



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
10 July 2025

Original: English

---

## Eightieth session

Item 102 (c) of the preliminary list\*

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

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

### Report of the Secretary-General

#### *Summary*

The present report provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, in line with General Assembly resolution [79/66](#).

During the reporting period, the Regional Centre carried out 97 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. Some 2,700 stakeholders benefited from such assistance. Key achievements included the adoption of the Central America and Dominican Republic Firearms Road Map, strengthened youth and gender-responsive programming and the publication of new technical resources. The Centre's work was characterized by close collaboration with regional and subregional partners, ensuring that assistance was aligned with national and regional priorities.

The Regional Centre depends solely on voluntary financial contributions to implement its programme of activities. The Secretary-General expresses his gratitude to Member States, in particular the host country, Peru, and other partners that supported the Centre's operations and programmes through financial and in-kind contributions. He encourages voluntary contributions to the Centre to help to sustain and further develop its activities in response to the continued requests for assistance and cooperation from Member States in the region.

---

\* [A/80/50](#).



## **I. Introduction**

1. In its resolution [79/66](#), 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, expressed appreciation for the important assistance provided to countries in the region and encouraged the Regional Centre to further develop activities in all countries of the region in the important areas of peace, disarmament and development and to provide, upon request and in accordance with its mandate, support to Member States of the region.

2. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its eightieth session on the implementation of the resolution. In the present report, the main activities carried out by the Regional Centre from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 are highlighted. A financial statement on the status of the trust fund for the Centre in 2024 is included 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 on weapons of mass destruction, though most activities were focused on strengthening arms control frameworks and preventing armed violence, in line with regional priorities.

5. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre carried out 97 technical, legal and policy- and communication-related activities to assist Member States, upon request, in the implementation of international instruments relating to disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. Of those activities, 67 were dedicated capacity-building initiatives through which training was provided to 2,380 national officials and other stakeholders (53 per cent of whom were women) in virtual (38), in-person (27) or hybrid (2) formats, balancing costs and engagement. The remaining 30 activities included technical assessments; support to meetings of national and regional working groups, road map partners and States; strategic communication campaigns; and equipment donations. The Centre also produced key resources, including monitoring and evaluation guidelines for the Caribbean Firearms Road Map, a policy on the disposal of firearms and ammunition remnants in the Caribbean and a technical paper on laser marking and recoverability.

6. A major milestone was the adoption of the Central America and Dominican Republic Firearms Road Map in February 2025, as part of a joint initiative with the Organization of American States (OAS). The Regional Centre also advanced the Caribbean Firearms Road Map, supporting national action plans, data collection, training for firearms examiners and stockpile management. Of the total activities carried out, 24 were capacity-building activities in the Caribbean and 18 were capacity-building activities in Central America and the Dominican Republic, underscoring the Centre's focus on those two subregions.

7. Progress was made with respect to gender-responsive disarmament through trainings for prosecutors, judges and law enforcement. Youth engagement was expanded

through such initiatives as the “Music and visual art for change” competition in Jamaica and “GenerAcción paz” in Latin America, the first Spanish-language youth programme on armed violence prevention. Outreach efforts were scaled up to engage with national stakeholders and the public.

8. Country-specific comprehensive programming in Haiti, Honduras and Jamaica enabled a more integrated and impactful approach, combining legal, technical and community-based interventions tailored to national needs.

## **A. Disarmament trends in the region and emerging risks and opportunities**

9. The Latin America and Caribbean region continues to face high levels of armed violence. Widespread firearms and ammunition trafficking is a key driver of insecurity and instability and therefore is a priority concern for States in the region and beyond. These dynamics are closely linked to organized crime, gender-based violence and declining trust in institutions. Criminal networks are increasingly adaptive, exploiting new trafficking routes and concealment methods and, in some cases, obtaining military-style weapons, which poses serious challenges for law enforcement and for public security responses.

10. Weak inter-institutional coordination, underresourced systems and inadequate regulation and oversight remain major obstacles. Limited data and transparency hinder the effective monitoring of arms flows and violence trends and evidence-based policymaking.

11. Nonetheless, the region is making progress. Political will to address arms-related threats through collaborative, preventive approaches is growing. Subregional road maps are proving effective in translating arms control priorities into national action plans, coordination mechanisms and targeted capacity-building, while also serving as platforms for donor engagement.

12. Notably, arms control is increasingly seen not only as a security issue but also as a development priority. Development actors, including international financial institutions, are recognizing the importance of addressing arms trafficking as part of broader efforts to combat organized crime and promote citizen security. Cross-sector partnerships and youth-led initiatives are gaining traction, reflecting a growing understanding that sustaining peace and security requires both effective arms control measures and inclusive, community-based solutions that address the root causes of violence. In this evolving landscape, the Office for Disarmament Affairs and its Regional Centres play a pivotal role, bringing essential expertise in arms control that helps to bridge the gap between security and development and advancing a more holistic approach to armed violence prevention.

