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# MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

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

## The Bahamas (Commonwealth of)

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

2023





## MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

# THE BAHAMAS

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### **Evaluation Report on Drug Policies:**

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and International Cooperation

**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.**

The Bahamas has the National Anti-Drug Secretariat (NADS) as the national drug authority, which was established in 2008 and is positioned within the government administrative structure in the portfolio of the Minister of National Security. It is directly responsible to the Minister through the Ministry’s Permanent Secretary.

**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.**

The Bahamas’ national drug authority, currently, does not have a legal basis.

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

In The Bahamas, there is an annual budget for the national drug authority, which is integrated with the budget of the Ministry of National Security.

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)	\$110,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$165,000	\$150,000

**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.**

The Bahamas has an ongoing coordination and collaboration mechanism among agencies and other levels of government (national and sub-national) to formulate, implement, monitor, evaluate, and update national drug policies and/or strategies. In this sense, the ongoing coordination and collaboration mechanism is sector specific and involves both formal and informal exchanges and input. While the national drug information network (DIN) seeks to



strengthen the production and exchange of information, collaboration with the Demand and Supply Reduction sectors are more formal around strategic and action planning and follow-up and more informal discussing operations of these sectors.

The national drug authority of The Bahamas coordinates the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, drug observatory, international cooperation, and program evaluation. However, the national drug authority does not coordinate the area of control measures.

**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.

The Bahamas does not collect or use evidence as basis for formulating and updating national drug policies or strategies.

**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 The Bahamas, the following relevant actors from the priority areas are involved in the development, implementation, and updating of national drug policies and/or strategies:

Relevant actors	Development	Implementation	Evaluation	Update
Health Ministry	X	X		X
Interior Ministry	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Justice Ministry	X	X		
Education Ministry	X	X		X
Regional and/or local governments				
Scientific community/academia	X			
Civil society	X	X		X
Private sector				
Others: - Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development (Probation; Rehabilitative Welfare) - Bahamas Customs Department - Financial Intelligence Unit - Office of the Prime Minister - Economic Development and Planning Unit (SDGs)	X	X		

The country’s regional and/or local governments and the private sector are not involved in the development, implementation, evaluation, or updating of national drug policies and/or

strategies, and there are no relevant actors from the priority areas involved in the evaluation stage.

**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.

The Bahamas has not delegated responsibilities on drug issues to sub-national/local governments to implement concrete actions related to drug policies and strategies.

The national drug authority of The Bahamas has, in its central structure, an office or operational unit to promote, coordinate, train, and provide technical support on drug-related issues to sub-national/local governments or agencies. In that sense, the National Anti-Drug Secretariat's central structure includes a training officer who identifies needs and promotes online e-learning platforms and coordinates other training opportunities for the organization's stakeholders. The e-Learning portal promotes a variety of self-paced online classes, technical support, and drug-related training. This has been a key addition given the geographic make-up of the Bahamian archipelago.

Other technical support is offered through networks such as the national drug information network (DIN) and through coordination of services that bring together local stakeholders and international partners such as the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) and the Cooperation Programme between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drug Policies (COPOLAD).

The national drug authority of The Bahamas does not have coordinators, offices, or representatives in the sub-national or local territories, as part of a decentralized operational and coordination structure at the local level to respond to the drug problem.

The Bahamas does not have a specific and ongoing mechanism or program to transfer funds or finance drug initiatives or projects implemented by sub-national/local governments.

**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.

The Bahamas engages private sector entities to develop innovative approaches in the implementation of drug policies and exchange information and best practices. The areas within

the private sector entities that develop these approaches are demand reduction; alternatives to incarceration; and social inclusion. The country has approaches such as indicated prevention programs as an option to incarceration mandated by the court; use of the National Neighborhood Watch Association as a means of identifying issues of concern; and a program to establish community-based violence interrupters.

**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.**

The Bahamas takes into account the 2020 Organization of American States (OAS) Hemispheric Strategy on Drugs and its corresponding Plan of Action to formulate or update national drug policies and strategies.

