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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 provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean from July 2022 to June 2023, in line with General Assembly resolution [77/84](#).

During the reporting period, the Regional Centre carried out 62 technical, legal and policy-related activities to support Member States, at their request, in the implementation of international instruments relating to disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. As part of those efforts, the Centre provided technical training and assistance to over 1,100 national officials (approximately 40 per cent of whom were women). The Centre continued to strengthen its partnerships for disarmament, with a focus on diversification of its partnerships with regional, subregional and international stakeholders, as well as youth engagement and strategic outreach and communication.

The Secretary-General expresses his gratitude to the Member States, in particular the host country, Peru, 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 in order to sustain and further develop its activities in response to the continuing requests for assistance and cooperation by Member States in the region.

* [A/78/150](#).



I. Introduction

1. In its resolution [77/84](#), the General Assembly reiterated its strong support for the role of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in the promotion of peace, disarmament and development among its Member States, recognized that the Regional Centre had an important role in the promotion and development of regional and subregional initiatives and encouraged the Centre to further develop activities in all countries of the region in support of peace, disarmament and development, and to provide, upon request and in accordance with its mandate, support to Member States.

2. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to the Assembly at its seventy-eighth session. In the present report, submitted pursuant to that request, the main activities carried out by the Regional Centre from July 2022 to June 2023 are highlighted. A financial statement on the status of the trust fund for the Centre in 2022 is contained in the annex to the present report.

II. Function and mandate

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

III. Main areas of activity

4. The Regional Centre continued to support States in their efforts to implement multilateral instruments relating to weapons of mass destruction, including the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction. In line with regional priorities, the Centre provided technical, legal and policy assistance to States in Latin America and the Caribbean focusing on national capacity-building to combat illicit firearms trafficking and strengthen the physical safety and security management of government-held stockpiles to prevent the diversion of weapons and ammunition into illicit markets. Those efforts included bolstering the implementation of all four goals of the Road Map for Implementing the Caribbean Priority Actions on the Illicit Proliferation of Firearms and Ammunition across the Caribbean in a Sustainable Manner by 2030 (Caribbean Firearms Road Map),¹ as well as support for the development of a proposal for a Central American firearms road map. Activities aimed at eliminating violence against women and raising awareness of firearms in schools continue to attract great interest in the region. In addition, the Centre further strengthened and diversified its partnerships with regional and international partners and civil society to carry out its mandates, continued to empower women and youth to play an active role in the field of disarmament and reinforced its outreach and communication initiatives to promote its activities and the importance of disarmament to peace and security in the region. Details are provided in the sections below.

5. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre carried out 62 technical, legal and policy-related activities to support Member States, at their request, in the implementation of international instruments relating to disarmament, arms control

¹ Available at <https://unlirec.org/en/publicacion/caribbean-firearms-roadmap/>.

and non-proliferation. As part of those efforts, the Centre provided technical training and assistance to over 1,100 national officials (approximately 40 per cent of whom were women).

6. As in past reporting periods, and in keeping with requests for assistance from States, the major part of the Regional Centre's support was focused on supporting States in the implementation of international conventional arms instruments, such as the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons and the Arms Trade Treaty.

A. Weapons of mass destruction

7. In 2022, the first Meeting of State Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons took place in June; the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in August; and the ninth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction in November and December. Moreover, the Security Council adopted resolution [2663 \(2022\)](#) in November, further strengthening efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors. The Regional Centre continued to work with Member States in the region towards the global community's goals during the reporting period.

8. In the lead-up to the ninth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention, the Regional Centre published a study which provides a general overview of the progress made by States in the region in adopting national legal frameworks and practical methods to fulfil their international commitments with respect to the non-proliferation of biological and toxin weapons, in particular the Biological Weapons Convention and Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#).² Financed by Spain, the study also puts forward a series of possible measures to strengthen the non-proliferation of biological and toxin weapons at the regional level.

9. Findings of the study were presented at the regional preparatory meeting for the Review Conference in Panama in August 2022, which was organized by the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit. The Regional Centre formally launched the study through a social media campaign, raising awareness of the role industry and academia play in preventing the proliferation of biological and toxin weapons and highlighting the importance of establishing control lists and operational lists of dual-use goods and technologies. The study was further promoted in the Centre's newsletter.

10. In continuation of previous trends, States in Latin America and the Caribbean focused on the enhancement of effective measures to prevent the acquisition and use of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors and States' capacities to control the strategic trade of dual-use goods. In October 2022, the Regional Centre conducted a training session on strategic trade control enforcement jointly with the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the General Directorate of Customs of the Dominican Republic. Thirty-eight customs officials (16 of whom were women) from the Dominican Republic participated in the training to learn more about the implementation of strategic trade control in the context of Security Council resolution

² Available at <https://unlirec.org/en/publicacion/the-non-proliferation-of-biological-weapons-challenges-and-opportunities-for-latin-america-and-the-caribbean/>.

