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MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)

SECRETARIAT FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL SECURITY (SMS)

Belize

Evaluation Report on Drug Policies

2019



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PREFACE

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), under the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS), measures the progress achieved and challenges to member nations of the Organization of American States (OAS) in implementing the CICAD Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020. Mandated by the 1998 Summit of the Americas held in Santiago, Chile, the MEM is the only multilateral tool of its kind in the world.

MEM evaluations are based on information provided by OAS member states, which is then analyzed by the MEM's Governmental Expert Group (GEG), composed of experts from OAS countries. For this round, the GEG performed its work from mid-2018 to mid-2019. The evaluation process was transparent and inclusive in nature, with no experts involved in the evaluation of their own country.

The GEG analyzed the following areas: institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, and international cooperation, and its evaluation is based on the 29 objectives and corresponding priority actions of the CICAD Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020. (A few priority actions were not considered, given they are not measurable.) In addition, the seventh round reports include a discussion of member states' progress over time during the seven MEM rounds.

Prior to the GEG's work, the MEM Inter-Governmental Working Group, also composed of representatives from OAS member states, designed the seventh evaluation round instrument during 2017, and the resulting questionnaire was then completed by member states.

The MEM reports focus on key themes important not only to CICAD but to the OAS as a whole, such as human rights, gender, age, culture and social inclusion. The reports also take into account the recommendations of the outcome document of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS 2016) and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

We hope the MEM reports serve as a useful diagnostic tool to improve drug policies and strategies, both at a national and regional level.

This report and all other MEM seventh round evaluation reports are available at <http://www.cicad.oas.org>

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 AND COMPETENCIES TO COORDINATE NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES IN THE STAGES OF FORMULATION, IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION.

Belize's National Drug Abuse Control Council (NDACC) is the national drug authority, established in 1988 and has a legal basis through the Misuse of Drugs Act of 1990. The NDACC functions under the Ministry of Health and has an integrated budget.

The NDACC coordinates and articulates the areas of demand reduction, alternative, integral and sustainable development programs, international cooperation and program evaluation, but not supply reduction, control measures and drug observatory. The Ministry of National Security coordinates the area of supply reduction. The Ministry of Health coordinates control measures.

The annual budget amount of the NDACC for the years 2014-2018 is as follows:

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Annual budget amount (US dollars)	\$328,314.00	\$422,703.50	\$423,703.50	\$452,290.00	\$497,053.50

The country has an ongoing coordination and organization mechanism among agencies and other levels of government, in order to implement national drug policies, through the NDACC, which addresses policy development, research and administration. The NDACC has six district offices that do local coordination and implementation of demand reduction activities.

OBJECTIVE 2

FORMULATE, IMPLEMENT, EVALUATE AND UPDATE NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES AND/OR STRATEGIES THAT WILL BE COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED, BASED ON EVIDENCE THAT INCLUDE A CROSS-CUTTING HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE, CONSISTENT WITH OBLIGATIONS OF PARTIES UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW¹ WITH A FOCUS ON GENDER AND EMPHASIZING DEVELOPMENT WITH SOCIAL INCLUSION.

Belize does not have a national drug plan or strategy.

OBJECTIVE 3

DESIGN AND COORDINATE NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES AND/OR STRATEGIES WITH OTHER PUBLIC POLICIES AND/OR STRATEGIES THAT ADDRESS FUNDAMENTAL CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE DRUG PROBLEM.

Belize does not include such issues as crime prevention, violence, victimization, social exclusion, corruption or a gender approach in drafting of national social public policy to address the socio-economic causes and consequences of the drug problem.

OBJECTIVE 4

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN NATIONAL OBSERVATORIES ON DRUGS (OR SIMILAR TECHNICAL OFFICES) FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL DRUG INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND FOSTERING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THIS AREA.

Belize does not have a national observatory on drugs or a national drug information network.

The following are the studies in the area of demand reduction:

Demand reduction			
Studies	Studies carried out and published		Year of most recent study
	Yes	No	
Survey of secondary school students	X		2014
National household surveys (12-64 years)		X	

¹ Full respect for international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, observing the principles of sovereignty and the territorial integrity of States, nonintervention in the internal affairs of States, fundamental liberties, inherent human dignity, and equal rights and mutual respect among States.

