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# MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)

SECRETARIAT FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL SECURITY (SMS)

# Mexico

Evaluation Report on Drug Policies

# 2019



## MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

# MEXICO

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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.

In Mexico, the national drug authority is the Attorney General's Office (PGR), it was created in 1857 and carries out its role through the National Office on Drug Policies, a division of the Criminal Investigation Agency (AIC). This national office was designed according to a multi-agency model and its purpose is to integrate, coordinate, promote and propose public policies aimed to reduce demand, control supply, violence prevention, justice and law enforcement and development initiatives.

The National Office on Drug Policies has financing to cover its activities, which is included in the annual budget of the Attorney General's Office<sup>1</sup>. The National Drug Policies Program, is based on a multi-sectoral approach incorporating the actions of different institutions, such as: the demand reduction approach headed by the Ministry of Health through the Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risks (COFEPRIS) and the National Commission Against Addictions (CONADIC); social prevention is coordinated by the Ministry of the Interior through the Under Secretariat for Prevention and Citizen Participation; and supply reduction is coordinated by the Attorney General's Office, Ministry of National Defense (SEDENA), Navy Secretariat (SEMAR) and Federal Police (PF).

Financing for the human and material resources needed to implement the national drug policy is included within the annual budget of the Federation which is assigned to the activities of each authorities involved in the drug problem in Mexico.

The National High-Level Group on Drug Policy coordinated by the PGR is the ongoing coordination mechanism among agencies and other levels of government, in order to implement the national drug plan.

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<sup>1</sup> On December 20, 2018, the Declaration of the entry into force of the Constitutional Autonomy of the Attorney General's Office was published in the Federal Official Gazette, in accordance with the first paragraph of the article sixteenth transitory of the Decree published in the same official media on February 10, 2014. <https://aplicaciones.pgr.gob.mx/normatecasustantiva/Normateca%20Sustantiva/Acuerdo%20A-004-19.pdf>

## 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 LAW<sup>2</sup> WITH A FOCUS ON GENDER AND EMPHASIZING DEVELOPMENT WITH SOCIAL INCLUSION.

Mexico has the 2016-2018 National Drug Policy Program, which covers the pillars of demand reduction, supply reduction, social prevention of violence and crime, criminal justice, international cooperation and investigation, evaluation and training. Relevant actors participating in the drafting, implementation and updating of the program are PGR, the Ministry of the Interior (SEGOB), the Ministry of Health (SALUD), the Ministry of Social Development (SEDESOL), the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (STPS), the Ministry of Public Education (SEP), SEDENA, SEMAR, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SRE), the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA), the Ministry of Communications and Transportation (SCT), the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (SHCP), the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), the National Institute of Women (INMUJERES), the Mexican Institute of Youth (INJUVE) and the National System for Comprehensive Family Development (DIF), among others. Other federal agencies and public institutions collaborate in developing the program through working groups on demand reduction, criminal justice and supply control.

In addition, the 2016-2018 National Drug Policy takes into account the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the 2030 Agenda, includes the human rights perspective, specifically incorporates the gender approach and considers development with social inclusion.

To carry out a decentralized action in the area of drugs, the PGR acts on the basis of a regional coordination and decentralization system through administrative units that carry out their functions in territorial districts. These districts are divided based on the crime rate in the surrounding geographical area, the characteristics of human settlements, the population level, crime producing phenomena and other criteria outlined under the regulations of the Organic Law of the Attorney General's Office.

The location and territorial areas and subject matter under the jurisdiction of the administrative units and decentralized bodies in the territorial districts, as well as the delegations, are determined by agreement of the Attorney General. Each federal entity has delegations, which are decentralized divisions of the PGR in the federative entities.

Coordination agreements can be reached to finance drug initiatives or projects executed by the municipalities or federative entities. Each entity or municipality must contribute a portion of the budget assigned by the Federation. Funds are transferred through the Contributions Fund for Public

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

Security (FASP) of the federative entities and the Program to Strengthen Security (FORTASEG) of the municipalities.

### 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.

In Mexico, the objectives of the National Drug Policy Program are aligned with the national goals derived from the 2013-2018 National Development Plan, with the sectoral programs and specific action programs of the country's governmental divisions that participate in those goals.

### 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.

In Mexico, the Mexican Observatory on Drugs (OMD), reporting to the Ministry of Health and has a budget to carry out its functions.

The OMD has a national drug information network made up of universities, health institutions, statistical and census institutions, civil society and other social stakeholders.

The following are the data and information collected 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 survey (12-64 years)	X		2016
Patient register in treatment centers	X		2016
Cross-section survey of patients in treatment centers		X	
Survey of patients in emergency rooms	X		2016
Survey of populations in conflict with the law	X		2016
Studies on drug-related mortality	X		2016



Demand reduction			
Studies	Studies carried out and published		Year of most recent study
	Yes	No	
Studies on drug-related morbidity	X		2018
Studies on gender conditions related to drug problems		X	
Otros			
Survey of Social Cohesion for the Prevention of Violence and Crime (ECOPRED)	X		2014
Diagnosis of heroin use on Mexico's border with the United States: Dimension and context (Ministry of Health, Ramon de la Fuente National Psychiatry Institute, Merida Initiative)	X		2018

The 2014 National Survey on Drug Use among Students and the 2016-2017 National Survey on Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Use (ENCODAT) include data disaggregated by gender, age and socioeconomic and educational level.