The Bahamas' national drug policies and strategies take into account the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this sense, aspects of the drug-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been incorporated into the Hemispheric Strategy and plans so attempts have been made to address these issues in the national drug control plans. However, there are challenges regarding understanding how issues such as Human Rights, Gender, Culture, etc. impact services and so these will have to be explored so that the country can improve plans to take these into consideration.

**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.**

The Bahamas' national drug policies and strategies take into account the human rights approach. In this sense, it is stated in various policy/procedure documents whereby all residents are treated with respect, have voluntary and equal access to services that are free of discrimination, are informed and consulted.

The Bahamas' national drug policies and strategies take into account the gender perspective. In this sense, the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre provides gender-specific treatment: through special provision for men and women's unique health issues; a special group for women only; and training and sensitizing of staff to increased risks associated with progression of disease in women, increased stigma and other barriers to care disproportionately affecting women and LGBTQ+ community.

The national drug authority of The Bahamas requires technical support to develop and implement programs with a gender perspective. In that sense, assistance would be helpful for the understanding of specifically what are the gender issues in drug control and how can the countries efforts in this regard be assessed, thus if there are other tools that can be used.

The Bahamas' national drug policies and strategies take into account the social inclusion approach. In this sense, for persons in treatment and/or prisons, programs are offered that would enhance their abilities and the opportunities to lead productive lives while in the institutions; after completing treatment or prison sentence, there are a number of non-governmental organizations (NGO) dedicated to helping these individuals to transition into the community.

Additionally, through the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, former inmates with Police Records have the opportunity to have those records expunged. This decreases chances of being stigmatized and increases employment opportunities, opportunities to acquire Visas for travel, and other development opportunities.

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

The Bahamas has 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.**

**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.

The Bahamas 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. In this sense, the country uses wide stakeholder and drug information networks.

**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.

The Bahamas has concrete multisectoral plans and programs to address the socioeconomic causes and consequences of the drug problem, which are based on the principles of human rights, public health, and development. In this regard, The Bahamas has the Urban Renewal Program that seeks to address the economic and social challenges in vulnerable lower socioeconomic status communities. Also, the country has programs to reduce the level of punitive sentences for persons who use drugs and to try and get them appropriate treatment.

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

The Bahamas participates in international cooperation programs at the bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen policies, programs, institutions and their internal processes. In this sense, the country has the following international cooperation activities at the bilateral and multilateral levels:

- Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) Expert Groups and sector meetings and research
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)/Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) meetings, questionnaires, events
- International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) assessment preparations
- Caribbean Community (CARICOM) European Development Fund drug control activities
- Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) supply reduction activities
- Cooperation Programme between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drug Policies (COPOLAD) assessments, meetings and working groups

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

The Bahamas promotes comprehensive and cross-cutting public policies to reduce and prevent crime, violence, social exclusion, and corruption through the Citizen Security and Justice Program (CSJP). In this sense, the CSJP addresses social and economic factors, violence, crime and citizen empowerment.

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

The Bahamas implements measures that promote equal access to justice and due process, taking into account gender, age, community, and cultural context approaches. In this sense, measures have been introduced via the Court Reform and Modernization Program to address barriers such as costs of quality representation or the unavailability of legal aid, the long delay in cases being heard that impacts victims and perpetrators, transparency and the perception of corruption.

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

The Bahamas implements measures that foster citizen participation in crime prevention, build community cohesion, increase public safety, and emphasize social inclusion. In this sense, The Bahamas has three programs that implement said measures such as the Citizen Security and Justice Program; the “What Urban Renewal 2.0 will mean for The Bahamas”; and the National Neighborhood Crime Watch to help neighbors watch out for neighbors. The program prevents crime by ensuring that everyone keeps an eye open for suspicious activity. The ultimate success of Neighborhood Watch depends largely on a commitment to cooperation between area residents and the police and, more importantly, between residents themselves.

**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.**

The Bahamas' law provides for alternative measures to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug-related offenses. The country's current laws do not specifically address alternative measures to incarceration, however, for a number of years it has been a practice that if a subject is arrested for low level drug offences, magistrates often offer alternative measures to incarceration and adverse police records such as mandatory treatment or some other intervention.

These measures respect human rights and take into account the gender perspective in accordance with relevant international instruments. In this sense, no discrimination and specific circumstances can be taken into consideration when penalties are decided.

