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MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

Evaluation Report on Drug Policies

COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION

Suriname

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

2024



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EIGHTH EVALUATION ROUND

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PREFACE

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

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

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

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

MEM evaluations are conducted based on information provided by the member states' National Coordinating Entities (NCEs), which is thoroughly analyzed by the MEM Governmental Expert Group (GEG). This group is comprised of experts designated by the countries, who do not participate in the evaluation of their own country, thereby ensuring transparency and impartiality in the process. The GEG is consistently supported by a team of independent technical consultants and the MEM Unit. The eighth round introduces a more rigorous evaluation process, requiring countries to present valid means of verification to substantiate the information submitted and demonstrate compliance with each priority action.

The GEG's comprehensive evaluation of the objectives of the CICAD Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs (POA) was conducted in 2024, covering the 2019-2024 period (unless stated otherwise). This evaluation, which incorporates updated priority actions provided in an annex, aims to present a holistic view of all POA objectives integrating evaluations from the three preceding reports that did not undergo updates this year. Notably, this is the fourth and final year of the

eighth evaluation round. The evaluation process was adapted to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, utilizing technology and virtual tools.

It is important to highlight that one of the primary purposes of the MEM evaluation reports is to provide a diagnostic tool that identifies opportunities for enhancing drug policies and strategies at both national and regional levels.

COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

Objective 1

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

CICAD notes that Suriname has a national drug authority, which has a legal basis. Moreover, CICAD observes that, in the country, there is an annual budget for the national drug authority, which is integrated into the budget of another government institution. Also, CICAD notes that Suriname has an ongoing coordination and collaboration mechanism among agencies and other levels of government (national and subnational) to formulate, implement, monitor, evaluate, and update national drug policies and/or strategies and that the national drug authority coordinates the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, drug observatory, and international cooperation, but does not coordinate the area of program evaluation.

Objective 2

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

CICAD notes that Suriname collects and uses evidence as a basis for formulating and updating national drug policies and strategies. Additionally, CICAD observes the involvement of relevant actors from the priority areas in the development, implementation, evaluation, and updating of national drug policies and/or strategies; however, the country's scientific community/academia is not involved in these activities. CICAD notes that Suriname has not delegated responsibilities on drug issues to local/sub-national governments to implement concrete actions related to drug policies and strategies. On the other hand, the national drug authority has, in its central structure, an office or operational unit to promote, coordinate, train, and provide technical support to local/sub-national governments on drug-related issues. However, the national drug authority does not have coordinators, offices, or representatives in the sub-national or local territories, as part of a decentralized operational and coordination structure at the local level to respond to the drug problem. Additionally, the country does not have a specific and ongoing mechanism or program to transfer funds or finance drug initiatives or projects carried out by municipalities or local governments. CICAD observes that Suriname does not engage private sector entities in the healthcare area to develop innovative approaches in the implementation of drug policies and exchange information and best practices. CICAD notes that the country takes into account the OAS 2020 Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its corresponding Plan of Action to formulate or update national drug policies and strategies. Moreover, these policies and strategies take into account

the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Also, CICAD observes that Suriname's national drug policies and strategies take into account the human rights approach, but not the gender perspective or the social inclusion approach. Additionally, CICAD notes that the country has the necessary resources to implement drug policies and programs.

Objective 3

Design and coordinate national drug policies, that can be harmonized across related government policies and/or strategies, that address the fundamental causes and consequences of the drug problem.

CICAD notes that Suriname has interagency and multisectoral policy and technical coordination mechanisms to address the drug problem in a comprehensive, balanced, and multidisciplinary approach, including its causes and consequences. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country has concrete multisectoral plans and programs to address the causes and socioeconomic consequences of the drug problem based on the principles of human rights, public health, and development. Additionally, CICAD notes that Suriname participates in international cooperation programs at the bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen policies, programs, and institutions and their internal processes. On the other hand, CICAD observes that the country does not promote comprehensive and cross-cutting public policies to reduce and prevent crime, violence, social exclusion, and corruption. Also, CICAD notes that Suriname does not implement measures that promote equal access to justice and due process, taking into account gender, age, community, and cultural context approaches. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country does not implement measures that foster citizen participation in crime prevention, build community cohesion, increase public safety, or emphasize social inclusion.

Objective 4

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

CICAD notes that Suriname's law does not provide for alternative measures to incarceration for minor or non-violent drug-related offenses. CICAD observes that the priority action to develop mechanisms to monitor and evaluate alternative measures to incarceration for minor or nonviolent drug-related offenses, in collaboration with academic and research institutions, as well as civil society is not applicable in Suriname. CICAD notes that the priority action to promote common understanding of national legal norms, regulations, and internal procedures for the implementation of alternatives to incarceration is not applicable in Suriname.

