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MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)

SECRETARIAT FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL SECURITY (SMS)

Ecuador

Evaluation Report on Drug Policies

2019



MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

ECUADOR

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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 Ecuador, until April 2018, the Technical Secretariat for Comprehensive Drug Prevention (SETED) was responsible for advising, coordinating, managing, monitoring and evaluating the policies issued by the Interinstitutional Committee relating to comprehensive prevention of the socio-economic problem of drugs in the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, alternative, integral and sustainable development programs, control measures, drug observatory, international cooperation and program evaluation. The Technical Secretariat had an independent annual budget with the following amounts for the years 2014-2018:

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Amount of the annual budget (U.S. dollars)	\$16.562.670,50	\$16.680.780,08	\$10.893.897,80	\$11.566.087,64	\$11.318.274,00

After the SETED was eliminated in 2018, the Interinstitutional Committee for Comprehensive Drug Prevention was created to formulate, coordinate and organize public policies related to the socioeconomic phenomenon of drugs. It is made up of the following seven institutions: Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion, Ministry of Sports, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Worship and the Technical Secretariat for Comprehensive Drug Prevention. The Technical Secretariat of the Inter-institutional Committee is overseen by the Ministry of Public Health.

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 WITH A FOCUS ON GENDER AND EMPHASIZING DEVELOPMENT WITH SOCIAL INCLUSION.

Ecuador has the National Plan for Comprehensive Prevention and Control of the Socioeconomic Drug Phenomenon 2017-2021, which was approved by the Interinstitutional Committee on Drugs. The Plan covers the areas of institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures and international cooperation.

The formulation, implementation, evaluation and updating of this Plan involves relevant actors such as the Ministry of Health; the Ministry of Social Inclusion; the Ministry of the Interior; the Ministry of Justice; regional and/or local governments; the scientific community and academia; civil society and other social actors; the Ministry of Sports; the Ministry of Culture and Heritage; the Ministry of Education; the National Secretariat for Higher Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation; the Technical Secretariat for Youth; the National Police; the Ministry of Industry and Productivity; the Ministry of Labor; the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock; the Ministry of National Defense; the National Secretariat for Communication; the Technical Secretariat of the National System of Professional Qualifications; the Superintendency of Information and Communication; the Joint Command of the Armed Forces; the National Institute of Popular and Solidarity Economy; the Integrated Security System ECU911; the National Transit Agency; the National Agency for Health Regulation; Control and Surveillance; the Judiciary Council and the Office of the Prosecutor General.

Local governments have transferred responsibilities on the drug issues to address and implement specific actions in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of the Interior, respectively. Each local government should develop and execute its own comprehensive prevention plans and programs based on the needs of its own constituents and following the guidelines issued by the Interinstitutional Committee on Drugs.

The Ministry of Public Health, with support from Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States (CICAD/OAS), has a program offering advice, assistance and implementation of local plans for comprehensive drug use prevention. It works jointly and collaborates with municipalities and local governments, such as the Association of Ecuadorian Municipalities (AME), which is the umbrella organization of Ecuador's Decentralized Autonomous Governments (GAD). Its purpose is to institutionally represent its members, provide technical assistance and training and coordinate with other levels of government and State agencies to strengthen the capacities of Municipal and Metropolitan GADs to better manage their competencies and meet institutional goals.

Although there is no specific mechanism for the transfer of funds to decentralized autonomous governments for drug initiatives or projects at the local level, all the actions implemented are financed with each institution's own budget and there is cooperation and collaboration between them.

The National Plan for Comprehensive Prevention and Control of the Socio-economic Drug Phenomenon 2017-2021 takes into account the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda. It also includes the human rights perspective, the gender approach and development with social inclusion. The Plan's guiding principles call for incorporating plans, programs and projects on drugs from a gender perspective, recognizing the growing impact of drug use and consumption on women and their families, and ensuring equality between men and women. The gender approach to the socio-economic drug phenomenon seeks to adapt measures to the particular needs of women, taking into account the fact that they are one of the most vulnerable segments of society. The various initiatives should focus on pursuing equal conditions for women in the areas of education, health, employment, power and decision-making, violence, social inclusion and specific conditions for providing treatment to women and girls.

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.

Ecuador addresses the drug problem through intersectoral and inter-institutional intervention from a human rights and public health perspective, shaped in principles of co-responsibility, intersectorality, interculturality, gender approach, intergenerational approach, comprehensive prevention for life and non-criminalization of the user.

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 Ecuador, the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of the Interior are the agencies responsible for conducting specialized research and analysis on the socio-economic phenomenon of drugs, as well as for the formulation of public policies on drug use.

