



OAS

More rights for more people

MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

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

Mexico

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

2023



MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

MEXICO

Evaluation Report on Drug Policies:

Institutional Strengthening; Research,
Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation;
and International Cooperation

EIGHTH EVALUATION ROUND

2023

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

ISBN 978-0-8270-7756-0

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.

Mexico has the following institutions as national drug authorities:

Scope	Name of the institution/agency	Year in which the entity was established
Supply Reduction	Office of the Attorney General of the Republic (<i>Fiscalía General de la República - FGR</i>)	1857
	Ministry of National Defense (<i>Secretaría de la Defensa Nacional - SEDENA</i>)	1821
	Ministry of the Navy (<i>Secretaría de Marina - SEMAR</i>)	1941
	National Guard (<i>Guardia Nacional - GN</i>)	2019
Demand Reduction	Federal Commission for Protection against Health Risks (<i>Comisión Federal para la Protección contra Riesgos Sanitarios - COFEPRIS</i>)	2001
	National Commission against Addictions (<i>Comisión Nacional contra las Adicciones - CONADIC</i>)	1986
	Ministry of the Interior (<i>Secretaría de Gobernación</i>) through the Undersecretariat for Crime Prevention and Citizen Participation (<i>Subsecretaría de Prevención del Delito y Participación Ciudadana</i>)	2000

These institutions are positioned within the administrative structure of the State as follows:

- The Office of the Attorney General of the Republic (FGR) is an autonomous public body, endowed with legal personality and its own assets; it exercises its powers in such a way as to preserve public order and to act in the best interests of society
- The National Guard (GN) is a decentralized administrative body attached to the National Security Commissioner (CNS), under the Ministry of the Interior (SEGOB) of the Federal Executive Branch
- The Federal Commission for Protection against Health Risks (COFEPRIS) was created by Federal Executive Decree as a decentralized agency of the Ministry of Health
- The National Commission against Addictions (CONADIC) was created by presidential decree. It is coordinated by the Ministry of Health with the committed participation of public sector agencies and institutions, as well as social and private organizations, and is a decentralized body of the Ministry of Health

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

The FGR, GN, COFEPRIS and CONADIC of Mexico have a legal basis in:

- The Political Constitution of the United Mexican States
- Laws
 - Organic Law on the Federal Public Administration
 - Law of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic
 - The National Guard Law
 - General Health Law
 - General Law for the Social Prevention of Violence and Crime
 - Federal Law against Organized Crime
 - Federal Law for the Control of Chemical Precursors, Essential Chemicals, and Machines for Manufacturing Capsules, Tablets, and Pills
- Codes
 - Federal Criminal Code
 - National Code of Criminal Procedure

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

In Mexico there is an annual budget for the national drug authorities. It is included in the budget of the FGR and Security and Citizen Protection, Health, Navy, and National Defense Ministries.

The following is the amount of the annual budget of the national drug authorities for the years 2019-2023:

Institution	Annual budget amount (U.S. dollars)				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
PGR (2019) FGR (2020-2023)	847,400,440	921,983,244	953,608,766	921,983,244	1,024,481,693,749
Security and Citizen Protection	1,866,753	3,320,399,431	3,502,065,605	3,320,399,431	11,002,796,842
Health	6,801,325,700	7,111,391,591	8,027,080,177	7,111,391,591	11,571,110,931
Navy	1,633,042,156	1,852,434,964	1,958,362,480	1,852,434,964	2,311,729,877
National Defense	5,170,720,510	5,190,510,570	6,213,307,314	5,746,896,610	6,177,673,168

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.

Mexico has an ongoing coordination and collaboration mechanism among agencies and other levels of government (national and subnational) to formulate, implement, monitor, evaluate, and update national drug policies and/or strategies. In this regard, coordination is with the State Commissions against Addictions, which are counterparts of the CONADIC attached to the State Health Services and receive federal budget funds in order to conduct prevention, treatment and harm reduction activities in the Federal Entities. These state commissions coordinate actions with municipal authorities and are focused on demand reduction.

The government of Mexico has a coordinated command made up of the Security Cabinet, headed by the President of the Republic; in which the Ministers of Security and Citizen Protection, Interior, Navy and National Defense, and the FGR participate. These institutions are focused on supply reduction, in addition, they also collaborate in demand reduction because their activities impact decision-making and policy formulation to counteract both the demand and supply of drugs.

On the other hand, the FGR collects information on the results and coordinates the exchange of information on the actions carried out between the various agencies of the Federal Executive Branch, state and municipal governments, following up on national drug policies in compliance with its powers under the Organic Law and the Constitution. This is due to the need to formulate comprehensive paradigms for drug treatment, as well as national security that allow sustaining strategies for the recovery of peace, crime prevention and effective procurement and administration of justice.

Mexico's national drug authorities coordinate the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, drug observatory, international cooperation and program evaluation. The areas of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs and preventive alternative development programs are coordinated by the Ministry of Security and Citizen Protection.

**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 Mexico, the Mexican Observatory of Mental Health and Drug Consumption (OMSMCD) and the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic (FGR) collect and use evidence as a basis for formulating and updating national drug policies and/or strategies. The OMSMCD's main functions notably include the collection, recording, systematization, analysis, and interpretation of information on mental health and the use of psychoactive substances, in order to obtain national and state diagnostic assessments that are reliable and comparable over time.

The OMSMCD, in addition to having a technical team, comprises a National Network of Information on Mental Health and Drug Use, which generates and exchanges information on different phenomena related to mental health and substance use. Members of the network include: the institutions that conduct the national surveys on drug use in the general population and among students (e.g., ENCODAT [2016-2017] and ENCODE [2014]) and the National Health and Nutrition Surveys; the public institutions that provide care to the population such as the Centers for Primary Care in Addictions (CAPA) and the Centers for Juvenile Integration (CIJ); the departments of the Ministry of Health that collect information on other care provided in the National Health System, such as the General Directorate of Health Information and the National Coordination Office of the Epidemiological Surveillance of Addictions System (SISVEA); non-governmental organizations (NGO) that implement community programs; and other governmental agencies such as the Attorney General's Office through the Technical Group, the Multidisciplinary Group, (whose findings are shown as a result of work done by this some of its members and may be for restricted use, due to the confidential nature of the information), and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography, among others.

Regarding supply reduction, aspects related to the cultivation, production, processing and trafficking of illicit substances are analyzed. On the other hand, control measures are addressed, which imply the strengthening of substance control actions, emphasizing the need to ensure the adequate availability of narcotics for medical and scientific use. Likewise, actions are carried out such as the collection of data by mechanisms such as the National Effort, which is defined as the strategy implemented by the Government of Mexico to combat drug trafficking and organized crime. This strategy includes measures such as coordination between federal and local authorities, to strengthen the institutions in charge of justice provision.

The FGR, based on its Organic Law and now the Statute, compiles information on operational actions carried out by various agencies such as the National Effort Coordination Group, made up of the Ministry of National Defense (SEDENA), Ministry of the Navy (SEMAR), Ministry of Security and Citizen Protection/National Guard, the Federal Ministerial Police (PFM), State Prosecutor's Offices and Attorney General's Offices. This information is used for the analysis and generation of statistics that allow identifying crime trends and patterns, which in turn contributes to strategic decision-making regarding prevention and justice provision.

There is also the Drug Profiling Program, established in Circular Letter C/012/18 of July 2018, focused on the analysis of fentanyl hydrochloride, heroin hydrochloride, methamphetamine hydrochloride and cocaine hydrochloride and its base, to know the nature of the substances, the active ingredients and their concentration, cutting agents or adulterants, and identify emerging substances lacking national and international control and all the substances present in the samples. This program aims to implement prevention strategies and programs based on scientific evidence to focus and prioritize attention to demand and supply. The information generated in compliance with said document is handled under total secrecy and confidentiality for intelligence purposes.

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

Key Actors	Development	Implementation	Evaluation	Updating
Health Ministry	X	X	X	X
Interior Ministry	X	X	X	X
Justice Ministry	X	X	X	X
Education Ministry	X	X	X	X
Regional and/or local governments		X		
Scientific community/academia	X	X	X	X
Civil Society	X	X		X
Private sector	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.