**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.**

The Bahamas develops mechanisms to monitor and evaluate alternative measures to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug-related offenses. The agency responsible for implementing the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms is the Probation Unit in the Department of Social Services.

These mechanisms do not involve academic or research institutions, or civil society.

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

The Bahamas 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.**

The Bahamas has 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. In this sense, the Urban Renewal Bahamas is a comprehensive scheme to redress a complex of urban problems, including unsanitary, deficient, or obsolete housing; inadequate transportation, sanitation, and other services and facilities; haphazard land use; and the sociological correlates of urban decay, such as drugs and crime. Urban Renewal Bahamas falls under the purview of the Minister of State for Social Services and Urban Development. It is assisted by many other governmental departments such as Education, the Royal Bahamas Police Force and supported by non-governmental organizations (NGO) such as the religious community, businesses and others.

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

The Bahamas disseminates best practices and lessons learned to improve institutional responses to the needs of at-risk populations, such as mechanisms, programs, and interventions, through publications, meetings, workshops, among others. In that sense, the country ensures that the appropriate persons attend and participate in the various technical meetings, workshops and fora offered by international agencies such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), the Cooperation Programme between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drug Policies (COPOLAD) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). In this regard, a team of neighborhood watch members and government officials attended an international event to share experiences and observe best practices, and the Community Policing Program received an international award for its work.

Likewise, within the country, sharing of knowledge is accomplished through stakeholder meetings, workshops and incorporating best practices and lessons learned into program plans in order to improve institutional responses to the needs of at-risk populations.

**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.**

The Bahamas does not promote proportional legal sentencing for minor drug-related offenses, in accordance with domestic law.

The country does not have special courts or tribunals for minor drug-related offenses.

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

The Bahamas 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.**

The Bahamas has a national drug observatory (NDO).

The NDO has been assigned financial and human resources to carry out its functions, which are funded by the general consolidated fund, the confiscated assets fund and international partners. The breakdown of budget allocations is incorporated in the annual budget amount of the national drug authority to be used for prevalence surveys and situational assessments to plan for and evaluate proposed community-based prevention programs.

**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.**

The Bahamas has established and maintained working relationships with academic and research institutions. In this sense, there has been a concerted effort to include representatives of the research community at the University of The Bahamas on the core planning committees for research related projects of the NDO. This included the 2023 School Drug Survey.

The University of The Bahamas has also assisted the National Drug Observatory in the past through the incorporation of a substance use component into an Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) commissioned survey on The Bahamas Department of Correctional Services Prison Population.

The Bahamas Department of Statistic has and continues to assist the National Drug Observatory with sample size calculations and other methodological issues for the various drug prevalence surveys (schools and household).

The Health Information and Research Unit of the Ministry of Health has and continues to assist the NDO with the acquisition of health-related information that falls within the purview of that ministry.

The Bahamas has not carried out any studies on the drug problem through academic and research institutions during the evaluation period (2019-2023).

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

The Bahamas has developed and adopted the following quantitative and qualitative methodologies and information-gathering mechanisms that allow for the comparison of data among countries:

- Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)/ Inter-American Uniform Drug Use Data System (SIDUC)
- World Health Organization (WHO) Global Tobacco and Global School Health Surveys

In addition, the country carried out a School Survey in April 2023 applying the SIDUC methodology.

On the other hand, The Bahamas has not used CICAD's standard indicators for drug information networks for the collection, analysis, and reporting of national drug-related data and information.

The country 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 during the evaluation period.

**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		Bi-annually
Document exchange	X		Weekly

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 does not publish an annual report or any other type of periodic report.

The Bahamas does not have an early warning system (EWS) to identify new psychoactive substances (NPS) or other emerging drug-related threats.

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

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

The country's 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.

The Bahamas has established the following forums that allow drug researchers to present their findings to policymakers:

Forum title	Frequency	Reports or publications from these forums
Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre Monthly Webinars	Monthly	No

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

The Bahamas' NDO promotes and disseminates best practices and the exchange of successful research experiences among member states through the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID) of CICAD online and via the Observatory in-person meetings.