The following are the data and information collected in the areas of 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		2018
Number of seizures of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production	X		2018
Quantities of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production seized	X		2018
Number of seizures of controlled chemical substances (precursors)	X		2017
Quantities of seized controlled chemical substances (precursors)	X		2018
Number of seizures of pharmaceutical products	X		2017
Quantities of pharmaceutical products seized	X		2017
Number of persons formally charged with drug use, possession and trafficking	X		2018
Number of persons convicted of drug use, possession and trafficking	X		2018
Number of laboratories producing illicit plant-based drugs detected and dismantled	X		2018

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		2018
Chemical composition of seized drugs	X		2018
Sale price of drugs (for consumers)	X		2018
Number of persons formally charged with money laundering	X		2018
Number of persons convicted of money laundering	X		2018
Number of persons formally charged with trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition and related materials	X		2018
Number of persons convicted of trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition and related materials	X		Non-public information
Number of persons formally charged with diversion of chemical substances		X	
Number of persons convicted of diversion of chemical substances		X	

The country has carried out studies to evaluate programs and interventions on demand for drugs, such as development and testing of a training model in positive parenting practices in Mexican families with children with problem behavior in 2013; the “Leaving Footprints in your Life” program to develop social skills in children in grades 2 to 5 in primary school in 2015; and the evaluation of a scholastic model for the comprehensive prevention of at-risk behaviors in students based on development of social skills and positive parenting practices in children and their caregivers in 2017.

The country has also carried out the study “Monitoring of Poppy Crops 2014-2015-2017” to evaluate programs and interventions on drug supply reduction.

## 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.

In Mexico, the General Health Law of 2018, the National Criminal Enforcement Law of 2018 and the National Law on the Comprehensive System of Criminal Justice for Adolescents of 2016 provide for alternative measures to incarceration for low-level drug offenses.

Alternative measures of this kind take gender differences into account. In this respect, the Therapeutic Justice Program for users of psychoactive substances establishes a concrete methodology for conducting a biopsychosocial assessment to identify and evaluate each individual's specific characteristics, including gender.

## 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.

With respect to interinstitutional and multisectoral programs that promote the social integration of individuals affected by the drug problem, Mexico has various programs such as: the National Program for the Social Prevention of Violence and Crime, which seeks to address four priority populations (children, adolescents, youth and women); the 2014-2018 National Program for Equality and Non-discrimination, seeking to generate mechanisms for measuring discrimination situations; the National Youth program, which aims to reduce conditions that exclude young men and women and establish the relevance of these groups' contribution to the country's development; and the Program to Strengthen the Cross-Cutting Nature of the Gender Perspective to promote the incorporation of the gender perspective in the regulatory framework, in planning and programming instruments, as well as in governmental actions to implement that policy in the federative entities, the municipalities and the city halls in Mexico City.

## OBJECTIVE 7

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

In Mexico, the General Health Law of 2018 establishes proportionate sentencing, particularly for low-level drug-related offenses.

The country has special courts and tribunals for low-level drug-related offenses. Mexico implements the Therapeutic Justice Program (PJT) for users of psychoactive substances. This program has a mechanism to follow offenders who use, abuse or are dependent upon psychoactive substances and who have committed a low-level offense for the first time, so that they receive treatment in the area of health and criminal behaviors.

In addition, through the PGR, the country is implementing the "Programa Repensar" to prevent criminal and violent behaviors among adolescents and youth between the ages of 12 and 29 in conflict with the criminal law. In this regard, the country has promoted the effective training of adolescents and youths during the criminal process by utilizing procedural devices such as a) conditional suspension

of the trial proceeding, b) reaching reparations agreements and c) imposing precautionary measures. Attending “Repensar” is one of the conditions agreed to by the parties or ordered by judges, as part of the restoration and reintegration processes the law provides. The program operates in alliance with the Youth Integration Centers (CIJ) as forums in which workshops are conducted on social/emotional skills for decision-making and conflict resolution, through cognitive change, the objective being to prevent offenses or repeat offenses among adolescents and youths in conflict with the law.

## INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

### Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD notes that during the seven rounds (1999-2018), Mexico has had a national drug authority, which carries out its functions through two entities: one for combating crime and another responsible for the areas of demand and supply reduction, development programs related to preventing or reducing illicit crops, drug production or trafficking, control measures, the drug observatory, international cooperation, program evaluation and related crimes. Said authority has a legal basis and financing to address its activities.

CICAD notes that from the first to the fourth rounds (1999-2006), Mexico had a 2001-2006 National Drug Control Program that included the areas of supply reduction, demand reduction, control measures, institutional structure, budget and evaluation system. CICAD also notes that during the fifth and sixth rounds (2007-2014), the country did not have an Anti-drug Strategy or Plan. In the seventh round (2014-2018), CICAD notes with satisfaction that Mexico has the 2016-2018 National Drug Policy Program (PNPD) taking into account the United Nations SDG of the 2030 Agenda and includes the human rights approach, the gender approach and development with social inclusion. That program covers the areas of demand reduction and supply reduction, social prevention of violence and crime, criminal justice, international cooperation and investigation, evaluation and training. CICAD notes with satisfaction that the objectives of the PNPD are aligned with the 2013-2018 National Development Plan. In addition, CICAD notes that the country has mechanisms for regional coordination and decentralization in the administrative territorial districts and for the financing of drug initiatives and projects executed by the municipalities or federal entities.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Mexico coordinates various national programs with the entities responsible for national social public policy to address the socioeconomic causes and consequences of the drug problem.

