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# MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

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

## Argentina

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

2023





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# ARGENTINA

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### **EIGHTH EVALUATION ROUND**

**2023**

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## PREFACE

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

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

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

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

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

Specifically, the GEG's work for the thematic assessment for the areas of "Institutional Strengthening; Research, Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation; and International Cooperation" was conducted during 2023, and covers the 2019 to 2023 period (unless otherwise specified). This work was adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic with the use of technology and virtual tools, as well as taking it into consideration in the evaluation assessments.

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

# INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

## OBJECTIVE

1

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

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

Argentina has the Secretariat for Comprehensive Drug Policies of Argentina (SEDRONAR) and the National Directorate for the Fight Against Drug Trafficking as national drug authorities. SEDRONAR was established in 1989 as the Programming Secretariat for the Prevention of Drug Addiction and the Fight against Drug Trafficking until its name and functions changed in 2017. This national authority is positioned within the Office of the Chief of Cabinet Ministers within the government administrative structure. The National Directorate for the Fight Against Drug Trafficking falls under the Ministry of Security within the government administrative structure since 2019.

**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.**

SEDRONAR and the National Directorate for the Fight Against Drug Trafficking have a legal basis through the following instruments:

- Decree 271/89
- Decree 33/2017
- Decree 7/2019
- Administrative Decision 1865/2020
- Ley 26.657
- Decree 50/2019
- Law 23.737
- Decree 560/19
- Decree 593/19
- Administrative Decision 335/2020

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

In Argentina there is an annual budget for the national drug authorities, which is independent in the case of SEDRONAR and is integrated with the budget of the Ministry of Security in the case of the National Directorate for the Fight Against Drug Trafficking. Below is the amount of SEDRONAR's annual budget for the years 2019-2023:



Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Annual budget amount (Argentine pesos)	1.636.370.000	2.504.330.000	4.644.620.000	9.860.620.000	15.682.410.000

**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.

Argentina 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. Argentina is a republic, with a representative and federal government system; having a federal system requires inter-governmental coordination insofar as each province has the autonomy to pursue its own public policies:

- **SEDRONAR and the Ministry of Security** articulate and coordinate mainly between themselves, as well as with other national agencies via working groups, councils, and committees to develop and implement national drug policies
- **Federal Council on Drugs (COFEDRO)**, a standing body under SEDRONAR comprised of representatives of the specific areas in each of the 24 jurisdictions responsible for prevention, treatment, support, research, and training with respect to problematic substance use. COFEDRO was created by Article 5 of Decree 623 of June 7, 1996, and at its meetings, experiences are shared, and strategies are developed based on the particular needs of each province. In addition, guidelines are drafted for joint coordination in the comprehensive approach to drug use
- **Federal Council on Precursor Chemicals.** This Council, which was created by Law 27.283, serves as a forum for interaction between the Ministry, its provincial counterparts, federal law enforcement agencies, and the business chambers and operators in the National Chemical Precursors Registry (RENPRE). Its objective is to strengthen ties between the national government and the provinces with respect to control of the use of chemical precursors
- **Argentine Chemical Precursors Observatory.** As an advisory body to the National Chemical Precursors Registry Enforcement Authority, aims to strengthen the government’s capacity to prevent, investigate, and suppress the illicit trafficking of chemical precursors by consolidating ties among the agencies that comprise it and private actors involved in controlling the use of chemical precursors. To this end, it serves as a space for centralizing, processing, systematizing, analyzing, and monitoring available data on the subject

The national drug authorities of Argentina coordinate 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 Argentina, the Argentine Observatory on Drugs (OAD) of the Secretariat for Comprehensive Drug Policies of Argentina (SEDRONAR), the Directorate for the Technical Evaluation and Management of Drug Trafficking Data, and the Chemical Precursor Registration and Oversight Directorate collect and use evidence as a basis for formulating and updating national drug policies and/or strategies. The OAD is SEDRONAR's research arm and is responsible for generating, providing, analyzing, collecting, and coordinating data related to the world drug problem.

The OAD takes a comprehensive research approach based on which all studies and research seek to produce scientific knowledge that enables a deeper dive into the different dimensions and types of psychoactive substance use and guides the design, implementation, and monitoring of public policies from a human rights perspective.

The Observatory has a National Substance Use Information System (SNIC) whose main objective is to systematically gather drug-related data produced by the different actors involved in the process at both the province and national levels. It is comprised of six strategic nodes that furnish it with qualitative and quantitative data, which are updated periodically. The system makes it possible to obtain and systematize data pertaining to the characteristics of the population, the country's treatment centers, and the different prevention and treatment strategies being implemented.

The six central nodes of the SNIC consist of: OAD research and reports; data broken down by strategy monitoring and evaluation systems and treatment and prevention centers; the Provincial Drug Observatories (OPD) network; the local observatories network, comprised of municipalities, universities, and social organizations; data from the Early Warning System (EWS); and research and data on drugs at the regional level.

**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 Argentina, 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
Health Ministry	X	X	X	X
Interior Ministry				
Justice Ministry	X	X		
Education Ministry	X	X		
Regional and/or local governments	X	X	X	X
Scientific community/academia			X	
Civil society		X		
Private sector	X	X		X
Others: Ministry of Security	X	X	X	X

**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.

Argentina has partially delegated responsibilities on drug issues to subnational/local governments to implement concrete actions related to drug policies and strategies in coordination with the national drug authorities.

In this regard, politically, Argentina is organized as a federal system comprised of 24 autonomous jurisdictions united under a common government. Local/sub-national governments may take concrete actions to address problematic substance use that are better suited to the situation on the ground, provided these are aligned with the policy criteria and priorities established by SEDRONAR at the national level.

SEDRONAR plans, implements, and coordinates public policies focused on prevention, research, treatment, assistance, and support for people with problematic substance use issues, in constant co-management with local/sub-national governments and within the framework of the Federal Council on Drugs (COFEDRO) and the 24 jurisdictions that make up Argentina.

In 2005, Law 26.052 [Partial Defederalization of Criminal Jurisdiction over Narcotic Drugs] was enacted at the national level. This law allows each province to decentralize drug-related matters,

transferring cases from the federal jurisdiction to the regular jurisdiction pursuant to the criteria established therein. In recent years, several provinces have availed themselves of this Law.

The national drug authorities of Argentina have, in their central structure, an office or operational unit to promote, coordinate, train, and provide technical support on drug-related issues to local/sub-national governments or agencies. The Directorate for Federal Coordination falls within SEDRONAR's structure. Its primary responsibility is to coordinate a federal system to manage policies, plans, and programs aimed at prevention and treatment for problematic use of psychoactive substances, as well as assistance and support for individuals grappling with this issue. The Directorate's most relevant activities include: Coordinating the development of channels and mechanisms for consultation with civil society organizations involved in issues related to the problematic use of psychoactive substances, either in specific provinces or nationally, in coordination with the areas with jurisdiction in the matter; assisting SEDRONAR in coordinating with liaison officials from the federal and provincial governments and establishing channels of communication with technical liaisons from the areas with responsibilities pertaining to treatment and prevention in cases of problematic use of psychoactive substances; coordinating operations for the meetings of COFEDRO, pursuant to Decree 623/96; and helping to implement actions to coordinate activities with the corresponding jurisdictional structures of the provinces and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires.

