

COMMUNIQUE

FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF STATES OF THE CARIBBEAN FIREARMS ROADMAP

Port-of- Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

12 November 2025

On the occasion of the fifth anniversary of *the Caribbean Firearms Roadmap 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 Roadmap](#)), States, regional organisations and international partners convened in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from **11 to 12 November 2025**, for the Fifth Annual Meeting of States.

Marking five years of sustained regional cooperation, strategic partnerships and national efforts to reduce the illicit proliferation of firearms and ammunition and to strengthen citizen security across the Caribbean, participants reviewed progress, considered the strategic findings of the Mid-Term Review, and reaffirmed their commitment to the Roadmap's objectives.

Participants recognised the leadership and coordination roles of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) as co-custodians of the Roadmap, and acknowledged the contributions of partners whose support has enabled various levels of progress by participating States.

On **11 November**, a working-level session brought together national focal points and monitoring and evaluation experts to review operational findings of the Mid-Term Review and to identify priorities to accelerate implementation. Particular emphasis was placed on the execution of National Action Plans (NAPs), national ownership, strategic partnerships, sustainability, and improved monitoring and reporting mechanisms.

On **12 November**, Ministers and high-level representatives deliberated on the Mid-Term Review's strategic findings, shared national updates, outlined priorities for the next phase, and examined ways to integrate firearms control into broader violence-prevention and security agendas. The meeting concluded with the adoption of this Communiqué.

Port of Spain Declaration on the Fifth Anniversary of the Caribbean Firearms Roadmap

Adopted at the Fifth Annual Meeting of States, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 12 November 2025

We, the representatives of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Member States and the Dominican Republic, meeting in Trinidad and Tobago from 11 to 12 November 2025, on the occasion of the Fifth Annual Meeting of States,

Recalling the formal adoption in October 2020 of the Caribbean Firearms Roadmap as a regional framework to implement the 30 Priority Actions to prevent and combat the illicit proliferation of firearms and ammunition across the Caribbean in a sustainable manner by 2030,

Taking into account the Montego Bay Declaration issued by the CARICOM Heads of Government during the 49th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM, held from 6 to 8 July 2025, which expresses deep concern and alarm over the surge in gun crime and violence across the Caribbean Region, driven, among other factors, by the proliferation of illegal firearms, and which poses a serious threat to the Region, its institutions of governance, and the fabric of its societies,

Recalling also the *Declaration by Heads of Government on Crime and Violence as a Public Health Issue* adopted at Port of Spain (17–18 April 2023), which acknowledges crime and violence as an epidemic imposing heavy social, economic and health burdens on Caribbean societies, and calls for a whole-of-government, whole-of-society response,

Further recalling the *George-Bridge Declaration* of the Second Regional Symposium on Violence as a Public Health Issue (Georgetown, 22–23 November 2024), which sets out the core elements of a public-health approach, including surveillance, risk and protective-factor identification, evidence-based interventions, and continuous monitoring and evaluation,

Expressing solidarity with the people of Haiti in the face of the grave security and humanitarian crisis, that requires coordinated Caribbean and international responses,

Recognising that illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons into and within the Caribbean, including to Haiti, undermines regional security and requires enhanced cooperation consistent with international law,

Recognising that this persistent trend underscores the continued relevance and urgency of the Caribbean Firearms Roadmap as a strategic framework for coordinated action to prevent and combat the illicit proliferation of firearms and ammunition, and to strengthen citizen security across the Region. Also **recognising** the critical interlinkages between drug trafficking, money laundering, human trafficking, illegal firearms trafficking and the use of firearms, and other forms of transnational organised crime.