CICAD notes that in the first round (1999-2000), Mexico had an integrated system for collecting and maintaining statistics and documents, and maintained different and separate collections of documents and statistics on demand reduction and supply reduction, control measures and the impact of drugs on society. During the second round (2001-2002), the country made progress through the Statistical System for Drug Control and initiated the epidemiological publication of the Drug Observatory, which included information from various surveys, surveillance systems and epidemiological records. From the third to the sixth rounds (2003-2014), Mexico through the CENAPI, compiled and coordinated statistics and other drug-related information on supply reduction, while for demand reduction, through the Epidemiological and Psychosocial Research Division of the Ramón de la Fuente National Psychiatric Institute, it coordinated the work of the Observatory and conducted priority surveys on demand reduction. CICAD notes with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country maintains the Observatory and has a national drug information network. In addition, CICAD is pleased to note that

Mexico conducts priority studies on demand reduction including data disaggregated by gender, age, socioeconomic and educational level. The country also has information on supply reduction, trafficking and related crimes, and also has conducted studies to evaluate drug interventions on demand reduction and supply reduction.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Mexico has national laws establishing and providing alternatives to incarceration for drug dependent violators of the criminal law. The country evaluates the efficiency and effectiveness of these alternatives to incarceration programs. In addition, CICAD notes that the country has the Therapeutic Justice Program for psychoactive substance users and is pleased to note that Mexico has mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the impact of implementing alternative measures to incarceration for low-level drug-related offenses that involve adolescents.

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

CICAD notes with satisfaction that for the seventh round (2014-2018), Mexico has legislation on proportionate sentencing, in particular for low-level drug-related offenses. In addition, the country has special courts and tribunals for such 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.

Mexico has demand reduction policies that include programs in the areas of prevention, treatment and social integration. These programs include human rights, intercultural, generational and gender approaches. The guidelines and recommendations of specialized international organizations are taken into account in establishing demand reduction programs in the areas of prevention, treatment and social integration.

Demand reduction policies and programs are implemented through the National Commission against Addictions (CONADIC) and the Juvenile Integration Centers (CJI). In addition, there are instruments for monitoring demand reduction programs.

Mexico has carried out process and intermediate outcome evaluations of drug use prevention programs: *“Criando con Amor Promoviendo Armonía y Superación en México,” “Dejando Huellitas en tu vida,”* Prevention of addictions in young people through the mobile application *“¿Qué pasa si te pasas?”* and *“Intervenciones para la reducción del estigma y la discriminación de las enfermedades mentales en personal de salud que labora en instituciones de atención.”* The country has also carried out an impact evaluation of the drug abuse prevention program *“Programa Preventivo.”*

The country implements coordinating mechanisms to develop and implement demand reduction programs allowing the participation and coordination of civil society and other social stakeholders. In this regard, CONADIC and CJI distribute sanitary packages in collaboration with non-governmental organizations and establish inter-institutional agreements. In addition, the Under Secretariat for Prevention and Citizen Participation integrates the Citizen Evaluation Commissions and support for social prevention, made up of the academic and corporate sectors and civil society organizations.

Measures are implemented aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse, 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) as a reference. To this end, a methadone maintenance program is carried out and sanitary packets are distributed containing rapid urine drug detection tests, HIV tests, UHC, pregnancy tests, sterilized syringes and reactive strips.

**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.

Mexico implements prevention programs in the following populations:

Population group	Name of program	Type of program
<b>School children and university students</b>		
• Pre-school	CONADIC - National Prevention Program	Universal
	CJI - "Para vivir sin adicciones"	Universal
• Elementary/primary	CONADIC	Universal
	CJI - "Para vivir sin adicciones"	Universal
	"Lo Justo es Prevenir"	Universal
	"Programa Huellitas*-CAPAS-MX** (*Dejando Huellitas en tu Vida) (**Criando con Amor Promoviendo Armonía y Superación en México Generación PMTO)"	Universal
	"Criando con Amor Promoviendo Armonía y Superación en México Generación PMTO"	Selective
• Junior high & high school (secondary school)	CONADIC - National Prevention Program	Universal
	CJI - "Para vivir sin adicciones"	Universal
	Prevention of addictions in young people through the mobile application "¿Qué pasa si te pasas?"	Selective/Indicated
	"Lo Justo es Prevenir"	Universal
• University/tertiary education	CONADIC - National Prevention Program	Universal
	CJI - "Para vivir sin adicciones"	Selective/Indicated
<b>Gender</b>		
• Women	CONADIC - National Prevention Program	Universal/Selective/Indicated
• Men	CJI - "Para vivir sin adicciones"	Universal/Selective/Indicated



Population group	Name of program	Type of program
Community	"Para vivir sin adicciones"	Universal/Selective/Indicated
Indigenous people		
Migrants and refugees		
Individuals in the workplace	"Para vivir sin adicciones en los Centros de Trabajo"	Selective
Incarcerated individuals	"Dejando huella "	Indicated
Others		
Young people in conflict with the law	"Repensar"	Indicated
Program to support families of people reported missing	"Has visto a...?"	Indicated
Program for children and youth	"Prevención en Acción"	Universal

However, the country does not have prevention programs for the street population (children, youth, adults and family) or LGBTI.