Objective 5

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

CICAD notes with concern that Suriname does not have inter-agency or multisectoral programs that promote the social inclusion of individuals, families, and communities affected by the drug problem, taking into account the specific needs of vulnerable populations. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country does not disseminate best practices or lessons learned to improve institutional responses to the needs of people in at-risk situations.

Objective 6

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

CICAD observes with concern that Suriname does not promote legislation that provides for proportional legal sentencing for minor drug-related offences and has no special courts or tribunals for these offenses. Moreover, CICAD notes that the country does not promote legal reforms regarding proportional sentencing for minor drug-related offenses.

MEASURES OF PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND RECOVERY SUPPORT**Objective 1**

Establish comprehensive and integrated drug demand reduction policies with a public health focus, that are evidence-based, multidisciplinary, multisectoral, respectful of human rights, that consider the gender perspective, community and take into account the guidelines and/or recommendations of specialized international and/or regional organizations.

CICAD notes that Suriname has drug demand reduction policies that include programs in the areas of health promotion, prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, rehabilitation, social integration, and recovery support. These programs include the gender, age, community, and cultural context approaches. CICAD also notes that Suriname develops, strengthens, and implements coordination mechanisms for collecting, analyzing, disseminating, and accessing information on treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and social reintegration services, but observes that it does not have such mechanisms with respect to prevention services. In addition, CICAD notes that Suriname has monitoring instruments for drug demand reduction programs but has not conducted impact, process, or outcome evaluations of its drug demand reduction programs. CICAD also notes with concern that Suriname does not develop or implement coordination mechanisms to support the development or implementation of drug demand reduction programs with the participation of or coordination with civil society or other

stakeholders. Furthermore, CICAD observes that Suriname promotes national treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation, and social integration measures and programs, with a comprehensive and balanced drug demand reduction approach but does not promote national standards for prevention programs. Suriname does not promote national standards recognized by member states, the "International Standards on Drug Use Prevention," or the "International Standards on Treatment of Drug Use Disorders," both developed jointly by WHO and UNODC.

Objective 2

Establish or strengthen an integrated system of evidence-based universal, selective, and indicated drug use prevention programs that prioritize at-risk populations, as well as environmental prevention, that incorporate a human rights, gender, age, and multicultural perspective.

CICAD notes that Suriname carries out drug use selective and indicated prevention programs in various population groups. However, CICAD views with concern that the Suriname does not conduct universal programs or programs that specifically cover other important population groups. Moreover, CICAD notes with concern that Suriname has not conducted situational assessments to identify the specific needs, risk, or protective factors of each target population for drug use prevention programs. In addition, CICAD notes that Suriname does not promote the exchange of research findings, experiences, or best practices to improve the effectiveness of prevention programs, taking into consideration the "International Standards on Drug Use Prevention," developed jointly by WHO and UNODC.

Objective 3

Establish and strengthen, as appropriate, national care, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and social integration systems for people who use drugs, that are integrated with health systems, and that respect human rights, and offer gender-specific services, and that, to the extent possible, are designed and administered in accordance with internationally accepted quality standards.

CICAD notes that Suriname has comprehensive and inclusive care, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and social integration programs and services in the public health and/or social protection network, which take into consideration the gender, human rights, and public health approaches. CICAD also notes that Suriname takes into account the "International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders" of WHO and UNODC but does not use of the "Technical Guide for countries to set targets for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care for injecting drug users," issued by WHO, UNODC, and UNAIDS. In addition, CICAD observes that Suriname implements mechanisms to continuously monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and social integration programs, as well as comprehensive public and private facilities. These mechanisms take into account human rights, age, and cultural context approaches. Furthermore, CICAD notes with satisfaction that Suriname has mechanisms to protect the rights of persons in treatment programs and services, these mechanisms have

protocols to protect the confidentiality of information provided by people receiving these services, including the process of providing adequate information about treatment and informed consent. On the other hand, CICAD notes with concern that Suriname does not have alternative early intervention, care, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, or social integration services for criminal offenders who use drugs. Moreover, CICAD notes with concern that Suriname does not offer early intervention, care, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, or social integration programs for incarcerated individuals who use drugs. In addition, CICAD observes that Suriname does not implement cooperation mechanisms with social or community actors that provide social and community support services that contribute to the social integration of drug users. However, CICAD views with satisfaction that Suriname promotes regional and international cooperation and shares best practices to increase access and availability of evidence-based treatment and recovery services, including access to naloxone and other medications used in the treatment of substance use disorders. Additionally, CICAD views with concern that Suriname does not promote measures to address the stigma and social marginalization associated with substance use disorders.

Objective 4

Foster ongoing training and certification of prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation service providers.

CICAD notes that Suriname implements competency-based training in the area of treatment but not in the areas of prevention or rehabilitation. Nevertheless, CICAD notes that Suriname participates in prevention programs offered by specialized international organizations but does not participate in treatment or rehabilitation programs. On the other hand, CICAD views with concern that Suriname does not certify personnel working in prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, or social integration services. In addition, CICAD notes that Suriname has conducted situational assessments to identify training needs for personnel working in prevention, early intervention, care, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and social integration programs, but the country has not developed specialized programs in response to training needs identified by situational assessments.

