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

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report describes the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean during the period from July 2006 to June 2007.

During the reporting period, specific assistance was provided by the Centre and its partners to States in the region in the areas of practical disarmament measures, capacity-building and awareness-raising as well as in the preparation of national reports on weapons-related instruments and the creation of mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of disarmament treaties. Opportunities for discussion among States of the region were also provided by the Centre to facilitate their reaching of common positions on disarmament and non-proliferation issues.

In support of the “one United Nations system” policy, the Centre continued to identify ways and means to create synergies and increase joint efforts with United Nations entities and/or international and non-governmental organizations to enhance the capability and capacity of States in addressing their respective disarmament and development needs.

In order for the Centre to continue to respond effectively to the number of requests for assistance from States in the region, which has increased considerably during the past few years, provision of core funding for the operations of the Centre remains of vital importance.

* A/62/50.



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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 61/92 of 6 December 2006, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean with all necessary support, within existing resources, so that it may carry out its programme of activities in accordance with its mandate and to report to the Assembly at its sixty-second session on the implementation of the resolution.

2. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request and covers the Centre's activities from July 2006 to June 2007. A financial statement on the status of the Trust Fund for the Centre for the year 2006 is contained in annex I. An outline of some planned activities of the Centre for which funding is being sought is provided in annex II.

II. Functioning and mandate

3. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, located in Lima, was established in 1987, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 41/60 J of 3 December 1986. The Centre 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. Activities

4. During the period under review, the Centre observed a shift in the trends and types of request for assistance from Member States. Requests evolved away from need for assistance in implementing primarily "traditional disarmament measures", such as support in the drafting of national reports, destruction of weapons and the organization of preparatory regional meetings for the implementation of treaties and other legal instruments, to requests emphasizing the need for public and human security. These new requests focus more on the need for capacity-building, sustainable national multisectoral commissions, good governance, peace education and the integration of disarmament themes into development issues.

5. In keeping with this new orientation, the profile of the Centre's partners in the field has also evolved. For instance, while the Centre continues to work closely with ministries of foreign affairs and of defence in the region, it is now also working with ministries of the interior, public safety, health, education and international development and with aid agencies.

6. In an effort to address these new requests effectively, avoid duplication and optimize the use of funds, the Centre developed an assistance policy based on the principle of partnerships and strategic alliances to create the foundations for long-term support to States.

7. At the core of this policy lies the essential coordination and cooperation with other agencies and organizations of the United Nations system. In 2006/2007, the Centre carried out a number of activities within the Coordinating Action on Small

Arms (CASA) Mechanism, thus facilitating inter-agency planning and strengthening the ability to act as “One UN System”. In this connection, strategic partnerships were developed with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Department of Political Affairs, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

8. In 2006-2007, the Centre’s assistance programmes were integrated into the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) in two additional States of the region, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. Collaboration with the UNDP country offices grew, extending to more than 11 throughout the region (in Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Guatemala, Peru, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela). The majority of activities comprising this new cooperation is directed at the integration of disarmament and development issues into public security assistance measures in the field. In some cases, as in Colombia and Jamaica, new staff members were recruited to work in the respective United Nations country offices. The Centre also participated in inter-agency coordination aimed at formulating joint responses to violence and crime in northern Central America.

9. The Centre enhanced coordination with and among regional organizations with a view to strengthening synergies and avoiding duplication of efforts. Strategic alliances with regional partners, such as the Organization of American States (OAS), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Common Market of the South (Mercosur), the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the Andean Community were reinvigorated through joint activities in the field. Many consultative meetings were conducted throughout the reporting period with OAS, as called for in the 2001 memorandum of understanding between the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations and OAS, with a view to building a strong working relationship both at the policy and operational levels.

10. The year 2007 marks the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials. The Centre and OAS have agreed to conduct a joint study and analysis of the impact this Convention has had since its entry into force.

11. The Centre shared its experience, expertise and best practices in the area of capacity-building training on the prevention of illicit firearms trafficking for the law enforcement community, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and parliamentarians. Consultations for the purpose were organized on the margins of the First Committee during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly. Also, in an effort to strengthen South-South cooperation, the Centre hosted consultations between the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and the African and Latin American divisions of the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) from 24 to 26 October 2006 in Lima, for the purpose of transferring to them its acquired experience, knowledge and lessons learned in this area.

