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MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

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

Trinidad and Tobago

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

2023



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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Evaluation Report on Drug Policies:

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EIGHTH EVALUATION ROUND

2023

OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.74
CICAD/doc.2797/23

ISBN 978-0-8270-7765-2

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.

Trinidad and Tobago has the National Drug Council (NDC) as the national drug authority, which was established in 2000 and is positioned within the government administrative structure as a unit under the Ministry of National Security.

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.

Trinidad and Tobago’s national drug policy entity has a legal basis, through Cabinet Minute #1231.

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

In Trinidad and Tobago there is an annual budget for the national drug authority, which is integrated into 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)	\$147,492.62	\$36,873.16	\$21,622.42	\$22,123.90	\$22,123.90

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.

Trinidad and Tobago 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 NDC Secretariat coordinates the Pillar Groups for the five thematic areas of the National Drug Operational Plan for Drug Control through the assignment of Liaison Officers that work with the Chairs and Co-

Chairs of each Pillar. The Chairs and Co-Chairs are assigned to agencies with primary responsibility for the thematic areas.

The national drug authority of Trinidad and Tobago 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 Trinidad and Tobago, the National Drug Council (NDC) Secretariat under the Ministry of National Security, collects and uses evidence as a basis for formulating and updating national drug policies and/or strategies. In that sense, the drug information network of Trinidad and Tobago (DIN-TT) is the mechanism through which there is data on the extent, distribution, and volume of the national drug problem, which is collected from drug control stakeholders and analyzed annually through the compilation of the annual report for the DIN-TT. This data is collected on a monthly or quarterly basis from the stakeholders, based on the agreed upon terms of submission.

In addition to providing insight to the different aspects of the national drug problem, the DIN-TT engages institutions and individuals operating in the areas of drug prevention, education, control, and law enforcement to exchange drug-related information, collaborate, and support each other’s efforts. It forms part of the ongoing efforts to promote a better understanding of the nation’s drug problem and develop workable and sustainable policies and programs.

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 Trinidad and Tobago, the following relevant actors from the priority areas are involved in the development, implementation, evaluation, and updating of national drug policies and/or strategies:

Relevant actors	Development	Implementation	Evaluation	Update
Ministry of Health	X	X		
Ministry of National Security	X	X	X	X
Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs		X		
Ministry of Education		X		
Regional and/or local governments				

Scientific community/academia	X	X	X	X
Civil society	X	X		
Private sector	X	X		
Others: - Tobago House of Assembly - Customs and Excise - Financial Intelligence Unit - Business Community - Ministry of Social Development	X	X		

The country’s regional and/or local governments 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.

Trinidad and Tobago has not delegated responsibilities on drug issues to local or sub-national governments to implement concrete actions related to drug policies and strategies.

The national drug authority of Trinidad and Tobago has, in its central structure, an office or operational unit to promote, coordinate, and provide technical support to local agencies on drug-related issues. It provides this support by coordinating and promoting technical support to local agencies from international partners which includes attending regional and international meetings and identifying the technical support available and creating communication between local stakeholders and international partners on the subject.

The national drug authority of Trinidad and Tobago 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.

Trinidad and Tobago 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.

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.

Trinidad and Tobago engages private sector entities to develop innovative approaches in the implementation of drug policies and exchange information and best practices. The NDC engages the Chamber of Industry and Commerce to assist with the implementation of the National Drug Policy 2021 and Operational Plan for Drug Control 2021-2025. The Chamber of Industry and Commerce is an amalgamation of private business entities (such as security, media, financial digital, construction, and manufacturing industries) whose involvement and assistance in the implementation of the Policy and the Plan in the areas of demand reduction and control measures is critical for the achievement of targeted objectives and activities. In addition, through the Chamber of Industry and Commerce, opportunities to increase awareness to their stakeholders is provided, given that the Representative for the Chamber on the NDC is chair of the Crime and Justice Committee of the Chamber, which was established to demonstrate the Chamber's concern with the escalating crime wave in the country, and to make a concerted effort, in whatever way possible, in partnership with the Government and other private sector organizations to address these issues, problems, and solutions on crime and the criminal justice system in Trinidad and Tobago.

