



CENTRAL AMERICA AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ROADMAP

TO PREVENT ILLICIT TRAFFICKING AND PROLIFERATION
OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES



Belize



Costa Rica



El Salvador



Guatemala



Honduras



Panama



Dominican Republic

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CONTEXT

In recent years, Central America and the Dominican Republic have made steady progress in the fight against armed violence and illicit trafficking in arms. With a renewed focus on public security and strengthening institutions, governments in the region, together with international and regional organisations, civil society, and other actors involved in the issue, have implemented innovative strategies to address the illicit proliferation of firearms and reduce levels of violence. In particular, countries are investing in greater regional cooperation, making a commitment not only at the national level but also at the sub-regional level to address this historic challenge.

In recent decades, Central American countries and the Dominican Republic have had the highest proportion of gun-related homicides globally. In 2021, the sub-region recorded a rate of 16.9 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants.¹ It is estimated that in 2022, four out of every five homicides were committed with firearms.² Aware of the situation, countries have decided to address the phenomenon.

While some countries have reduced their levels of homicidal violence in recent years, firearms continue to be a factor in violence and crime in the sub-region. They are not only present in the majority of homicides, but also in other forms of violence (psychological, sexual, domestic, social and self-inflicted), as well as in crimes such as robbery, kidnapping, extortion, and activities related to organised crime, including drug trafficking, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, illegal mining, smuggling and money laundering.

The geographical location of Central America and the Dominican Republic makes the sub-region a strategic point for the trafficking of drugs, arms, and people. The control of routes, territories and markets for the flow of illicit activities has increased the demand for arms by local and transnational criminal groups. These arms are smuggled through air, land, sea (ports and islands) and river routes, or are illegally diverted after entering the countries legally.

The proliferation and illicit trafficking of firearms, ammunition, and explosives not only have a human cost, but also pose serious challenges to governance. High homicide rates and increased perceptions of insecurity affect the credibility of democratic institutions, with serious social, economic and developmental repercussions for countries.



**4 OUT OF 5
HOMICIDES
WERE COMMITTED
WITH FIREARMS**

**“FIREARMS
CONTINUE TO
BE A FACTOR IN
VIOLENCE AND
CRIME IN THE
SUB-REGION”**

¹ Global Study on Homicide 2023. https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/gsh/2023/GSH23_ExSum.pdf

² CENTRAL AMERICA Analysis of the State of homicidal violence January to June 2023
<https://infosegura.org/sites/default/files/2024-01/op-1s-2023-regional-eng.pdf>

BACKGROUND

Recognizing the serious challenges and impacts posed by firearms in Central America and the Dominican Republic, and the need to address them, the Member States of the Organisation of American States (OAS), at the request of the countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA), agreed on 6 October 2022, through a Resolution of the General Assembly:

50. To request that the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SSM), through the Department of Public Security (DSP), and in coordination with SICA and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC), develop a proposal for a Central American Road Map to Prevent the Illicit Trafficking and Proliferation of Arms and Ammunition, and to encourage Central American countries to actively participate in this process, considering the framework of the Central American Security Strategy (ESCA), and the lessons learned from successful experiences in other subregions, such as the CARICOM and the Dominican Republic road map. (AG/RES. 2986 – LII-O/22).

In addition, the OAS General Assembly Resolution of 23 June 2023 mandated that the Roadmap have a **follow-up mechanism** to monitor progress and promote effective coordination between governments, implementing partners and donors.³



³ 27. To request that the SMS, through the DPS and within the framework of the Program of Assistance for the Control of Arms and Munitions (PACAM), which is a voluntary program: a) support the development and implementation of the Central American Roadmap for the Prevention of Illicit Trafficking and Proliferation of Arms and Munitions in coordination with SICA and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC), including the creation of a follow-up mechanism to monitor progress and promote effective coordination among governments, implementing partners, and donors; (AG/RES. 3009 - LIII-O/23).