Objective 5

Establish and/or strengthen government institutional capacities to regulate, enable, accredit, and supervise prevention programs and care, treatment, rehabilitation, and reintegration services.

CICAD notes that Suriname does not have regulatory measures in place to accredit prevention programs, or an accreditation process for care or treatment services. CICAD also notes that the country does not use CICAD's Indispensable Criteria for the opening and operation of drug use disorder treatment centers. CICAD further observes that Suriname does not have supervisory mechanisms to ensure compliance with international quality standards in prevention programs; however, Suriname does have such mechanisms for public and private treatment and

rehabilitation services. On the other hand, CICAD notes with concern that Suriname has not conducted an assessment at the national, regional, or local levels to determine the needs for care, treatment, or reintegration services.

MEASURES TO CONTROL AND COUNTER THE ILLICIT CULTIVATION, PRODUCTION, TRAFFICKING, AND DISTRIBUTION OF DRUGS, AND TO ADDRESS THEIR CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

Objective 1

Develop and/or strengthen national- and regional-level interdiction capacity, as well as the capacity to reduce the illicit cultivation, production, trafficking, and distribution of plant-based and synthetic drugs through the use of comprehensive and balanced programs in accordance with the realities of each country's domestic legislation and respect for human rights.

CICAD notes with concern that Suriname does not implement or participate in ongoing training programs for personnel involved in interdiction operations in order to detect, investigate, or dismantle laboratories or facilities used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, and that the country does not have action protocols and procedures for detection, investigation, or dismantling of clandestine laboratories or facilities used for the processing or illicit manufacture of drugs. CICAD also notes that the agencies in charge of drug control in Suriname do not implement policies that promote gender mainstreaming. Additionally, CICAD observes that the country has programs and strategies for maritime and riverine interdiction of drugs through monitoring, inspections, and checkpoints; however, it does not have programs or strategies aimed at land or aerial interdiction of drugs. Moreover, CICAD notes that Suriname does not have laws or regulations providing for the use of specialized investigation tools and techniques to prevent and reduce drug trafficking. On the other hand, CICAD notes that the country has updated assessments and studies to identify new trends and threats related to drug trafficking and related crimes. Additionally, CICAD observes that Suriname implements actions to identify organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes; moreover, it has inter-institutional collaboration and cooperation mechanisms to coordinate activities aimed at dismantling organized crime groups involved in these crimes; however, the country has not participated in operations or investigations with other countries aimed at dismantling these groups. On the other hand, CICAD notes that the country has an institution that is responsible for, and capable of, analyzing chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances (NPS) and participates in ongoing training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of these substances. However, CICAD observes that Suriname does not have mechanisms to facilitate or share information at the national level across government counterparts, nor with global repositories on these substances. CICAD notes that the country does not have mechanisms to investigate or disrupt drug trafficking through the Internet. CICAD further observes that the country has partnerships and information exchange mechanisms with private sector entities to prevent access to materials and services exploited for illicit drug trafficking purposes; however, it does not use tools or resources of the INCB to strengthen cooperation with the private sector to prevent the diversion of chemicals. Furthermore, CICAD

notes that Suriname does not have national authorities with the appropriate budget, human and material resources for the forfeiture, seizure, and management of assets, tools, or products related to illicit drug markets, nor does its competent personnel receive ongoing training on this area.

Objective 2

Strengthen national measures to address the challenges posed by NPS and illicit synthetic drugs, and the threat of fentanyl-related substances, non-medical synthetic opioids, and illicit amphetamine derivatives.

CICAD observes that Suriname does not have an early warning system (EWS) to identify and trace new psychoactive substances (NPS), illicit synthetic drugs, or the threat of fentanyl-related substances, non-medical synthetic opioids, illicit amphetamine derivatives, and other substances subject to international control¹. On the other hand, CICAD notes that the country improves its capabilities to detect and analyze NPS through the use of special investigative techniques, updated equipment, and acquisition of technology. However, CICAD observes that Suriname does not have regulatory frameworks or guidelines to identify and address the challenges posed by the onset of NPS and emerging synthetic drugs. Moreover, CICAD notes that the country does not participate in the INCB's Project ION. CICAD also observes that Suriname does not have innovative legislation or regulatory approaches to synthetic opioids for non-medical use or NPS.

Objective 3

Strengthen or develop legal and institutional frameworks for the effective monitoring and control of essential chemical substances and precursors to prevent diversion of these substances to the manufacturing of illicit drugs and counter its trafficking, including periodically updating national lists of controlled chemical substances.