### 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.

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

The country has mechanisms to facilitate access and ensure the quality of treatment services for those with problematic drug use, such as the CJI National Care Network and the National Directory of Residential Facilities recognized by the CONADIC. Residential services are provided by the public health system, private institutions, and non-governmental organizations. The country includes the gender perspective in the treatment services offered. The Units of the CJI have treatment areas and activities differentiated by gender. The gender perspective is included in the Manual of Procedures for each residential treatment center, which is a requirement for CONADIC to consider them as candidates for federal recognition.

Mexico has also 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. This cooperation is established in agreements between the Ministry of the Interior and the federative entities; agreements signed with civil society organizations, academia and the business sector. Human rights and the gender approach are considered in the evaluation of prevention and treatment programs.

Mexico has mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment and social integration programs, which consider the human rights and gender approaches.

Regarding mechanisms to protect the rights of people with problematic drug use in treatment programs and services, the CJI address the human rights approach through posters in each care unit, permanent training for all personnel, and the dissemination of information on patients' rights. CONADIC supervises residential addiction treatment facilities that include the gender perspective, as well as respect for human rights, as established in the treatment center's internal regulations.

Mexico has supervisory mechanisms for facilities that offer treatment and rehabilitation services for those with problematic drug use. CONADIC carries out this supervision through technical-normative instruments. Supervisory mechanisms allow for the systematization and compilation of information on the services being performed.

## OBJECTIVE 4

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

Mexico offers ongoing competence-based training in the areas of prevention, treatment and social integration through the CJI, the Under Secretariat for Prevention and Citizen Participation, in collaboration with the Carlos Slim Foundation and CONADIC, and through the Training and Certification Program for Personnel Providing Treatment and Rehabilitation Services to those Affected by the Drug Problem (PROCCER).

Mexico certifies personnel who work in prevention and treatment services at the basic and intermediate levels, and those who work in social integration at the basic level.

## OBJECTIVE 5

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

Mexico has an accreditation process for treatment centers, through the Procedure for Recognition of Residential Addiction Care Facilities carried out by CONADIC. That procedure starts with a national announcement for participation in the program.

The country has supervisory mechanisms to ensure that quality criteria are met in prevention programs and treatment services. In the case of CJI, supervision is carried out on-site and remotely. CONADIC and the State Commission against Addictions supervise addiction treatment residential facilities and institutions at the federal and state level.

The country has conducted an assessment to determine both national needs and the supply of care and treatment. In this regard, CONADIC and the CJI conducted the Assessment of Macrosocial Risks of Drug Use; the Basic Target Community Study; and National Surveys of Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Use, 2016-2017.

## DEMAND REDUCTION

### Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD notes with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Mexico has demand reduction policies that include programs in the areas of prevention, treatment and social integration. These programs incorporate human rights, intercultural, generational and gender approaches. These policies take into account the guidelines of international organizations and are implemented through coordination mechanisms for various stakeholders. With regard to program evaluation, CICAD notes with satisfaction that from the second to the seventh rounds (2001-2018), the country evaluates drug abuse prevention programs. CICAD observes that the Mexico implements measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse, using the guide published by international organizations as a reference.

CICAD is pleased to note that from the first to the seventh rounds (1999-2018), Mexico has had universal, selective and indicated prevention programs that prioritize vulnerable and at-risk populations. However, CICAD recognizes that there are still some populations not covered.

CICAD notes that throughout the seven rounds (1999-2018), Mexico has had a national system of comprehensive treatment and social integration programs and devices that offers all services in the continuum of care, guaranteeing access without discrimination and including the gender perspective. CICAD notes with satisfaction the progress made in the last two rounds, since in the sixth round (2013-2014), the country incorporated mechanisms that facilitate access and ensure the quality of treatment services, and in the seventh round (2014-2018), there are mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment and social integration programs, mechanisms to protect the rights of people with problematic drug use in treatment programs and supervisory mechanisms of the establishments that offer treatment to those with problematic drug use.

Regarding the promotion of ongoing training and certification of personnel, CICAD recognizes with satisfaction that during all seven rounds (1999-2018), Mexico has offered a wide variety of trainings, both in the academic setting and through other courses, in the area of prevention, treatment and social integration, and that it certifies human resources working in prevention and treatment services at the basic and intermediate level and in social integration at the basic level.

CICAD notes that from the fifth to the seventh rounds (2007-2018), Mexico has had an accreditation process for treatment centers, as well as monitoring mechanisms to guarantee the quality of treatment services. During the seventh round (2014-2018), the country also has mechanisms to guarantee the quality of prevention programs in addition to treatment services. CICAD is pleased to note that the country has conducted an assessment to determine both national needs and the supply of care and treatment services.

# 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.

In Mexico, the Attorney General's Office (PGR) designs, implements and updates national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit crops and the illicit production of drugs.

The country takes into account traditional licit uses when designing and implementing policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs, taking into account the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States (Article 2) and the Federal Penal Code (Article 195 bis, section II).