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	
National surveys of secondary school students	X		2016
National household surveys (12-64 years of age)	X		2014
Registry of patients in treatment centers		X	
Cross-cutting survey of patients in treatment centers		X	
Survey of emergency room patients		X	
Survey of higher education students	X		2015
Survey of populations in conflict with the law		X	
Studies on drug-related mortality	X		2017
Studies on drug-related morbidity		X	
Studies on gender conditions related to drug problems		X	
Other			
Risk factors and protection from drug use in students in 9 th grade of elementary school, 1 st and 3 rd years of high school	X		2016
Estimates of drug-using population in Ecuador in 2016	X		2016
Cost of the drug phenomenon in Ecuador in 2015	X		2017
Estimates of heroin supply in Ecuador	X		2016

The following is the information in the areas of supply reduction, trafficking and related crimes:

Supply reduction, drug trafficking, and related crimes			
Information	Information available		Year of most recent information
	Yes	No	
Quantification of illicit crop cultivation including crops grown indoors	X		2014
Number of seizures of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production	X		2017
Quantities of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production seized	X		2017
Number of seizures of controlled chemical substances (precursors)	X		2017

Supply reduction, drug trafficking, and related crimes			
Information	Information available		Year of most recent information
	Yes	No	
Quantities of seized controlled chemical substances (precursors)	X		2017
Number of seizures of pharmaceutical products	X		2017
Quantities of seized pharmaceutical products	X		2017
Number of persons formally charged with drug use, possession, and trafficking	X		2017
Number of persons convicted of drug use, possession, and trafficking	X		2017
Number of laboratories producing illicit plantbased drugs detected and dismantled		X	
Number of laboratories producing illicit drugs of synthetic origin detected and dismantled		X	
Chemical composition of seized drugs	X		2017
Sale price of drugs (for consumers)		X	
Number of persons formally charged with money laundering	X		2017
Number of persons convicted of money laundering	X		2017
Number of persons formally charged with trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition, and related materials	X		2017
Number of persons convicted of trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition, and related materials	X		2017
Number of persons formally charged with diversion of chemical substances	X		2017
Number of persons convicted of diversion of chemical substances	X		2017

Studies conducted in the area of demand reduction include data disaggregated by gender, age and educational level. Ethnicity is not taken into account.

Within the scope of demand reduction, in 2016, SETED evaluated the results of the Emerging Intervention Strategy in the prioritized districts of Nueva Prosperina, Durán and Garay. An analysis was conducted to determine, through an econometric estimate, whether the implementation of the Emerging Intervention Strategy has led to a substantial change in the control districts.

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.

Ecuador's legislation provides for alternative measures to incarceration for low-level drug offenses. This legislation is included in the Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador and in the Comprehensive Criminal Code. However, these alternative measures do not take into account gender differences.

The country has not developed mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the impact of implementing alternative measures to incarceration for low-level drug-related 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.

Ecuador has inter-institutional and multisectoral programs that promote the social integration of individuals affected by the drug problem, such as the Program to Strengthen Awareness and Training for the Prevention of the Problematic Drug Use in the Services of the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES) and the Preventive Alternative Development Program.

OBJECTIVE 7

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

The Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador and the Comprehensive Criminal Code, in force since 2014, establish proportionate sentencing, particularly for low-level drug-related offenses. Ecuador does not classify crimes as misdemeanors or felonies. However, the Comprehensive Criminal Code of 2014, which covers both substantive and procedural criminal law, divides criminal offenses into infractions and crimes based on the length of the prison sentences they carry.

Every drug-related offense is considered a criminal offense. However, the Criminal Code specifies that the technical legal body must issue two tables for the proper application of the statutory offense and its prosecution. The first is the "drug use table," which determines the quantities per substance, which if seized, will be presumed to be for personal use and will not result in prosecution for any offense. The second is the "table of penalties for narcotic substances," which establishes a range and classifies

drug amounts in levels (minimum, medium, high, and large-scale), according to the quantity of the substance seized. The latter table serves as a guide for applying special proceedings and proportionate sentences. The country has special courts and tribunals for low-level drug-related offenses.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD views that from the first to the seventh rounds (1999-2018), Ecuador has had a national drug authority, responsible for coordinating comprehensive prevention of the socio-economic problem of drugs in the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, alternative, integral and sustainable development programs, control measures, drug observatory, international cooperation and program evaluation. This authority has an independent annual budget.

CICAD notes that from the first to the sixth rounds (1999-2014), Ecuador has had national anti-drug plans and recognizes that for the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has the National Plan for Comprehensive Prevention and Control of the Socio-Economic Drug Phenomenon 2017-2021, which covers the areas of institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures and international cooperation. It also includes the human rights perspective, the gender approach and development with social inclusion. CICAD observes that in the seventh round, the country does not have a specific mechanism to transfer funds to decentralized autonomous governments for drug initiatives or projects at the local level, but actions implemented are financed with each institution's own budget.

CICAD takes note that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Ecuador framed its National Plan for Comprehensive Prevention and Control of the Socio-Economic Drug Phenomenon 2017-2021 with the principles of co-responsibility, intersectorality, interculturality, gender approach, intergenerational approach, comprehensive prevention for life and non-criminalization of the user.