CICAD notes that Suriname does not have a competent national authority responsible for developing guides, codes of conduct, or other instruments to inform the industry and users in general of controlled chemical substances nor has it developed such instruments and mechanisms. Although CICAD observes that the country has an updated register of all individuals and corporations handling controlled chemical substances, its competent authorities do not carry out regular inspections or audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle these substances. CICAD notes that Suriname carries out analyses that include the exchange of information through existing international mechanisms of substances, their analogs, and precursors, which pose a threat to public health. CICAD further observes with satisfaction

¹ The country reported in the MEM 2022 "Evaluation Report on Drug Policies: Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their Causes and Consequences" that it did not have an early warning system (EWS) to identify and trace new psychoactive substances (NPS), illicit synthetic drugs, or the threat of fentanyl-related substances, non-medical synthetic opioids, illicit amphetamine derivatives, or other substances subject to international control. However, the country provided, during the 2024 evaluation process, an update under Objective 1 of the Research, Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation area, where it informs that it now has a functioning EWS, but not under this objective.

that Suriname has legislation incorporating the control measures in Article 12 of the 1988 United Nations Convention to prevent diversion of controlled chemical substances towards illicit activities, which includes all the control measures listed in Paragraphs 8 and 9, and incorporate the requests for information set forth in Paragraph 10. CICAD notes that the country does not use the INCB's PEN Online system to issue pre-export notifications of controlled chemical substances; however, it does use the PICS system. CICAD observes that Suriname receives training for drug control personnel and for the identification and handling of controlled chemical substances. However, CICAD notes with concern that the country has no budgetary mechanisms to ensure allocation of resources to acquire necessary equipment and supplies for the preliminary identification of substances and the protective equipment required by personnel in charge of these tasks. Further, CICAD observes that Suriname does not use the OAS/CICAD Model Regulations for the Control of Chemical Substances Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

Objective 4

Ensure adequate availability and accessibility of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes, while also preventing their diversion towards illicit activities, in accordance with international drug control conventions.

CICAD notes that Suriname has special processes for issuing authorizations for importing substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes and that it has an updated register of individuals or companies importing substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. However, CICAD observes that the country does not have training or awareness activities for competent national authorities and health professionals on proper access to substances subject to international control solely for medical and scientific purposes. On the other hand, CICAD notes that the country has a regulatory framework to govern the acquisition of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes.

Objective 5

Adopt or strengthen control measures to prevent diversion of controlled pharmaceutical products containing narcotic drugs and/or psychotropic substances, and those containing precursor substances used in the production of controlled substances.

CICAD notes that Suriname does not have an updated register of individuals and corporations handling pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances; however, the country issues licenses to manufacturers and distributors of these products, but it does not carry out regular inspections or audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle them. CICAD observes that the country has criminal, civil, and administrative penalties for infringements or violations by individuals or corporations that handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances. CICAD notes that Suriname does not conduct periodic training programs for personnel in charge of preventing the trade and diversion of materials and

equipment for the illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, nor does it share information with other regional or global systems on this matter. Furthermore, CICAD observes that the country does not use the INCB's I2ES system; however, it has an alternative, expeditious mechanism in place that is ready to issue import authorizations between countries for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical use. CICAD also notes the country has not received training in the use of the I2ES system.

Objective 6

Strengthen or develop specific operational and intelligence gathering and sharing mechanisms to detect methods used by criminal organizations, including the exploitation of land, riverine, maritime, and aerial routes.

CICAD notes that Suriname does not implement or participate in periodic training programs for personnel involved in drug investigations in specialized investigative techniques and intelligence collection, analysis, and operations. However, CICAD observes that the country participates in periodic training programs and other capacity-building activities to investigate and counter crimes associated with drug trafficking, such as corruption and money laundering. Additionally, CICAD notes that Suriname has information gathering mechanisms to exchange intelligence information, at a domestic, regional, and international level, to detect routes and methods used by drug trafficking criminal organizations. CICAD also observes that the country has tools that promote and strengthen cooperation and the exchange of information and intelligence among domestic law enforcement agencies responsible for drug interdiction and effective border control. Moreover, CICAD notes that Suriname has a national information system on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on changing behaviors and modus operandi of criminal organizations.

Objective 7

Establish, update, or reinforce, as appropriate, the legislative and institutional frameworks in the areas of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and control of money laundering derived from drug trafficking, such as the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

CICAD notes with satisfaction that Suriname has strengthened its legislative frameworks to counteract money laundering derived from illicit drug trafficking. Furthermore, CICAD observes that the country has periodic training programs for officials and those in vulnerable sectors, on prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of money laundering derived from drug trafficking. Additionally, CICAD notes that Suriname has protocols that enable authorities to conduct financial and asset investigations parallel to drug trafficking investigations. CICAD also observes that the country has mechanisms allowing for inter-agency coordination and cooperation in preventing and controlling money laundering. CICAD notes that Suriname has a Financial Intelligence Unit and has information systems aimed at the investigation and prosecution of money laundering in analyzing cases deriving from drug trafficking. CICAD further

observes that the country has mechanisms for analyzing money laundering risks, in accordance with FATF recommendations. Additionally, CICAD notes that Suriname has established partnerships with the financial industries to identify and investigate illicit transactions and money laundering operations derived from activities related to drug trafficking.