## **B. Weapons of mass destruction**

13. The Regional Centre continued to support Member States in strengthening their capacities to prevent the proliferation and misuse of weapons of mass destruction, with a particular focus on biological threats, in partnership with national and regional stakeholders.

14. At a symposium on laboratory biosecurity and dual-use research governance organized by OAS and held in Peru in November 2024, the Regional Centre delivered a technical presentation on regional trends, legal frameworks and tools to support the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their

Destruction and of Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#). The presentation served to raise awareness of dual-use risks and the need for effective oversight.

15. In May 2025, the Regional Centre contributed to a national workshop on weapons of mass destruction and emergency response, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru. The event brought together over a dozen national institutions and highlighted the importance of inter-agency coordination and sustained capacity-building to address chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats.

## C. Conventional arms and ammunition

16. Following the fourth United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in July 2024, and ahead of the Preparatory Meeting of States on the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management, held in June 2025, the Regional Centre continued to champion national and regional initiatives to support States, upon request, in advancing their efforts to fulfil global arms control commitments.

17. In November 2024, the Regional Centre and the Gender Equality Network for Small Arms Control co-hosted a regional webinar on gender and small arms control, with 63 participants (42 women) from 10 Latin American countries. Discussions addressed local progress, challenges and opportunities in mainstreaming gender into arms control efforts, including the need for sex-disaggregated data, gender-sensitive training and documentation of firearm use in domestic violence incidents. Emphasis was also placed on inter-institutional coordination, the integration of arms control into plans on women and peace and security, and the role of ministries of foreign affairs and civil society.

18. In response to the fourth Review Conference and the request for a study on obliterated firearm markings and recovery methods,<sup>1</sup> the Regional Centre developed a working paper on laser engraving for firearms marking.<sup>2</sup> The working paper provides guidance on machine selection, safety protocols and techniques to ensure durable and potentially recoverable markings. Preliminary research shows that partial restoration of laser markings is possible, which is crucial for forensic investigations. The working paper will be presented to States at a virtual webinar in the second half of 2025.

19. To promote the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management, the Regional Centre held two webinars, one for the Caribbean and one for Latin America, engaging 77 participants (20 women) from 23 States. Sessions focused on risk reduction, stockpile management and ammunition traceability, aligned with International Ammunition Technical Guidelines. Participants emphasized the need to translate the Framework into concrete national and regional actions.

### 1. Regional and subregional initiatives

20. Since 2021, Member States have consistently recognized the role of regional and subregional initiatives in combating the illicit trade in small arms, light weapons and ammunition. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre sustained its strong support for these efforts in close cooperation with regional and subregional partners.

<sup>1</sup> [A/CONF.192/2024/RC/3](#), para. 164.

<sup>2</sup> See [www.unlirec.org/wp-content/uploads/Laser-marking-paper\\_UNLIREC\\_.pdf](http://www.unlirec.org/wp-content/uploads/Laser-marking-paper_UNLIREC_.pdf).

### *Caribbean Firearms Road Map*

21. In partnership with the Implementation Agency for Crime and Security of the Caribbean Community, the Regional Centre continued to act as co-custodian of the Caribbean Firearms Road Map,<sup>3</sup> supporting national and regional efforts to address the illicit proliferation of firearms and ammunition. During the reporting period, the Centre coordinated and carried out a total of 42 activities aligned with the four strategic goals set out in the Road Map,<sup>4</sup> with funding from Canada, Germany and the United States of America.

22. In November 2024, the Regional Centre and the Implementation Agency for Crime and Security co-hosted the fourth annual meeting of the States of the Caribbean Firearms Road Map. Held virtually, the meeting brought together the States members of the Caribbean Community, the Dominican Republic and international partners and donors to review progress, identify support needs and strengthen regional cooperation. The two-day event featured a high-level ministerial dialogue and technical exchanges among national focal points.

23. To support monitoring and evaluation, the Regional Centre and the Implementation Agency for Crime and Security launched a webinar series entitled “Road map to reporting”, through which training was provided to 70 participants (30 women) from nine States on data collection and the use of the Road Map reporting platform. Despite progress, data collection remains a challenge due to limited national resources and overlapping reporting obligations. To ease this burden, the Centre published *Synergizing Data Collection Efforts: A Guidance Document on Reporting under the Caribbean Firearms Road Map in the Context of Existing Reporting Obligations*<sup>5</sup> in March 2025 and continued to enhance its multilingual web-based platform.

24. The Regional Centre also strengthened the Road Map partner coordination mechanism,<sup>6</sup> hosting two virtual meetings and updating the partner reporting platform. Some 78 new activities by partners were recorded in the platform, bringing the total to 239 since 2021. Activities included capacity-building, legal and technical support, and outreach. The Centre maintained a catalogue of assistance for partners with 53 entries, issued two newsletters reaching over 300 stakeholders and produced a video series to highlight partner contributions.<sup>7</sup>

25. The Regional Centre provided direct assistance to States across all four goals of the Caribbean Firearms Road Map, delivering tailored technical assistance and policy and capacity-building support. Under goal 1, progress continued to be made with respect to national action plans and baseline assessments. In The Bahamas, support

<sup>3</sup> See [www.unlirec.org/en/publicacion/caribbean-firearms-roadmap](http://www.unlirec.org/en/publicacion/caribbean-firearms-roadmap).