Available at https://scm.oas.org/doc_public/ENGLISH/HIST_24/AG08923E08.docx

DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROADMAP

Based on these mandates, which reflect the political will and commitment of the Central American States and the Dominican Republic to address the proliferation and illicit trafficking of arms and ammunition, the DSP/OAS and UNLIREC, in coordination with the SICA General Secretariat, promoted the development of the Roadmap, with the leading role resting upon **Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, and the Dominican Republic.**

The European Union financially supported the development of this strategic tool. A participatory methodology was adopted to prepare the instrument, including the promotion of technical and political dialogue at national and sub-regional levels, with the participation of key sectors and institutions. The governments of the participating countries defined the format and contents of the Roadmap.

The following actions have been carried out to advance the development of the Roadmap:

2023

NATIONAL LEVEL

Mapping, identifying, and raising awareness of government entities responsible for firearms and

- ammunition control, combating arms and ammunition trafficking, and firearms violence prevention.

APPOINTMENT OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS

(Primary and Alternate) by each participating country.

OCT

CONVENED FIRST REGIONAL MEETING

with National Focal Points in Panama City, to identify challenges, and define priorities and the format of the Roadmap.

DRAFTING A ZERO DRAFT

divided into thematic axes, objectives, and priority actions, based on the inputs collected in the First Meeting with the National Focal Points.

2024

CARRYING OUT TECHNICAL REVIEW OF THE ZERO DRAFT

with each participating country, through virtual and face-to-face meetings.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROADMAP

CONDUCT CONSULTATION PROCESSES WITH OTHER KEY ACTORS

including cooperating countries, implementing partners, international and regional organisations, and civil society organisations specialising on the issue and providing assistance to Central American countries.

AUG-SEP

CONSOLIDATING DRAFT 1

based on the recommendations received, which was submitted to States for review.

VALIDATING INPUTS TO DRAFT 1

at the Second Regional Meeting of National Focal Points in Guatemala City.

SEP

DRAFT 2

prepared by consensus at the Second Meeting, containing a matrix for the formulation of objectives and strategic actions, together with the revised proposal for the monitoring mechanism, for a final round of validation.

CONSOLIDATION

of final draft.

OCT

2025

FEB

POLITICAL ADOPTION

of the Roadmap.

After finalising the technical validation, the Roadmap moved on for its political endorsement in December 2024 for ministers and relevant authorities to adopt the Roadmap. In February 2025, the Central American governments officially adopted the Roadmap at a high-level event at the OAS headquarters in Washington, DC. In addition, the Roadmap may be endorsed by other global and Central American fora to recognise its importance and reinforce the commitment of participating countries.

PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE OF THE ROADMAP

The Central America and Dominican Republic Roadmap to Prevent Illicit Trafficking and Proliferation of Firearms, Ammunition, and Explosives is a tool for national and sub-regional coordination to promote strategies to prevent and combat the proliferation and illicit trafficking in arms, ammunition, and explosives. Thus, the Roadmap will guide the implementation of priority actions, defined by the States themselves, to address the main challenges and impacts that the transnational nature of this phenomenon poses to the sub-region. Its implementation is based on mechanisms of organisation, coordination, collaboration, and inter-institutional exchange, based on a comprehensive, multidimensional and sustainable approach.

Following the adoption of the Roadmap by the sub-region, each country will develop a National Action Plan (NAP) to enable the coordination of policies and strategies, focusing on national priorities and avoiding duplication. In this way, the aim is to improve the results in preventing, controlling, and combating illicit trafficking in arms, ammunition, and explosives in each country.

States set a 10-year timeframe (2025-2035) to implement the Roadmap given the phenomenon's complexity, and to address priority challenges. States also agreed to conduct a mid-term review in 2030 to take stock of the progress made to date and to present concrete recommendations for the full and effective implementation of the Roadmap by 2035.