Demand reduction			
Studies	Studies carried out and published		Year of most recent study
	Yes	No	
Patient register of treatment centers		X	
Cross-section survey of patients in treatment centers		X	
Survey of patients in emergency rooms		X	
Survey of higher education students		X	
Survey of populations in conflict with the law		X	
Studies on drug-related mortality		X	
Studies on drug-related morbidity		X	
Studies on gender conditions related to drug problems		X	
Others			
Global Youth Tobacco Survey	X		2014

Belize does not have any information on 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	
Quantities of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production seized		X	
Number of seizures of controlled chemical substances (precursors)		X	
Quantities of seized controlled chemical substances (precursors)		X	
Number of seizures of pharmaceutical products		X	
Quantities of seized pharmaceutical products		X	
Number of persons formally charged with drug use, possession and trafficking		X	
Number of persons convicted of drug use, possession and trafficking		X	
Number of laboratories producing illicit plant-based drugs detected and dismantled		X	

Supply reduction, trafficking and related crimes			
Information	Available information		Year of most recent information
	Yes	No	
Number of laboratories producing illicit drugs of synthetic origin detected and dismantled		X	
Chemical composition of seized drugs		X	
Sale price of drugs (for consumers)		X	
Number of persons formally charged with money laundering		X	
Number of persons convicted of money laundering		X	
Number of persons formally charged with trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition and related materials		X	
Number of persons convicted of trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition and related materials		X	
Number of persons formally charged with diversion of chemical substances		X	
Number of persons convicted of diversion of chemical substances		X	

The country also has not carried out studies to evaluate drug programs or interventions in demand reduction, supply reduction or control measures.

OBJECTIVE 5

ENCOURAGE THE DESIGN, ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION FOR LOW-LEVEL DRUG-RELATED OFFENSES, WHILE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT NATIONAL, CONSTITUTIONAL, LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS.

Belize's laws do not provide for alternative measures to incarceration for low-level drug offenses.

OBJECTIVE 6

PROMOTE AND IMPLEMENT, AS APPROPRIATE, COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICIES, LAWS AND NEEDS OF EACH COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE VULNERABLE POPULATIONS, WITH DIFFERENT LEVELS AND FORMS OF INVOLVEMENT.

Belize has the following interinstitutional and multi-sectoral programs that promote the social

integration of individuals affected by the drug problem: Community Rehabilitation Youth Resiliency Program; Wagner’s Facility Program; Metamorphosis Program (Restore Belize); Support Group Systems Community Empowerment and Outreach Services (NDACC); and the Great Program (Community Police Department).

OBJECTIVE 7

FOSTER PROPORTIONATE SENTENCING, WHERE APPROPRIATE, THAT ADDRESSES THE SERIOUSNESS OF DRUG OFFENSES AND SAFEGUARDING LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Belize does not have legislation on proportionate sentencing, and does not have special courts or tribunals for low-level drug-related offenses.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD expresses its satisfaction that throughout the seven rounds (1999-2018), Belize has had a national drug authority with an integrated budget. In the seventh round (2014-2018), the national drug authority coordinates the areas of demand reduction; alternative, integral and sustainable development programs; international cooperation and program evaluation, but not supply reduction, control measures and drug observatory.

CICAD observes that from the first to the fourth rounds (1999-2006), Belize had a national drug plan. However, CICAD notes with concern that from the fifth to the seventh rounds (2007-2018), the country has not had a national drug plan or strategy.

CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Belize does not include such issues as crime prevention, violence, victimization, social exclusion, corruption or gender approach in the drafting of national social public policy to address the socio-economic causes and consequences of the drug problem.

CICAD views with concern that throughout the seven rounds (1999-2018), Belize has not had a national observatory on drugs or a national drug information network. CICAD also views with concern that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country does not have some priority studies in demand reduction. CICAD could not make an assessment for the seventh round regarding information on supply reduction, trafficking and related crimes because the country does not provide the relevant information. Moreover, CICAD notes with concern that Belize has not carried out studies to evaluate programs on drug demand, supply reduction or control measures.

CICAD observes that in the sixth and the seventh rounds (2013-2018), Belize has not had legislation that includes alternative measures to incarceration for low-level drug-related offenses.

CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Belize has interinstitutional and multisectoral programs that promote the social integration of individuals affected by the drug problem.

CICAD also notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Belize does not have legislation on proportionate sentencing, and does not have special courts or tribunals for low-level drug-related offenses.

DEMAND REDUCTION

OBJECTIVE 1

ESTABLISH DEMAND REDUCTION POLICIES WITH A PUBLIC HEALTH FOCUS THAT ARE EVIDENCE-BASED, COMPREHENSIVE, MULTIDISCIPLINARY, MULTISECTORAL, AND RESPECTFUL OF HUMAN RIGHTS, CONSIDERING THE GUIDELINES AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS OF SPECIALIZED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

Belize has demand reduction policies that include programs in the areas of prevention, treatment, and social integration. There was not sufficient evidence to validate that the country's demand reduction programs have human rights, intercultural, age differences, and gender approaches.

The country does not take into account the guidelines and recommendations of specialized international organizations in establishing demand reduction programs in prevention, treatment, and social integration.