1540 (2004), with the aim of strengthening their capacities to control the strategic trade of dual-use goods. Participants were introduced to the concept of a focus list and were able to make use of the focus list of dual-use materials developed by the Dominican Republic with assistance from the Centre in 2018. The training also served to accredit four customs officers from Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Panama as certified instructors and experts of the WCO Strategic Trade Control Enforcement Programme. Those experts can now conduct training on strategic trade control in their own countries, thus extending the reach and impact of the training.

11. With a view to exchanging information, best practices and lessons learned across regions and among countries from the global South, the Regional Centre participated in a virtual expert round table on the implementation of export and border control obligations under Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) within the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area. Discussions focused on the effective implementation of the resolution as a contribution to securing the Continental Free Trade Area from being exploited by non-State actors for the purpose of trafficking in weapons of mass destruction and their related materials and means of delivery. The Centre presented its work on national control lists and licensing regulations as key elements of a robust national export and border control system in Latin America and the Caribbean. In the same spirit, the Centre participates in regional coordination meetings on Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) to strengthen cooperation and share information on respective activities in the different regions. Those meetings are attended by regional coordinators for resolution 1540 (2004), the regional centres of the Office for Disarmament Affairs and regional organizations such as the Organization of American States and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

B. Conventional arms and ammunition

12. During the reporting period, Member States reiterated their commitment to the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects with the adoption of an outcome document (A/CONF.192/BMS/2022/1) at the eighth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms, held in New York from 27 June to 1 July 2022. Moreover, the open-ended working group to elaborate a set of political commitments as a new global framework that would address existing gaps in through-life ammunition management held four sessions to elaborate the new Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management, establishing a set of political commitments for safe, secure and sustainable through-life conventional ammunition management at the national, subregional, regional and global levels. The Regional Centre attended the third session of the open-ended working group on conventional ammunition in support of States from Latin America and the Caribbean and provided substantive inputs to the informal dialogue on international cooperation and assistance for through-life ammunition management, led by Brazil, Ghana, Jamaica, Singapore and Switzerland.

13. At the regional level, the control and regulation of conventional arms and the management of ammunition remained central priorities for States in Latin America and the Caribbean owing to the persistently high levels of armed violence and homicide, which are perpetrated overwhelmingly using illicit arms. In January 2023, at the Seventh Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Heads of State or Government of Latin America and the Caribbean issued a special declaration on combating the illicit trafficking of firearms, their parts, components

and ammunition.³ In the declaration, the Heads of State or Government noted the collateral damage of illicit weapons trafficking, including the detrimental impact on security and social and economic development, as well as the displacement of people fleeing from armed violence, and urged action against such illicit trafficking activities.

14. In keeping with the requests and priorities of States, the Regional Centre conducted 56 activities related to conventional arms control and ammunition management between July 2022 and June 2023, reaching over 1,000 participants. Those activities included regional dialogue and initiatives, as well as national and multi-country capacity-building measures. Many of the activities pertained to combating illicit trafficking of arms and ammunition, including the interdiction of small arms, ammunition, parts and components; physical security and stockpile management; and gender-related activities. More than half of those activities supported States in the Caribbean region, as part of a concerted and comprehensive assistance programme in support of the implementation of the Caribbean Firearms Road Map.

Regional and subregional initiatives

15. In 2021 and 2022, respectively, Member States recognized, in the outcome documents of the seventh and eighth Biennial Meetings of States to Consider the Programme of Action on Small Arms, the important role existing regional and subregional initiatives can play in addressing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. States encouraged the adoption, establishment and further strengthening of such initiatives to complement global processes. In this regard, the Regional Centre continued to support such initiatives.

Caribbean Firearms Road Map

16. In late 2020, the Caribbean Firearms Road Map was adopted by 15 States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Dominican Republic with a vision of creating a safer Caribbean region by addressing the issue of the illicit proliferation of firearms and ammunition. Since its adoption, the Regional Centre has acted as co-custodian of the Road Map alongside the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security and has provided support to the Road Map process and to States in support of its timely and effective implementation. During the reporting period, 34 activities were carried out by the Centre in support of the implementation of the four goals of the Road Map.⁴ The donor community, which has provided essential financial support to the Road Map, includes Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

17. In its role as co-custodian, the Regional Centre, together with the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security, formalized a partner coordination mechanism⁵ to ensure effective coordination and implementation of assistance under the Road Map. The mechanism includes regular coordination meetings, a newly

³ Available at https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/userfiles/ut/declaracion_especial_sobre_el_combate_al_trafico_ilicito_de_armas_de_fuego_sus_piezas_componentes_y_municiones.pdf.

⁴ The goals are: goal 1, reinforce regulatory frameworks governing firearms and ammunition; goal 2, reduce the illicit flow of firearms and ammunition into, within and beyond the region; goal 3, bolster law enforcement capacity to combat illicit firearms and ammunition trafficking and their illicit possession and misuse; and goal 4, systematically decrease the risk of diversion of firearms and ammunition from government- and non-government-owned arsenals.

