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MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

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

Guyana

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

2023



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Evaluation Report on Drug Policies:

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EIGHTH EVALUATION ROUND

2023

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PREFACE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

OBJECTIVE

1

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

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

Guyana has the Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit (CANU) as the national drug authority, which was established in 1995 and is a law enforcement body positioned within the government administrative structure under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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.

Guyana’s national drug authority has a legal basis, through Section 22A of the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act, Cap. 10:10, which gives the Commissioner General of the Revenue Authority the power to authorize the CANU.

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

In Guyana there is an annual budget for the national drug authority, which is independent. The amount of the annual budget of the national drug authority for the years 2019-2023 is listed below:

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Annual budget amount (in US Dollars)	\$1,516,802	\$1,943,153	\$2,080,301	\$2,188,593	\$3,050,835

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.

Guyana has an ongoing coordination and collaboration mechanism among agencies and other levels of government (national and sub-national) to formulate, implement, monitor, evaluate, and update national drug policies and strategies.

The country's National Drug Strategy Master Plan (NDSMP) 2022-2026 directs the country's efforts to combat the drug problem. It was established in a collaborative process involving

numerous stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organizations, and international partners.

The CANU coordinates all national anti-drug initiatives, and oversees the implementation of programs highlighted in the National Drug Strategy Master Plan, while the Guyana Drug Information Network (GUYDIN) is responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the implemented programs.

At the sub-national level, GUYDIN works in partnership with regional and local government authorities, including the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, community-based groups, and other agencies and numerous other organizations, both governmental and non to develop drug prevention and treatment programs.

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

OBJECTIVE
2

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

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

The Guyana Drug Information Network (GUYDIN) collects and uses evidence as a basis for formulating and updating national drug policies and/or strategies. GUYDIN collects data from various agencies, examines and analyzes the data, and drafts and publishes the network report. The finding highlighted in this document is examined further when GUYDIN holds quarterly meetings with stakeholders representing supply reduction and demand reduction. This encourages discussions, examinations, and the creation of proposed policies, which are submitted to the Drug Oversighting Committee for review.

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 Guyana, the following relevant actors from the priority areas are involved in the development, implementation, and update of national drug policies and strategies:

Relevant actors	Development	Implementation	Evaluation	Update
Health Ministry	X	X		x
Interior Ministry	X	X		x
Justice Ministry	X	X		x
Education Ministry	X	X		x
Regional and/or local governments	X	X		x
Scientific community/academia				x
Civil society	X	X		x
Private sector				x
Others: - Ministry of Human Services and Social Security	X	X		x

There are no relevant actors involved in the evaluation of these policies and strategies.

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

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

The country's national drug authority does not have, in its central structure, an office or operational unit to promote, coordinate, train, or provide technical support to local or sub-national governments or agencies on drug-related issues.

Guyana's national drug authority does not 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 country does not have a specific and ongoing mechanism or program to transfer funds or finance drug initiatives or projects carried out by municipalities or local governments.

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

Guyana engages private sector entities that provide treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration services to develop innovative approaches in the implementation of drug policies and exchange information and best practices. In this sense, the National Drug Strategy Master Plan (NDSMP) 2022-2026 has highlighted several areas within the private sector for development.

The innovative approaches developed are the following:

Phoenix Recovery Project

- The Expansion of inpatient capacity at the Phoenix Recovery Project, aimed at increasing the patient intake capacity
- Increase housing/residential capacity
- Increase the number of trained staff to deliver treatment at the facility
- The optimization of the package of services offered at the Phoenix Recovery Project, with the inclusion of drug treatment and rehabilitation counselors

Salvation Army

- The provision of a comprehensive package of services to key and targeted population, aimed at increasing the effectiveness of drug treatment and rehabilitation response at the Salvation

Army.

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.

Guyana takes into account the OAS 2020 Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its corresponding Plan of Action to formulate or update national drug policies and strategies. In this regard, the NDSMP 2022-2026 is a national framework consisting of strategic programs, structured to guide the country's efforts as it relates to drug-related issues, with the aim of creating positive results and a safe, healthy, and resilient Guyana through prevention and minimization of drug-related health, social and economic harms among individuals, families, and communities.

The NDSMP outlines the role that each department should play in addressing various aspects of the drug situation in Guyana and acknowledges the significant contribution in this regard of various departments and agencies in the country.

The strategies expressed are based on the current national situation, but they also consider several international treaties and agreements, including those proposed by regional, hemispheric, and global organizations.

This document highlights policies that focus on several strategic principles, which include:

- Partnerships
- Coordination and Collaboration
- National direction, jurisdictional implementation
- Evidence-informed responses
- Coordinated Evaluations

In general, the drug problem clearly necessitates a holistic, balanced, and multidisciplinary response, and the plan was developed with a common and shared sense of responsibility among all sectors and stakeholder agencies in mind. As a result, it is based on the principle of shared responsibilities. It is based on the perspectives of several ministries and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as the findings of outreach consultations.