The national drug authorities of Argentina have coordinators, offices, or representatives within the sub-national/local territories, as part of a decentralized operational and coordination structure at the local level, to respond to the drug problem. In this regard, politically, Argentina is organized as a federal system comprised of 24 autonomous jurisdictions united under a common government. Local/sub-national governments may take concrete actions to address problematic substance use that are better suited to the situation on the ground, provided these are aligned with the policy criteria and priorities established by SEDRONAR at the national level.

Argentina has a specific and ongoing mechanism to transfer funds or finance drug initiatives or projects implemented by sub-national or local governments. SEDRONAR has the following programs to transfer funds or finance initiatives or projects carried out by municipalities/local governments:

- Program for the Prevention and Treatment of Problematic Substance Use – Sub-program for Local Problematic Substance Use Prevention Projects (Resolution 511/2021 – Annex VI). Funding for projects proposed by public or private organizations or trade unions that address problematic use prevention from a rights perspective and take an inclusive approach
- National Program for a Comprehensive Approach to Addiction Prevention, Training, and Assistance (Resolution 172/2014). Subsidies program for governmental or non-governmental organizations to promote cross-cutting addiction-related prevention, training, and assistance activities aimed at individuals with problematic drug and alcohol use issues in order to support them in finding, building, and strengthening lives based on social inclusion
- Federal Problematic Use Coordination Program (Resolution 307/2020). Funding for projects submitted by local/sub-national governments aimed at addiction-related prevention, training,

support, and treatment. Its objective is to help those who are currently experiencing or who have grappled with problematic substance use in the past recover their dignity, especially those who have been displaced from the social system. To this end, social reintegration strategies are essential for helping such individuals build and strengthen life plans focused on social inclusion

- Territorial Community Centers (Resolution 324/2020) are centers for addressing substance use from a comprehensive and community perspective at the first level of treatment. They take into account the complexities of substance use and its impact on the different realities in the nation, enabling them to determine which cross-sector and inter-governmental approaches should be taken. In order to guarantee a cross-sector approach within the framework of co-responsibility, the creation of a Local Management Board is being proposed. Such a Board would develop protocols and avenues for coordination to ensure the unique nature of each intervention is respected and that a comprehensive approach to problematic substance use is taken. Forums for exchange and technical assistance are being made available to local governments for purposes of developing strategic plans to implement different public policies at the local level
- Program to Support and Strengthen Provincial Drug Observatories (Resolution 412/2021). Support and funding for provincial initiatives that help to develop and strengthen OPD and their capabilities with respect to data production and analysis so they are able to develop, implement, and monitor science-based public policies

The OAD considers it essential to enhance data and research production, analysis, and dissemination at the provincial level in order to have a deeper understanding of the particular characteristics of substance use, its implications, types, and manifestations at the local level, and thus be able to prioritize the areas of research in each of the provinces.

The Program to Support and Strengthen OPD was adopted in 2021 in an effort to help new and emerging observatories develop and to consolidate already existing observatories. Bearing in mind the main challenges surrounding substance use research, and taking a human rights perspective, the Program seeks to expand OPD’s capabilities in terms of local data production and analysis, so they are able to develop, implement, and monitor science-based policies in a coordinated manner among agencies and at a federal level.

The Program’s main lines of action are:

- Plan and develop local studies and areas of research in a coordinated manner and among agencies
- Develop an integrated system of provincial data on substance use that allows for the periodic collection and analysis of information
- Build a provincial research network in coordination with various local actors and institutions in order to generate quality localized knowledge. To this end, the OAD works in coordination with each jurisdiction’s technical team, at both the municipal and provincial level, in an effort to prioritize local needs, interests, and knowledge and build their capacity

**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.

Argentina engages private sector entities to develop innovative approaches in the implementation of drug policies and exchange of information and best practices. As far as these entities are concerned, a line of work was initiated in December 2022 in the framework of the Prevention and Treatment Program aimed at providing support and assistance to sports organizations and universities, and a framework and specific agreements were signed for implementation of local problematic substance use prevention projects. The *Unión de Clubes de Barrio* (UCB), *Federación de Organizaciones Deportivas de la Argentina* (FODA), *Observatorio Social y Económico de Clubes de Barrio y Entidades Afines*, and *Club Villas Unidas* submitted projects that will be funded and will receive technical support in 2023. Additionally, the Chemical Precursor Registration and Oversight Directorate (Ministry of Security) engages with industries that use chemical precursors (petrochemical, chemical, metal-working, agrochemical, cosmetic, medical, transportation, hardware, and food industries).

Regarding innovative approaches, the National Directorate for Prevention and Treatment took part in the "Summer Care" campaign, which sought to develop strategies and actions targeting problematic psychoactive substance use awareness, treatment, prevention, and assistance. The campaign was carried out in January and February 2022 with support from the areas of security, health, youth, and civil defense, representatives of the mental health sector, the Ministry of Security of the Province of Buenos Aires, the *Cámara de Boliches* [Association of Nightclubs], and municipalities from the Atlantic coast and different provinces.

The Chemical Precursor Registration and Oversight Directorate seeks to strengthen the private sector's commitment to preventive behavior to avoid the diversion of chemical precursors, through regular training and the dissemination of the Code of Conduct on Chemical Precursors.

**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.

Argentina takes into account the Organization of American States (OAS) 2020 Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its corresponding Plan of Action to formulate or update national drug policies and strategies. In this connection, Argentina applies the central principles and fundamental elements in measures related to supply and demand reduction; research, data, monitoring and evaluation; institutional strengthening; and international cooperation. The programs, actions, and laws that take the OAS Hemispheric Drug Strategy 2020 into account include:

- The Workplace Prevention and Treatment Program, which offers training and opportunities for listening and support for unions, guilds, and the federal government
- Guidelines for Federal Intervention in Substance Use Situations in School Environments
- Community Companions Program
- Law 26.045 creates the National Chemical Precursors Registry to control activities involving authorized chemical substances or products which, because of their characteristics or components, may serve as a base or be used in the preparation of narcotics

Argentina's national drug policies and strategies take into account the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this regard, Argentina has developed different actions and programs that are carried out by SEDRONAR and reflect the targets established in the Convention. Each year, for its part, the National Directorate for the Fight Against Drug Trafficking conducts monitoring and provides data to report to the UN with respect to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.

**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.

Argentina's national drug policies and strategies take into account the human rights approach. SEDRONAR promotes an approach to problematic drug use based on respect for human rights and within the framework of the National Mental Health Law (Law 26.657), which creates, within the Office of the Public Defender, the Mental Health Law Review Body to protect the human rights of individuals who access mental health services.

Among the central pillars of the national drug strategy is respect for human rights. This means the objectives of the specific pillars and lines of prevention, treatment, support, and research include actions that respect human rights as part of a work approach.

This approach places at its core people and their life trajectories, with their personal and collective stories, clearly drawing distinctions between those elements that must be addressed from a policy dimension of forging social ties and devising healthy life paths and those that have to be addressed from a safety and security perspective.

The public policy being developed by SEDRONAR is anchored in a comprehensive approach focused on treatment and support for individuals, federal efforts in accordance with national government guidelines, and the cross-sector nature of the programs and actions necessary to address the complexity of the problem. These are core actions for developing social ties and improving people's living standards and quality of life.