Mexico has fully 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 sense, responsibilities are delegated to the State Attorney General's Offices. However, the state authorities receive permanent follow-up and support from the federal authorities, who coordinate directly with them. Although they bear full responsibility for implementation, the state authorities are supported by the federal budget and, therefore, there is a system for monitoring compliance with their actions and the scope of those actions.

The country's national drug authorities 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, which exercises the powers that the laws and other applicable provisions grant to the Ministry of Health, in terms of prevention and control of addictions, including those requiring the participation and coordination of the agencies and entities of the Federal Public Administration.

Mexico's national drug authorities have coordinators, offices, or representatives within the subnational/local territories, as part of a decentralized operational and coordination structure at the local level, to respond to the drug problem. The structure of the State Commission against Addictions has a Directorate, an Administrative Support Unit and three subdirectorates - the Subdirectorate of Addiction Prevention, the Subdirectorate of Treatment and Social Reinsertion, and the Subdirectorate of Information and Evaluation - and is responsible for promoting and supporting the actions of the public, social and private sectors aimed at preventing and combating public health problems caused by alcoholism, tobacco use, and drug dependence as well as coordinating and evaluating the sectoral programs against addictions, holding regular meetings every three months to follow up on the agreements and commitments reached at the regular and other working meetings held.

Mexico has a specific and ongoing program to transfer funds or finance drug-related initiatives or projects implemented by sub-national/local governments. In this regard, there are specific agreements for the transfer of federal resources to fund actions under code E025 of the budget program: "Prevention and Handling of Addictions."

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.

Mexico engages private sector entities to develop innovative approaches in the implementation of drug policies and exchange of information and best practices. The areas within the private sector entities that develop these approaches are the chemical industry, the pharmaceutical industry, cosmetics, home care, aromatic or fragrance products, and paint and ink manufacturers.

The chemical industry helps establish the watch list of dual-use chemicals and is responsible for monitoring these kinds of substances. In addition, the pharmaceutical industry, cosmetic products, home care, aromatic products or fragrances, and paint and ink manufacturers are taken into consideration in order to analyze the illicit uses of certain substances in the sector; in addition, information is exchanged on their diversion and the negative impact that possible regulation could have on the Mexican industry.

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.

Mexico takes into account the 2020 Organization of American States (OAS) Hemispheric Strategy on Drugs and its corresponding Plan of Action to formulate or update national drug policies and strategies. Accordingly, it is taken as a basis for the formulation of strategies with a comprehensive approach that addresses the problem represented by the drug phenomenon, with an emphasis on public health, the free development of personality, and adaptability to the development plans of both rural and urban communities that are affected by various types of crime. In this approach, public health, the reduction of harm associated with consumption, the availability of illicit drugs, economic development, social cohesion and law enforcement, as well as related crimes receive the same attention.

The country's national drug policies and strategies take into account the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this regard, the 2019-2024 National Development Program takes into consideration the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN, including the human rights perspective and alternative development, and specifically incorporates the gender approach and takes into account development with a focus on social inclusion.

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.

Mexico's national drug policies and strategies take the human rights approach into account. In this regard, the perspective of respect for the human rights of users has been part of the national policy. Consequently, mindful of the reformulation of the fight against drugs, the current administration has taken affirmative measures, such as Amending the General Health Law's sections on mental health and addictions, with a view to paying special attention to the human rights of people with mental and substance use disorders.

The human rights approach has also been incorporated into institutional policy, as reflected in the institutional mission, vision, objectives, and values. These actions have been reinforced with online seminars of the permanent training program for personnel, as well as with courses and diplomas, which have a human rights, intersectional, and gender focus.

Mexico's national drug policies and strategies take into account the gender perspective. In this regard, drug demand reduction activities are funded through a specific budget for implementing policies and programs with a gender perspective. Likewise, this perspective is explicitly embraced in the organization and programmatic structure of the Mental Health and Addictions Specific Action Program.

In addition, the gender approach has been incorporated into the institutional policy of the National Commission against Addictions (CONADIC), reflected in the mission, vision, objective and institutional values. Likewise, the National Human Rights Commission established the Policy on Gender Equality, Non-Discrimination, Inclusion, Diversity and Access to a Life Free of Violence 2020-2024. Likewise, support manuals have been prepared for the care of different populations, with a gender perspective such as the Manual for judging with a gender perspective in administrative matters and awareness campaigns or workshops were carried out on different significant dates with a gender perspective such as the Awareness Workshops on Political Violence against Women for Gender Reasons, within the framework of local electoral processes for members of the National and Local Executive Committees of political parties, as well as studies of drug consumption in the population it serves with data disaggregated by sex.

Mexico's national drug authorities do not require technical support to develop and implement gender-sensitive programs.

The country's national drug policies and strategies take into account the social inclusion approach. In this regard, the interagency and multisectoral programs that promote the social inclusion of people affected by the drug phenomenon are: The National Program for the Social Prevention of Violence and Crime, which seeks to address four priority segments of the population (children, adolescents, young people, and women); the 2021-2024 National Program for Equality and Non-Discrimination, which seeks to generate mechanisms for measuring situations of discrimination; the National Youth Program aimed at reducing the exclusion of young people and attaching importance to the contribution of these groups to the country's development; and the Program for Strengthening Gender Mainstreaming to promote the incorporation of the gender perspective in the regulatory framework, in planning instruments

and programs, as well as in governmental actions to implement such policies in the states, municipalities, and in mayors' offices in Mexico City.

Mexico does not have the necessary resources to implement drug policies and programs since, due to the austerity policies of the current administration, resources are limited.

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 multidisciplinary approach to the drug problem, including its causes and consequences.

Mexico 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. In this regard, the National Addiction Prevention Strategy is conceptually rooted in the need for interagency links as a prerequisite for achieving its objectives, including preventing or delaying the use of psychoactive substances, while at the same time improving people's circumstances so as to address the psychosocial determinants of consumption.

There is also a Federal Coordination Board for the National Strategy for the Prevention of Addictions, in which institutions such as the Welfare Secretariat, the Labor and Social Security Secretariat, the Public Education Secretariat, the Culture Secretariat, the Mexican Youth Institute, the Juvenile Integration Centers (CIJ), and the Mexican Social Security Institute, among others, participate in the *Mesas Espejo Estatales*, through their operating units located in each entity.

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.

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

According to the National Development Plan, the most important objective has to do with regional projects and sectoral programs aimed at social welfare through social policies such as free universal education and health services, physical integrity, sustainable development, and social inclusion.

These programs also aim to promote socioeconomic growth in areas affected by the presence of illicit crops in order to generate conditions that will improve the livelihoods of the most vulnerable communities by fostering productive projects and the management of comprehensive and sustainable programs, as well as actions specifically tailored to the needs of urban areas. The Plan's main lines of action include promoting sustainable urban development initiatives in communities affected by drug trafficking and related crimes, while considering, inter alia, aspects

such as crime prevention, community cohesion, and security, among others.

In addition, joint responsibility actions are encouraged between the private sector and public institutions to guarantee community cultural development, in order to strengthen cohesion and the social fabric and to promote projects to ensure appropriate and sustainable use of natural resources, which benefit communities economically and bolster local and regional markets for a wide range of products, among others.

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

Mexico participates in international cooperation programs at the bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen policies, programs, institutions, and their internal processes. In this regard, at the bilateral level, there is collaboration with the Government of the United States through the Bicentennial Framework for Security, Public Health, and Safe Communities. This Framework incorporates each country's security priorities, with an emphasis on addressing violence through a justice and intelligence-driven response to organized crime and based on effective law enforcement cooperation. It also includes a public health and development approach as part of a comprehensive cooperation strategy between the two countries.

At the multilateral level, Mexico participates with the United States and Canada in the North American Drug Dialogue (NADD), which is a series of agreements to conduct a dialogue aimed at improving trilateral coordination and convene annual meetings in each country to exchange information on trends in the consumption of psychoactive substances, including the use of opioids, and to discuss each country's approach to addressing the consumption problem, as well as their perspectives on public health.