Belize has not carried out any process or intermediate outcome evaluations of drug abuse prevention programs, nor has it conducted impact evaluations of drug abuse prevention programs.

There are coordination mechanisms to develop and implement demand reduction programs allowing for the participation of and coordination with civil society and other social stakeholders.

Measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse are implemented, using the technical guide, jointly published by the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and other international agencies. These agencies provide capacity building through training in effective program planning for drug educators and outreach caseworkers.

OBJECTIVE 2

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF UNIVERSAL, SELECTED AND INDICATED PREVENTION PROGRAMS ON DRUG USE, GIVING PRIORITY TO VULNERABLE AND AT-RISK POPULATIONS, EVIDENCE-BASED AND INCORPORATING A HUMAN RIGHTS, GENDER, AGE AND MULTICULTURAL APPROACH.

Belize implements prevention programs in the following populations:

Population group	Name of program	Type of program
School children and university students		
• Pre-school	Drug Demand Program	Universal
• Elementary/primary	Drug Demand Program	Universal
• Junior high & high school (secondary school)	Drug Demand Program	Universal
• University/tertiary education	Drug Demand Program	Universal
Street Population		
• Boys/girls	Outreach Services	Indicated
• Street youths	Youth Apprentice program	Selective
• Adults	Outreach Program	Indicated
Family	Out Reach Program	Indicated
Gender		
• Women	Outreach Program	Indicated
• Men	Outreach Program	Indicated
Community	Community Empowerment Program	Universal
Indigenous people	Drug Prevention Program/ Outreach Program	Universal/Indicated
Individuals in the workplace	Drug Prevention Program/ Outreach Program	Universal/Indicated
Incarcerated individuals	Drug Prevention Program/ Outreach Program	Universal/Indicated

The country has not implemented prevention programs in the following populations: LGBTI or migrants and refugees.

OBJECTIVE 3

ESTABLISH AND STRENGTHEN, AS APPROPRIATE, A NATIONAL TREATMENT, REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION SYSTEM FOR PEOPLE WITH PROBLEMATIC DRUG USE, INCLUDING A HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER-BASED APPROACH, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED QUALITY STANDARDS.

Belize has a national system for comprehensive treatment and social integration programs and devices for people with problematic drug use, guaranteeing non-discrimination. This national system includes specialized programs and devices in early intervention (brief intervention, counseling), crisis intervention, diverse treatment modalities, dual pathology (co-morbidity), and social integration and services related to recovery support. These programs and devices take into account the International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders of UNODC and the WHO.

In order to facilitate access and ensure the quality of treatment services for those with problematic drug use, the National Drug Abuse Control Council (NDACC) uses the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Universal Standard of Care for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Drug Dependents. The public health system and religious institutions provide outpatient services, while private institutions provide residential services, which are offered to men. However, NDACC provides outreach services to both men and women.

The country has established and maintained cooperative relationships with governmental and non-governmental organizations that provide social and community support services, with a gender perspective, for the social integration of vulnerable populations. The NDACC networks with the Psychiatric Unit of the Ministry of Health through the psychiatric nurse practitioner to provide detoxification services, psychiatric evaluation to all patients, with the National Alcoholics Anonymous Organization so all patients have access to 18 support groups countrywide. There also is a working relationship between NDACC and the Community Policing, Social Development Department, and Women's Department to channel cases to them for further investigation and intervention.

There are no mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment and social integration programs. In addition, there are no mechanisms to protect the rights of people with problematic drug use in treatment programs and services. The country also does not have supervisory mechanisms for establishments that offer treatment and rehabilitation services for those with problematic drug use.

OBJECTIVE 4

FOSTER ONGOING TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION OF HUMAN RESOURCES THAT PROVIDE PREVENTION, TREATMENT, REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL REINTEGRATION SERVICES.

Belize participates in competence-based training in the areas of prevention, treatment and social reintegration offered by Training and Certification Program for Drug and Violence Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation (PROCCER) of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States (CICAD/OAS). PROCCER provides a Certificate in Drug Prevention and Treatment to front line officers. Additionally, the University of Belize offers an Associate's and Bachelor's degrees in social work.

The University of the West Indies (UWI) certifies personnel that work in prevention and treatment services at the basic, intermediate, and advanced levels. However, Belize does not certify personnel that work in social reintegration.

OBJECTIVE 5

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES TO REGULATE, ENABLE, ACCREDIT AND SUPERVISE PREVENTION PROGRAMS AND, CARE AND TREATMENT SERVICES.

Belize does not have an accreditation process for treatment centers. There also are no supervisory mechanisms in place to ensure the quality criteria of prevention, care or treatment services.

The country has not conducted an assessment to determine the national needs regarding care and treatment services offered.