⁵ Membership of the partner coordination mechanism includes the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (co-custodian), the Regional Centre (co-custodian), the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Development Programme, INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization, the Organization of American States and the Small Arms Survey.

developed web-based platform that allows partners to enter information about delivered and forecasted activities and a catalogue of assistance, which compiles details of all available assistance that partners can provide to States in support of the implementation of the Road Map. During the reporting period, the Centre hosted several meetings with partners and donors, as well as the annual meeting of States in November 2022. During the latter, States, partners and donors shared updates on the status of Road Map implementation and reaffirmed their commitment to the process.

18. Throughout the year, the Regional Centre continued to promote the development and adoption of national action plans, which will serve as vehicles for implementation. During the reporting period, Haiti and Saint Kitts and Nevis formally approved their plans, bringing the total number of States having formally adopted national action plans on the implementation of the Road Map to seven,⁶ with five States⁷ having commenced drafting their plans, which are in various stages of the national approval process. The remaining States are expected to commence drafting in 2023.

19. In July 2022, the Regional Centre concluded a series of inter-agency round-table engagements during a visit to Haiti, which allowed national authorities to finalize their action plan, which had been formally approved by the Prime Minister in January 2023. The plan was presented to Road Map partners, as well as United Nations agencies working in Haiti, during a dedicated meeting in September 2022. The then Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti and Head of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti, Helen La Lime, hailed the drafting of the plan as an important success for Haiti during her opening remarks and encouraged all partners to assist national authorities in its implementation. The importance of those efforts and the relevance of the Road Map were also underscored in Security Council resolutions [2645 \(2022\)](#) and [2653 \(2022\)](#).

20. Since the adoption of the Road Map, the Regional Centre has developed a monitoring and evaluation framework to track progress towards its implementation. The framework consists of 15 macro-level key performance indicators measuring the key elements of each of the four Road Map goals. To ensure a robust foundation from which to measure progress, the Centre supported States with their national baseline assessments, which gathered detailed responses to a matrix of questions. This process was conducted through a series of inter-institutional round tables, resulting in seven States completing their assessments between July 2022 and June 2023.⁸

21. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre developed a custom-built, web-based monitoring and reporting platform that will simplify and consolidate reporting under the Road Map. The platform will facilitate standardization of national action plans and national and regional reports and the analysis of data in a number of different ways. The platform was finalized in early 2023 and has been installed on the servers of the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security.

22. To roll out reporting under the Road Map, the Regional Centre hosted the first regional monitoring, evaluation and data collection webinar on 27 March 2023, with funding from Canada. The webinar included 16 participants (7 women) from Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago. The webinar sensitized officials from those States to the monitoring and evaluation framework, focusing on the practical steps necessary to collect and enter their annual reporting data on the platform. Going forward, the Centre will further introduce the platform through dedicated seminars,

⁶ Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia.

⁷ Barbados, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

⁸ Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

which will cover monitoring and evaluation, reporting on the platform and the importance of consistent data collection processes.

23. In addition, the Regional Centre provided direct assistance to States on the implementation of all four goals of the Road Map, encompassing legal, technical and policy assistance, and including gender-related activities.

24. In Haiti, the Regional Centre continued its programme of legal assistance under goal 1 of the Road Map, which had been extended to Haitian authorities since 2020. In supporting the update by Haiti of its legal framework on arms and ammunition, the Centre reviewed the near-final draft legislation in 2023 to ensure the compliance of the text with international standards and instruments. In this context, the Centre held a series of legal workshops between April and June 2023 for a Haitian multisectoral task force, with funding from Germany. In April, the Centre shared preliminary comments on the final draft law during a workshop attended by representatives of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, the Ministry of the Interior and Territorial Communities, the Ministry of Defence and the Customs Office.

25. In support of the implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Road Map, the Regional Centre carried out a range of activities to assist States with the prevention of illicit trafficking and armed crimes through enhanced investigation and detection capacities, with funding from Canada and the United States. Three courses in national ballistics intelligence management were provided, to Belize, Guyana and Jamaica, training 78 officials (22 women) who were from law enforcement or involved in the investigation and prosecution of gun crimes. The course covered firearms and ammunition identification and classification, chain of custody, sources of ballistic information, ballistic information management and analysis, and ballistic intelligence to strengthen national capacities to reduce the effects of armed violence and gun crimes.

26. With a view to increasing the ability of forensic experts to identify connections between crimes and crime scenes while preserving the original chain of custody, the Regional Centre trained 11 participants (8 women) from the police and the Forensic Science Centre of Trinidad and Tobago on the double-casting technique and provided a double-casting kit and relevant standard operating procedures to national authorities. In addition, 14 officials (3 women) from authorities in the Bahamas, Barbados and Grenada were trained to build their capacities to restore obliterated, removed or altered markings, thus increasing capacities of those States to recover serial numbers on illicit firearms and then trace firearms back to their last known legal owners to initiate trafficking investigations.