CICAD observes that in the first round (1999-2000), Ecuador kept separate and distinct archives, documents and statistics on demand reduction, supply reduction and control measures. In the second and third rounds (2001-2004), CICAD notes that the country created the Ecuadorian Drug Observatory. CICAD also views with satisfaction that from the fourth to the seventh rounds (2005-2018), the observatory has priority studies on demand reduction disaggregated by gender, age and education level, as well as information on supply reduction, drug trafficking and related crimes, and a national drug information network. CICAD notes that for the seventh round (2014-2018), the observatory was part of the Technical Under-Secretariat for Analysis, Projections and Evaluation, under the auspices of the SETED National Authority. However, CICAD ascertains that as of 2018, the Ministry of Public Health is responsible for carrying out specialized research and analysis on the socio-economic drug phenomenon, as well as the formulation of public policies on drugs.

CICAD takes note that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Ecuador's law provides for alternative measures to incarceration for low-level drug-related offenses. However, CICAD views with concern that the alternative measures do not take into account gender differences and that no mechanisms have been developed to monitor and evaluate the impact of implementing such measures.

CICAD views with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Ecuador has the Program to Strengthen Awareness and Training for the Prevention of the Problematic Drug Use in the Services of the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES) and the Preventive Alternative Development Program to promote the social integration of individuals affected by the drug problem.

CICAD recognizes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Ecuador has legislation that establishes proportionate sentencing and special courts and 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.

Ecuador has demand reduction policies that include programs in the areas of prevention, treatment and social integration. These programs use the following approaches: human rights, intercultural, age difference, gender, wellbeing, inclusivity, pedagogic, intergenerational, family and community.

In establishing its prevention, treatment and social integration programs, Ecuador takes into account the guidelines and recommendations of specialized international organizations.

The country has conducted intermediate outcome evaluations, such as the evaluation of the Emerging Intervention Strategy, but it has not presented impact evaluations or any other current study related to drug abuse prevention programs.

Ecuador implements coordination mechanisms to develop and implement demand reduction programs that allow for the participation of and coordination with civil society and other social stakeholders, such as, for example, the agreement between the Technical Secretariat for Comprehensive Drug Prevention (SETED) and the National Brewing Company.

Ecuador does not implement measures 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.

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.

Ecuador implements prevention programs in the following populations:

Population group	Name of program	Type of program
School children and university students		
• Elementary/primary	“Educando en Familia”	Universal
• Junior high & high school (secondary school)	Student participation program: “Campo en Acción”	Universal
	“Vida Saludable: Prevención al Uso y Consumo de Alcohol, Tabaco y Otras Drogas”	Universal
• University	“Red Universitaria de Salud y Bienestar”	Universal
	“Intervención Preventiva al Uso y Consumo de Drogas con Estudiantes Universitarios”	Universal
• Mothers, fathers, legal representatives of the Elementary/Middle/Secondary/High School Student Population	“Educando en Familia”	Universal
Street population		
• Boys and girls	Plan Nacional de Convivencia Armónica	Universal

Population group	Name of program	Type of program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youths 	Prevention project in neighborhood leagues	Universal
	“Familias Fuertes”	Universal
	Implementation of training and action to strengthen protective factors in schools, higher education, the workplace and community and family	Universal
	Implementation of the National Plan for Comprehensive Prevention and Control of the Socioeconomic Drug Phenomenon 2017-2021	Universal
	“Apoyarte”	Universal
	Physical activities in sports training, physical education and recreation	Universal
	“Drug-free” prevention response for children and adolescents at risk of addiction	Universal
	Reincorporating children and adolescents from addiction treatment centers into the education system	Universal
Family (users of the services of the MIES)	Advice and technical assistance on issues of comprehensive prevention of drug use	Universal
Gender		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Female Male 		
LGBTI		

Population group	Name of program	Type of program
Community	Comprehensive prevention in the regions: Implementation of planned, ongoing and sustained processes of comprehensive prevention and control of the socioeconomic phenomenon of drugs in the Decentralized Autonomous Municipal Governments (GAD)	Universal
	Strengthening awareness and training in prevention of drug use and abuse in the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES) services	Universal
	“Apoyarte”	Universal
	Implementation of training and action to strengthen protective factors schools, higher education, the workplace and community and family	Universal
Individuals in the workplace	Comprehensive Drug Prevention in the Workplace	Selective
Incarcerated individuals	“Multiplicando Formadores”: national days for prevention of the addictions in correctional facilities	Universal

However, the country does not implement prevention programs for pre-school students, indigenous people 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.

Ecuador has a national system for comprehensive treatment and social integration programs and facilities for people with problem drug use, guaranteeing non-discriminatory access. The programs and devices include early intervention (brief intervention, counseling), crisis intervention, diverse treatment modalities, dual diagnosis (co-morbidity) and social integration and services related to recovery support. All of the treatment modalities are described in the “Ministerial Decision 4927, Mental Health Care Model.” These programs and devices take into account the International Standards of Drug Use Disorders of the UNODC and the WHO. The country monitors adherence to these standards by means of the “Supervisory Guide for Mental Health Service Facilities.”

The country has mechanisms to facilitate access to and ensure the quality of treatment services for those with problem drug use. The country provides priority, preferential and differentiated care for men and women, according to life stage. Outpatient and intensive outpatient services are provided by the Public Health System, while residential services are provided both by the Public Health System's Specialized Treatment Centers for People with Problematic Alcohol and Drug Use (CETAD) and by private facilities.

