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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 carried out by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean during the period from July 2010 to June 2011.

During the reporting period, at the request of Member States, the Regional Centre focused its activities on supporting Member States in addressing one of the gravest threats to public security facing the region: the illicit trafficking and use of firearms, ammunition and explosives. The Centre contributed to combating this scourge by providing support to countries in the region for the adoption of a harmonized regional approach to addressing this threat, including robust firearms control measures.

Also during the reporting period, the Regional Centre implemented assistance packages in both the Andean and Caribbean subregions. Such tailor-made packages offered an operative framework through which the Centre delivered its assistance to States in those subregions in areas ranging from improving the security of firearms stockpiles and creating national firearms commissions, to specialized training for law enforcement officials and comparative legislative studies on firearms control. The Centre provided capacity-building, training and policy, technical and legal assistance on a wide range of issues, including various aspects of firearms control and armed violence reduction and prevention.

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\* A/66/50.



The Regional Centre promoted the Secretary-General's five-point proposal on nuclear disarmament by assisting Member States in organizing conferences and workshops to discuss concrete actions towards a nuclear-weapon-free world and by providing expertise on capacity-building for State entities through training on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in the region.

Moreover, during the reporting period, the Regional Centre consolidated its staffing through both regular budget and extrabudgetary resources. However, the Centre still depends on extrabudgetary resources to maintain and implement all its programmes. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to those 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 to the Centre.

## Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction . . . . .	4
II. Functioning and mandate . . . . .	4
III. Main areas of activities . . . . .	4
A. Public security . . . . .	5
1. Regional context . . . . .	5
2. Caribbean region . . . . .	6
(a) Firearms destruction and stockpile management . . . . .	6
(b) Armed violence reduction and prevention . . . . .	7
3. Central American region . . . . .	7
(a) Coordination mechanisms . . . . .	8
(b) Legal frameworks on firearms . . . . .	8
(c) Firearms controls and management . . . . .	8
(d) Armed violence reduction and prevention . . . . .	9
(e) Private security . . . . .	9
(f) Cooperation and security dialogue . . . . .	9
4. Andean region . . . . .	10
(a) Law enforcement training to control firearms . . . . .	10
(b) Gender mainstreaming . . . . .	11
(c) Legal frameworks on firearms . . . . .	11
(d) National commissions . . . . .	12
5. Southern Cone region . . . . .	12
(a) Public security dialogue . . . . .	12
(b) Programme of Action on Small Arms and Arms Trade Treaty . . . . .	13
B. Weapons of mass destruction . . . . .	13
IV. Staffing, financing and administration . . . . .	13
A. Finances . . . . .	13
B. Staffing and administration . . . . .	14
V. Conclusion . . . . .	15
Annex	
Status of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean for 2010 . . . . .	16

## **I. Introduction**

1. In its resolution 65/79, 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 United Nations activities at the regional and subregional levels to strengthen peace, disarmament, stability, security and development in the region. The Assembly also encouraged the Centre to further develop activities in all countries of the region in the important areas of peace, disarmament and development, and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the implementation of the resolution.

2. The present report is submitted in compliance with that request and covers the activities of the Regional Centre from July 2010 to June 2011. A financial statement on the status of the Trust Fund for the Regional Centre for 2010 is contained in the annex to the report.

## **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. It is part of the Regional Disarmament Branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. 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. Main areas of activities**

4. The Regional Centre provides capacity-building and training, as well as technical, legal and policy assistance to States in the region with a view to achieving sustainable peace and security.

5. The activities of the Regional Centre increased significantly during the reporting period owing to an increase in requests both for assistance by Member States in the region and for collaboration from international and subregional partners. The Centre has been recognized by its partners for its expertise and knowledge on a wide array of topics, ranging from the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to citizen security in the Americas. It focused its activities on supporting, through capacity-building and training, as well as technical and legal assistance, States in the region to combat the illicit trafficking in firearms, ammunition and explosives. The Centre also engaged in outreach and advocacy activities on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. Building on its experience and expertise in these areas, the Centre developed a series of subregional assistance packages that aim at providing a comprehensive response to arms control challenges faced by Member States in the region in accordance with their practical needs.