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

Mexico promotes comprehensive and cross-cutting public policies to reduce and prevent crime, violence, social exclusion, and corruption. In this regard, the basis for the formulation of the 2022-2024 National Public Security Plan is the 2019-2024 National Development Plan, which shapes the actions of the Government of Mexico during the current administration for the equitable, inclusive, comprehensive, feasible, and sustainable development of the country with a gender perspective, non-discrimination, intercultural, cultural, and intergenerational cohesion, with a differential and specialized approach. Within this framework, the National Public Security Program establishes its priority objectives, priority strategies, and specific actions with a change in the security paradigm implemented in previous six-year periods, to take into account the multidimensional nature of the problem and the incorporation of cross-cutting and inclusive approaches, focusing on national and internal security, crime prevention, and the procurement and administration of justice.

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

Mexico implements measures that promote equal access to justice and due process, taking into account gender, age, community, and cultural context. In this regard, the implementation of the 2021-2024 National Program for Equality and Non-Discrimination, derived from the 2019-2024 National Development Plan of the Federal Government aims to reduce discriminatory practices that generate exclusion and social inequality for groups historically discriminated against in the area of security and justice. Likewise, the idea is to help establish a real right to equality in access to justice.

One of the Program's objectives proposes viable strategies to dismantle a set of institutionalized discriminatory practices that most severely restrict or deny human rights in the areas of security and justice, which are key spheres for achieving real and substantive equality. Progress is measured according to the fundamental rights factor of the Mexican Rule of Law Index. The aim is that, by the end of the administration, the regulations will be adapted to the highest standards of human rights protection for persons who, for whatever reason, have dealings with the authorities in the pursuit and administration of justice, through the promotion of training and professional advancement courses with a human rights perspective, as well as the development and implementation of policy instruments to eradicate the discriminatory practices found in the security and justice apparatuses.

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

Mexico implements measures that foster citizen participation in crime prevention, build community cohesion, increase public safety, and emphasize social inclusion. In this regard, at the national level, citizens have various ways in which to take part in public hearings, accountability, citizen collaboration, citizen observatories, citizen assemblies, and participatory budgeting. These forms of participation aim to contribute to the proper use of the assigned financial and material resources.

Likewise, social prevention promotes affirmative actions in education, culture, healthy habits, with a gender perspective and citizen participation, to generate environments that favor coexistence, peace and citizen security, with respect for human rights and non-discrimination. Some of these programs are:

- System of Citizen Internal and External Alerts of Corruption. It joins the prevention, audit and surveillance work of the actions and assets of public servants and encourages citizen participation through complaints that the population presents directly
- The scholarships that are awarded from initial education to higher level have made it possible to strengthen education aimed at the population that is in poverty, to reduce social

backwardness and provide equal opportunities, and contribute to the social prevention of poverty, violence and crime

- Contribution Fund for Public Security (FASP). It is a budget fund, provided for in the Fiscal Coordination Law (Fiscal Year 2022), Social Prevention of Violence and Crime with Citizen Participation, through which resources are transferred to the federal entities to comply with national strategies regarding public security
- Support Plan for the State of Guerrero. The Violet Protocol is implemented to address violence against women, with the participation of the three levels of government and sectors of civil society

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.

Mexico’s law provides for alternative measures to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug-related offenses through the General Health Law.

These measures respect human rights and take into account the gender perspective in accordance with relevant international instruments. In that regard, drug policy within the framework of the Accusatorial Criminal Justice System and its related crimes has an approach focused on individual and social well-being, respecting human rights and including the gender and multicultural perspective.

The reform of the Accusatorial Penal System makes it possible to clarify the facts, protect the innocent, ensure that the guilty do not go unpunished and repair the damage caused by the crimes committed. Said reform focused on respect and guarantee of Human Rights:

- Established the change from the concept of “individual guarantees” to that of “human rights and their guarantees”, which distinguishes rights per se from the guarantees (in criminal matters) that are available to safeguard or protect them. It is noted, in the intention of the legislator, greater protection than what was in place
- It represents a paradigm shift, by providing for human rights to be “recognized” by the State, instead of being considered “granted,” and by ordering the “consistent” interpretation of the norms related to human rights in criminal matters. This means that in the interpretation of these norms, all authorities, and especially all judges in charge of the constitutional function, must take into account what is provided for by both the Constitution and the various international treaties to which the Mexican State is a party, with the aim that the interpretation favors people with the broadest protection, applying what is known as the pro persona or pro homine principle
- In accordance with the provisions of Article 1, third paragraph of the Constitution, all authorities within the scope of their powers or powers have the obligation to promote, respect, protect and guarantee human rights in accordance with the principles of Universality, Interdependence, Indivisibility, and Progressivity

Finally, the reform of the General Health Law to establish new bases in terms of mental health and addiction prevention within public policies aimed at reducing drug consumption. In this way, people who use psychoactive substances are now treated with dignity and respect for their human rights, with medical care and proactive alternatives to achieve their comprehensive

reintegration into society.

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.

Mexico develops mechanisms to monitor and evaluate alternative measures to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug-related offenses. The agency responsible for the implementation of the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms is the National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL), established by the General Law of Social Development (LGDS). It is a decentralized public body in the Federal Public Administration, with autonomy and technical capacity to generate objective information on the assessment of social policy and the measurement of poverty that improves decision-making in this field. The LGDS establishes that the purpose of CONEVAL is to regulate and coordinate the evaluation of social development policies and programs executed by public agencies, and to set guidelines and criteria for the definition, identification, and measurement of programs.

Likewise, among the evaluation functions entrusted to the CONEVAL by the LGDS are periodically reviewing compliance with the social objective of social development policy programs, goals, and actions, in order to correct, modify, add, reorient, or suspend them totally or in part.

These mechanisms involve academic and research institutions and civil society through the National Care Network of Juvenile Integration Centers (CIJ) and the national directory of residential facilities recognized by the National Commission against Addictions (CONADIC). These mechanisms facilitate access to and ensure the quality of treatment services for people with problematic drug use. Residential services are provided by the public health system, private institutions, and non-governmental organizations (NGO). Mexico has also established and maintained cooperative relations with governmental organizations and NGO through agreements between the Ministry of the Interior and the states, and agreements signed with civil society, academic, and business organizations. Human rights and the gender approach are taken into account in the evaluation of prevention and treatment programs.

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

Mexico promotes a common understanding of national legal norms, regulations, and internal procedures for the implementation of alternatives to incarceration. In this regard, Chapter Eight of the National Law of Penal Execution, in its section on Pre-release Benefits and Non-custodial Sanctions envisages the Therapeutic Justice Program as a benefit for sentenced persons who have a psychoactive substance use disorder and who, under the supervision of the judge responsible for overseeing enforcement of sentences, may undergo treatment as a substitution for the execution of the sentence. Given that the Therapeutic Justice Program is an interagency

and multidisciplinary program, the CONADIC is in charge of carrying out awareness-raising and training activities on addiction treatment for both legal officials and health operators participating in the program.

Currently in Mexico, entities such as the State of Nuevo León, Chihuahua, Durango, Morelos and the State of Mexico have implemented alternative means of dispute resolution through Therapeutic Justice programs. In the rest of the national territory, its implementation and consolidation are in the process of development.

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.

Mexico has inter-agency and multisectoral programs that promote the social inclusion of individuals, families, and communities affected by the drug problem, taking into account the specific needs of at-risk populations. In this regard, the country has the following programs, among others:

- 2018-2024 National Peace and Security Plan
- Development Plan for the Isthmus of Tehuantepec
- National Reconstruction Plan
- Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS) Plan
- *Sembrando Vida* (Sowing Life) Program
- Youth Forging the Future Program (*Programa Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro*)
- 2018- 2024 Nation Project (*Proyecto de Nación*)

The objective of these programs is to promote preventive environments that favor the healthy development of children and young people, as well as at-risk segments of the population, enabling them to acquire skills to address or reduce psychosocial risks and harm associated with drug use.

The programs are also comprehensive and involve individuals, families, and communities. The actions undertaken are tailored to the level of risk and the characteristics, resources, and needs of the population.