Ecuador has not established or maintained cooperative relationships with governmental or non-governmental organizations that provide social and community support services with a gender perspective, for the social integration of vulnerable populations.

Ecuador has mechanisms to protect the rights of people with problematic drug use in treatment programs and services, as well as supervisory mechanisms for facilities that offer treatment and rehabilitation services, such as the Supervisory Guide for Mental Health Service Facilities used to provide outpatient care, hospital-based mental health units and residential care. However, the country does not have mechanisms to continuously monitor and evaluate care, treatment and social integration programs.

OBJECTIVE 4 | FOSTER ONGOING TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION OF HUMAN RESOURCES THAT PROVIDE PREVENTION, TREATMENT, REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL REINTEGRATION SERVICES.

Ecuador offers ongoing competence-based training in the areas of prevention, treatment and social reintegration. Through courses offered by national entities across different areas, the country offers training on comprehensive drug use prevention to secondary school teachers and student counseling departments at the intermediate level; in comprehensive prevention of the socio-economic drug phenomenon for social science teachers and ongoing training on topics related to tobacco, alcohol and other drugs for the advisors who run the free help line. Training on smoking cessation is also provided, focusing on primary health care, and is conducted together with Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO).

The country certifies, at the intermediate level, the personnel who work in prevention services through universities and in treatment services through the Ministry of Health. However, the country does not certify personnel working in social integration services.

OBJECTIVE 5

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

Ecuador has an accreditation process for treatment centers. Accreditation is awarded by the Agency for Quality Control of Health Services and Prepaid Medicine (ACCESS), which was created by Executive Decree 703 in 2015. In addition, Ministerial Decision 0000080 of 2016 contains the health regulations for the oversight and supervision of health facilities that provide treatment services to people with problem alcohol and drug use. The Ministry of Public Health has the ACCESS, which is responsible for overseeing and supervising health facilities in accordance with the regulations developed for this purpose.

Ecuador has supervisory mechanisms to ensure that the quality criteria of the care and/or treatment services are met. In this regard, the Ministry of Public Health's health facilities are implementing quality management programs. In addition, the country produces metrics and carries out rapid cycles of improvement based on the results of the evaluations of care and treatment programs. Regarding prevention programs, however, Ecuador does not have supervisory mechanisms in place to ensure that the quality criteria are met.

Ecuador has conducted an assessment to determine national care needs and the supply of care and treatment services.

DEMAND REDUCTION

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD is pleased that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Ecuador has demand reduction policies that include programs in the areas of prevention, treatment, and social integration, and that incorporate human rights, intercultural, age differences, gender, wellbeing, inclusivity, pedagogic, intergenerational, and family and community approaches. These programs also take into account the guidelines and recommendations of specialized international organizations, and are implemented through coordination mechanisms with different social stakeholders. Furthermore, CICAD notes that the country carries out intermediate outcome evaluations of drug abuse prevention programs, but not impact evaluations. CICAD expresses its concern that Ecuador does not implement measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse, using the technical guide published by international organizations as a reference.

CICAD recognizes with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Ecuador has universal and selective prevention programs that prioritize vulnerable and at-risk populations, and that a wide range of preventive programs have been offered throughout all rounds (1999-2018), although it notes that there are some populations still not covered.

CICAD appreciates that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Ecuador has a national system of comprehensive treatment and social integration programs and facilities that offer all the services in the continuum of care that guarantee access without discrimination and include a gender perspective. CICAD also notes with satisfaction that the country incorporates mechanisms to facilitate access and guarantee the quality of treatment services and supervision of treatment and rehabilitation facilities, as well as mechanisms to protect the rights of people with problematic drug use and supervisory mechanisms for establishments that offer treatment and rehabilitation services. However, Ecuador does not have mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment and social integration programs.

CICAD recognizes that in all seven rounds (1999-2018), Ecuador has offered demand reduction training. Furthermore, CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country certifies personnel working in prevention and treatment services at the intermediate level, but does not certify personnel working in social integration services.

CICAD observes that from the third to the seventh rounds (2003-2018), Ecuador has had the governmental institutional capacity to accredit and supervise treatment centers. CICAD also notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has supervisory mechanisms to ensure that the quality criteria are met for care and treatment services, but not for prevention programs. Furthermore, CICAD is also pleased to note that Ecuador has conducted an assessment to determine 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.

The Ministry of the Interior, together with the Interinstitutional Committee for the Monitoring of Illicit Crops (COTIMON), design, implement and update national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit crops and the illicit production of drugs.

Although the Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador recognizes and guarantees the rights of communities, peoples and nationalities, traditional licit uses are not taken into account in the design and implementation of illicit drug reduction policies and programs.

The country includes environmental protection measures in its policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs. The National Plan for Comprehensive Prevention and Control of the Socio-Economic Drug Phenomenon 2017-2021 considers the development of sustainable, profitable, participatory and environmentally-friendly projects as a priority for the entities that make up the Inter-Institutional Drug Committee and for all those who adhere to this National Strategy. The Plan also establishes the strengthening of the processes for the storage and final disposal of seized substances that comply with environmental and safety regulations.