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> See [www.unlirec.org/wp-content/uploads/CFRM-M&E-Reporting-Guidance-14ENE.pdf](http://www.unlirec.org/wp-content/uploads/CFRM-M&E-Reporting-Guidance-14ENE.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> The mechanism includes three components: (a) partner coordination meetings; (b) a partner reporting platform; and (c) a catalogue of assistance. Members of the partner coordination mechanism include the Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (co-custodian), the Regional Centre (co-custodian), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Criminal Police Organization, the World Customs Organization, the Organization of American States, the Mines Advisory Group and the Small Arms Survey.

<sup>7</sup> See [https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLY6E1KbJn6n\\_0X74A2fCC7pyGn8NV\\_p97&si=LQPwThe2cyKfqVqX](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLY6E1KbJn6n_0X74A2fCC7pyGn8NV_p97&si=LQPwThe2cyKfqVqX).

provided in September 2024 led to the adoption of a national action plan in January 2025 and the completion of most of the baseline assessment.

26. To advance goals 2 and 3, the Regional Centre launched a 12–18-month capacity-building programme to train 11 participants (2 women) from Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago as firearms examiners. The programme equips participants with foundational knowledge and practical skills in forensic ballistics, addressing a critical gap in States with few or no certified examiners to support criminal investigations.

27. The capacity-building programme consists of several components, including assessments of laboratory facilities and infrastructure, quality management systems and standard operating procedures for firearms examination in each participating country, as well as baseline assessments of participants to determine their initial knowledge levels. During the reporting period, needs assessments were conducted in Antigua and Barbuda, while those for Saint Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago were completed in previous years. Launched in October 2024, the training format is a mix of online sessions, self-paced modules and in-person instruction, covering such topics as firearm and toolmark identification, the history and functioning of firearms and ammunition, bullet and cartridge case comparison, microscopy, case examination and report writing. While the programme builds core competencies, certification of the firearms examiners remains the responsibility of each State.

28. As part of its regional webinar series on emerging challenges in forensic firearms investigations, the Regional Centre hosted a session on the theme “Ghost guns: self-fabricated and privately manufactured firearms”, involving 92 officials from the Caribbean (19 women). The session served to enhance understanding of untraceable firearms, covering investigative techniques, crime scene management and legal considerations. The webinar series supports the Caribbean Firearms Road Map by strengthening national capacities to address evolving firearms-related threats and will continue in the coming months.

29. The Regional Centre also advanced efforts to combat illicit arms trafficking in the Caribbean by providing targeted capacity-building. In Suriname, 21 officials (5 women) from the police, army and airport authority were provided training in identifying and detecting small arms, ammunition, parts and components. Courses delivered in Antigua and Barbuda, the Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago reached 108 officials (29 women), covering global and regional arms trafficking trends, illicit arms manufacturing and systems for controlling and documenting international transfers of firearms and ammunition.

30. To support goal 4 of the Road Map, the Regional Centre delivered two workshops on physical security and stockpile management in Antigua and Barbuda and Grenada in 2025. The workshops served to build national capacities for the prevention of the diversion of weapons and ammunition, combining presentations and practical exercises on international guidelines, marking, record-keeping and stockpile security.

31. In September 2024, the Regional Centre donated a laser marking machine to the Armed Forces of the Dominican Republic and provided training on its use to 10 personnel (2 women), in line with international standards. During a practical exercise, an erased serial number was successfully restored. Proper firearms marking enhances tracing and physical security and stockpile management, which are key to preventing

illicit trafficking and diversion, in line with international commitments and target 16.4 and indicator 16.4.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>8</sup>

32. In partnership with the Jamaica Defence Force, the Regional Centre conducted a practical training on safe ammunition destruction in September 2024. It featured a practical demonstration using a light ammunition burning tank donated by the Centre and included the destruction of 3,000 rounds of ammunition. A total of 16 national officials (3 women) participated in the training, which also covered relevant guidance of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines. The training served to strengthen the country's capacity for the safe and secure management of ammunition stockpiles, and the need for regular destruction exercises in reducing armed violence was underscored.

33. In June 2025, the Regional Centre, the Implementation Agency for Crime and Security and the Mines Advisory Group launched a regional policy framework on the disposal of firearm and ammunition remnants. In the framework, environmentally sound, cost-effective disposal practices are promoted, and regional cooperation to address technical and infrastructure gaps is encouraged.<sup>9</sup> The framework fills a critical gap in the life-cycle management of weapons and ammunition in the region, offering guidance aligned with international and environmental guidelines. Reclassifying remnants as "waste", thereby enabling their final disposal, is proposed in the framework as a long-term solution.