In terms of demand reduction, the NDSMP prioritized public awareness campaigns aimed at all educational levels, from pre-school to tertiary. Programs were also primarily directed at parents, community leaders and civic leaders. The Plan recommends a more modern approach to using media campaigns, including the use of celebrities, to educate young people about the dangers of drug use. It encourages both private and public sector employers to use Employee Assistance Programs (EAP) and calls for the construction of additional recreational and treatment facilities.

It is also intended to reduce the use of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products. Furthermore,

the NDSMP places a strong emphasis on law enforcement entities enforcing laws pertaining to legal drugs such as alcohol and tobacco, as well as novel tobacco products.

In terms of supply reduction, the Plan reiterates the importance of increasing intelligence-gathering capability and capacity at a central level in both the domestic and transshipment components. It also calls for stronger border controls, the establishment of a witness protection program, and the establishment of a Drug Trafficking Court.

In conformity with the provisions of control measures, the Plan reiterates the importance of maintaining, as well as implementing of the Automated Information Management Systems (AIMS) to monitor pharmaceutical product distribution and chemical substance diversion. It aims to strengthen the Drug Information Network to initiate research and training activities related to the prevention and control of the illicit trafficking of pharmaceutical products and other drugs over the Internet. It strongly promotes the investigation and prosecution of money laundering cases.

Further, international cooperation initiatives to be maintained or implemented by Guyana that will impact Guyana's counter-narcotic policy formulation, are as listed below:

- Agreement between the Government of Guyana and the Federal Service of the Russian Federation for Narcotics Traffic Control on Cooperation in Combating Illicit Traffic of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances, and their Precursors
- Participation in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)-World Customs Organization (WCO) Container Control Program
- Membership in the International Drug Enforcement Conference (IDEC)
- Bilateral agreements with Brazil, Cuba, Colombia, and Suriname to facilitate cooperation for the prevention of trafficking in narcotics and psychotropic substances
- Participation in the United States Caribbean Basin Security Initiative

The NDSMP's success is dependent on meaningful and targeted stakeholder engagement. There are several stakeholders who were partners in the development of this plan and will need to remain so during the action plan's implementation. The roles of Guyana's government departments in implementing the NDSMP 2022-2026 are critical to reducing this growing phenomenon.

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

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

Guyana's national drug policies and strategies take into account the human rights approach. In this sense, the NDSMP 2022-2026 has adopted a human rights approach, which prioritizes harm reduction and access to evidence-based drug treatment and support services. To reduce the harms and social impact of alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, and drug use, strategies and programs were reviewed and tailored. Specific categories have emerged from classifications of people who are more likely to suffer disproportionate harms (direct and indirect) from alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

Policy responses were designed to prevent and minimize the consequences of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs to ensure that new efforts benefit those most at risk of harm. This does not negate the importance of providing appropriate and effective responses to any community members who do not fall into one of these specific population groups and require support and resources related to the harms of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, as well as raising awareness and understanding of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug issues throughout the broader community. These policies aim to reduce the negative consequences of drug use while upholding the rights and dignity of people who misuse.

Guyana's NDSMP 2022-2026 takes into account the gender perspective. In this sense, this Strategy has adopted a gender perspective, which prioritizes population groups such as women, children as well as members of the LGBTIQ+ community. The document highlights the fact that "People who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex (LGBTI) are at a higher risk of developing alcohol, tobacco, or other drug problems. Stigma and discrimination, familial issues, marginalization within their own community as a result of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), fear of identification or visibility of LGBTI people, and a lack of support can all increase these risks". Recognizing these aspects, great emphasis was placed on prioritizing the gender perspective.

The country's national drug authority requires technical support to develop and implement programs with a gender perspective, especially in the areas of public health and medical services. This is because gender consideration plays a crucial role in addressing health disparities and improving health outcomes for all populations, and it requires specialized knowledge and expertise to integrate a gender perspective into healthcare policies and programs.

Guyana's national drug policies and strategies take into account the social inclusion approach. In this sense, the Guyana NDSMP 2022-2026 has considered social inclusion by strengthening the family, empowering the community, creating safe and informed school communities, and ensuring there are meaningful pro-social activities.

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

Guyana has the necessary resources to implement drug policies and programs.