At the same time, an effective approach to problematic substance use must counter attitudes and beliefs and act on society's assumptions with respect substance use, since these are what underpin the stigmatization of users and hinder treatment-based approaches.

Therefore, non-discrimination against individuals with drug use issues is being encouraged, with the aim being full inclusion and respect for people's rights. SEDRONAR has programs that carry out specific activities aimed at reducing the stigma for drug users, including Territorial Community Centers; Community Treatment and Support Centers; a Protocol for public media on how to report on the problem; a Gender Guide; and specific materials for young people.

Argentina's national drug policies and strategies take into account the gender perspective. A Gender and Sexual Diversity Coordination Office was created to promote efforts to specifically address the interrelationship between approaches to problematic substance use and the gender and sexual diversity perspective.

Argentina's national drug authority requires technical support to develop and implement programs with a gender perspective. To this end, the Gender and Sexual Diversity Coordination Office considers it essential for countries to share gender and diversity perspective practices and experiences amongst each other in order to deepen and mainstream this perspective in the different approaches taken to problematic substance use.

Argentina's national drug policies and strategies take into account the social inclusion approach. The SEDRONAR network spearheads problematic substance use treatment, assistance, and support policies at the federal level. The Mental Health Law fosters a comprehensive approach to substance use that enables all dimensions of people's lives to be addressed and ensures access to treatment in each province or city.

The network is made up of "first-stop screening" spaces, day treatment centers, neighborhood treatment centers, temporary community group homes, treatment centers for more complex addiction situations, and a health network that works in coordination with the Ministry of Health with respect to detox, mental health emergencies, and cases of co-occurring disorders. The network is comprised of six types of centers:

- Territorial Community Centers (DTC): Treatment centers co-managed with municipal and/or provincial authorities and staffed by professionals funded by SEDRONAR
- Community Care and Support Homes (CAAC): Outpatient community centers subsidized by SEDRONAR and run by social and church organizations
- Community Group Homes (CCC): Co-living community homes subsidized by SEDRONAR
- Immediate Treatment Centers (CAI): Immediate Treatment Centers where individuals with substance use issues are first referred and screened
- Partner Institutions (IC): Institutions that partner with SEDRONAR to provide treatment and support to people with substance use issues
- Preventive listening spaces. Forums for engagement and comprehensive communication mediated by co-workers and/or persons in charge of the mechanism and work environment



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

Argentina 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.

Argentina has interagency and multisectoral policy and technical coordination mechanisms to address the drug problem through a comprehensive, balanced, and multidisciplinary approach, including its causes and consequences. The Framework Agreement on Cooperation and Assistance between Argentina's Secretariat for Comprehensive Drug Policies (SEDRONAR) and Ministry of Security was signed in 2018. The purpose of this Agreement is to secure collaboration, reciprocal assistance, and joint participation in initiatives, projects, programs, and/or actions aimed at combating illicit drug trafficking and addiction through prevention, health care and rehabilitation, human development, education, human resource training, and any other aspect deemed appropriate by the parties. Interagency cooperation agreements are in place through which the various agencies involved in the control of precursor chemicals formally share relevant information regarding commercial data, the authorization of operations, and policy coordination. For example, the customs authority reports the results of foreign trade operations involving precursor chemicals on a daily basis and the National Administration of Medicines, Food, and Medical Technology (ANMAT) shares information on the annual forecasts of operators that use precursor chemicals for the manufacture of medicines.

Additionally, SEDRONAR carries out the following:

- “Summer Care” Campaign: SEDRONAR, together with the areas of security, health, youth, and civil defense, representatives of the mental health sector, the Ministry of Security of the Province of Buenos Aires, the *Cámara de Boliches* [Association of Nightclubs], and municipalities from the Atlantic coast and different provinces, carried out the “Summer Care” campaign. The campaign consisted of a set of comprehensive activities for young people, focused on awareness, prevention, and assistance with respect to the excessive consumption of alcohol and other psychoactive substances and situations of risk in public spaces
- Guidelines for addressing problematic substance use from a gender and diversity perspective. In order to address substance use, a comprehensive and localized approach that takes into account social, political, cultural, and territorial variables, as well as life trajectories, must be adopted. Gender inequalities promote situations of violence that require a comprehensive government approach that takes into account diversity and intersectionality, among other perspectives
- Cross-sector coordination mechanisms: Protocol for Public Media. Handling Content on Problematic Use. This is a document via which national state media and SEDRONAR commit to work together to ensure an effective approach to addiction-related content, whose baseline is to not expose or stigmatize people who use drugs

- Thanks to a joint effort between SEDRONAR and the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INDEC), which had not worked together for 17 years, a national survey on substance use and treatment practices is fully underway. The output will be the 7th national study on psychoactive substance use in the population aged 16 to 75 years, the purpose of which is to obtain reliable and up-to-date data on the scope, characteristics, and factors associated with substance use in populations living in cities of 2,000 or more inhabitants. SEDRONAR maintains an important work agenda with the Ministry of Health's National Directorate for Mental Health and Addictions. Several federal-level meetings were held between the Federal Council on Drugs (COFEDRO) and the Federal Council on Mental Health and Addictions (COFESAMA), with a special focus on the *Primer Relevamiento Nacional de Dispositivos de Cuidado, Acompañamiento y Asistencia en Salud Mental y Consumos Problemáticos* [First National Survey of Treatment, Support, and Assistance Mechanisms for Mental Health and Problematic Substance Use]
- Gender Guide: A joint document prepared by SEDRONAR and the Ministry of Women, Genders, and Diversity that sets specific guidelines for handling situations of violence and problematic use, both in the public and private spheres, emphasizing warning and prevention models in such situations
- Youth Day Treatment Centers: The Ministry of Public Works (MOP) and SEDRONAR are implementing a Youth Day Treatment Centers Program, which entails the construction of 30 spaces for the prevention and/or treatment of problematic substance use nationwide. The program was created to provide comprehensive support and assistance to individuals between 15 and 29 years of age who have issues with problematic use
- Workplace Prevention and Treatment Program: This program seeks to promote systematic prevention strategies to address the problematic use of psychoactive substances in unions, guilds, and companies, in order to build capacity in work environments to prevent problematic substance use (Resolution SEDRONAR 511/21)

**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.**

Argentina 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 *Potenciar Trabajo* program, developed by SEDRONAR together with the Ministry of Social Development, supports individuals in the final stage of treatment in building a healthy life path within their community, strengthening their emotional relationships with their families and fostering their social and professional development. The program is aimed at people who are undergoing treatment for problematic drug use, for at least six months, anywhere in SEDRONAR's network. Additionally, the Community Care and Support Homes (CAAC) are centers that operate in the most at-risk neighborhoods as places for treatment, support, and social inclusion with interdisciplinary teams that enable individuals with problematic substance use issues to build community life paths in order to ensure respect for human rights in situations of high socioeconomic vulnerability.

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

Argentina participates in international cooperation programs at the bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen policies, programs, institutions, and their internal processes. SEDRONAR works continuously with international organizations, acting as focal point and spokesperson in events and activities related to drug demand reduction that take place within the framework of the United Nations (UN), the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD).

It also participates actively in bi-regional forums such as the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)-European Union Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs (MCCMD) and the Cooperation Program between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drug Policies (COPOLAD).