Additionally, the Chamber of Industry and Commerce is represented on the national entity for implementation of the Drug Plan. Their contribution to programs includes a financial capacity and opportunity to sensitize the other private stakeholders. There is contribution of prizes for programs and invitation to stakeholders to share on drug and crime related matters at their meetings.

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.

Trinidad and Tobago 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 Hemispheric Plan has been incorporated into the objectives and activities of the Operational Plan for Drug Control for Trinidad and Tobago 2021-2025 and the National Drug Policy (NDP) 2021.

The country's national drug policies and strategies take into account the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this sense, it is incorporated into the objectives and activities of the Operational Plan for Drug Control for Trinidad and Tobago 2021-2025 and the NDP 2021.

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.

Trinidad and Tobago's national drug policies and strategies take into account the human rights approach. In this sense, as part of the comprehensive, integrated, and balanced approach that is

fundamental to the drug control effort, the NDP 2021 fully respects all human rights by endorsing non-discriminatory access to justice, healthcare and social services; designing and implementing drug control interventions for vulnerable populations including persons with disabilities, children, youth and women; and carrying out continuous capacity-building initiatives and support for persons who function directly or indirectly within the drug control effort.

The country's national drug policies and strategies take into account the gender perspective. In this sense, the NDP 2021 acknowledges that developing and/or enhancing systems to accurately understand, describe, measure, and quantify the impact of drugs and drug control on women is critical in the design of relevant intervention strategies and is therefore reflected in the objectives of the different Pillars of the National Drug Operational Plan 2021 to 2025.

The national drug authority of Trinidad and Tobago requires technical support to develop and implement programs with a gender perspective. Regarding gender mainstreaming, the country needs to improve the quality of policies to further the well-being of men and women. Trinidad and Tobago also needs support in undertaking gender related surveys/studies.

The country's national drug policies and strategies take into account the social inclusion approach. In this sense, addressing the needs and concerns of youth, and specifically young males, is a component of this drug control policy and operational plan and is in alignment with government's national development strategy. This is reflected in the objectives of the National Drug Operational Plan 2021 to 2025, particularly the demand reduction pillar.

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

Trinidad and Tobago 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.

Trinidad and Tobago 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. This is currently facilitated through the National Security Council, Special investigation unit within the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) and the National Drug Plan Steering Committee that was formulated to assist with the monitoring and evaluation of the National Drug Operational Plan 2021 to 2025.

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.0

Trinidad and Tobago has concrete multisectoral plans and programs to address the causes and socioeconomic consequences of the drug problem, which are based on the principles of human rights, public health, and development.

These plans and programs are in various Ministries. For example, the Ministry of Youth Development and National Service has the Specialized Youth Services Programme (SYSP) which includes a program entitled MILAT which is the Military-Led Academic Training Programme that is specifically designed to help at-risk young men, aged 16-20 years and Civilian Conservation Corp. These are to transform their lives and empower them to become better citizens.

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

Trinidad and Tobago participates in international cooperation programs at the bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen policies, programs, and institutions and their internal processes. In this sense, below are examples of international cooperation activities at the bilateral and multilateral levels:

Demand Reduction

- Universal Prevention training Curriculum (Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission - CICAD)

Supply Reduction

Project HAMMER, the following activities are being conducted under this project:

- Self-assessments and in-person validation assessments: Five countries were pre-selected by the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the U.S. Department of State's International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Bureau (INL) for in-person institutional assessments: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. These represent the States most affected by firearms and drug trafficking. An institutional self-assessment of the current set-up and structure of the Customs Divisions was sent electronically to the customs authorities in Antigua and Barbuda and Trinidad and Tobago, and in-person assessments were then conducted to validate the self-assessments. Online self-assessments and in-person validation assessment in the three remaining countries will be conducted next
- Webinars: Two webinars were held on Targeting & Profiling in air cargo fast parcels/courier traffic and on the WCO Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) Project for detection, identification and tracing, and safe evidence handling
- National training: National training for The Bahamas was held during on November 7-11, 2022. This training focused on vehicle search techniques and firearms parts and components
- Operation Seagrape: A national operation that will be conducted over a six-month period to support Barbados' Customs Department in using a rules-based targeting and risk analysis approach to identifying high-risk cargo and intercepting the trafficking in SALW
- Participation in Operation Trigger VII: Customs authorities were invited to participate in this operation, given their key role in the detection of SALW at the borders

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

Trinidad and Tobago promotes comprehensive and cross-cutting public policies to reduce and prevent crime, violence, social exclusion, and corruption. In this sense, the Vision 2030: National Development Strategy of Trinidad and Tobago and the Roadmap to Recovery 2020-2025 Policy have been approved by the Government and adopted by ministries in addressing social factors, violence, crime, and individual wellness.