DEMAND REDUCTION

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Belize has demand reduction policies that include programs in the areas of prevention, treatment, and social integration. However, CICAD could not make an assessment on whether the country's demand reduction programs have human rights, intercultural, age differences, and gender approaches, given the country did not provide the related information. Likewise, CICAD notes that the country implements measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse, that consider the guidelines of international organizations. Belize also implements coordination mechanisms with various stakeholders. However, the country does not take into account specialized international organizations' guidelines in establishing demand reduction policies. CICAD also expresses concern that from the fourth to the seventh rounds (2005-2018), Belize has not conducted any prevention program evaluations.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that throughout the seven rounds (1999-2018), Belize has implemented prevention programs aimed at different target populations. Similarly, CICAD is pleased that in comparison to the sixth round (2013-2014), in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country raised its coverage rate of target populations to reach preschool students, university students, children, street youth and families, the community, indigenous people, and individuals in the workplace. CICAD also notes that Belize covers most of the target population groups through prevention programs.

CICAD notes that from the third to the seventh round (2003-2018), Belize has made progress in its national system for comprehensive treatment and social integration programs and devices for people with problematic drug use, guaranteeing non-discrimination. Likewise, CICAD views that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has mechanisms to facilitate access and ensure the quality of treatment services for those with problematic drug use. However, CICAD notes with concern Belize does not have mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment, and social integration programs. There also are no supervisory mechanisms for the establishments that offer treatment and rehabilitation services, or mechanisms to protect the rights of people with problematic drug use.

CICAD observes that from the sixth to the seventh rounds (2013-2018), Belize has participated in trainings in the areas of prevention, treatment, and social reintegration. In the seventh round (2014-2018), the country certifies personnel that works in prevention and treatment services at the basic, intermediate, and advanced levels, but not in social reintegration services.

CICAD notes with concern that throughout the seven rounds (1999-2018), Belize has not had an accreditation process for treatment centers, or supervisory mechanisms to ensure that the quality criteria of prevention or treatment services are met. CICAD also observes that the country has not conducted an assessment to determine the national needs regarding care and treatment services offered.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

OBJECTIVE 1

DESIGN, IMPLEMENT AND STRENGTHEN COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED POLICIES AND PROGRAMS, AIMED AT PREVENTING AND DECREASING THE ILLICIT SUPPLY OF DRUGS, IN ACCORDANCE TO THE TERRITORIAL REALITIES OF EACH COUNTRY AND RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS.

Belize's Anti-Narcotics Unit designs, implements and updates national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit crops and the illicit production of drugs.

The country does not take into account traditional licit use when designing and implementing policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs.

Belize does not include environmental protection measures in its policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs.

Drug supply reduction programs implemented by the country are not supplemented by drug-related crime prevention initiatives that address social and economic risk factors.

OBJECTIVE 2

DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT MECHANISMS TO COLLECT AND ANALYZE INFORMATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES AND ACTIONS AIMED AT DECREASING THE ILLICIT SUPPLY OF DRUGS.

Belize has mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs. The Belize Police Department, the Special Branch/Anti-Narcotic Unit and the Joint Intelligence Coordinating Center participate in these mechanisms.

The country does not carry out periodic studies or research on the structural and socioeconomic factors influencing the illicit supply of drugs situation, nor prepares or updates studies or research on medical and scientific uses and other legal use of crops containing narcotic or psychotropic substances subject to the international control system.

Belize does not promote or implement mechanisms to identify chemical profiles and characteristics of drugs subject to the international control system.

The country also does not promote or implement mechanisms for the identification of new psychoactive substances (NPS), nor does it use standardized and comparable methodologies to measure illicit crops and drug production.

OBJECTIVE 3

DESIGN, IMPLEMENT AND/OR STRENGTHEN LONG-TERM PROGRAMS WHICH ARE BROAD AND AIMED AT DEVELOPMENT THAT INCLUDES RURAL AND URBAN ALTERNATIVE, INTEGRAL AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, AND, AS APPROPRIATE, PREVENTIVE ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICIES, LEGISLATIONS AND NEEDS OF EACH COUNTRY, AS APPROPRIATE.

Belize has not designed or implemented alternative, integral and sustainable development programs or preventive alternative development as part of the strategies to control and reduce illicit crops.

Belize does not promote sustainable urban development initiatives in urban populations affected by illicit activities related to drug trafficking and related crimes.

OBJECTIVE 4

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT PLANS AND/OR PROGRAMS TO MITIGATE AND REDUCE THE IMPACT OF ILLICIT CROPS AND DRUG PRODUCTION ON THE ENVIRONMENT, WITH THE INCORPORATION AND PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NATIONAL POLICIES OF MEMBER STATES.