Mexico includes environmental protection measures in its policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs in terms of transport, import or export of hazardous waste, where the proper environmental management of products of this kind has been fostered.

Drug supply reduction programs implemented by the country are supplemented by drug-related crime prevention initiatives that address social and economic risk factors and include participation from civil society and other social stakeholders.

## 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.

Mexico has mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs, such as the National High-Level Group on Drug Policy, the Sectoral Liaison Group (GES), the National Technical Group on Land, Air and Sea Interception of Drugs, the Synthetic Drugs Group, the Technical Group to Monitor the MEXK54 Project "Monitoring System on Illicit Crops in Mexican Territory," and the MEX34 Technical Group "Capacity Building and Validation of the Process for Collecting Information on Illicit Crop Destruction Activities," all coordinated by the PGR, through the National Drug Policy Office of the Criminal Investigation Agency (AIC).

Additionally, the AIC, through the National Center for Planning, Analysis and Information for Combating Crime (CENAPI), collects, captures, validates and consolidates relevant information through the daily

exchange of information with the agencies involved and integrates them in the Uniform Statistical System for the Analysis of Crime (SEUNAD). This allows the generation of statistics and the analysis of the crime trend in the country through geographical positioning tools.

The country carries out periodic studies and research on the structural and socioeconomic factors influencing the illicit supply of drugs situation.

Mexico does not prepare or update 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.

The country promotes and implements mechanisms to identify chemical profiles and characteristics of drugs subject to the international control system. After the substance of interest is identified, its components are profiled to identify active principles, cuts and precursors.

Mexico promotes and implements mechanisms for the identification of new psychoactive substances (NPS).

The country uses various standardized and comparable methodologies, developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), to measure illicit crops and calculate drug production yield and morphine concentration in opium samples, which are being utilized in the MEXK54 Project “Illicit Crops Monitoring System in the Mexican Territory” that continually monitors the areas of highest incidence in the national territory through satellite images, validating the poppy fields detected previously with field work, through aerial photography collected with the support of federal government and/or private aircraft.

### 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.

Mexico has not implemented alternative, integral and sustainable development or preventive alternative development programs.

The National Office of Drug Policies, attached to the AIC of the PGR, is the national entity responsible for coordinating and evaluating the implementation of alternative development programs.

During 2014-2018, the country exchanged experiences and best practices with other countries in the hemisphere on the design and implementation of alternative, integral and sustainable development

programs, including preventive alternative development, within the framework of the Cooperation Program between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drug Policy (COPOLAD); the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the Group of Experts on Alternative, Integral and Sustainable Development (GEDAIS) of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD).

Mexico promotes sustainable urban development initiatives in urban populations affected by illicit activities related to drug trafficking and related crimes through specific programs.

## 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.

Mexico carries out research or studies to determine the characteristics and extent the environmental impact caused by the illicit cultivation of crops and illicit drug production.

Mexico also develops and implements specific plans based on the results of research and studies done, to mitigate and reduce the negative environmental impacts caused by illicit crops and illicit drug production, with the participation of local communities.

## 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.

Mexico has characterization methodologies with territorial and socio-economic approaches on micro-drug trafficking or small-scale drug trafficking and the effects on public health, the economy, social cohesion and citizen security. In the case of the PGR, the results of the analyses do not constitute public information.

The National Office on Drug Policies attached to the PGR's AIC has put in place the mechanisms needed for coordination and reciprocal cooperation among the states and the federation, to strengthen and ensure the exchange of information on small-scale drug trafficking.

The country exchanges information on the effects of small-scale or micro-drug trafficking on the health, social, economic and security sectors, on an ongoing basis among government entities and with the UNODC and CICAD in 2017.

## SUPPLY REDUCTION

### Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD notes that in the sixth round (2013-2014), Mexico reported on the existence of a regulatory framework with national scope that defines policies to reduce the illicit supply of drugs. In this respect, it recognizes with satisfaction that, during the seventh round (2014-2018), the country designs, implements and updates national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit crops and the illicit production of drugs, taking into account the traditional licit uses of drugs and considering environmental protection measures. In addition, CICAD recognizes that the drug supply reduction programs implemented are supplemented by crime prevention initiatives that address social and economic risk factors and include the participation of civil society and other social stakeholders.

CICAD ascertains that from the first to the seventh rounds (1999-2018), Mexico has had crop measurement and eradication policies and programs and notes with satisfaction that from the sixth to the seventh rounds (2013-2018), there has been mechanisms for compiling and analyzing information related to the illicit supply of drugs and has conducted periodic research on the structural and socioeconomic factors that affect the illicit drug supply situation. CICAD notes with satisfaction that during the seventh round (2014-2018), the country fosters and implements mechanisms to identify the chemical profiles and characteristics of drugs subject to the international control system and recognizes progress made, since in the fifth round (2007-2009), there were no such mechanisms. In addition, the country promotes and implements mechanisms to identify NPS. However, CICAD notes that Mexico did not conduct studies on the medicinal, scientific and other illicit uses of plants containing narcotic or psychotropic substances subject to the international control system.

