JOINT SUMMIT WORKING GROUP (JSWG)

REPORT
INSTITUTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS
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VIII SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS
"DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AGAINST CORRUPTION"

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REPORTING PERIOD: JUNE 2021–JUNE 2023

VIII SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS
"DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AGAINST CORRUPTION"

I.   Introduction

The Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) originated in the Plan of Action of Quebec (III Summit of the Americas, 2001), at the request of the Heads of State and Government of the Americas, as a permanent coordination mechanism between the inter-American system and the United Nations to provide and facilitate technical support to member states during the implementation and follow-up phase of the Summits of the Americas. Over the years, this role has expanded and the entities that make up the JSWG participate throughout the Summits Process by providing technical assistance to the States from the Summit preparation phase onward.

In compliance with this mandate, the "Memorandum of Understanding" (2001) was signed by the highest authorities of the Organization of American States (OAS),[1] the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to establish a permanent coordination and information mechanism between the parties and promote greater coordination of their work in implementing the mandates of the Summits of the Americas. Progressively, other organizations joined to strengthen support for the countries from the inter-American and multilateral systems.

Currently, the JSWG brings together and coordinates the work of 13 international and regional organizations: the OAS, the IDB, ECLAC, PAHO, the World Bank, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) which joined in 2019. The OAS, through its Secretary General, chairs the JSWG, while the Summits Secretariat serves as technical secretariat.

Mechanism for Follow-up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment

With the adoption of the Lima Commitment: *Democratic Governance against Corruption,*"[2] an outcome of the VIII Summit of the Americas (Peru, 2018), the participating States, under the leadership of the then-Chair of the Summit Process, the Government of Peru, developed and adopted

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1. JSWG Memorandum of Understanding, available at http://www.summit-americas.org/jswg/JSWGLetterofUnderstanding.pdf.
2. The Lima Commitment: "Democratic Governance against Corruption" was adopted at the VIII Summit of the Americas held in Lima, Peru, on April 14 and 15, 2018. Available at: http://www.summit-americas.org/LIMA_COMMITMENT/LimaCommitment_en.pdf.

the "Mechanism for Follow-up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment" in November 2018, within the framework of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG).

The Mechanism was created with the objective of recording the progress made participating States and JSWG entities in implementing the mandates of the Lima Commitment, promoting the sharing of best practices and regional capacities, and identify possibilities for technical support from JSWG organizations in the implementation of identified initiatives.

With the information gathered by the Mechanism for Follow-up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment[3] on the needs and challenges[4] presented by the States VIII Summit participating states and the information recorded by JSWG member institutions, including on good practices and possibilities for technical assistance, the Summits Secretariat and the members of the JSWG developed the JSWG Action Plan 2019–2021, which set out strategic lines for supporting the implementation of the mandates adopted at the Summit.

The Action Plan was developed in order to harmonize their cooperation in the region and took into account the following areas of the Lima Commitment: (i) Development and strengthening of effective and transparent mechanisms for the civil service, including policies on public sector integrity, open data, public procurement, infrastructure, and education; (ii) Strengthening of the mechanisms for the protection of whistleblowers, witnesses, and victims of corruption; (iii) Adherence to anti-corruption and corporate governance; and (iv) Detection, investigation, and prosecution of acts of corruption; and (v) strengthening of inter-American anti-corruption mechanisms.

The report was prepared by the Summits Secretariat based on information provided by the organizations making up the JSWG. Its purpose is to provide information and highlight efforts to implement the mandates of the VIII Summit of the Americas in accordance with the areas outlined in the JSWG Action Plan 2019–201.

This report covers the period June 2021 to June 2023, during which emergency provisions were adopted to address the public health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the region, which involved granting special regulatory powers to national and subnational governments. Such measures increased corruption in many cases. Although these special powers had were limited in time, it was found that in some cases their discretionary use resulted in risks to the separation of powers and protection of civil rights.

In this context, the entities making up the JSWG promoted a sweeping integrity agenda in the region's public policies and worked directly with public administrations to deepen their capacity for action. These efforts constitute a concrete contribution to strengthening, in a harmonized manner, cooperation among the States that took part in the VIII Summit and multilateral entities, in order to move forward with the implementation of the Lima Commitment.

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3. Mechanism for Follow-up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment, http://www.summit-americas.org/SIRG/2018/112818/Mecanismo_EN.doc.
4. Challenges and Needs for Technical Assistance of the States Participating in the VIII Summit of the Americas in Implementing the Lima Commitment, available at https://www.derechoshumanoseconomicos.com/images/OEA/CumbrePeru/Seguimiento_cumbres-buenas_prcticas_3.pdf.

The JSWG entities reported to the Summits of the Americas Secretariat a series of measures and activities to implement the mandates contained in the Lima Commitment, among which the following are highlighted, taking into account their progress in the agreements established in the Action Plan.