27. The tracing of illicit firearms is a key element in successfully combating firearms and ammunition trafficking and misuse, often leading to important investigative leads for criminal investigations. The Regional Centre therefore continued to support Jamaica with a proposal to establish a firearms tracing and investigation unit, which would be responsible for tracing and investigating all illicit firearms and ammunition in a centralized manner, thereby facilitating and consolidating inter-agency collaboration, with a view to increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of related processes. To inform the work of Jamaica on the establishment of such a unit, the Centre hosted two in-person round-table meetings with national authorities to discuss a draft guideline document, the final version of which will be presented to the Government of Jamaica in the second half of 2023.

28. The Regional Centre also continued to work with national stakeholders to combat illicit firearms trafficking and strengthen interdiction capacity through the provision of specialized courses in the Caribbean. In this context, the Centre built the capacities of over 100 officials from Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to detect illicitly trafficked weapons at entry and exit points of the country through the provision of four training courses on interdicting small arms,

ammunition, parts and components. The training included theoretical sessions and practical presentations and exercises, including on an X-ray simulation platform developed by the Centre for Adaptive Security Research and Applications.⁹

29. To further strengthen national capacities to address illicit trafficking activities, the Regional Centre also provided its flagship course on combating trafficking in arms and ammunition to the Dominican Republic in July 2022. During the hybrid course, 47 participants (6 women) from various areas and sectors involved in arms control and combating small arms trafficking enhanced their theoretical knowledge, while also learning about technical tools available to implement strategies for preventing and combating the illicit trafficking of firearms and ammunition in line with international arms control instruments. The course included national presentations as well as presentations by the Global Maritime Crime Programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Democratic Security Directorate of the Central American Integration System, providing further relevant contexts in which this phenomenon can be addressed. To accompany the course, the Centre also developed a short explanation video, which was promoted on different communications channels, such as LinkedIn, under the #DisarmamentIn1Minute series.

30. In support of goal 4 of the Road Map, to systematically decrease the risk of diversion of firearms and ammunition from government- and non-government-owned arsenals, the Regional Centre provided training, practical tools and equipment to States to improve government-owned stockpile facilities, with funds provided by Canada and the United States. Seven activities were carried out during the reporting period to that end, benefiting Barbados, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago.

31. Trinidad and Tobago was provided with a containerized evidence storage solution for the storage of ballistic evidence at its Forensic Science Centre. The container provides improved physical security, access control, storage management and registration of evidence – mainly arms and ammunition – under custody. This was the result of previous assessments carried out by the Regional Centre in 2018 and 2019, which found that the ad hoc storage of the increasing quantity of firearms evidence, severely hampered the operational effectiveness of the Firearms Section of the Forensic Science Centre and compromised its efficiency. The Centre therefore responded to the urgent need to improve storage practices and accommodation in the Firearms Section with the delivery of the container.

32. In 2022, the Regional Centre developed a self-assessment questionnaire for States on firearms and ammunition inventory and evidence management, which was rolled out in Barbados and Saint Kitts and Nevis in September, allowing both States to assess their firearms laboratories and/or exhibit rooms where evidence of investigations is stored. Based on the information received, the Centre prepared preliminary reports and will follow up with in-person visits to gather additional information and discuss assistance to address some of the identified shortcomings.

33. In addition, a separate questionnaire enabling self-assessments of armouries that include national firearms, ammunition and explosive stockpiles was rolled out in Saint Kitts and Nevis, followed by an in-person technical expert visit in April 2023. During the mission, additional information was collected at the government armoury facilities of the Royal Saint Christopher and Nevis Police Force as well as the Defence Force. The mission included a round-table meeting with national authorities to coordinate future activities in line with the State's national action plan for the Caribbean Firearms Road Map.

⁹ Further details on the course and assistance provided to Jamaica are provided in paras. 40–45 below.

34. In support of those efforts, the Regional Centre provided training on physical security and stockpile management to a total of 18 officials (2 women) in Barbados and Saint Kitts and Nevis with a view to reinforcing their capacities and national mechanisms to reduce and prevent the diversion of weapons and ammunition and improve law enforcement capacities in securing stockpile facilities. The training included presentations and practical exercises on international standards and best practices in stockpile management, physical security, marking and record-keeping.

35. Following a technical assessment of armouries in Antigua and Barbuda and Grenada in March 2022, the Regional Centre identified the need for high security padlocks and clearing stations (bullet traps) to enhance the security at the armouries and has initiated the procurement process. The equipment will contribute to improvement of the physical security of the assessed facilities and will be delivered to the national agencies in mid-2023.

