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### Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

## United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

### Report of the Secretary-General

#### *Summary*

The present report provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean from July 2018 to June 2019.

During that period, the Centre undertook more than 70 technical, legal and policy-related activities to support Latin American and Caribbean States, at their request, with the implementation of international instruments relating to conventional arms and weapons of mass destruction.

With a view to supporting the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, and the Arms Trade Treaty, the Centre provided technical training and assistance to more than 1,000 national officials of Member States. The support focused on ammunition destruction, small arms and ammunition marking and tracing, interdiction of weapons at entry and exit points, crime-scene investigative procedures, physical security and stockpile management, and conventional arms transfers.

In line with General Assembly resolution [65/69](#) on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, the Centre provided expertise to some 125 personnel of national authorities from across the region on the incorporation of a gender-focused approach into small arms control initiatives. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also received a boost through the Centre's engagement with 60 young people in measuring illicit trafficking and community security through participatory indicators based on Sustainable Development Goal 16.

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\* [A/74/50](#).



During the reporting period, legislative and capacity-building support was provided to States to enhance their implementation of Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) on preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery to non-State actors.

The Secretary-General expresses his gratitude to the Member States and other partners that supported the Centre's operation and programmes with financial and in-kind contributions and calls upon those in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions in order to sustain and further develop its activities in response to the increasing requests for assistance and cooperation by Member States in the region. The Secretary-General is particularly thankful to Peru for the support it has provided the Centre, as host country, for more than 30 years.

## I. Introduction

1. In its resolution [73/76](#), the General Assembly reiterated its strong support for the role of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in the promotion of peace, disarmament and development among its Member States and encouraged the Centre to further develop activities in all States of the region in the important areas of peace, disarmament and development, and to provide, upon request and in accordance with its mandate, support for the initiatives of Member States in those areas at the regional and subregional levels.

2. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution at its seventy-fourth session. In the present report, submitted pursuant to that request, the main activities carried out by the Centre from July 2018 to June 2019 are highlighted. A financial statement on the status of the trust fund for the Centre in 2018 is contained in the annex to the report.

## II. Functioning and mandate

3. The Centre, located in Lima, was established in 1987, pursuant to General Assembly resolution [41/60 J](#). It is mandated to provide, upon request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities of the Member States in the region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament and for the promotion of economic and social development.

## III. Main areas of activity

4. During the reporting period, the Centre undertook more than 70 technical and legal assistance and training activities to support States in the region in their efforts to implement disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation instruments and adhere to international standards and norms in those fields. The following paragraphs provide an overview of the Centre's main areas of activity. Further details are provided in subsequent sections.

5. With a view to reducing the harmful effects of at-risk illicitly proliferated and indiscriminately used conventional arms of war, the Centre worked with the Peruvian Army to destroy ammunition in central Peru.

6. During the reporting period, the Centre bolstered the capacity of more than 120 front-line law enforcement responders in three States with training in the use of X-ray identification to prevent the diversion of weapons. The Centre also trained more than 200 security sector and justice officials from eight States on the promotion of international standards in the investigation and prosecution of firearms-related cases. The training was complemented by the provision of ballistics equipment to improve evidence management and enhance capacity to meet marking and record-keeping responsibilities under the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (Programme of Action) and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (International Tracing Instrument).

7. In further efforts to reduce the risk of arms and ammunition being diverted for illicit use, the Centre worked with more than 150 private security personnel to enhance their capacity to apply relevant international physical security standards in their management of stockpile facilities.

8. The Centre continued to support States in their implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty by providing training and technical assistance to more than 220 officials from the Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Paraguay.
9. The Centre worked to align its activities with the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 16 (promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels) by engaging around 60 young people to measure violence and insecurity through participatory indicators in their local communities.
10. With a view to contributing to current literature and evidence-based dialogue on the mounting scourge of firearms possession and use in schools, the Centre drew up a working study on regional and international best practices with regard to public policies and initiatives addressing the phenomenon.
11. To support the implementation of Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), the Centre helped Peru to draft new legislation regarding the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (Biological Weapons Convention) and trained 35 Surinamese law enforcement officials on improving maritime security at ports. Both activities were undertaken in response to priorities identified in each State's national action plan.
12. Lastly, the Centre continued to promote the participation of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control initiatives, in line with General Assembly resolution [65/69](#) on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control through a regional project on women and peace and security for more than 120 national practitioners. Overall, some 380 women (35 per cent of participants) took part in project activities during the reporting period.