6. The Regional Centre continued to deliver its Inter-Institutional Course on Combating Illicit Firearms Trafficking (IITC), which was given a best practice

award (regional arms control category) at a meeting of the Central American Integration System (SICA).<sup>1</sup> Additional training modules and technical briefing notes were elaborated regularly by the Centre, adapted to specific needs. For example, the Centre introduced new training modules to update national legislation on firearms and explosives. The modules were developed to train members of the judicial system, including prosecutors and judges.

7. Actions to prevent and reduce armed violence also featured strongly in the programme of the Regional Centre. They were undertaken through outreach and advocacy activities for officials from the security and development sectors in their efforts to improve armed violence reduction policies related to private security and border controls.

8. The Regional Centre provided assistance to Caribbean States to improve stockpile security management and to destroy surplus firearms and ammunition.

9. Following the adoption by the Andean Community of the Andean Plan to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects (Andean Community Decision No. 552), the Regional Centre lent its assistance to States in the subregion in the implementation of the Plan. The Centre provided the Community with legal and technical assistance in comparative legal studies and in the creation of national firearms commissions.

10. The Regional Centre also provided legal support to Central American States by undertaking a comprehensive subregional legislative study.

11. Finally, the Regional Centre engaged in policy dialogues and advocacy efforts with Southern Cone States, with a view to promoting disarmament and non-proliferation activities.

## **A. Public security**

### **1. Regional context**

12. Illicit firearms contribute to criminal violence and pose a serious challenge to public security in many States in Latin America and the Caribbean. With a little over 10 per cent of the world's population, this region accounts for more than 40 per cent of the world's homicides committed with firearms.<sup>2</sup> Unlike in other regions of the

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<sup>1</sup> The 10-day training course includes field simulation exercises for armed forces, police, intelligence, judicial and customs officers. It trains participants on technical aspects of firearms and ammunition identification and tracing, and the technical and institutional coordination skills required to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in firearms, ammunition and explosives. The course's practical exercise recreates the whole process from intelligence gathering to the presentation of evidence before a judge. Cross-cutting issues, such as human rights, gender sensitivity and child protection, are mainstreamed into the training. The course also provides an opportunity for law enforcement officials to share individual and national experiences, best practices and lessons learned throughout the region. It helps to improve national inter-institutional coordination and serves as an important capacity-building tool for agencies members of national firearms commissions to better implement national action plans. The course thus contributes to the strengthening of national capacities and the more effective implementation of international and regional small arms control instruments.

<sup>2</sup> Second Meeting of Ministers of Public Security of the Americas, held in Santo Domingo, on 4 and 5 November 2009 (see OAS/Ser.K/XLIX.2).

world, armed violence in this region often occurs in non-conflict settings. The increasing armed violence in the region represents a major threat to security and has a grave negative impact on socio-economic development.

13. Illicit channels and the black market in firearms and ammunition in the region fuel guerrillas and criminal violence within and across borders. Poorly monitored and porous borders are often exploited by criminal groups and illicit traffickers. The Latin American and Caribbean region has also seen an increase in the outsourcing of security services to private sector operators, such as private security companies. This phenomenon is generating a new demand for weapons and is changing the paradigms of the arms market throughout the region, as well as posing new challenges for firearms control.

14. In responding to these challenges, the States in the region have been at the forefront of efforts to establish appropriate arms control and disarmament instruments to address security-related issues. In this connection, the Regional Centre has stepped up its efforts to assist States to build capacities and foster inter-State coordination to combat illicit firearms. Through its tailored subregional assistance packages, the Centre worked closely with States in undertaking robust national and subregional initiatives to address the challenges posed by illicit trafficking and use of firearms, ammunition and explosives.

## **2. Caribbean region**

### **(a) Firearms destruction and stockpile management**

15. Firearms-related crime, violence and mortality rates are escalating in the Caribbean region. To address this security challenge, one important aspect is to improve the security of States' firearms and ammunition stockpiles and prevent their diversion into illicit channels. In this connection, many of the Caribbean States have placed the safe and secure management of weapons stockpiles at the forefront of their national security agenda.