Central American firearms roadmap

36. In October 2022, the General Assembly of the Organization of American States mandated the development of a proposal for a Central American road map to prevent the illicit proliferation and trafficking of firearms and ammunition.¹⁰ In collaboration with the Regional Centre, the Organization of American States initiated this process in 2023.

37. In support of those efforts, the Regional Centre hosted a global virtual informal exchange on subregional firearms road maps and initiatives on 27 January 2023 to reflect on existing initiatives and lessons learned. Presentations were provided by the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons on the road map for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition in the Western Balkans,¹¹ and the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States on the five-year action plan to implement its Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials, while the Regional Centre gave a briefing on the Caribbean Firearms Road Map. During the discussions, the different entities exchanged views on key success factors, important milestones as well as challenges encountered throughout the different processes and stressed the importance of a tailored approach in each subregion.

38. As a next step, the Organization of American States and the Regional Centre conducted national sensitization meetings with States from Central America, with funding provided by the European Union. Between March and May 2023, six national inter-institutional meetings were held, in which authorities were briefed on the mandate. In those meetings, the Centre presented experiences and good practices of other subregional road maps and initiatives derived from the informal exchange of 27 January. The meetings also served as a forum to exchange views on countries' needs and expectations and to discuss the next steps of the road map development process. An additional meeting was held with the Central American Integration System to ensure the alignment with existing subregional instruments and strategies. The Centre will continue to work with the Organization of American States and States in Central America in 2023 and 2024 to take this initiative forward.

¹⁰ See resolution AG/RES. 2986 (LII-O/22).

¹¹ Available at <https://www.seesac.org/f/docs/publications-salw-control-roadmap/Regional-Roadmap-for-a-sustainable-solution-to-the.pdf>.

Other regional initiatives

39. With funding from the European Union, the Regional Centre hosted a regional forum on violence against women and firearms in July 2022, which focused on the importance of reliable data to measure the linkages between violence against women and firearms in Latin America and the Caribbean. A total of 77 participants (55 women) joined the virtual forum, which included presentations by the Centre on the regional context of armed violence and violence against women as well as expert presentations by the Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Governance, Victims of Crime, Public Security and Justice created by UNODC, the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. The presentations covered a statistical framework for measuring gender-related killings of women and girls, as well as the progress and challenges in measuring and comparing femicides in the region. Three national presentations were also made to showcase good practices in the region by the Women's Office of the Supreme Court of Justice in Argentina, on the methodology and analysis of the femicides registry; by the General Directorate of Statistics and Census of El Salvador on the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean and the cooperation between data collection agencies; and Intersecta, a Mexican civil society organization, which shared the findings of a national study on gender-based violence and firearms.

National initiatives

40. Assistance was also provided beyond the context of subregional and regional initiatives. Accordingly, the Regional Centre supported the implementation of the Saving Lives Entity fund project in Jamaica and the development of a new project in Honduras and continued to offer its flagship courses that were developed in response to the priorities of the region.

Saving Lives Entity fund projects

41. The Regional Centre supported the delivery of seven activities in Jamaica as part of the Saving Lives Entity fund project. Under the project, the Centre provided dedicated support to Jamaica in tackling armed violence and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons as part of a comprehensive approach by United Nations agencies towards sustainable security and development.

42. Under the umbrella of the Saving Lives Entity, the Regional Centre trained 27 officials (14 women) of the Jamaica Constabulary Force, the Jamaica Customs Agency and the Ports Security Corps on interdicting small arms, ammunition, parts and components. The Centre also organized a round-table meeting in support of the national action plan of Jamaica under the Caribbean Firearms Road Map, which focused on privately manufactured firearms as well as the characteristics of an armed individual. The round-table meeting allowed 22 participants (15 women) to delve into specific topics, with presentations and discussions concentrating on various tools and operating processes used to make privately manufactured firearms and common factors that law enforcement officers and others should look out for when faced with armed suspects, among others.

43. From 28 November to 1 December 2022, the Regional Centre hosted a joint training course on combating illicit firearms and ammunition trafficking with a focus on maritime security, together with the Global Maritime Crime Programme of UNODC. The three-day in-person course trained 30 law enforcement officials (7 women) overseeing maritime-related border controls. The course included sessions on illicit firearms trafficking; maritime jurisdictions; visit, board, search and seizure operations; and firearms evidence management. On the margins of the course,

interviews on firearms evidence management practices in maritime contexts were conducted to enable the Centre to support the adaptation of its existing training material.

44. Also under the Saving Lives Entity initiative, the Regional Centre provided support to the Ministry of Education and Youth in Jamaica on preventing and tackling the problem of the presence of firearms in schools, recognizing that schools are a fundamental pillar in ensuring the right to education and human development of children, adolescents and young people. The assistance included a virtual exploratory round-table meeting attended by 83 participants (67 women, 1 non-binary person) in October 2022, which promoted a national dialogue across different sectors on the current context and responses to tackle the problem of the presence of firearms in schools in Jamaica. This was followed by an in-person stakeholder meeting led by the Ministry of Education and Youth in December 2022 and the consequent development of a document encompassing guidelines for the development of protocols to tackle the problem of the presence and use of firearms in schools, which was presented at a dedicated national seminar on 1 June 2023 in Kingston. That event also included presentations of school- and youth-led initiatives to address school violence, among other things.