Belize does not carry out research or studies to determine the characteristics and extent of the environmental impact caused by the illicit cultivation of crops and illicit drug production, since no significant areas of illicit crops have been detected.

OBJECTIVE 5

ESTABLISH, AS APPROPRIATE, AND BASED ON EVIDENCE THE EFFECTS CAUSED BY SMALL-SCALE DRUG TRAFFICKING ON PUBLIC HEALTH, THE ECONOMY, SOCIAL COHESION AND CITIZEN SECURITY.

Belize does not have characterization methodologies with territorial and socio-economic approaches on micro-drug trafficking or small-scale drug trafficking and the effect on public health, the economy, social cohesion and citizen security. The country also does not exchange information on the effects of small-scale drug trafficking or micro-drug trafficking in the health, society, economy or security sectors.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD takes into account that no significant areas of illicit crops have been detected in Belize. CICAD recognizes with satisfaction that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Belize designs, implements and updates national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit crops and the illicit production of drugs. CICAD notes that the country does not take into account traditional licit use when designing and implementing policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs, nor does it include environmental protection measures in such policies and programs. Additionally, drug supply reduction programs implemented by Belize are not supplemented by drug-related crime prevention initiatives that address social and economic risk factors.

CICAD notes that Belize has developed operations to eradicate illicit marijuana crops during the seven rounds (1999-2018). CICAD also notes with satisfaction that during the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs, taking into account that Belize reported not having such mechanisms in the sixth round (2013-2014). CICAD also notes that the country does not carry out periodic studies or research on the structural and socioeconomic factors influencing the illicit supply of drugs situation, nor does Belize prepare and update studies or research on the medical and scientific uses and other legal uses of crops containing narcotic or psychotropic substances subject to the international control system. CICAD notes with concern that the country does not promote or implement mechanisms to identify chemical profiles and characteristics of drugs subject to the international control system. Furthermore, standardized and comparable methodologies are not used to measure illicit crops and drug production.

CICAD notes that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Belize does not have alternative, integral and sustainable development programs or preventive alternative development programs as part of strategies to control and reduce illicit crops. Similarly, CICAD notes that the country does not promote sustainable urban development initiatives in urban populations affected by illicit activities related to drug trafficking and related crimes.

CICAD notes that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Belize does not carry out research or studies to determine the characteristics and extent of the environmental impact caused by illicit crops and illicit drug production.

CICAD notes with concern that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Belize does not have characterization methodologies with territorial and socioeconomic approaches to micro-drug trafficking or small-scale drug trafficking and the effect on public health, the economy, social cohesion and citizen security, nor does it exchange information on its effects in the health, society, economy or security sectors.

CONTROL MEASURES

OBJECTIVE 1

ADOPT AND/OR STRENGTHEN COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED PROGRAMS AIMED AT PREVENTING AND REDUCING DRUG TRAFFICKING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERRITORIAL REALITIES OF EACH COUNTRY AND RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS.

Belize does not have protocols or operating procedures to detect, investigate, and dismantle laboratories or facilities for the illicit processing or manufacture of drugs. The country also does not have programs to detect and seize drugs, through monitoring, inspections or checkpoints using land, riverine, air and sea routes.

There was not sufficient evidence to validate that the country has laws providing for the use of specialized investigation tools and techniques to prevent and reduce drug trafficking.

Belize participates in ongoing training programs linked to regulations, processes and procedures on drug trafficking and related crimes, as well as specialized investigative techniques and intelligence for personnel involved in interdiction operations.

The country does not have updated diagnoses or studies to identify new trends and threats on drug trafficking and related crimes. The National Forensic Science Services is the agency responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors and pharmaceuticals, including new psychoactive substances (NPS) and the personnel from said Services are involved in the analysis and participate in ongoing training programs.

OBJECTIVE 2

ADOPT AND/OR STRENGTHEN CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DIVERSION OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES TOWARDS ILLICIT ACTIVITIES.

Belize's National Drug Abuse Control Council (NDACC) is the competent authority responsible for controlling domestic trade to prevent diversion of controlled chemical substances towards illicit activities as outlined in the Misuse of Drugs Act of 2000. The country uses the Statutory Instrument No. 5 of 2014 as a means to inform the industry and users in general of applicable controls and cooperation methods, to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances as incorporated in the Misuse of Drugs Act.

Analyses are carried out in the country that include the exchange of information through existing mechanisms of substances in the international field, their analogs and precursors, which pose a threat to public health, through reports sent to International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) on the quantities of narcotics and psychotropic substances.

There is legislation incorporating the control measures in paragraph 8, and partially incorporating those in paragraph 9 of Article 12, of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances to prevent diversion of controlled chemical substances.

The country uses the information system for pre-export notifications (INCB-PEN Online) of controlled chemical substances.

There are no training programs on the identification and handling of controlled chemical substances.

