

Reporting Template for International and Regional Organizations
Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons
International Tracing Instrument
(2022 report covering implementation period of 2020-2021)

Please address the following issues, as applicable.

I. Organization and focal point

1. Organization name: Organization of American States
 - a. Address: 1889 F St., NW, Washington-DC
 - b. Organizational email: publicsecurity@oas.org and ddot@oas.org
 - c. Homepage (relevant website): <https://www.oas.org/en/sms/dps/prog-cifta.asp>
2. SALW Focal Point
 - a. (Name) Pier Angelli De Luca Maciel
 - b. Title: Specialist
 - c. Section/Department: PACAM/Department of Public Security (DPS/OAS)
 - d. Email pdeluca@oas.org
 - e. Telephone +1 (202) 370-9884/ +1 (202) 375-3521
3. SALW Focal Point
 - f. (Name): Michael Bejos
 - g. Title: Senior Officer
 - h. Section/Department: Department against Transnational Organized Crime (DTCO/OAS)
 - i. Email: mbejos@oas.org
 - j. Telephone: +1(202) 370 9141
4. Applicable (sub)region: Americas
5. Member States in the (sub)region: 35 independent states of North America, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean¹
6. General mandate / purpose of the organization: The OAS was established to achieve among its member states—as stipulated in Article 1 of the Charter—"an order of peace and justice, to promote their solidarity, to strengthen their collaboration, and to defend their sovereignty, their territorial integrity, and their independence."

II. Regional Instruments

7. Regional instrument(s) relevant for the implementation of the Programme of Action (if applicable)
 - a. title of instrument(s): Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Material (CIFTA)

¹ On June 3, 2009, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Americas adopted [resolution AG/RES. 2438 \(XXXIX-O/09\)](#), that resolves that the 1962 resolution, which excluded the Government of Cuba from its participation in the inter-American system, ceases to have effect in the Organization of American States (OAS). The 2009 resolution states that the participation of the Republic of Cuba in the OAS will be the result of a process of dialogue initiated at the request of the Government of Cuba, and in accordance with the practices, purposes, and principles of the OAS.

- b. scope, objectives and main provisions of the instrument(s): CIFTA is a binding multilateral agreement to promote the establishment of controls and regulations on the illicit manufacturing and trafficking of firearms. Adopted in 1997, it is the first regional tool of this nature and it was ratified by 31 of the 34 OAS member states. Among its provisions, it includes the (i) Criminalization of conducts associated with the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms; (ii) Mandatory marking of firearms; (iii) Licensing systems for export, import, and transit of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and related materials; (iv) Strengthening of controls at export points; and (v) Regional cooperation and exchange of experiences
- c. mandated function of your organization under regional instrument(s): Technical Secretariat (occupied by the two departments – DPS/OAS and DTOC/OAS)
- d. requirement for **national reports** under regional instrument(s): Countries must submit a questionnaire about the progress to implement CIFTA
- e. **national focal points** for your organization under regional instrument(s): Countries must designate a national focal point of contact (list available at the website)
- f. **regional action plan** under regional instrument(s): CIFTA Course of Action (2018-2022)

III. UN Programme of Action

- 8. Mandates and roles relevant for the implementation of the Programme of Action: CIFTA has complementary dispositions to the PoA. By supporting Member States in implementing CIFTA, the DPS/OAS and DTOC/OAS promote the dispositions of the PoA, particularly regarding
- 9. Meetings
 - a. participation in global UN PoA meetings:
 - b. regular meetings relevant to PoA process organized by your organization
 - i. frequency and timing of meeting(s) (e.g. once a year in April): Annual meetings of the CIFTA Consultative Committee – date and time is defined each year by Secretariat pro-Tempore and approved by OAS Member States - and periodic meetings of the Conference of State Parties (as determined by them)
 - ii. timing of meetings aligned with the UN PoA process
 - iii. capacity of participants (e.g. national focal points / national points of contact)
- 10. Challenges related to implementation of the PoA for States of your (sub)region
- 11. Targets/goals/roadmaps for States of your (sub)region and/or your organization, which are consistent with PoA implementation: CIFTA Course of Action (2018-2022) and Recommendations of the Fifth Conference of State Parties to CIFTA

IV. International assistance

- 12. International assistance (including regional assistance)
 - a. assistance provided to member states during the reporting period:

The DPS/OAS implements the Program of Assistance on Arms Control and Ammunition (PACAM) to improve the capacities of the OAS Member States in controlling the access to and demand for firearms, aiming at the prevention of armed violence. Since 2019, with funding from the European Union, PACAM has benefitted 22 countries (12 in the Caribbean and 10 in Latin America). Particularly, in 2021, the DPS/OAS has accomplished the following results:

- Improvements in security conditions of storage facilities in Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, and Panama;