16. In this regard, and in response to a request from Caribbean States for assistance, the Regional Centre developed and implemented the Firearms Destruction and Stockpile Management Assistance Package for Caribbean States (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago). The project was carried out with financial support from the United States of America.

17. In implementing the project, the Regional Centre organized Best Practice Workshops for the Caribbean States to review international standards for the secure stockpiling of weapons and their destruction, and to identify their respective national needs. Following the workshops, the Centre conducted six assessment missions (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago)<sup>3</sup> in collaboration with the national authorities to gauge participating States' abilities and the availability of the requisite national legal frameworks and technical capacities to undertake firearms destruction and stockpile management programmes.

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<sup>3</sup> During the previous reporting period (June 2009-July 2010), three assessment missions were carried out, in Grenada, Jamaica and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

18. The findings of the assessment missions fed into the national action plans of the recipient States, adopted at the United Nations Caribbean Regional Workshop on Firearms Destruction and Stockpile Management, held in Port of Spain on 8 and 9 December 2010. These plans outlined both short-term and long-term strategies for capacity-building and updating national firearms legislation. They included concrete steps to secure the 35 firearms stockpile facilities and destroy the 50,000 firearms and 35,000 tons of ammunition identified in those recipient States.

19. The national action plans also included recommendations calling upon States to accelerate their adherence to international disarmament instruments. In this context, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ratified the United Nations Firearms Protocol and acceded to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the Cluster Munitions Convention in late 2010.

20. Under the project, the Caribbean States pledged to forgo the previous practice of deep-sea dumping for weapons disposal. They also created a knowledge community of experts and designated national focal points to coordinate the implementation of the national action plans and to engage in dialogue and cooperation at the subregional level.

21. In phase II of the project, the Regional Centre will provide assistance to the nine Caribbean States in implementing their national action plans, including capacity-building and the provision of legal, policy and technical support. During that phase, the participation of three additional Caribbean States is envisaged.

**(b) Armed violence reduction and prevention**

22. Regarding armed violence prevention, the Regional Centre carried out activities in Jamaica that contributed to the Armed Violence Prevention Programme, coordinated by six United Nations agencies (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Health Organization, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, United Nations Human Settlements Programme and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime). The Programme aims to promote effective responses to armed violence through support for the development of an international policy framework founded on a clear understanding of the causes, nature and impacts of armed violence, and best practices generated from violence reduction and prevention initiatives. The Jamaican component of the Programme was the result of an inter-agency mission, undertaken from 6 to 11 September 2010, which drafted a proposal for its programming with the Centre as the lead agency for assistance with firearms control.

**3. Central American region**

23. Central America is facing an increasingly grave threat of armed violence caused by organized crime and drug trafficking, which is exacerbated by the easy availability of a variety of illicit firearms. The illicit weapons aggravate and sustain political and criminal violence, and as such pose a serious threat to social order, good governance, human security and the rule of law.

**(a) Coordination mechanisms**

24. The States members of SICA<sup>4</sup> have made concerted efforts to establish policies and frameworks aimed at improving subregional coordination in the area of public security, notably through the SICA Framework Treaty on Democratic Security in Central America. The Central American Knowledge Fair, organized by States members of SICA, the Government of Spain and UNDP, brought together practitioners to elaborate a strategy to address the key public security concerns of the subregion, including firearms control. The Regional Centre was appointed as technical adviser to the Arms Control Group under the strategy. In this capacity, the Centre recommended priority issues for the SICA Democratic Security Agenda, which defines the specific actions to be taken in order to implement the Framework Treaty on Democratic Security.

25. During the reporting period, with financial support from the Governments of Spain and Sweden, the Regional Centre organized two national IITC courses in Central America, which benefited some 120 law enforcement and judicial officers (police, intelligence, customs, public prosecutors and judicial investigators) who participated in the training sessions, held in Panama City from 19 to 30 July 2010 and in Guatemala City from 16 to 27 May 2011. The courses enhanced the participants' knowledge and understanding of the various aspects of combating illicit firearms, including inter-agency coordination, tracing and investigating illicit weapons, prosecuting illicit traffickers, as well as implementing international and regional instruments related to firearms and small arms and light weapons.