## **A. Public security programme**

### **1. Providing technical assistance in weapons destruction**

13. In compliance with international instruments and norms, such as the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, the Centre provided technical assistance to the Peruvian Army in destroying and permanently removing from circulation obsolete and surplus ammunition. Items destroyed included ammunition for more than 900 light weapons, 400 different types of missile, including 10 man-portable air defence systems, 140 helicopter bombs and ammunition for 20,000 assorted small arms. The Centre donated two reusable burning tanks to facilitate the destruction of ammunition and explosives in the future with minimal impact on the environment.
14. The work was done in accordance with the standard operating procedures developed by the Centre on, inter alia, handling and safety, equipment operations and independent monitoring and verification. More than 40 armed forces staff received training in the procedures, which will guide such processes in the future. All procedures are fully in line with the Modular Small Arms Control Implementation Compendium and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines.
15. The Centre also led the refurbishment of two storage depots used by the Peruvian Army to house military equipment by installing reinforced metal doors, bullet traps, shelves, padlocks and metal cages. The storehouses were inaugurated in May 2019.

## **2. Supporting weapons interdictions through X-ray technology**

16. Since the establishment of the Centre, the law enforcement community has been a partner in and recipient of its technical assistance. It continued to work with those front-line responders to prevent the trafficking of weapons through training initiatives and the provision of practical tools.

17. More than 120 screening officials from Costa Rica, Guatemala and Peru were trained to better detect and identify weapons and ammunition being illicitly shipped through different entry and exit points (ports, airports, courier services and penitentiary services). The main course tool is an X-ray identification guide, developed in collaboration with the Swiss-based Center for Adaptive Security Research and Applications, that contains descriptions and technical specifications of weapons and highlights new concealment methods used by traffickers.

18. The theory is complemented by simulated interdictions of packages in which participants must identify the parts and components of disassembled firearms and ammunition using X-ray images. Information is also imparted on the sequencing of procedures when handling suspicious or illicit goods.

19. The images in the guide feed into an image library that is being used by national agents and customs officials across the region to improve in-house visual threat detection at points of entry and exit.

## **3. Improving small arms tracing capacity**

20. Under the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, governments are encouraged to implement measures for and cooperate in tracing illicit small arms and light weapons, exchange relevant information and use technology to improve the tracing and detection of such weapons.

21. To that end, the Centre continued to work with States to reinforce national forensic procedures for tracing illicit small arms and prosecuting criminals and traffickers by increasing the capacity of firearms examiners to present reliable ballistic evidence in court. That can help to reduce the backlog of firearms-related cases and enhance the sharing of ballistic information among States.

22. The Centre donated state-of-the-art equipment and technology (bullet traps, refurbished indoor ranges and containerized test-fire ranges) to forensic laboratories in Belize, Guyana and Jamaica, enabling firearms examiners to conduct safe test-fires and functional testing that is free of risk and long-term health consequences. Better equipped laboratories also help to improve evidence management and casework, thus enhancing the capacity of States to meet their marking and record-keeping responsibilities under the International Tracing Instrument.

23. The Centre made recommendations to Trinidad and Tobago on how to improve case management and workflow processes at the Firearms Section of its Forensic Science Centre. Recommendations were also shared with firearms experts and laboratory technicians in Guyana and Saint Kitts and Nevis on how to improve the processing of physical ballistic samples (spent bullets and cartridge cases) recovered from unsolved crime scenes and link them to new small arms-related cases. A training road map was drawn up to improve the efficiency of laboratory technicians in the firearms unit in the Bahamas, based on an assessment conducted by the Centre.

24. National, inter-institutional round tables were held in the first half of 2019 in the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago to enhance firearms-related investigations and assess ballistic intelligence management capabilities. They focused on how to properly handle forensic data related to recovered firearms evidence and the process for collecting it.