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.

The Ministry of the Interior, with support from the National Antinarcotics Directorate (DNA), implements and analyzes information for the development of policies and actions aimed at reducing the illicit supply of drugs.

The country does not carry out periodic studies and research on the structural and socio-economic factors influencing the illicit supply of drugs situation, nor does it 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 and mechanisms for the identification of new psychoactive substances (NPS).

The country uses various methodologies to measure illicit crops, such as satellite images (15mm), historical analysis of crops, georeferencing of land use and deforestation, soil analysis at borders, satellite image analysis of sectors susceptible to be considered for the development of illicit crop activities and analysis of the results obtained in operations to support the National Police for the control of drug trafficking. To measure illicit drug production, Ecuador implements statistical control of the results obtained in support operations for the National Police for the control of drug trafficking. To ensure comparability, the standards of the Global Monitoring Program are applied.

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.

Ecuador has designed and implemented preventive alternative development programs as part of the strategies to control and reduce illicit crops. The Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Public Health are the national entities that coordinate and evaluate the implementation of these programs.

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, through the Valuelinks tool, within framework of the Cooperation Programme between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drugs Policies (COPOLAD) and the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ). Ecuador also exchanged experiences and best practices within the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States (CICAD/OAS) on the new concept of alternative, integral and sustainable development (DAIS) and how they align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

The country's preventive alternative development programs are supplemented by public policies that strengthen the government's presence in areas affected by illicit crops. The community is involved in the diagnosis, coordination of improvement activities, execution, monitoring, and evaluation of preventive alternative development projects.

The country has developed initiatives with the fishermen of Jaramijó and Manabí aimed at crime prevention, community cohesion, protection and safety of the population, the fostering of innovation and entrepreneurship and the promotion of employment. These efforts are part of the sustainable urban development initiatives that Ecuador is implementing in urban populations affected by illicit activities associated with 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.

Ecuador 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 because it has not detected significant areas of illicit crops. According to the latest United Nations Illicit Crop Monitoring Study in 2015, Ecuador was declared an illicit crop-free country.

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.

Ecuador 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. With respect to the methodologies used, the country refers to the Drug Territorial Concentration Index (ICTD) and the Territorial Alcohol Concentration Index (ICTA), methodologies that seek to identify and diagnose the highest incidence of the problem in the territory.

The country has exchanged information on the effects of small-scale drug trafficking or micro-drug trafficking in the health, economy and security sectors. These exchanges take place with the Intelligence Secretariat, the Ministry of the Interior, the Economic and Financial Analysis Unit and the Ministry of Public Health and, in the area of money laundering and terrorism financing, with Financial Action Task Force (FATF) member countries.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD is pleased that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Ecuador has national policies and programs to prevent and reduce illicit drug cultivation and production, as well as environmental protection measures. CICAD also notes with satisfaction that the supply reduction programs implemented by the country 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 is pleased to note that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Ecuador promotes and implements mechanisms for identifying profiles and chemical characterization of drugs and has mechanisms for identifying NPS. CICAD also views with satisfaction that the country implements standardized and comparable methodologies that are used to measure illicit drug crops and production. However, CICAD observes that Ecuador does not conduct periodic studies or research on the structural and socio-economic factors affecting the illicit drug supply situation, nor does it prepare or update scientific studies or research on the medicinal, scientific or other licit uses of plants containing narcotic or psychotropic substances.

CICAD emphasizes that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Ecuador has alternative preventive development programs in areas affected by illicit crops and has also developed sustainable urban development initiatives in urban populations affected by illicit activities associated with drug trafficking and related crimes.

CICAD acknowledges that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Ecuador has not carried 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 because it has not detected significant areas of illicit crops.

CICAD views with satisfaction that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Ecuador has characterization methodologies with territorial and socioeconomic approaches on micro-drug trafficking or small-scale drug trafficking and the effects on public health, the economy, social cohesion and citizen security, and that it exchanged information on this subject.

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.

Ecuador has a protocol or operating procedures to detect, investigate and dismantle laboratories or facilities for the illicit processing or manufacture of drugs.

This protocol provides adequate safety and health measures for personnel involved in the dismantling of the laboratories or facilities. It does not include actions that minimize damage to the environment and optimize the management of chemical and hazardous waste.

The country has strategies for detecting and seizing drugs, through monitoring, inspections or checkpoints in land and air routes. However, it does not have detection and seizure strategies for riverine and sea routes. Ecuador does not engage in actions to evaluate and follow-up on these programs and strategies.

The Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador and the Comprehensive Criminal Code provide for the use of specialized investigation tools and techniques to prevent and reduce drug trafficking and include a human rights perspective.

The country implements ongoing training programs for interdiction personnel regarding regulations, processes and procedures with respect to drug trafficking and related crimes, as well as specialized investigative and intelligence techniques.

Ecuador produces confidential working papers for public security and State institutions on domestic and transnational organized crime to identify new trends and threats in drug trafficking and related crimes.

