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Regional Organizations and the PoA

Name
Police Community of the Americas (AMERIPOL)

Headquarters
Bogotá, Colombia

Website
www.ameripol.org

Short description
AMERIPOL’s mandate is to promote international police cooperation and strengthen competency. Its goal is to prevent and neutralize regional threats and address the challenges of public security through capacity building, information exchange, technical and scientific cooperation, and support for criminal investigations.

Membership
30 members (27 UN member states)

Notes
AMERIPOL’s membership is made up of 30 police corps in the 27 member states. Three states are represented by multiple police corps: Costa Rica, Panama, and the United States. AMERIPOL was founded in November 2007 with an original membership of 18 police corps. Twenty-one national, regional, and international police entities are observers to AMERIPOL, including entities from Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy, Spain, the OAS, Europol, and INTERPOL. Currently, the memberships of 8 entities are pending.

Funding
According to Article 39 of the AMERIPOL Statute contributions from its members—including from the respective police forces, observers, governments, and intergovernmental organizations—finance the organization. All financial contributions and technical assistance to AMERIPOL are voluntary. Member states can designate (and are responsible for financing) permanent or temporary liaison officers to the Executive Secretariat. The costs of joint operations and initiatives are covered by the police forces involved.

RO members and the ATT
- States parties: 56% (15 states)
- Signatories: 30% (8 states)
- Not yet joined: 15% (4 states)

Notes
Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, and Nicaragua have not yet joined.

PoA POC
Name: Manuel Iñiguez Sotomayor
Title: Colonel de Policía del E. M. de Ecuador, Delegate of the AMERIPOL Executive Secretary

PoA-related activities
AMERIPOL conducts and reinforces the training of police officers, develops effective information exchanges, and coordinates legal assistance. It focuses on organized transnational crime. (Currently, it has no specific projects on small arms). Each member has a national unit to facilitate and promote cooperation on police technical scientific cooperation, information exchange, criminal investigation and judicial assistance, and training and doctrine. In 2014 AMERIPOL published a collection of best practices on the subject of the trafficking of arms, munitions, and explosives in the region. The publication covers best practices in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, and Peru.

PoA-relevant cooperation with other ROs
AMERIPOL and the OAS signed a cooperation agreement (June 2011) aimed at strengthening capacities and establishing a framework for
cooperation (for example, technical assistance initiatives and exchanges of experiences). AMERIPOL has representatives at OAS promoting regional coordination. Europol has observer status with AMERIPOL and the two organizations have held high-level meetings to strengthen cooperation, including a meeting in The Hague (2014), where they agreed to build on existing cooperation and further engage in: capacity building in AMERIPOL countries to mitigate security threats to or originating from the region, fostering strengthened cooperation in the area of internal security, promoting a better understanding of and more effective approach on combating organized crime and terrorism, and supporting capacity building for cooperation and information exchange among respective members.

Legally binding regional instruments

None

Other official documents of interest

- AMERIPOL Statute (2007)
- Fascículos Doctrinales No. 5, Intercambio de experiencias y conocimientos de los delitos transnacionales ‘Tráfico de Armas Municiones y Explosivos’ (2014)

PoA-related programmes and initiatives

- Current members
  Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, US, Uruguay
  Bold = founding member

- Former members: None

- Membership pending:
  Bahamas, Barbados, Canada, Dominica, Granada, SVG, Suriname, Venezuela

Profile updated March 2016
Name
Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

Headquarters
Georgetown, Guyana

Website
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 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 2015 was about USD 7 million. During the period January to December 2015, CARICOM IMPACS received only 51% of its approved budget from member states’ assessed contributions. Foreign assistance comes mostly from the 10th European Development Fund (EDF). Other sources include the UN Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation and the US Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI)

RO members and the ATT
States parties: 86% (12 states)
Signatories: 14% (2 states)
Not yet joined: 0% (0 states)

Notes
Haiti and Suriname are signatories. Montserrat is not a UN member state and cannot join.

PoA POC
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PoA-related activities
In 2001 CARICOM established the Task Force on Crime and Security to examine the major causes of crime in the region. A significant outcome of its work was a proposal to create a regional framework to tackle crime and security challenges. This proposal led to the establishment of IMPACS in Trinidad and Tobago in 2006. IMPACS has since created several ambitious initiatives to control SALW. In 2013 CARICOM heads of government adopted the CARICOM Crime and Security Strategy, which identified small arms trafficking as a ‘Tier 1 Threat’ to the community. Other key legacy initiatives include the establishment of an Advanced Passenger Information System (APIS) and drafting the CARICOM Model Law: Arms Trade Treaty Bill (2016). In 2016 IMPACS started to establish an Advanced Cargo Information System (ACIS) in all Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) systems in CARICOM member states to help identify and intercept high-risk shipping containers. Despite financial constraints, IMPACS (which had 66 employees as of January 2016) has had several tangible successes. For example, it has worked with its members to

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Notes
ensure all have identified small arms NFPs in support of the PoA. It has helped build political will at the highest government levels for supporting the PoA (and the ATT), worked with regional and international NGOs, undertaken small arms research, provided legal analysis, improved the skills of government officials through training, and provided technical support and advisory services to its member states and other regional and international partners.