"THE ROADMAP WILL GUIDE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY ACTIONS, DEFINED BY THE STATES THEMSELVES"





PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE OF THE ROADMAP

Based on these common challenges and areas of opportunity, the Roadmap is divided into **four thematic pillars**, from which several objectives and priority actions are derived:

PILLAR 1 Reinforce regulatory frameworks and inter-agency coordination

PILLAR 2 Prevention of violence with firearms and firearms misuse

PILLAR 3 Life-cycle management of weapons, ammunition, and explosives

PILLAR 4 Investigation and criminal prosecution of trafficking, manufacture, possession and illicit use of firearms, ammunition, and explosives



The implementation of this sub-regional initiative will reinforce and contribute to the fulfilment of the commitments made by the Central American States and the Dominican Republic through given instruments and initiatives at the international, regional and sub-regional levels:



INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects (PoA, 2001)
- Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition (2001)
- International Tracing Instrument (ITI, 2003)
- Arms Trade Treaty (ATT, 2014)
- It will also contribute to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 and its Target 16.4 which aims at significantly reducing illicit arms flows.



REGIONAL

- Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials (CIFTA, 1997).



SUB-REGIONAL

- Framework Treaty on Democratic Security in Central America (1995)
- Other sub-regional initiatives and strategies developed within the framework of SICA such as the Central American Security Strategy (ESCA), Regional Intersectoral Plan against Organised Crime (PRICCO), Regional Operations against Arms (ORCA).

MATRIX OF OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

PILLAR 1 Reinforce regulatory frameworks and inter-agency coordination

Objective
1.1

Update the regulatory and operational frameworks related to the registration, control, and investigation of firearms⁴, ammunition, and explosives⁵ based on international, regional, and sub-regional instruments.

Action

1.1.1 Review national regulatory frameworks to address legal loopholes and take advantage of areas of opportunity, considering relevant international, regional, and sub-regional instruments and frameworks⁶.

1.1.2 Update or develop normative frameworks for the control and regulation of firearms and ammunition owned by private security companies and dealers.

1.1.3 Promote harmonisation processes⁷ at sub-regional level of the regulatory frameworks for the marking⁸ of firearms, ammunition, and explosives in Central America and the Dominican Republic, based on international and regional guidelines⁹.

Objective
1.2

Strengthen inter-institutional coordination at national and sub-regional levels to prevent firearms violence and comprehensively address the registration, control, and investigation of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

Action

1.2.1 Establish or strengthen inter-institutional coordination and cooperation mechanisms¹⁰ to prevent and combat trafficking of and the illicit proliferation of firearms, ammunition and explosives.

1.2.2 Develop a National Inter-institutional Action Plan on firearms, ammunition, and explosives, with monitoring, follow-up, and evaluation mechanisms, that responds to the specific needs of each country, that is aligned with the priorities and objectives of the Roadmap for Central America and the Dominican Republic and integrated into existing national policies, plans, strategies, and programmes on security and development.

1.2.3 Establish a sub-regional forum between counterpart institutions responsible for registration, control, and investigation to promote coordination and cooperation to address the illicit trafficking in and proliferation of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

1.2.4 Appoint a Permanent National Focal Point and a Deputy National Focal Point to coordinate actions connected to the Roadmap.

1.2.5 Ensure Focal Points are appointed for relevant international and regional instruments and tools, and promote complementarity and synergies between instruments through working meetings between appointed Focal Points.

⁴ In this document, the terminology "firearms" or "weapons" is used to refer to small arms and light weapons (SALW), their parts and components.

⁵ In this document, the CIFTA definition of explosives is adopted: "5. Explosives: any substance or article which is made, manufactured or used to produce an explosion, detonation, propulsion or pyrotechnic effect, except: a) substances and articles which are not in themselves explosives; or b) substances and articles mentioned in the Annex to this Convention."

⁶ Main instruments: CIFTA and its model legislations, Firearms Protocol, Arms Trade Treaty, Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (PoA), Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management, and other supplementary instruments and mechanisms, including those on violence prevention and development.

⁷ Harmonisation means the standardisation of national requirements and demands for weapons and ammunition marking at the time of registration by the State, including the type of information to be marked on the firearms and the form of marking (type of nomenclature and codes for the information to be marked; depth of the marking; parts of the weapon to be marked; among other relevant aspects), as well as the registration of such information.

⁸ In this document, the terms "marking" and "mark" will be used interchangeably.