Objective 8

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, in line with applicable international law, and in line with relevant standards, such as the FATF recommendations and the recommendations on preventive freezing of assets.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that Suriname has competent authorities for the administration of seized and forfeited assets and has legal provisions that facilitate the accountability and transparency of the management of seized and forfeited assets. Furthermore, CICAD observes that the country offers and participates in specialized, periodic training programs for the management and disposition of seized and forfeited assets. Moreover, CICAD notes that Suriname has legislation, in accordance with international conventions and treaties, to facilitate the seizure, forfeiture, and management of assets and instruments derived from drug trafficking and other related crimes.

Objective 9

Design, implement, and strengthen comprehensive and balanced national programs to reduce the illicit cultivation, production and manufacture of drugs through the adoption of effective measures, such as comprehensive and sustainable alternative development, enhanced law enforcement cooperation, and other appropriate policies and programs, taking into account the particular needs of sub-national regions of each country, respecting human rights.

CICAD notes that Suriname has designed, implemented, or updated national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit cultivation, production, or manufacture of drugs. CICAD also observes that the country does not direct budgetary allocations towards financing counternarcotics programs. Furthermore, CICAD notes that Suriname does not take into account illicit traditional uses when designing and implementing policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs nor does it include environmental protection measures in these policies and programs. CICAD also observes that the country has not established mechanisms for interinstitutional cooperation between public and private institutions to provide a comprehensive response to the illicit production of drugs. Moreover, CICAD notes that Suriname does not support the development of supply reduction programs with drug-related crime prevention initiatives that address social and economic risk factors.

Objective 10

Design, implement or strengthen long-term alternative development programs, including rural and urban alternatives, comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, and, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, in accordance with the policies, laws and needs of each country, as appropriate, while respecting human rights.

CICAD notes that Suriname has not designed nor implemented comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs or preventive alternative development, therefore, the priority actions of this objective are not applicable.

Objective 11

Design and implement plans and/or programs to mitigate and reduce the impact of illicit crops and drug production on the environment, in cooperation with local communities and national policies of member states.

CICAD notes that Suriname has not carried out, during the evaluation period (2019-2022), research or studies to determine the characteristics and extent of the environmental impact caused by the illicit cultivation of crops and illicit drug production, therefore, the priority actions of this objective are not applicable.

Objective 12

Address the effects of small-scale drug trafficking on public health, the economy, social cohesion, and citizen security.

CICAD notes that Suriname has developed and implemented approaches for controlling micro-trafficking and related crimes that take into account effects on public health, the economy, social cohesion, and citizen security. Additionally, CICAD observes that the country promotes interagency exchange of information on the effects of small-scale drug trafficking in the health, social, economic and security sectors. However, CICAD notes that Suriname does not have programs or strategies to prevent the exploitation of at-risk populations affected by drug trafficking networks, at the national or international level.

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

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

CICAD notes that Suriname has the National Observatory on Drugs (NDO), which was created

through a legal basis and has been assigned financial and human resources to carry out its functions. Moreover, CICAD observes that the country has established and maintained working relationships with academic and research institutions and has carried out a study on the drug problem through them. Additionally, CICAD notes that Suriname has developed and adopted quantitative and qualitative methodologies and information-gathering mechanisms that allow for the comparison of data among countries but has not carried out studies using the InterAmerican Uniform Drug Use Data System (SIDUC) methodology during the evaluation period (2019-2023). On the other hand, the country has used the CICAD standard indicators for drug information networks for the collection, analysis, and reporting of national drug-related data and information. Also, Suriname has conducted studies that use methods that are non-representative of the population to obtain information on drugs that can be shared with other countries that have carried out studies with similar methodologies. Moreover, CICAD notes that the country's observatory has a national drug information network (DIN), which interacts through meetings and document exchanges and publishes a periodic report. However, Suriname has an early warning system (EWS) to identify NPS or other emerging drug-related threats, which shares information, alerts, and reports with the Early Warning System of the Americas (SATA). Additionally, CICAD notes that the country's observatory carries out training sessions with local stakeholders to enhance data collection and management, as well as meetings and other workshops where the results of studies and other information-gathering activities are shared with local stakeholders. However, CICAD observes that Suriname has not established forums that allow drug researchers to present their findings to policymakers. On the other hand, CICAD notes that the country's observatory promotes and disseminates best practices and the exchange of successful research experiences among member states.

Objective 2

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

CICAD notes that Suriname has carried out and published five demand reduction studies during the evaluation period (2019-2024). Additionally, CICAD observes that the country has a national system for the collection of data on the number of patients treated, diagnoses, clinical history, and available information on treatment outcomes. However, CICAD notes that Suriname has not conducted studies to evaluate treatment and prevention programs or interventions, as well as process, intermediate outcome, or impact evaluations of its prevention or treatment programs. Additionally, the country does not have mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment, rehabilitation and recovery and social integration programs and services in the public health or social protection network.