45. In March 2023, the Regional Centre, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), submitted a project proposal to the Saving Lives Entity fund for a project in Honduras. The proposal was the result of a consultative process with key national authorities, civil society organizations and United Nations agencies in Honduras, which culminated in an in-person scoping mission to Honduras in November 2022. Findings from that mission were translated into the proposal, which put forward a series of activities aimed both at the prevention of armed violence and small arms control. The proposal also built on some of the lessons learned from the project in Jamaica.

Flagship courses

46. Arms and ammunition trafficking is one of the main threats to human, public and regional security. The Centre has developed several flagship courses in response to requests received from States in the region with a view to strengthening their capacities to address those issues. In the Caribbean, the flagship courses were delivered in support of the implementation of the Caribbean Firearms Road Map, as outlined above.

47. In 2022 and 2023, the Regional Centre supported five countries in the region in combating the illicit trafficking of weapons, ammunition, parts and components. To that end, the Centre provided its flagship course on combating arms and ammunition trafficking in Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic and Peru. The course provided approximately 200 practitioners and policymakers with the required theoretical knowledge and technical tools to implement effective strategies to combat illicit trafficking in firearms and their ammunition in line with international instruments. Participants deepened their understanding of illicit trafficking and the need for multisectoral cooperation and coordination as a cornerstone of anti-trafficking initiatives. Course modules included, among other things, the regional and subregional nature and characteristics of trafficking in the region; illicit manufacturing; illicit brokering; control and documentation systems; international cooperation; and intelligence and investigation tools.

48. The Regional Centre continued to respond to requests for training of officials to strengthen States' interdiction capacities. During the reporting period, the course on interdicting small arms, ammunition, parts and components was provided in five

countries,¹² building the capacities of over 130 officials on fundamental aspects of X-ray technology to detect and identify small arms, their parts and components, ammunition and explosives concealed in postal shipments, packages, parcels and luggage at entry, exit and transit points in the country.

49. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre also worked with the Centre for Adaptive Security Research and Applications to upgrade the X-ray simulation training platform, with a view to allowing course participants to train with single-view images as well as dual-view computed tomography technology. In the future, this will provide an improved training experience which is closer to the daily work environment of the participants. To support this upgrade, the Centre developed a training manual to accompany the training on the upgraded platform. States will start benefiting from this upgrade from mid-2023.

50. The prevention of violence against women remains a top priority for States in Latin America and the Caribbean. With a view to integrating gender considerations into criminal firearms investigation processes, the Regional Centre has continued to offer its flagship courses on firearms investigations from a gender perspective. Specialized courses on firearms investigation from a gender perspective have been carried out in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Peru and Suriname, enabling over 140 participants from national agencies in those countries to learn about the importance of incorporating gender considerations into firearms investigations, crime scene management and police responses. The Centre also finalized training manuals for its two new specialized courses tailored to prosecutors and judges. Those courses, alongside the training manuals, will serve as additional building blocks to enable authorities to apply gender considerations after evidence has been collected and prosecutors take over the investigations and when judges analyse the evidence that is presented.

C. Strengthening partnerships for disarmament

51. The Regional Centre worked to enhance and diversify its partnerships to ensure full and effective participation by a broad range of stakeholders in the implementation of its mandate. Regional, subregional and national entities, in particular, have unique insight into the realities and challenges countries face and are therefore essential partners in helping to implement mandates and provide tailored assistance to States. To that end, the Centre continued and furthered its collaboration with national, subregional and regional organizations, different United Nations entities, agencies, funds and programmes, as well as civil society organizations, think tanks and academia in the region.

52. At the national level, the Regional Centre participated in the International Conference on Illicit Arms Trafficking and SUCAMEC Control, organized by the National Superintendence for the Control of Private Security Services, Arms, Ammunition, and Explosives for Civilian Use (SUCAMEC) of Peru in December 2022. The Conference sought to create a space for reflection on illicit trafficking in firearms and ammunition, and the Centre contributed a presentation on subregional and regional characteristics and trends of the phenomenon, highlighting good practices that address associated challenges and emphasizing the provisions and obligations of States in line with international instruments.

53. A cornerstone of the work of the Regional Centre during the year was its continued close collaboration with the Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security under the Caribbean Firearms Road Map and the

¹² Dominica, El Salvador, Guyana, Jamaica and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

transition to a closer, more systematic partnership with the Organization of American States under the road map initiative in Central America. Moreover, the Centre supported the work of both organizations and participated, among other things, in the Technical Working Group Meeting on Preventing Illicit Trafficking of Firearms of the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative and the twenty-third meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials, while also participating as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee on the Hemispheric Study on Illicit Firearms Trafficking.