⁹ The States Parties to the CIFTA have adopted the "Model Legislation on the Marking and Tracing of Firearms and Ammunition" and the "OAS Standards on Firearms: Marking and Record-Keeping Information" as documents to be used on a voluntary- and supplementary-basis to the convention. In addition, the UN Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management and the UN Modular Small Arms Control Implementation Compendium (MOSAIC), which contains a specific module on marking and record-keeping information (05.30), as part of the international guidelines.

¹⁰ Examples of these mechanisms for coordination and inter-institutional articulation at the national level are commissions, roundtables or working groups, among others.

MATRIX OF OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

PILLAR 1 Reinforce regulatory frameworks and inter-agency coordination

Objective
1.3

Generate updated information and data on firearms, ammunition, and explosives, their life cycle and impacts to understand the phenomenon and strengthen public policies based on evidence and criminal intelligence.

Action

1.3.1 Carry out periodic diagnoses and evaluations, based on technical guidelines¹¹, on state capacities to strengthen the registration, control and investigation of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

1.3.2 Establish or strengthen specialised analysis centres or units that generate and share information on firearms violence and its impacts, illicit trafficking in arms, ammunition, and explosives (routes, actors, modus operandi, trends), and links with other manifestations of violence and criminality, using the relevant disaggregation of data.

1.3.3 Establish or strengthen the national agency holding the records of firearms, ammunition, and explosives throughout their life cycle¹², from their legal registration to their final destination.

1.3.4 Establish or strengthen specialised training processes in registration, reporting, processing, and analysing data on firearms, ammunition, and explosives from an inter-institutional approach.

1.3.5 Adopt standardised indicators, at sub-regional level, based on the systematic recording and reporting of data on firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

1.3.6 Comply or continue to comply with national reporting obligations linked to national, sub-regional, regional, and international instruments¹³.



¹¹ See Module 2 of the OAS Methodology of the Hemispheric Study on Illicit Trafficking in Firearms and Ammunition in the Americas.

¹² The life cycle of firearms and ammunition is a concept that encompasses the different stages from production, marketing (this includes international and national transfers), procurement, possession, carrying, use, storage and disposal.

¹³ See footnote 6 and also the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular targets 16.1 and 16.4.

MATRIX OF OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

PILLAR 2 Prevention of violence with firearms and firearms misuse

Objective 2.1 Implement comprehensive and targeted strategies¹⁴ to prevent and reduce violence with firearms.

Action

2.1.1 Develop or strengthen policies, plans, strategies and programmes focused on preventing and reducing firearms violence, including comprehensive care for firearms victims, in line with relevant national, sub-regional, regional and international frameworks¹⁵, and with the collaboration of various actors¹⁶.

2.1.2 Develop and implement comprehensive prevention strategies and intervention protocols for firearms incidents¹⁷ in school settings¹⁸.

2.1.3 Adopt or strengthen specific guidelines to limit or prohibit the entry and use of firearms in public establishments or spaces of social interest¹⁹, and develop intervention protocols for incidents²⁰ involving firearms in such establishments and spaces.

2.1.4 Strengthen the capacities of national and local institutions in developing and implementing policies, plans, strategies, and programmes focused on the prevention and reduction of gun violence.

2.1.5 Establish mechanisms for the effective participation of vulnerable persons and survivors of gun violence in developing and implementing gun violence prevention programmes.

2.1.6 Develop and implement social communication campaigns on the consequences of gun misuse and the prevention of gun violence.

2.1.7 Implement targeted voluntary surrender and weapons destruction programmes, in accordance with each country's legal framework.

2.1.8 Establish or strengthen programmes for peaceful dispute resolution, culture of peace and gun violence prevention at the local level, in coordination with the education, health and other relevant sectors and actors.

2.1.9 Integrate arms, ammunition, and explosives control and gun violence prevention considerations into national development policies, plans, strategies and programmes.

¹⁴ In this thematic area, policies, plans, strategies and programmes concerning the prevention and reduction of gun violence should respond to three targeting criteria: (i) territorial targeting; (ii) targeting by type of place; and (iii) targeting individuals based on certain risk factors or conditions of vulnerability. Risk factors are conditions, characteristics, behaviours, lifestyles or situations that expose certain people to a higher risk of being victims of crime or gun violence.

