

Reporting Template for International and Regional Organizations

Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons(PoA) International Tracing Instrument(ITI) 2026 report (covering implementation period of January 2024-December 2025)

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: conventionalarms@oas.org, publicsecurity@oas.org and ddot@oas.org
 - c. Homepage (relevant website): <https://www.oas.org/en/sms/dps/prog-cifta.asp> and [Departamento de Seguridad Pública \(DSP\)](#)
2.
 - 2.1 SALW Focal Point
 - a. (Name) Pier Angelli De Luca Maciel
 - b. Title: Section Chief
 - c. Section/Department: Conventional Arms, Ammunition and Explosives Section, Department of Public Security (DPS/OAS)
 - d. Email pdeluca@oas.org
 - e. Telephone +1 (202) 370-9884/ +1 (202) 375-3521
 - 2.2 SALW Focal Point
 - f. (Name): Michael Bejos
 - g. Title: Officer in Charge
 - h. Section/Department: Department against Transnational Organized Crime (DTCO/OAS)
 - i. Email: mbejos@oas.org
 - j. Telephone: +1(202) 370 9141
3. Applicable (sub)region: Americas
4. Member States in the (sub)region: 34 independent states of North America, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean¹
5. 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

6. Regional instrument(s) relevant for the implementation of the Programme of Action (if applicable)

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.

- a. Title of instrument(s): Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Material (CIFTA)
- b. Scope, objectives and main provisions: CIFTA is a legally binding multilateral agreement to promote the establishment of controls and regulations on the illicit manufacturing and trafficking of firearms, ammunition, and explosives. Adopted in 1997, it is the first regional tool of this nature, and it was ratified by 31 independent States of the Americas. 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 every two years
- e. **National focal points** designated under regional instrument(s)(e. g. your organization's national counterparts): Countries must designate three points of contact for CIFTA:
 - i. Single Point of Contact
 - ii. Central Authority of Mutual Legal Assistance
 - iii. Operational Point of Contact of Tracing

The updated list of Points of Contact is available on the CIFTA website.

- f. **Regional action plan(s)** under regional instrument(s): Second Course of Action of CIFTA (approved in 2018), available on the CIFTA Website
- g. **Regional road maps, instruments and mechanisms:** experiences and lessons learned regarding their establishment and implementation
 - i. Central America and Dominican Republic Roadmap: adopted in February 2025 by seven countries;
 - ii. Andean Community Roadmap (in development)
- h. **Standardized data collection:** practices within regions supporting information exchange, as appropriate, between law enforcement agencies, customs agencies, and export/import licensing authorities:
 - i. Inventory Control Software (SAM): A specialized, electronic system for rigorous national stockpile management, enabling tracking, monitoring, and analysis of firearms and ammunition inventories to prevent diversion. Available for OAS member states free of charge;
 - ii. National Licensing System (SNL): A comprehensive software platform that digitizes and manages the full lifecycle of licensing processes for the export, import, and transit of firearms and ammunition, improving efficiency and traceability.
 - iii. Firearms Knowledge Platform(FKP): The FKP serves as a centralized repository of information on the processes of supervision, management, and control of arms and ammunition, as well as strategies to combat arms trafficking.
- i. **Information-sharing** on cross-border trafficking of illicit SALW
 - i. **Regional Communication Mechanism on Licit Transfers of Firearms and Ammunition(MCTA):** An instrument for national authorities to exchange information quickly and securely on firearms and ammunition transfer operations, and to rapidly identify risks of diversion to illicit markets. The MCTA directly supports compliance with CIFTA and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) through a platform that enables real-time communication among designated authorities, improving traceability and reducing vulnerabilities in these processes. This instrument is expected to be launched in 2027.

III. Implementacion of the UN Programme of Action

7. Mandates and roles relevant for the implementation of the PoA:

- i. **CIFTA has complementary dispositions to the PoA** (particularly regarding through-life management of small arms and light weapons, cross border coordination, and criminal investigation of firearms trafficking). Through the Program of Assistance on Control of Arms and Munition (PACAM), DPS/OAS supports Member States in operationalizing and implementing CIFTA, and as such, promotes the implementation of other treaties and mechanisms, such as the PoA.
- ii. In addition, per mandates of the General Assembly of the OAS, and its Permanent Council, in coordination with UNLIREC and subregional organizations, the DPS/OAS is spearheading subregional firearms roadmaps. Adopted in February 2025, the **Central America and Dominican Republic Roadmap to Prevent Illicit Trafficking and Proliferation of Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives** establishes a 10-year coordinated regional strategy with objectives, actions, and indicators defined by States to prevent and combat illicit trafficking of firearms, ammunition, and explosives. In the last quarter of 2025, we have started the development of the **Andean Community Roadmap to Prevent and Combat the Illicit Trafficking of Firearms, Ammunition, and Explosives**, taking into account global, inter-American, and subregional frameworks.

