



OAS | PACAM



Central America and Dominican Republic Roadmap to Prevent Illicit Proliferation and Trafficking of Firearms and Ammunition

CONCEPT NOTE

Adoption Session

February 12, 2025 – Washington DC

Hall of the Americas

OEA Headquarters, 17th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW



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Context

The proliferation and illicit trafficking of firearms and ammunition constitute one of the main obstacles to peace, security and development in Central America and the Dominican Republic. Aware of the impacts and challenges posed by these scourges, the OAS member states, through the General Assembly Resolution of October 6, 2022, agreed to promote the development of a Roadmap for Central America, based on the experience of the Roadmaps of the Western Balkans and the Caribbean¹.

Likewise, the OAS General Assembly Resolution, approved on June 23, 2023, determined that the Roadmap should have a follow-up mechanism to monitor progress and promote effective coordination between governments, implementing partners and donors.

Based on these mandates, between 2023 and 2024, with the participation of the Central American States and the Dominican Republic, a participatory consultation process was carried out at the national and sub-regional levels for the preparation of a Roadmap. On February 12, the States of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and the Dominican Republic will formally adopt the document at a high-level meeting at OAS headquarters in Washington, DC.

The scope of the Roadmap

This Roadmap, supported by the OAS, UNLIREC and SICA, represents a historic milestone in the security agenda in Central America and the Dominican Republic. It reflects the commitment and political will of these States to advance comprehensive and sustainable solutions to address these phenomena through four strategic pillars:

Pillar 1: Reinforce regulatory frameworks and inter-agency coordination

Pillar 2: Prevention of violence with firearms and firearms misuse

Pillar 3: Life-cycle management of weapons, ammunition, and explosives

Pillar 4: Investigation and criminal prosecution of trafficking, manufacture, possession and illicit use of firearms, ammunition, and explosives

¹ 50. To request that the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SSM), through the Department of Public Security (DSP), and in coordination with SICA and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC), develop a proposal for a Central American Road Map to Prevent the Illicit Trafficking and Proliferation of Arms and Ammunition, and to encourage Central American countries to actively participate in this process, considering the framework of the Central American Security Strategy (ESCA), and the lessons learned from successful experiences in other subregions, such as the CARICOM and the Dominican Republic road map." (AG/RES. 2986 – LII-O/22).





The implementation period of this initiative is 10 years (2025-2035), during which time national and subregional policies, plans and strategies will be promoted based on effective interinstitutional cooperation and coordination to achieve the objectives and priority actions established in each pillar. Its comprehensive and multidimensional approach will also strengthen synergies with broader security and development policies.

The Roadmap will also have a monitoring and evaluation mechanism to measure progress in implementation and promote effective coordination between governments, cooperation agencies, implementing partners and donors.

Organization of the event

❖ Adoption ceremony (morning)

The adoption ceremony will take place in person, with interpretation in English and Spanish and will include:

- Opening remarks by the organizations that are custodians of the initiative.
- Ministerial statements.
- Signing of the adoption act and commitment.
- Space for interaction with the media.

The objectives of the ceremony are:

- Celebrate the political adoption of the Roadmap by the seven participating States.
- To highlight the commitment and ownership of the States with the official adoption of this initiative.
- To establish the implementation process of the Roadmap.
- Give visibility and socialize the Roadmap with the international community.

The event is aimed at:

- Ministers and representatives of the governments of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and Dominican Republic.
- Representatives of OAS member states and observers.
- Representatives of development banks.
- Representatives of international and regional organizations.
- International community, including donor and implementing partners.





❖ High-Level Dialogue on the relevance of the Roadmap for security and sustainable development in Central America and the Dominican Republic (afternoon)

In the context of the political adoption of this Roadmap, a High-Level Dialogue on the relevance of the Roadmap for the security and sustainable development of Central America and the Dominican Republic is planned, with the participation of representatives of the countries and the international community. The event will be interpreted in English and Spanish and will include:

- Exchange and reflections on the relevance of the Roadmap.
- Round table for the exchange of ideas and best practices.
- Networking spaces to promote cooperation and alliances.

The objectives of the dialogue are:

- Socialize the content of the Central American Roadmap.
- Highlight the relevance and contributions of the Roadmap to broader security and development initiatives and policies.
- Identify areas of opportunity and cooperation between representatives of the Central American and Dominican Republic governments, development banks and the international community to ensure the sustainability of the Roadmap.

The event is aimed at:

- Ministers and representatives of the governments of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and Dominican Republic.
- Representatives of OAS member states and observers.
- Representatives of development banks.
- Representatives of international and regional organizations.
- International community, including potential donor countries and implementing partners.

