UN Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC)

... strengthening peace and security through regional disarmament

Provide “... on request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities of the Member States of the Latin American region [and the Caribbean (A/43/76H)] for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament and for the promotion of economic and social development...” (A/41/60)

- The unique UN entity with the mandate to address disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation issues in the LAC region
- Supports LAC States in the achievement and maintenance of peace and security through disarmament
- Personnel: 20+ / bilingual experts

33 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)
Relevance to PoA in the LAC region

- LAC States strong and active supporters of PoA process
- Illicit firearms trafficking linked with other illicit activities:
  - Drug trafficking
  - Illegal mining
  - Common crime
  - Migrant smuggling
  - Blackmailing
Latin America and the Caribbean is considered **one of the most violent regions in the world.**

- **Armed Violence in LAC**
  - **Global average:** 6.1
  - **2017:** 25.9
  - **2017:** 24.2
  - **2017:** 15.1

**Fuente:** UNODC (2019)

**aprox. 40% homicides at the global level**
Armed Violence in LAC

A great proportion of homicides were committed with firearms

- **Central America**: 69%
- **Caribbean**: 65%
- **South America**: 53.7%

*2017*

2017 - 54%

Combatting Illicit firearms trafficking remains a top priority in the security agenda
PoA Implementation: “new” discussion topics

- **Gender considerations**
  - Differentiated impact on men, women, boys and girls
  - Dissaggregated data collection
  - Convergence of agendas (WPS)
  - Strengthening women participation
  - Funding gender-relevant investigations and initiatives

- **New technologies**
  - Modular weapons
  - 3D printing (additive manufacturing)
  - Ghost guns
  - Conversion
  - Polymer-frame firearms
PoA Implementation: new approaches

- *(Sub-)regional approaches*
  - Illicit arms trafficking has per se a transnational nature
  - Increasing interest from both the international donor community and States to tackle IFT from a regional perspective
  - Opportunities to embed national priorities into subregional approaches
  - New avenues for funding
  - Caribbean Firearms Roadmap: avantgarde initiative

- **National target setting**
  - States can set targets based on national needs and priorities
  - Based on these targets States can report on PoA implementation
  - National Action Plans
PoA Implementation: new approaches

- **Indicators beyond weapons seizures**
  - Changing paradigm to combat IFT
  - Firearms related criminal investigations, after seizures
  - Mutual legal assistance
  - Joint investigations
PoA Implementation: challenges / pending (old) issues

- **Marking**
  - Necessary for tracing and dismantling trafficking schemes
  - Allows for evidence-based decisions
  - Helps establishing weapon-crime relations and trafficking trends
  - Several States have yet to mark imported weapons in line with int’l instruments

- **Strengthening systems of control and documentation of weapons transfers**
  - Licensing and authorization regimes
  - Registries
  - End-user certificates
  - Synergies with other int’l instruments
States that submitted PoA reports (2020-2022 period)

- Argentina
- Bolivia
- Colombia
- El Salvador
- Grenada
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Nicaragua
- Peru

National Report on the implementation of the Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons (PoA) and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI)

States can still submit their PoA reports in the lead up to the BMS8!
Relevance of PoA reporting

• Measures progress and challenges of PoA implementation.
• Fosters national ownership and reaffirms States' commitment to PoA commitments (political will).
• Provides a basis for information sharing and action taking.
• Promotes inter-institutional coordination and allows to keep up-to-date and systematized information records (strengthens decision-making processes).
• Identifies challenges and needs for international cooperation and assistance.
• Key inputs for biennial meetings and other multilateral dialogue fora.
• Contributes to the progress reports/data collection of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly with SDG 16 / indicator 16.4.2.

https://meetings.unoda.org/section/poa-bms8-2022_national-reports
Thank you for your attention

www.unlirec.org