Objective 3

Expand and enhance the collection and dissemination of information on illicit drug production, trafficking, and related issues, through the use of sound, systematic data collection practices, scientific research, and standardized methodologies.

CICAD notes that Suriname has mechanisms to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs and has information related to supply reduction, trafficking, and related crimes. However, the country does not carry out periodic studies on the illicit drug market or on the medical and scientific use and other legal uses of narcotics or psychotropic substances, subject to international control systems. CICAD observes that Suriname does not collect information on the drug price, purity or concentration, or chemical profile of drugs. On the other hand, the country conducts chemical characterizations and purity tests of substances that may or may not be subject to international control but does not have mechanisms through which substances that have been identified as not being under international control can be placed under control. CICAD notes that Suriname has an institution that is responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors, and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances but this institution is not part of the drug information network (DIN). Additionally, the country participates in a periodic training program for personnel involved in the analysis of these substances. CICAD observes that Suriname's national drug information network on drugs (DIN) has standardized indicators for the collection of data on drug supply and that the country implements and participates in training activities for DIN stakeholders to improve and strengthen the mechanisms that are needed for the collection and exchange of information on drug supply.

Objective 4

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

CICAD notes that, for the eighth round of evaluation of the MEM, Suriname collected information on the implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2021-2025 and submitted it in a timely manner for evaluation by the Group of Governmental Experts (GEG). CICAD observes that, for the eighth evaluation round of the MEM, the country designated delegates for all the MEM groups, actively participating and contributing to the evaluation process. Additionally, CICAD notes that Suriname carries out periodic activities to promote and raise awareness of the MEM Drug Policy Evaluation Reports aimed at national institutions. However, CICAD observes that the country has not promoted the analysis of the findings of MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies for national institutions to identify areas where technical assistance is needed to improve national drug-related policies and programs. Additionally, CICAD notes that Suriname has not reviewed the MEM Evaluation Reports on Drug Policies and identified opportunities to increase cooperation and partnerships with other member states or share best practices and lessons learned (horizontal cooperation).

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Objective 1

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

CICAD notes that Suriname develops and implements a plan for the promotion and strengthening of technical assistance and horizontal cooperation among member states and with states outside the Western Hemisphere, as well as with relevant international and regional organizations, and related initiatives and programs. Additionally, the country has established secure communication channels for the exchange of intelligence information on drug interdiction and control. Moreover, the country promotes the exchange, with member states and with states outside of the Western Hemisphere, and with relevant international and regional organizations, of best practices on training, specialization, and professional development of the staff responsible for implementing the national drug policies and strategies. Additionally, Suriname participates in regional coordination activities to prevent crimes related to drug trafficking, such as firearms trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, money laundering, and corruption, among others. Also, the country has bilateral mechanisms for coordination and collaboration with other countries, focused on the dismantling of criminal groups linked to drug trafficking and related crimes. On the other hand, CICAD observes that Suriname has not promoted technology transfers among and between OAS member states and international (including regional) organizations but has promoted information sharing among them. Additionally, CICAD notes that the country does not promote the dissemination of good practices or the exchange of successful research experiences among and between member states and international organizations on drug policies.

Objective 2

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

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

ANNEX PRIORITY ACTIONS WITH UPDATES

MEASURES OF PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND RECOVERY SUPPORT

OBJECTIVE
2

ESTABLISH OR STRENGTHEN AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF EVIDENCE-BASED UNIVERSAL, SELECTIVE, AND INDICATED DRUG USE PREVENTION PROGRAMS THAT PRIORITIZE AT-RISK POPULATIONS, AS WELL AS ENVIRONMENTAL PREVENTION, THAT INCORPORATE A HUMAN RIGHTS, GENDER, AGE, AND MULTICULTURAL PERSPECTIVE.

Priority Action 2.1: Develop and implement evidence-based drug use prevention strategies and/or programs in the school, family, work, and community settings.

Priority Action 2.4: Implement selective prevention programs aimed at at-risk populations, in particular at children, adolescents, youth, and women.

Priority Action 2.5: Develop and strengthen indicated prevention programs aimed at individuals at increased risk of developing substance use disorders.