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

Trinidad and Tobago 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 and Advisory Authority provides legal advice and legal representation to persons who are unable to finance legal services.

The Case Care Management (CCM) is designed to efficiently structure the delivery of services to persons referred to the Probation Services Division, to aid in the reintegration and rehabilitation

of persons with substance use disorders involved in the criminal justice system. Ultimately, the CCM process will be applied to all clients referred to in the Probation Services Division. Below are the overarching goals:

- Crime reduction (The CCM clients are successfully integrated in the society and will not return to the justice system)
- Community safety through treatment and rehabilitation
- Problematic substance use reduction
- Reduction of the length of the client involvement in the justice system
- Reduction in prison population and prison costs
- Reduction in social and economic costs related to imprisonment

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

Trinidad and Tobago implements the following measures that foster citizen participation in crime prevention, build community cohesion, increase public safety, and emphasize social inclusion:

- Community Policing Units of the TTPS: this unit plans and develops educational and crime prevention programs. These units operate at a national level
- Youth clubs: The Trinidad and Tobago Prisons Service, the Police Service and the Fire Services have instituted clubs for youth nationally to alleviate the issues of crime, build communities, increase public safety and awareness, and emphasize social inclusion
- Project Building Blocks of the Ministry of National Security: This program is a successor to the Citizens Security Programme (CSP) and focuses on the reduction of crime and criminality in the east Port-of-Spain area. This program focuses on implementation at a local community level
- The National Policy on Community Sustainable Development (NPSCD) of the Ministry of Sport and Community Development: This instrument provides comprehensive treatment of the issues and strategies relevant to transforming communities in Trinidad and Tobago and in particular treating with key scourges that plague the nation which significantly emanate from marginal communities. Targeting the root causes of community dysfunction in a holistic and participatory manner, the NPSCD contributes to addressing issues such as delinquency, crime and gang activities, disorganized families, underachievement, attitudes of hopelessness and dependency, unemployment, and underemployment, among others

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.

Trinidad and Tobago's laws provide for alternative measures to incarceration for minor drug-related offenses through the Community Services Order 19/1997 and the Probation of Offenders Act 35/1947. These measures take into account the human rights approach and the gender perspective in accordance with relevant international instruments. In this sense, the Act is not discriminatory to gender and data highlights both male and female access the services.

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.

Trinidad and Tobago 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.

Trinidad and Tobago promotes a common understanding of national legal norms, regulations, and internal procedures for the implementation of alternatives to incarceration. In this sense, promotion is facilitated through outreach sessions by the relevant entities in the demand and supply reduction sectors.

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.

Trinidad and Tobago 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 Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSDFS) is responsible for the Management of key social services to the people of Trinidad and Tobago. The Ministry provides leadership and direction for the social sector by focusing on, inter alia, policymaking, planning, assessing of the populations' needs, delivery of a range of social services, engagement of social sector partners and providers, and ensuring that services provided by partners are delivered in accordance with internationally accepted quality standards.

Furthermore, the National policy on Community Sustainable Development (NPSCD) of the Ministry of Sport and Community Development includes a comprehensive treatment of the issues and strategies relevant to transforming communities in Trinidad and Tobago and, particularly treating with key scourges that plague the nation which significantly emanate from marginal communities. Targeting the root causes of community dysfunction in a holistic and participatory manner, the NPSCD will contribute to addressing issues such as delinquency, crime and gang activities, disorganized families, underachievement, attitudes of hopelessness and dependency, unemployment, and underemployment, among others.

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

Trinidad and Tobago disseminates best practices and 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, which is carried out by the Ministry of Social Development's Strategic Plan 2018 to 2023 for the Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy and by the Ministry of Sport and Community Development.

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.

Trinidad and Tobago promotes the Dangerous Drugs Act, which provides for proportional legal sentencing for minor drug-related offences, 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.

Trinidad and Tobago 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.