25. One of the main requests received from States in the field of forensic ballistics is to increase the capacity of firearms technicians so that they may eventually become competent reporting officers, capable of signing off on forensic reports. The Centre provided follow-up support to the Bahamas in the first half of 2019 through a series of distance learning training sessions for firearms examiners and related field visits. The visits focused on the application of comparison microscopy to examine firearm and ammunition evidence, including bullets and cartridge cases, which is expected to lead to a reduction in impunity in firearms-related cases.

26. In an effort to improve information-sharing between States, the Centre together with the United States Department of State and Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security, hosted a stakeholder meeting to discuss the way forward in preventing the illicit trafficking of arms by improving forensic ballistics capacity throughout the Caribbean. The conclusions of the meeting fed into a document entitled “Recommended Caribbean priority actions on addressing illicit firearms trafficking”, which was subsequently submitted to the Caribbean Community political directorate for consideration and eventual implementation.

#### **4. Standardized marking practices**

27. Pursuant to article 8 of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Firearms Protocol), in which States are called upon, inter alia, to mark each imported firearm with a view to enabling the competent authorities of that State to trace it, the Centre provided technical assistance and training to 50 national control entities on international marking obligations, standards and best practices for small arms and ammunition in Peru and Costa Rica in December 2018 and March 2019, respectively. The training sessions served as a starting point for internal debate on how to regulate marking practices and enabled the standardization of the marking of arms and ammunition at the national level. During the practical segment, the Centre demonstrated the use of a laser marking machine – procured in March 2018 – to allow participants to observe first-hand a marking exercise undertaken in line with international guidelines, most notably the Modular Small Arms Control Implementation Compendium.

#### **5. Ammunition control**

28. The constant supply, availability and proliferation of ammunition to all potential perpetrators of violence are a key cause for the region’s elevated rates of armed violence. Seeking to help States to devise adequate policy responses, the Centre spearheaded a series of national workshops for policymakers on the issue of ammunition controls in Costa Rica in June 2019. The workshops will feed into the global process, due to begin in 2020, of meetings of government experts on the problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus.

#### **6. Promoting small arms control practices among private security companies**

29. The Centre continued to lend technical assistance to Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Peru with a view to building their capacity to control small arms owned by private security companies.

30. More than 20 private security company employees responsible for weapons and ammunition storehouses in Jamaica received stockpile management training with a view to diminishing the risk of diversion of stored weapons and ammunition. The Centre’s experts also assessed the weapons and ammunition storage practices and

physical security measures of the Jamaica Rifle Association and made technical recommendations to bring the Association into compliance with international physical security and stockpile management standards.

31. In March 2019, the Centre held an executive seminar and technical workshop in the Dominican Republic for 90 staff members and employees of national authorities and private security companies on good practices and international standards for physical security and stockpile management. In the same month, the Centre held an exercise in Costa Rica to raise the awareness of more than 20 national officials responsible for international transfer controls of the provisions of international instruments on arms import controls, in particular where private security companies are the importers and intended end-users. The Centre presented its risk assessment methodology to aid the State in evaluating arms and ammunition imports and prevent diversion and straw purchases. In its recommendations, the Centre highlighted the importance of improving cooperation and coordination among the national authorities and complying with national regulations on private security companies and civilian possession and use of arms in order to prevent diversion and illicit arms transfers.

## **7. Measuring illicit trafficking and community security**

32. With a view to increasing capacity to implement Sustainable Development Goal 16 and monitor progress thereon, the Centre worked with 60 youth leaders in communities in Medellín, Colombia, and Trujillo, Peru, to conduct more than 5,000 surveys. The surveys, based on Sustainable Development Goal indicators developed by young people in those regions in 2017, allowed volunteers to measure perceptions and experiences relating to peace, disarmament and security in their neighbourhoods, universities and workplaces. A mobile telephone application developed for the purpose facilitated the meticulous collection of data and its analysis. Key findings in both countries included the fact that more than 25 per cent of the young people surveyed felt insecure in their communities; nearly 45 per cent of respondents felt that it was “probable”, and close to 30 per cent “very probable”, that they would fall victim to crime within the following 12 months. Nearly 20 per cent said that they were aware that other young people possessed firearms.