**(b) Legal frameworks on firearms**

26. In keeping with the priorities of the SICA Democratic Security Agenda and at the request of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Regional Centre carried out six legal comparative studies on the level of compatibility of national firearms legislation with obligations under the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials. The comparative studies identified lapses in some national legislation and the prerequisites for more robust legal frameworks and a harmonized regional legislative approach.

27. In July 2010 the Regional Centre provided, upon request, legal comments on the draft amendment to the firearms legislation of Panama and in December 2010 it provided legal comments on the draft firearms legislation of the Dominican Republic. The views identified gaps between the provisions in those draft legislative texts and the obligations under the global and regional firearms-related instruments. Furthermore, the Centre provided recommendations to render the draft legislation consistent with global and regional legal instruments.

**(c) Firearms controls and management**

28. At the request of the National Small Arms and Armed Violence Prevention Commission of Guatemala, the Regional Centre provided advice on firearms definitions, classification and international standards for firearms and small arms ammunition stockpile management. The Centre, at the request of OAS, provided

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<sup>4</sup> Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. The Dominican Republic is an observer.

lessons learned in weapons collection programmes to Central American States, Mexico and Colombia during an OAS Workshop on Firearms Destruction and Stockpile Management, held in Guatemala City from 26 to 28 January 2011.

**(d) Armed violence reduction and prevention**

29. With regard to the nexus between armed violence and development, it is important to build bridges between the development and the security sectors in order to design programmes that address armed violence in a holistic manner. At a seminar on armed violence reduction and prevention, held in La Antigua, Guatemala, from 16 to 18 November 2010, participants from Central American States, the United Nations and civil society organizations shared experiences and best practices in preventing and reducing armed violence.<sup>5</sup> The seminar afforded an opportunity to strengthen cooperation among States, international organizations, specialized agencies and civil society organizations. At the meeting, the Regional Centre presented the results of its research on armed violence in schools in the region. The research was subsequently further developed and resulted in the formulation of a cross-regional project proposal aimed at preventing and reducing firearms proliferation in schools in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and in Latin America and the Caribbean. This outcome demonstrates the value and importance of coordination and the application of a synergistic approach among the three United Nations Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament.

**(e) Private security**

30. The Regional Centre developed a private security and rule of law toolkit focusing on firearms stockpile management guidelines and legal frameworks. It will convene a regional expert group meeting to review the toolkit with experts from national regulatory authorities, international and regional organizations, United Nations agencies and civil society.

31. The Regional Centre, in cooperation with the Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung and the Open Society Institute, provided technical assistance to States in addressing the issue of the privatization of security. The Centre highlighted the obligation of private security companies to manage the safety and security of their small arms and light weapons stockpiles.

**(f) Cooperation and security dialogue**

32. The Regional Centre cooperated with the Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress in assisting States in the region to address firearms trafficking and transfers. In a series of four regional seminars,<sup>6</sup> the Centre provided technical guidance to policymakers from Latin American States to support national and subregional disarmament and arms control measures, and carried out a review of the progress made in the implementation of international and regional instruments regarding small arms, light weapons and instruments regarding firearms.

<sup>5</sup> Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama participated in the seminar.

<sup>6</sup> Mexico City (30 June-2 July 2010); Quito (29 September-1 October 2010); Asunción (4 and 5 October 2010); and Lima (13 and 14 December 2010).

33. The Regional Centre, in cooperation with other United Nations entities, provided technical assistance to the Government of Panama on various issues ranging from citizen security and human rights to armed violence targeting businessmen. This activity, held in Panama City on 23 July 2010 and 19 February 2011, is part of an ongoing dialogue on citizen security issues which aims to build the capacity of national and municipal governmental officials on issues related to public policy management for citizen security in the country's capital. Centre staff were also invited to participate as trainers in recurrent training courses on public policy management for citizen security aimed to build the capacity of Panamanian Government officials.

#### **4. Andean region**

34. The illicit trafficking of firearms and increasing armed violence pose serious threats to the emerging democracies of the Andean subregion, undermining human security and socio-economic development. Armed violence is linked to other security concerns, such as social unrest caused by political instability and drug trafficking. Hundreds of thousands of illicit firearms are currently in circulation throughout the subregion. The surge in armed violence reignited the debate about "gun control" in some South American States, with anti-gun supporters pressing for national referendums on banning the sale of firearms to civilians.

