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**Name**
Police Community of the Americas (AMERIPOL)

**Headquarters**
Bogota, Colombia

**Web site**
www.comunidadameripol.org

**Short description**
AMERIPOL’s mandate is to promote technical and scientific cooperation, exchange information and intelligence regarding organized crime, support criminal investigations and provide judicial assistance, and conduct and support training.

**Membership**
24 members (21 are UN member states)

**Notes**
AMERIPOL membership is made up of police corps, with Costa Rica and Panama each represented by two corps. The Police of Puerto Rico and the United States—through its Drug Enforcement Agency—each have their own respective membership. AMERIPOL was formed on 14 November 2007 in Bogota, Colombia, with an original membership of 18 police corps. Fifteen national, regional, and international police entities are observers to AMERIPOL, including from Germany, Canada, Italy, and Spain, as well as the OAS and INTERPOL, among others.

**Funding**
According to Article 23 of the AMERIPOL Statute, member countries are to finance the organization. All financial contributions and technical assistance to AMERIPOL are voluntary. Colombia, where the AMERIPOL Secretariat is based, assumes the infrastructural costs of hosting AMERIPOL headquarters. Member states can designate (and are responsible for financing the stay of) permanent or temporary liaison officers to the Executive Secretariat. Costs of joint operations and initiatives are covered by the police forces involved.

**Overlapping memberships with other ROs**
AMERIPOL members represent:
- 4 of 21 APEC members
- 2 of 15 CARICOM members
- 21 of 35 OAS members
- 6 of 7 SICA members

**PoA POC**
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**PoA-related activities**
AMERIPOL promotes cooperation among police organizations, including conducting and improving the training of police officers, developing effective exchanges of information, and coordinating legal assistance. Its particular focus is on organized transnational crime; however, it does not presently have any projects specific to small arms. Each member has a national unit on police technical-scientific cooperation, information exchange, criminal investigation and judicial assistance, and training and doctrine, which facilitates and promotes cooperation.

**PoA-relevant cooperation with other ROs**
AMERIPOL and the OAS signed a cooperation agreement in June 2011. The agreement aims to develop initiatives for strengthening the capacities of the regional institutions responsible for ensuring public security and to establish a framework for inter-institutional cooperation through the design and implementation of technical assistance initiatives and exchanges of experiences.
Legally binding regional instruments
- None

Other official documents of interest
- AMERIPOL Statute, signed on 14 November 2007

PoA-related programmes and initiatives

Current members*
- Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, United States, Uruguay

Bold: founding member

Former members: None

Membership pending: None

* Information accurate as of 12 April 2012
COMUNIDAD ANDINA

Name
Andean Community (CAN)

Headquarters
Lima, Peru

Web site

Short description
CAN is a subregional organization whose objective is to promote, through economic and social cooperation, sustainable and harmonic development of its member states.

Membership
4 members (all UN member states)

Notes
In 1969 Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru established the Andean Pact through the Cartagena Agreement. The Protocol of Trujillo reformed the institutional structure and it was renamed the Andean Community (1996). Venezuela had been a member from 1973 and withdrew in 2006. Chile withdrew in 1976 and became an associate in 2006. Other associate members include Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. Mexico, Panama, and Spain are observer states.

Funding
CAN determines financial contributions in percentages according to each country’s capacity to pay. It also receives support from external donors. The EU has been funding CAN since the 1970s. Spain is currently funding a project to combat organized crime, including illicit trade in small arms.

Overlapping memberships with other ROs
CAN members represent:
- 1 of 21 APEC members (Peru is an APEC member)
- 4 of 35 OAS members
- 4 of 12 UNASUR members

PoA POC
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PoA-related activities
The Lima Commitment: Andean Charter for Peace and Security (2002) calls in its Chapter VIII for the establishment of a cooperation plan to fight trafficking in illegal weapons. In 2003 CAN enacted Decision 552: The Andean Plan to Prevent, Fight and Eradicate Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, which was the first legally binding instrument at the sub-regional level to be derived from the PoA. Its primary objective is to strengthen the capacity of its members to control the manufacture, trade, transportation, possession, concealment, usurpation, carrying, and use of such weapons, as well as to identify, confiscate, and possibly destroy them. The plan creates specific mechanisms and procedures at the national, sub-regional, and international levels, and requires national POCs and coordination committees to be established. With support from Spain CAN has started a three-year project entitled Justice and Combating Crime in the Andean Community. The project aims...
to reinforce cooperation and assistance to combat organized crime, including illegal trade in small arms. It also provides training for judges, prosecutors, and police from national authorities. In collaboration with UNLIREC, meetings, workshops, and specialized seminars are regularly held—including participation of CSOs—to share information on best practices and lessons learned in relation to small arms trafficking, and to promote the harmonization of laws, common practices, and tools to prevent trafficking across borders.