**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.

The Bahamas has not carried out and published demand reduction studies in the evaluation period (2019-2023).

**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.

The Bahamas has a national system for the collection of data on the number of patients treated, diagnoses, clinical history, and available information on treatment outcomes.

The national system on treatment data includes the following modalities and interventions:

Modalities and interventions	Yes	No
Community-based service	X	
Screening, Brief Interventions, and Referral to Treatment	X	
Medication-Assisted Treatment	X	
Short-Term In-Patient or Residential Treatment	X	
Outpatient Treatment	X	
Long-term Residential Treatment	X	
Recovery Management		X

Data on patients treated is collected from the following institutions:

Institution	Yes	No
Public health system	X	
Private institutions		X
Non-governmental organizations	X	
Religious institutions		X



**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.**

The Bahamas has not carried out studies to evaluate treatment and prevention programs or interventions during the evaluation period (2019-2023).

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

The Bahamas has not conducted 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.

The Bahamas has mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs. The Drug Enforcement Unit of the Royal Bahamas Police Force participates 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		2022
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	
Quantities of seized controlled chemical substances (precursors)		X	
Number of seizures of pharmaceutical products		X	
Quantities of seized pharmaceutical products		X	
Number of persons formally charged with drug use, possession, and trafficking	X		2022
Number of persons convicted of drug use, possession, and trafficking		X	
Number of laboratories producing illicit plant-based drugs detected and dismantled	X		2022
Number of laboratories producing illicit drugs of synthetic origin detected and dismantled	X		2022
Chemical composition of seized drugs	X		2022
Sale price of drugs (for consumers)	X		2022
Number of persons formally charged with money laundering		X	
Number of persons convicted of money laundering		X	
Number of persons formally charged with trafficking in firearms,		X	

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

The Bahamas does not carry out periodic studies and research on the drug market for illicit drugs.

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.**

The Bahamas does not collect information for the development of studies on the drug price, purity or concentration, and chemical profile of drugs during the evaluation period (2019-2023).

The country does not conduct chemical characterizations or tests of purity for 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 The Bahamas, the Royal Bahamas Police Force Scientific Support Services is responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances, but is not part of the national 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 new psychoactive substances:

Implements or participates in the program	Type of Training	Targeted institutions	Year when training was last done
Participates	4th COPOLAD Annual Week on Precursors Conference	Law Enforcement	2019

**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.

The Bahamas’ DIN does not have standardized indicators for the collection of data on drug supply.

The country does not implement or participate in 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), The Bahamas 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 Governmental Expert Group (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, The Bahamas 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.**

The Bahamas carried out the following periodic activities to promote and raise awareness of the MEM Drug Policy Evaluation Reports aimed at national institutions:

Name of the activity	Date	Participating institutions
Reports submitted to the Cabinet	2021, 2022	- Cabinet of The Bahamas
Reports shared online with stakeholders in the relevant sectors	2021, 2022	- Prevention Stakeholders - Supply Reduction Stakeholders
Previous reports used as basis for Action Planning Workshop in 2019	2019	- Demand Reduction Stakeholders - Supply Reduction Stakeholders - International Relations Stakeholders - Non-governmental organizations (NGO) - Government Officials

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

The Bahamas has 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. In this sense, once the final reports were received, soft and hard copies of the MEM reports were distributed to the various stakeholder groups for their own planning and other purposes. Also, topic-specific sessions were conducted online to share the information contained in the reports and to highlight those areas that the country needs to improve. This achieved the added benefit of reaching stakeholders in the less populated islands that would not normally have been able to participate in the in-person sessions.

In addition, the information from the MEM is used to supplement the information submitted to organizations such as the Cooperation Programme between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drug Policies (COPOLAD) for their initial assessments that are required to identify strengths and weaknesses to justify the requests for technical assistance in all areas of drug control.

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

The Bahamas has reviewed the MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies and identified opportunities to increase cooperation and partnerships with other member states and sharing of best practices and lessons learned (horizontal cooperation). In that sense, The Bahamas has identified opportunities to explore what are the human rights, gender, culture and ethnic issues in drug control efforts. COPOLAD is attempting to address through a current working group.