In addition, they strengthen citizen participation, solidarity, and community commitment in the promotion of health and social welfare through intersectoral and interagency linkages and the consolidation of community networks that bolster participatory practices and inclusion in a solidarity model.

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

Mexico disseminates best practices and lessons learned to improve institutional responses to the needs of at-risk populations, such as mechanisms, programs, and interventions, through publications, meetings, workshops, among others. In accordance with the principle of maximum publicity, the National Evaluation Council (CONEVAL) designed a database which can be freely

accessed through its website, called Table of Evaluations and Reports on Social Development Programs and Policies (CEIPP) which contains two sections: evaluations and reports.

Through the evaluations carried out by CONEVAL on the different social programs, reports on results are prepared, which generate recommendations that are sent to the institutions involved, which contributes to the improvement and adequate application of the evaluated programs. which in turn allows improving institutional responses, thereby generating the dissemination of best practices and lessons learned.

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 proportionate legal sentencing for minor drug-related offenses in accordance with domestic law.

Mexico promotes the Federal Penal Code (Articles 193-199) and the General Health Law (LGS) (Articles 473-482), which provide 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. In this regard, the Addiction Treatment Courts, under the Comprehensive Therapeutic Justice Program, seek the rehabilitation of those who, for the first time, commit an offense under the influence of drugs or alcohol, in exchange for undergoing a detoxification treatment under strict supervision, achieving recovery and social reintegration in a productive manner. Additionally, the courts seek to:

- Reduce recidivism
- Eliminate the consumption of alcoholic beverages, and the use of narcotics, intoxicants, psychotropics, inhalable, hallucinogenic or toxic substances that cause addiction or habit
- Reintegrate the individual socially

Taking into account that it is a comprehensive therapeutic justice, the court contemplates weekly sessions in oral hearing rooms, with the program participants and their families, carrying out evaluations and following up on each of the cases of those involved voluntarily registered in the system.

These courts were established as part of the Therapeutic Justice Programs in criminal matters, derived from the high rates of criminal recidivism. One of its main objectives is the social and family reintegration of sentenced people.

The Operating Team of the Legal Component of the Comprehensive Therapeutic Justice Program is made up of:

- Public Prosecutor's Office (*Ministerio Público*) or Office of the Attorney General (*Fiscalía*)
- Facilitators
- Areas for Follow-up of Reparation Agreements of the Bodies Specializing in Alternative Mechanisms for Disputes Resolution in Criminal Matters (OEMASC)
- Defense
- Judge (Control or Enforcement Judge)

- State Units for the Supervision of Precautionary Measures and Conditional Suspension of Proceedings (UMECAS)

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

Mexico does not promote legal reforms regarding proportional sentencing for minor drug-related offenses.

RESEARCH, INFORMATION, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION

OBJECTIVE

1

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

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

Mexico has the Mexican Observatory of Mental Health and Drug Consumption (OMSMCD) of the National Commission against Addictions (CONADIC) and the Attorney General's Office of the Republic (FGR), institutions that fulfill the functions of a national drug observatory. The CONADIC was created through the General Health Law and the FGR through the Organic Law of the Attorney General's Office of the Republic.

CONADIC's OMSMCD and the FGR have the allocation of financial and human resources to carry out their functions. The OMSMCD's budget is integrated into the budget of the Ministry of Health, and the budget of the FGR comes from the national budget assigned in Branch 49. However, there is no breakdown of these budget allocations.

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.

Mexico has established and maintained working relationships with academic and research institutions. In this regard, there are ties with the National Council of Humanities, Science and Technology (CONAHCYT), which is the Mexican government institution responsible for establishing public policies on humanities, science, technology and innovation throughout the country. There have also been ties with the Institutes of Health, such as the National Institute of Public Health and the National Institute of Psychiatry.

The country works together with the aforementioned academic and research institutions, in order to exchange experiences, best practices, publications and technology transfer in drug demand reduction, public health promotion and social well-being.

In this sense, the Health Sector relies on the CONAHCYT and the National Institute of Public Health for the development of open innovation projects with social impact in the country, adding capabilities, resources and infrastructure to act in a coordinated manner in the execution of research projects, in the training of human talent, in networking and in the dissemination of knowledge through calls and inclusive programs to address national priority problems or studies on the prevalence of consumption of drugs in the entities of the country, as is the case of the "Report on the situation of drug consumption in Mexico and its comprehensive attention 2019",

which refers to the general situation of drug consumption in Mexico and describes the actions that are implemented in supply control and demand reduction; the professional practices carried out by social service practitioners from the National Autonomous University of Mexico or the National Institute of Criminal Sciences in the areas of information; the inter-institutional meeting programs on mental health and addictions of the Ministry of Health and the Agreement DOF-13-04-2022 by which the Ministry of Health, through the Federal Commission for the Protection against Health Risks (COFEPRIS), resumes the powers of control and health promotion regarding chemical precursors, essential chemicals and medicines that are or contain narcotics.

Mexico has carried out studies on the drug problem through academic and research institutions. In this regard, the various agencies have partnerships with universities, specialized research centers, non-governmental organizations (NGO), and other academic and research institutions to gather information that can be analyzed to generate scientific knowledge. Thus, the Juvenile Integration Centers, A.C. (CIJ) have a research program covering five areas: epidemiological, evaluative, clinical, psychosocial, and support for program planning.

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

Mexico has developed and adopted quantitative and qualitative methodologies and information-gathering mechanisms that allow for the comparison of data among countries. Accordingly, quantitative methodologies are applied through national surveys to estimate the prevalence of consumption. Data collection is done by gathering information on substance users in treatment centers, emergency, hospital discharges, and mortality related to substance use.

The country has also conducted drug use surveys applying a national methodology harmonized with the Inter-American Uniform Drug Use Data System (SIDUC). In that sense, the National Addictions Surveys have used harmonized methodologies.

Likewise, Mexico has utilized 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 information.

The country has not carried out studies using methods that are non-representative of the population or qualitative methodologies to obtain information on drugs that can be shared with other countries that have conducted studies with similar methodologies.

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

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

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

CONADIC's OMSMCD has a national drug information network (DIN), which interacts through the following means:

Means	Yes	No	Frequency
Meetings	X		Semiannually (or as needed)
Document exchange	X		Annually
Others: Epidemiological reports of CIJ	X		Semi-annually

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 cooperation organizations	X	

The DIN publishes a periodic report.

Mexico has an early warning system (EWS) to identify new psychoactive substances (NPS) and other emerging drug-related threats. The EWS shares information, alerts, and reports with the Early Warning System of the Americas (SATA).

The EWS has a mechanism to share information in real time.

The following stakeholders participate in the EWS:

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

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

CONADIC's OMSMCD carries out training sessions with local stakeholders to enhance data collection and management.

CONADIC's OMSMCD convenes meetings and other workshops where the results of studies and other data collection 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.

Mexico has not established forums that allow drug researchers to present their findings to policymakers.

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

The OMSMCD promotes and disseminates best practices and the exchange of successful experiences in research among member states through a strengthening project, which has exchange mechanisms such as internships, seminars and workshops involving other national drug observatories.

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.