OBJECTIVE 3

ADOPT AND/OR STRENGTHEN CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DIVERSION TOWARDS ILLICIT ACTIVITIES OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS CONTAINING PRECURSOR SUBSTANCES OR THOSE CONTAINING NARCOTIC DRUGS AND/OR PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, ENSURING THE ADEQUATE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESS SOLELY FOR MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES.

Belize has an updated register of individuals and corporations handling pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics or psychotropic substances. Licenses and permits authorizing the importation are issued to manufacturers and distributors, and regular inspections or audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle these pharmaceutical products are carried out.

The Misuse of Drug Act of 2000 has criminal, civil and administrative penalties for infractions or violations by individuals or corporations that handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics or psychotropic substances.

OBJECTIVE 4

ENSURE ADEQUATE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF SUBSTANCES SUBJECT TO INTERNATIONAL CONTROL SOLELY FOR MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES, PREVENTING THEIR DIVERSION.

Belize has a special process for issuing import authorizations for substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes.

The country does not have training and awareness activities for competent national authorities and health professionals on the proper access to these substances, nor is there a regulatory framework or guidelines to govern the acquisition of said substances.

OBJECTIVE 5

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGE OF NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES AND THE THREAT OF AMPHETAMINE STIMULANTS.

Belize does not have an early warning system (EWS) to identify and trace NPS, amphetamine-type stimulants and other substances subject to international control.

The country has not acquired any new special investigative techniques, updated equipment or technology to detect and analyze NPS.

Belize also does not have regulatory frameworks to identify and address the challenges posed by the onset of NPS and amphetamine-type stimulants.

OBJECTIVE 6

ESTABLISH, UPDATE AND STRENGTHEN, AS APPROPRIATE, THE LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS TO COUNTER MONEY LAUNDERING DERIVED FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING.

Belize has updated and strengthened the legislative and institutional frameworks to counter money laundering derived from drug trafficking such as the Money Laundering and Terrorism (Prevention) Act of 2017, Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) Act of 2013 and in applying the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations.

The country does not have protocols that enable the authorities to conduct financial and asset investigations parallel to drug trafficking investigations as outlined in the FIU Act. The FIU has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Belize Police Department, which provides for joint operations.

There are mechanisms allowing for inter-agency coordination and cooperation in the area of preventing and controlling money laundering, through the creation of the National Anti-Money Laundering Committee (NAMLC) as a measure to strengthen domestic coordination and cooperation.

The country has the FIU, which is a statutory body that functions under the Office of the Prime Minister.

There also are mechanisms for analyzing money laundering risks, in accordance with the FATF recommendations.



OBJECTIVE 7

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN AGENCIES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND DISPOSITION OF SEIZED AND/OR FORFEITED ASSETS IN CASES OF DRUG TRAFFICKING, MONEY LAUNDERING AND OTHER RELATED CRIMES.

Belize has legislation, in accordance with international conventions and treaties, to facilitate the seizure and forfeiture of assets, instruments or products deriving from drug trafficking and other related crimes as incorporated in the Money Laundering and Terrorism (Prevention) Act of 2017 and the Misuse of Drugs Act of 2000.

There are regulations to facilitate the accountability and transparency of the administration of seized and forfeited assets as incorporated in the Money Laundering and Terrorism (Prevention) Act of 2017. However, the country does not have a competent authority responsible for the administration of said assets.

Belize also does not offer or participate in specialized training programs for the administration and disposition of seized and forfeited assets.

OBJECTIVE 8

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL INFORMATION GATHERING SYSTEMS AND MECHANISMS FOR EXCHANGING INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION TO DETECT ROUTES AND METHODS USED BY CRIMINAL DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS.

Belize does not have national information gathering mechanisms for the exchange of intelligence information to detect routes and methods used by drug trafficking criminal organizations. There also is no national information system on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on changing behaviors and modus operandi of criminal organizations.

CONTROL MEASURES

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Belize participates in ongoing training programs linked to regulations, processes and procedures on drug trafficking and related crimes, and on chemical substances, precursors and pharmaceuticals, including NPS, for personnel involved in interdiction operations. CICAD also notes that the country has a responsible agency for analyzing chemical substances, precursors and pharmaceuticals, including NPS. However, CICAD notes with concern that Belize does not have protocols or operating procedures to detect, investigate, and dismantle laboratories or facilities for the illicit processing or manufacture of drugs. Moreover, CICAD notes that Belize does not have programs to detect and seize drugs, through monitoring, inspections or checkpoints, and does not have updated diagnoses or studies to identify new trends and threats on drug trafficking and related crimes. Furthermore, CICAD could not make an assessment for the seventh round regarding the use of specialized investigative techniques and intelligence to prevent and reduce drug trafficking, given that the country did not provide the related information.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that since the first to the seventh rounds (1999-2018), Belize has had a competent authority responsible for controlling domestic trade and a mechanism to inform the industry and users in general of applicable controls and cooperation methods, to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances. Likewise, CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), analyses are carried out in the country that include the exchange of information through existing mechanisms of substances in the international field, their analogs and precursors, which pose a threat to public health. Moreover, CICAD observes that Belize uses INCB-PEN Online for controlled chemical substances. However, CICAD notes with concern that there are no training programs on the identification and handling of controlled chemical substances.

CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Belize has an updated register of individuals and corporations handling pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics or psychotropic substances, and licenses and permits authorizing the importation are issued to manufacturers and distributors. CICAD also notes that the country conducts regular inspections or audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle these pharmaceutical products. Additionally, CICAD observes that from the third to the seventh rounds (2003-2018), Belize has had criminal, civil and administrative penalties for infractions or violations by individuals or corporations that handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics or psychotropic substances.

CICAD is pleased to observe that throughout the seven rounds (1999-2018), Belize has had a special process for issuing import authorizations for substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. However, CICAD notes with concern that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country does not have training and awareness activities for competent national authorities and health

professionals on the proper access to substances subject to international control solely for medical and scientific purposes. Likewise, Belize does not have a regulatory framework or guidelines to govern the acquisition of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes.

CICAD notes with concern that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Belize does not have an EWS to identify and trace NPS, amphetamine-type stimulants or other substances subject to international control. The country also does not have regulatory frameworks to identify and address the challenges posed by the onset of these substances. Likewise, CICAD notes with concern that Belize has not acquired any new special investigative techniques, updated equipment or technology to detect and analyze NPS.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that during the seven rounds (1999-2018), Belize has been updating and strengthening the legislative and institutional frameworks to counter money laundering derived from drug trafficking. Furthermore, CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has a financial intelligence unit and there are mechanisms for analyzing money laundering risks. However, CICAD notes with concern that Belize does not have protocols that enable the authorities to conduct financial and asset investigations parallel to drug trafficking investigations. There also are no mechanisms allowing for inter-agency coordination and cooperation in the area of preventing and controlling money laundering.

CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Belize has legislation to facilitate the seizure and forfeiture of assets, instruments, or products deriving from drug trafficking and other related crimes. The country also has regulations to facilitate the accountability and transparency of the administration of seized and forfeited assets. However, CICAD notes with concern that Belize does not offer or participate in specialized training programs nor does it have a competent authority responsible for these subjects.

CICAD expresses its concern that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Belize does not have national information gathering mechanisms to exchange of intelligence information to detect routes and methods used by drug trafficking criminal organizations. Moreover, the country does not have a national information system on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on changing behaviors and modus operandi of criminal organizations.

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 AND RELATED CRIMES.

Belize carries out activities of technical assistance and horizontal cooperation among member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), third States and with relevant international organizations, such as the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) of Belize, which also cooperates with foreign law enforcement partners and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) for the exchange of financial intelligence information. Additionally, as a member of the Caribbean Network of Asset Recovery (ARIN CARIB), Belize is part of improving international cooperation among law enforcement and judicial agencies.

The country does not exchange technologies with foreign counterparts on the systematization of regulation, studies, research, and bibliographic material produced by countries and international organizations. Belize has secure communication channels for the exchange of intelligence information on drug interdiction and control. The country does not promote the exchange with foreign counterparts of best practices on training, specialization and professional development of the staff responsible for implementing the drug policies.

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. This is done through the Egmont Group that facilitates the exchange of information among members, INTERPOL for the exchange of information financial intelligence, ARIN CARIB and input from the Belize Police Department and its Anti-Narcotic Unit. There are no bilateral mechanisms in Belize for coordination and collaboration with other countries, focused on the dismantling of criminal groups linked to drug trafficking and related crimes.

OBJECTIVE 2

STRENGTHEN THE MULTILATERAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION MECHANISMS IN THE AREA OF FORFEITURE AND MANAGEMENT OF ASSETS DERIVED FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING AND RELATED CRIMES.

Belize updated the regulatory and procedural frameworks allowing for effective cooperation mechanisms with other countries and relevant international organizations on forfeiture and management of assets derived from drug trafficking, money laundering and other related crimes. In 2014, the Mutual Legal

Assistance and International Cooperation Act (MLA & ICA) was enacted to empower the Attorney General in making and receiving formal requests for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. This MLA & ICA broadens the scope for legal cooperation available in Belize as assistance may be provided to any foreign State whether on the basis of a treaty or not. Range of assistance that may be provided under the Act includes enforcement and assistance in proceedings in relation to overseas forfeiture orders. Also, in 2014, the Money Laundering and Terrorism (Prevention) Act (MLTPA) was amended to provide for cooperation with foreign regulatory authorities and the enforcement of foreign orders. The Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) evaluated the country in 2011.