Suriname implements the following prevention strategies or programs:

Population group	Estimated Coverage		Name of program	Type of program (universal, selective, indicated)
	Target population	Coverage rate		
School children and university students:				
• Elementary/primary	69088 - 866	1.12%	I am Special	Selective/Indicated
• Junior high & high school (secondary school)	34940 - 403	1.15%	I am Special	Selective/Indicated
	34940 - 4684	7.45%	Pilot Students Against Destructive Decisions Program	Universal
Street Population:				
• Youths				
• Adults	1500 - 250	16.6%	Hands of Hope	Selective/Indicated
Gender				
• Women	194300 – 325	0.16%	Hands of Hope	Selective/Indicated
• Men	2218900 – 75	0.03%	Hands of Hope	Selective/Indicated
LGBTIQ+	5100 – 10	0.19%	Hands of Hope	Selective/Indicated
Migrants and refugees	5054 – 430	8.5%	Hands of Hope	Selective/Indicated
Others: Sex workers and homeless addicts	3600 – 545	15.1%	Hands of Hope	Selective/Indicated

The country does not implement specific programs for the following population groups: pre-school, university/tertiary education; boys/girls and youths in street situations; family; community; indigenous people; individuals in the workplace or incarcerated individuals.

OBJECTIVE

4

FOSTER ONGOING TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION OF PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND REHABILITATION SERVICE PROVIDERS.

Priority Action 4.1: Implement ongoing competency-based training mechanisms, in collaboration with academic institutions and other specialized organizations.

Suriname implements competency-based training in the area of treatment but not in prevention or rehabilitation.

The country benefited from the following training opportunities provided by international institutions such as the Organization of American States (OAS) and Cooperation Programme between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drugs Policies (COPOLAD):

International organizations	Training programs [prevention, treatment, rehabilitation]	Name of program	Approaches taken into account (gender, human rights, public health)
OAS	Prevention	Online psychoactive substances: what are synthetic cannabinoids, their mechanism of action and health risks – 7 July 2022	Public health
OAS	Prevention	Online Addressing Stigma and Substance use disorder	Public health
OAS	Prevention	In person training ^{2nd} Youth Caribbean Forum on drug use August 2023 - Bahamas	Public health
OAS	Prevention	Youth Leaders training in substance use prevention November 2023 - Suriname	Public health
COPOLAD	Prevention	European drug prevention curriculum online training - 11 – 15 September 2023	Public health
OAS	Treatment	Enhancing Treatment Services for people who uses Substances 1-3 November 2023	-
OAS	Prevention	Training of Trainers (ToT) in the Universal Prevention Curriculum (UPC) Practitioners Series - School-Based Prevention course	-

MEASURES TO CONTROL AND COUNTER THE ILLICIT CULTIVATION, PRODUCTION, TRAFFICKING, AND DISTRIBUTION OF DRUGS, AND TO ADDRESS THEIR CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

OBJECTIVE 1	DEVELOP AND/OR STRENGTHEN NATIONAL- AND REGIONAL-LEVEL INTERDICTION CAPACITY, AS WELL AS THE CAPACITY TO REDUCE THE ILLICIT CULTIVATION, PRODUCTION, TRAFFICKING, AND DISTRIBUTION OF PLANT-BASED AND SYNTHETIC DRUGS THROUGH THE USE OF COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED PROGRAMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REALITIES OF EACH COUNTRY’S DOMESTIC LEGISLATION AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.
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Priority Action 1.6: Define and implement coordinated actions between national and regional entities to dismantle organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes.

Suriname implements actions to identify organized crime groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes. In this sense, the country deploys police units, including specialized units, such as the Narcotics Brigade, to identify, investigate and tackle organized crime groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes.

The country carries out inter-institutional collaboration and cooperation mechanisms to coordinate activities aimed at dismantling organized crime groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes. In this sense, Suriname works with international partners and organizations such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the United Nations and regional partnerships to exchange information, conduct joint operations and implement capacity building activities related to the fight against organized crime and drug trafficking. Additionally, the country maintains cooperation mechanisms with neighboring countries and other countries in the region to address cross-border drug trafficking. This includes information sharing, joint patrols and operations, and promoting law enforcement cooperation and legal assistance.

Suriname has not participated in operations or investigations in cooperation with other countries aimed at dismantling organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes.

OBJECTIVE 7	ESTABLISH, UPDATE, OR REINFORCE, AS APPROPRIATE, THE LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS IN THE AREAS OF PREVENTION, DETECTION, INVESTIGATION, PROSECUTION, AND CONTROL OF MONEY LAUNDERING DERIVED FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING, SUCH AS THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE (FATF).
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Priority Action 7.1: Strengthen implementation of the legal, regulatory, and operational frameworks in the areas of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and control of money laundering associated with drug trafficking.

Suriname has strengthened the legislative frameworks to counter money laundering derived from drug trafficking. In this sense, the country has the Act to Prevent and Combat Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing which was adopted on November 22, 2022, as well as the Criminal Code, which includes Money Laundering and related criminal offences.

Priority Action 7.4: Strengthen interagency coordination and cooperation in relation to the development of national anti-money laundering strategies, including through coordinating committees and task forces.

Suriname has the following mechanisms allowing for inter-agency coordination and cooperation in preventing and controlling money laundering based on the *Meldpunt Ongebruikelijke Transacties* (MOT) Act:

The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) provides information on the manifestations and on the prevention and combating of money laundering and financing of terrorism to the service providers, the Public Prosecution Service, other officials entrusted with the investigation of criminal offences and to the public in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 2 of the MOT Act.