Trinidad and Tobago 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 the budgetary allocations of the National Drug Council (NDC), under the Ministry of National Security.

The budget provided to the NDC for 2022/2023 is US\$22,000. The Drug Information Network (DIN-TT) is a component under the research factors included in total budget for operational and administrative matters.

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.

Trinidad and Tobago has established and maintained working relationships with academic and research institutions. In this sense, the Universities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) function as contributing members of the DIN-TT stakeholder group and contribute to the continued development of the Network by providing input on matters.

The country has not carried out studies on the drug problem through universities or specialized research centers, non-governmental organizations (NGO), 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.

Trinidad and Tobago has developed or adopted quantitative and qualitative methodologies or information-gathering mechanisms that allow for the comparison of data among countries. Through the country's drug information network, standardized data collection forms have been developed for agencies to submit their data, whether it be monthly or quarterly, to the NDO. This has allowed for comparative data to be analyzed over different time periods.

However, the country has not carried out studies on drug use applying the Inter-American Uniform Drug Use Data System (SIDUC) methodology or a national methodology harmonized with SIDUC.

On the other hand, Trinidad and Tobago has used CICAD's standardized indicators for drug information networks to collect, analyze, or report national drug-related 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.

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		Quarterly meetings of the Technical committee and the wider stakeholder group
Document exchange	X		The DIN-TT draft and disseminates annual reports and periodic newsletters

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.

Trinidad and Tobago has an early warning system (EWS) to identify new psychoactive substances (NPS) and other emerging drug-related threats.

The Integrated Threat Assessment Center (ITAC), which is located in the Office of the Prime Minister, leads the EWS.

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

The EWS has 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		X
Civil society and other social stakeholders		X
International organizations of cooperation		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.

Trinidad and Tobago 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 promotes and disseminates best practices and the exchange of successful research experiences among member states during regional or international meetings. For example, sharing information on how the DIN-TT was developed and how it operates and providing context for other countries to adopt and experiences for Trinidad and Tobago to explore.

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.

Trinidad and Tobago has not carried out demand reduction studies during 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.

Trinidad and Tobago 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.

Trinidad and Tobago 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.

Trinidad and Tobago 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.

Trinidad and Tobago has mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs. The Ministry of National Security and the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (Transnational Organized Crime Unit - TOCU, Special Investigations Unit - SIU, and Crime and Problem Analysis – CAPA) 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		2021/2022
Number of seizures of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production	X		2021/2022
Quantities of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production seized		X	
Number of seizures of controlled chemical substances (precursors)	X		2022
Quantities of seized controlled chemical substances (precursors)	X		2022
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		2021/2022
Number of persons convicted of drug use, possession, and trafficking	X		2021/2022
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	

Supply reduction, trafficking, and related crimes			
Information	Available information		Year of most recent information
	Yes	No	
Sale price of drugs (for consumers)	X		2022 The TOCU produces a yearly report. However, this report is confidential.
Number of persons formally charged with money laundering	X		2022
Number of persons convicted of money laundering	X		2022
Number of persons formally charged with trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition, and related materials	X		2021/2022
Number of persons convicted of trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition, and related materials	X		2021/2022
Number of persons formally charged with diversion of chemical substances		X	
Number of persons convicted of diversion of chemical substances		X	

Trinidad and Tobago 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.

Trinidad and Tobago collects information for the development of studies on the drug price, purity or concentration, and chemical profile of drugs, through publications such as the following:

Type of Study	Title of report/publication	Year of report/publication
Survey type	Drug Information Network Annual Report	2021
Survey type	Periodic Review of Drugs and Firearms Trafficking Prices, Trends and Patterns	2021

The country conducts chemical characterization and tests of purity for cocaine, but not for other 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.

Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Center (TTFSC) is responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances, and is part of the national early warning system (EWS) and the 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
Participated	National Training Seminar on the Detection and Identification of Synthetic Drugs, Including NPS and their Precursor Chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Airport Authority - Customs and Excise Division - Ministry of Health - Integrated Threat Assessment Centre, Office of the Prime Minister - Port Authority - TOCU - Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force - Trinidad and Tobago Fire Service - Forensic Science Centre - Trinidad and Tobago Police Service - Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service 	2022
Participated	CICAD group of Expert training in Chemical substances and pharmaceutical products	Forensic Science Centre	2022

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.