The country has no mechanisms and procedures enabling the competent authorities to undertake expeditious actions in response to mutual legal assistance requests on investigation and forfeiture of assets derived from drug trafficking and related crimes. The country's competent authorities have legal powers to exchange information on money laundering investigations, including identification and tracing of the instruments associated with this offense, through information exchange networks, such as INTERPOL, ARIN CARIB, among others. The FIU of Belize is empowered to exchange information with international organizations, bodies, or other institutions or agencies established by the governments of foreign countries that have powers and duties to those similar to the said FIU.

OBJECTIVE 3 | STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AS DEFINED IN THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS RELATED TO THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM, WITH RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

Belize has not enacted legislation or administrative measures and actions to improve implementation of obligations set forth within international legal instruments regarding the world drug problem, respecting human rights and gender equality.

The country is party to the following international legal instruments:

Conventions and protocols		Yes	No	
United Nations Conventions	Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000	Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children	X	
		Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air	X	
		Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition		X
	Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961	X		
	Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971	X		
	Convention against Corruption, 2003	X		

Conventions and protocols		Yes	No
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

OBJECTIVE 4

PROMOTE COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF NATIONAL LEGAL NORMS, REGULATIONS, AND INTERNAL PROCEDURES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HEMISPHERIC JUDICIAL COOPERATION MECHANISMS AND MUTUAL LEGAL OR JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE RELATED TO DRUG TRAFFICKING AND RELATED CRIMES.

Belize has bilateral international cooperation agreements for mutual legal or judicial assistance on the control of drug trafficking and related crimes. In 2014, Belize enacted the Mutual Legal Assistance and International Cooperation Act (MLA & ICA) to provide mutual legal or judicial assistance to third party States in investigations, trials, and legal proceedings for drug trafficking and related crimes.

There are laws and other legal provisions that permit extradition and the country has an extradition agreement for drug trafficking and related crimes. However, there are no laws or other legal provisions that permit extradition of nationals for drug trafficking and related crimes.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD notes that Belize in the seventh round (2014-2018), carries out activities of technical assistance and horizontal cooperation among member states of the OAS, third States and with relevant international organizations. Additionally, from the first to the sixth rounds (1999-2014), the country had an entity to exchange drug-related information and collaboration with other countries. Furthermore, throughout the seven rounds (1999-2018), Belize has had secure communication channels for exchanging intelligence information on drug trafficking and related crimes.

CICAD takes note that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Belize updated its regulatory and procedural frameworks allowing for effective cooperation mechanisms with other countries and relevant international organizations on forfeiture and management of assets derived from drug trafficking, money laundering and other related crimes. CICAD takes note that there are no mechanisms and procedures to expeditiously undertake actions in response to mutual legal assistance requests on investigation and forfeiture of assets derived from drug trafficking and related crimes. CICAD also notes that the country in the seventh round (2014-2018), has competent authorities, disclosures of information relating to financial transactions and for the exchange of operational collaboration among national authorities and other countries.

CICAD notes that from the first through the seventh rounds (1999-2018), Belize has had legislation on drug matters, including money laundering, chemical substances, firearms, ammunition and explosives. Then in the second round (2001-2002), there were laws on corruption, and in the fifth round (2007-2009), on pharmaceutical products. CICAD also notes that during the seven rounds (1999-2018), the country has ratified conventions and protocols of the United Nations and conventions of the Organization of American States. However, CICAD expresses concern that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Belize has not ratified the Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters of 1992 and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition. Furthermore, the country has not enacted legislation or administrative measure and action to improve implementation set forth within international legal instruments regarding the world drug problem.

CICAD notes that from the second through the seventh rounds (2001-2018), Belize has been sharing and exchanging information on money laundering. From the third to the seventh rounds (2003-2018), the country has had bilateral international cooperation agreements for mutual legal assistance on drug trafficking and related crimes. Moreover, in the sixth and seventh rounds (2013-2018), there have been legal provisions to provide reciprocal judicial assistance to third party States in investigations, trials, and legal proceedings for illicit drug trafficking and money laundering. From the second to the seventh rounds (2001-2018), CICAD notes with satisfaction that Belize has had laws to permit extradition for

drug trafficking and related crimes. However, in the seventh round (2014-2018), there are no laws or other legal provisions that permit extradition of nationals for drug trafficking and related crimes.

CICAD recognizes Belize for the continued participation and commitment during the seventh evaluation round of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM). In accordance with its national situation, the country is encouraged to fully implement the Plan of Action (2016-2020) of CICAD's Hemispheric Drug Strategy (2010).



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