¹⁵ At the national level, development policies, plans, strategies and programmes could be taken into account; at the sub-regional level, the Comprehensive Framework for the Prevention of Violence approved by SICA could be mentioned; and at the regional level, the Regional Guidelines for the Prevention of Gender Violence Committed with the Use of Firearms in the Americas (approved by the OAS General Assembly on 28 June 2024), among others, could be considered.

¹⁶ Actors could include representatives of civil society organisations, the private sector and academia, and officials from sub-regional, regional and international bodies.

¹⁷ Incidents are defined as finding, carrying, using, etc.

¹⁸ Educational settings refer to institutions such as schools, technical teaching centres or facilities (both public and private) at primary, secondary, baccalaureate and higher education levels.

¹⁹ Public facilities or spaces of social interest means, for example, public and private hospitals, public squares, parks, recreational spaces, among others.

²⁰ See footnote 17.

MATRIX OF OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

PILLAR 3 Life-cycle management of weapons, ammunition, and explosives

Objective 3.1 Strengthen measures and processes to register, monitor, and control civilian possession of firearms and ammunition.

Action

3.1.1 Strengthen registration systems for weapons and ammunition for civilian use, allowing traceability through demographic information, facial topography, fingerprints, ballistic witnesses, ballistic fingerprints, markings and history of authorisations and/or licences.

3.1.2 Establish verification and risk analysis procedures for the registration and purchase of firearms and ammunition.

3.1.3 Train national institutions on weapons marking and registration procedures, in accordance with national regulations and sub-regional, regional and international standards²¹.

3.1.4 Adapt operational systems and provide institutions with the necessary resources, including solutions²² and technological equipment, to strengthen inspections, supervision, and sanction mechanisms for civilian users of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

3.1.5 Promote or strengthen measures for the safe storage and use of weapons and ammunition by civilian users.

Objective 3.2 Strengthen measures and processes to register, supervise, and control the life-cycle of firearms, ammunition, and explosives belonging to private security companies, importers, and dealers.

Action

3.2.1 Establish or strengthen coordination, supervision, and information exchange mechanisms between state institutions responsible for registering and controlling firearms, ammunition, and explosives; the regulation of private security and private security companies with a view to maintaining up-to-date records of firearms and ammunition in this sector.

3.2.2 Adapt operational systems and provide institutions with the necessary resources, including technological solutions and equipment, to strengthen inspections, supervision, and sanction mechanisms for private security companies.

3.2.3 Establish or update administrative procedures for private security companies to strengthen physical security and management of weapons and ammunition in accordance with international guidelines and best practices.

3.2.4 Develop and implement comprehensive training and accreditation programmes for private security companies for the safe use and safekeeping of firearms and ammunition, and prevent risks of diversion of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.



²¹ See footnote 9.

²² For example, radio frequency identification (RFID), microstamping, and distributed ledger technology (DLT).

MATRIX OF OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

PILLAR 3 Life-cycle management of weapons, ammunition, and explosives

Objective 3.3 Prevent diversion of arms, ammunition, and explosives from state stockpiles.

Action

3.3.1 Strengthen the registration and inventory systems for firearms, parts and components, ammunition, and explosives under State custody²³.

3.3.2 Establish and develop training programmes for state officials on physical security and management of firearms, ammunition, and explosives, including destruction processes.

3.3.3 Strengthen the infrastructure, physical security and procedures of state firearms, ammunition, and explosives depots, following international and regional guidelines and incorporating technological solutions and equipment.

3.3.4 Implement periodic evaluations of state repositories, based on technical guidelines²⁴, for their continuous improvement in terms of physical security and management and, when appropriate, establish agile authorisation and decision mechanisms for their destruction.

3.3.5 Establish regular destruction processes for confiscated, obsolete, found, surrendered and court-ordered weapons, ammunition, accessories, and explosives, in accordance with national and international guidelines.