35. Many national and subregional initiatives were developed to address this threat, including the establishment of national firearms commissions and campaigns to tighten national legislation on firearms. In order to assist States in their efforts, the United Nations and other stakeholders can help build capacities and foster coordination within and among States so as to bolster their ability to effectively address this multifaceted threat to their social and public security.

36. In this connection, the Regional Centre developed a multi-year Firearms Policy and Technical Assistance Package for the Andean Region aimed at enhancing public security through firearms control and crime prevention. The project received financial support from the Government of Canada.

##### **(a) Law enforcement training to control firearms**

37. The Regional Centre conducted IITC training courses in all four Andean countries within a four-month period.<sup>7</sup> A total of 240 officers from national law enforcement and judicial institutions, including 54 women, participated in the training.

38. The IITC course addresses proper documentation and evidence collection in tracing and investigating illicit trafficking in firearms so as to prevent impunity in arms trafficking cases. The courses held in Peru and Colombia had a significant impact, since both were conducted for provincial law enforcement and judicial officials from areas with weak law enforcement capabilities. By applying the techniques and procedures acquired during the IITC course developed by the Regional Centre, a number of Peruvian law enforcement participants were able to effectively use the techniques learned. For example, they successfully seized a large

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<sup>7</sup> Quito (31 January 2010-11 February 2011); Tumbes, Peru (7-18 March 2011); Pereira, Colombia (7-18 March 2011); and La Paz (4-15 April 2011).

quantity of ammunition illegally smuggled across the border and the perpetrators were prosecuted.

39. Strengthening border controls is critical in combating illicit trafficking in firearms. This is particularly true given the complex and transnational nature of such trafficking throughout the subregion. In this regard, the Regional Centre organized binational or trinational training sessions in order to enhance coordination and cooperation among States in the subregion with a view to achieving effectiveness and synergy in law enforcement operations against cross-border trafficking.

**(b) Gender mainstreaming**

40. Recognizing that the engagement of women is a critical component in ensuring peace and security, as highlighted by the Security Council in its resolution 1325 (2000), the Regional Centre conducted its first IITC course specifically for women working in the area of firearms control in the Andean region. The course, held in Lima from 22 November to 3 December 2010, brought together 37 female officers<sup>8</sup> and was designed to increase their knowledge of and proficiency in a variety of aspects related to firearms control, and to foster multisectoral cooperation, thus strengthening national capacities for the effective implementation of international and regional instruments on firearms control. This women-specific training course coincided with the tenth anniversary of Council resolution 1325 (2000) and the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolution 65/69, entitled “Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control”, in which the Assembly recognizes the “valuable contribution of women to practical disarmament measures carried out at the local, national, regional and subregional levels in the prevention and reduction of armed violence and armed conflict, and in promoting disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control”.

41. With the Regional Centre’s efforts, women’s participation in the IITC courses increased by 30 per cent as compared to the previous reporting period. This is in line with efforts to implement the Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

**(c) Legal frameworks on firearms**

42. The Regional Centre provided legal and policy assistance to the four Andean States in their implementation of international and subregional instruments regarding small arms, light weapons and firearms control. It carried out legal comparative studies on the provisions in their respective national legislation and those in relevant international regional instruments so as to align them and render them consistent. The Centre also organized a national seminar for policymakers on international and regional firearms instruments in Quito on 4 February 2011. The seminar brought together officials and policymakers from the various national sectors responsible for firearms control to discuss how to ensure that the firearms law which is under development would address all the principal obligations under the relevant international and regional instruments. The Centre also organized a

<sup>8</sup> Participants included representatives from law enforcement institutions, the judiciary and public prosecutor’s offices of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, together with observers from the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Guatemala, including three civil society representatives.

subregional seminar in La Paz on 11 and 12 April 2011 to review progress achieved in implementing the legally binding Andean Plan to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects (Andean Community Decision No. 552). At the seminar, the Centre presented the subregional legal comparative studies for the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

43. The Regional Centre, in order to provide support for the implementation of the Colombian National Action Plan on Firearms Control, organized a seminar in Bogotá on 24 and 25 February 2011 for judicial personnel in Colombia on the issue of explosives, where 30 judges and prosecutors participated in reviewing national legislation on explosives.