Celebrating that the year 2025 marks the Roadmap's fifth anniversary and the completion of its Mid-Term Review, which provides an opportunity to reflect on progress, address remaining challenges and renew collective commitment,

Acknowledging the significant strides made by participating States over the past five years, including the development and implementation of NAPs; the strengthening of legislative and

institutional frameworks; the enhancement of operational capacities; and the deepening of regional cooperation,

Appreciating the sustained support provided by regional and international partners, including donors, that have enabled meaningful progress under the Caribbean Firearms Roadmap,

Noting that, despite these achievements, persistent gaps remain in the implementation of the Caribbean Firearms Roadmap, and that determined, coordinated efforts by States and partners over the next five years are required to close these gaps and fully realise the Roadmap's vision by 2030,

Welcoming the completion of the Mid-Term Review of the Caribbean Firearms Roadmap, which provides a comprehensive assessment of progress achieved, challenges encountered and opportunities for enhanced implementation, and **endorsing** its findings and recommendations as a strategic basis for guiding the next phase of the Roadmap's implementation,

Mindful of relevant international and regional commitments, including the UN Programme of Action (PoA); the International Tracing Instrument (ITI); the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management; the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT); the UN Firearms Protocol; the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials (CIFTA); the CARICOM Crime and Security Strategy; and the CARICOM Declaration on Small Arms and Light Weapons, which together align with and support shared global goals, and consistent with applicable international obligations and national legal frameworks,

We therefore:

1. **Agree** to elevate political commitment and national ownership by mainstreaming the Roadmap's objectives within national and regional strategic frameworks, including national security strategies; the forthcoming updated CARICOM Security Strategy; national development plans and budget cycles; and, as appropriate, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs).
2. **Commit** to reinforce the implementation of the Caribbean Firearms Roadmap through the adoption, operationalisation and timely reporting of NAPs, including concrete annual deliverables, assigned responsibilities, indicative budgets, and clearly identified assistance needs.
3. **Emphasise** evidence-based decision-making underpinned by comprehensive, quality data collection and reporting required under the Roadmap; and **request** the co-custodians (CARICOM IMPACS and UNLIREC), in consultation with States, to develop a refined and streamlined monitoring and evaluation framework, including indicators and reporting modalities respectful of privacy and data-protection principles, for consideration in 2026;
4. **Resolve** to continue strengthening regional cooperation and collective responses to transnational threats under the Caribbean Firearms Roadmap, recognising the inherently

transnational nature of firearms proliferation. Thus, we commit to continue enhancing information exchange, bilateral and multinational collaboration and experience-sharing among States within the Region and beyond to improve coordination and collective responses.

5. **Recognise** that effective arms control is integral to a holistic, preventive approach to reducing firearms-related violence; and **request** the co-custodians to prepare, through an inclusive process engaging national authorities, implementing partners, civil society, youth groups, academia and the private sector, and other stakeholders, a proposal to integrate prevention-focused components into the Roadmap for consideration at the Sixth Annual Meeting of States in 2026.
6. **Commend** the contributions of the co-custodians, implementing partners and donors for their continued financial, technical and political support, and **invite** them to sustain and deepen **predictable, multi-year** engagement, **in coordination with the co-custodians**, in support of State-led priorities, including capacity-building and technical cooperation upon request.
7. **Decide** to convene, where feasible, regular national-level coordination meetings with the co-custodians, implementing partners and donors to align efforts and enhance in-country collaboration; and **encourage** increased awareness and use of coordination tools, including the Catalogue of Assistance and the Partner Platform, to strengthen coherence, transparency and impact.
8. **Commit** to inclusive and participatory implementation by engaging a broad range of actors—including civil society, community-based organisations, women and youth, in national and regional processes; and **request** the co-custodians to facilitate platforms for dialogue and shared ownership that enhance transparency and collective impact.
9. **Request** the co-custodians to lead the development of a comprehensive sustainability strategy for the Roadmap, with measures to secure funding commitments for the remaining implementation period and to progressively transfer responsibilities to national institutions, ensuring that gains are embedded and sustained beyond 2030.
10. **Affirm** the public-health approach endorsed by CARICOM Heads of Government and decide to mainstream it across Roadmap implementation by establishing or strengthening national violence-prevention and injury-surveillance systems; mapping risk and protective factors; and scaling evidence-based primary, secondary and tertiary crime prevention.
11. **Express** our appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and to CARICOM IMPACS and UNLIREC, for their hospitality and the organisation of the Fifth Annual Meeting of States; and invite offers to host future Annual Meetings of States.