Objective 3.4 Strengthen systems to control legal transfers of firearms, ammunition and explosives.²⁵

Action

3.4.1 Optimise control procedures and documentary support²⁶ for international transfers of arms, parts and components, ammunition, and explosives.

3.4.2 Develop and include risk assessment methodologies and early warning systems to prevent diversion and trafficking of arms, ammunition, and explosives in international transfers.

3.4.3 Establish an agile and effective channel of communication between the institutions that issue import/export/transit/transshipment licences, customs institutions and law enforcement regarding the transfer of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

3.4.4 Participate in sub-regional, regional and international information exchange mechanisms related to transfers of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

²⁵ Lawful transfers of firearms and ammunition means the processes of authorisation and shipment of firearms and ammunition from their point of origin, transshipment/transit, to the final destination. It may also include retransfer processes, if authorised.

²⁶ Documentary support and control procedures should take into account the provisions of relevant international and regional instruments, including the Arms Trade Treaty, ratified by all Central American countries and the Dominican Republic. These documentary control measures include the establishment of the National Control List of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Parts and Components, and Ammunition, and the requirement for export and import licences, transit authorisations, and end-user and use documentation.

²³ Warehouses of security and defence sector institutions, and judicial storage facilities of confiscated, seized and recovered weapons.

²⁴ Consider the CIFTA Manual of Operational Procedures on Physical Security and Stockpile Management of Small Arms and Light Weapons and the UN Modular Small Arms Control Implementation Compendium (MOSAIC) as a reference for the development of technical guidelines.

MATRIX OF OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

PILLAR 4

Investigation and criminal prosecution of trafficking, manufacture, possession and illicit use of firearms, ammunition, and explosives

Objective
4.1

Strengthen institutional capacities of law enforcement and the justice system to combat and prevent the illicit trafficking, manufacture, possession, and use of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

Action

4.1.1 Strengthen specialised training processes for police officers, judicial operators, analysts and investigators in the trafficking, manufacture, possession and illicit use of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

4.1.2 Promote or strengthen effective channels of inter-institutional cooperation for the investigation and prosecution of cases of illicit trafficking, manufacture, possession, and use of arms, ammunition, and explosives.

4.1.3 Develop, strengthen, and implement standardised inter-institutional protocols for the treatment, tracing (domestic and international), processing and investigation of recovered, found or seized firearms.

4.1.4 Adapt operational systems and provide institutions with the necessary resources, including the appointment of National Tracing Focal Points to carry out systematic tracing processes of recovered, found or seized weapons.

4.1.5 Keep the eTrace and iArms platforms updated with records of weapons reported stolen, stolen and lost, and promote their use to strengthen criminal investigations and prosecutions.

4.1.6 Compile and use data on weapons, actors, routes, modus operandi, concealment methods and court cases for criminal intelligence and investigation, and link them to other related crimes.

4.1.7 Establish or strengthen institutional capacities for the collection of ballistic fingerprints of civilian weapons, state-owned weapons, and judicialised or recovered weapons.

4.1.8 Establish or strengthen units specialised in crimes related to the trafficking, manufacture, possession and illicit use of firearms, ammunition, and explosives within law enforcement and the justice system.

Objective
4.2

Promote sub-regional and international cooperation to combat the illicit trafficking, manufacture, possession and use of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

Action

4.2.1 Establish and participate in regional inter-institutional mechanisms at the operational level to share information, best practices, trends, modus operandi on trafficking in arms, ammunition, and explosives, and to agree on and implement joint actions in the region.

4.2.2 Participate in joint international, regional and sub-regional operations against trafficking in firearms, parts and components, ammunition, and explosives based on the Intersectoral Plan Against Organised Crime (PRICCO), among others.

4.2.3 Establish and feed databases and platforms for the exchange of information and intelligence on routes, networks, modus operandi and actors involved in crimes of trafficking in arms, parts and components, ammunition, and explosives.

4.2.4 Promote sub-regional mechanisms to exchange ballistic fingerprint information on firearms involved in crimes, recovered or in the process of destruction in order to generate new lines of investigation, including unsolved cases.