12. During the reporting period, the activities of the Centre focused on five main objectives, those of assisting in the implementation of disarmament measures,

working towards mutual confidence, placing a human perspective on disarmament, maximizing public security and promoting a culture of peace.

A. Assisting in the implementation of disarmament measures

13. Cooperation among Member States and intergovernmental organizations is essential to the attainment of the goals of disarmament and non-proliferation. In the area of weapons of mass destruction, States in the Latin American and Caribbean region continued to be active through renewing their commitment to implementing OAS resolution AG/RES.2107 (XXXV-0/05), entitled “The Americas as a biological- and chemical-weapons-free region”. In this context, the Centre joined forces with the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism, the 1540 Committee, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), among others, to create regional platforms that foster and promote exchange of information and cooperation opportunities, as illustrated below.

1. Assistance and protection network

14. The Centre celebrated the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention through a series of activities relating to the universalization of the Convention and the promotion of its implementation throughout the region. For instance, the Centre continued to support the National Multisectoral Chemical Weapons Council (CONAPAQ) in Peru by providing technical assistance for the development of the Chemical Weapons Regional Assistance and Protection Network, designed to assist States in the implementation of article X of the Convention.

15. In addition, the Centre continued to cooperate with OPCW on the development of this network, which once established, will facilitate the collection of information on the training, equipment, medical support, and trained staff capacities of States in the event of a chemical weapons attack or threats thereof in the region.

2. Renewing regional commitment to non-proliferation

16. In February 2007, Latin American and Caribbean States celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (the Treaty of Tlatelolco). The Government of Mexico organized an official ceremony on 14 February 2007, in Mexico City. On the margins of this ceremony, the Centre, in cooperation with the Government of Mexico and the treaty secretariat (OPANAL), organized a forum for the participants to discuss the importance of peace, disarmament and non-proliferation education.

17. The outcome of the discussions will be reflected in the recommendations made by the Council of OPANAL and other States Parties consulted on the design of a joint project of the Centre and OPANAL on peace, disarmament and non-proliferation education. A series of consultations will take place during the remainder of 2007 with a view to drawing up activities to be carried out as soon as possible.

3. Promoting implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

18. Implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) has received much attention from States in the region as a result of the organization of four subregional/regional workshops since 2004, in Guatemala (2004), Argentina (2005), Peru (2006) and Jamaica (2007). The Centre provided technical and logistical support to the organization of the seminar in Peru and participated in the Caribbean workshop in Jamaica in May 2007.

19. The seminar in Peru, entitled “Implementing United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in Latin America and the Caribbean”, was held on 27 and 28 November 2006 in Lima. The seminar was hosted by the Government of Peru, organized by the Department for Disarmament Affairs and sponsored by the European Union and the Government of Spain.

20. Approximately 50 participants from governmental sectors, mainly from Latin America and the Caribbean, and international, regional and subregional organizations took part in the seminar. They addressed, among other things, the current status of implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in the region; exchanged views on national and regional implementation experiences; and discussed action plans and the setting of priorities for implementation, as well as assistance and cooperation requirements.

21. The participation in the seminar of the 1540 Committee experts enabled States to be provided with first-hand information on how to prepare the national reports required under the resolution and how to elaborate specific country action plans.

4. Disarmament as a humanitarian action

22. From 23 to 25 May 2007, the city of Lima hosted a global conference aimed at the establishment of an internationally legally binding instrument banning cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians. It was attended by representatives of 68 States, 10 international organizations and more than 30 NGOs. A total of 13 Latin American and Caribbean States participated. The participation of the Centre in this conference enabled it to understand better the evolution of States’ positions on this issue, as well as to explore areas of possible future assistance that the Centre could provide.

B. Working towards mutual confidence

23. The hemispheric road map leading towards the achievement of sustainable peace and security was enhanced when States of the region came together in October 2006 for the Seventh Conference of Ministers of Defense of the Americas. This year’s debate and dialogue included the importance of ongoing collaboration for strengthening democratic values, enhancing transparency and increasing bilateral cooperation, notably on issues involving the development of defence and security policies, as well as reporting on military procurement.

24. The Centre participated in the conference and distributed the defence white papers guidelines developed by the United Nations, which serve as a framework for joint cooperation and assistance, for example in the development of the current

defence white paper of Peru. These guidelines will also be used in new cooperation with the Dominican Republic for the development of its defence white paper.

