Yes	Yes
Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their Causes and Consequences (2022)	Yes	Yes
Institutional Strengthening; Research, Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation; and International Cooperation (2023)	Yes	Yes

**Priority Action 4.3: Disseminate MEM evaluation reports by member states among national stakeholders, other pertinent organizations, and the general public.**

Antigua and Barbuda has not carried out periodic activities to promote and raise awareness of the MEM Drug Policy Evaluation Reports aimed at national institutions.

**Priority Action 4.4: Promote use of the MEM’s findings to identify technical assistance needs.**

Antigua and Barbuda has not promoted the analysis of the findings of MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies for national institutions to identify areas where technical assistance is needed to improve national drug-related policies and programs.

**Priority Action 4.5: Increase hemispheric cooperation and partnerships among member states and sharing of best practices and lessons learned.**

Antigua and Barbuda has not reviewed the MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies or identified opportunities to increase cooperation and partnerships with other member states or share best practices and lessons learned (horizontal cooperation).

# INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

**OBJECTIVE**

**1**

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

**Priority Action 1.1: Develop and implement a plan for promoting and strengthening technical assistance and horizontal cooperation among member states and with states outside of the Western Hemisphere, and with relevant international and regional organizations, and related initiatives and programs.**

Antigua and Barbuda develops and implements a plan for the promotion and strengthening of technical assistance and horizontal cooperation among member states and with states outside the Western Hemisphere, as well as with relevant international and regional organizations, and related initiatives and programs. In this sense, there is training in money laundering, money laundering investigations and drug investigations, and asset recovery.

The country has established secure communication channels for the exchange of intelligence information on drug interdiction and control through law enforcement networks – International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and regional networks – Regional Intelligence Fusion Centre (RIFC), Joint Intelligence Group (JIG) and the Egmont Group that allow information to be shared among participating countries.

Antigua and Barbuda promotes the exchange, with member states and with states outside of the Western Hemisphere, and with relevant international and regional organizations, of best practices on training, specialization, and professional development of the staff responsible for implementing the national drug policies and strategies. In this sense, sharing of typologies and relevant information, also attendance to regional meetings and group discussions.

The country participates in regional coordination activities to prevent crimes related to drug trafficking, such as firearms trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, money laundering, and corruption, among others. In this sense, joint counter drug operations; money laundering investigation, drug unit commanders’ conference, civil asset recovery and proceeds of crime legislative discussions.

In Antigua and Barbuda, there are bilateral mechanisms for coordination and collaboration with other countries, focused on the dismantling of criminal groups linked to drug trafficking and related crimes with Canada, United Kingdom, the United States, and all other Commonwealth countries. These mechanisms are used once or twice a year.



**Priority Action 1.2: Promote technology transfers and information sharing among and between member states and international organizations.**

Antigua and Barbuda has not promoted technology transfers among and between Organization of American States (OAS) member states and international (including regional) organizations.

The country has promoted information sharing among and between OAS member states and international (including regional) organizations. In this sense, drug trends, typologies, trafficking routes, money laundering and fraud, are among the type of information sharing carried out.

**Priority Action 1.3: Promote the dissemination of good practices and exchange of successful research experiences among and between member states and international organizations.**

Antigua and Barbuda promotes the dissemination of good practices and the exchange of successful research experiences among and between member states and international organizations on drug policies through typologies, annual reports, and press releases (alerts).

**OBJECTIVE  
2**

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

**Priority Action 2.1:** Strengthen regional and international cooperation by competent authorities to investigate and prosecute criminals on drug-related offenses.

The competent authorities in Antigua and Barbuda carry out cooperative activities at the regional and international levels to investigate and prosecute criminals for drug-related offenses. In this sense, done through mutual legal assistance.

The country takes human rights into account when carrying out these activities by the legal rights of the individual are always taken into consideration.

**Priority Action 2.2:** Strengthen regional and international cooperation to facilitate, where appropriate, mutual legal assistance, extradition, and transfer of proceedings, in accordance with international legal instruments, when investigating and prosecuting criminals on drug-related offenses.