The work of the IDB has focused on technical assistance to countries such as Paraguay, Honduras, Colombia, Chile, Peru and Panama, as well as on the development of general regional measures that include a wide variety of initiatives, such as the development of training, the implementation of communities of practice, the design of action plans, the preparation of guides, manuals, and reviews of legal and institutional frameworks, among others. A large part of these actions were designed to promote the use of technologies through the development of various kinds of platforms, digital tools, applications and databases with the aim of aimed at monitoring the assets of public servants, improving complaint mechanisms, making the application of *open government* viable, monitoring public spending, and offering tools to financial entities and lobbying groups to facilitate control of their activities and their adherence to compliance policies.

Also noteworthy are the meetings held by the OECD as part of the development of the Public Integrity Network of Latin America and the Caribbean, which resulted in the exchange and comparison of good practices for the design of indicators and applicable strategies for the adoption of public integrity policies in the region.

CAF has mainly carried out courses aimed at strengthening skills and knowledge in this area. They include the courses on "Ethics and Institutional Integrity - The case of Peru" case and "The Role of data and digital innovation in public procurement (2nd edition)." It has also carried out development studies with other JSWG entities and developed, for example, the "Guide for the identification of corruption risks in public procurement," using data science and the "Subregional diagnostic assessment of data on the public procurement and contracting system."

Also noteworthy are the training courses developed by ECLAC entitled "From Digital Government to Smart Government" and "Open Government in Latin America and the Caribbean: Principles, tools and policies for strengthening public management," which demonstrate once more the interest of the countries of the region in advancing the application of technological tools to fight corruption and ensure effective integrity policies.

It should be noted that UNDP joined the organizations that provided technical assistance to the countries of the region in different areas of the Lima Commitment, through training for a wide range of groups, such as high-level government officials and journalists, as well as support in the development of technological tools for monitoring indicators to facilitate management or control by the public.

Lastly, the OAS General Secretariat, with the collaboration of the other members of the JSWG, has carried out a large number of activities, including the production of guides, development of digital tools for transparency in public procurement, and the exchange of information to promote cooperation in areas related to transnational organized crime, as well as the deployment of electoral observation missions (EOMs) in the region.

## II.	Progress in the JSWG Action Plan 2019–2021

### 2.1	Effective and transparent mechanisms for the civil service

*a.	Policy area: civil service - integrity*

<u>Mandates: 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 27, and 50.</u>

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

The IDB provided technical assistance upon request to participating States, with the aim of improving their integrity frameworks and ensuring a civil service receptive to adopting an organizational structure that includes selection and promotion methods, rules on prevention of conflicts of interest at the national and subnational levels, disclosure of financial interests, enforcement of disciplinary measures, and remuneration of public authorities. To that end, awareness-raising exercises on public ethics and the application of measures to promote transparency in the management and use of public resources were developed.

As part of this assistance, the institutional offerings of other organizations such as the OAS and the OECD complemented the IDB's efforts to support the countries of the region in implementing national integrity and anti-corruption strategies through the development of national legislation, exchange of regulatory practices, institutional strengthening, and the implementation of measures to prevent conflicts of interest. Emphasis was also placed on implementing measures to combat tax evasion and the automatic exchange of financial information.

In terms of fulfillment of mandates, the main progress was as follows:

Mandate 10

- **Paraguay:** The country was supported in the drafting of proposed law on public integrity and preventing conflicts of interest. The bill has already passed the Senate and is currently before the Chamber of Deputies.
- **Honduras:** The Higher Audit Office is being supported in the digitalization of its system for submitting sworn statements of net worth.
- **Regional:** At the end of 2022, a Public Integrity Community of Practice was created; consisting of nine countries (Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, Honduras, Paraguay, Panama, Peru and Dominican Republic) its objective is to analyze with tax experts, forensic accountants, and digital developers, among others, regulatory best practices and digital solutions in the area of sworn statements of net worth and prevention of conflicts of interest.

Mandates 11 and 13

- **Honduras:** Support is being provided to the country's Secretariat for Transparency and the Fight against Corruption in the preparation, with civil society collaboration, of its Fifth Action Plan for the Open Government Partnership.
- **Chile:** It is being supported in the development of its Sixth Open Government Action Plan in consultation with civil society.

- **Paraguay:** The Office of the Comptroller General is receiving support in the development of a mechanism for reporting irregularities and acts of corruption.

<u>Mandates 10, 11, 12, 13, 22, 31, 44 and 52</u>

- **Panama:** the IDB Group, the Superintendency of Banks of Panama, and the Panamanian Banking Association, presented the <u>Integrity Guidelines</u> prepared for banks and financial institutions, in order to address the integrity risks that these entities may face in the course of their activities. The purpose of these documents is to serve as a practical guide for banks operating in the Panamanian market that seek to develop or improve their compliance programs. These guidelines also describe the various components of an effective compliance program, based on international best practices and universally accepted integrity measures.

  As part of this initiative, technical assistance was provided through regular meetings with representatives of Panamanian banks (public and private, of varying size and market presence) and two virtual training sessions with compliance officers. Likewise, face-to-face meetings were held: one with the CEOs of these entities to discuss the Guidelines from a management and administration perspective, the second, with the banks' compliance officers to discuss the specific issues they face on a daily basis.

  The IDB and Superintendency of Banks of Panama have made a commitment to continue working together in 2023 to strengthen integrity and transparency and have established the internalization of the guidelines developed by the Superintendency and the banks in the Panamanian market as the next objective.