25. A strategic relationship was initiated between the Regional Centre and the Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies on this occasion to promote dialogue among interested countries and to explore the linkage between priority issues of Ministers of Defence of the Americas and the ongoing work of States, as well as that of regional and international organizations.

C. Placing a human perspective on disarmament

26. Illicit firearms trafficking fuels the violence associated with drug trafficking, terrorism and organized crime and threatens public security on a daily basis in Latin America and the Caribbean. Indices of armed violence caused by firearms are continuously on the rise in the region, in particular in large urban centres. Armed violence is a constant and growing threat to social order, good governance, democracy and even the rule of law.

27. The Centre sought to translate the concept of disarmament and development into practice during the reporting period by partnering forces with the UNDP country offices in Brazil, Costa Rica and Jamaica, among others, to design and implement disarmament projects directly related to community development and the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. This has provided new opportunities for States to enhance their response in the areas of good governance, citizen security, armed violence prevention and security sector reform. Special attention, such as collaborative efforts with the governmental Inter-institutional Committee on Small Arms in Costa Rica, was also given to analysing the impact of armed violence on various aspects of society, in particular the education and the health sectors.

D. Maximizing public security

28. The Centre's assistance to States in the area of firearms, ammunition and explosives has been directed at fostering ways and means of improving existing controls over their legal trade and of preventing their illicit trafficking. During the reporting period, the Centre's regional clearing-house programme focused on enhancing the effectiveness of the law enforcement community, reinforcing the policing services apparatus and improving cooperation between civil society and governmental agencies so that they may respond effectively to threats posed by firearms trafficking and violence and augment public security.

29. On the margins of the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, held in New York from 26 June to 7 July 2006, the Centre organized a meeting of interested States and members of the United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA) mechanism to explore the link between human security and public security approaches in dealing with the impact of firearms violence on community development. CASA members also discussed among themselves ways and means to harmonize CASA field activities carried out during the reporting period in Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

1. Strengthening and harmonizing national legislation

30. It has been recognized that there is a need for a multisectoral approach to address the firearms problem in the region effectively. In this respect, during the period under review, the Centre received requests from Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Peru for technical assistance for the creation and/or strengthening of their respective multisectoral national firearms commissions. This assistance entailed the sharing of lessons learned, best practices and expertise. In addition, related support for the revision of national firearms legislation and its harmonization with both regional and global instruments was requested by Bolivia, Paraguay and Peru. In this connection, the Centre reviewed and updated a comparative analysis of national legislation in 19 Latin American countries and is currently reviewing and updating a similar comparative analysis of legislation of States in the Caribbean.

2. Promoting information exchange

31. In order to meet the ever-increasing demands of Member States for detailed and thorough information-gathering and sharing on firearms-related issues, the Centre continued to maintain and update its online resource tools and databases containing information on all relevant firearms legislation and decrees, as well as focal points and activities in the region.

32. With the assistance of the Centre and using the online resource tools, the Government of Paraguay presented the first national report relating to the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials during the CIFTA Consultative Committee meeting held on 19 April 2007 in Washington, D.C. A similar assistance package for Peru was completed by the Centre on 23 July 2007 and is expected to be presented to the Consultative Committee during 2007.

33. A pioneering United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime/CASA-led pilot assistance project culminated in February 2007 in the development by the Centre of a “dummy” model electronic platform for the monitoring and promotion of the implementation of the Firearms Protocol to the Inter-American Convention by the Mercosur States. This inter-agency assistance initiative also included a comparative legislative analysis of the four Mercosur States, several consultative meetings and a subregional workshop for the Mercosur States, held in Asuncion, from 6 to 8 November 2006 to promote implementation of the Firearms Protocol.

3. Enhancing national capacity-building measures

34. States and NGOs in the region made a determined commitment to enhance coordination and standardize training in the area of illicit firearms trafficking, with the understanding that such trafficking exacerbates the violence associated with terrorism, transnational organized crime and drug trafficking.

35. The Centre, in coordination with Interpol, OAS and the University for Peace, assisted States in investigative techniques training for 617 officials in Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. An additional 34 training courses will be organized prior to the completion of this assistance initiative, including several joint courses for officials from countries with shared borders, which are expected to have an impact on public security, particularly in urban areas.

36. These training courses have created an increasingly robust and strengthened network of officials from the police, customs, the judiciary, the armed forces and other entities. As a result, in Paraguay alone, the seizure of illicit firearms amounted to more than a thousand firearms, over 3.6 million units of ammunition and more than 1.65 million parts and related materials.