# 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.

The Bahamas 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, the country lays emphasis on participating in the Regular Sessions of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), and the annual Cooperation Programme between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drug Policies (COPOLAD) Meeting; and the various expert groups and working groups and getting stakeholders to take advantage of the numerous webinars that are now offered by international partners.

The country has established secure communication channels for the exchange of intelligence information on drug interdiction and control.

The Bahamas 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, the country promotes exchange with member states and with states outside of the Western Hemisphere through the facilitation of selected training activities in member countries and sharing of benefits and experiences in regional and other meetings with colleagues.

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, the country participates in activities of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS), Regional Security System, and Operation Bahamas Turks and Caicos (OPBAT).

In The Bahamas, 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 such as:

- Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLAT) (Criminal Matters) Act, 1988. (United States of America)



- CARICOM IMPACS
- The Extradition Act, Chapter 96

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

The Bahamas has promoted technology transfers among and between OAS member states and international (including regional) organizations. In this sense, field drug testing and investigations may involve dangerous chemicals such as fentanyl.

The country has promoted information sharing among and between Organization of American States (OAS) member states and international (including regional) organizations. In this sense, the country promotes information sharing through various existing international systems and mechanisms including Project ION's Incident Communication System (IONICS), Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ) and specialized surveys by CICAD and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (e.g., COVID impact on various services).

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

The Bahamas promotes the dissemination of good practices and the exchange of successful research experiences among and between member states and international organizations on drug policies. In this sense, the country promotes the dissemination of good practices and the exchange of successful research experience through CICAD's Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID).

**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 of The Bahamas carry out cooperation activities at the regional and international levels to investigate and prosecute criminals for drug-related offenses. In this sense, the country grants extraditions and conducts direct exchanges with regional counterparts through warnings via Interpol and warnings via surveillance activities of Operation Bahamas Turks and Caicos (OPBAT).

These activities take into account the human rights approach as relevant new and amended legislation that impacts human rights is being drafted and enacted.

**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.**

The Bahamas 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, The Bahamas carries out activities to strengthen regional and international cooperation to facilitate extraditions, sharing of assets, and transfer of proceedings to other jurisdictions.

**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.**

The Bahamas has not enacted or adopted, during the evaluation period (2019-2023), legislative or 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.

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

The Bahamas 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 that The Bahamas has a national drug authority, which does not have a legal basis. Nonetheless, CICAD observes that, in the country, there is an annual budget for the national drug authority, which is integrated with the budget of another government agency. Moreover, CICAD notes that The Bahamas has an ongoing coordination and collaboration mechanism among agencies and other levels of government (national and sub-national) to formulate, implement, monitor, evaluate, and update national drug policies and/or strategies and that the national drug authority coordinates the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, drug observatory, international cooperation, and program evaluation. However, the national drug authority does not coordinate the area of control measures.

#### **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 The Bahamas does not collect or use evidence as a basis for formulating and updating national drug policies and strategies. However, CICAD observes the involvement of relevant actors from the priority areas in the development, implementation, and updating of national drug policies and/or strategies, except for the country's regional and/or local governments and the private sector. On the other hand, no relevant actors from the priority areas are involved in the evaluation of national drug policies and/or strategies. CICAD notes that The Bahamas has not delegated responsibilities on drug issues to local/sub-national governments to implement concrete actions related to drug policies and strategies. On the other hand, the national drug authority has, in its central structure, an office or operational unit to promote, coordinate, train, and provide technical support on drug-related issues to sub-national/local governments or agencies on drug-related issues. However, the national drug authority does not have coordinators, offices, or representatives in the sub-national or local territories, as part of a decentralized operational and coordination structure at the local level to respond to the drug problem. Additionally, The Bahamas does not have a specific and ongoing mechanism or program to transfer funds or finance drug initiatives or projects carried out by municipalities or local governments. However, CICAD observes that the country engages private sector entities to