  In addition, at the end of 2022, Panama joined the "Investment Map" initiative,[5] with the objective of strengthening transparency in the management and use of public resources. Since then, a digital platform has been under construction, which is expected to be publicly launched in the second quarter of 2023 and will include disaggregated budget and public investment information, citizen participation functionalities, and open data for users to use.

  This platform, which is managed by the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF), is also expected to enhance interaction with citizens and accountability, and that it will gradually grow in terms of the information disclosed.

- **Peru:** The IDB has worked with this country through a consultancy to conduct a gap analysis and an assessment, review, and adjustment of the integrity system of the National Private Business Confederation of Peru (CONFIEP),[6] including its code of corporate conduct.

  Thus far, the following products have been completed:

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5. <u>InvestmentMap</u> is an IDB regional initiative that promotes—through digital information management platforms—transparency in public spending, investment, and public procurement in Latin American and Caribbean countries. So far, 13 countries in the region have joined the initiative.
6. CONFIEP is an "association of associations" that represents 10 economic sectors through 22 business associations, including the infrastructure, health, and education sectors.

- Output I: Gap analysis of CONFIEP's bylaws, rules of procedure, and code of conduct in the light of international standards and best practices in corporate governance.
- Output II: Proposed adjustment and implementation of new CONFIEP bylaws, rules of procedure, and code of conduct, containing the "Business Integrity Pact," through which participating associations commit to implementing integrity programs.
- Output III: Proposed Independent Mechanism for the formulation of queries and complaints related to the implementation of the Business Integrity Pact.
- Output IV: Proposed independent evaluation system for the Integrity Pact.

It is worth noting that by May 2022, the Boards of Directors of all 22 associations that make up CONFIEP had approved the Integrity Pact to support the implementation of the strengthened Business Integrity System. The CONFIEP Committee is expected to approve the integrity policies in the first months of 2023.

A training program on these new instruments and institutional documents is also expected to be prepared and developed for CONFIEP's governing bodies, including its board of directors, advisory council, executive committee, and general managers or executive directors of the member associations.

Investment Map

The Peru Mining Country Investment Map was launched in 2020 in coordination with the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MINEM); this platform allows user to locate nation-wide detailed information about mining production, mining jobs, and fee and royalty transfers. This tool allows closer monitoring of activities in the sector and correlates data with information on the execution of public investment projects financed with resources from extractive activities. 2019 also saw the launch of the MapaInversiones from the Territory in coordination with the Office of the President of the Council of Ministers of Peru, with the purpose of promoting transparency and improving the efficiency in the use of public resources that are transferred by the national government and administered by regional and local governments.

- **Colombia:** A budget transparency platform for citizens is being implemented as part of a project led by the Administrative Department of the Office of the President of the Republic.

The IDB has extensive experience in providing support to its member countries in the adoption of institutional and legal frameworks aligned with international standards on beneficial ownership, in both technical and effectiveness terms and covering financial and fiscal transparency issues (FATF Standards and Standards of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes). This support takes the form of technical assistance, technical studies, and institutional strengthening.

- **Dominican Republic:** In the area of technical assistance, the IDB, through its Institutions for Development Sector (IFD/ICS), provided support to the Government of the Dominican Republic (Financial Analysis Unit (UAF) and Internal Taxes (DGII)) for a review of the legal, regulatory, institutional, human-resource, and technological capacities to strengthen and improve the country's Registry of Beneficial Owners, which included an action plan with specific proposals to be implemented.

- **Paraguay:** In addition, the IDB, through the IFD/ICS, provided technical assistance to the Government of Paraguay (Office of the Legal Counsel of the Treasury of the Ministry of Finance) for the implementation of measures related to the registration of beneficial owners. This activity included the analysis and improvement of regulatory, legal, institutional, and technological aspects for the operation of the registry.

- **Regional:** Lastly, with regard to knowledge products and technical studies, the IDB, in conjunction with the OECD's Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes, published the Manual on Beneficial Ownership (first and second editions) for all countries in the region.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Based on its Recommendations on Public Integrity, the OECD is carrying out Integrity Reviews, whose objective is to assist countries in the design of comprehensive public policy strategies in this field, comparing them with international best practices and successful experiences in its member countries.

- **Costa Rica:** Launched in 2022, the Costa Rica Integrity Review examines how Costa Rica can translate its recent National Integrity and Corruption Prevention Strategy into a concrete, coherent integrity policy. It also reviews the framework for managing conflicts of interest and considers how best to address the lack of regulation on lobbying and promote integrity and transparency in all activities to influence public decision making.

In addition, the OECD-IDB LAC Public Integrity Network which brings together authorities responsible for integrity policies in Latin America and the Caribbean, seeks to share experience and lessons learned from the implementation of integrity policies at the national and sectoral levels. The Network meets for two days once a year for a policy dialogue to exchange experiences and best practices and discuss the challenges of their implementation.

Additionally, in 2021 the OECD unveiled its Public Integrity Indicators, which cover the countries of Canada, the United States, Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia, Brazil, Peru, and Argentina, establish a new benchmark for government resilience to corruption risks, and serve to strengthen public integrity. These indicators, based on primary-source data and validated by countries, help strengthen global anti-corruption efforts by providing actionable information.