Antigua and Barbuda carries out activities to strengthen regional and international cooperation to facilitate, where appropriate, mutual legal assistance, extradition, and transfer of proceedings, in accordance with international legal instruments, when investigating and prosecuting criminals on drug-related offenses. In this sense, through registering and actioning letters of requests (LOR) pursuant to the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT).

**Priority Action 2.3:** Enact national legislation and/or take administrative actions, as appropriate, to more fully implement the obligations set forth within these legal instruments.

Antigua and Barbuda has enacted and adopted, during the evaluation period (2019-2023), the following legislative and administrative measures and actions to improve implementation of obligations set forth within international legal instruments related to the world drug problem, respecting human rights and gender equality:

	Enacted	Adopted	Name of the legislation/administrative measures or actions
Legislative Actions/ Measures	x	x	Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Act 2019 Section 3D 2(d) iii
Administrative Actions/ Measures	x	x	Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Act 2019 Section 3D 2(d) iii

**Priority Action 2.4:** Promote the accession, ratification, and implementation of the international legal instruments related to the world drug problem and related crimes.

Antigua and Barbuda has ratified or acceded to the following international legal instruments:

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

## EVALUATIVE SUMMARY

### INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

#### Objective 1

**Establish and/or strengthen national drug authorities, placing them at a high political level and providing them with the necessary capabilities, resources, and competencies to coordinate formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of national drug policies.**

CICAD notes with satisfaction that Antigua and Barbuda has a national drug authority, which has a legal basis. Moreover, CICAD observes that, in the country, there is an annual budget for the national drug authority, which is integrated into the budget of another government agency. Additionally, CICAD notes that Antigua and Barbuda has an ongoing coordination and collaboration mechanism among agencies and other levels of government to formulate, implement, monitor, evaluate, and update national drug policies or strategies and that the national drug authority coordinates the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, drug observatory, international cooperation, and program evaluation.

#### Objective 2

**Formulate, implement, evaluate, and update comprehensive national drug policies and/or strategies that promote balanced, multidisciplinary, and evidence-based approaches, while fully respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, under the principle of common and shared responsibility, consistent with obligations of parties under international law, and take into account gender, age, community, cultural context, and socially inclusive development.**

CICAD notes that Antigua and Barbuda collects and uses evidence as a basis for formulating and updating national drug policies and strategies. Additionally, CICAD observes the involvement of relevant actors from the priority areas in the development, implementation, evaluation, and update of national drug policies and strategies. CICAD notes that the country does not have sub-national/local governments; therefore, the priority action to promote sub-national management of drug policies between sub-national and national agencies is not applicable to the country. CICAD notes that Antigua and Barbuda does not engage private sector entities in the healthcare area to develop innovative approaches in the implementation of drug policies and exchange information and best practices. CICAD observes that the country takes into account the OAS 2020 Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its corresponding Plan of Action to formulate or update national drug policies and strategies. However, these policies and strategies do not take into account the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Also, CICAD notes that the country's national drug policies and strategies take into account the human rights approach, the gender perspective, but not the social inclusion approach. Additionally, CICAD observes that Antigua and Barbuda does not have the necessary resources to implement drug policies and programs.

**Objective 3**

**Design and coordinate national drug policies, that can be harmonized across related government policies and/or strategies, that address the fundamental causes and consequences of the drug problem.**

CICAD notes that Antigua and Barbuda has interagency and multisectoral policy and technical coordination mechanisms to address the drug problem in a comprehensive, balanced, and multidisciplinary approach, including its causes and consequences. On the other hand, CICAD observes that the country does not have concrete multisectoral plans or programs to address the causes and socioeconomic consequences of the drug problem. CICAD notes that Antigua and Barbuda participates in international cooperation programs at the bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen policies, programs, and institutions and their internal processes. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country promotes comprehensive and cross-cutting public policies to reduce and prevent crime, violence, social exclusion, and corruption. Also, CICAD notes that Antigua and Barbuda implements measures that promote equal access to justice and due process, taking into account gender, age, community, and cultural context approaches. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country implements measures that foster citizen participation in crime prevention, build community cohesion, increase public safety, and emphasize social inclusion.