The country does not participate in ongoing training programs for personnel in the planning and assessment phase of determining the knowledge update needs of the National Reference Center personnel involved in the analysis of chemical substances, precursors and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances. However, it does not currently.

OBJECTIVE 2

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

The Ministry of the Interior is the authority currently responsible for controlling domestic trade to prevent diversion of controlled chemical substances towards illicit activities. This activity was previously under the purview of the Technical Secretariat for Comprehensive Drug Prevention (SETED). This authority derives from the following laws:

- The Organic Law for Comprehensive Prevention of the Socioeconomic Drug Phenomenon and for the Regulation and Monitoring of the Use of Controlled Substances (2015);
- Executive Decree No. 376 of 2018;
- Regulations to the Law for Comprehensive Prevention of the Socioeconomic Drug Phenomenon; and
- Regulations on the Monitoring of Controlled Substances.

Ecuador has developed a web page and confidential complaints mailbox to report the diversion or illicit use of controlled chemical substances for illicit activities as mechanisms for informing the industry and users in general of applicable controls and cooperation methods to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances.

The country conducts analyses of substances, their analogs and precursors that pose a threat to public health. This includes information sharing. Ecuadorian law incorporates the control measures to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances to illicit activities contained in Article 12(8) of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and partially incorporates the measures contained in Article 12(9).

Ecuador uses the Pre-Export Notification (PEN) Online System of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) with respect to controlled chemical substances.

The country has the training program “Handling and Identification of Controlled Chemical Substances” for operations personnel in the Armed Forces, the National Police and the Customs Surveillance Unit of the National Customs Service of Ecuador (SENAE), run by the Technical Secretariat for Comprehensive Drug Prevention (SETED), for 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.

Ecuador has an up-to-date register of all individuals and corporations handling pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics and psychotropic substances. The Ministry of the Interior and the National Agency for Health Regulations, Monitoring and Surveillance obtain the following information through the Corporate Balances I.T. System (SISALEM/SISCYF): company name, business activity, representatives, warehouses, branches and the movements, transactions and balances of medicines containing narcotic and psychotropic substances.

The country issues licenses to manufacturers and distributors of pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics and psychotropic substances, as a way of monitoring them. Regular inspections and audits are carried out of the establishments pertaining to individuals and corporations authorized to handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor, narcotic, or psychotropic substances.

The Comprehensive Criminal Code of 2014 and the Organic Law for Comprehensive Prevention of the Socioeconomic Drug Phenomenon and for the Regulation and Monitoring of the Use of Controlled Substances of 2015 establish 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.

Ecuador has special processes for issuing import and export authorizations for substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. Authorizations are granted within an average of six months, except for medication classified as narcotic or psychotropic for the personal use of travelers entering or leaving the country, which is subject to controlled medical prescription.

The country does not have training or 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.

The Organic Law for Comprehensive Prevention of the Socioeconomic Drug Phenomenon and for the Regulation and Monitoring of the Use of Controlled Substances of 2015 governs the acquisition of internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes.

OBJECTIVE 5

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

Ecuador is currently implementing the Early Warnings System to identify and trace new psychoactive substances, amphetamine-type stimulants and other substances subject to international control, established in the National Plan for Comprehensive Prevention and Control of the Socioeconomic Drug Phenomenon 2017-2021, with support from OAS/CICAD and COPOLAD.

The country has the following regulatory framework for identifying and addressing the challenges posed by the onset of new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants:

- Ministerial Decision 00000080. Health regulations for monitoring and regulating health establishments providing treatment services to persons with problematic use of alcohol and other drugs (ESTAD)
- Ministerial Decision 00000030. Protocol for “Comprehensive care for harmful use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs”
- Ministerial Decision 00005282. Protocol for “Care for persons with acute opioid poisoning and withdrawal syndrome”

Ecuador does not have new special investigative techniques, updated equipment or new technologies acquired and used for the detection and analysis of new psychoactive substances.

OBJECTIVE 6

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

Ecuador has the Organic Law for the Prevention, Detection and Eradication of the Crime of Money Laundering and the Financing of Criminal Offenses of 2017 and the regulations thereto to counter money laundering derived from drug trafficking. This legislation also serves as the protocol that enables the authorities to conduct financial and asset investigations parallel to drug trafficking investigations.

the Money Laundering Unit of the National Police, the Internal Revenue Service, the Unit for Financial and Economic Analysis and the Superintendency of Companies have signed inter-agency cooperation and information-sharing agreements to counteract this type of crime.

The country has the Money Laundering Unit (ULA) in the Ministry of the Interior and the Financial and Economic Analysis Unit (UAFE) located in the Ministry of Economy.

Ecuador does not have mechanisms for analyzing money laundering risks, in accordance with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations. However, it is preparing a money laundering and financing of terrorism risks assessment matrix.

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.

Ecuador, in accordance with international treaties and conventions, has the Comprehensive Criminal Code to facilitate the seizure and forfeiture of assets, instruments or products deriving from drug trafficking and other related crimes.