37. Gender mainstreaming has become a cross-cutting component of all of the Centre's capacity-building initiatives. Over 40 female members of the law enforcement communities of Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay were trained in investigative techniques relating to illicit firearms trafficking. The participation of women in leadership roles in the Training the Trainers Combined Command Post was actively and persistently promoted by the Centre. During the reporting period, female officers were at the helm of the Command Post in Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic and Peru.

38. Another gender-related initiative supported by the Centre is an ongoing training methodology aimed at stimulating dialogue among various actors who design policy and advocate against illicit firearms trafficking. In this connection, the Centre organized a week-long national workshop for representatives of the Paraguayan Congress and their advisers from 21 to 25 May 2007 in Asuncion, on how to formulate firearms legislation that integrates gender and youth-related perspectives.

39. The event also incorporated a one-day workshop for the NGO community in Paraguay to discuss issues of common concern relating to illicit firearms trafficking. The workshop provided NGOs with an opportunity to explore ways of translating their proposals into public policy. In this connection, the Centre agreed to facilitate the organization of four national Parliamentary Exchange Initiative workshops and 15 national NGO capacity-building workshops in Brazil, Colombia and Jamaica.

4. Preventive disarmament

40. Weapons destruction constitutes a very effective practical disarmament measure to prevent illicit firearms trafficking. Likewise, improvements in stockpile management are also important insofar as it ensures safeguarding of stocks. To further promote the concept of preventive disarmament and stimulate the exchange of information among States of the region, the OAS and the Latin American Social Sciences Institute (FLACSO) co-organized, with the support of the Centre, a regional seminar on weapons destruction on 8 and 9 November 2006 in Santiago.

41. Pursuant to the mandate established in OAS resolution AG/RES.2108 (XXXV-0/05), the OAS and the Centre were in close contact to advance the development of a best practice manual on weapons destruction and stockpile management for a series of national and subregional workshops to be held during the second half of 2007.

42. To facilitate the transition from theory to practice in the area of stockpile management, the Centre and its partners initiated a long-term assistance package for Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay to improve the security of firearms, ammunition and explosives stockpile facilities and to provide guidelines on the safe and secure integrated management of these installations.

E. Promoting a culture of peace

43. In celebration of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World and to raise awareness of the need for a new approach to disarmament issues, the Centre continued to promote the integration of peace education into community and scholastic activities in the region.

44. On 25 May 2007, in Asuncion, the Centre launched a video clip entitled “Peace soldier” with a song celebrating and promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, as well as the importance of resolving conflict through peaceful means. The video clip introduced a fictional cartoon character on a quest for sustainable peace to the Centre’s peace and disarmament education programme.

45. For the third consecutive year, the Centre supported the “Pasacalle” initiative, organized by an NGO consortium led by Transparencia, which is aimed at complementing the celebration of the National Day of Peru (28 July) with folklore and culturally inspired activities. To the National Day celebration, characteristically consisting of military-style parades, were added folkloric dances, sports festivals and artistic exhibitions to increase awareness of a “culture of peace” among the general population, in particular the scholastic community, and more than 20,000 students participated; 362 national educational centres, national media, the Local Educational Management Office, and various NGOs were also actively involved. This innovative assistance resulted in the adoption of ministerial resolution 0352-2006 commending this alternative way of celebrating the National Day. The resolution also prohibits the use of toy guns or other replicas of arms in the National Day celebration. With the inception of the UNICEF, UNESCO and the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) country office in Peru, members of CASA, in the “Pasacalle” project, the project has become a new CASA initiative.

46. On 14 June 2007, a national workshop was organized in Lima by the NGO consortium for representatives of the Ministry of Education and school districts, with the aim of promoting the integration of a “culture of peace” into school curricula.

IV. Staffing, financing and administration

47. During the reporting period, the Centre underwent an internal structure change aimed at enhancing the capacity of the Centre to meet challenges and ever-growing demands. Specifically, the appointment of the Deputy-Director in May 2006 contributed to reinforcing relations with Member States and other United Nations agencies, facilitating the flow of information with Headquarters and strengthening the Centre’s participation in inter-agency implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. Further, the creation of the position of External Relations Officer contributed to enhancing donor relations and developing new fund-raising approaches.