At the Network meeting in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, on December 1 and 2, 2022, the Public Integrity Indicators were presented with a view to inviting discussion and dialogue on how to strengthen and improve coordination between internal and external control bodies. An ad hoc meeting of the Network took place in Paris, France, on May 23, on the sidelines of the 2023 OECD Global Anti-Corruption and Integrity Forum 2023, where strategies to strengthen integrity and transparency in *lobbying* and public integrity in infrastructure were discussed.

The Network will hold its 2023 regular annual meeting in Latin America in the second half of the year.

b. *Policy area: Open data*

<u>Mandates: 14, 17, 20</u>

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

In keeping with the above mandates, ECLAC carried out the following activities:

1. Training through its Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES): International Course (in Spanish) "Del Gobierno Digital hacia un Gobierno Inteligente."
    Place and date: Virtual, August 2 to September 13, 2023

2. Training through its Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES): International Course (in Spanish) "Gobierno Abierto en América Latina y el Caribe: principios, herramientas y políticas para el fortalecimiento de la gestión pública."
    Place and date: Mexico City, November 27 to December 1, 2023

Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)

As part of its training programs for public officials in Latin American and Caribbean countries, CAF designed a course called "Ethics and Institutional Integrity - The case of Peru."

The course emphasizes that the Public Sector Financial Administration (PSFA) seeks to optimize the management of public resources, which requires the highest standards of integrity and transparency on the part of the employees of entities, not only in the capture/collection allocation, and registration of resources, but in all phases of public management. The course emphasizes that the public servants must perform their duties with integrity, i.e., in line with ethical values, principles, and standards to prioritize public interests over private interests, and act in a manner consistent with the principles and values of the civil service.

Adopting a case-study methodology, the course participants from the civil service at different levels of government directly or indirectly connected to the financial management systems (either governing or implementing entities), were able to interact in a practical and productive way around the following four modules:

1. Internal control and risk management
2. Institutional culture and integrity
3. Criminal liability in the public service
4. Management of financial liabilities of regional and local governments

c.   Policy area: Procurement

<u>Mandates: 27, 28, 29</u>

Organization of American States (OAS)

- The OAS, through its Department for Effective Public Management (DGPE), the Inter-American Government Procurement Network (RICG) as technical secretariat, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, the Latin American Open Data Initiative (ILDA) and the Universidad de los Andes of Colombia, with contributions from the Open Contracting Partnership (OCP) and the Hivos Foundation, carried out the study "Towards an Open Data Policy of the Public Procurement System for the member countries of the RICG,"[7/] which makes a global analysis of open procurement, prepares a diagnostic assessment of the region, and puts forward six recommendations, as contained in the "Guidelines for Open Data in Public Procurement Systems" in the member countries.

The document, funded by the DGPE/OAS, IDRC, and ILDA, was presented at the Fifteenth Annual Conference of the RICG in the Dominican Republic on October 29, 2019.

- The study "Sub-regional diagnosis of the data from the public procurement and contracting system"[8/] prepared collaboratively by the OAS/DGPE as technical secretariat of the RICG, CAF, and the Universidad de los Andes, within the framework of the cooperation project "Prevention of corruption through transparency and data analytics in public procurement systems" was also prepared; that project analyzes and determines, based on the "Guidelines for the Openness of data in the RICG public procurement systems" and the set of indicators identified, analyzes and determines the level of quality, structure and reusability of the data produced by the national public procurement systems of four countries in the region: Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Paraguay. It also identifies the potential of public procurement datasets to develop methodologies for corruption risk analysis.

The recommendations of the Diagnosis were a key input for the countries analyzed to identify priority actions and were taken as a reference in the design of their action plans to strengthen risk prevention capabilities.

- **Colombia Compra Eficiente (CCE):** recommendations were incorporated into a policy proposal for the next decade through a document prepared by the National Council for Economic and Social Policy (CONPES) and public procurement proposals for the National Development Plan 2022–2026.
- **National Directorate of Public Procurement (DNCP) of Paraguay:** contribution to the preparation of the draft Public Procurement Law presented to the National Assembly by the DNCP.

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7. For more information, visit https://ricg.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Publicacion-hacia-una-política-de-datos-abiertos-del-sistema-de-CP.pdf.
8. For more information, visit https://ricg.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Diagnostico-subregional-de-los-datos-del-sistema-de-compra-y-contratacion-publica.pdf.

- **National Public Procurement Service (SERCOP), Ecuador:** contribution to the implementation of the National Integrity Pact.

The results obtained were presented at the private session of the Sixteenth Annual Conference of the RICG on December 8, 2021; the sources of funding were the DGPE/OAS and CAF.

- In addition, the "Guide for the identification of corruption risks in public procurement, using data science,"[9] developed by the OAS/DGPE—as RICG technical secretariat—and CAF, within the framework of the project Prevention of Corruption through Transparency and Data Analytics in Public Contracting Systems," was prepared in order to provide a roadmap for procurement agencies to create mechanisms aimed at analyzing information on public procurement, as well as to identify corruption risks.