Mexico has carried out and published the following demand reduction studies:

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

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

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

Modalities and interventions	Yes	No
Community-based services	X	
Screening, brief interventions and referral to treatment	X	
Medication-assisted treatment	X	

Short-term outpatient or residential treatment	X	
Outpatient treatment	X	
Long-term outpatient or residential treatment	X	
Recovery management	X	

Information on patients treated is collected from the following institutions:

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

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

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

Scope	Are evaluation studies carried out?		Title of the study and assessment year
	Yes	No	
Prevention	X		Evaluation of the prevention program "Development of Competencies with Youth" (2020) Application of R. Lerner's model of socio-emotional competencies with secondary school students (2020) Evaluation of the 2017 - 2020 prevention program "Competency Development with Youth" Outcome evaluation of a hybrid program for the prevention of <i>bullying</i> , addictions, and reluctance to attend school (<i>desapego escolar</i>) (2020)
Treatment	X		Evaluation of the 2019 outpatient treatment program (2019) Evaluation of the 2018- 2019 Inpatient Treatment Program Outcome Evaluation of the Day Center Intensive Outpatient Program (2020) Evaluation of distance cognitive-behavioral therapy projects during COVID 19 (2022) Online family therapy in the context of COVID 19 (2022) Evaluation of the Program for Treatment of Substance Users at Odds with the Law (2022) Outpatient Hybrid Treatment Program Outcome Evaluation (2022)

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

Program evaluated	Title of the evaluation performed	Year of publication of research findings	Year of program evaluation
-Prevention program with parents -Evaluation of the E025 budget program "Prevention and Handling of Addictions"	-Evaluation of the quality and findings of the prevention program with parents -Performance Evaluation System	Unpublished: Internal distribution reports	2019 2022
On-line prevention interventions AMBAR universal prevention program for parents	Process evaluation of on-line prevention interventions Evaluation of an on-line universal prevention program for parents	Unpublished: Internal distribution reports	2021 2021
"Socioemocionante" online prevention intervention program	Process evaluation of the "Socioemocionante" online prevention intervention program	Unpublished: Internal distribution reports	2021
Group Psychoeducational Intervention	Process Evaluation of a Psychoeducational Group Intervention	Unpublished: Internal distribution reports	2020
Distance Cognitive-behavioral therapy during COVID-19	Evaluation of distance cognitive-behavioral therapy projects during COVID-19	Unpublished: Internal distribution reports	2020

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

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

Programs/ Services	Mechanisms in place to continuously monitor and evaluate results		Name of the mechanisms
	Yes	No	
Care	X		Matrix of indicators for results of the E025 budget program "Prevention and Handling of Addictions"
Treatment	X		
Rehabilitation	X		
Recovery and social integration	X		

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.

Mexico has mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs. The Ministry of National Defense (SEDENA), the Ministry of the Navy (SEMAR), the Ministry of Public Security (SSPC), the National Guard (GN), and the state Attorney General’s offices and delegations participate in these mechanisms, within the framework of the National Effort Coordination Group (*Grupo de Coordinación del Esfuerzo Nacional*).

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

Reduction of supply, trafficking and related crimes			
Information	Available information		Year of most recent information
	Yes	No	
Quantification of illicit crop cultivation including crops grown indoors	X		2019-2020
Number of seizures of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production	X		2023
Quantities of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production seized	X		2023
Number of seizures of chemicals and controlled substances (precursors)	X		2023
Quantities of seized controlled chemical substances (precursors)	X		2023
Number of seizures of pharmaceutical products	X		2023
Quantities of seized pharmaceutical products	X		2023
Number of persons formally charged with drug use, possession, and trafficking	X		2023
Number of persons convicted of drug use, possession, and trafficking	X		2023
Number of laboratories producing illicit plant-based drugs detected and dismantled	X		2023
Number of laboratories producing illicit drugs of synthetic origin, detected and dismantled	X		2023
Chemical composition of seized drugs	X		2023
Sale price of drugs (for consumers)	X		2023
Number of persons formally charged with money laundering	X		2023

Reduction of supply, trafficking and related crimes			
Information	Available information		Year of most recent information
	Yes	No	
Number of persons convicted of money laundering	X		2023
Number of persons formally charged with trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition, and related materials	X		2023
Number of persons convicted of trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition, and related materials	X		2023
Number of persons formally charged with diversion of chemical substances	X		2023
Number of persons convicted of diversion of chemical substances	X		2023

Mexico carries out the following periodic studies and research on the drug market for illicit drugs:

Type of study	Title of report	Year of publication
Supply Reduction	Opium poppy crop monitoring in Mexico (2018-2019)	2021
Supply Reduction	Opium poppy crop monitoring in Mexico (2019-2020)	2022

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

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

Mexico collects information for the development of studies on drug prices, purity and concentration, and chemical profile of drugs.

The country conducts chemical characterization and tests of purity for substances that may or may not be subject to international control.

Mexico has mechanisms through which substances that have been identified as not under international control can be placed under control. In this regard, the country has implemented a watch list, which allows the monitoring of dual-use substances, and which is supported by two main laws, the General Health Law and the Federal Law for the Control of Chemical Precursors, Essential Chemicals, and Machines for the Manufacture of Capsules, Tablets, and/or Pills.

The Watch List is an inter-institutional monitoring mechanism derived from the need to strengthen efforts to combat and limit the criminal market for the production of synthetic drugs in Mexico; in addition to providing a tool that allows strengthening the actions of the ministerial authority (Public Prosecutor’s Office) when dealing with substances that are not listed in the Law.

The CSG CCC agreement 1/10.03.2022 establishes that the General Health Council, after a favorable opinion from the agencies in charge of executing the mechanism, will determine by means of an agreement that must be published in the Official Gazette of the Federation, the addition or deletion of chemical substances from the Watch List.

Likewise, the Watch List has been conceived with the intention of allowing the identification of new patterns and trends in the production of synthetic drugs in the country; in addition to the use of new chemical precursors used in the manufacturing processes of drugs such as methamphetamine or fentanyl.

For the inclusion of substances and their regulation, the Law on Chemical Precursors establishes in its article 5 that the Ministry of Health, after a favorable opinion from the agencies, will determine by agreement that must be published in the Official Gazette of the Federation, the addition or deletion of chemical precursors or essential chemical products that will be subject to or excluded from the application of this Law, considering the importance, need and diversity of their legal use in health and industry in general, as well as the cost involved in their regulation, the frequency with which they are used in the manufacture of synthetic drugs, and the volume of synthetic drugs produced with the substances in question and the seriousness of the problem in public safety and public health, as well as its repercussions on the environment and economy due to the costs it causes, and its impact on the international level.

The regulations of the aforementioned Law say that the business chambers may propose the additions or deletions of precursors or essential chemical products that will be subject to or excluded from the application of the Law, with a detailed statement of the reasons why the addition, deletion, determination or modification is proposed.

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 Mexico, the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic (FGR) is responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances (NPS), and is part of the national early warning system (EWS) and the national drug information network (DIN).

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

Implements or participates in the program	Type of Training	Targeted Institutions	Year when training was last done
Participates	Information Sharing on Fentanyl and Methamphetamine Trends and Seizures	General Coordination of Expert Services (CGSP) and the Federal Ministerial Police (PFM), Ministry of the Navy (SEMAR), Ministry of National Defense (SEDENA)	2023
Participates	Strengthening the Mexican Observatory of Mental Health and Drug Consumption (OMSMCD) on Monitoring, Research and Drug Information Networks	National Commission against Addictions (CONADIC), CGSP and PFM	2023
Participates	Strengthening the Mexican Observatory of Mental Health and Drug Consumption (OMSMCD) on Early Warning Systems (SAT) and Emerging Drugs	CONADIC, CGSP and PFM, SEMAR, SEDENA	2023
Participates	“Exchange of Information between the Scientific Community for Narcotic Chemical Emergencies (SCIENCE)” within the framework of the North American Drug Policy Dialogue, (NADD) United States and Canada	Chemical forensic laboratories of the United States, Canada and Mexico	2023
Participates	Information session on equipment used for the illicit manufacture of drugs and article 13 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988	Authorities responsible for establishing the type of control, from the countries subscribed to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)	2023
Participates	Exchange of information of forensic chemists on Profiling of Heroin and Cocaine and Associated Chemical Substances	CGSP and PFM, CONADIC, SEMAR, SEDENA	2023

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.

Mexico’s DIN relies on standardized indicators for the collection of data on drug supply.

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

OBJECTIVE

4

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

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

For the eighth round of evaluation of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), Mexico collected information on the implementation of the 2021-2025 Hemispheric Drug Action Plan 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, Mexico designated delegates for the following MEM groups, thereby actively participating in 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.

Mexico 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.

Mexico has promoted the analysis of the findings of the MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies for national institutions to identify areas where technical assistance is needed to improve national drug policies and programs. In this regard, the promotional activities carried out in the seventh MEM round were the forwarding of the presentation and mailing of the information and the findings.