#### *Road Map for Central America and the Dominican Republic*

34. In February 2025, Belize, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama formally adopted the Central America and Dominican Republic Road Map for Preventing the Illicit Trafficking and Proliferation of Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives.<sup>10</sup> This milestone reflects a shared commitment to regional security and cooperation. The Road Map, which has a 10-year time frame, is structured around four strategic pillars: (a) reinforcement of regulatory frameworks and inter-agency coordination; (b) prevention of violence with firearms and firearms misuse; (c) life-cycle management of weapons, ammunition and explosives; and (d) investigation and criminal prosecution of trafficking, manufacture, possession and illicit use of firearms, ammunition and explosives. The launch event was attended by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu, who commended the adoption of the Road Map as a milestone that demonstrated strong political will and regional ownership and emphasized the link between arms control, sustainable development and human security.<sup>11</sup>

35. The Road Map was developed through an inclusive consultative process led by the Regional Centre and OAS, with technical support from the Central American Integration System and funding from the European Union. National and regional consultations were held in 2023 and 2024. A key milestone was the meeting of focal points held in Guatemala in September 2024, at which consensus was built and a near-final draft was validated.

36. Following the adoption of the Road Map, the Regional Centre and OAS supported the Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Honduras in organizing

<sup>8</sup> Target 16.4: By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime. Indicator 16.4.2: Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments.

<sup>9</sup> See [www.unirec.org/en/eventos/policy\\_framework\\_document](https://www.unirec.org/en/eventos/policy_framework_document).

<sup>10</sup> See [www.unirec.org/en/publicacion/central-america-and-dominican-republic-firearms-roadmap](https://www.unirec.org/en/publicacion/central-america-and-dominican-republic-firearms-roadmap).

<sup>11</sup> See <https://front.un-arm.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/HR-Opening-remarks-Adoption-Session-Central-America-to-Prevent-Firearms-Proliferation.pdf>.

awareness-raising meetings to promote national ownership and launch discussions on inter-institutional mechanisms for developing national action plans. Additional meetings are planned with other States.

37. In April 2025, a strategic retreat brought together the road map teams of the Regional Centre and OAS. Agreements were reached on a joint coordination unit and a shared workplan, and discussions were advanced on a monitoring and evaluation framework, partner engagement mechanism and communication and resource mobilization strategy, with a view to ensuring that the Road Map is translated into coordinated, measurable action at the national and regional levels.

#### *Process for a road map for Andean States*

38. At the request of Member States, the Regional Centre started preliminary discussions with the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, alongside the Andean Community General Secretariat and OAS, on developing a subregional road map for Andean States. These talks explored how a potential road map initiative could become a vehicle to operationalize the Resolute Action Plan of the Andean Community on Transnational Organized Crime<sup>12</sup> and the Andean Plan to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.<sup>13</sup> The next step is for participating States to issue a formal mandate through a process led by OAS.

## **2. National initiatives**

39. In response to the ongoing crisis in Haiti, the Regional Centre continued to support the country's efforts to combat firearms trafficking and improve weapons and ammunition management. With support from the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti, the Centre conducted a virtual assessment of a police deposit of seized firearms. It also assisted with the drafting of standard operating procedures for physical security and stockpile management. Equipment and training needs were identified through technical assessments of two police workspaces for firearms repair and maintenance. To strengthen border security, the Centre assessed the airports in Port-au-Prince and Cap-Haïtien in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and launched the procurement of X-ray scanners for the detection of illicit firearms and ammunition. In response to reports of sexual and gender-based violence, the Centre and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research co-hosted a virtual dialogue on integrating arms control measures into responses against sexual and gender-based violence. The Centre continued to support the national disarmament and reintegration task force, including through a session on arms control facilitated by the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti.

#### *Saving Lives Entity fund projects*

40. The Saving Lives Entity fund<sup>14</sup> has emerged as a key mechanism for enabling comprehensive and coordinated United Nations responses to armed violence in Latin America and the Caribbean. By promoting integrated programming, the fund has helped the Regional Centre to tailor support to national contexts and priorities, while enabling longer-term and sustained assistance and enhancing the delivery of targeted, high-impact support.

41. As part of the second phase of the Saving Lives Entity fund initiative in Jamaica, the Regional Centre partnered with the Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information to implement a youth-focused, policy-driven initiative to prevent

<sup>12</sup> Decision 922 (2024) of the Andean Community, annex.

<sup>13</sup> Decision 552 (2003) of the Andean Community.

<sup>14</sup> See <https://disarmament.unoda.org/salient>.



firearms in schools. To guide implementation, a technical working group was established, comprising representatives from the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of National Security, local authorities, educators, civil society organizations and United Nations entities.