- Development of an Inventory software for Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), implemented in the Dominican Republic and Panama;
- Training of 101 national personnel in Dominican Republic, Honduras, and Peru in PSSM; 197 national personnel of Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Panama, and Peru in the destruction of SALW and ammunition; and 136 persons from 11 countries in marking and recordkeeping of SALW;
- Technical assistance offered to Ecuador, Honduras, Panama, and the Dominican Republic to destroy a total of 9,652 SALW and 31 tons of munition;
- Training and donation of firearms marking machines to 9 countries (Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guyana, Honduras, Panamá, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines);
- Virtual coordination network created, with the participation of 25 points of contact from 13 countries;
- Certification of 15 officers from 10 countries in EOD-3, in collaboration with the Ministry of Defense of Spain;
- Legislative assistance offered to El Salvador, Jamaica, and Panama to modernize their legislative framework regarding firearms control;
- Development of a framework for the Regional Communication Mechanism on Licit Transfers of Firearms and Ammunition (MCTA), currently being reviewed by technical personnel of 20 countries of the region;
- Life skills training for the prevention of violence provided to 96 youth at-risk through daily classes of music and orchestra in Honduras;
- Training of 120 community leaders, teachers, parents, and municipal officials from Tela, Honduras, and Apopa, El Salvador, in the prevention of armed violence and victims' assistance.

In 2021, the DPS/OAS and the DTOC/OAS, as Technical Secretariat of CIFTA, have advanced the elaboration of a methodology to carry out a Hemispheric Study on Illicit Firearms Trafficking, as mandated by the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA and the General Assembly of the OAS. The study focuses on identifying the characteristics and patterns of illicit trafficking in the region; the institutional capacities to address and prevent illicit trafficking; emerging trends and challenges; as well as making practical recommendations to countries.

- b. needs for international assistance - technical/financial contributions
- c. views for enhancing international cooperation and assistance modalities and procedures in the framework of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, taking into account good practice and lessons learned, and to present recommendations for consideration by Member States at the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States" (para 119, BMS7 outcome document; para 33, A/RES/76/232)

V. Relevant issues

13. Gender-specific considerations

- a. policies/guidance documents for gender-specific actions by your organization: The OAS has approved in 2000 the Inter-American Program on Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP), which commits OAS Member States to systematically integrate a gender perspective in all organs, organizations, and entities of the inter-American system, and encourage OAS member states to formulate public policies, strategies, and proposals aimed at promoting women's human rights and gender equality in all spheres of public and private life, considering their diversity and their life cycles. Based on that, the Executive Order No. 16-03, "General Secretariat's Institutional

Policy on Gender Equality, Diversity, and Human Rights", was issued by the Secretary General on 2016

- b. gender-focused initiatives/projects implemented during the reporting period
 - c. gender-mainstreaming of SALW projects implemented during the reporting period: Considering the different impacts armed violence has on women, men, girls, and boys, as well as in populations in vulnerability (such as LGBTQI groups), a gender-based and human rights perspective are incorporated in all SALW projects. This includes the incorporation of women at all levels of project implementation, and the encouragement to have a more equal share of participation of women in the project's activities, as beneficiaries of the interventions. In addition to that, violence prevention activities focus particular attention on the need of women and girls for security and safety within their communities and for their participation in the search for solutions to these challenges, as well as the incorporation of components focusing exclusively on addressing gender-based violence.
14. Contributions to implementation of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**
- a. SDG-related initiatives/projects implemented during the reporting period: PACAM, described in point 12a, directly contributes to the implementation of SDG 16.4
 - b. **regional indicator(s)**, if applicable
15. Information on marking practices for modular and polymer weapons by member states, if available
16. Ongoing challenges associated with the diversion of small arms at the regional level, if available
- a. diversion related to international transfers: There is a commitment and a legal obligation of the countries of the region that have ratified CIFTA to implement licensing systems and to prevent the transit of goods that do not count with the necessary license. Nonetheless, despite the commitment and the political will of the governments, the countries face various challenges to implementing the obligations, including (i) Absence of domestic regulation and framework to establish guidelines and criteria for issuing licenses; (ii) Lack of national licensing systems or limited national capacity to maintain it; (iii) Information of the national systems are not integrated on a regional level. These weaknesses hinder the effective control of the licit flow of SALW and ammunition and create vulnerabilities that can be exploited by ill-intentioned individuals.
 - b. diversion of state-owned weapons related to stockpile management: Despite the valuable efforts of national authorities, countries struggle to comply with protocols, and international conventions of firearms control, and to implement strategies that could reduce the proliferation and availability of firearms. Military and security forces do not systematically implement stockpile management protocols, increasing the likelihood of diversion of firearms and ammunition to the illicit market, as well as the risk of unplanned explosions in storage facilities.

VI. Additional remarks

Date: 05/05/2022

An MS-Word or PDF version of your completed 2022 report should be sent via e-mail to conventionalarms-unoda@un.org by **31 May 2022**.