  As a result of the development of the Guide, an action plan was devised for the incorporation and implementation of a technique for the identification of risks in public procurement. This technique was implemented using a set of algorithms and tools to speed up the manual verification of public procurement processes.

  The Guide was presented at the Regional Meeting of the RICG on "Transparency and Integrity in Public Procurement,[10] which was held virtually on June 2, 2022; its sources of funding were the DGPE/OAS and CAF.

- Another activity was the development of algorithmic red flag models and the introduction of a set of indicators for the identification of risks of inefficiencies and improper practices in public procurement processes.

  As part of the results obtained, an application programming interface (API) was developed with a battery of 62 standardized red flags adaptable to the context of public procurement agencies. The models developed were also tested in Paraguay and Ecuador on a selected data set of public procurement processes, where red flags were identified and the following results were generated:

Paraguay:
- Implementation of 10 red flags per API in the transaction system
- Identification of unstructured contracts in a sample of 12,000 contracts

Ecuador:
- Risk matrices defined by type of indicators
- Metrics consolidation
- Prioritization of multiple indicators into a single indicator

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9. For more information, visit https://ricg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Guia-para-la-identificacion-de-riesgos-de-corrupcion-en-CP-utilizando-la-ciencia-de-datos.pdf.
10. For more information, visit https://ricg.org/es/actividades/primer-encuentro-regional-sobre-transparencia-e-integridad-en-la-contratacion-publica/.

The development of the Algorithmic Model was presented at the private session of the Sixteenth Annual Conference of the RICG on December 8, 2021; the sources of funding were the DGPE/OAS and CAF.

- In addition, the RICG Declaration "Public procurement as a strategic area for generating greater public value and better access to citizens' rights" was promulgated;[11] it contains eight recommendations guiding the strengthening of national public procurement and contracting systems. This declaration follows up on the implementation of the Lima Commitment "Democratic Governance against Corruption" and the mandates on strengthening public procurement systems contained in OAS General Assembly resolutions.

  The Declaration of the RICG was agreed upon by the national directors of public procurement of the OAS member countries and endorsed by the OAS, IDB, CAF, CDB and IDRC at a virtual meeting on December 8, 2021: the source of funding was the DGPE/OAS.

  The recommendations of the RICG Declaration have been included among the strategic actions to be promoted in public procurement, within the mandates on strengthening democratic governance from the IX Summit of the Americas as well as in the resolution adopted by the OAS General Assembly in 2022.

  Likewise, in October 2022, the Declaration was key issue at the Seventeenth Annual Conference of the RICG and was discussed at an event organized in December 2022 with the Ibero-American Public Procurement Network (REDICOP) in the academic sector, which adhered to the Declaration and positioned it as the "compass" to guide the continuous improvement of institutional capacity in public procurement.

- Another initiative developed is the Algorithmic Model implemented in the public procurement systems of Colombia and Paraguay, through technical assistance.

Technical assistance implemented in Colombia through Colombia Compra Eficiente (AN-CCE), the national agency:
- Strategic development of red flags.
- Generation of an application that utilizes public procurement data and can be updated by means of information extraction, transformation and loading (ETL) routines.
- Development of a dashboard with statistics on red flags triggered in past procurement processes and contracts in the SECOP II datasets.

Technical assistance implemented in Paraguay through the National Directorate of Government Procurement (DNCP):
- Selection and strategic development of red flags.
- Basis for the creation of the infrastructure to enable the addition of more red flags and generation of the graphical interface to manage them.

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11. For more information, visit https://secureservercdn.net/198.71.233.44/u1y.854.myftpupload.com/wpcontent/uploads/2021/12/DECLARACION-RICG-2021.pdf.

- Basis for the improvement of the announcement, award, and execution stages of contracts, by allowing better monitoring of anomalies in procurement processes.

The results of this technical assistance were documented in the Diagnostic Report "Implementation of Algorithmic Models of Early Warning Systems for Irregularities and Red Flags in Public Procurement";[12] and presented at America Abierta and the Seventeenth Annual Conference of the RICG[13] in Dominican Republic and Panama, in September and October 2022 respectively; the sources of funding were the DGPE/OAS and CAF.

As part of the pursuit of mandates 27 and 28, the Government Procurement Maturity Model (e-GP-MM 2.0) was also developed. That instrument was developed to measure the maturity of e-government procurement platforms[14] with information analyzed from 19 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. On the technical level, the initiative was developed by the IDB and the DEPM/OAS, as Technical Secretariat of the RICG. The Model was presented at the Regional Meeting of the RICG on "Transparency and Integrity in Public Procurement," which was held virtually on June 2, 2022. The sources of funding were DGPE/OAS, IDB, Korea Public Capacity Building Fund for Economic Development (KPC) of the Republic of Korea (managed by IDB).

Impact of the described actions

As part of the results obtained, an action plan with recommendations was designed for each participating country, which was validated by the procurement agencies themselves. Countries such as Ecuador, El Salvador, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay have begun to implement some recommendations consistent with the institutional capacity of each agency.