44. The Regional Centre, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Colombian national firearms commission and the Conflict Analysis Resource Centre, co-organized a seminar to review Colombia's national firearms legislation and its implementation.

**(d) National commissions**

45. The Regional Centre supported the creation of national firearms commissions in Ecuador and the Plurinational State of Bolivia through two capacity-building seminars, held, respectively, in Quito on 17 February 2011 and in La Paz on 1 March 2011. The seminar in Quito resulted in the establishment of Ecuador's national firearms, ammunition and explosives commission in April 2011; the seminar in La Paz facilitated the process of establishing a national firearms commission in the country.

**5. Southern Cone region**

46. Several Southern Cone States are also confronted with high levels of crime and armed violence, including homicides and robberies. It is estimated that illicit firearms holdings may exceed those of legally registered weapons. There is also a significant firearms and ammunition production capability in the region. Reported cases of illicit firearms trafficking in the Southern Cone involve weapons produced both within and outside the subregion.

47. Southern Cone States have been at the forefront of efforts to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in conventional arms through rigorous national and subregional control frameworks. The Regional Centre promoted the exchange of experience and expertise, as well as a policy dialogue, among States of the region.

**(a) Public security dialogue**

48. The Regional Centre was chosen by OAS as its principal implementing partner on firearms issues. In that capacity, at the OAS Meeting of Experts on Public Security, held in Santiago in November 2010, the Centre participated in defining the meeting agenda, shared expertise during the discussions and made a presentation on the impact of firearms on public security.

49. The Regional Centre presented regional perspectives on the challenges posed by illicit firearms trafficking in Southern Cone States during a conference on combating the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons in South America,

organized by the Government of the United States of America in Buenos Aires on 4 August 2010.

**(b) Programme of Action on Small Arms and Arms Trade Treaty**

50. The Regional Centre supported the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research in organizing its Latin American and Caribbean regional seminar on an arms trade treaty, held in Montevideo from 27 to 29 April 2011. The Centre continues to support States in the region, as requested, in the process leading to an arms trade treaty.

51. The Regional Centre has also been active in promoting cross-regional capacity and lessons learned, for more efficient programming and use of expertise in the area of combating illicit firearms trafficking. It promoted the exchange and sharing of best practices and lessons learned with other States among various subregions in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**B. Weapons of mass destruction**

52. The Regional Centre actively supported Member States in promoting nuclear disarmament, especially the Secretary-General's five-point proposal on nuclear disarmament. It made a detailed presentation on the proposal at a regional seminar on nuclear disarmament and a nuclear-weapon-free world, co-organized by the Government of Uruguay, the Global Action to Prevent War and the Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung, held in Montevideo on 8 and 9 November 2010.

53. The Regional Centre, in cooperation with the Government of the United States of America, organized a regional workshop on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), which was held in Lima from 9 to 11 November 2010. Government officials and experts from Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Peru, the United Nations Security Council 1540 Committee and such subregional organizations as SICA and the Caribbean Community and Common Market, discussed regional strategies to enhance national capacity to implement the resolution. At the seminar, an interest was expressed that the Centre add a training module to its IITC training course on weapons of mass destruction-related issues, in particular in the context of import/export and border control.

**IV. Staffing, financing and administration**

**A. Finances**

54. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/60 J, the Regional Centre was established on the basis of existing resources and voluntary contributions made by Member States and interested organizations to support its core operations and programme activities. During the reporting period, voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the Regional Centre were received in the amount of \$2,541,373.<sup>9</sup> The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Governments of Canada,

<sup>9</sup> Information based on the statement of income and expenditure of the Trust Fund for the Regional Centre for 2010. During the period from 1 January to 30 May 2011, additional voluntary contributions totalling \$334,292.47 were received.

Colombia, Guyana, Panama, Peru, Spain, Sweden and the United States of America, as well as to OAS, for their generous financial contributions to the Centre, which are essential for it to carry out all its programmes and activities. Information on the status of the Trust Fund for 2010 is contained in the annex to the present report.