CICAD notes that from the first to the fourth rounds (1999-2006), Mexico had comprehensive rural development programs and that in the fifth round it indicated that it had the conditions necessary to implement development programs but that they did not fully comply with the concepts of alternative, integral and sustainable development. However, the country relapsed in the sixth and seventh rounds (2013-2018) that these programs were not implemented. In addition, CICAD notes with pleasure that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Mexico promoted sustainable urban development initiatives in urban populations affected by illegal activities related to drug trafficking and related crimes.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Mexico has carried out research and studies to determine the characteristics and the extent of the environmental impact caused by activities related to illicit crops and illicit drug production and that it has developed and implemented specific plans, based on the results of research or studies done, to mitigate and reduce the negative environmental impacts caused by illicit crops and the illicit production of drugs, with the participation of local communities.



CICAD notes with pleasure that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Mexico has characterization methodologies, with a territorial and socioeconomic approach, regarding small-scale or micro drug trafficking and the effects on public health, the economy, social cohesion and citizen security and that it exchanged information on the effects on the health, social, economic and 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.

Mexico has protocols and procedures for detecting, investigating and dismantling laboratories or facilities devoted to the illicit processing or manufacture of drugs.

The country has the National Assurance Protocol and the Action Protocol of Naval Personnel in Coast Guard Functions, as well as overland, riverine, maritime and aerial programs and strategies for detecting and seizing drugs, which are evaluated periodically through monitoring, inspections and checkpoints.

The use of specialized investigative tools and techniques to prevent and reduce illicit drug trafficking is included in the following laws and regulations:

- Federal Law against Organized Crime of 2017;
- Law of the Federal Police and its Regulation of 2011;
- Federal Law for the Control of Chemical Precursors, Basic Chemical Products and Machines for the manufacture of Capsules, Tablets and/or Pills of 2012; and
- General Law on Health of 2018.

Mexico implements continuing training programs for personnel involved in interdiction operations on laws, processes and procedures having to do with illicit drug trafficking and related crimes, and on specialized investigative and intelligence techniques.

The country implements interinstitutional collaboration and cooperation arrangements to carry out coordinated actions to dismantle the organized criminal groups involved in illicit drug trafficking and related crimes.

The General Coordinating Office of Expert Services under the Criminal Investigation Agency (AIC) of the Office of the Attorney General (PGR) and the Federal Commission for Protection from Health Risks (COFEPRIS), under the Ministry of Health, are the authorities responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursor and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances (NPS).

Mexico has continuing training programs for the personnel involved in the analysis of chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including NPS.

## **OBJECTIVE 2** | ADOPT AND/OR STRENGTHEN CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DIVERSION OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES TOWARDS ILLICIT ACTIVITIES.

In Mexico the COFEPRIS of the Ministry of Health is the authority responsible for regulating domestic commerce and preventing the diversion of controlled chemical substances. This Commission has the legal instruments that give it authority for interinstitutional coordination to pursue its mission.

The Agreement to coordinate actions to support the competitiveness of the affiliated businesses is the instrument for informing industry and users in general about applicable controls and ways of cooperating to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances.

The country performs analyses that include exchanging information through existing mechanisms internationally on substances, their analogs, and their precursors that pose a threat to public health. These are the Pre-Export Notification Online system (PEN Online) of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and the National Drug Control System (NDS) of the United Nations.

The control measures contained in paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article 12 of the 1988 United Nations Convention to prevent diversion of controlled chemical substances to illicit activities are incorporated in the following legislation:

- Federal Law for the Control of Chemical Precursors, Basic Chemical Products and Machines for the manufacture of Capsules, Tablets and/or Pills of 2012 and its Regulation; and
- General Law on Health of 2018 and its Regulation of Health Supplies.

Mexico has training programs for drug control personnel to identify and handle 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.

Mexico has an updated registry of the individuals and businesses that handle pharmaceutical products that contain precursor substances, narcotics and psychotropic substances. The country grants licenses to the manufacturers and distributors of those pharmaceutical products to regulate them and performs regular inspections or audits of the establishments of individuals and businesses authorized to handle such pharmaceutical products.

The General Health Law of 2018 and its Regulation of Health Supplies of 2018 contain the criminal, civil and administrative sanctions for infractions and violations by individuals or businesses that handle pharmaceutical products that contain 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.

Mexico has special processes for authorizing imports and exports of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. The COFEPRIS uses the Electronic System of Health Procedures to apply for permits for special prescriptions.

Training and awareness-raising programs concerning adequate access to substances subject to international control solely for medical and scientific purposes are organized for the competent national authorities and health professionals.

The country has a regulatory framework and guidelines that govern the acquisition of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. That framework is contained in the General Law on Health of 2018 and the Regulation of Health Supplies.

### OBJECTIVE 5

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

Mexico has an early warning system to identify and trace NPS, amphetamine-type stimulants and all other substances subject to international control, which operates through ongoing surveillance and

through the exchange of information among customs, prosecutorial and administrative authorities, and the authorities who enforce health regulations.

The country has included new special investigative techniques, updated equipment and new technologies for detecting and analyzing NPSs, such as the techniques of liquid chromatography and gas chromatography coupled to mass spectrometry, and infrared spectrometry.

The General Law on Health and the Control of Chemical Precursors, Basic Chemical Products and Machines for the manufacture of Capsules, Tablets and/or Pills of 2012 are the regulatory frameworks for identifying and addressing the challenges posted by 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.