Regionally, SEDRONAR serves as the coordinating body for the Southern Common Market – MERCOSUR’s forum on drugs, known as the *Reunión Especializada de Autoridades de Aplicación en Materia de Drogas* [Specialized Meeting of Drug Enforcement Authorities] (RED). Lastly, within the framework of the bilateral agreements and conventions on drugs to which Argentina is signatory, joint commissions have been formed with Chile, Bolivia, Mexico, Peru, and the European Union.

In addition to cooperating internationally using different systems, e.g., the Pre-Export Notification (PEN) Online System, Project Ion Incident Communication System (IONICS), or Precursor Incident Communication System (PICS), the country actively participates in CICAD’s Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products, COPOLAD III, activities proposed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the CND, meetings of the MERCOSUR’s RED and of different International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) expert groups, and various bilateral meetings (recently with Mexico, Chile, Bolivia, and Peru).

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

Argentina promotes comprehensive and cross-cutting public policies to reduce and prevent crime, violence, social exclusion, and corruption. Promoting comprehensive public policies to prevent and reduce crime and violence is one of the fundamental responsibilities of the Ministry of Security’s National Directorate for the Prevention of Crime and Violence. To this end, it implements specifically designed programs to address issues that cut across all social dynamics, among which the following stand out:

- The “Building Citizen Safety Program” aims to provide technical assistance through training

and awareness-raising activities to strengthen municipalities' management capabilities in the area of citizen safety. The objective is to ensure security at the local level by enabling a multi-agency and multi-stakeholder approach to crime and violence prevention (Resolution 413/2022)

- The “Safe Neighborhoods Program” seeks to address the issues faced by the most at-risk neighborhoods through the ongoing presence of security supervisors. These individuals act as catalysts of change, channeling communities’ problems for subsequent analysis and deployment of a citizen security strategy aimed at strengthening preventive interventions in these areas (Resolution 46/2016 and Resolution 28/2019)

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

Argentina implements measures that promote equal access to justice and due process, taking into account gender, age, community, and cultural context approaches via the Office of the Undersecretary for Access to Justice of the Republic of Argentina, which was elevated from a National Directorate to an Undersecretariat by means of Decree 174/2014. The Office of the Undersecretary has programs, centers, and community service divisions, namely:

- Supervision, monitoring, and tracking service for perpetrators and victims of gender violence
- National program to assist persons with disabilities in their engagement with the justice system (ADAJUS)
- Access to Justice Centers (CAJ)
- Federal Legal Aid Network
- Victims against Violence Program (PVCV)
- National Victims Assistance Directorate (DNAV)
- Crime Victims Assistance Center (CENAVID)
- Legal Aid and Interdisciplinary Support Program for Children and Adolescent Victims of Sexual Abuse (PATROCINAR)
- National Directorate for Mediation and Participatory Conflict Resolution (DNMYMPRC) and its Center for Conflict Prevention and Resolution
- Program for mediation, participatory conflict management methods, and violence reduction in prison settings

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

Argentina implements measures that foster citizen participation in crime prevention, build community cohesion, increase public safety, and emphasize social inclusion. The Ministry of Security’s National Directorate for the Prevention of Crime and Violence has within its powers the development and implementation of preventive mechanisms in security matters, which it

carries out through crime and violence containment and awareness projects and programs. These projects and programs are national in scope and are coordinated locally in the country's different jurisdictions. A distinctive feature of these programs is that they encourage active citizen participation, offering support and information, and generating cohesive bonds among the members of the community with respect to security.

The programs in question, and their main characteristics, are as follows:

- The "Building Citizen Safety Program" aims to link crime and violence prevention policies to comprehensive actions by providing security and safety-related tools to local governments, thus reinforcing an engagement and community perspective, with a total of 17 provinces covered (Resolution 413/2022)
- The "Safe Neighborhoods Program" aims to tackle the problems of the most at-risk neighborhoods by providing a practical solution in the form of a citizen security strategy, in an effort to enhance preventive interventions and deploy Community and Ongoing Presence Units, with a total of 18 neighborhoods covered (Resolution 046/2016 - Resolution 028/2019)

## 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.

Argentina's law provides for alternative measures to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug-related offenses via Law 24.660, Ministry of Justice and Human Rights resolutions 86/2016 and 808/2016, and Law 23.737 on drug possession and trafficking (Articles 5, 14, 17, 18, and 21). These measures respect human rights and include a gender perspective, in keeping with the relevant international instruments. Alternative measures are used for individuals in special conditions of vulnerability: women, persons with disabilities, persons with illnesses, persons over the age of 70, and persons belonging to the LGBTIQ+ community. There are also provisions (Article 33(e) and (f), Law 24.660, Article 10 of the Criminal Code) that apply to pregnant women and women with children under five years of age, as well as to persons who are responsible for individuals with disabilities. In such cases, house arrest is a possibility.

**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.

Argentina develops mechanisms to monitor and evaluate alternative measures to incarceration for minor drug-related offenses. The agencies responsible for implementing the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are the Directorate for Assistance to Persons under Electronic Surveillance; Directorate for Criminal Enforcement and Assistance; the national criminal courts; and each legal jurisdiction's *Patronato de Liberados* [Parole Board].

These mechanisms involve academic and research institutions and civil society through educational forums and vocational and job training; and the judiciary is asked to make individuals with alternative sentences available. Likewise, coordination is done with civil society organizations that work with persons deprived of their liberty to include individuals with alternative arrangements in some of the forums and workshops hosted by these institutions. For their part, the Parole Boards have the power to intervene in sentence enforcement and to monitor alternative measures ordered by the judicial branch. They are present in all of Argentina's legal jurisdictions and endeavor to help individuals develop in society. Parole Board functions include sentencing enforcement and providing comprehensive assistance to individuals so they can readapt to the social environment. Notwithstanding the particular characteristics of each Patrol Board in its corresponding jurisdiction, generally speaking these are comprised of professionals and technical experts trained in various branches of the social sciences. In addition,

these bodies have the power to liaise with public and private institutions to better carry out their activities.

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

Argentina promotes a common understanding of national legal norms, regulations, and internal procedures for the implementation of alternatives to incarceration. Training sessions are held nationwide on an ongoing basis for the judiciary, Public Prosecutors' Offices, law enforcement, and other relevant actors. The trainings promote the use of alternatives to incarceration and the use and dissemination of national and regional legal norms and the regulations of Argentina's Ministry of Justice and Human Rights.



**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.

Argentina 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. Since 2014, the country has had Community Care and Support Homes (CAAC). CAACs operate as basic, accessible, community-based open and integrated spaces; they take a rights-based approach, which includes a gender perspective that is evident in the development of interdisciplinary prevention, educational, training, assistance, promotional, and restorative activities. Their approach and specific focus on comprehensive community care set them apart substantially from traditional therapeutic treatments inasmuch as they offer basic or a less complex type of assistance.

Guidelines have also been established to address problematic substance use from a gender and diversity perspective in order to provide tools for the prevention, treatment, and support of women and LGBTIQ+ individuals in situations of problematic substance use and gender-based violence.

The country also has a guide on how to treat and support people living in the streets who are engaging in problematic use of psychoactive substances. This guide is aimed at enhancing efforts and providing tools to treatment facility teams that provide assistance to people in the streets affected by the problematic use of psychoactive substances.