42. In September 2024, the Regional Centre and the Ministry of Education launched an island-wide competition entitled “Music and visual art for change” to promote non-violence and positive social norms among young people.<sup>15</sup> Students aged 12 to 19 submitted music, visual art or spoken word pieces envisioning alternatives to violence in schools. Ten finalists presented their work at a public exhibition and award ceremony in Kingston in November 2024, where six winners were recognized. The competition included a communications strategy promoting values such as respect and community resilience, along with outreach visits to the winners’ schools.

43. At the policy level, the Regional Centre engaged a technical consultant to lead a national consultation process for developing a protocol on coordinated responses to firearms in schools. A total of 99 individuals (61 women) contributed through bilateral meetings and focus groups. The draft protocol was presented at a national stakeholders’ forum in March 2025, where 36 key representatives provided feedback to align it with national priorities and institutional capacities.

44. After the Saving Lives Entity fund initiative in Jamaica concluded in March 2025, the Regional Centre continued to support the advancement of the draft protocol with funding from Canada. An additional 34 individuals (25 women) were consulted to refine the draft. Senior officials at the Ministry of Education are expected to review the revised protocol in mid-2025, and its formal adoption is anticipated afterwards. The Planning Institute of Jamaica will oversee implementation, further reinforcing national ownership and sustainability.

45. Under the Saving Lives Entity fund initiative in Honduras, the Regional Centre implemented 16 activities between September 2024 and June 2025 to address the multifaceted drivers and impacts of armed violence. Efforts were focused on judicial depot improvements, firearms in schools, national firearms legislation and gender mainstreaming and included an awareness-raising meeting on the Central America and Dominican Republic Road Map. Through targeted training, technical assistance and multi-stakeholder consultations, the Centre worked closely with national counterparts and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Honduras to strengthen institutional capacities and promote inclusive, sustainable violence prevention strategies.

46. To improve the security and management of firearms and ammunition held as evidence in Honduras, the Regional Centre delivered two workshops on physical security and stockpile management for 88 prosecutors and officers (28 women) of the Ministry of National Defence and developed technical guidelines on evidence management during the chain of custody. The Centre also assessed six evidence storage facilities, consolidating its findings into a report with concrete recommendations. This assistance was further supported by the donation of 93 shelving units, enhancing sustainability and strengthening national capacities. As a result, authorities have begun clearing deposits of materials that are no longer legally relevant. Authorities also intend to develop an institutional strategy to ensure the long-term sustainability of these efforts. While in the early stages, this signals promising institutional engagement.

47. Through capacity-building and government engagement, the Regional Centre also supported efforts to prevent firearms in schools in Honduras. At a national

<sup>15</sup> See [www.unlirec.org/en/publicacion/music-art](http://www.unlirec.org/en/publicacion/music-art).

webinar that reached over 900 participants (70 per cent women), the relevance of the issue for the school community and national authorities was underscored. The webinar was followed by a two-day seminar in November 2024 with 60 stakeholders, including educators, school counsellors, community police officers and civil society. The Centre presented its guidelines for the development of protocols to tackle the presence and use of firearms in schools<sup>16</sup> and supported the establishment and efforts of a technical working group seeking to develop such a protocol. The Saving Lives Entity fund initiative in Honduras concluded in June 2025; the Centre will continue supporting the development of a protocol, which is expected to be finalized later in 2025, with funding from Canada.

48. To support the implementation of the national firearms legislation in Honduras, the Regional Centre delivered three webinars: a legal workshop on international transfer controls, a technical workshop on illicit firearms manufacturing and a workshop on physical security and stockpile management. The 144 participants (33 women) were provided with essential legal, technical and operational guidance to align national regulations with international standards.

49. As part of its gender mainstreaming efforts, the Regional Centre trained over 120 prosecutors, judges and police officers in Honduras on integrating gender perspectives into firearms-related investigations and judicial processes. The training combined legal and technical content with practical exercises and was complemented by a national webinar on preventing armed violence against women.

#### *Flagship courses*

50. In response to evolving challenges related to arms trafficking, the Regional Centre continued to deliver specialized training to support States in combating the illicit trade in firearms and ammunition. In the Caribbean, these flagship courses supported the Caribbean Firearms Road Map.

51. Since its launch in 2022, the flagship course on combating arms and ammunition trafficking has become a key initiative for strengthening national capacities across Latin America and the Caribbean. The course is aligned with international instruments and serves to equip authorities with technical knowledge and practical tools to prevent and address illicit arms flows. During the reporting period, the course reached 249 participants (64 women) from Antigua and Barbuda, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago. In Peru, sessions were held in Trujillo and Iquitos, extending the course's reach to both coastal and Amazonian regions.

52. A standout module on illicit manufacturing explores emerging threats, such as three-dimensional printing, computerized numerical control machining and reverse engineering, technologies increasingly used by criminal networks to produce untraceable weapons. This module consistently draws strong interest, underscoring the need for updated knowledge and adaptive strategies. The Regional Centre remains committed to building regional technical expertise on this issue, including in support of the open-ended technical expert group under the Programme of Action on Small Arms.