55. The Regional Centre's resource mobilization efforts led to new partnerships with the Governments of Canada and the United States of America. The multi-year projects emanating from these partnerships enabled the Centre to carry out public security assistance programmes and activities in the Andean and Caribbean regions. Increases in requests for assistance by Member States as well as in the cost of living at the Centre's headquarters in Lima have strained its financial resources. In this regard, the Secretary-General wishes to thank Peru, the host country of the Regional Centre, for its annual contribution and calls upon Peru to continue to provide the necessary financial and other support to the Centre in order to offset the rise in its operating costs.

56. The Regional Centre also benefited from close cooperation and joint undertakings with such other key partners in the region as OAS, UNDP, the Central American Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Programme, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime regional and country offices. These partner organizations provided the Centre with in-kind contributions and cost-sharing arrangements which greatly assisted the Centre in implementing its programmes and activities.

57. The Secretary-General wishes to acknowledge the cooperation between OAS and the Regional Centre, and their joint endeavours to address pressing issues in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation in the region, including through concrete joint projects.

## **B. Staffing and administration**

58. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre strengthened its public security programme team by recruiting experts for the Andean and Caribbean regions. It also consolidated its in-house legal expertise by securing additional staff. The addition of project staff and consultants enabled the Centre to respond more effectively to the increasing requests for assistance from Member States in the region and to better serve their needs in the fields of disarmament and security.

59. In order to carry out its mandate effectively, the Regional Centre needs to rely on a stable core team of skilled professional and support staff. In this connection, the Secretary-General would like to thank Member States and other donors for providing their valuable support in strengthening and maintaining the Centre's core staff.

60. The Regional Centre continues to rely solely on voluntary financial contributions to develop and carry out all its programmes in the region. Such contributions are likewise essential for hiring project staff needed to implement projects and activities in response to the requests from Member States.

## V. Conclusion

61. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre undertook more than 40 substantive activities in response to requests from Member States in the region. The significant increase in the number of requests for assistance from Member States demonstrated the relevance of the Centre's work to disarmament and security priorities in the region.

62. The Regional Centre increased its assistance to Member States in combating illicit firearms, which seriously undermine security, stability and socio-economic development in the region. The Centre's assistance programmes included law enforcement capacity-building, technical assistance in stockpile management and border security, and legal and policy support to promote the implementation of global and regional disarmament and non-proliferation instruments.

63. In carrying out its programmes and activities, the Regional Centre forged a solid partnership with Member States, regional and subregional organizations, other United Nations entities and civil society organizations.

64. The Secretary-General reiterates his call upon Member States and other partners in a position to do so, to provide the Regional Centre with the necessary financial and in-kind support to ensure that it can continue to carry out its mandate effectively and serve the needs of Member States 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 2010

(United States dollars)

<b>Reserves and fund balance, 1 January 2010</b>	1 304 229
Income, 1 January-31 December 2010	
Voluntary contributions	2 541 373 <sup>a</sup>
Funds received under inter-organization arrangements	21 000
Interest income	40 965
Other/miscellaneous income	75 895
<b>Total income</b>	<b>2 679 233</b>
Expenditure 1 January-31 December 2010	1 906 908
Programme support costs	247 924
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>2 154 832</b>
Refunds to donors	(183 492)
<b>Reserves and fund balance, 31 December 2010</b>	<b>1 645 138<sup>b</sup></b>

*Note:* Information based on the statement of income and expenditure for 2010. During the period from 1 January to 30 May 2011, additional contributions totalling \$334,292 were received from Canada (\$191,836), Guyana (\$1,000) and Spain (\$141,456).

<sup>a</sup> Contributions totalling \$2,541,373 were received from Canada (\$1,176,843), Colombia (\$2,500), Guyana (\$1,000), Panama (\$1,000), Peru (\$30,000), Spain (\$351,800), Sweden (\$551,870), the United States of America (\$405,360) and the Organization of American States (\$21,000).

<sup>b</sup> Consists of reserves and fund balance, 1 January 2010, plus income received in 2010, less expenditure and refunds to donors in 2010.