develop innovative approaches in the implementation of drug policies and exchange information and best practices. Furthermore, CICAD notes that The Bahamas takes into account the OAS 2020 Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its corresponding Plan of Action to formulate or update national drug policies and strategies. Moreover, these policies and strategies take into account the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In addition, CICAD observes that the country's national drug policies and strategies take into account the human rights approach, the gender perspective, and the social inclusion approach. Additionally, CICAD notes that The Bahamas has 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 with satisfaction that The Bahamas 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. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country has concrete multisectoral plans and programs to address the causes and socioeconomic consequences of the drug problem based on the principles of human rights, public health, and development. Additionally, CICAD notes that The Bahamas participates in international cooperation programs at the bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen policies, programs, and institutions and their internal processes. Furthermore, 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 The Bahamas 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 The Bahamas' law provides for alternative measures to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug-related offenses, which respect human rights and take into account the gender perspective in accordance with relevant international instruments. Additionally, CICAD observes that the country develops mechanisms to monitor and evaluate these measures. However, these mechanisms do not involve academic or research institutions, or civil society. Furthermore, The Bahamas 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 with satisfaction that The Bahamas has 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. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country disseminates best practices and lessons learned to improve institutional responses to the needs of at-risk populations.

**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 with concern that The Bahamas does not promote legislation that provides for proportional legal sentencing for minor drug-related offenses in accordance with domestic law and does not have special courts or tribunals 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 The Bahamas has a National Drug Observatory (NDO), which has been assigned financial and human resources to carry out its functions. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country has established and maintained working relationships with academic and research institutions, however, The Bahamas has not carried out studies on the drug problem through these institutions. On the other hand, CICAD notes that the country has developed and adopted quantitative and qualitative methodologies and information-gathering mechanisms that allow for the comparison of data among countries and has carried out a study on drug use applying the SIDUC methodology. However, The Bahamas has not used the CICAD standard indicators for drug information networks for the collection, analysis, and reporting of national drug related data and information. Also, the country has not carried out 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. On the other hand, CICAD notes that The Bahamas' observatory has a national drug information network (DIN), which interacts through meetings and document exchanges. On the other hand, the DIN does not publish an annual report or any other type of periodic report. In addition, the country does not have an early warning system (EWS) to identify NPS or other emerging drug-related threats. However, CICAD notes that the country'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. Additionally, CICAD observes that The Bahamas has established a forum that allows drug researchers to present their findings to policymakers. Moreover, CICAD notes that the country's national drug observatory promotes and disseminates best practices and 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 The Bahamas has not carried out any demand reduction studies during the evaluation period (2019-2023). However, CICAD observes that the country has a national system for the collection of data on the number of patients treated, diagnoses, clinical history, and available information on treatment outcomes. On the other hand, CICAD notes that The Bahamas has not conducted studies to evaluate treatment and prevention programs or interventions, nor has it carried out process, intermediate outcome or impact evaluations of these programs. Additionally, 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.**

CICAD notes that The Bahamas 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 drug market for illicit drugs or on the medical and scientific use and other legal uses of narcotics or psychotropic substances, subject to international control systems. In addition, CICAD observes that The Bahamas does not collect information for the development of studies on the drug price, purity or concentration, and chemical profile of drugs, nor does it conduct chemical characterizations or tests of purity for substances that may or may not be subject to international control.

However, CICAD notes that the country has an agency that is responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances, however, it is not part of the national drug information network (DIN). On the other hand, The Bahamas participates in periodic training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of these substances. Nevertheless, CICAD observes that the country's DIN does not have standardized indicators for the collection of data on drug supply nor does the country implement or participate 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 with satisfaction that, for the eighth round of evaluation of the MEM, The Bahamas 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 Governmental Expert Group (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. Additionally, CICAD notes that The Bahamas 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 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. Furthermore, CICAD notes that The Bahamas has 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 with satisfaction that The Bahamas 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, The Bahamas 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, The Bahamas has bilateral mechanisms for coordination and collaboration with other countries, focused on the dismantling of criminal groups linked to drug trafficking and related crimes. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country has promoted technology transfers among and between OAS member states and international (including regional) organizations, as well as information sharing among them. Additionally, CICAD notes that The Bahamas 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 of The Bahamas carry out cooperative activities at the regional and international levels to investigate and prosecute criminals for drug-related offenses. 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. However, CICAD notes that The Bahamas has not enacted or adopted, during the evaluation period (2019-2023), legislative or 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. On the other hand, 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.





**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)  
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