**PoA-relevant cooperation with other ROs**
CARICOM works particularly closely with the OAS (for example, on a small arms marking-machine initiative) and in 2014 the two signed an MoU on regional cooperation and collaboration, including information sharing on security issues. (IMPACS has continued to enhance its partnership with numerous other entities such as BAFA, INTERPOL, UNIDIR, UNLIREC, UNODC, and SOUTHCOM.)

**Legally binding regional instruments**
- Treaty on Security Assistance among CARICOM Member States (2006)

**Other official documents of interest**
- CARICOM Declaration on Small Arms (2011)
- CARICOM Crime and Security Strategy (2013)

Profile updated March 2016
**Name**  
Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)

**Headquarters**  
Montevideo, Uruguay

**Website**  
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**  
6 members  
(all UN member states)

**Notes**  
MERCOSUR was founded in 1991 by Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. Venezuela (2013) and Bolivia (2015) subsequently joined. Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru are associate members: 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. Paraguay was suspended from June 2012 to August 2013.

**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. Since 2013 annual contributions to the fund amount to USD 127 million. For 2015 Brazil contributed USD 70 million, Argentina and Venezuela each USD 27 million, Uruguay USD 2 million, and Paraguay USD 1 million. (Bolivia’s contribution was not yet determined as of January 2016.)

**PoA POC**  
**Name:** N/A  
**Title:** National 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, increase awareness of and public support for small arms issues, and establish convergent...
regional security policies to facilitate information sharing and cooperation. The Working Group meets regularly to coordinate regional policies and positions and to promote the harmonization of small arms legislation. 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 Surinam 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)
Regional Organizations and the PoA Handbook

Name
Organization of American States (OAS)

Headquarters
Washington, DC, United States

Website
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 Western hemisphere except Canada. Fourteen additional countries joined between 1962 and 1990 (with Canada joining in 1990). Cuba, which was suspended from 1962 to 2009, has yet to re-engage in OAS activities. More than 60 countries from Africa, Asia, Europe, and Oceania participate in OAS activities and contribute to its programmes as permanent observers.

Funding
In 2015 some 90 per cent of the regular budget comes from dues from five OAS members: the United States, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, and Argentina (listed from largest to smallest contributions).

Washington’s assessment is by far the largest, at just under 60 per cent of the total. Voluntary funding for small-arms-related projects referenced below comes primarily from the Spain and the United States.

RO members and the ATT
states parties: 60%
(21 states)
signatories: 23%
(8 states)
Not yet joined: 17%
(6 states)

Notes
Bolivia, Canada, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua, and Venezuela have not yet joined.

PoA-related activities
The Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials (CIFTA) 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 January 2016, 31 OAS members had ratified CIFTA (all but Canada, Cuba, Jamaica, 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 addresses various security concerns within the region, including firearms trafficking. It provides technical secretariat services to the CIFTA process and oversees technical assistance initiatives to facilitate the implementation of the convention. In the past ten years the department has undertaken a series of voluntarily funded projects to strengthen member states’ national capacities.

PoA POC
Name: Michael Bejos
Title: CIFTA Technical Secretariat, Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

PoA-related activities
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in the areas of legislative development, stockpile management and destruction, and firearms marking. As of January 2016 these OAS initiatives—costing some USD 5.5 million—supported activities in 27 member states.

PoA-relevant cooperation with other ROs
The OAS POC meets periodically 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)
- Tlatelolco Commitment (2008)
Name
Central American Integration System (SICA)

Headquarters
San Salvador, El Salvador

Website
www.sica.int
www.casacsica.org

Short description
SICA is an institutional framework for promoting the economic, social, and political integration of Central America.

Membership
8 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 (2000) and the Dominican Republic (2013) subsequently joined. Twenty-four countries from both within and outside the region have observer status.

RO members and the ATT
- States parties: 63% (5 states)
- Signatories: 25% (2 states)
- Not yet joined: 13% (1 state)

Notes
Belize, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, and Panama are states parties. Guatemala and Honduras are signatories. Nicaragua has not yet joined.

Funding
The SICA General Secretariat is financed through equal annual contributions from its members. The EU funds SICA's small arms work through CASAC (see below).