In addition, the *Potenciar Acompañamiento* program is aimed at promoting peoples' full social inclusion by supporting them in the final phase of treatment to promote healthy life paths within their community, strengthening their emotional relationships with their families and fostering their social and professional development. The target population includes individuals in the last phase of a problematic use treatment program of at least six months in length in any care facility who are also in at-risk situations or socially vulnerable.

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

Argentina 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. The Secretariat for Comprehensive Drug

Policies of Argentina (SEDRONAR) conducts training, workshops, and meetings, both in-person and virtual, for technical teams, officials, and workers from other national and international agencies in order to improve treatment, support, and prevention responses in line with the needs of at-risk populations. It works with specific communities, including women and diverse populations, youth, and people living in the streets.

## 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.

Argentina promotes Law 23.737 on drug possession and trafficking (Articles 5, 14, 17, 18, and 21), which provides for proportional legal sentencing for minor drug-related offenses, in accordance with domestic law.

The country has special courts or tribunals for minor drug-related offenses. Since 2013 the Province of Salta has been supporting the creation of Drug Treatment Courts pilot programs promoted by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD). And similar efforts have been underway since 2018 in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, with a criminal court having been designated to carry out Drug Treatment Court tasks.

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

Argentina promotes legal reforms regarding proportional sentencing for minor drug-related offenses. Potential legal reforms in this area are tied to the enactment of laws that amend or supplement current regulations. Presently, several bills are being deliberated in Argentina's Congress, which deal with multiple narcotics-related issues and propose to change aspects of Law 23.737. In particular, there are bills still being discussed that provide for changes in the range of alternative penalties 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.**

Argentina has the Argentine Observatory on Drugs (OAD), which was created by Resolution SEDRONAR 209/05 of January 20, 2005.

The OAD has been assigned financial and human resources to carry out its functions, which are funded through the budget allocation furnished to the Secretariat.

**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.**

Argentina has established and maintained working relationships with academic and research institutions. The country has the Program to create local observatories on problematic substance use and treatment practices for municipalities, universities, and social organizations. This Program facilitates coordination and institutional and community networks. For this reason, in addition to the various intersectoral strategies designed by the Secretariat for Comprehensive Drug Policies of Argentina (SEDRONAR) to address various kinds of violence and violations, the Program aims to promote grassroots knowledge-building on the ground and launch a program for creating and strengthening observatories for local stakeholders.

The country has carried out the following studies on the drug problem through academic and research institutions:

- National study on changes in substance use and treatment responses implemented as part of the Social, Preventive and Mandatory Isolation (ASPO) due to COVID-19: Pillar 2, Changes in substance use practices by the general population. April 2021

On the other hand, since October 2021, Argentina has carried out the Program to create Local Observatories on Problematic Consumption and Care Practices for Municipalities, Universities and Social Organizations, which has as one of its objectives to plan and develop studies and lines of research in an articulated and inter-institutional way based on the problems and interests that people in their communities face.

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

Argentina has developed and adopted quantitative and qualitative methodologies and information-gathering mechanisms that allow for the comparison of data among countries. The country has developed studies employing the following methodologies:

- In 2022, the National Study on Drug Use and Treatment Practices was conducted. The aim of the Study is to obtain reliable and updated information on the breadth, prevalence, characteristics, and factors associated with psychoactive substance use in the urban population aged 16 to 75 years. This survey is conducted on the basis of the National Institute of Statistics and Census – INDEC’s Ongoing Household Survey (EPH), the design of which is built on its Master Urban Housing Sample of the Republic of Argentina
- The Study on mortality related to psychoactive substance use, Argentina 2019, the objective of which is to calculate the Drug-Use Related Mortality Indicator (IMRCD) in order to annually gauge the number of deaths that are related directly or indirectly with the use of psychoactive substances in a specific region. To this end, a cross-cutting descriptive study is conducted, which is based on a study of the number of deaths registered nationwide in 2019 by the National Death Registry of the Health Statistics and Information Directorate (DEIS) of the Ministry of Health
- The National study on changes in substance use and treatment responses implemented as of ASPO due to COVID-19 aimed, first of all, to reveal changes in substance use, care, and treatment and support strategies that were used in the context of ASPO, decreed nationwide due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Second of all, the study’s objective was to describe changes in the use of alcohol tobacco, psychotropic drugs without a prescription, and illegal drugs, as well as treatment related to their use in everyday life among the population between 18 and 66 years of age living in urban settings

With respect to information on procedures, Argentina collects information from the four security forces, the police of the country’s 24 administrative units, and the General Directorate of Customs. The information system on drug trafficking is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Security’s National Directorate for the Fight against Drug Trafficking, as established in Administrative Decision 335/2020. This area collects information from the aforementioned institutions and, based on this information, prepares reports at the national level and responds to various international questionnaires.

The country has also carried out studies on drug use applying a national methodology harmonized with the Inter-American Drug Use Data System (SIDUC). In 2022, the National Study on Drug Use and Treatment Practices was conducted with the objective of obtaining reliable and updated information on the breadth, prevalence, characteristics, and factors associated with psychoactive substance use in the urban population aged 16 to 75 years, living in cities with 2,000 or more inhabitants. Its design sought to ensure the ongoing use of standardized indicators at the regional and international level and at the same time incorporate new dimensions of analysis and indicators developed by the OAD, which seek to account for the complexity and

multidimensional nature of substance use, focusing on national particularities.

The objective of the Study on mortality related to psychoactive substance use 2019 is to calculate the IMRCD, which presents the number of deaths annually that are related directly or indirectly with the use of psychoactive substances in a specific region.

Additionally, Argentina has used the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission – CICAD’s standardized indicators for drug information networks for the collection, analysis, and reporting of national drug-related data and information.

The country has 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. In this regard, the report on the modifications of substance consumption practices in the general population implemented as a result of ASPO that was established during the pandemic aimed to describe the changes in the consumption experiences of alcohol, tobacco, medications, psychotropic drugs without a medical prescription and illegal drugs, and in the care associated with consumption in daily life in a population between 18 and 66 years old residing in urban contexts of the country.

In addition, the First National Survey of care, support and assistance devices in mental health and problematic consumption, carried out jointly by the OAD of SEDRONAR and the National Directorate of Comprehensive Approach to Mental Health and Problematic Consumption of the Ministry of Health of the Nation made it possible to collect information on the supply of care devices in the country and their geographical distribution, detailing their general characteristics, modalities of care, services offered, composition of professional and non-professional teams, network operation and profile of the target population, among other aspects.

Likewise, the OAD of SEDRONAR and the National Directorate of Criminal Policy in Matters of Justice and Criminal Legislation of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights are working on studies on the population deprived of liberty for violations of laws 23.737 and 22.415, which regulate the possession and smuggling of narcotics. Its objective is to characterize said population deprived of liberty, to know the patterns of the judicial files read and to carry out a qualitative investigation into the life stories of people deprived of liberty, in such a way that the most significant findings can be deepened and contextualized.

**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 OAD has a functioning national drug information network (DIN), which interacts through the following means:

Means	Yes	No	Frequency
Meetings	X		Quarterly
Document exchange	X		Quarterly

The following stakeholders 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.