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

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

Guyana has interagency and multisectoral policy and technical coordination mechanisms to address the drug problem in a comprehensive, balanced, and multidisciplinary approach, including its causes and consequences. In this sense, Guyana has two operational units that have the capacity to hold multisectoral meetings; The Guyana Drug Information Network (GUYDIN) of the Customs Anti Narcotic Unit and the Demand Reduction Unit of the Ministry of Health. The GUYDIN hosts quarterly meetings which contribute to several initiatives and programs being proposed and discussed relating to the country's drug problem. The solutions derived from these meetings have a comprehensive, balanced, and multidisciplinary approach. The GUYDIN is also open for participation in events organized by stakeholders, in any area proposed. During the 2021-2022 period, the network participated in the review of the Mental Health Strategy as well as the Environmental Protection Agency's Wildlife Strategy policy document.

Moreover, GUYDIN accesses data on demand reduction and supply control, including prevention, treatment, reintegration, illicit crop cultivation, diversion of pharmaceutical products, drug market information, and criminal offenses, on a regular basis. Also, GUYDIN disseminates drug demand and supply information resulting from the analysis and synthesis of studies and data collection for use by policymakers and stakeholders.

Guyana's drug control efforts involve a combination of prevention, treatment, law enforcement, and international cooperation. The country's National Drug Strategy Master Plan (NDSMP) provides a comprehensive framework for addressing the drug problem.

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.

Guyana has concrete multisectoral plans and programs to address the causes and socioeconomic consequences of the drug problem, which are based on the principles of human rights, public health, and development. Human rights, public health, and development ideas serve as the foundation of the NDSMP 2022-2026. It highlights the necessity for a coordinated and integrated strategy that incorporates all facets of society and acknowledges drug abuse as a public health issue. Harm reduction measures are also part of the plan.

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

Guyana participates in international cooperation programs at the bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen policies, programs, and institutions and their internal processes, such as:

- In 2022, the country signed an Interinstitutional Cooperation Agreement with Brazil to combat transnational organized crime; and to fight and enforce additional preventative measures against illegal narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, terrorism, trafficking in persons, smuggling of wildlife, gold, and minerals, trafficking of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and their parts, money laundering, forgery, and cybercrimes
- In 2022, Guyana participated in the 22nd high-level meeting between the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the European Union (EU) which focused on sustainable development, human rights, public health, gender equality, and public safety. The forum aimed to facilitate joint work by the participating countries in different areas relating to drug policy, provide specialized technical assistance and implement processes to discuss and improve public policies
- The country also participates in multilateral agreements and conventions such as the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances to strengthen its drug policies, programs, and institutions
- Guyana also participates in international conferences and workshops to learn from other countries and experts on best practices for drug policies, programs, and institutions
- In 2022, Guyana participated in a Theoretical-Practical virtual training on drafting National Drug Policies, Strategies and plans with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the OAS (CICAD/OAS) and also an Early Warning systems training
- In 2022-2023, the country also participated in sessions with the Cooperation Programme between Latin America and the European Union concerning Drug Policies (COPOLAD) on Alternative Development and National Drug Observatories on Drugs

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

Guyana promotes comprehensive and cross-cutting public policies to reduce and prevent crime, violence, social exclusion, and corruption. In this sense, several areas were addressed in public policies to reduce and prevent crime, violence, and social exclusion. Some of these were:

- **Expand Intelligence Gathering**
 - Increase the number of undercover agents to gather information on the domestic drug market and identify drug dealers
- **Build capacity in the following areas**
 - Investigation
 - Intelligence

- Strong response capability
- Port interdiction capability
- **Reduce the amount of drugs in Amerindian areas by:**
 - Empowering the National Tshaos Council to develop rules that will be gazetted and enforced
 - Allowing Tshaos to continue serving as Rural Constables after their terms expire
 - Enforcing the practice of requiring outsiders entering Amerindian villages to report to the Tshao or chairperson of the village
 - Punishing miners who encourage the presence of drug peddlers in Amerindian areas, including confiscating their licenses
- **Increase border security.**
 - Increase cooperation between local law enforcement and neighboring States
 - Expand joint operations with neighboring countries
- **Witness safety.**
 - Consider the possibility of establishing a witness protection program for persons who testify on major cases
 - Undertake extensive collaboration with local agencies
 - Review regional and international witness protection programs
- **International cooperation**

Expand its international cooperation relationships: In terms of social exclusion, Guyana has implemented policies aimed at improving access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. The government has also launched programs to promote gender equality, combat discrimination against vulnerable groups, and provide support for marginalized communities.