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

The country 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.

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), Trinidad and Tobago 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, Trinidad and Tobago 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.

Trinidad and Tobago 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
National Drug Council monthly meeting	March 2022 to December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) - Customs and Excise - Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) - National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme (NADAPP) - Social Development and Family Services - Chamber of commerce and industry - Non-governmental Organizations (NGO) - Rebirth House - National Security Council - Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Foreign Affairs - Tobago House of Assembly
Stakeholder meeting with agencies responsible for implementation of the Drug Plan	March 2022 to December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Labour - NADAPP - NGO - CARICOM and Foreign Affairs - Tobago House of Assembly

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

Trinidad and Tobago 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, the recommendations of the report are shared with the responsible agencies at meetings.

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

Trinidad and Tobago has reviewed the MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies and identified opportunities to increase cooperation and partnerships with other member states and share best practices and lessons learned (horizontal cooperation). In that sense, Trinidad and Tobago has explored the Case Care management program and the comprehensive drug treatment program from the demand reduction recommendations, as well as the Universal Prevention Curriculum due to previous recommendations from the MEM.

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.

Trinidad and Tobago 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, review of the implementation of the activities for the Drug Plan is noted in the minutes of the quarterly meetings hosted by each pillar.

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

Trinidad and Tobago 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, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime’s (UNODC) Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) and the European Union (EU)-funded Seaport Cooperation Project (SEACOP) were employed in Trinidad and Tobago via Memoranda of Understandings (MOUs) and its corresponding exchange activities are carried out as detailed below:

AIRCOP

In May 2022, Trinidad and Tobago began receiving training under the AIRCOP, which is administered by the UNODC. In that regard, on September 30, 2022, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT) and the UNODC signed an MOU to signify Trinidad and Tobago’s official participation in the Project.

SEACOP

Trinidad and Tobago continues to participate in the SEACOP, which provides funding for training and interdiction exercises to be conducted at seaports in Trinidad and Tobago. Phase V of the Project commenced in 2021. Approval was granted for Trinidad and Tobago to participate in Phase V of SEACOP, as well as to sign a MOU between Expertise France and the GORTT, to Implement Phase V in Trinidad and Tobago. Accordingly, on May 18, 2022, the MOU was signed by the Honourable Minister of National Security and the Deputy Regional Coordinator for the SEACOP Project. The first training and mentoring session under Phase V was held in Port of Spain, from July 25, 2022, to August 05, 2022. A second training session was held in Barbados over the

period February 27 – March 10, 2023.

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, below are the activities in which the country participated in:

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Project HAMMER

Project HAMMER is being implemented by the World Customs Organization (WCO) in partnership with the Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS), with the project office being set up at CARICOM IMPACS' Joint Regional Communication Center (JRCC) in Barbados. Project HAMMER commenced in January 2022, through funding received from the U.S. State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) and will look at the "cradle to grave" processes in place for targeting and examining consignments for illicit firearms and narcotics through supporting prosecutions of those people involved in and/or profiteering from these illicit activities. Project HAMMER is part of the WCO Global small arms and light weapons (SALW) project and will primarily benefit Caribbean Customs authorities, given their role as the primary line in protecting and securing borders against the movement of illicit firearms and ammunition.

Thus far, under Project HAMMER, the following activities are being conducted:

- Self-assessments and in-person validation assessments: five countries were pre-selected by the WCO and the United States International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Bureau (INL) for in-person institutional assessments: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. These represent the States most affected by firearms and drug trafficking. An institutional self-assessment of the current set-up and structure of the customs divisions was sent electronically to the customs authorities in Antigua and Barbuda and Trinidad and Tobago, following which, in-person assessments were then conducted to validate the self-assessments. Online self-assessments and in-person validation assessment in the

three remaining countries will be conducted next

- Webinars: two webinars were held on Targeting & Profiling in air cargo fast parcels/courier traffic and on SALW detection, identification & tracing, and safe evidence handling
- National training in The Bahamas was held during the period 7-11 November 2022. This training focused on vehicle search techniques and firearms parts and components
- Operation Seagrape was conducted over a six-month period to support Barbados' Customs Department in using a rules-based targeting and risk analysis approach to identifying high-risk cargo and intercepting the trafficking in SALW
- Participation In Operation TRIGGER VII for customs authorities, given their key role in the detection of SALW at the borders