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

Mexico has reviewed the MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies and identified opportunities to increase cooperation and partnerships with other member states and share best practices and lessons learned (horizontal cooperation). In this regard, an analysis was conducted of the recommendations to be followed to improve the quality of the information. In this sense, the formulation of the Integrated Information System model began, with the purpose of optimizing, improving and deepening criminal investigation and reducing impunity, monitoring and linking priority issues. It is a control mechanism, whose quality principles ensure the establishment of stable procedures that allow the comparability and usefulness of the information, which favors the understanding of the phenomenon being studied, also guaranteeing confidentiality, integrity and availability of the information. This system of validated, complete and comprehensive data can be used to deliver solid and robust reports.

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.

Mexico develops and implements a plan for the promotion and strengthening of technical assistance and horizontal cooperation among member states and with states outside of the Western Hemisphere, and with relevant international and regional organizations, and related initiatives and programs. The country participated actively in the following activities:

- 62nd session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which took place in Vienna, Austria, on March 14 -15, 2019
- International Conference entitled International cooperation in aligning drug policies with the Sustainable Development Goals (*Cooperación Internacional para alinear las políticas en materia de drogas a las Metas de Desarrollo Sostenible*), held in Mexico City, on October 30-31, 2019, (event organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, jointly with the Cooperation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Drug Trafficking of the Council of Europe - Pompidou Group)
- 84th Meeting of Permanent Correspondents of the Pompidou Group, held in Lisbon, Portugal, on May 27-June 1, 2019. During the meeting, a visit was made to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)
- Lisbon Conference on Addictions, held in Lisbon, Portugal, on October 23-25, 2019 (at the invitation of the European Union)
- 85th Meeting of Permanent Correspondents of the Pompidou Group, held in Strasbourg, France, on November 20-21, 2019
- 63rd Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held in Vienna, Austria, March 2-6, 2020
- XXII High Level Meeting of the CELAC-EU Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs (MCCMD), held in Zagreb, Croatia, on April 2-3, 2020 (Mexico participated in its capacity as President of the MCCMD)
- International Seminar entitled "Antidrug policies: prevention of drug phenomena and fight against drug international routes. Cooperation Strategies in the fight against drug trafficking", held in Italy, on February 20-21, 2020
- 86th Meeting of Permanent Correspondents of the Pompidou Group held in Strasbourg, France, on June 3, 2020
- 87th Meeting of Permanent Correspondents of the Pompidou Group held in Strasbourg, France, on November 19, 2020
- 64th Regular Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held in Vienna, Austria, on April 12-16, 2021

- 88th Meeting of Permanent Correspondents of the Pompidou Group held on June 29-30, 2021
- 30th Meeting of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Latin America and the Caribbean, held on September 24, 2021
- 89th Meeting of Permanent Correspondents of the Pompidou Group, held on October 27, 2021
- 65th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held in Vienna, Austria, on March 14-18, 2022
- 90th Meeting of Permanent Correspondents of the Pompidou Group held on May 17, 2022
- 31st Meeting of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Latin America and the Caribbean (HONLAC), held in Guatemala City, on October 3-7, 2022
- 91st Permanent Correspondents Meeting and 18th Ministerial Meeting of the Pompidou Group, held in Lisbon, Portugal, on December 13-14, 2022

The country has established secure communication channels for the exchange of intelligence on drug interdiction and control through the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic (FGR). In this sense, there are different effective mechanisms for the exchange of intelligence between the FGR and its counterparts in other countries through secure or encrypted emails, also through the appointment of public servants as links or contact points, these channels being secure. The FGR mainly participates in the following information exchange spaces, with the following specific purposes:

- North American Drug Policy Dialogue (NADD) for Mexico, Canada and the United States to promote the exchange of information on trends in the criminal drug market and to develop actions to limit the transfer of illicit substances in the region
- Project “Information Exchange among the Scientific Community for Narcotic Chemical Emergencies (SCIENCE)”, within the framework of the NADD. This is a forum intended for the exchange of intelligence information for the closed and exclusive use of the members. The members – judicial authorities, scientists, toxicologists, forensics and other professionals from each country - share information derived from the results obtained on forensic laboratories in order to maintain a communication mechanism to analyze the latest trends in the transfer of drugs, concealment techniques and new detection techniques, as well as the emergence of more recent or re-emerging drugs that are trafficked, consumed or reported in toxicological examinations and/or autopsies
- Network of Ibero-American Anti-Drug Prosecutors (RFAI) of the Ibero-American Association of Public Ministries (AIAMP), with the objective of promoting the exchange of information related to investigations with a transnational element, as well as to identify good practices and share information about any phenomenon related to drug trafficking, new routes, substance trafficking methodology or new substances that are the object of the crime. This forum includes intelligence information that, due to its sensitive nature, cannot be disclosed and cannot be prosecuted

Mexico promotes the exchange with member states and with states outside of the Western Hemisphere, and with relevant international and regional organizations, of best practices in

training, specialization, and professional development of the staff responsible for implementing its national drug policies and strategies. In this regard, in relation to the information exchange referred to, in the period from January 1, 2019, to January 31, 2023, the country participated in various training sessions, conferences, seminars, and summits, such as:

- **2019**

- **36th International Drug Control Conference (IDEC)** held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on April 11-19, to exchange information on the use of existing innovative methods in the fight against illicit drug trafficking
- **"Desert Snow" training workshop** held in Summersville, West Virginia, United States, on April 23-27, which addressed issues related to combating the opioid epidemic, as well as indicators of criminal activity and identification methods (detection of suspicious behavior)
- **Third Exchange of Experts on the Handling of Hazardous Materials including Fentanyl** held in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, on June 5-6, with the purpose of learning about the handling of hazardous materials such as fentanyl
- **24th Multilateral Maritime Counterdrug Summit** held in Alexandria, Virginia, United States, on June 18-19, to address presentations on the prosecution of investigation files, drug seizures, and arrests in maritime interdictions
- **HITS Seminar** held in Chicago, Illinois, United States, on August 13-17, which addressed issues related to canine units for drug detection
- **Canine Instructor Course**, which was held in Orlando, Florida, United States, on October 13-December 7, in order for participants to obtain certification and accreditation by the National Association of Narcotics Detection Dogs based in the United States
- **International maritime workshop** held in Costa Rica, on October 28-31, to strengthen and maintain the dialogue between maritime and justice authorities on issues related to illicit drug trafficking from South America to Mexico
- **Course "Control of Drug Offences"** held in Japan, August 25-September 11, with a view to exchanging experiences and best practices on the drug problem and strengthening investigative and police capacities to address this problem

- **2022**

- **Seminar "Sources and Routes of Methamphetamine and Synthetic Drugs in the South Pacific"** held in Los Angeles, California, United States, on May 11-13, to bring together representatives from Central America, North America, the South Pacific, and France, derived from the flow of narcotics between those regions, and to identify areas of technical and operational cooperation
- **Basic Course on Clandestine and Level "A" High Risk Laboratories (High Risks of Fentanyl)**, held in Los Angeles, California, United States, July 31-August 13, to provide basic training for seizing clandestine laboratories, as well as the use of special suits for high-risk clandestine laboratories
- **Basic Course on Clandestine and Level "A" High Risk Laboratories (High Risks of Fentanyl)**, held in Los Angeles, California, United States, October 30-November 12, to

provide basic training for the seizing of clandestine laboratories, as well as the use of special suits for high-risk clandestine laboratories

In the specific case of the National Commission against Addictions (CONADIC), it serves as the national focal point for COPOLAD, with which it has been carrying out activities to comply with COPOLAD's work program, in accordance with Mexico's specific needs for strengthening the Mexican Observatory on Mental Health and Drug Consumption (OMSMCD), the National Addiction Prevention Strategy "Together for Peace", and to provide support for the preparation of a study on trends in the consumption of opioids in Mexico using the methodology of the EMCDDA, in addition to the participation of Mexican experts in the regional face-to-face and online meetings promoted by COPOLAD. As regards Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID) serves as implementer of the Project for the Strengthening of the Mexican Observatory on Mental Health and Drug Consumption, between the Secretariat of Health of Mexico and the Organization of American States (OAS). CICAD has also provided support for Mexican experts to participate in activities organized by this agency. With the Pompidou Group, Mexican experts have been participating, inter alia, in meetings and in projects such as "children whose parents use drugs", as well as in the study of books on the subject.