 - Deterring and controlling illegal drug trafficking offenses on the street by promoting crime-prevention measures such as cooperating with crime-prevention networks of local governments, local residents, businesses and implementing security camera installations
 - Enhancing cyber patrol, thorough control over drug-related offenses that use the Internet, through requests to remove illegal information, etc., while at the same time promoting through arrests, in particular of purchasers and sellers of cannabis seeds on charges of illicit cultivation or aiding illicit cultivation
 - Providing guidance, supervision, and control of medical institutions, among other things, as well as promoting anti-illegal trafficking measures, in order to keep psychotropic drugs and other drugs in legal distribution from falling into the hands of drug users
 - Preventing the diversion of regulated chemical substances to criminal operations, through strengthened control mechanisms
 - Strengthening the Food and Drugs Department and the Guyana Revenue Authority in order to better control and reduce illicit drug trafficking and related crimes
 - Control measures for the illicit trafficking of firearms, munitions, explosives, and other related materials associated with illicit drug trafficking should be strengthened as needed

- Updating and strengthening legislative and institutional frameworks for the prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of money laundering, as well as the forfeiture of any generated assets
- Strengthening cooperation among law-enforcement agencies and related organizations to further enhance internal cooperation within each law-enforcement agency as well as mutual collaboration among related organizations. The country placed major emphasis in the creation of community-based and participatory educational programs that aim to debunk myths about the benefits of substance use and teach people how to deal with social pressure. These included:
 - Media and community-based information campaigns: Use of the traditional and social media can assist in sharing with the public the effects of substance use and misuse as well as access to appropriate preventive and treatment services
 - Environmentally oriented strategies: These include a wide range of participatory efforts to alleviate socio-economic deprivation, increase positive social interaction and expand opportunities for non-risky activities
 - Clinical services: These may include a wide range of services that provide short and long-term therapy as well as additional services such as medical treatment and occupational training, with the goal of reducing drug-related harms, improving rehabilitation, and preventing relapses and recurrences of drug use

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

Guyana implements measures that promote equal access to justice and due process, taking into account gender, age, community, and cultural context approaches. In this sense, equal access to justice and due process is enshrined in the Constitution of Guyana and various legislations, for example, trial within a reasonable time (due process). Guyana Legal Aid Clinic (GLAC) provides free legal aid services to indigent persons in Guyana, including those who are unable to afford legal representation. GLAC also provides services to marginalized groups, including women, children, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

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

Guyana implements measures that foster citizen participation in crime prevention, build community cohesion, increase public safety, and emphasize social inclusion. Some of these measures include community policing programs, community-based crime prevention initiatives, and neighborhood watch groups.

Community policing entails law enforcement personnel interacting directly with communities. Both the national and local levels are involved in the implementation of community policing, with the national level setting the policies and principles and the local level carrying out the actual

execution through the police.

Community-based crime prevention initiatives are often carried out at the local level, tailored to specific neighborhoods and communities. Partnerships between the Guyana Police Force, community organizations, non-profits, and locals are a component of these programs. The government supports and promotes such initiatives at the national level by allocating funds or resources and coordinating efforts across different regions.

Neighborhood watch groups are community-driven initiatives aimed at enhancing safety and security in neighborhoods. These groups are organized and run by local residents.

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.

Guyana's law provides for alternative measures to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug-related offenses through the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) (Amendment) Act, 2022. These measures take into account the human rights approach and the gender perspective in accordance with relevant international instruments. In this sense, case law takes into account the age of the offender. Alternative measures are voluntary and age and gender appropriate.

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.

Guyana has not developed mechanisms to monitor and evaluate alternative measures to incarceration for minor drug-related offenses.

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

Guyana promotes a common understanding of national legal norms, regulations, and internal procedures for the implementation of alternatives to incarceration through interagency meetings, workshops, and mass media promotion.

**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.

Guyana has the Youth and Parent Encounter program to promote the social inclusion of individuals, families, and communities affected by the drug problem, taking into account the specific needs of at-risk populations. This is a community-based initiative for targeted communities where high incidence of substance use is reported. Drug Demand Reduction Unit collaborated with Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Protection and the Guyana Police Force to engage youths and adults (parents and community workers, such as teachers, nurses, police officers) in a series of workshops to better understand the needs of the youths, their drug of choice, and the social factors that may lead to drug use. Both youths and adults together develop effective strategies to address the unmet needs of the youths and the community as it relates to health literacy (drug use education) and health services.

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

Guyana disseminates best practices and lessons learned to improve institutional responses to the needs of people in at-risk situations, such as mechanisms, programs, and interventions, through publications, meetings, workshops, among others through workshops and print and non-print media.

OBJECTIVE
6

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

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

Guyana promotes the Section 2(B) Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) (Amendment) Act No. 22 of 2022, which provides for proportional legal sentencing for minor drug-related offences, in accordance with domestic law.

The country has the Drug Treatment Court (DTC) for minor drug-related offenses, which is a specialized court for persons with substance use disorders (drug addiction). It provides an alternative to imprisonment. This court gives drug-dependent offenders the opportunity to enter long-term treatment inclusive of court supervision. It is a problem-solving court that seeks to address the needs of each participant in the program, with emphasis on their drug use and the criminal behaviors associated with it. To be eligible for DTC a person must be:

- An adult (18 years or older)
- Be charged with a minor criminal, drug, or related offence.
- Be likely to re-offend
- Be experiencing serious substance use disorders. This would be determined through diagnostic assessments

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

Guyana promotes legal reforms, where appropriate, regarding proportional sentencing for minor drug-related offenses through workshops and print and non-print media.