54. The Regional Centre supported the work of United Nations entities, funds and programmes, as well as other international organizations in the region, throughout the reporting period, including by making presentations at the training course on the detection of firearms trafficking and related offences in the Dominican Republic, organized by UNODC. The Centre's firearms in schools initiative was presented at regional consultations conducted by the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office of the United Nations Children's Fund, as well as during the International Forum on Innovative Solutions to Strengthen Citizen Security and Access to Justice, organized by the UNDP Infosegura programme. In addition, the Centre joined the United Nations inter-agency strategic consultation on community violence reduction in Haiti in early 2023, where it emphasized the importance of weapons and ammunition management. With a view to integrating arms control and disarmament into the work of the United Nations country teams in the region, the Centre attended the retreat of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean in August 2022, which brought together 24 United Nations entities to discuss a comprehensive development plan for El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and southern and south-eastern Mexico.

55. New partnerships were fostered with the programme in support of the fight against organized crime in the Caribbean region (ALCORCA), established by France, with the Centre joining a regional meeting in March 2023 in the Dominican Republic on combating arms trafficking in the Caribbean. Also in the Caribbean, the Centre participated in the International Forum on Combating Gun Violence organized by the Office of the Mayor of New York in March 2023 as well as in a meeting organized by the Parliamentarians for Global Action, which sensitized the parliamentarians of Antigua and Barbuda and Jamaica to the commitments included in the Programme of Action on Small Arms.

56. The role of civil society in promoting disarmament and arms control is important. The Regional Centre continued to collaborate with civil society organizations in various activities. The Centre presented its firearms in schools initiative at an event organized by the regional children's rights advocacy organization Tejiendo Redes Infancia and delivered a presentation on the linkages between firearms and gender-based violence during a seminar on justice responses to armed violence against women in Central America organized by the Guatemalan civil society organization Instituto de Enseñanza para el Desarrollo Sostenible.

57. Young people around the world have a critical role to play in raising awareness and developing new ideas to reduce threats posed by weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms. In October 2022, the Regional Centre presented its work to 25 young leaders participating in the #Leaders4Tomorrow initiative of the Office for Disarmament Affairs¹³ on the margins of meetings of the First Committee and discussed the importance of regional approaches to disarmament. Following the encounter in New York, the Centre hosted an informal brown bag series with the five

¹³ See https://www.youth4disarmament.org/meet-leaders4tomorrow?language_content_entity=en.

young leaders from Latin America and the Caribbean to learn more about their projects and discuss possible future collaboration.

58. Outreach and awareness-raising are critical to the successful implementation and impact of the work of the Regional Centre. This involves establishing partnerships with relevant stakeholders as well as implementing communication campaigns and initiatives across multiple platforms, both digital and traditional, to build support for the aims and work of the Centre and its mandate. In this regard, the Centre launched a dedicated communication and outreach strategy in November 2022 to ensure that it maintains coherence and consistency in its messaging about its work in the region. The strategy aims, among other things, to establish the Centre as an authoritative source of information on issues of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation in Latin America and the Caribbean, while ensuring that it reaches new audiences, identifies innovative areas for action and creates new alliances while strengthening existing ones.

59. In this regard, the Regional Centre developed and participated in social media campaigns throughout the year, including the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence campaign for 2022 on the theme “UNITE! Activism to end violence against women and girls”. The campaign, which runs every year from the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November to International Human Rights Day on 10 December, mobilizes civil society for the prevention of violence against women. To shed light on the use of firearms in incidents of violence against women and femicides, the Centre produced a video and a short question-and-answer segment on its website and distributed this information and other materials, including a document calling on States to strengthen arms control as a building block to prevent and eliminate gender-based violence against women and girls.¹⁴

60. On International Women’s Day (8 March), the Regional Centre broadcast a video highlighting the important work of Latin American and Caribbean women in disarmament and made reference to its flagship publications series *Women Forces of Change*, which promotes equal and meaningful participation by women in this field. The video aimed to raise awareness of the key role women play in international decision-making processes and forums on issues pertaining to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, as well as their pivotal contributions to those issues at the national and local levels. The video was made available in both English and Spanish on the Centre’s social media accounts. The communication and outreach campaign also sought to empower new generations of women.

61. The Regional Centre also joined the Gun-Free Valentine campaign (14 February–8 March 2023) to raise awareness of the importance of arms control in preventing gender-based violence against women, in particular intimate partner violence. In this context, the Centre distributed its legal studies that cross-reference firearms legislation and norms on preventing violence against women in different subregions of Latin America and the Caribbean. Social media posts were made available in both English and Spanish on the Centre’s social media accounts.