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

The Ministry of Security, the Ministry of Science Technology, and Innovation, and SEDRONAR jointly coordinate the EWS, whereby each one of the parties plays a particular role in operating the system without any one dominating another.

The EWS shares information, alerts, and report with the Early Warning System for 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 OAD carries out trainings with local stakeholders to enhance data collection and management.

The OAD 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.

Argentina has established the following forum that allows drug researchers to present their findings to policymakers:

Forum title	Frequency	Reports or publications from these forums
6th National Forensic Science Seminar	Annual	No

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

The OAD promotes and disseminates best practices and the exchange of successful research experiences among member states. The Observatory’s studies and research are conducted on four different areas of interest: the general population, young people, specific populations, and care and treatment centers for problems caused by substance use. Thus, these studies contribute to the design of specific interventions and appropriate prevention strategies, aimed at persons that use substances or have problematic use. The implementation, development and results of the same are shared at COPOLAD and bilateral 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.

Argentina has carried out and published the following demand reduction studies during the evaluation period (2019-2023):

Demand reduction			
Studies	Studies carried out and published		Year of most recent study
	Yes	No	
Survey of secondary school students		X	
National household surveys (12-64 years)	X		2022
Cross-section survey of patients in treatment centers	X		2019
Survey of patients in emergency rooms	X		2019
Survey of university students	X		2020
Survey of incarcerated individuals		X	
Studies on drug-related mortality	X		2021
Studies on drug-related morbidity		X	
Survey of other target populations		X	

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

Argentina 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	
Other: Civil Society Organizations	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.

Argentina has carried out the following studies to evaluate treatment and prevention programs or interventions:

Scope	Are evaluation studies carried out?		Title of the study and assessment year
	Yes	No	
Prevention	X		2021. Study on the perceptions of participants in the program <i>Potenciar Acompañamiento</i> one year after its launch (2020-2021)
Treatment	X		2021. Study on SEDRONAR's Federal Network of centers.

The country has carried out the following process and intermediate outcome evaluations of prevention and treatment programs:

Program evaluated	Title of evaluation performed	Year of publication of research findings	Year of program evaluation
<i>Potenciar acompañamiento</i>	Study on the perceptions of participants in the program <i>Potenciar Acompañamiento</i> a year after its launching (2020-2021)	2021	2020/2021

Argentina has not conducted impact evaluations of its prevention or treatment programs.

The country has mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results of the following programs and services in the public health and/or social protection network:

Programs/ Services	Mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results		Description of the mechanisms
	Yes	No	
Care	X		<p>To monitor these programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Portal to Monitor Treatment and Support Strategies: based on periodic processing of information on centers, persons assisted, and processes, information is displayed in interactive charts for different audiences.</li> </ul> <p>To evaluate programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evaluation of SEDRONAR’s federal network of centers. Experiences regarding support from the perspective of all stakeholders (2019-2021) to obtain information that contributes to the daily monitoring and efforts of the federal network’s centers, based on staff’s perspective.</li> <li>- Evaluation of perceptions of participants in the <i>Potenciar Acompañamiento</i> program one year after its launch (2020-2021). This study provides data on the program gleaned from the main lessons learned and the difficulties in its implementation, according to those involved.</li> </ul>
Treatment	X		<p>To monitor these programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Portal to Monitor Treatment and Support Strategies: based on periodic processing of information on centers, persons assisted, and processes, information is displayed in interactive charts for different audiences.</li> </ul> <p>To evaluate programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Evaluation of SEDRONAR’s federal network of centers. Experiences regarding support from the perspective of all stakeholders (2019-2021) to obtain information that contributes to the daily monitoring and efforts of the federal network’s centers, based on staff’s perspective.</li> <li>- Evaluation of perceptions of participants in the <i>Potenciar Acompañamiento</i> program one year after its launch (2020-2021): This study provides data on the program gleaned from the main lessons learned and the difficulties in its implementation, according to those involved.</li> </ul>
Rehabilitation	X		<p>To monitor these programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Portal to Monitor Treatment and Support Strategies: based on periodic processing of information on centers, persons assisted, and processes, information is displayed in interactive charts for different audiences.</li> </ul> <p>To evaluate programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evaluation of SEDRONAR’s federal network of centers. Experiences regarding support from the perspective of all stakeholders (2019-2021) to obtain information that contributes to the daily monitoring and efforts of the federal network’s centers, based on staff’s perspective.</li> </ul>

			<p>- Evaluation of perceptions of participants in the <i>Potenciar Acompañamiento</i> program one year after its launch (2020-2021): This study provides data on the program from the main lessons learned and the difficulties in its implementation, according to those involved.</p>
<b>Recovery and social integration</b>	X		<p>To monitor these programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Portal to Monitor Treatment and Support Strategies: based on periodic processing of information on centers, persons assisted, and processes, information is displayed in interactive charts for different audiences.</li> </ul> <p>To evaluate programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evaluation of SEDRONAR's federal network of centers. Experiences regarding support from the perspective of all stakeholders (2019-2021) to obtain information that contributes to the daily monitoring and efforts of the network's centers, based on staff's perspective.</li> <li>- Evaluation of perceptions of participants in the <i>Potenciar Acompañamiento</i> program one year after its launch (2020-2021): This study provides data on the program gleaned from the main lessons learned and the difficulties in its implementation, according to those involved.</li> </ul>

**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.

Argentina has mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs. Argentina collects information from the four security forces, the police of the country's 24 administrative units, and the General Directorate of Customs. The information system on drug trafficking is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Security's National Directorate for the Fight against Drug Trafficking, as established in Administrative Decision 335/2020. This area collects information from the aforementioned institutions and based on this information, prepares reports at the national level and replies to various international questionnaires.

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

Supply reduction, trafficking, and related crimes			
Information	Available information		Year of most recent information
	Yes	No	
Quantification of illicit crop cultivation including crops grown indoors		X	
Number of seizures of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production	X		2022
Quantities of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production seized	X		2022
Number of seizures of controlled chemical substances (precursors)	X		2022
Quantities of seized controlled chemical substances (precursors)	X		2022
Number of seizures of pharmaceutical products	X		2022
Quantities of seized pharmaceutical products	X		2022
Number of persons formally charged with drug use, possession, and trafficking		X	
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

Supply reduction, trafficking, and related crimes			
Information	Available information		Year of most recent information
	Yes	No	
Sale price of drugs (for consumers)		X	
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, explosives, ammunition, and related materials		X	
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	
Number of persons convicted of diversion of chemical substances		X	
Others: Number of persons who came into formal contact with the legal system for drug use, possession, and trafficking	X		2022

Argentina does not carry out periodic studies or 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.**

Argentina collects information on drug prices, purity or concentration, and chemical profile of drugs. However, it does not prepare reports for public dissemination:

Type of Study	Title of report/publication	Year of report/ publication
Report	Analysis of the price and purity of Cocaine on the Argentine market	2022

The country conducts chemical characterizations and tests of purity for substances that may or may not be subject to international control. Argentina has mechanisms through which substances identified as not being subject to international control may be placed under control. The old system, by which Argentina controlled narcotics for 25 years, has yielded to a system supplemented by Decree 560/2019, which also allows for controlling groups of new psychoactive substances (NPS) and anticipating the emergence of NPS that can represent a serious threat to public health. Thus, more than one kind of drug control was adopted in order to reduce the likelihood that substances not subject to control that represent a health and safety risk were circulating nationwide. To this end, joint work has been undertaken by the Ministry of Security, the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research, the National Drug Crime Prosecutor's Office, and the anti-drug trafficking section of the Public Prosecution Ministry. Additionally, the

selection of chemical groups subject to control was based on the NPS classification set forth by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (aminoindanes, arylcyclohexamines, synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic cathinones, phenethylamines, piperazines, and tryptamines). The tools and instruments the United Nations made available to States have been extremely useful. These include Project ION Incident Communication System (IONICS) and UNODC Early Warning Advisory (EWA) on new psychoactive substances.