53. In December 2024, the Regional Centre delivered a tailored course for 22 representatives (3 women) from the weapons and ammunition factory of the Peruvian Army, focusing on physical security and stockpile management, and illicit firearms and ammunition manufacturing.

<sup>16</sup> See [www.unlirec.org/wp-content/uploads/Guidelines-for-development-protocols-FiS-baja.pdf](http://www.unlirec.org/wp-content/uploads/Guidelines-for-development-protocols-FiS-baja.pdf).

54. In September 2024, the Regional Centre held its first course on interdicting small arms, ammunition, parts and components in Suriname, providing training to 21 officials (5 women) from police, armed forces and airport authorities in the subregion. The course combined theory and hands-on exercises, including topics such as concealment methods, trafficking routes and national case discussions, as well as training on an X-ray identification software. Its impact was evident in May 2025, when customs officials from Dominica, who had received training from the Centre in 2023 and 2024, intercepted 21 pistols and 2 rifles concealed in a water heater exported from the United States.

55. The Regional Centre expanded its efforts to support States in integrating gender perspectives into arms control through specialized training across Latin America and the Caribbean. Prosecutors were a key focus group, with targeted courses delivered in Colombia, Honduras and Peru reaching 106 participants (71 women). More than 40 judges received dedicated training in Colombia and Honduras, in which the importance of gender sensitivity in evidence evaluation and sentencing was emphasized. Also in Honduras, 47 investigators and law enforcement personnel (29 women) participated in a specialized course on incorporating gender considerations into firearms investigations. At the policy level, the Centre hosted generalist courses on gender mainstreaming in Costa Rica and Guatemala, bringing together 82 participants (57 women) to foster inter-institutional coordination and align arms control and gender equality frameworks. In May 2025, the Centre hosted a national seminar in Peru on preventing armed violence against women. The event gathered 31 officials (24 women) from key government sectors and identified opportunities to integrate firearms-related considerations into national tools.

## D. Strengthening partnerships for disarmament

56. The Regional Centre advanced the implementation of the Office for Disarmament Affairs strategic plan for 2021–2025, in which emphasis is placed on strategic partnerships and collaboration, by strengthening cooperation with Member States, regional and subregional organizations, civil society and other stakeholders to support the implementation of disarmament commitments.

57. In line with General Assembly resolution [74/64](#) on youth, disarmament and non-proliferation, the Regional Centre deepened its engagement with young people and civil society. The Centre supported the Youth for Disarmament initiative,<sup>17</sup> established by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and funded by Germany, by mentoring five young people (four women) from the Americas in developing personal disarmament projects. Projects included planting a *hibakujumoku* tree at United Nations Headquarters, hosting a seminar on armed violence and gender in Peru and conducting youth trainings in Mexico using art to promote peace. The Centre also supported the Youth for Disarmament Regional Youth Forum, which fostered dialogue across regions and identified youth-led disarmament priorities, and a study visit by the Youth Champions for Disarmament to New York, which included a youth-led side event on the margins of the meetings of the First Committee.

58. With funding from the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation, the Regional Centre launched the first edition of “GenerAcción paz”,<sup>18</sup> the first Spanish-language youth programme in Latin America focused on building a region free of armed violence. From August to November 2024, 10 youth leaders from nine countries explored the impact of armed violence and the link

<sup>17</sup> See <https://youth4disarmament.org/>.

<sup>18</sup> See [www.unlirec.org/publicacion/generaccion-paz/](http://www.unlirec.org/publicacion/generaccion-paz/).

between disarmament and the Sustainable Development Goals. In partnership with the UNDP Peru accelerator lab, the Centre delivered workshops on project design and presentation. In December 2024, participants presented their project ideas and engaged with United Nations officials and local stakeholders during a visit to Lima. From January to March 2025, they received tailored mentorship and implemented their projects using art, sport, media analysis and school engagement. The programme concluded with a virtual event showcasing the results. The associated media strategy, including participant blogs, amplified youth voices and visibility.

59. In November 2024, the Regional Centre launched an 11-episode podcast as part of its long-standing “Women, forces of change” campaign, amplifying voices of women leaders in disarmament across Latin America and the Caribbean.<sup>19</sup> The podcast featured scientists, civil society leaders and diplomats sharing their personal journeys in this male-dominated field. A special episode included a high-level conversation reflecting on General Assembly resolution 65/69 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. The podcast was hosted on multiple platforms and promoted through various social media channels, and over 300 plays were recorded. A second season is planned for 2025.

60. In line with the strategic plan, the Regional Centre prioritized collaboration with regional and subregional organizations to advance disarmament and arms control. It worked closely with the Implementation Agency for Crime and Security on the Caribbean Firearms Road Map, and with OAS and the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System on the Central America and Dominican Republic Firearms Road Map. Initial discussions were also held with the Andean Community General Secretariat on a potential Andean road map. These partnerships enable regionally tailored responses and support the implementation of international and regional commitments through joint strategies and programming.