48. During the reporting period, temporary staff were recruited to assist the Director in the development of monitoring tools and in carrying out impact evaluations upon the conclusion of projects and donor-funding cycles. These monitoring tools and evaluations are being developed at the request and recommendation of the donors.

49. Four Associate Expert positions in the areas of disarmament and development, weapons of mass destruction, confidence- and security-building measures, and peace and disarmament education remain to be filled at the Centre. Filling these positions will greatly contribute to strengthening the Centre's capacity and the Centre encourages Member States to identify candidates for the positions.

50. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 41/60 J of 3 December 1986, the Centre was established on the basis of existing resources and of voluntary contributions that Member States and interested organizations might make for its core and programme activities. During the reporting period, voluntary contributions in the amount of \$1,999,063.49¹ were received. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Governments of Colombia, Guyana, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as the European Commission, for their generous financial contributions to and support for the activities of the Centre. The provision of timely financial contributions to the Centre by the Government of the host country on an annual basis is essential to ensure the continued operation of the Centre. The Secretary-General therefore urges the host Government to continue its commitment to provide financial and overall support to the Centre. Information on the status of the Trust Fund for the Centre for the year 2006 is contained in annex I.

51. Complementary funding in the amount of \$93,087.60² was also made available for the Centre's activities from the Global and Regional Disarmament Activities Trust Fund of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. In addition, \$142,125.00³ was received to support the Centre's activities in Colombia and in four Mercosur countries. These funds were co-administrated with other United Nations agencies as an inter-agency coordinated initiative. Through cost-sharing and in kind contributions by other United Nations agencies, as well as other governmental entities, the work of the Centre was made possible in seven States, namely Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude for these contributions in support of the activities of the Centre.

52. The lack of core funding, combined with the end of the current funding cycle of key donors and the completion of several projects funded by donors, constituted a significant challenge for the Centre during the reporting period. It is therefore proposed that Member States consider alternative means of ensuring stable core

¹ *For 2006*: Guyana \$1,020; Mexico \$5,000; Panama \$1,000; Peru \$60,000; and *for 2007*: Colombia \$2,286; Spain: \$269,100.00; Sweden \$569,374.96; United Kingdom \$232,892.15 and European Commission \$858,390.38.

² *For 2006*: Trust Funds for the United Nations Global and Regional Disarmament Activities \$93,087.60 (Spain \$24,441.60 and European Commission \$68,646.00).

³ Paid to other agencies as an inter-agency coordination, \$142,125.00 (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Brazil \$45,741 and the Netherlands \$96,384). The funds from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Brazil came to the Centre through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime/UNDP-Peru for preparatory assistance aimed at the ratification of the United Nations Transnational Organized Crime Convention and its third Protocol (Trafficking in firearms) by the following Mercosur countries: Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. The funds from the Netherlands were received from the Embassy of the Netherlands in Colombia for the training the trainers project in Colombia and were transferred to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Colombia for the coordination, organization and execution of activities for the training courses.

funding. Otherwise, the ability of the Centre to respond to the increasingly diversified and numerous requests from States could be seriously hindered.

V. Observations and conclusions

53. The Centre adjusted its organizational structure and operational approach in order to respond, in a rapid and flexible manner, to the ever-increasing number and varying nature of requests made by States. In accordance with the principle of “one United Nations system”, the Centre contributed to the enhancement of a system-wide response to the implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF) in various countries of the region.

54. In celebration of its 20th anniversary, the Centre is undertaking evaluations and analyses to measure the impact of its role as a catalyst, platform and service-provider in the areas of peace, disarmament and development.

55. Among the Centre’s achievements during the reporting period, strengthened cooperation within the regional law enforcement community, as evidenced by the notable increase in information-sharing and reported seizures of illicit firearms throughout the region, was a tangible and measurable result of the standardized capacity-building training courses undertaken by the Centre and its partners.

56. The Centre’s efforts in gender mainstreaming resulted in the increased involvement of women in key decision-making positions within the investigative techniques training command structures of States in the region, in addition to an increase in the number of female participants in the Centre-facilitated multisectoral training courses.

57. The promulgation of a ministerial decree in Peru prohibiting the use of toy weapons by children in schools during the preparation of national celebrations was yet another example of the direct impact of the advocacy and awareness-raising efforts of the Centre and its partners in the area of peace education.

58. These achievements were made possible through the combination of the Office for Disarmament Affairs support to the Centre’s field activities, generous contributions from donor countries, the indispensable involvement of Member States and the strengthened partnership with regional and international organizations and NGOs.