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.

Guyana has the Guyana Drug Information Network (GUYDIN), which carries out functions similar to a national drug observatory, and whose creation does not have a legal basis or other similar mechanism.

GUYDIN has been assigned financial and human resources to carry out its functions. This office is located under the Customs Anti Narcotic Unit, whose budget facilitates the operations, projects, and activities of the network. The Customs Anti Narcotic budget is facilitated through the Ministry of Home Affairs. Budget allocations are made as follows:

- Equipment
- Conducting Research (the secondary school study)
- Transportation for conducting awareness sessions in schools around Guyana.
- Budget to facilitate quarterly meetings and informal meetings
- Publications: media campaigns, desktop publishing, such as flyers, pamphlets, banners, as well as the printing of the network's annual report

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.

Guyana has not established and maintained working relationships with academic and research institutions, but it is presently at an early stage.

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

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

Guyana has not developed or adopted quantitative and qualitative methodologies or information-gathering mechanisms that allow for the comparison of data among countries.

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

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

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

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

GUYDIN is the national drug information network (DIN), which interacts through the following means:

Means	Yes	No	Frequency
Meetings	X		Quarterly
Document exchange	X		Upon request

The following actors participate in GUYDIN:

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

GUYDIN publishes a periodic report.

Guyana does not have an early warning system (EWS) to identify NPS or other emerging drug-related threats.

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

GUYDIN does not carry out training sessions with local stakeholders to enhance data collection and management.

GUYDIN does not convene meetings or other workshops where the results of studies and other information gathering activities are shared with local stakeholders.

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

Guyana 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.

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

OBJECTIVE
2

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

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

Guyana has carried out and published the following demand reduction study:

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

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

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

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

Modalities and interventions	Yes	No
Community-based service	X	
Screening, Brief Interventions, and Referral to Treatment	X	
Medication-Assisted Treatment		X

Short-Term In-Patient or Residential Treatment	X	
Outpatient Treatment	X	
Long-term Residential Treatment	X	
Recovery Management		X

Data on treated patients 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.

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

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

Guyana has not carried out impact evaluations of its prevention or treatment programs.

The country 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. This tool is intended to be used at sites offering drug treatment/rehabilitation services during supervisory visits.

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.

Guyana has mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs. The Guyana Drug Information Network (GUYDIN) collaborates with the Guyana Police Force, the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA), and other agencies to gather and analyze data on drug trafficking and other drug-related offences.

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

Supply reduction, trafficking, and related crimes			
Information	Available information		Year of most recent information
	Yes	No	
Quantification of illicit crop cultivation including crops grown indoors		X	
Number of seizures of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production	X		2023
Quantities of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production seized	X		2023
Number of seizures of controlled chemical substances (precursors)		X	
Quantities of seized controlled chemical substances (precursors)		X	
Number of seizures of pharmaceutical products	X		2022
Quantities of seized pharmaceutical products	X		2022
Number of persons formally charged with drug use, possession, and trafficking	X		2020-2021
Number of persons convicted of drug use, possession, and trafficking	X		2020-2021
Number of laboratories producing illicit plant-based drugs detected and dismantled		X	
Number of laboratories producing illicit drugs of synthetic origin detected and dismantled		X	
Chemical composition of seized drugs	X		2019-2022
Sale price of drugs (for consumers)		X	
Number of persons formally charged with money laundering	X		2023
Number of persons convicted of money laundering		X	

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

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

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

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

Guyana does not collect information to carry out studies on the drug price, purity or concentration, or chemical profile of drugs.

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

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

The Guyana Forensic Science Laboratory is responsible for analyzing chemical substances, and precursors, including new psychoactive substances. The Government Analyst Food and Drug Department is responsible for analyzing pharmaceutical products. These agencies are part of GUYDIN.

The country implements and/or participates in the following periodic training program for personnel involved in the analysis of chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances:

Implements or participates in the program	Type of Training	Targeted institutions	Year when training was last done
Implements and participates	Government Analyst -Food and Drug Department in-house training as part of the quality control system to conduct competency assessments annually	Government Analyst food and Drug Department	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.

GUYDIN has standardized indicators for the collection of data on drug supply.