PoA-relevant cooperation with other ROs
CAN has a cooperation agreement with MERCOSUR. CAN organized a workshop on arms transfer in cooperation with the OAS (and UNLIREC).

Legally binding regional instruments
- The Andean Plan to Prevent, Fight and Eradicate Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects (‘Decision 552’) (2003).

Other official documents of interest
- Revista de la integración: Apoyando por la paz y seguridad en la Comunidad Andina, CAN General Secretariat publication (2009).

PoA-related programmes and initiatives

Current members*
- Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru
Bold: founding member

Former members:
- Chile, Venezuela

Membership pending: None

* Information accurate as of 26 June 2012
Name
Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

Headquarters
Georgetown, Guyana

Web site
www.caricom.org; www.caricomimpacs.org

Short description
CARICOM strives to improve standards of living and work among its members through coordinated and sustained economic development, as well as helping its members coordinate their foreign, economic, and crime and security policies.

Membership
15 members (14 are UN member states)

Notes
CARICOM consisted of four countries at its creation in August 1973: Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago. Its membership trebled within a year. Three additional countries became members between 1983 and 2002, bringing the total to 15. (Although Cuba and the Dominican Republic are not CARICOM members, Spanish is an official CARICOM language.) One British Overseas Territory (BOT) in the Caribbean—Montserrat—is a full CARICOM member. The five other Caribbean BOTs are CARICOM associate members.

Funding
CARICOM’s annual core budget in 2011 was about USD 15 million, of which external donors provided roughly 60 per cent. The CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) receives most of its funding from its members’ assessed contributions.

Overlapping memberships with other ROs
CARICOM members represent:
- 14 of 35 OAS members (Montserrat is not an OAS member)
- 1 of 7 SICA members (Belize is a SICA member)
- 2 of 12 UNASUR members (Guyana and Suriname are UNASUR members)

PoA-related activities
In 2001 CARICOM established the Task Force on Crime and Security to examine the major causes of crime. A major outcome of its work was a proposal to create a regional framework to effectively tackle crime and security challenges. The result was the establishment of IMPACS in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, in 2006. The agency has since created several ambitious offices and initiatives. It is developing a Regional Integrated Ballistic Information Network (RIBIN) to provide its members’ security agencies with information to enable them to track small arms and ammunition used in crimes. It held an initial seminar for ballistics experts and firearms examiners in January 2009. The IMPACS Regional Intelligence Fusion Centre provides information and analysis to CARICOM members to help address crime and the illicit weapons trade. The IMPACS Joint Regional Communication Centre is presently establishing the Advanced Cargo Information System (ACIS) in seven CARICOM members to help identify and interdict high-risk shipping containers. Funding from its members has enabled IMPACS to establish and house a Secre-
tariat, as well as recruit and train qualified staff. (As of April 2012 more than 70 full-time staff work in Port of Spain.) Members can now share security-related information more freely (since an MoU on the matter was signed in 2006). But many IMPACS initiatives lack the financial resources required to become operational as envisioned. The agency has nevertheless had several tangible successes. For example, it has worked with its members to ensure all have identified small arms NPPs in support of the PoA. It has helped build political will at the highest government levels for supporting the PoA, and has worked with regional and international NGOs to educate civil society, undertake small arms research, and train government officials (e.g. on small arms marking machines). Also, as of April 2012 IMPACS had helped train more than 200 border security officials and promoted stockpile management best practices among its members.

**PoA-related cooperation with other ROs**

IMPACS has promoted an OAS initiative (among both CARICOM members and external donors) to obtain small arms marking machines and associated training.