**Objective 4**

**Design, adopt, and implement alternatives to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug or drug-related offenses, while taking into account national, constitutional, legal, and administrative systems, and in accordance with relevant international instruments.**

CICAD notes that Antigua and Barbuda's law provides for alternative measures to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug-related offenses, however, these measures do not take into the human rights approach or the gender perspective. Additionally, CICAD observes that the country does not develop mechanisms to monitor or evaluate these measures, and does not promote a common understanding of national legal norms, regulations, or internal procedures for the implementation of alternatives to incarceration.

**Objective 5**

**Promote and implement, as appropriate, in accordance with the policies, laws and needs of each country, comprehensive programs that promote social inclusion, especially to those at-risk populations.**

CICAD notes that Antigua and Barbuda does not have inter-agency and multisectoral programs that promote the social inclusion of individuals, families, and communities affected by the drug problem, taking into account the specific needs of vulnerable populations. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country does not disseminate best practices and lessons learned to improve institutional responses to the needs of people in at-risk situations.

### **Objective 6**

**Promote proportionate sentencing for drug-related crimes that provides for penalties commensurate with the relative seriousness of offenses, in line with the international drug conventions and respecting the principles of due process, with gender perspective, age, community, and a human rights approach.**

CICAD observes that Antigua and Barbuda promotes legislation that provides for proportional legal sentencing for minor drug-related offences, in accordance with domestic law and has special courts for these offenses. Moreover, CICAD notes that the country does not promote legal reforms regarding proportional sentencing for minor drug-related offenses.

## **RESEARCH, INFORMATION, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION**

### **Objective 1**

**Establish or strengthen national observatories on drugs, or similar technical offices, strengthening national drug information systems, and foster scientific research to generate, collect, organize, analyze, and disseminate information to inform the development and implementation of evidence-based drug policies and strategies.**

CICAD notes that Antigua and Barbuda has the National Observatory on Drugs (NDO), which was not created through a legal basis but has been assigned financial and human resources to carry out its functions. CICAD observes that the country has not established or maintained working relationships with universities or specialized research centers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or other academic or research institutions and has not carried out studies on the drug problem through them. However, CICAD notes that Antigua and Barbuda has developed and adopted quantitative and qualitative methodologies and information-gathering mechanisms that allow for the comparison of data among countries, has carried out studies on drug use applying the SIDUC methodology, and used the CICAD standard indicators for drug information networks for the collection, analysis, and reporting of national drug-related data and information. However, the country has not conducted studies using methods that are non-representative of the population to obtain information on drugs that can be shared with other countries that have carried out studies with similar methodologies. CICAD observes that Antigua and Barbuda's observatory has a national drug information network (DIN), which interacts through document exchanges and publishes a periodic report. Also, the country has an early warning system (EWS) to identify NPS or other emerging drug-related threats but does not share information, alerts, and reports with the Early Warning System of the Americas (SATA) and does not have a mechanism to share information in real time. On the other hand, CICAD notes that Antigua and Barbuda's observatory carries out training sessions with local stakeholders to enhance data collection and management, and convenes meetings and other workshops where the results of studies and other information-gathering activities are shared with local stakeholders. Also, CICAD observes that the country has not established forums that allow drug researchers to present their findings to policymakers. Moreover, CICAD notes that Antigua and Barbuda's observatory does not promote or disseminate good practices or the exchange of successful research experiences

among member states.

### **Objective 2**

**Expand access to information on drug use and related issues through the use of sound, systematic data collection practices, scientific research, and standardized methodologies, ensuring that countries have the information necessary to develop sound demand reduction programs and policies.**

CICAD notes that Antigua and Barbuda has carried out and published two demand reduction studies during the evaluation period (2019-2023). However, CICAD observes that the country has no national system for the collection of data on the number of patients treated, diagnoses, clinical history, or available information on treatment outcomes. Moreover, CICAD also notes that Antigua and Barbuda has not conducted studies to evaluate treatment and prevention programs or interventions, nor process, intermediate outcome, or impact evaluations of its prevention or treatment programs. Additionally, the country does not have mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment, rehabilitation and recovery and social integration programs and services in the public health and/or social protection network.