8. Meetings

- a. Participation in global UN PoA meetings: The DPS/OAS participates actively in all relevant meetings of the UN PoA. In 2024, DPS/OAS delivered a statement at RevCon4, participated as panelist in side events, and host a side event with the European Union and AMAT-GICHD.
- b. Regular meetings relevant to PoA process organized by your organization
 - i. Frequency and timing of meeting(s) aligned with the UN PoA process (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. Capacity of participants (e.g. national focal points / national points of contact): The National Points of Contact participate in the annual meetings of the CIFTA Consultative Committee, whereas the highest political authorities of the countries participate in the Conference of State Parties.

9. Challenges related to PoA implementation for States in your (sub)region:

- **Through-life management of firearms and ammunition**
 - Gaps in legislation to regulate all stages of firearms and ammunition lifecycle
 - Limited personnel and equipment to oversee and ensure compliance to regulation
 - Poor practices and security conditions of storage areas
 - Paper-based systems and atomized databases
- **Strengthening of border control**
 - Lack of equipment to promote surveillance of cargo and containers
 - Insufficient personnel and lack of training on firearms regulation and interdiction
 - Lack of communication tools with licensing authorities and law enforcement
- **Law Enforcement and Criminal Response**
 - Absence of protocols for tracing and investigation of recovered firearms and ammunition
 - Police findings are not utilized to close diversion gaps and trafficking routes

- Absence of effective channels to share information across other police forces
 - Delays to destroy or repurpose seized firearms
 - **Inter agency coordination**
 - Absence or yet fragile coordination mechanisms to ensure effective exchange of information and decision making among relevant institutional stakeholders (national control arms authorities, customs and border officials, law enforcement, investigation units and prosecution bodies)
 - Lack of clarity or even dispute regarding the extent of competences and mandates hinder coordination among institutions
10. (Sub)regional **action plans** and **road maps**, supporting PoA/ITI implementation, including:
- i. Regional targets, where applicable:
 - ii. Additional regional/subregional action plans with measurable goals and indicators: Central America and Dominican Republic Roadmap to Prevent Illicit Trafficking and Proliferation of Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives, described in point 7 ii.

IV. International Cooperation and Assistance

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

DPS/OAS offers tailored, needs-based, and sustainable technical assistance and capacity-building across the full lifecycle management of small arms, light weapons, and ammunition (SALW), including legislative strengthening, stockpile management, and transfer controls. It also promotes community-level violence prevention and a culture of peace.

During 2024-2025, with the support of the European Union and the Government of Italy funding, 24 countries in the Caribbean and Latin American were assisted in different components, including the following:

- Capacity-building: Over 2,030 officials from 24 countries were trained in SALW lifecycle management, including physical security and stockpile management (PSSM), explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), destruction standards, and marking practices.
- Specialized certification: 31 officials from 13 countries achieved EOD Level 3 certification in cooperation with the Ministry of Defense of Spain and the Inter-American Defense Board.
- Knowledge-sharing: Regional workshops engaged more than 5,500 participants, promoting best practices in arms and ammunition management.
- Legislative support: National legal frameworks in Belize and Ecuador were assessed, identifying gaps in relation to CIFTA standards and obligations.
- Baseline assessment: A joint assessment with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) in Costa Rica provided actionable recommendations to strengthen national systems.
- Destruction of surplus: With OAS technical support and certification, 16,446 surplus or seized SALW and 33.62 tons of ammunition were safely destroyed across seven countries.
- Marking capacity: Six marking machines were donated and personnel trained in five countries to enhance firearms traceability.
- Infrastructure and security: Security assessments were conducted in four countries, leading to upgrades in storage facilities, including infrastructure improvements and installation of security systems and equipment.
- Digital tools: Training was provided to 50 users in eight countries on inventory management software; additionally, new tools were launched, including the Firearms Knowledge Platform (FKP) and the National Licensing System (SNL), alongside the development of the Communication Mechanism for

Licit Arms Transfers (MCTA).