4.2.5 Promote and foster police and judicial cooperation at bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international levels on cases involving firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

MATRIX OF OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

PILLAR 4 Investigation and criminal prosecution of trafficking, manufacture, possession and illicit use of firearms, ammunition, and explosives

Objective
4.3

Strengthen the capacities and infrastructure of customs, border-control, and postal institutions to combat the illicit trafficking, manufacture, possession and use of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

Action

4.3.1 Strengthen training processes for security personnel, armed forces, border-control, customs, postal services and justice operators, among other public institutions, in the detection and interception of firearms, parts and components, ammunition, and explosives.

4.3.2 Provide the necessary resources, technological solutions and tools, detection equipment and the creation of inter-agency protocols at border-control checkpoints, ports, airports, and key transit points.

4.3.3 Strengthen internal and inter-institutional protocols, infrastructure, technological solutions and tools of public postal companies, state-concession postal parcel and parcel services by land, air and sea for the detection and interception of firearms, parts and components, ammunition, and explosives, taking into account advances and new technologies for the illicit manufacture of arms and ammunition.

4.3.4 Establish an inter-institutional intervention protocol for the detection, interception and prosecution of firearms, parts and components, ammunition, and explosives in the logistics chain of private mail and parcel companies.

4.3.5 Strengthen the use of migration control systems to identify and notify the relevant institutions in the countries of persons linked to firearms trafficking and related crimes entering at border-control posts.



FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

To ensure effective implementation, the Roadmap will include a follow-up mechanism composed of a monitoring and evaluation framework and regular meetings between government authorities, as well as opportunities for exchange with implementing agencies, donors and other key actors. This mechanism will increase the effectiveness of interventions, the allocation of resources, and the impact of assistance, as well as foster learning and feedback among participants.

Monitoring tools will include two types of indicators:

- **Implementation Indicators:** These indicators will measure the progress of the implementation levels of the actions set out in the Roadmap (and the corresponding NAPs), helping to monitor progress towards the achievement of the objectives.
- **Outcome Indicators:** These indicators will assess the overall impact of the Roadmap and its contributions to reducing the illicit flow of firearms, ammunition, and explosives as well as the levels of firearms violence in Central America and the Dominican Republic. They will focus on key processes linked to each of the thematic pillars related to regulatory strengthening, inter-institutional coordination, firearms violence prevention, the registration and control of weapons, and the prosecution of the trafficking, manufacture, possession and illicit use of firearms, ammunition and explosives.



SUMMARY TABLE

PILLAR 1 Reinforce regulatory frameworks and inter-agency coordination

Indicator

Number 1 Degree of adequacy of countries' regulatory framework²⁷ in relation to international and regional instruments.

Number 2 Level of institutionalisation of inter-institutional coordination and cooperation mechanisms²⁸ to prevent and combat trafficking of and the illicit proliferation of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

Number 3 Level of institutionalisation of the sub-regional forum to promote coordination and cooperation on trafficking and illicit proliferation of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

PILLAR 2 Prevention of violence with firearms and firearms misuse

Indicator

Number 4 Intentional homicide rate²⁹ with firearm per 100,000 inhabitants.

Number 5 Percentage of professionals trained (teachers, professors, doctors, nurses, bank and public service staff, etc.) in intervention protocols for incidents involving firearms.

²⁷ Regulatory framework means the set of laws, decrees, regulations, ministerial resolutions and administrative decisions that govern and are in force in a country.

²⁸ For the national inter-agency coordination and coordination mechanism, MOSAIC Module 03.40 is used as a reference. At the time of writing this document, the 2014 version 1.0 in Spanish was used: 2014(S)V1.0. and specifically Sections 7, 8, 9 and 10. This version is available at: <https://disarmament.unoda.org/convarms/mosaic/>. Please note that the versions of the MOSAIC Modules may change over time and that different versions exist depending on the language. As the above-mentioned MOSAIC Modules are updated, the respective citations in the Roadmap will be amended accordingly.