### **Objective 3**

**Expand and enhance the collection and dissemination of information on illicit drug production, trafficking, and related issues, through the use of sound, systematic data collection practices, scientific research, and standardized methodologies.**

CICAD notes that Antigua and Barbuda has mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs and has information related to supply reduction, trafficking, and related crimes. However, the country does not carry out periodic studies on the illicit drug market or on the medical and scientific use and other legal uses of narcotics or psychotropic substances, subject to international control systems. Additionally, CICAD observes that Antigua and Barbuda does not collect information on the drug price, purity or concentration, or chemical profile of drugs, nor conducts chemical characterizations or purity tests of substances that may or may not be subject to international control. CICAD notes that the country has an institution that is responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances, and is part of the early warning system (EWS) and the national drug information network (DIN), additionally, the country participates in periodic training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of these substances. CICAD observes that Antigua and Barbuda's DIN has standardized indicators for the collection of data on drug supply and that the country implements and participates in training activities for DIN stakeholders to improve and strengthen the mechanisms that are needed for the collection and exchange of information on drug supply.

**Objective 4**

**Participate in and strengthen the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) process, considering its recommendations.**

CICAD notes that, for the eighth round of evaluation of the MEM, Antigua and Barbuda collected information on the implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2021-2025 and submitted it in a timely manner for evaluation by the Group of Governmental Experts (GEG). CICAD observes that, for the eighth evaluation round of the MEM, the country designated delegates for all the MEM groups, actively participating and contributing to the evaluation process. However, CICAD notes that Antigua and Barbuda has not carried out periodic activities to promote and raise awareness of the MEM Drug Policy Evaluation Reports aimed at national institutions. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country has not promoted the analysis of the findings of MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies for national institutions to identify areas where technical assistance is needed to improve national drug-related policies and programs. Additionally, CICAD notes that Antigua and Barbuda has not reviewed the MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies and identified opportunities to increase cooperation and partnerships with other member states or share best practices and lessons learned (horizontal cooperation).

**INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION****Objective 1**

**Promote and strengthen cooperation and coordination mechanisms to foster technical assistance, improve exchange of information and experiences, and share best practices and lessons learned on drug policies.**

CICAD notes that Antigua and Barbuda develops and implements a plan for the promotion and strengthening of technical assistance and horizontal cooperation among member states and with states outside the Western Hemisphere, as well as with relevant international and regional organizations, and related initiatives and programs. Additionally, the country has established secure communication channels for the exchange of intelligence information on drug interdiction and control. Moreover, Antigua and Barbuda promotes the exchange, with member states and with states outside of the Western Hemisphere, and with relevant international and regional organizations, of best practices on training, specialization, and professional development of the staff responsible for implementing the national drug policies and strategies. Also, the country participates in regional coordination activities to prevent crimes related to drug trafficking, such as firearms trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, money laundering, and corruption, among others. Furthermore, in Antigua and Barbuda there are bilateral mechanisms for coordination and collaboration with other countries, focused on the dismantling of criminal groups linked to drug trafficking and related crimes. On the other hand, CICAD observes that the country has not promoted technology transfers among and between OAS member states and international (including regional) organizations but it has promoted information sharing among them. Additionally, CICAD notes that Antigua and Barbuda promotes the dissemination of good practices or the exchange of successful research experiences among and between member states



and international organizations on drug policies.

### **Objective 2**

**Strengthen international cooperation as defined in the international legal instruments related to the world drug problem, maintaining respect for human rights.**

CICAD notes that the competent authorities in Antigua and Barbuda carry out cooperative activities at the regional and international levels to investigate and prosecute criminals for drug-related offenses and takes human rights into account when carrying out these activities. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country carries out activities to strengthen regional and international cooperation to facilitate, where appropriate, mutual legal assistance, extradition, and transfer of proceedings, in accordance with international legal instruments, when investigating and prosecuting criminals on drug-related offenses. Additionally, CICAD notes that Antigua and Barbuda has enacted and adopted, during the evaluation period (2019-2023), legislative and administrative measures to more fully implement compliance with the obligations established in international legal instruments related to the world drug problem, respecting human rights and gender equality. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country has ratified or acceded to all of the international legal instruments of the United Nations and all of the OAS Inter-American legal instruments regarding the world drug problem and related crimes.





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