**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 Argentina, the forensic laboratories of the federal security forces, coordinated by the Ministry of Security, are responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances, and are part of the national early warning system (EWS). These forensic laboratories are not part of the national drug information network (DIN).

The country implements and 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
Implements and participates	National Forensic Science Seminar	Federal Forces and Provincial Police	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.

Argentina’s DIN does not rely on standardized indicators for the collection of data on drug supply.

The country does not 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.**

**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), Argentina 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, Argentina 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.**

Argentina did not carry out periodic activities to promote and raise awareness of the MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies aimed at national institutions.

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

Argentina 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. Virtual meetings were held with provincial drug observatories in which MEM Evaluation Reports were presented in the framework of a training and assessment strategy for the Federal Research Network promoted by the Argentine Observatory on Drugs (OAD).

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

Argentina has not reviewed the MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies nor 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.**

**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.

Argentina 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 regard, it has worked together with the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) in incorporating new focal points to use Project Ion Incident Communication System (IONICS), Global Rapid Interdiction of Dangerous Substances (GRIDS) Programme, and Precursor Incident Communication System (PICS) tools, in addition to conducting various training on using such tools.

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

Argentina 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. It has participated in the Cooperation Program between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drug Policies (COPOLAD) II and III, as well as in the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products, where information has been exchanged mainly on the control of precursor chemicals and their final disposition. It has held exchanges in the framework of MERCOSUR's *Reunión Especializada de Autoridades de Aplicación en Materia de Drogas* [Specialized Meeting of Drug Enforcement Authorities] (RED) regarding administrative control of precursor chemicals and narcotics. Finally, it has held bilateral meetings (recently with Mexico, Chile, Bolivia, and Peru) in which best practices were shared on administrative processes to control precursor chemical and on various narcotics-related issues.

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 regard, the country and specifically the Ministry of Security participates in the following activities where experiences, good practices and training are shared:

- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
  - Participation in the initiative “Control of chemical substances, interdiction of illicit drugs and criminal justice response to drug trafficking and associated corruption in Argentina”, and in particular activities:
    - Participation in round tables on the context and challenges of illicit drug trafficking (with emphasis on synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances -NPS) and the diversion of chemical precursors in Argentina
    - Technical and legal workshop on the production of narcotic drugs (including synthetic drugs and NPS) and the chemical substances and precursors used for their illicit manufacture
    - Workshops to identify the illicit mechanisms for obtaining chemical substances and precursors by organized crime
    - Integrity and drug trafficking
- United States–Colombia Joint Regional Security Action Plan (USCAP)
  - Diploma in Strategic Analysis for the Control of Drug Dealing and its Associated Manifestations
  - Diploma in Management of Criminal Investigation Units
  - Basic Anti-Drug Diploma
  - Diploma in Strategies against Drug Trafficking in Maritime and Air Terminals
  - Designated Diploma Fundamentals of Forensic Computing
- Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training (OPDAT) of the Department of Justice of the United States
  - Digital Piracy and Open-Source Investigations Working Group (DPWG)
  - Workshop on Special Investigation Techniques in Complex Crimes
  - Advanced Course on Financial Investigation Techniques
  - Dialogue with justice sectors in the triple border; Combating Human Trafficking in Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay and its relationship with Organized Crime and International Terrorism
- International Law Enforcement Academies (ILEA)
  - Cross Regional – Advanced Narcotic Course
  - Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation Course
  - Leadership for Women in Law Enforcement
  - Tactical Safety and Planning

In Argentina, 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 countries from the region as well as with countries from the other hemispheres. These mechanisms are used when the parties so agree. Among them are the following:

- Thematic security meetings in MERCOSUR (Meeting of Ministers of the Interior and Security – RMIS)
- The Latin American Committee for Internal Security (CLASI) brings together the Ministers in

charge of internal security in the region to define priorities in a coordinated manner, based on empirical information, and work on Operational Action Plans that allow for intelligent use of resources and achieving results every time. It is a coordination mechanism at the political, strategic and operational level for the definition and implementation of public security policies in the Latin American region. Supported by the European Union, through Europe Latin America Programme of Assistance against Transnational Organised Crime (EL PACCTO). Members: Argentina, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama, Dominican Republic, Chile, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay, Peru and Colombia

- The Ministers of the Interior of the Member States of the European Union and the Ministers in charge of internal security, members of CLASI, created the Operational Working Group (GTO), consisting of a network of specialized police officers for the fight against drug trafficking
- Participation in the Seaport Cooperation Project (SEACOP) with the cooperation of the International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies (FIIAPP)
- Participation in the Airport Communication Programme (AIRCOP) implemented by UNODC in association with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization (WCO)
- Participation in joint operations with INTERPOL members
- Joint Commissions on Drugs (COMIXTAS)

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

Argentina has not promoted technology transfers among and between 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. The Secretariat for Comprehensive Drug Policies of Argentina (SEDRONAR) has promoted information sharing among member states and international organizations through its sustained contribution to questionnaires and mandatory consultations of the United Nations, such as the Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ), meetings of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), among others, as well as through reports, meetings, commissions, and United Nations information systems like the World Drug Report, Early Warning System, INCB, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). Furthermore, the Argentine Observatory on Drugs (OAD) participates in various forums, surveys, trainings, studies, exchanges, and activities of CICAD/OAS, such as the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID), Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), Early Warning System for the Americas (SATA), Strengthening Therapeutic Communities and Treatment Centers in Latin America and the Caribbean with Italian support (FOCTALI), among others. Additionally, different informal meetings are held with CICAD sections and member states with a view to ensuring prioritization of research on national drug policy.

Periodically data is sent to complete various international questionnaires (from CICAD/OAS, ARQ, INCB, HONLEA, and MERCOSUR, among others). Through the Pre-Export Notification (PEN) Online System, the countries involved communicate on foreign trade transactions in precursor

chemicals. Through IONICS and PICS, criminal intelligence is furnished on seizures and interdictions of narcotics and precursor chemicals. Training on the use of IONICS and GRIDS has been provided in conjunction with INCB.

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

Argentina 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 its sustained contribution to questionnaires and mandatory consultations of the United Nations, such as ARQ, HONLEA, among others, as well as through reports, meetings, commissions, and United Nations information systems like the World Drug Report, Early Warning System, INCB, UNDP, and CND. Furthermore, the OAD participates in various forums where there are activities to promote best practices by implementing and participating in surveys, trainings, studies, exchanges, in addition to activities of CICAD, including of those of the OID, MEM, SATA, FOCTALI, among others.