PoA POC
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PoA-related activities
SICA adopted the Code of Conduct on Arms Transfer in 2005. Two years later it adopted the Central American Security Strategy (2007) that included crime reduction, violence prevention, rehabilitation, and reintegration programmes. The strategy was revised in 2011, with common objectives including arms control, crime and violence prevention, and strengthening law enforcement institutions. SICA launched the Central American Programme on Small Arms Control (CASAC) in Managua (2003). In 2009 CASAC, with EU funding, initiated a three-year project covering national arms control systems, cross-border cooperation, and strengthening civil society. Renewed in 2012, the project now focuses on establishing a regional structure and strategy on small arms trafficking and preventing armed violence. Activities are broadly focused (nationally and regionally) and include public awareness campaigns, conferences, strengthening national coordination mechanisms and registry systems, cross-border cooperation, and multidisciplinary capacity building. Three training programmes implemented in partnership with INTERPOL focused on
the use of its iArms platform; ballistics; and identifying arms and their components in baggage and cargo at ports of entry. Capacity-building has also focused on marking and promoting the ATF’s iTrace platform. A series of courses on dismantling arms trafficking networks were held with judges, prosecutors, and investigators from SICA member states, training some 4,000 officials to date. It developed two model regional framework laws on private security companies.

**PoA-relevant cooperation with other ROs**

The EU is a strategic partner and primary funder of CASAC and its small arms work. CASAC has coordinated PoA-related projects with the OAS. It regularly exchanges information and experiences with 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**

- Code of Conduct of Central American States on the Transfer of Arms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materiel (2005)
- Reviewed Central American Security Strategy (2011)
### Membership

12 members
(all UN member states)

### Notes

Twelve states established the South American Community of Nations with the signing of the Cuzco Declaration in 2004. This included the nine MERCOSUR members, Chile, Guyana, and Suriname. UNASUR took its current name in 2007 and its General Secretariat was formalized in 2008. The suspension of Paraguay (imposed in June 2012) was lifted in August 2013.

### 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 2016 was adopted in December 2015. Brazil will be the main contributor with 39 per cent, while Argentina, Colombia, and Venezuela will each contribute between 10 and 16 per cent.

### RO members and the ATT

- **States parties:** 42% (5 states)
- **Signatories:** 33% (4 states)
- **Not yet joined:** 25% (3 states)

### Notes

Argentine, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay are states parties. Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Suriname are signatories. Bolivia, Ecuador, and Venezuela have not yet joined.

### 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. It seeks to prioritize political dialogue, social policies, education, energy, infrastructure, financing, and the environment.

### Regional Organizations and the PoA Handbook

**Name:** Union of South American Nations (UNASUR)

**Headquarters:** Quito, Ecuador

**Website:** www.unasur.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. It seeks to prioritize political dialogue, social policies, education, energy, infrastructure, financing, and the environment.

### PoA-related activities

The UNASUR Constitutive Treaty commits UNASUR members to strengthen the fight against the global drug problem, corruption, trafficking in small arms, terrorism, transnational organized crime, and human trafficking. In 2009 UNASUR formed a new platform for military exchange and defence policy information: the South American Defense Council (CDS), which aims to establish South America as a zone of peace, facilitating both humanitarian and peace missions to further that goal. In addition, UNASUR established the Center for Defense and Strategic Studies (CEED) in Buenos Aires as a regional think tank on defence issues. In 2012 UNASUR established the South American Council on Public Security, Justice, and Coordination of Actions against Transnational Organized Crime. It is a permanent forum for consultation, cooperation, and coordination, with four main objectives: 1) strengthening public security; 2) promoting strategies and mechanisms; 3) promoting civilian participation in planning and policy development; and 4) strengthening the capacity of and information sharing among security- and crime-related
institutions. This body aims to create guidelines on cooperation in legal areas, equalize legal practices, and facilitate the reintegration of criminals back into society. It also aims to identify specific measures to promote a culture of non-violence, including the development of campaigns to discourage firearms possession.

**PoA-relevant cooperation with other ROs**

Article 15 of the Constitutive Treaty stipulates strengthened cooperation mechanisms with other regional groups. Members approved a new policy for cooperating with third parties in 2012; however the elements of cooperation have yet to be defined.

**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)
- Decisión N° 14/2012. Creación del Consejo Suramericano en materia de seguridad ciudadana, justicia y coordinación de acciones contra la delincuencia organizada transnacional
- Resolución N° 2/2013. Aprueba estatutos y planes de acción del Consejo Suramericano de educación; cultura; ciencia, tecnología e innovación y el plan de acción del consejo suramericano en materia de seguridad ciudadana, justicia y coordinación de acciones contra la delincuencia organizada transnacional