33. The findings were collated in a publication and widely disseminated, partly as a means of empowering young people in the process of building more peaceful societies.

## **8. Addressing firearms use and possession in schools**

34. The presence of firearms in schools in Latin America has become increasingly problematic over the past decade. Not only do some students carry firearms in school but armed violence occurs and students and teachers are threatened with firearms. The extent of the problem is, however, difficult to gauge because centralized reporting systems and data sets for those incidents do not exist.

35. The Centre, therefore, compiled an evidence-based working paper on the status of firearms use and possession in schools and suggested possible means of addressing the issue. Best practices were identified on how to boost the institutional capacity of States to tackle the problem. The project was also designed to raise awareness among relevant actors, including civil society organizations, teacher associations and youth leaders, with the ultimate goal of transforming society throughout the region in line with Security Council resolution [2250 \(2015\)](#) on youth, peace and security, the Agenda 2030, in particular Goals 4, 5, 11 and 16, and the Secretary-General’s Agenda for Disarmament.

## 9. Women and Security

36. In line with the recognition by the General Assembly in resolution [65/69](#) of the valuable contribution women can make to practical disarmament measures, the Centre continued its multi-year, capacity-building project to help States to implement the resolution. The purpose is to encourage a gender-sensitive approach by national and regional arms control and regulating authorities (law enforcement bodies, the judiciary and legislators) to the reduction of armed violence and to empower women who are dedicated to advancing the disarmament and arms control agenda.

37. In October 2018, the Centre launched a project in Colombia with a national activity for justice and security sector personnel on identifying the gender aspects of armed violence and mainstreaming gender perspectives into criminal investigations and efforts to reduce impunity. In March 2019, a course was held in the Dominican Republic along similar lines. The theory part was complemented by a full day of simulation exercises on collecting and keeping records of evidence related to firearms and ammunition and identifying the samples needed by forensic laboratories to process that evidence.

38. As part of the project, the Centre presented a subregional legal study to cross-reference small arms laws with domestic violence provisions in nine Latin American States, including Colombia, the Dominican Republic and Mexico. The study included a recommendation to incorporate into small arms legislation restrictions on the acquisition and renewal of firearm licenses by persons convicted of domestic or interpersonal violence. It also served as the basis for discussions on taking gender into greater account in policy and legal responses relating to small arms control.

39. In March 2019, the study was presented at a subregional seminar held in El Salvador on the prevention of violence against women through arms control. The seminar brought together more than 40 government and civil society representatives, as well as members of specialized United Nations agencies (the United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)) and the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (the Convention of Belém do Pará) to discuss the impact of armed violence on women and the link between such violence and small arms control.

40. Participants at the seminar were acquainted with the main international standards, instruments, legal frameworks and best practices on small arms control and their potential impact on the prevention of violence against women, with the aim of facilitating efforts at the national and regional levels to implement resolution [65/69](#). Another aim of the seminar was to underline the need to bear in mind the particular impact of armed violence on women in decision-making and thereby contribute to the achievement of Goals 5 and 16, in particular targets 5.2 (eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls everywhere) and 16.4 (reduce illicit arms flows).

41. With a view to strengthening national legal frameworks and the institutional architecture for controlling transfers of conventional arms, in line with the Arms Trade Treaty, the Centre held a tabletop exercise in November 2018 in El Salvador for 20 representatives of the national authorities and civil society on reducing the risks of gender-based violence arising from such transfers. The Centre's innovative Arms Trade Treaty risk assessment tool was used, allowing participants to assess the likelihood of an international arms transfer facilitating acts of gender-based violence, to which reference is made in article 7.4 of the Treaty.

## **B. Implementation of multilateral instruments relating to conventional arms and weapons of mass destruction**

### **1. Arms Trade Treaty**

42. The Centre continued to support States in their efforts to implement the Arms Trade Treaty by providing training and technical assistance to around 160 government officials on compliance with reporting obligations under the Treaty in the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Paraguay and Peru. Topics ranged from the identification of conventional weapons, ammunition, parts and components to the creation of national control systems under the Treaty and the determination of their main functions.