The Ministry of Security also actively participates, in its capacity both as a presenter and a listener, in various Specialized Meetings on Drugs of MERCOSUR (RED) held biannually, where different aspects of the drug issue are presented. Through COPOLAD, CICAD, and bilateral meetings, information is shared on unified management of the final disposition of precursor chemicals seized, as well as on cases of precursor chemicals.

**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.**

Argentina's competent authorities carry out cooperative activities at the regional and international levels to investigate and prosecute criminals for drug-related offenses. The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights is the Central Authority of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal Matters, signed by Argentina and the United States of America, approved by Law 24.034. The Central Authority exercises its duties through the National Directorate for Foreign Affairs. In the framework of said Treaty, legal assistance requests are processed in the framework of criminal investigations by Argentine and/or US authorities that involve the illicit trafficking of narcotics for purposes of obtaining information and/or evidence found in the Requested State.

The country takes human rights into account when carrying out these activities through the Ministry of Justice inasmuch as legal assistance requests are made in the framework of court cases in which the competent authorities (judges and courts) oversee due process rights and guarantees that must be respected for individuals potentially involved in the offense under investigation, who must always have a defense attorney in keeping with Argentine legislation.

**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.**

Argentina 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. The Central Authority of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty with the United States facilitates the mutual legal assistance procedures by providing ongoing advice to the requesting and the requested authorities. Furthermore, there is fluid contact with the US Department of Justice, which is the Central Authority in the United States. This allows for any questions or matters that may arise during the processing of a request to be addressed and resolved, with a view to obtaining the evidence required in the shortest possible time. The relationship between the Central Authorities of both countries through the years, in addition to the training of officials charged with processing legal assistance requests, have strengthened international legal cooperation.



**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.

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

	Enacted	Adopted	Name of the legislation / administrative measures or actions
Legislative Actions/ Measures	X	X	Law 27669, Regulatory Framework for Developing the Medicinal Cannabis and Industrial Hemp Industry  Decree 560/19 – Update of the list of narcotics. Decree 593/19 – Implementing regulations of Law 26.045 on the control of chemical precursors
Administrative Actions/ Measures	X		Resolution 800/2021, Implementing regulations of the provisions of Article 8 of Decree 883/2020 on the creation of the Cannabis Registry Program (REPROCANN)

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

Argentina 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	
	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 Argentina has two national drug authorities, which have a legal basis. Moreover, CICAD observes that, in the country, there is an annual budget for the national drug authorities, which is independent in one case and is integrated with the budget of another institution in the other. Furthermore, CICAD notes that Argentina has an ongoing coordination and collaboration mechanism among agencies and other levels of government to formulate, implement, monitor, evaluate, and update national drug policies and/or strategies and that the national drug authorities coordinate 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 with satisfaction that Argentina collects and uses evidence as a basis for formulating and updating national drug policies and/or 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/or strategies. CICAD notes that Argentina has partially delegated responsibilities on drug issues to subnational/local governments to implement concrete actions related to drug policies and strategies, in coordination with the national drug authorities, which have, in their central structure, an office or operational unit to promote, coordinate, train, and provide technical support on drug-related issues to subnational/local governments or agencies. Moreover, the national drug authorities 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, Argentina has specific and ongoing mechanisms to transfer funds or finance drug initiatives or projects implemented 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 Argentina 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 Argentina 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 Argentina has interagency and multisectoral policy and technical coordination mechanisms to address the drug problem through 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 Argentina participates in international cooperation programs at the bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen policies, programs, 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 Argentina 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 with satisfaction that Argentina's 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, which involve academic and research institutions, as well as civil society, and 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 Argentina 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 satisfaction that Argentina promotes legislation that provides for proportional legal sentencing for minor drug-related offenses, in accordance with domestic law and has special courts for these offenses. Moreover, CICAD notes that the country promotes 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 Argentina has a National Drug Observatory (NDO), which was created through a legal basis and 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 and has carried out studies on the drug problem through them. Additionally, CICAD notes that Argentina has developed and adopted quantitative and qualitative methodologies and information-gathering mechanisms that allow for the comparison of data among countries, has carried out studies on drug use applying the SIDUC methodology, and has used the CICAD standard indicators for drug information networks for the collection, analysis, and reporting of national drug related data and information. Moreover, the country has carried out 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. Furthermore, CICAD notes that Argentina's

observatory has a national drug information network (DIN), which interacts through meetings and document exchanges but does not publish an annual report or any other type of periodic report. Also, the country has an early warning system (EWS) to identify NPS or other emerging drug-related threats, which shares information, alerts, and reports with the Early Warning System of the Americas (SATA). Additionally, CICAD notes that Argentina's observatory carries out training sessions with local stakeholders to enhance data collection and management, as well as meetings and other workshops where the results of studies and other information gathering activities are shared with local stakeholders. Moreover, CICAD observes that Argentina has established a forum that allows drug researchers to present their findings to policymakers. Also, CICAD notes that the country's observatory promotes and disseminates best practices or the exchange of successful experiences in research 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 Argentina has carried out and published five demand reduction studies during the evaluation period (2019-2023). Additionally, 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. Moreover, CICAD notes that Argentina has conducted studies to evaluate treatment and prevention programs and interventions, as well as process and intermediate outcome evaluations of one of these programs. However, it has not conducted impact evaluations of these programs. On the other hand, Argentina has mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment, rehabilitation and recovery and social integration programs and services in the public health and/or social protection network.

### **Objective 3**

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

CICAD notes that Argentina 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 or research on the drug market for illicit drugs nor on the medical and scientific uses and other legal use of narcotics or psychotropic substances, subject to the international control system. CICAD observes that Argentina collects information for the development of studies on drug prices, purity or concentration, and chemical profile of drugs, and conducts chemical characterization or tests of purity for substances that may or may not be subject to international control. Moreover, the country has mechanisms through which substances that have been identified as not being under

international control can be placed under control. CICAD notes that Argentina has agencies that are responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances, and are part of the national early warning system (EWS) but not of the national drug information network (DIN). On the other hand, the country implements and participates in periodic training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of these substances. CICAD observes that Argentina's DIN does not rely on standardized indicators for the collection of data on drug supply and that the country does not 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 that, for the eighth round of evaluation of the MEM, Argentina 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. However, CICAD notes that Argentina did not carry out periodic activities to promote and raise awareness of the MEM Drug Policy Evaluation Reports aimed at national institutions. 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. On the other hand, CICAD notes that Argentina has not reviewed the MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies and identified opportunities to increase cooperation and partnerships with other member states or share best practices and lessons learned (horizontal cooperation).

### **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

#### **Objective 1**

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

CICAD notes that Argentina 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, Argentina 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. Furthermore, Argentina has bilateral mechanisms for coordination and collaboration with other countries, focused on the dismantling of criminal groups linked to drug trafficking and related crimes. However, CICAD observes that the country has not promoted technology transfers among and between OAS member states and international (including regional) organizations but has promoted information sharing among them. Also, CICAD notes that Argentina has promoted 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 with satisfaction that the competent authorities of Argentina 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. Additionally, CICAD notes that Argentina has enacted and adopted, during the evaluation period (2019-2023), legislative and administrative measures to improve the implementation of the obligations set forth within international legal instruments related to the world drug problem, respecting human rights and gender equality. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country has ratified or acceded to all of the international legal instruments of the United Nations and all of the OAS Inter-American legal instruments regarding the world drug problem and related crimes.







**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)  
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