**Legally binding regional instruments**

- Treaty on Security Assistance among CARICOM Member States (2006)

**Other official documents of interest**

- CARICOM Declaration on Small Arms (2011)

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*Current members*

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, SVG, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago

**Bold:** founding member

**Former members:** None

**Membership pending:** None

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* Information accurate as of 1 June 2012
**Name**
Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)

**Headquarters**
Montevideo, Uruguay

**Web site**
www.mercosur.int

**Short description**
MERCOSUR is an economic and political agreement aimed at promoting free trade and the fluid movement of goods, people, and currency among its members.

**Membership**
4 members
(all UN member states)

**Notes**
MERCOSUR was founded in 1991 by Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. Venezuela requested a full membership in 2006 and was awaiting the approval of Paraguay. As Paraguay has been suspended since 29 June 2012, Venezuela will become a full member as of 31 July 2012. Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru are associate members; i.e. they can join free-trade agreements and participate actively in some areas of work, but remain outside the bloc's customs union. Mexico is an observer.

**Funding**
Since MERCOSUR focuses primarily on trade agreements, it does not have a substantive budget; however, member states approved the creation of the Fund for Structural Convergence. In force for the 2006–15 period, this fund amounts to USD 100 million per year. Brazil contributes 70 per cent, Argentina 27 per cent, Uruguay 2 per cent, and Paraguay 1 per cent. The EU also provides MERCOSUR with funding, primarily to support regional integration.

**Overlapping memberships with other ROs**
MERCOSUR members represent:
- 4 of 35 OAS members
- 4 of 12 UNASUR members

**PoA POC**
Name: Changes every six months
Title: National PoA POC of the country hosting the MERCOSUR Presidency

**PoA-related activities**
MERCOSUR addresses small arms and security matters at the inter-governmental level only. In 1998 it issued the Southern Cone Presidential Declaration on Combating the Illicit Manufacture and Trafficking in Firearms, which led to the development of the MERCOSUR Joint Register Mechanism later that year. These marked the first sub-regional instruments to address small arms in the Americas. As part of the mechanism’s implementation, members developed the Security Information Exchange System, which is a registry to share information regarding the purchase, sale, import, and export of firearms, and which links the databases of MERCOSUR security bodies. In 2001 MERCOSUR and its associated members established the Working Group on Firearms, whose objectives are to increase controls on private security agencies; introduce legislation on stockpile controls at the national and regional levels; raise awareness of and public support for small arms issues; and establish convergent regional security policies to facilitate information sharing.

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and cooperation. An MoU on the manufacture and illicit trafficking of firearms was adopted in 2004 to tackle the problem of illicit cross-border trafficking and help promote cooperation among national law enforcement authorities. MERCOSUR also conducts technical meetings between police and security forces on the problem of illicit trafficking in firearms to exchange information and share experiences.

**PoA-relevant cooperation with other ROs**

In 2001 CAN, MERCOSUR, Guyana, and Suriname established the South American Cooperation and Peace Zone. MERCOSUR also meets periodically with the OAS.

**Legally binding regional instruments**

- CMC Decision No. 7/98: Joint Register Mechanism of Consumers and Sellers of Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials for MERCOSUR (1998)

**Other official documents of interest**

- Southern Cone Presidential Declaration on Combating the Illicit Manufacture and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition and Related Materials (1998)
Name
Organization of American States (OAS)

Headquarters
Washington, DC, United States

Web site
www.oas.org; www.oas.org/dsp

Short description
The OAS has a broad mandate, with its charter promoting peace and security with an emphasis on representative democracy (with ‘due respect for the principle of non-intervention’).

Membership
35 members (all UN member states)

Notes
The OAS consisted of 21 member states when it was created in 1948: all the independent UN member states from the hemisphere except Canada. Fourteen additional countries joined between 1962 and 1991 (with Canada joining in 1990). The OAS suspended Cuba from 1962 to 2009, but Cuba has yet to re-engage in OAS activities. Most recently, Honduras was suspended between July 2009 and June 2011. More than 60 countries from Africa, Asia, Europe, and Oceania participate in OAS activities and contribute to its programmes as permanent observers.

Funding
Some 95 per cent of the regular budget comes from dues from six OAS members: the United States, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, and Venezuela (listed from largest to smallest contribution). Washington’s assessment is by far the largest: just under 60 per cent of the total. Voluntary funding for small-arms-related projects referenced below comes primarily from the United States and Spain.