43. In February 2019, the Centre held its Arms Trade Treaty implementation course for officials of the Dominican Republic responsible for arms imports and exports. It was intended to build national capacity to develop standardized control lists and assess the risk of and response to trafficking in and diversion of conventional arms. The Centre also disseminated its standardized end-user certificates, which are designed to obviate the risk of the diversion of conventional arms, ammunition, parts and components. Theory was put into practice on the final day of training, when working groups were required to evaluate requests to export conventional arms in complex contexts while considering their implications for human rights, diversion and gender-based violence.

44. In April 2019, the Centre organized a workshop, in line with article 5 of the Treaty, for 16 officials responsible for controlling the transfer of conventional arms in the Dominican Republic on establishing a national control authority to implement the Treaty and drawing up Treaty-compliant national control lists.

45. In August 2018, the Centre helped Guatemala to set up such a control authority. It followed up in September with training for 20 national officials on implementing the Treaty, which featured practical recommendations on how the State could meet its obligations, including the drawing up of control lists and preparing and submitting national reports.

46. In November 2018, the Centre shared expertise on implementation of the Treaty with 26 officials from 11 institutions in Paraguay. The initiative marked the launch by the Centre in that country of its one-year voluntary trust fund project for which the Centre was identified as the State's main implementing partner. In February 2019, the Centre hosted a high-level workshop in Paraguay on Treaty obligations in relation to export controls and assessments. Participants used the Centre's tools, including its end-use and end-user documentation formats and protocols, as well as its export assessment methodology. In the same context, some 40 officials of the import and export control authorities attended the Centre's Arms Trade Treaty implementation course in May 2019.

47. In July 2018, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru invited the Centre to participate in a binational workshop on preventing and combating illicit arms trafficking at the border between Peru and Ecuador. The Centre focused on regional and international legal regimes for combating illicit trafficking in arms and ammunition tailored to the national police, defence forces and customs and intelligence divisions of the two countries. The activity was supported by the German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control.

### **2. Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)**

48. As a follow-up to earlier rounds of assistance to States in the region with implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), the Centre provided legal

support to Peru to draft legislation prohibiting biological weapons and regulating related materials in accordance with the Biological Weapons Convention.

49. The need to strengthen the State's regulatory framework and thereby improve the implementation of the resolution was identified in Peru's voluntary national action plan. The Centre held a training session in February 2019 on the international non-proliferation regime for all stakeholders involved in drafting the legislation. Subsequently, the national resolution focal point and other stakeholders agreed to hold monthly workshops to streamline dialogue and invited the Centre to contribute substantive input for the drafting process.

50. The Centre, together with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), conducted specialized training and tabletop exercises in Suriname for 35 government officials with a view to enhancing their ability to detect and interdict items of proliferation concern in the context of maritime and port security. It was the sixth time that the Centre had worked with IMO in the context of its programme on resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#). Suriname presented its national action plan to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) in March 2019. The Centre and its partners (the Group of Experts of the Committee) had assisted with drafting of the plan in the previous reporting period.

### **3. High-level fissile material cut-off treaty expert preparatory group consultative process**

51. To facilitate dialogue at the subregional level among Member States and regional organizations on the implications of a future treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, the Centre and the Geneva branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs held training workshops in Peru for Latin American States, regional organizations and academics in June 2019. The aim of the workshops was to develop a sense of ownership of the issue among those States and to help them to prepare for informal consultative meetings with the high-level fissile material cut-off treaty expert preparatory group, as called for in General Assembly resolution [71/259](#) on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

52. As a follow-up, a round-table discussion with representatives of the relevant national authorities was conducted in Peru to share knowledge and information on related issues.