Based on these action plans, technical assistance was provided in El Salvador to analyze the COMPRASAL electronic procurement system and, based on the results, a conceptual model was developed with recommendations for strengthening the system. This technical assistance was provided collaboratively in 2022 by the DGPE/OAS and the IDB, which provided the funding.

Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)

In the area of procurement policy, CAF offered a training course on the role of data and digital innovations in public procurement (2nd edition) with the objective of illustrating how certain digital innovations and the data use help to reduce opportunities for corruption in government contracting and procurement processes, regardless of the legal or institutional regime governing them.

Practical cases and examples were discussed during the course, in order of complexity, to facilitate the students' understanding of the subject and allow them to comprehend how such innovations interact in smart procurement. The course was designed for people in public administration with an interest in the use of data and new technologies that are applicable to government procurement, in particular those working in ministries for modernization or finance, government procurement

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12. https://ricg.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Informe-Implementacion-de-banderas-rojas-en-los-sistemas-de-compra-publica-de-Colombia-y-Paraguay.pdf
13. https://ricg.org/es/actividades/panama-fue-sede-de-la-xvii-conferencia-anual-de-la-ricg-2022/
14. https://ricg.org/es/visualizador-e-gp-2-0/

agencies, public innovation laboratories, agencies or ministries responsible for public works and infrastructure, and anti-corruption agencies.

The course was divided into the following modules:
- Government procurement data
- Data analytics tools
- Data analytics to contribute to public procurement integrity
- Advanced data science techniques to combat corruption

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The UNDP also developed the following actions and activities to generate "Effective and transparent mechanisms for the civil service" in the area of procurement policy:

- **Ecuador**: The UNDP, through its regional SIGOB project, supported the National Public Procurement Service of Ecuador (SERCOP) in the analysis of works tender processes at the decentralized autonomous government level and the electronic reverse auction process in the health sector, in order to identify areas for improvement in those processes and so ensure greater administrative transparency.

  As a result of the analysis, the methodology, findings and recommendations were transferred to the counterpart institution to improve the management and regulatory aspects of processes so as to bring about a reduction in corruption and more-efficient monitoring of the utilization of public resources.

- **Panama**: The UNDP, through its regional SIGOB project, provided technical support to the Government of Panama in the automation of high-demand administrative processes (such as procurement and contracting) and in the integration of these processes with the ISTMO System of the Ministry of the Economy and Finance.

  The Ministry was the first government institution to opt for automation of critical processes in order to boost their efficiency and make them more transparent. With UNDP support, other public institutions have joined the transparency agenda and the initiative has led to the development of efficient, proven interoperability mechanisms with other institutional systems.

  The processes for which there is greatest demand include procurement and contracting, issuance of vehicle licenses, and supply requests.

  d. Gender equality

As part of the cooperation initiatives promoted by the Summits Secretariat, in the implementation of the Mechanism for Follow-up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment and in preparation for the IX Summit of the Americas, the Summits Secretariat, in coordination with the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM/OAS), presented the document *"Impacts of Corruption on Women's Rights in the Americas: An Agenda under Construction.*" This publication analyzes the effects of corruption on the rights of women and girls and the need to implement anti-corruption

policies with a gender perspective. It also offers recommendations on the gender-inclusion and -equity challenges facing the region.

3.1 Strengthening Protection Mechanisms for Whistleblowers, Witnesses and Victims of Corruption

a. *Policy area: Whistleblowers, witnesses, and victims of corruption*
b. *Policy area: Protection of journalists*

Mandate: 23

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

The OECD Working Group on Bribery has long recognized the importance of whistleblowers as a source for detecting corruption and makes consistent recommendations to Latin American and Caribbean countries in that regard. As part of a peer review process, during the period 2018 to 2020, the OECD Working Group recommended the implementation of different phases to Chile (phase 4), Colombia (phase 3), Costa Rica (phase 2), and Mexico (phase 4) to adopt or enhance comprehensive and effective frameworks for whistleblower protection.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

In the policy area of protection of journalists the UNDP held training courses for journalists as part of the strengthening of protection mechanisms for whistleblowers, witnesses and victims of corruption:

- The online course on data journalism and public safety will be offered starting in August 2023, in partnership with the Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas at the University of Texas at Austin, through the regional Infosegura project. The objective of the course is to help improve the analysis, coverage and quality standards of journalism in the region on violence prevention, public safety, and violence against women and girls. The course will last 5 weeks and will be conducted in Spanish and English.

4.1 Compliance and corporate governance

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

The OECD through the Latin America and Caribbean Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Network (LAC LEN) provided practical, case-based, peer-led training to authorities responsible for anti-corruption enforcement in Latin America and the Caribbean.

It held its third meeting, virtually, in 2020, which discussed challenges; exchanged best practices; conducted training on the impact of COVID-19 and the response to it (specifically with regard to corruption in public procurement and economic support packages), corporate responsibility, and anti-corruption compliance; and worked with witnesses, whistleblowers and whistleblowers. The meeting also launched the Global Law Enforcement Response to Corruption in Crisis Situations project developed by the OECD Anti-Corruption Division with support from the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) of the U.S. Department of State).