At the bilateral level, the Bicentennial Understanding on Security, Public Health, and Safe Communities was established between Mexico and the United States, as a comprehensive framework to guide binational actions in the pursuit of security, health, and development for our societies. This Framework incorporates each country's security priorities, with an emphasis on addressing violence through a justice- and intelligence-driven response to organized crime and based on effective law enforcement cooperation. It also includes a public health and development approach as part of a comprehensive cooperation strategy between the two countries, for a safer and more prosperous region.

This Framework points to cooperation by the United States Government in managing the following projects: Strengthening of the Mexican Observatory of Mental Health and Consumption of Psychoactive Substances (Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) - CICAD); Policy Makers Training (INL-United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime - UNODC), and the Community Coalitions and Addiction Counselors projects. Binational panels of experts on substance use are held periodically by CONADIC and the Health Attaché's Office of the United States Embassy in Mexico.

Likewise, cooperation with the United Kingdom has been consolidated through technical exchanges between experts from that country and Mexico in the areas of mental health and substance abuse.

A high-level health dialogue has been established with the Kingdom of Denmark, with face-to-face meetings in both countries resulting in a bilateral program that is being developed in 2023.

With Colombia, a Technical Exchange Group has been established with the Ministry of Health,

which will address, among other issues, mental health and substance use and reforms of the health system.

At the multilateral level, Mexico participates with the United States and Canada in the NADD, aimed at improving trilateral coordination and convening annual meetings in each country to exchange information on trends in the consumption of psychoactive substances, including the use of opioids, and to discuss each country's approach to addressing the consumption problem, as well as their public health perspectives.

Mexico also participates in the various regional drug forums. In the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Mexico participates in each session as a speaker in both the general debate and in matters relating to compliance with the 2019 Action Plan to Counter the Drug Phenomenon. In CICAD, CONADIC participates in its sessions, generally as head of the Mexican Delegation. In 2021 it served as Vice-Chair of the Expert Group on Demand Reduction and in 2022 as its Chair. In addition, Mexico has contributed information requested by both the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and UNODC for the preparation of their respective reports.

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 Federal Ministerial Police (PFM), through the General Directorate of International Police Affairs and INTERPOL (DGAPII), carries out institutional and inter-agency coordination through participation in INTERPOL Projects and Operations at the international and regional level. These are carried out by the General Secretariat of the international organization, with the DGAPII, in its capacity as the INTERPOL National Central Bureau in Mexico, acting as the liaison and National Coordinator to ensure the participation of Federal and State institutions in the country.

Particularly noteworthy are Operation Thunder 2022 against crimes affecting the environment, coordinated by the PFM with the Ministry of the Navy (SEMAR), Customs, and the Federal Prosecutor's Office for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA); and Operation *Turquesa* IV to combat the smuggling of migrants, human trafficking, and other related crimes, coordinated by the DGAPII in conjunction with the National Institute on Migration (INM), the National Guard (GN), and units of the FGR.

Through the Directorate of Liaison and International Police Cooperation, a Purple Notice issued by the INTERPOL General Secretariat was circulated regarding the modus operandi of arms trafficking by postal mail, to National Center for Planning, Analysis and Information to Combat Crime (CENAPI), Specialized Attorney General's Office for Organized Crime (FEMDO), and PFM in the FGR.

In Mexico, there are bilateral mechanisms for coordination and collaboration focused on the dismantling of criminal groups linked to illicit drug trafficking and related crimes. In this sense, Mexico has concluded bilateral cooperation instruments with Guatemala, Costa Rica, the United Kingdom, Belize, Canada, Ecuador, Cuba, Bolivia, Peru, Nicaragua, Panama, Uruguay, Brazil,

China, the European Community, the Philippines, Paraguay, Dominican Republic, Italy, Poland, Netherlands, as well as with agencies such as Interpol, Europol, among others. These mechanisms are used when countries or agencies request it.

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

Mexico 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. In this regard, information is shared regarding seizures of precursors and drugs, along with the exchange of information related to nationals detained abroad and foreigners detained in national territory, comparative reports on the drug situation, and information on mental health and addictions with the aforementioned actors.

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

Mexico promotes the dissemination of good practices and the exchange of successful research experiences among and between member states and international organizations on drug policies. Accordingly, the FGR regularly participates in forums in which it exchanges best practices, experiences, and achievements related to the fight against the global drug problem, in line with national legislation, as well as to different international instruments on the subject.

Regarding the period from January 1, 2019, to January 31, 2023, the FGR, through a number of experts in the field, has participated in international face-to-face meetings organized by the CICAD/OAS, INCB, Pompidou Group and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Following is a brief description of those meetings:

- 2019
 - **North American Drug Policy Dialogue (NADD)** Mexico, Canada, and the United States of America promote the exchange of information and best practices, statistics, drug studies, and training, with the aim of coordinating actions to address this phenomenon in a comprehensive manner in the region
- 2020
 - **CICAD/OAS Meeting of the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products**, held in virtual format on October 14. Best practices on the control of precursor chemicals were exchanged
 - **INCB Meeting on the implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988**, held on November 11, in which the FGR explained that, in line with Article 12, Mexico has

legislation for the control and enforcement of criminal law measures that in turn are included in applicable national instruments, such as the Federal Law on Precursor Chemicals, Essential Chemicals, and Machines to Manufacture Capsules, Tablets, and/or Pills, the General Health Law, and the Federal Criminal Code

It was also reported that the Mexican government uses the tools provided by the INCB to prevent diversion, as well as to optimize the regulation of new precursors, the identification of the use of non-regulated substances, and international alerts and rapprochement with the chemical industry, in order to improve multisectoral coordination

- **Virtual Meeting of the INCB Expert Group on Trafficking in Dangerous Substances through Freight Transport Services**, which was held from November 30 to December 11 via videoconference, to exchange best practices and lessons learned regarding the response to the increase in cases of trafficking in controlled substances through transport and parcel services
- **13th Meeting of the Precursors Network of the Pompidou Group**, held on December 17 in virtual format, which promoted the exchange of best practices on the reduction of illicit drug trafficking, the prevention of pre-precursor abuse, new trends and risk assessment, improved control and risk management and profiling
- 2021
 - **36th Meeting of the Airport Group of the Pompidou Group**, held on June 15 via videoconference, provided a forum for dialogue on challenges and operational practices related to the development of tools and systems to improve drug detection
 - **INCB 4th Expert Group Meeting on Trafficking in Dangerous Synthetic Opioids, Fentanyl, and Precursors by mail, express mail, courier services, and air cargo**, which took place from August 30 to September 3, where national experts shared their experiences of law enforcement in connection with the current situation of trafficking of non-controlled substances by mail, courier services, and cargo
 - **2nd INCB Expert Meeting on Substances Related to Fentanyl and Dangerous Emerging Synthetic Opioids with No Known Legitimate Use**, held on September 7-9, via videoconference, within the framework of the Global Rapid Interdiction of Dangerous Substances (GRIDS) Programme and the Operational Partnerships to Interdict Opioids' Illicit Distribution and Sales (OPIOIDS) Project to exchange lessons learned on the use and improvement of the list of fentanyl and related substances for recognized non-medical and non-industrial purposes
 - **INCB Expert meeting on national practices related to cooperation activities with the chemical industry for the identification of precursors and non-scheduled chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs**, which was held in virtual format on December 2, to share best practices and experiences on new trends, detection, and investigative measures, in order to promote dialogue to strengthen actions to reduce illicit drug trafficking
 - **Side event on the Project "Illicit Crop Monitoring System in the Mexican Territory-MEXK54"** held in a virtual format within the framework of the 64th Regular Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, to share best practice information regarding the achievements of the project and its progress in generating evidence and scientific data for a better understanding of trends in poppy planting and production

- Several successful experiences and good practices were also presented in connection with the activities of the OMSMCD in relation to the projects carried out in collaboration with the OID and COPOLAD

OBJECTIVE
2**STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AS DEFINED IN THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS RELATED TO THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM, MAINTAINING RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.****Priority Action 2.1: Strengthen regional and international cooperation by competent authorities to investigate and prosecute criminals on drug-related offenses.**

The competent authorities of Mexico carry out cooperation activities at the regional and international level to investigate and prosecute criminals for drug-related offenses. In this regard, the Federal Ministerial Police (PFM), through the General Directorate of International Police Affairs and INTERPOL (DGAPII), publishes red, blue, and purple notices, including the publication of the Purple Notice with Control Number P-1046/11-2020, regarding the Use of the Chemical Precursor 4 Piperidone Monohydrate Hydrochloride in the production of fentanyl, illustrating a synthesis route, in order to alert countries to the illicit use of the aforementioned substance, which is licitly used in chemistry for organic synthesis of medicines.