The country has a competent authority responsible for the administration of seized and forfeited assets, pursuant to the following laws:

- Executive Decree No. 798 of June 22, 2011;
- The Organic Statute of Process-Driven Organizational Management of INMOBILIAR;
- The Codification and Amendment to the General Rules of Procedure for the Administration, Management, and Supervision of Public Sector Assets and Inventories; and
- Codification of the Internal Rules of Procedure for the Deposit, Custody, Safeguarding, and Administration of seized and forfeited assets received by INMOBILIAR.

The Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador and the Organic Law on Transparency and Access to Public Information of 2004 facilitate accountability and transparency in the administration of seized and forfeited assets.

Ecuador 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.

The Ecuadorian Armed Forces, the National Anti-Narcotics Directorate of the National Police the Intelligence Secretariat and the National Intelligence System (intelligence subsystems) are the authorities responsible for the national information system on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on changing behaviors and the modi operandi of criminal organizations.

In addition, the Ecuadorian Space Institution uses geo-information gathering mechanisms to exchange intelligence information to detect routes and methods used by criminal drug trafficking organizations. This exchange involves techniques for the photo-interpretation of satellite images and orthophotos to identify possible landing strips, illegal crossing points, illicit crops, and motorized crossing points and assist with border control.

CONTROL MEASURES

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD notes with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Ecuador now has protocols or procedures in place for the detection, investigation and dismantling of laboratories or facilities for the illicit processing or manufacture of drugs. The country did not have these protocols in the sixth round (2013-2014). CICAD observes that in the Seventh Round, Ecuador has programs and strategies for detecting and seizing drugs, through monitoring, inspections or checkpoints in land and air routes, and implements and participates in ongoing training programs on these issues. However, it does not have detection and seizure strategies for riverine and sea routes, nor does it engage in actions to evaluate and follow-up on those programs and strategies. CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has regulations that provide for the use of specialized investigative tools and techniques to prevent and reduce drug trafficking. In addition, CICAD observes that Ecuador carries out up-to-date diagnoses and studies to identify new trends and threats in drug trafficking and related crimes. CICAD further views with satisfaction that Ecuador has an institution responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances. However, CICAD notes with concern that the country does not have and does not participate in continuous training programs for the personnel involved in this analysis.

CICAD is pleased to note that from the first to the seventh rounds (1999-2018), Ecuador has had a competent authority responsible for the control of domestic trade to prevent the diversion of controlled chemicals towards illicit activities. CICAD acknowledges that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has mechanisms for informing industry and users in general of applicable controls and cooperation methods to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances. CICAD also observes that Ecuador carries out analyses that include the exchange of information through existing mechanisms at the international level, on substances, their analogs and precursors that pose a threat to public health. CICAD similarly notes that the country incorporates into its legislation the control measures contained in Article 12(8), and partially incorporates those of Article 12(9), of the 1988 United Nations Convention. CICAD recognizes that from the Fifth to the seventh rounds (1999-2018) Ecuador has used the Pre-Export Notification (PEN) Online System of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) with respect to controlled chemical substances. CICAD also notes that the country has training programs for drug control personnel and for the identification and handling of controlled chemical substances.

CICAD is pleased to observe that from the first to the seventh rounds (1999-2018) Ecuador's laws have provided 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 recognizes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has an up-to-date register of all individuals and corporations handling these products that issues licenses to manufacturers and distributors and carries out the appropriate regular inspections and audits of the establishments pertaining to individuals and corporations authorized to handle such substances.

CICAD takes note that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Ecuador has special processes for issuing import and export authorizations for substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. CICAD additionally observes that the country has a regulatory framework that governs the acquisition of internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes. However, CICAD notes with concern that, in the Seventh Round, Ecuador does not have training or 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.

CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Ecuador has an early warning system to identify and trace new psychoactive substances, amphetamine-type stimulants and other substances subject to international control. In addition, CICAD notes that the country has regulatory frameworks or guidelines to identify and address the challenges posed by these substances. CICAD also views with concern that Ecuador lacks new special investigative techniques, updated equipment or new technologies acquired and used for the detection and analysis of new psychoactive substances.

CICAD is pleased to note that in the seven rounds (1999-2018), Ecuador has had regulatory frameworks to counter money laundering derived from drug trafficking. CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has protocols that enable the authorities to conduct financial and asset investigations parallel to drug trafficking investigations. CICAD further notes that Ecuador has mechanisms for inter-institutional coordination and cooperation in money laundering prevention and control, as well as a financial intelligence unit. Nevertheless, CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Ecuador does not have mechanisms for analyzing money laundering risks, in accordance with FATF recommendations.

CICAD appreciates that in the seven evaluation rounds (1999-2018), Ecuador has had a competent authority responsible for the administration of seized and forfeited assets. CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has laws, rules and procedures, in accordance with international treaties and conventions, to facilitate the seizure and forfeiture of assets, instruments or products deriving from drug trafficking and other related crimes.

CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Ecuador has a competent authority for the administration of seized and forfeited assets and regulations that facilitate accountability and transparency in the administration of seized and forfeited assets. However, CICAD views with concern that the country does not have specialized training programs for the administration and disposition of seized and confiscated assets.