²⁹ The definition of intentional homicide from the International Classification of Crime for statistical purposes will be used as a reference: https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/crime/ICCS/ICCS_SPANISH_2016_web.pdf. To calculate this indicator, it is possible to use the data reported by countries on intentional homicide with a firearm (variable 1.5.1.1) through the United Nations Surveys on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS).

SUMMARY TABLE

PILLAR 3 Life-cycle management of weapons, ammunition, and explosives

Indicator

Number 6 Percentage of State-owned and controlled firearms that comply with the record-keeping information requirements set out in MOSAIC 05.30.³⁰

Number 7 Percentage of State-owned and controlled ammunition that comply with the record-keeping information requirements set out in IATG 03.10.³¹

Number 8 Proportion of state depots complying with international good practice related to physical security and stockpile management of firearms set out in MOSAIC 05.20.³²

Number 9 Proportion of state depots complying with international good practice related to physical security and stockpile management of ammunition set out in IATG 06.30.³³

Number 10 Percentage of recovered, found and seized firearms that were traced by last lawful point of existence.

Number 11 Percentage of firearms marked with the national symbol in relation to the total number of legal, registered firearms for civilian use, imported, and nationalised.

Number 12 Percentage of legal firearms, registered for civilian use, reported as stolen, robbed or lost.

Number 13 Percentage of firearms owned and in use by private security companies inspected.

Number 14 Number of obsolete, confiscated or surplus firearms, ammunition, and explosives effectively destroyed.

³⁰ For the registration of firearms, MOSAIC Module 05:30 is used as a reference. At the time of writing this document, version 1.2 of 2022 in English was used: 2022(E)V1.2 and, specifically, Sections 6.2.1.1 and 6.2.1.3. This version is available at: <https://disarmament.unoda.org/convarms/mosaic/>. Please note that the versions of the MOSAIC Modules may change over time and that different versions exist depending on the language. As the above-mentioned MOSAIC Modules are updated, the respective citations in the Roadmap will be amended accordingly.

³¹ At the time of writing this document, the second edition of the 2015 IATG in Spanish was used, whose reference is: IATG 03.10:2015[E], 2nd Edition (2015-02-01). In particular, the guidelines set out in Section 14 and Subsection 14.1 were used as a basis. This version of the IATG is available at <https://unsafeguard.org/un-safeguard/guide-lines>. Please note that there are different versions depending on the language. As the above-mentioned IATG are updated, the respective citations in the Roadmap will be amended accordingly.

PILLAR 4 Investigation and criminal prosecution of trafficking, manufacture, possession and illicit use of firearms, ammunition, and explosives

Indicator

Number 15 Rate of prosecuted cases in which crimes related to firearms, ammunition, explosives, and components are charged.

Number 16 Average duration of prosecuted cases in which crimes related to firearms, ammunition, explosives, and components are charged.

Number 17 Proportion of tracing requests/petitions processed by the country out of the total number of requests/petitions made by the countries participating in the Roadmap.

Number 18 Percentage of firearms, ammunition, and explosives seized as a result of coordinated regional police operations.

Number 19 Percentage of seizures at border-control checkpoints in relation to total seizures made.

³² With regard to international good practice in physical security and stockpile management for firearms, MOSAIC Module 05:20 is used as a reference. At the time of writing this document, we used version 1.0 of 20 in Spanish: 2012(E)V1.0 and specifically Sections 9, 10 and 11. This version is available at: <https://disarmament.unoda.org/convarms/mosaic/>. Please note that the versions of the MOSAIC Modules may change over time and that different versions exist depending on the language. As the above-mentioned MOSAIC Modules are updated, the respective citations in the Roadmap will be amended accordingly.

³³ At the time of writing this document, we used the second edition of the 2015 IATG in Spanish, whose full reference is: IATG 06.30:2015[E], 2nd Edition (2015-02-01). In particular, the guidelines set out in Section 5 and Subsection 5.2 were used as a basis. This version of the IATG is available at <https://unsafeguard.org/un-safeguard/guide-lines>. Please note that there are different versions depending on the language. As the above-mentioned IATG are updated, the respective citations in the Roadmap will be amended accordingly.



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