Overlapping memberships with other ROs
OAS members represent:
- 5 of 21 APEC members (Canada, Chile, Mexico, Peru, and the United States are APEC members)
- 4 of 4 CAN members
- 14 of 15 CARICOM members (Montserrat is not an OAS member)
- 4 of 4 MERCOSUR members
- 7 of 7 SICA members
- 12 of 12 UNASUR members

PoA POC
Name: Alison August Treppel
Title: Technical Secretary, CIFTA, Department of Public Security

PoA-related activities
The Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), which OAS member states approved in 1997, is of particular relevance to the PoA. A legally binding treaty that entered into force in 1998, CIFTA seeks to prevent, combat, and eradicate firearms trafficking, as well as promote and facilitate cooperation and the exchange of information in this regard. As of May 2012, 30 OAS members had ratified CIFTA (i.e. all but Canada, Cuba, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG), and the United States). The OAS has also developed model legislation and regulations to assist member states in the implementation of CIFTA’s various provisions. The Department of Public Security, created in 2005 during a restructuring of the OAS General Secretariat, addresses various security concerns within the region, including firearms trafficking. The department provides technical secretariat services to the CIFTA process and oversees technical assistance initiatives to facilitate the implementation of the convention. In the past five years the department...
has undertaken a series of projects—all voluntarily funded—to strengthen the national capacity of member states in the areas of legislative development, stockpile management and destruction, and firearms marking. As of May 2012 these OAS initiatives—valued at some USD 3 million—supported activities in 23 OAS member states.

**PoA-relevant cooperation with other ROs**

The OAS POC meets periodically, but not in a scheduled manner, with colleagues from CAN, CARICOM, MERCOSUR, SICA, and UNASUR. The OAS received a formal briefing from RECSA on its lessons learned with regard to firearms marking in preparation for its own similar undertaking.

**Legally binding regional instruments**

- Inter-American Convention Against Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials (CIFTA) (1997)

**Other official documents of interest**

- Declaration of Bogota on the Functioning and Application of CIFTA (2004)
- Methodology for the Development of Model Legislation for the Purpose of Facilitating the Effective Application of CIFTA (2005)
- Six model regulations, legislation (and commentaries) on: (1) International Movement (2003); (2) Brokers (2003); (3) Marking and Tracing (2007); (4) Export Controls (2008); (5) Illicit Manufacturing (2008); (6) Confiscation and Forfeiture (2010); and (7) Controlled Delivery (2012)
- Tlatelolco Commitment (2008)
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Name
Central American Integration System (SICA)

Headquarters
San Salvador, El Salvador

Web site
www.sica.int; www.casac-uer.org

Short description
SICA is an institutional framework designed to drive the eventual economic, social, and political integration of Central America.

Membership
7 members (all UN member states)

Notes
SICA succeeded ODECA when its six members amended the 1962 charter with the signing of the Tegucigalpa Protocol in 1991. Belize joined in 2000 as a full member and the Dominican Republic as an associate member in 2004. Regional observers include Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Peru. Extra-regional observers are Australia, China, Germany, Italy, Japan, and Spain.

Funding
The SICA General Secretariat is financed through equal annual contributions from its members. UNDP, the EU, Sweden, Spain, and Austria have financed the work of CASAC (see below).

Overlapping memberships with other ROs
SICA members represent:
- 1 of 15 CARICOM members (Belize is a CARICOM member)
- 7 of 35 OAS members

PoA POC
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Email: A C D E G F R S T