Mexico has strengthened the legal and institutional frameworks for countering money laundering stemming from illicit drug trafficking, considering, among other matters, actions to prevent money laundering and terrorism financing, application of a risk-based approach, identifying the ultimate beneficiary and implementing mechanisms of coordination and cooperation and exchange of information.

The country has the Protocol for Parallel Financial Investigations, which seeks to standardize the actions of the prosecutors with basic operational tactics that describe how one should proceed to initiate a parallel financial investigation.

The following mechanisms allow for interinstitutional coordination and cooperation on preventing and controlling money laundering, through actions aimed at evaluating risks of money laundering and terrorism financing:

- Public policies to prevent and counter money laundering;
- Exchange of information to prevent money laundering and to confront terrorism financing and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
- Blocking or embargoing assets;
- Follow-up on judicial decisions concerning related cases; and
- Protocols and programs.

The Financial Intelligence Unit, situated within the organizational structure of the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (SHCP), is the unit entrusted with preventing and fighting crimes involving operations with resources of unlawful origin, as well as exchanging information nationally and internationally.

Mexico has mechanisms to analyze the risks of money laundering, in keeping with the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

## 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.

Mexico has the Federal Law on Asset Forfeiture of 2018, as well as other specific measures, in keeping with the relevant international treaties and conventions, to facilitate the seizure and forfeiture of assets, instruments or proceeds of illicit drug trafficking and related crimes through the Federal Law on Asset Forfeiture. In this respect, the Service for the Administration and Disposal of Assets (SAE), an entity of the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (SHCP), is the competent authority for administering seized and forfeited assets.

The rules of the SAE provide for accountability and transparency in the administration of seized and forfeited assets, in accordance to the above-mentioned law.

The country offers and participates in specialized training programs for administering and disposing 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.

Mexico has a national system for gathering and exchanging intelligence information about illicit drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on the changing conduct and modus operandi of the criminal organizations.

The system is made up of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic (PGR), the National Central Bureau (NCB) of INTERPOL in Mexico, the Federal Police of the Ministry of Interior (SEGOB), the Ministry of National Defense (SEDENA), the Ministry of the Navy (SEMAR), the Tax Administration Service (SAT), the SHCP, as well as the Offices of Attorney General and Secretariats of Public Security of the states.

## CONTROL MEASURES

### Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD observes that in the sixth and seventh rounds (2013-2018), Mexico has had protocols and procedures for detecting, investigating and dismantling laboratories or facilities for the illicit manufacture of drugs. CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has programs and strategies for detecting and seizing drugs through overland, riverine, aerial and maritime monitoring, inspections and checkpoints, and participates in continuing training programs on these matters. Mexico also has regulations that consider the use of specialized investigative tools and techniques to prevent and reduce illicit drug trafficking, and it produces updated assessments and studies related to illicit drug trafficking and related crimes. In addition, CICAD notes with satisfaction that the country has institutions in charge of analyzing chemical substances, precursors and pharmaceutical products, including NPS. Moreover, CICAD takes note that Mexico has and participates in continuing training programs for the personnel involved in this analysis.

CICAD views with satisfaction that from the fourth to seventh rounds (2005-2018), Mexico has had a competent authority responsible for regulating domestic commerce to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances to illicit activities. CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has mechanisms to inform the industry and users in general about the applicable controls and ways of cooperating to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances. In addition, Mexico performs analyses that include the exchange of information through international mechanisms on substances, their analogs and their precursors that pose a threat to public health. CICAD notes that Mexico has training programs for drug control personnel and for identifying and handling controlled chemical substances. CICAD observes that from the first to the seventh rounds (1999-2018), Mexico uses the Pre-Export Notification Online system (PEN Online) of the INCB for controlled chemical substances.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that from the first to the seventh rounds (1999-2018), Mexico's legislation has provided for criminal, civil and administrative penalties for infractions or violations perpetrated by individuals or businesses that handle pharmaceutical products that contain precursor substances, narcotics or psychotropic substances. CICAD also observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has an updated registry of the individuals and businesses that handle these products. It also grants licenses to their manufacturers and distributors and performs regular inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and businesses that have been authorized to handle such products.

CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Mexico has special procedures for granting authorization to import and export substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes, and training and awareness-raising activities are offered to the competent national authorities and health professionals regarding adequate access to such substances solely for medical and scientific purposes. In addition, CICAD observes that the country has a regulatory framework that governs the acquisition of such substances.

CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Mexico has an early warning system to identify and trace NPS and amphetamine-type stimulants, as well as all other substances subject to international control. In addition, CICAD notes that the country has regulatory frameworks or guidelines for identifying and addressing the challenges posed by those substances; there also are new special investigative techniques, updated equipment and new technologies acquired and used to detect and analyze NPS.

CICAD is pleased to note that in the seven rounds (1999-2018), Mexico has had legal frameworks to counter money laundering stemming from illicit drug trafficking. Similarly, CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has protocols that allow the authorities to pursue, in tandem, the investigation into illicit drug trafficking and financial and asset investigations. In addition, Mexico has mechanisms that allow for interinstitutional coordination and cooperation to prevent and control money laundering and mechanisms that allow for analyzing the risks of money laundering, in keeping with the recommendations of the FATF, as well as a financial intelligence unit.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that in the seven rounds (1999-2018), Mexico has had a competent authority for the administration of seized assets related to money laundering. Similarly, CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has legislation, regulations and procedures, in keeping with the relevant international treaties and conventions, to facilitate the seizure and forfeiture of assets, instruments and proceeds from illicit drug trafficking and related crimes. Mexico also has provisions that facilitate accountability and transparency in the administration of seized and forfeited assets. CICAD is also pleased to note that in the sixth and seventh rounds (2013-2018), the country has had specialized training programs for the administration and disposal of seized and forfeited assets.

CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Mexico has national mechanisms for information gathering and for exchanging intelligence to detect routes and methods used by the criminal organizations involved in illicit drug trafficking. The country also has a national information system on illicit drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on the changing conduct and modus operandi of the 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.

Mexico carries out technical assistance and horizontal cooperation activities with member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), third party States and relevant international organizations. The country is also actively involved in the context of regional and bi-regional forums on the subject of drugs, through the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs CELAC - European Union and the Cooperation Program between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drug Policies (COPOLAD), among others.

The country has participated in training meetings, exchange of information and experiences related to strengthening research, cooperation strategies on criminal prosecution, trends in the diversion of chemical substances used in the production of synthetic drugs, transnational organized crime, drug trafficking and legal assistance. Mexico exchanges technologies with its counterparts in the area of systematization of regulations, studies, research and bibliographic material produced by countries and international organizations. In addition, the country has secure channels of communication for the exchange of information on intelligence on the subject of interdiction and drug control. The Federal Police of the National Security Commission promotes exchange with foreign counterparts of best practices in training, specialization and professional development of personnel responsible for implementing their National Drug Policies Program.

Mexico participates in regional coordination activities to prevent crimes related to drug trafficking such as firearms trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, money laundering, corruption and combating money laundering and terrorism financing crimes. The country is a member of the International Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT). In addition, 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.

**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.

Mexico has updated its regulatory framework with the Federal Asset Forfeiture Law of 2016 and the National Criminal Procedure Code of 2016, which provide effective mechanisms for cooperation with other countries and relevant international organizations on forfeiture and administration of assets derived from drug trafficking, money laundering and other related crimes. The country was evaluated by GAFILAT in 2017.

The country also has 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 Federal Asset Forfeiture Law provides for mechanisms and procedures to initiate asset forfeiture proceedings and for the possibility of responding to requests for mutual legal assistance to this end. Mexico'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 the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the Regional Asset Recovery Network (RRAG) of GAFILAT, among others. The country is a member of the Egmont Group.

**OBJECTIVE 3**

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

Mexico updated legislation and administrative actions to improve implementation of the obligations set forth within international legal instruments regarding the world drug problem, respecting human rights and gender equality. The updated legislation includes the Law on the National Institute of Women of 2018, the Federal Law to Prevent and Eliminate Discrimination of 2016, the General Law on Women's Access to a Life Free from Violence of 2015 and the Decree reforming the General Law on Health and the Federal Criminal Code of 2017.

The country is party to the following international agreements:

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	
	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.

Mexico has bilateral international cooperation agreements for mutual legal or judicial assistance on the control of drug trafficking and related crimes, utilizing laws and regulatory provisions that make it possible to provide mutual legal or judicial assistance to third party States in investigations, trials and proceeding in this area, as established in the Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters of 1992 and the National Criminal Procedure Code (CNPP) of 2014.

The Constitution of Mexico of 1917 and the International Extradition Law of 1975 permit extradition for drug trafficking and related crimes. Similarly, the country has laws that allow the extradition of nationals. Also, Mexico has bilateral treaties on extradition, which apply to any request for international extradition.

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

### Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Mexico carries out technical assistance and horizontal cooperation activities with the OAS member states, third party States and relevant international organizations. CICAD notes with satisfaction that from the first to the seventh rounds (1999-2018), the country has had formal and secure communication channels for exchanging information on intelligence on drug trafficking and related crimes.

CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Mexico updated regulations, providing effective mechanisms for cooperation with other countries and relevant international organizations on the seizure and administration of assets derived from drug trafficking, money laundering and other related crimes. In addition, CICAD notes that the country has mechanisms and procedures enabling the competent authorities to undertake expeditious actions in response to requests for mutual legal assistance in the investigation and seizure of assets derived from drug trafficking and related crimes. CICAD notes with satisfaction that from the third to the seventh rounds (2003-2018), Mexico's competent authorities have had legal powers to exchange information on investigations on money laundering, including identification and tracing of the instruments related with this crime.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that from the first to the seventh rounds (1999-2018), Mexico has updated legislation and administrative actions on corruption, money laundering, firearms trafficking and control and regulation of the use and distribution of controlled chemical substances. CICAD also recognizes that during the seven rounds (2014-2018), the country has ratified all the conventions and protocols of the United Nations and conventions of the OAS regarding the world drug problem.

CICAD recognizes that from the fifth to the seventh rounds (2007-2018), Mexico has had bilateral international cooperation agreements on mutual legal assistance related to control of drug trafficking and related crimes, using laws and regulatory provisions making it possible to provide mutual legal or judicial assistance to third party States in investigations, trials and proceedings on the subject. In addition, CICAD notes that the country has laws and other legal provisions that allow extradition for the commission of the crime of drug trafficking and related crimes.

CICAD recognizes Mexico 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).





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

1889 F Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
[www.cicad.oas.org](http://www.cicad.oas.org)