## **IV. Staffing, financing and administration**

### **A. Finances**

53. In accordance with General Assembly resolution [41/60 J](#), the Centre was established on the basis of existing resources and voluntary contributions made by Member States and interested organizations for its core and programme activities. In 2018, voluntary contributions to the Centre's trust fund were received in the amount of \$3,702,075. The Secretary-General expresses his gratitude to the Centre's donors, in particular the Governments of Canada, Germany and the United States of America, and to the Arms Trade Treaty voluntary trust fund for their ongoing financial support. Those contributions enabled the Centre to continue to assist Member States in the region, at their request.

54. The Secretary-General also expresses his appreciation to Guyana, Mexico and Peru for their financial contributions. He continues to encourage financial and in-kind

contributions from Latin American and Caribbean States as a clear indication of the value that Member States place on the Centre's expertise and technical assistance.

55. The Secretary-General wishes to thank all States and partners for their generous contributions to and support for the Centre and encourages their ongoing support to ensure that the Centre can continue to provide technical and capacity-building assistance to Member States in the region, at their request, in fulfilment of its mandate. Information on the status of the trust fund for the Centre for 2018 is contained in the annex to the present report.

## **B. Staffing and administration**

56. The regular budget of the United Nations funds the posts of one Senior Political Affairs Officer/Director of the Centre (P-5), one Political Affairs Officer (P-3) and one General Services staff member (G-7 Local level).

57. Project personnel posts are funded exclusively through voluntary contributions. The Centre recruited additional programmatic support personnel for its public security and non-proliferation and arms control programmes, as well as international consultants. Their contributions were aimed at supporting the Centre's tracing and gender initiatives, as well as assisting with the creation of new tools and guides to support the implementation of instruments relating to small arms control and the prevention of their trafficking.

58. In addition, seven interns and two United Nations Volunteers joined the Centre to assist with the implementation of projects.

## **V. Conclusion**

59. The Centre undertook more than 70 substantive activities to support States in their implementation of the Programme of Action, the International Tracing Instrument, the Arms Trade Treaty, Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and General Assembly resolution 65/69.

60. The Centre continued to expand its technical assistance in areas ranging from support for the destruction, marking and tracing of small arms and ammunition and combating illicit trafficking in them to improvements in their physical security and stockpile management by national authorities and private security companies. The Centre also continued to help States to strengthen their national frameworks on import and export controls for conventional weapons and dual-use goods. Moreover, it supported States in their efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction through the provision of legal assistance relating to the Biological Weapons Convention and capacity-building workshops, including on maritime and port security. Gender considerations were highlighted as an essential element for consideration in the small arms trade among national authorities in line with General Assembly resolution 65/69 and young people were called upon to monitor the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 at the community level.

61. In line with the gender mainstreaming action plan of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Centre continued to promote the participation and role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control by ensuring a maximum number of female participants at all of its events, reaching nearly 400 women.

62. The Secretary-General reiterates his call to Member States and other partners in a position to do so to provide the Centre with the financial and in-kind support, including direct financial contributions from Latin American and Caribbean States,

necessary for it to continue to carry out its mandate effectively and serve the needs of Member States in the region. The Secretary-General also encourages States to continue to fully utilize the Centre's expertise and experience in their joint efforts to promote peace, security and disarmament in the region.

## Annex

## Status of the trust fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean for 2018

(United States dollars)

<b>Accumulated surplus, 1 January 2018</b>	<b>1 994 643</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	
Voluntary contributions <sup>a</sup>	3 702 075
Investment revenue	51 694
Other revenue	0
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>3 753 769</b>
<b>Expenses and refunds</b>	
Operating expenses	1 919 445
Refund to donors <sup>b</sup>	423 877
<b>Total expenses and refunds</b>	<b>2 343 322</b>
Surplus/deficit for the year 2018	1 410 447
Adjustments	–
<b>Accumulated surplus/deficit as at 31 December 2018</b>	<b>3 405 090</b>

<sup>a</sup> Consists of voluntary contributions: Canada \$1,591,712, Guyana \$1,031, Germany \$971,482, Mexico \$10,000, Peru \$19,684, the United States of America \$912,426 and Other (through the Arms Trade Treaty voluntary trust fund) \$195,740.

<sup>b</sup> Consists of refunds to the following donors: Canada \$231,205; El Salvador \$693; Germany \$155,127 and Sweden \$36,852.