Guyana implements and participates in training activities for GUYDIN 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 MEM, Guyana collected information on the implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2021-2025 and submitted it in a timely manner for evaluation by the Governmental Expert Group (GEG) in the following thematic areas:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

OBJECTIVE

1

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

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

Guyana 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 under existing long-term cooperation mechanisms, as follows:

- In 2021, the country participated in Tradewinds 2021, a multinational exercise which focused on increasing regional cooperation in complex multinational security operations
- In 2022, Guyana and Brazil signed bilateral treaties to collaborate on a number of security and legal areas including the seizure and disposal or exchange of assets during criminal investigations and prosecutions
- In 2022, the country and Brazil signs interinstitutional cooperation agreements to strengthen bilateral co-operations between Guyana and Brazil and to combat transnational organized crime; and to fight and enforce additional preventative measures against illegal narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, terrorism, trafficking in persons, smuggling of wildlife, gold and minerals, trafficking of firearms, ammunition, explosives and their parts, money laundering, forgery, and cybercrimes
- In 2022, law enforcement officers from Guyana participated in training and capacity building for law enforcement officers at the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) for executive law enforcement leadership, narcotic investigation and law enforcement and community outreach
- In 2022, the country participated in the 22nd high-level meeting between the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the European Union (EU), which focused on sustainable development, human rights, public health, gender equality, and public safety. The forum aimed to facilitate joint work by the participating countries in different areas relating to drug policy, provide specialized technical assistance, and implement processes to discuss and improve public policies
- In 2022, Guyana participated in an Asset Recovery Workshop, facilitated by the National Centre of States Courts (NCSC), which focused on developing best practices for law enforcement, financial investigators, state prosecutors and state attorneys in the area of civil asset recovery
- In 2022, the country participated in Seaport Cooperation Program (SEACOP) phase V course in Barbados, which focused on providing advance maritime trafficking intelligence skills and exposure to international resources available to law enforcement via the project to increase

existing capabilities

- In 2022, Law enforcement officers attended a trafficking in persons training virtually hosted by the Caribbean Regional Drug Law Enforcement Training Centre (REDTRAC). The training focused on the most recent developments in human trafficking and related crimes
- In 2022, Guyana participated in an executive training on international law of cyber operations, which was held in the Dominican Republic and hosted by the OAS. The training focused on the implementation of cooperative measures to address the threats emerging in cyberspace and ensure an open, interoperable, reliable, and secure information and communications technology environment consistent with the need to preserve the free flow of information; governed by Law
- In 2022, the country participated in the Ministerial Meeting against Transnational Organized Crime in South America, held in Brasilia, Brazil
- In 2022, Guyana participated in the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the OAS (CICAD/OAS) Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking in Peru, which covered emerging threats and drug trafficking trends in the region's maritime domain, the current trafficking operational picture, counterdrug maritime interdiction in the Caribbean Basin, a progress report on the Caribbean's regional operational maritime strategy, and a tabletop exercise, called maritime interdiction case scenario. The meeting also reviewed the implementation of the Agreement Concerning Cooperation in Suppressing Illicit, Maritime, and Air Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in the Caribbean (San Jose Treaty, 2003) and other initiatives to promote and strengthen maritime interdiction cooperation in the region

Guyana has established secure communication channels for the exchange of intelligence information on drug interdiction and control through the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS).

The country promotes the exchange, with member states and with states outside of the Western Hemisphere, and with relevant international and regional organizations, of best practices on training, specialization, and professional development of the staff responsible for implementing the national drug policies and strategies. In this sense, the country carried out in 2022 the following activities:

- Participation in a Theoretical-Practical virtual training on drafting National Drug Policies, Strategies and plans with CICAD/OAS
- Participation in a Workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation National Drug Policies in Jamaica with CICAD/OAS
- Participation in the 22nd High- Level CELAC-EU Meeting in Paraguay

Guyana participates in the following regional coordination activities to prevent crimes related to drug trafficking, such as firearms trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, money laundering, and corruption, among others:

- In 2019, the Financial Intelligence Agency signed MOUs with Financial Intelligence Agency of

St Kitts and Nevis and Aruba which allowed greater efficiency in the sharing of intelligence in the fight against money laundering, terrorism financing and other financial crimes