PoA-related activities
SICA adopted the Code of Conduct on Arms Transfer in 2005. Two years later (2007) it adopted the Central American Security Strategy that included, among other things, crime reduction, violence prevention, rehabilitation, and reintegration. The strategy was revised in 2011, setting out common objectives in areas that included arms control, crime and violence prevention (related to gangs, youth violence, and gender-based violence, among many more), and strengthening the institutions of law enforcement. In order to implement the initial strategy, SICA launched—with UNDP financial and technical support—the Central American Programme on Small Arms Control (CASAC) in Managua, Nicaragua. Since then CASAC has provided technical assistance on national legislation to Panama, Honduras, and Guatemala; promoted the creation of multidisciplinary national commissions on small arms; assisted in the establishment of commissions in Costa Rica and Nicaragua; and supported the early process of developing national commissions in Belize and Panama. It provides capacity building in designing, implementing, and evaluating initiatives.
for the destruction of arms in Central America. CASAC notably supported the destruction of thousands of weapons in Nicaragua and Costa Rica in 2009. The EU has also funded a three-year project (2009–11) through CASAC that aims to: (1) support national authorities in the implementation of arms control systems; (2) foster cross-border cooperation with enhanced registration and information exchanges; and (3) promote the strengthening of civil society. A second phase is scheduled for 2012–14. CASAC regularly attends and holds seminars/training on PoA-related issues with UNDP, UNLIREC, states, and CSOs.

**PoA-relevant cooperation with other ROs**
CASAC has coordinated PoA-related projects with the OAS. It regularly exchanges information and experiences with CAN, MERCOSUR, and some CARICOM countries.

**Legally binding regional instruments**
- Charter of the Organization of Central American States (ODECA) – Second Charter ("Carta de San Salvador") (1962)
- Tegucigalpa Protocol to the Charter of the Organization of Central American States (ODECA) (1991)

**Other official documents of interest**
- Reviewed Central American Security Strategy (2011)
Name
Union of South American Nations (UNASUR)

Headquarters
Quito, Ecuador

Web site
www.unasursg.org

Short description
UNASUR’s objective is to build, in a participatory and consensual manner, an integration and union among its peoples in the cultural, social, economic, and political fields.

Membership
12 members (all UN member states)

Notes
By signing the Cuzco Declaration in 2004, 12 founding states established the South American Community of Nations, which included members of CAN and MERCOSUR, as well as Chile, Guyana, and Suriname. The name changed to its current form in 2007 and the General Secretariat was formalized in 2008. Paraguay has been suspended since June 2012.

Funding
Contributions by member states to the regular budget of the General Secretariat are based on ‘their economic capacity, shared responsibility and the principle of equity’. The budget for 2013 was adopted in March 2012; Brazil will be the main contributor with 39 per cent, while Argentina, Peru, and Venezuela will each contribute between 10 and 16 per cent.

Overlapping memberships with other ROs
UNASUR members represent:
- 4 of 4 CAN members (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru are CAN members)
- 2 of 15 CARICOM members (Guyana and Suriname are CARICOM members)
- 4 of 4 MERCOSUR members (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay are MERCOSUR members)
- 12 of 35 OAS members

PoA POC
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Title: Head of Public Relations, Pro Tempore Presidency of the CDS
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PoA-related activities
In its Constitutive Treaty, UNASUR members commit to strengthen the fight against the global drug problem, corruption, trafficking in small arms and light weapons, terrorism, transnational organized crime, and human trafficking. In 2009 UNASUR agreed to establish a new platform for military exchange and defence policy information, the South American Defence Council (CDS). This instance aims to consolidate South America as a zone of peace and to facilitate coordination for humanitarian and peace missions. Furthermore, it established the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies (CCED) in Buenos Aires, which is the region’s think tank on defence issues. In 2010 UNASUR played a key role in mediating the Colombia–Venezuela diplomatic crisis and proved its potential to be an important stakeholder in stabilizing regional relations. Under the initiative of Peru, a working group is in charge of developing a future peace, security, and cooperation protocol structured around the idea of reducing expenditures on armaments and redirecting...
the money to development, education, and health. To date, UNASUR’s work on security matters has been on traditional agendas of military and territorial defence. However, since 2012 member states have sought to agree on the creation of a joint body to help the region combat transnational organized crime and address human security issues.

**PoA-relevant cooperation with other ROs**

Article 15 of the Constitutive Treaty stipulates strengthened cooperation mechanisms with other regional groups. However the Council of Heads of State has yet to define these elements of cooperation.

**Legally binding regional instruments**


**Other official documents of interest**

- Decisión para el Establecimiento del Consejo de Defensa Suramericano de la UNASUR (2008)
- Estatuto del Centro de Estudios Estratégicos de Defensa (CEED) del Consejo de Defensa Suramericano (2010)

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* Information accurate as of 18 July 2012