62. Other social media campaigns promoted the anniversaries of the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty and Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), recalling their importance and calling for their full and effective implementation in the region and for strengthened international cooperation. As part of the campaign to promote the universalization of the Arms Trade Treaty, the Centre produced a video highlighting

¹⁴ Available at <https://unlirec.org/en/publicacion/arms-control-as-a-building-block-to-eliminate-gender-based-violence/>.

the devastating impact of unregulated international trade in conventional arms and the fact that most people affected by violence are civilians.

IV. Staffing, financing and administration

A. Financing

63. 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 for its core and programme activities. In 2022, the Centre's trust fund received voluntary contributions in the amount of \$1,060,556.

64. The Secretary-General expresses his appreciation to the Government of Peru for the support it has provided in its capacity as host country for the Regional Centre. The Secretary-General expresses his gratitude to the Centre's donors, in particular the Government of Germany, for their financial support of activities pertaining to the Caribbean Firearms Road Map. The Secretary-General is also grateful to the Governments of Canada, the United Kingdom and Spain for their contributions received in 2021, which enabled the Centre to implement activities during the reporting period. Contributions from the European Union, provided through the Conventional Arms Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, enabled the Centre to continue to assist Member States in the region, at their request, on small arms control throughout the reporting period.

65. The Secretary-General also expresses his appreciation to the Governments of Mexico, Panama and Peru for their financial contributions. He continues to encourage financial and in-kind contributions from Latin American and Caribbean States as a clear indication of the value that Member States place on the expertise and technical assistance of the Regional Centre.

66. Through the Saving Lives Entity fund, the Regional Centre also received funds from the UNDP Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development for activities in Jamaica and a scoping mission to Honduras.

67. The Secretary-General wishes to thank all States and partners for their generous contributions to and support for the Regional Centre and encourages their ongoing support to ensure that the Centre can continue to provide technical and capacity-building assistance to Member States in the region, at their request, in fulfilment of its mandate. Information on the status of the trust fund for the Centre for 2022 is contained in the annex to the present report.

B. Staffing and administration

68. The regular budget of the United Nations funds the posts of one Senior Political Affairs Officer/Director of the Centre (P-5), one Political Affairs Officer (P-3) and one General Service staff member (G-7). Project personnel are funded through voluntary contributions.

V. Conclusion

69. The Regional Centre undertook 62 substantive activities to support States in their implementation of the Programme of Action on Small arms, the International

Tracing Instrument, the Biological Weapons Convention and other multilateral instruments related to weapons of mass destruction, as well as General Assembly resolution [74/64](#), among others. Over half of the Centre's activities focused on supporting the implementation of the Caribbean Firearms Road Map.

70. In line with its mandate, the Regional Centre will continue to provide substantive support for the implementation of regional, subregional and national initiatives towards peace and disarmament and for the promotion of economic and social development, including the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To this end, the Centre will continue to provide technical, legal and policy assistance, including capacity-building, and provide platforms for regional dialogue and initiatives in support of the implementation of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control instruments.

71. Taking into account the priorities of Member States in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Centre will maintain its focus on conventional arms control and ammunition management in the delivery of its mandate. The Centre will strive for a greater geographic balance in the delivery of its mandate in this regard.

72. With a view to enabling the Regional Centre to be in step with global disarmament policy discussions and developments and to support Member States in the region on all aspects of disarmament, the Centre aims to diversify its expertise, partnerships and available resources to enable sustainable and effective programming on issues related to weapons of mass destruction, the role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament, and disarmament and development, as well as topics such as youth engagement and gender equality.

73. To enhance its youth engagement and to ensure sustainable engagement with young people in the region, the Regional Centre hopes to mobilize resources to provide disarmament education and meaningful engagement, in line with General Assembly resolution [74/64](#) on youth, disarmament and non-proliferation as well as Security Council resolution [2250 \(2015\)](#) on youth, peace and security.

74. The Secretary-General reiterates his call to Member States and other partners in a position to do so to provide the Regional Centre with the financial and in-kind support, including direct financial contributions from Latin American and Caribbean States, necessary for it to continue to carry out its mandate effectively and serve the needs of Member States in the region. The Secretary-General also encourages States to continue to fully utilize the Centre's expertise and experience in their joint efforts to promote peace and security and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 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 2022

(United States dollars)

Accumulated surplus, 1 January 2022	4 687 602
Revenue	
Voluntary contributions ^a	1 060 556
Other transfers and allocations	136 960
Other revenue	–
Investment revenue	14 118
Total revenue	1 211 634
Less: Expenses and refunds	
Operating expenses	1 878 254
Refunds ^b	252 590
Total expenses and refunds	2 130 844
Surplus/deficit for the year	919 210
Accumulated surplus/deficit as at 31 December 2022	3 768 392

^a Includes voluntary monetary contributions from Germany (\$932,940), Mexico (\$5,000), Panama (\$4,000), Peru (\$73,101) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (\$45,515).

^b Consists of refunds to Canada (\$5,902), Germany (\$163,332), Guyana (\$2,158), Sweden (\$6,845) and the United Kingdom (\$2,663).