- In 2021, the country participated in a virtual workshop held by CFATF on the use of financial intelligence to combat money laundering and terrorism financing. The workshop aimed to enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies and financial institutions to use financial intelligence to detect and prevent illicit activities
- In 2021, Guyana participated in Tradewinds 2021, a multinational exercise which focused on increasing regional cooperation in complex multinational security operations
- In 2022, the country participated in the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) Container Control Program, which was a collaborative effort involving United States, through the Department of States Office of International Narcotics and Law enforcement (INL), the UNODC Container Control Program, and the World Customs Organization aimed at boosting Guyana's capacity to tackle narcotic trafficking and organized crime
- In 2022, Guyana participated in an asset recovery workshop, which was facilitated by the National Centre of States Courts (NCSC), focusing on developing best practices for law enforcement, financial investigators, state prosecutors and state attorneys in the area of civil asset recovery
- In 2022, the country participated in Seaport Cooperation Program (SEACOP) phase V course in Barbados, which focused on providing advanced maritime trafficking intelligence skills and exposure to international resources available to law enforcement via the project to increase existing capabilities
- In 2022, Guyana participated in the 2022 annual meeting of the Cooperation Programme between Latin America and the European Union concerning Drug Policies (COPOLAD) III in Paraguay which focused on the effects of COVID-19 on the fight against drugs and gender equality. The meeting further addressed the effects of drug trafficking on democratic governance and bi-regional cooperation mechanisms on money laundering and the fight against the illegal market. The importance of scientific research for the design of public policies was also analyzed, as well as approaches to problematic consumption in contexts of vulnerability
- In 2022, Guyana and Brazil signed bilateral treaties to collaborate on a number of security and legal areas including the seizure and disposal or exchange of assets during criminal investigations and prosecutions
- In 2022, Guyana and Brazil signed Interinstitutional Cooperation Agreements to strengthen bilateral co-operations between Guyana and Brazil and to combat transnational organized crime; and to fight and enforce additional preventative measures against illegal narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, terrorism, trafficking in persons, smuggling of wildlife, gold and minerals, trafficking of firearms, ammunition, explosives and their parts, money laundering, forgery and cybercrimes

In the country, there are bilateral mechanisms for coordination and collaboration with other countries, focused on the dismantling of criminal groups linked to drug trafficking and related crimes with the United States, Brazil, Colombia, Suriname, and the United Kingdom. The frequency of use of these mechanisms varies depending on the specific agreements and initiatives in place.

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

Guyana has not promoted technology transfers among and between OAS member states and international (including regional) organizations.

The country has not promoted information sharing among and between OAS member states and international (including regional) organizations.

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

Guyana does not promote 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.****Priority Action 2.1: Strengthen regional and international cooperation by competent authorities to investigate and prosecute criminals on drug-related offenses.**

The competent authorities in Guyana carry out cooperative activities at the regional and international levels to investigate and prosecute criminals for drug-related offenses. In this sense, the country is involved in collaborative efforts with several regional and international organizations through the sharing of information to disrupt and demolish illegal drug trafficking organizations, apprehend high-level drug syndicate leaders, and ensure that drug trafficking is reduced, and traffickers are prosecuted. Some of the agencies that the country maintains close collaboration with are the Regional Security Systems (RSS), Implementing Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS), the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), The United Kingdom National Crime Agency (NCA) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Canada (RCMP).

The country takes human rights into account when carrying out these activities by training law enforcement officers in human behavior modification and exposing them to many workshops and conferences that focus on these areas on national operational levels.

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.

Guyana carries out activities to strengthen regional and international cooperation to facilitate, where appropriate, mutual legal assistance, extradition, and transfer of proceedings, in accordance with international legal instruments, when investigating and prosecuting criminals on drug-related offenses. In this sense, several meetings are held annually in which high-level members of the law enforcement entities attend and participate.

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.

Guyana has not enacted or adopted, during the evaluation period (2019-2023), legislative or administrative measures and actions to improve implementation of obligations set forth within international legal instruments related to the world drug problem, respecting human rights and gender equality.

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

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

Conventions and Protocols		Yes	No
United Nations Conventions	Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children	X	
	Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air	X	
	Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition	X	
	Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000		
	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 Guyana has a national drug authority, which has a legal basis. Moreover, CICAD observes that, in the country, there is an annual budget for the national drug authority, which is independent. Moreover, CICAD notes that Guyana has an ongoing coordination and collaboration mechanism among agencies and other government ministries and institutions to formulate, implement, monitor, evaluate and update national drug policies and strategies. CICAD observes that the national drug authority coordinates the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, drug observatory and international cooperation.

Objective 2

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

CICAD notes that Guyana collects and uses evidence as a basis for formulating and updating national drug policies and strategies. Additionally, CICAD observes the involvement of relevant actors from the priority areas in the development, implementation, and update of national drug policies and strategies, but there are no relevant actors involved in their evaluation; however, there are no relevant actors involved in the evaluation of these policies and strategies. CICAD notes that the country has not delegated responsibilities on drug issues to local/sub-national governments to implement concrete actions related to drug policies and strategies; does not have, in its central structure, an office or operational unit to promote, coordinate, train, or provide technical support to local or sub-national governments or agencies on drug-related issues; and does not 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. Additionally, Guyana does not have a specific and ongoing mechanism or program to transfer funds or finance drug initiatives or projects carried out by municipalities or local governments. CICAD observes that the country engages private sector entities to develop innovative approaches in the implementation of drug policies and exchange information and best practices. CICAD notes that Guyana takes into account the OAS 2020 Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its corresponding Plan of Action to formulate or update national drug policies and strategies. However, these policies and strategies do not take into account the

UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. 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 Guyana 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 Guyana has interagency and multisectoral policy and technical coordination mechanisms to address the drug problem in a comprehensive, balanced, and multidisciplinary approach, including its causes and consequences. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country has concrete multisectoral plans and programs to address the causes and socioeconomic consequences of the drug problem based on the principles of human rights, public health, and development. Additionally, CICAD notes that Guyana participates in international cooperation programs at the bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen policies, programs, and institutions and their internal processes. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country promotes comprehensive and cross-cutting public policies to reduce and prevent crime, violence, social exclusion, and corruption. Also, CICAD notes that Guyana implements measures that promote equal access to justice and due process, taking into account gender, age, community, and cultural context approaches. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country implements measures that foster citizen participation in crime prevention, build community cohesion, increase public safety, and emphasize social inclusion.

Objective 4

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

CICAD notes that Guyana'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. However, CICAD observes that the country has not developed mechanisms to monitor and evaluate these measures. On the other hand, CICAD notes that Guyana promotes a common understanding of national legal norms, regulations, or internal procedures for the implementation of alternatives to incarceration.

Objective 5

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

CICAD notes with satisfaction that Guyana 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 people in at-risk situations.

Objective 6

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

CICAD observes with satisfaction that Guyana promotes legislation that provides for proportional legal sentencing for minor drug-related offences, in accordance with domestic law, and has special courts for these offenses. Moreover, CICAD notes that the country promotes legal reforms, where appropriate, 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 Guyana has an agency that carries out the functions of a national drug observatory, which has been assigned financial and human resources to carry out its functions. However, CICAD observes that the country has not established and maintained working relationships with universities or specialized research centers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other academic and research institutions and has not carried out studies on the drug problem through them. CICAD notes that Guyana has not developed or adopted quantitative and qualitative methodologies and information-gathering mechanisms that allow for the comparison of data among countries nor has the country 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. CICAD notes that it has a national drug information network (DIN), which interacts through meetings and document

exchanges and publishes a periodic report. However, the country does not have an early warning system (EWS) to identify NPS or other emerging drug-related threats. CICAD notes that Guyana does not carry out training sessions with local stakeholders to enhance data collection and management nor convene meetings and other workshops where the results of studies and other information-gathering activities are shared with local stakeholders. Additionally, CICAD observes that the country has not established forums that allow drug researchers to present their findings to policymakers. Moreover, CICAD notes that Guyana does not promote or disseminate best practices or the exchange of successful research experiences among member states.

Objective 2

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

CICAD notes that Guyana has carried out and published one demand reduction study 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. However, CICAD notes that Guyana has not conducted studies to evaluate treatment and prevention programs and interventions, or process, intermediate outcome, or impact evaluations of these programs. On the other hand, the country 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 Guyana has mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs and has information related to supply reduction, trafficking, and related crimes. However, the country has not carried out periodic studies on the illicit drug market or on the medical and scientific use and other legal uses of narcotics or psychotropic substances, subject to international control systems. CICAD observes that Guyana does not collect information to carry out studies on the drug price, purity or concentration, or chemical profile of drugs nor conducts chemical characterizations or purity tests of substances that may or may not be subject to international control. CICAD notes that the country has institutions that are responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances, which are part of 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 Guyana's national drug

information network on drugs (DIN) has standardized indicators for the collection of data on drug supply and that the country implements and participates in training activities for DIN stakeholders to improve and strengthen the mechanisms that are needed for the collection and exchange of information on drug supply.

Objective 4

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

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

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Objective 1

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

CICAD notes that Guyana 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, Guyana 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. Also, there are bilateral mechanisms for coordination and collaboration with other countries, focused on the

dismantling of criminal groups linked to drug trafficking and related crimes. However, CICAD observes that Guyana has not promoted technology transfers among and between OAS member states and international (including regional) organizations, as well as information sharing among them. Additionally, CICAD notes that the country does not promote the dissemination of good practices or the exchange of successful research experiences among and between member states and international organizations on drug policies.

Objective 2

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

CICAD notes that the competent authorities in Guyana carry out cooperative activities at the regional and international levels to investigate and prosecute criminals for drug-related offenses. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country carries out activities to strengthen regional and international cooperation to facilitate, where appropriate, mutual legal assistance, extradition, and transfer of proceedings, in accordance with international legal instruments, when investigating and prosecuting criminals on drug-related offenses. However, CICAD notes that Guyana has not enacted or adopted, during the evaluation period (2019-2023), legislative or administrative measures to more fully implement compliance with the obligations established in international legal instruments related to the world drug problem, respecting human rights and gender equality. On the other hand, CICAD observes that the country has ratified or acceded to all of the international legal instruments of the United Nations and all of the OAS Inter-American legal instruments regarding the world drug problem and related crimes.



**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)
INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)**

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