61. The Regional Centre deepened collaboration with other United Nations entities across Latin America and the Caribbean to integrate disarmament into broader United Nations strategies. Engagement with United Nations country teams was carried out under the Caribbean Road Map and the Central America and Dominican Republic Road Map initiatives. Collaboration with the UNDP Peru accelerator lab enriched youth programming. A key milestone was the launch of the “Disarmament and development” training for resident coordinators and United Nations country teams, developed jointly by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and its Regional Centres. The course promotes an understanding of the links between arms control, sustainable development and human security and supports integration of arms control and disarmament into United Nations planning tools such as the common country analysis and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. The Centre also contributed to inter-agency platforms and thematic groups, reinforcing the role of disarmament in the United Nations integrated peace, security and development agenda.

62. Partnerships have been a cornerstone of the Road Map initiatives, extending well beyond the United Nations system and regional organizations. In the Caribbean, implementation has been supported by a wide range of partners, including the Implementation Agency for Crime and Security, UNDP and UNODC, as well as the International Criminal Police Organization, the Mines Advisory Group, OAS, the Small Arms Survey and the World Customs Organization. This diverse coalition has enabled a comprehensive and coordinated approach to addressing small arms control and related security challenges. The development of the Central America and Dominican Republic Road Map was informed by a broad consultation process

<sup>19</sup> See [www.unlirec.org/en/publicacion/women-forces-of-change-the-podcast](http://www.unlirec.org/en/publicacion/women-forces-of-change-the-podcast).

involving international organizations and civil society. The adoption event featured high-level dialogue with international financial institutions, reinforcing the importance of aligning arms control efforts with broader development goals. Following the adoption of the Road Map, an awareness-raising phase was launched to inform and promote engagement among key stakeholders. In addition, partnerships with the private security sector have been explored, such as through an event on private security and arms control led by OAS in March 2025.

63. In its capacity-building initiatives, the Regional Centre continues to draw on the expertise of key partners, including the International Criminal Police Organization, the Central American Integration System and, more recently, UNODC. Their contributions have significantly strengthened the relevance and impact of the Centre's training activities, enabling the Centre to equip national authorities with the tools and knowledge needed to address arms control challenges more effectively.

64. Civil society organizations and research institutions continued to play a vital role in advancing the region's disarmament and arms control agenda. They contributed to national and regional initiatives carried out by the Regional Centre, including activities related to the Road Maps, the development of protocols to prevent firearms in schools, and gender-related programming. These partnerships amplified community voices and supported more inclusive policymaking and implementation.

## **E. Future activities**

65. The Regional Centre will continue to respond to the evolving disarmament and arms control needs of Latin American and Caribbean States. Building on the momentum of current initiatives, the Centre will prioritize support for regional and subregional road maps, deepen youth and gender engagement and expand technical cooperation in emerging areas, such as ammunition management and biological weapons non-proliferation. All planned activities will be implemented in close coordination with national authorities, mandated institutions and partners, and remain subject to the availability of funding.

66. The Office for Disarmament Affairs will operationalize the newly established Fellowship Training Programme on Small Arms and Light Weapons, with the first regional edition for Caribbean States scheduled for mid-2025. Implemented in collaboration with the Regional Centre, the programme will serve to enhance the technical and policy expertise of 15 mid-level government officials. It will combine an online preparatory course with a three-week in-person training in Trinidad and Tobago. An edition for Latin American States is planned for 2026.

67. With respect to support for regional and subregional road maps, preparations are under way for the midterm review of the Caribbean Firearms Road Map, with findings to be presented at the annual meeting of States in late 2025. In Central America and the Dominican Republic, efforts will be focused on operationalizing the newly adopted Road Map through the development of national action plans and coordination mechanisms. Further steps will be taken towards establishing a dedicated Andean road map, based on consultations with Member States and regional partners.

68. The Regional Centre will continue to provide targeted support to Haiti in response to ongoing security challenges. Planned activities include the donation of storage equipment and tools for the repair and maintenance of firearms to the National Police. The Centre will also finalize and promote standard operating procedures for physical security and stockpile management and deliver training courses on this issue. A course on combating illicit arms trafficking will also be offered to national stakeholders. In partnership with UNODC, the Centre will organize a regional

training to enhance cross-border cooperation against firearms trafficking. As part of broader efforts to strengthen detection capabilities, the Centre will finalize the donation of X-ray scanners to the two main airports in Haiti and provide specialized training on identifying illicit arms, ammunition and explosives.

69. Recognizing young people as key agents of change, the Regional Centre will seek to expand the “GenerAcción paz” initiative to support youth-led advocacy and community impact. The upcoming global conference on youth and peace and security in Colombia presents an opportunity to integrate disarmament into the broader youth and peace and security agenda. The Centre also plans to launch a regional component of the Youth Leader Fund for a World without Nuclear Weapons in 2026, in connection with the sixtieth anniversary of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean in early 2027.