Per Article 7, if necessary for the analysis of the disclosure, the FIU is authorized to request information concerning a party in respect of which a disclosure is made from government, financial and non-financial institutions. Government, financial and non-financial institutions are obliged to provide the information requested by the FIU on the basis of paragraph 1 of this Article.

The FIU annual reports, available from the website, are yearly statistics recorded describing received information requests from the Public Prosecution Service and sent information requests to financial and non-financial institutions regarding money laundering analysis and investigations.

Suriname also has the Act to Prevent and Combat Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing which establishes:

- The Anti Money Laundering Steering Council to formulate and coordinate the implementation of national measures to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. This Council is chaired by the President of the Republic and Members include the Vice President, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Justice and Police, the Minister of Natural Resources, the Governor of the Central Bank, the Attorney General at the Court of Justice and the Chairman of the Finance and Planning Committee of the National Assembly
- The National Anti-Money Laundering Commission which is comprised of representatives of the supervisors and of the competent authorities and is tasked with advising the Minister of Justice and Police regarding updating the laws to fight money laundering and financing of terrorism, as well as cooperation and coordination of activities and measures to fight money

laundering, terrorism and proliferation financing.

OBJECTIVE

9

DESIGN, IMPLEMENT, AND STRENGTHEN COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED NATIONAL PROGRAMS TO REDUCE THE ILLICIT CULTIVATION, PRODUCTION AND MANUFACTURE OF DRUGS THROUGH THE ADOPTION OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES, SUCH AS COMPREHENSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT, ENHANCED LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PARTICULAR NEEDS OF SUB-NATIONAL REGIONS OF EACH COUNTRY, RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS.

Priority Action 9.1: Design, implement, and update national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit cultivation, production, and manufacture of drugs.

Suriname has designed and implemented the Industrial Hemp Cultivation Act, 2022 which creates the necessary framework to prevent and decrease illicit cultivation, production, and/or manufacture of drugs. The Act creates the National Institute for Industrial Hemp Cultivation Suriname and tasks it with the responsibility to monitor compliance with the law, and in particular, to monitor and control compliance by permit holders with the provisions of the law, in particular their activities related to the cultivation, processing, supply, and sale of industrial hemp and the associated processes and procedures, establishing guidelines and procedures for granting permits; conducting laboratory and field tests on the cultivated industrial hemp and industrial hemp products for Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content; supervision of certified hemp seeds, as well as ensuring the certification of hemp seeds; maintaining a register of industrial hemp; preparing the policy plan and budget of income and expenses; producing annual reports on the activities, income, and expenses; serving as a point of contact for permit holders with all relevant government agencies.

RESEARCH, INFORMATION, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION

OBJECTIVE

1

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

Priority Action 1.2: Strengthen ties to academic and research institutions, as well as specialized non-governmental organizations, to foster scientific research and studies on the various aspects of the drug phenomenon.

Suriname has established and maintained working relationships with academic and research institutions through collaboration with other researchers for assistance in data gathering,

analysis and interpretation of data. There is an established drug information network of nongovernmental organizations (NGO) and governmental organizations providing data to the National Drug Observatory (NDO) and assistance in field work when conducting new research.

In July 2024, the NDO established a Scientific Advisory Committee with researchers from the University and a Research Network with researchers from the Anton de Kom University of Suriname, an independent research institution and a non-governmental organization.

The country has carried out a study on the drug problem through academic and research institutions, titled “Exposure to risk and harm among drug dependent sex workers in the inner-city of Paramaribo, Suriname,” which was done with the NGO “Loving Hands”.

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

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

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

The NDO has a national drug information network (DIN), which interacts through the following means:

Means	Yes	No	If yes, how often?
Meetings	X		2-4 times
Document exchange	X		2 times

The following actors participate in the DIN:

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

The DIN publishes a periodic report.

Suriname has an early warning system (EWS) on drugs to identify new psychoactive substances (NPS) or other emerging drug-related threats, led by the NDO.

The EWS shares information, alerts, and reports with the Early Warning System of the Americas (by its Spanish language acronym, SATA).

OBJECTIVE

2

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

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

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

Demand reduction			
Studies	Studies carried out and published		Year of most recent study
	Yes	No	
Survey of secondary school students		X	
National household surveys (12-64 years)		X	
Cross-section survey of patients in treatment centers	X		2019 2021
Survey of patients in emergency rooms		X	
Survey of university students		X	
Survey of incarcerated individuals		X	
Studies on drug-related mortality		X	
Studies on drug-related morbidity		X	
Survey of other target populations:			
- Sex workers and drug use	X		2022
- Substance use in the LGBTQ+ community	X		2024
Others:			
- Effect of COVID-19 on drug use	X		2020



Organization of American States (OAS)
Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)

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