Cooperation Programme between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drugs Polices (COPOLAD)

Trinidad and Tobago accepted an invitation to participate in the Third Phase of COPOLAD, from 2021 to 2025. COPOLAD III will focus on strengthening technical capacity and the institutional role of the national observatories on drugs; improving coherence, balance, quality and evidence-base of drug demand reduction (DDR) policies in Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) countries, increasing the number of LAC countries that have designed and implemented evidence-based drugs supply reduction (DSR) policies based on human rights, a gender approach, social inclusion, sustainable development, and public security; and enhancing support of existing bi-regional efforts, tools, and opportunities to promote the political-technical dialogue between the EU and LAC on drug-related problems.

Development of a Regional Maritime Security Strategy

A strategy is being developed by the RSS for the sub-region with support from national maritime strategies. However, a wider Caribbean Strategy is needed to address the protection of the Blue Economy and to also address critical threats such as illicit trafficking in all its forms, illegal fishing and/or overfishing, as well as environmental threats. In that regard, a working group led by UNODC and CARICOM IMPACS has been established to develop a Caribbean Maritime Security Strategy. The Working Group has since developed a questionnaire to assist in identifying key maritime issues of concern. Trinidad and Tobago is represented on this Working Group by the Commanding Officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard (TTCG).

Participation in a multilateral legislative structure such as the Agreement Concerning Cooperation in Suppressing Illicit Maritime and Air Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in the Caribbean Area, also known as the Caribbean Regional Agreement (CRA) or the San José Treaty

Trinidad and Tobago is currently considering signing onto the San José Treaty. Consultations on the issue are currently be held with national stakeholders.

Crime Gun Intelligence Unit (CGIU)

A CGIU, based at CARICOM IMPACS, was officially launched on November 14, 2022. The CGIU serves as an intelligence hub and coordination center for local and regional responses to major crimes involving firearms. CGIUs use cutting-edge forensic science and crime gun evidence to

support the investigation and prosecution of violent criminals. CGIUs are an interagency collaboration between the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), law enforcement agencies, forensics labs, academic institutions and prosecutors committed to stopping gun crimes. Key operational objectives include:

- Review of firearms trace data and weapons seizure reports daily from member states
- Scrutinizing of public and law enforcement databases available to CCGIU members for additional potential firearms trafficking leads
- Querying of existing records and case management systems to determine whether possessor(s) are currently or were previously under investigation
- Development of a complete intelligence picture and analysis on the firearms purchaser

Regional Integrated Ballistic Information Network (RIBIN) MOUs

Two proposed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) among CARICOM member states for the Sharing of Ballistic Information Under RIBIN and for the Use of Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS) Technology, have been forwarded to CARICOM member states for consideration. The Ministry of National Security has reviewed the MOUs and shall be submitting them to the Solicitor General's Department for vetting, prior to seeking Cabinet approval for signature.

In Trinidad and Tobago, 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 the United Kingdom, the United States, Venezuela, Cuba, and Mexico. These mechanisms are used through regular meetings held to advance security cooperation.

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

Trinidad and Tobago 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, information sharing in technical capacity such as the EWS has been shared with other OAS member states. In addition, with Venezuela as an MOU has been signed to collaborate on drug control matters.

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

Trinidad and Tobago 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 the National Drug Council (NDC), the sharing of information with international organizations and member states has been continuously encouraged to assist in understanding the region/hemisphere best practices and challenges.

**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 Trinidad and Tobago carry out cooperation activities at the regional and international levels to investigate and prosecute criminals for drug-related offenses through the exchange of intelligence on drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) which touch and concern participating countries, joint operations based on intelligence received on suspected drug shipments with a view of interdiction and prosecution, and joint investigations in the two above mentioned cooperation activities with a view of prosecution in the jurisdiction best poised.

The country takes human rights into account when carrying out these activities by observation of the rights and privileges contained in the constitution of Trinidad and Tobago, and the guidelines set out in the Judges Rules both for adults and children.

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.

Trinidad and Tobago 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 through extraditions to and from party States under the Extradition Act, by Mutual Legal assistance in Criminal Matters Act 1997 (MLAT) requests to and from party States for the acquisition of evidence to advance investigations and prosecutions, and through MLAT requests to and from party States to facilitate the acquisition of production and restraint orders pursuant to matters at two abovementioned activities.