70. To mark the fifteenth anniversary of General Assembly resolution [65/69](#) on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, the Regional Centre will host a regional symposium in late 2025. The event will provide a platform for dialogue among policymakers, civil society and international experts to reflect on progress and explore strategies to advance gender equality. A second season of the “Women, forces of change” podcast will accompany the symposium.

71. Alongside its long-standing programmatic priorities, the Regional Centre will explore new areas of work aligned with the international disarmament agenda. This will include support for implementing the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management and for the open-ended technical expert group under the Programme of Action on Small Arms. In addition, the Centre will seek to enhance technical cooperation with States in the region to strengthen national implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention and the operational capabilities of the Secretary-General’s Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons, in close collaboration with the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit and the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

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

### **A. Financing**

72. 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 2024, the Centre’s trust fund received voluntary contributions in the amount of \$4,966,087.

73. The Secretary-General expresses his appreciation to the Government of Peru for the long-standing financial 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 Governments of Canada, Germany and the United States, which enabled the Centre to implement activities during the reporting period. Contributions from the European Union, provided through the Conventional Arms, including Practical Disarmament Measures, Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, enabled the Centre to continue to assist Member States in the region and to support the development of the Central America and Dominican Republic Firearms Road Map throughout the reporting period.

74. The Secretary-General also expresses his appreciation to the Governments of Mexico, Panama and Peru for their financial contributions. He continues to strongly

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.

75. Through the Saving Lives Entity fund, a joint initiative of the Office for Disarmament Affairs and UNDP, the Regional Centre received funds for activities in Honduras and Jamaica. Building on the success of the first phase of the initiative, a second phase has been established, with the aim of deepening this collaborative model and expanding its reach. Continued support for this next phase will be essential to sustain momentum and scale up efforts to address the root causes and consequences of armed violence in a holistic manner.

76. The broader financial constraints facing the United Nations, including the ongoing liquidity crisis, continue to affect the Organization's ability to operate at full capacity. These constraints may have an impact on the Regional Centre, potentially limiting its ability to fully implement its mandate, including through the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building support. This underscores the critical importance of voluntary contributions to sustain and strengthen the Centre's work.

77. 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.

78. A financial statement on the status of the Regional Centre's trust fund for 2024 is provided in the annex to the present report.

## **B. Staffing and administration**

79. 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). In addition, a National Professional Officer position (level C) has been approved and budgeted for under the Fellowship Training Programme on Small Arms and Light Weapons. While the recruitment for the position has been finalized, the selection is currently on hold due to the Organization's liquidity crisis. Project personnel are funded through voluntary contributions. The Secretary-General also encourages Member States to support the Regional Centre by providing it with gratis staff.

## **V. Conclusion**

80. In line with its mandate, the Regional Centre will continue to provide substantive support for the implementation of regional, subregional and national initiatives for peace and disarmament and for the promotion of economic and social development, including the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Agenda for Peace and the outcomes of the Summit of the Future. 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, arms control and non-proliferation instruments.

81. Between July 2024 and June 2025, the Regional Centre conducted 97 substantive activities, reaching 2,700 stakeholders in States in the region, in support of the implementation of various disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation instruments and associated General Assembly resolutions. These efforts were grounded in regional ownership and carried out in close partnership with national

authorities, regional organizations, civil society and the broader United Nations system.

82. Looking ahead and considering the priorities of Member States in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Centre remains committed to delivering impactful programming, including through its flagship initiatives, such as the Caribbean Firearms Road Map and the Central America and Dominican Republic Firearms Road Map, as well as through its pioneering work on gender-responsive disarmament and youth engagement. Sustaining and scaling up these efforts, however, will require predictable and diversified funding.

83. 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 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 fulfil commitments agreed upon in the New Agenda for Peace and the 2030 Agenda.



## Annex

## Status of the trust fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean for 2024

(United States dollars)

<b>Accumulated surplus, 1 January 2024</b>	<b>3 609 258</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	
Voluntary contributions <sup>a</sup>	4 966 087
Other transfers and allocations	257 975
Other revenue	—
Investment revenue	273 295
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>5 497 357</b>
<b>Less: Expenses and refunds</b>	
Operating expenses	1 531 865
Refunds <sup>b</sup>	5 449
<b>Total expenses and refunds</b>	<b>1 537 314</b>
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	3 960 043
Fair value gain/(loss) on revaluation of investments recognized directly in net assets	3 078
<b>Accumulated surplus/(deficit) as at 31 December 2024</b>	<b>7 572 379</b>

<sup>a</sup> Includes voluntary monetary contributions from Canada (\$4,943,419), Mexico (\$5,000), Panama (\$4,000) and Peru (\$30,200) and an adjustment in line with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (-\$16,532).

<sup>b</sup> Consists of a refund to Germany.