59. Continued voluntary contributions earmarked for specific activities are essential to maintain the Centre’s avant-garde programme of activities. Nonetheless, core funding for the operations of the Centre is of equal importance to ensure ongoing progress in programme implementation in the areas of peace, disarmament and development.

60. The Secretary-General calls for the continued and increased support and cooperation of Member States and organizations to sustain the effective operation of the Centre.

Annex I

Status of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean for 2006^a

<i>(United States dollars)</i>	
Fund balance, 31 December 2005	698 274
Income, 1 January-31 December 2006	
Voluntary contributions ^b	1 056 100
Interest income	66 259
Other/miscellaneous income	93 622
Subtotal	1 914 255
Expenditures, 1 January-31 December 2006	1 396 296
Fund balance, 31 December 2006	517 959

^a The information provided is based on the statement of income and expenditure for the 12-month period ending 31 December 2006. In 2006, contributions were received from Colombia (\$4,143), Guyana (\$1,020), Mexico (\$5,000), Panama (\$1,000), Peru (\$60,000), Sweden (\$507,731), the United Kingdom (\$435,700) and the European Commission (\$41,506).

^b During the period 1 January-30 June 2007, additional contributions totalling \$1,662,943 were received from Colombia (\$2,286), Sweden (\$569,375), the United Kingdom (\$232,892) and the European Commission (\$858,390).

Annex II

Planned activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean for which funding is sought

Project I

Title

“Fostering debate on peace, disarmament and non-proliferation”

Purpose

The primary objective of this project is to promote dialogue within and between States concerning peace, disarmament and non-proliferation issues through national consultations and workshops. The project is aimed at sensitizing current decision makers to pressing peace, disarmament and non-proliferation issues in the region and at facilitating the elaboration of national workplans on peace education issues. In keeping with United Nations General Assembly resolution 57/60 of 22 November 2002, the project will also promote greater synergy between national and subregional disarmament and non-proliferation agendas, as well as support the development of more coherent and cohesive workplans in these areas.

Location

La Paz

Duration

Six months

Number of participants

Thirty-three countries of the region: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

Cost estimates

(United States dollars)

Project personnel (4)	120 000
Operations and implementation costs	15 000
Travel of participants	35 000
Travel of experts	20 000
Travel of staff	20 000
Interpretation	10 000
Workshop documentation	10 000
Total	230 000

Project II*Title*

“A dialogue on security matters for Latin America and the Caribbean”

Purpose

The main objective of the project is to promote dialogue among interested countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region on hemispheric defence and security matters during the intervals between the biannual Conferences of Ministers of Defense of the Americas. The project is also aimed at exploring the synergies between the agendas of the Conferences of Ministers of Defense of the Americas and the ongoing work of States and the regional and international organizations addressing the threats and challenges to hemispheric security. It will also provide an opportunity for the exchange of information between foreign and defence ministry representatives on priorities and concerns relating to defence matters. Finally, the project will enhance the Centre’s ability to gather information and monitor trends in and the priorities of the region on issues of defence and security.

Location

Managua

Duration

Six months

Number of participants

Thirty-three countries of the region: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

Cost estimates

(United States dollars)

Project personnel (4)	135 000
Operations and implementation costs	15 000
Travel of participants	30 000
Travel of experts	12 000
Travel of staff	12 000
Interpretation	7 000
Workshop documentation	10 000
Total	221 000

Project III*Title*

“Disarmament with a gender perspective”

Purpose

The main objective of the project is to enhance the understanding of decision makers (parliamentarians) of the impact gender plays in crime and armed violence, through strengthened dialogue between parliamentarians and women’s organizations. The project will provide an opportunity for States, civil society representatives and others to address concepts of gender mainstreaming and disarmament matters and their implications for the social, economic and political development of the region. The project is also aimed at facilitating the design of national workplans to address the reduction of crime and armed violence and, finally, at creating a regional network on gender and disarmament for the Caribbean region.

Location

The Bahamas

Duration

Six months

Number of participants

The 13 countries of the English-speaking Caribbean region: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

Cost estimates

(United States dollars)

Project personnel (4)	120 000
Operations and implementation costs	15 000
Travel of participants	16 000
Travel of experts	20 000
Travel of staff	12 000
Workshop documentation	10 000
Total	193 000