- Community prevention: More than 1,200 at-risk youth in Peru benefited from music-based life skills programs, while over 2,100 community stakeholders in Honduras and Peru were trained in violence prevention and victim support.
- Policy development: A key milestone was the adoption of the Central America and Dominican Republic Roadmap (February 2025). Seven countries advanced National Action Plans (2025–2030) with OAS, UNLIREC, and SICA support. PACAM also contributed to the Caribbean Firearms Roadmap mid-term review and initiated development of an Andean roadmap.
- Law enforcement cooperation: In 2025, PACAM co-organized with INTERPOL the Regional Seminar for Operation Trigger XI (ORCA XI) in Colombia, bringing together 18 countries to strengthen intelligence-sharing and firearms trafficking investigations.

b. Needs for international assistance (technical/financial contributions): Central America and the Dominican Republic Roadmap to Prevent the Illicit Trafficking and Proliferation of Arms, Ammunition, and Explosives: There is a need to establish and operationalize a dedicated mechanism for monitoring, evaluation, and coordination to ensure effective implementation of the Roadmap. Sustained technical and financial support is also required to assist States in advancing priority areas through targeted capacity-building and operational interventions.

c. Views on enhancing international cooperation and assistance modalities in PoA/ITI framework, including good practices and lessons learned: The review process should underscore the critical role of regional organizations in operationalizing the PoA/ITI, particularly in facilitating international cooperation and assistance. Regional mechanisms enable context-specific implementation and provide platforms to translate global commitments into concrete actions.

d. **Regional targets** supporting PoA/ITI implementation, ensuring regional ownership and priorities for resource mobilization, requests for assistance programmes

e. Efforts to establish/strengthen (sub)regional, and cross-regional **cooperation, coordination and voluntary information-sharing mechanisms:**

i. Strengthening coordination mechanisms is essential to enhance the effectiveness of assistance programs, improve the alignment of needs and resources, foster dialogue between donors and recipients, and avoid duplication while maximizing complementarities.

ii. Within the framework of CIFTA, practical tools such as model legislation, guidelines, and standards support national implementation and contribute to PoA objectives. The Regional Communication Mechanism on Licit Transfers of Firearms and Ammunition is a key example, enabling secure information-sharing, improving traceability, and reducing vulnerabilities in international transfer processes, while supporting commitments under both the Inter-American Convention and the Arms Trade Treaty.

iii. Greater efforts are needed to create synergies among reporting obligations across frameworks to reduce reporting burdens on States. Member States are encouraged to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure adequate allocation of resources to support regional and subregional assistance programs.

12. Cooperation with **UN regional centres** for peace and disarmament: DPS/OAS works alongside

UNLIREC and the subregional organizations in the development and implementation of the Subregional Roadmaps of Central America and the Andean Community.

V. Relevant issues

12. Gender-specific considerations

- a. Policies/guidance on gender-responsive approaches: 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: CIFTA has approved in 2024 Regional Guidelines for the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence committed with the use of firearms in the Americas, as a framework to strengthen policies and actions aimed at reducing this form of violence through strategic areas such as integrating the gender and arms control perspective into prevention efforts, strengthening laws and policies to protect victims and hold perpetrators accountable, enhance data collection, promote cooperation among governments, civil society and international organizations and ensuring comprehensive support services for victims.
- c. Gender-mainstreaming of SALW-related projects/activities: 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.

13. Contributions to the achievement of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

- a. SDG-related initiatives/projects: PACAM, described in point 11a, directly contributes to the implementation of SDG 16.4
- b. **Regional indicator(s)**, if applicable:
- Annual country reports to the Inter-American Convention on Transparency Conventional Weapons Acquisitions (CITAAC).
 - Annual country reports, through the electronic platform, of the Confidence-and Security- Building Measures (CSBMs).

14. Information on developments in the manufacturing, technology and design of SALW, including marking practices for modular and polymer weapons, if available

15. Ongoing challenges associated with the **diversion** SALW at the regional level:

- a. **Diversion related to international transfers and the legal trade:** Despite commitments under CIFTA, shortcomings remain in regulatory frameworks, licensing systems, and regional information-sharing. These gaps facilitate diversion through weak end-use controls, limited oversight of transit and brokering, and practices such as straw purchasing, undermining traceability of legally traded SALW.
- b. **Diversion from state-owned stockpiles:** Insufficient implementation of physical security and stockpile management standards—particularly in inventory control, storage conditions, and accountability—continues to increase risks of theft, loss, and unplanned explosions, enabling diversion into illicit markets.
- c. **Diversion from civilian and private security sectors:** Weak oversight of civilian firearm ownership and private security companies, including gaps in licensing, monitoring, and inspections, contributes to diversion of weapons from legal holdings into illicit circulation.

VI. Additional Remarks

Date: May 11th, 2026

Signature and title: Pier Angelli De Luca
Chief of Conventional Arms, Ammunition, and Explosives

An MS-Word or PDF version of your completed 2026 report should be sent via e-mail to conventionalarms-unoda@un.org by **15 May 2026**.