At the fourth LAC-LEN meeting, held in Santiago, Chile, on November 15 and 16, 2022, discussions focused on key trends, common challenges, and best practices in the detection, investigation, and prosecution of corruption, it also featured peer-led and case-based training. Other priority issues for the region were discussed, such as gender perspective and the independence of corruption investigations. The meeting was jointly organized by the OECD Anti-Corruption Division and the Public Prosecutor's Office of Chile, with support provided by INL. The 2023 meeting is scheduled for the last quarter of the year.

Lastly, the OECD-Latin America Network on Corporate Governance of State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) offered recommendations for SOE senior executives through a continuous exchange of experiences and knowledge on governance policies, practices and reforms, using the OECD Guidelines on Corporate Governance of State-Owned Enterprises and on Anti-Corruption and Integrity in State-Owned Enterprises (ACI Guidelines), as the first international instrument that offers the State, in its role as business owner, support in combatting corruption and the promoting integrity in state-owned enterprises.

The Network last met in 2021 to discuss the draft report on the implementation of the ACI Guidelines in eight Latin American countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, and Peru), which was published in April 2021.

5.1   Detection, Investigation and Prosecution of Corruption

e.   Anti-bribery – anti-money laundering – tax evasion – asset recovery

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Within the framework of activities for the detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption, the Program carried out the following:

- **Guyana:** The UNDP, through its regional SIGOB project, supported the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions of Guyana (DPP) in the design of an electronic filing system for the registration and digitization of court records. The system aims to enhance efficiency and transparency in the delivery of justice to the citizens of Guyana, as well as to optimize the preservation and security of court records, as well as access thereto. The DPP is the sole authority vested with the power to exercise control over the prosecution of all criminal matters in Guyana.

- **Paraguay:** The UNDP, through its regional SIGOB project, provided technical assistance to the Supreme Court of Justice of Paraguay to optimize its technological infrastructure and data architecture, to update the national court management system (JUDISOFT) originally developed by UNDP, which enables the efficient and transparent management of court records.

- **Dominican Republic:** The UNDP, through its regional SIGOB project, supported the Office of the Ombudsman of the Dominican Republic in the implementation of a digital system for requests, complaints, and case initiation. The new system enables citizens to access the Ombudsman's Office processes more effectively and reduce transaction costs.

The project is part of a global digitalization strategy to make the processes of public institutions digital, transparent, and accessible to citizens, enabling them to avoid transaction costs and unnecessary paperwork.

Organization of American States (OAS)

Group of Experts for the Control of Money Laundering (GELAVEX), Department against Transnational Organized Crime (DTOC), Organization of American States (OAS)

Mandates 21, 29, 37, 42 and 43

An OAS advisory body, GELAVEX serves as the Technical Secretariat of the Department against Transnational Organized Crime (DTOC) of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SSM). It met six times during the period 2020 to 2022, as follows:

- Meeting 48
  - June 30 and July 16, 2020 (Washington, D.C. – virtual)
  - Special meeting
    - "Cooperation in investigations and proceedings related to corruption, tax crimes, and associated money laundering," which was co-organized by the Summits Secretariat and the DTOC in compliance with the Lima Commitment on Democratic Governance against Corruption
  - Themes:
    - Investigative techniques and associated money laundering in the post COVID-19 context – Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
    - Embezzlement of emergency funds: Legal structures for concealing stolen assets – World Bank
    - Transparency in international sharing on tax information. Tax policy and administration measures in the context of COVID-19 – Inter-American Center of Tax Administrations (CIAT)
    - Developments in the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESISIC) – Secretariat for Legal Affairs of the OAS
  - Recommendations
    - Based on these exchanges of experience, GELAVEX approved six recommendations derived from the presentations by experts and statements by delegations, which would serve as reference for OAS member states in preventing and countering acts of corruption, tax offenses, and associated money laundering

- Meeting 49
  - November 10, 2020 (Asunción – virtual)
  - Documents that would serve as reference for OAS member states
    - Study on the applicability of precautionary measures to assets forfeited overseas (DDOT/LAVEX/doc.22/20)
    - Conceptualization and Design of a Network of Administrators of Seized and Confiscated Assets (DDOT/LAVEX/doc.24/20)

- Study on regulations on politically exposed persons (PEPs) in the region, with special emphasis on the Caribbean subregion (DDOT/LAVEX/doc.26/20)
- Typology study on money laundering arising from smuggling (DDOT/LAVEX/doc.28/20)
  o Themes
    - Administration of Seized Agricultural Establishments – National Secretariat for the Administration of Seized and Forfeited Assets (SENABICO) (DDOT/LAVEX/doc.30/20)
    - Use of Strategic Intelligence in the Prevention and Suppression of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism – Secretariat for the Prevention of Money Laundering (SEPRELAD) (DDOT/LAVEX/doc.31/20)
    - Actions and studies carried out on virtual assets and different business modalities – Secretariat for the Prevention of Money Laundering (SEPRELAD) (DDOT/LAVEX/doc.32/20)