CICAD recognizes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Ecuador has national information gathering mechanisms to exchange intelligence information to detect routes and methods used by criminal drug trafficking organizations. In addition, CICAD notes that the country has a national information system on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on changing behaviors and the *modi 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.

Ecuador carries out technical assistance and horizontal cooperation activities with member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), third states and relevant international organizations. The country has organized workshops, forums and meetings with international organizations on the global drug problem.

The country has exchanged technologies with foreign counterparts on the systematization of regulation, studies, research and bibliographic material produced by countries and international organizations, and has established secure communication channels for the exchange of intelligence information on drug interdiction and control. Ecuador also promotes the exchange, with foreign counterparts, of best practices on training, specialization and professional development of personnel responsible for implementing its National Plan for Comprehensive Prevention and Control of the Socioeconomic Drug Phenomenon. Government authorities have mechanisms in place to facilitate the exchange of intelligence information to support international anti-drug trafficking efforts. These mechanisms are implemented through policies, protocols, programs and related technical assistance that allow for the exchange of operational information with foreign counterparts.

Ecuador participates in regional coordination activities to prevent crimes related to drug trafficking, such as, firearms trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, money laundering and corruption, among others, through joint committees, the Anti-Drug Program of the Andean Community (PRADICAN), the United Nations and the Egmont Group, among others. There are bilateral mechanisms in the country 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.

Ecuador has updated its Comprehensive Criminal Code of 2014, which allows for effective cooperation mechanisms with other countries on forfeiture and management of assets derived from drug trafficking, money laundering and other related crimes. The Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT) evaluated the country in 2015.

The country has procedures allowing 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. Ecuador also has competent authorities with 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.

OBJECTIVE 3

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

Ecuador has enacted the following laws to improve the implementation of obligations established in the international legal instruments related to the global drug problem, in respect of human rights and gender equality: the Comprehensive Criminal Code of 2014; the Organic Law for Comprehensive Prevention of the Socioeconomic Drug Phenomenon and for the Regulation and Monitoring of the Use of Controlled Substances de 2015; and the Organic Law for the Prevention, Detection and Eradication of the Crime of Money Laundering and the Financing of Criminal Offenses of 2017.

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	
	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.

Ecuador has established bilateral and regional international cooperation agreements for mutual legal or judicial assistance on the control of drug trafficking and related crimes. The country also has laws or other legal provisions to provide mutual legal or judicial assistance to third party States in investigations, trials, and legal proceedings for drug trafficking and related crimes.

Although Ecuador's Constitution prohibits the extradition of Ecuadorians, the country has the Extradition Act of 2000, which permits the extradition of nationals for drug trafficking and related crimes. However, Ecuador has extradition agreements with other countries.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD notes that in the first round (1999-2000, Ecuador had mechanisms for the exchange of information and collaboration between national authorities and with other countries on drug issues. In the Third Round (2003-2004), the country signed bilateral cooperation agreements with several countries on the control of production and trafficking of drugs and narcotic substances. CICAD observes that in the Fourth Round (2005-2006), Ecuador had an entity responsible for the exchange of information and collaboration with institutions in other countries on import records for firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials. CICAD views with satisfaction that from the sixth to the seventh rounds (2013-2018), the country has had channels for the secure exchange of information on drug trafficking and related crimes and formal mechanisms for the coordination and exchange of information, investigation and control of drug trafficking activities.

CICAD recognizes that in the third round (2003-2004), Ecuador had a unit in charge of analyzing, regulating, receiving and communicating information related to transactions potentially associated with money laundering. CICAD is pleased to note that for the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has legislation on effective mechanisms for cooperation with other countries in the area of asset forfeiture and the administration of assets derived from drug trafficking, money laundering and other related crimes. It also notes that Ecuador has procedures allowing competent authorities to take expeditious action in response to requests for mutual legal assistance in the investigation and forfeiture of assets derived from drug trafficking and related offenses.

CICAD views with satisfaction that during the course of the seven rounds (1999-2018), Ecuador established rules and regulations related to drug trafficking and enacted specific laws that criminally and administratively penalize the diversion of pharmaceutical products and controlled chemical substances, money laundering, narcotics, psychotropic substances and the manufacture, import, export, marketing, and possession of firearms, ammunition and explosives. CICAD takes note that during the seven rounds (2014-2018), the country has ratified all the conventions and protocols of the United Nations and conventions of the Organization of American States regarding the world drug problem.

CICAD recognizes that Ecuador signed extradition treaties in the third round (2003-2004) and that in the fourth round (2005-2006), it had authorities responsible for processing extradition requests. CICAD is pleased to observe that from the fifth to the seventh rounds (2007-2018), legal system of the country has allowed extradition for the crimes of drug trafficking and money laundering. CICAD notes with satisfaction that from the sixth to the seventh rounds (1999-2018), Ecuador's legal provisions have allowed it to provide mutual legal assistance to third States in investigations, prosecutions and judicial proceedings relating to drug trafficking and money laundering. There also are established bilateral and regional international cooperation agreements on mutual legal assistance for the control of drug trafficking and related crimes.

CICAD recognizes Ecuador 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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