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.

Trinidad and Tobago 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.

Trinidad and Tobago 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 Trinidad and Tobago 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. Furthermore, CICAD notes that Trinidad and Tobago has an ongoing coordination and collaboration mechanism among agencies and other levels of government (national and subnational) 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 Trinidad and Tobago 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 updating of national drug policies and strategies. However, CICAD notes that the country has not delegated responsibilities on drug issues to local/sub-national governments to implement concrete actions related to drug policies or strategies. On the other hand, CICAD notes the national drug authority has, in its central structure, an office or operational unit to promote, coordinate, and provide technical support to local 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, Trinidad and Tobago 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. 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. CICAD notes that Trinidad and Tobago 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. 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 Trinidad and Tobago 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 Trinidad and Tobago 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 Trinidad and Tobago 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 Trinidad and Tobago 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 Trinidad and Tobago's law provides for alternative measures to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug-related offenses, which take into account the human rights approach and the gender perspective in accordance with relevant international instruments. However, CICAD observes that the country does not develop mechanisms to monitor or evaluate these measures. On the other hand, Trinidad and Tobago promotes a common understanding of national legal norms, regulations, and 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 Trinidad and Tobago 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 vulnerable populations. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country disseminates 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 Trinidad and Tobago promotes legislation that provides for proportional legal sentencing for minor drug-related offences, in accordance with domestic law. However, the country 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 Trinidad and Tobago has the National Observatory on Drugs (NDO), which has an 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 country has not carried out studies on the drug problem. Additionally, CICAD notes that Trinidad and Tobago has developed and adopted quantitative and qualitative methodologies or information-gathering mechanisms that allow for the comparison of data among countries, but has not carried out studies on drug use applying the Inter-American Uniform Drug Use Data System (SIDUC) methodology or a national methodology harmonized with SIDUC and has not conducted studies that use 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

country's observatory has a national drug information network (DIN), which interacts through meetings and document exchanges, and publishes a periodic report. Also, Trinidad and Tobago has an early warning system (EWS) to identify NPS or other emerging drug-related threats, which does not share information, alerts, or reports with the Early Warning System of the Americas (SATA). Additionally, 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. However, CICAD observes that Trinidad and Tobago has not established forums that allow drug researchers to present their findings to policymakers. Moreover, CICAD notes that the country's national drug observatory promotes and disseminates good 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 with concern that Trinidad and Tobago has not carried out demand reduction studies during the evaluation period (2019-2023). Additionally, 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 notes that Trinidad and Tobago has not carried out studies to evaluate treatment and prevention programs and interventions. In addition, the country has not carried out process, intermediate outcome, or impact evaluations of its prevention or treatment programs. Furthermore, the country has no 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 Trinidad and Tobago 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 has not carried out periodic studies on the illicit drug market nor on the medical and scientific use and other legal uses of narcotics or psychotropic substances, subject to international control systems. On the other hand, CICAD observes that Trinidad and Tobago collects information on the drug price, purity or concentration, and chemical profile of drugs, and conducts chemical characterizations and purity tests for cocaine but not for other 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 national early warning system (EWS) and the drug information network (DIN). Additionally, Trinidad and Tobago implements and participates in periodic training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of these substances. CICAD observes that the country's national drug information network on drugs (DIN) has standardized indicators for the collection of data on drug supply and that the country 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 with satisfaction that, for the eighth round of evaluation of the MEM, Trinidad and Tobago 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. Additionally, CICAD notes that Trinidad and Tobago carries 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. Additionally, CICAD notes that Trinidad and Tobago has reviewed the MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies and identified opportunities to increase cooperation and partnerships with other member states and 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 Trinidad and Tobago 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, Trinidad and Tobago 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. Additionally, 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. However, CICAD observes that Trinidad and Tobago has not promoted technology transfers among and between OAS member states and international (including regional) organizations; however, the country has promoted information sharing among them. Additionally, CICAD notes that Trinidad and Tobago promotes the dissemination of good practices and 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 Trinidad and Tobago 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 Trinidad and Tobago has not enacted or adopted, during the evaluation period (2019-2023), legislative or administrative measures and actions to implement compliance with the obligations established in 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 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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