At the national level, in collaboration with the INTERPOL General Secretariat, through the Regional Bureau for Central America based in San Salvador, El Salvador, the National Central Bureau (NCB) coordinated participation in Regional Operations against drug trafficking such as Diamond V (Year 2020), Diamond VI (Year 2021), Diamond VII (Year 2022). In addition, constant communication is maintained with the INTERPOL General Secretariat for the exchange of information on relevant drug seizures.

The country takes human rights into account when carrying out these activities through the Mexican legal system. It is the obligation of all public servants to respect the human rights set forth in Article 1, third paragraph of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States (CPEUM).

In the quest for justice and in accordance with the powers of the Attorney General's Office (FGR), respect for human rights is one of the principles on which the PFM bases its actions, as established in Article 4 of the Law of the Attorney General's Office (LFGR).

Likewise, Article 47, Section I of the LFGR states that it is the obligation of public servants of the Attorney General's Office to always conduct themselves in accordance with the law and respect for human rights.

Also, on May 23, 2022, Agreement A/OIC/002/2022 was published in the Official Gazette of the Federation (DOF), which issued the "Code of Ethics for Public Servants of the Attorney General's Office and the Rules of Integrity for the Prosecution of Justice", Article 7, paragraph i) of which stipulates that respect for human rights is one of the obligations of all public servants in the FGR.

The personnel of the PFM, as a law enforcement institution, when carrying out their duties, must ensure compliance and respect for the human rights of detainees, as well as compliance with established procedures and protocols for action, considering that such persons and the

environment surrounding them are especially vulnerable to rights violations.

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.

Mexico carries out activities to strengthen regional and international cooperation to facilitate, where appropriate, mutual legal assistance, extradition, and transfer of proceedings, in accordance with international legal instruments, when investigating and prosecuting criminals on drug-related offenses. In this regard, the PFM, through the DGAPII, maintains a constant exchange of information for police investigations with INTERPOL member countries. Moreover, Mexico has signed various bilateral mechanisms in matters of public security, legal assistance in criminal matters, extradition, execution of criminal sentences, organized crime, drug trafficking, and prevention of tax evasion. Likewise, Mexico has a National Code of Criminal Procedures (CNPP) that provides a special section on international legal assistance in criminal matters, and the International Extradition Law (LEI) for the processing and resolution of extradition requests by other States.

On the other hand, the country has signed various international treaties to combat drug trafficking and related crimes, such as the Palermo Convention, the Protocol against the illicit trafficking of migrants by land, sea and air, which complements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime of 2000, and the Protocol to prevent, repress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children. Additionally, Mexico has signed extradition agreements for crimes related to illicit drug trafficking and related crimes with the following countries: Belgium, Belize, Canada, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, India, Venezuela, Ecuador, Greece, Uruguay, Australia, Argentina, Bolivia, Republic of Korea, Costa Rica, Cuba, Colombia, Nicaragua, Portugal, Peru, Panama, Paraguay, Brazil, United States of America, Costa Rica, Chile, Spain, People's Republic of China, Italy, United Kingdom and Ireland. In turn, the Mexican State has signed bilateral extradition treaties with several other countries with an open clause, that is, they do not contain a catalog of crimes that motivate extradition, so they can be applied to any international extradition request.

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.

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

	Enacted	Adopted	Name of the legislation/administrative measures or actions
Legislative Actions/Measures	X		"Code of Ethics for Public Servants of the Attorney General's Office of the Republic and the Rules of Integrity for the Pursuit of Justice"
Administrative Actions/Measures			

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

Mexico has ratified or acceded to the following international legal instruments:

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

EVALUATIVE SUMMARY

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

Objective 1

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

CICAD notes with satisfaction that Mexico has 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 integrated with the budget of several government agencies. Moreover, CICAD notes that Mexico 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 Mexico 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 Mexico has fully 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 its 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, Mexico has a specific and ongoing program to transfer funds or finance drug initiatives or projects implemented by sub-national/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 Mexico 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 Mexico 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 Mexico 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 Mexico 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 Mexico 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 Mexico'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 Mexico 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 that Mexico 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. However, CICAD notes that the country does not promote legal reforms regarding proportional sentencing for minor drug-related offenses.

RESEARCH, INFORMATION, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION**Objective 1**

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

CICAD notes that Mexico has two institutions that fulfill the functions of a National Drug Observatory (NDO), which were created through a legal basis and have been assigned financial and human resources to carry out their 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 Mexico 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 national drug information networks for the collection, analysis, and reporting of national drug related data and information. However, the country has not conducted studies that use methods that are non-representative of the population to obtain information on drugs that can be shared with other countries that have carried out studies with similar methodologies. On the other hand,

CICAD observes that one of the institutions that fulfills the functions of an observatory in Mexico has a national drug information network (DIN), which interacts through meetings and document exchanges, and publishes a periodic report. Also, the country has an early warning system (EWS) to identify NPS or other emerging drug-related threats, which shares information, alerts, and reports with the Early Warning System of the Americas (SATA), and has a mechanism to share information in real time. Additionally, CICAD notes that one of the institutions that fulfills the functions of an observatory in the country 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. Nevertheless, CICAD observes that Mexico has not established forums that allow drug researchers to present their findings to policymakers. On the other hand, CICAD notes that one of the institutions that fulfills the functions of an observatory in the country 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 Mexico has carried out and published three 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 Mexico has conducted studies to evaluate treatment and prevention programs and interventions, as well as process and intermediate outcome evaluations. However, the country has not conducted impact evaluations of these programs. On the other hand, Mexico has a mechanism 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 Mexico 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. Additionally, the country carries out periodic studies on the drug market for illicit drugs but not on the medical and scientific uses and other legal use of narcotics or psychotropic substances, subject to the international control system. CICAD observes that Mexico 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 Mexico has an agency that is responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances, and is part of the national early warning system (EWS) and the national drug information network (DIN). Additionally, the country implements and participates in periodic training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of these substances. CICAD observes that Mexico's DIN relies on standardized indicators for the collection of data on drug supply and that the country participates in training activities for DIN stakeholders to improve and strengthen the mechanisms that are needed for the collection and exchange of information on drug supply.

Objective 4

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

CICAD notes that, for the eighth round of evaluation of the MEM, Mexico 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 Mexico did not carry out periodic activities to promote and raise awareness of the MEM Drug Policy Evaluation Reports aimed at national institutions. On the other hand, CICAD observes that the country has promoted the analysis of the findings of MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies for national institutions to identify areas where technical assistance is needed to improve national drug-related policies and programs. Additionally, CICAD notes that Mexico has reviewed the MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies and identified opportunities to increase cooperation and partnerships with other member states or share best practices and lessons learned (horizontal cooperation).

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Objective 1

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

CICAD notes that Mexico 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, Mexico 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, Mexico 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 Mexico promotes the dissemination of good practices or the exchange of successful research experiences among and between member states and international organizations on drug policies.

Objective 2

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

CICAD notes with satisfaction that the competent authorities of Mexico carry out cooperative activities at the regional and international levels to investigate and prosecute criminals for drug-related offenses. Moreover, CICAD observed 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 Mexico has enacted, during the evaluation period (2019-2023), one legislative measure 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)
INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)**

1889 F Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20006
www.cicad.oas.org