- Meeting 50
  o July 13 and 14, 2021 (Washington D.C. – virtual)
  o Themes:
    - Money laundering case involving the crime of corruption – Public Prosecutor's Office and Financial Analysis Unit of Chile (Document)
    - Challenges with due diligence and compliance procedures during the pandemic – *Global Financial Integrity* (GFI); *SAS Analytics Software & Solutions* (Document)

- Meeting 51
  o November 15 to 17, 2021 (Mexico City – virtual)
  o Reference documents for OAS member states:
    - Identification of cases from the perspective of criminal investigation involving crypto-assets
    - Study on the laundering of the proceeds of crimes of political corruption, illicit drug and arms trafficking, and tax fraud
    - Feasibility of establishing the Illicit Asset Management Network at the hemispheric level
    - Model for sharing forfeited assets as a reference document for OAS member states
    - Themes:
    - Interagency customs cooperation to combat money laundering – Financial Intelligence Unit and Customs Authority of Mexico
    - Oversight and investigation of financial technology services - U.S. Department of Justice / Bank of Mexico / Financial Intelligence Unit of Mexico
    - Environmental crimes, illegal mining, and money laundering. DTOC-OAS/ INTERPOL Regional Office for South America (OIPOLC)/ Financial and Economic Analysis Unit (UAFE) of Ecuador
    - Use of illicit proceeds in electoral processes and how to combat it – Transparency International/Department for Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) of the OAS/ DTOC-OAS
    - Instrumental tools in the fight against organized crime: Strengthening asset management and recovery by asset management units in the region

- National Secretariat for the Administration of Seized and Forfeited Assets (SENABICO) of Paraguay/ Sociedad de Activos Especiales (SAE) of Colombia/ Ministry of Public Security of Panama/ DTOC-OAS
- Combating political corruption from a financial intelligence perspective – Information and Financial Analysis Unit (UIAF) of Colombia/ Financial Intelligence Unit of Argentina/ DTOC-OAS

- Meeting 52
  - May 16 to 18, 2022 (Washington, D.C. – virtual)
  - Themes and documents:
    - Identification, monitoring and reporting of money laundering cases linked to virtual assets – Financial Intelligence Unit of Mexico/ Department of Homeland Security of the United States of America
    - Money laundering typologies associated with political corruption – Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) of Mexico
    - Identification of trade-based money laundering (TBML) issues – Department of Homeland Security of the United States of America/ DTOC-OAS

- Meeting 53
  - November 16, 2022 (Washington, D.C. – virtual)
  - Documents:
    - Red flags guide for reporting on money laundering cases related to human trafficking
    - Analysis of money laundering cases linked to environmental crimes
    - Study on trade-based money laundering typologies
    - Guide to Identification and Investigation Techniques in Money Laundering related to Political Corruption
    - Study on best practices in coordination between asset forfeiture authorities in cases of money laundering linked to illicit arms trafficking, and their proper disposition
    - Regional diagnostic assessment of the fight against cybercrime money laundering in OAS member states
  - Themes:
    - Asset recovery and administration processes in relation to proceeds of transactions involving illicit funds - DTOC-OAS/ Monetary Police Unit of the Guardia di Finanza of Italy/ Financial Intelligence Unit of Mexico
    - The importance of forfeiture as a legal tool to curb the operational capacity of criminal organizations – Ministry of Public Security of Panama; Ramona Nova/ Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Specialized Prosecution Unit of the Dominican Republic; and Alfonso Trilleras/ DTOC-OAS

Meeting of National Authorities on Transnational Organized Crime (RANDOT), Department of Transnational Organized Crime (DTOC), Organization of American States (OAS)

The Meeting of National Authorities on Transnational Organized Crime (RANDOT) is the main hemispheric forum for the exchange of information and experience on the subject; for the consolidation and strengthening of cooperation in areas related to transnational organized crime; and

for the formulation of recommendations to OAS member states on cooperation in this area and their follow-up. The DTOC serves as technical secretariat of the forum.

The Third Meeting (RANDOT III), held at OAS headquarters on June 23 and 24, 2021, with the United States as chair, approved the Recommendations to Combat Transnational Organized Crime (RANDOT-III/doc.2/21 rev. 1) and the Hemispheric Strategy against Transnational Organized Crime (RANDOT-III/doc.5/21 rev. 1), which was adopted by the OAS Assembly by resolution AG/RES. 2970 (LI-O/21).

DTOC Technical Assistance

- Within the framework of the project "Strengthening the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) System in Peru" in 2021, two activities were carried out jointly with the Attorney General's Office:
    a. Development of a methodology tool on coordination and cooperation between prosecution units specializing in money laundering and financing-of-terrorism investigations.
    b. Training workshop for the development of parallel financial investigations, an academic space of 24 hours of specialized training for around 100 officials from special prosecution units for corruption by public officials, organized crime, money laundering and forfeiture, with the support of the School of the Public Prosecutor's Office.

- A methodology tool was also developed to ensure effective and efficient criminal prosecution of highly complex crimes involving organized criminal structures, through proactive financial investigation, in parallel with the prosecution of predicate offenses for money laundering and financing of terrorism.

    For the development of this tool, the DTOC convened an institutional technical working group comprising officials from the aforementioned special prosecution units who, with advice from consultants and specialists with the Department, developed the Financial Investigations Protocol, whose provisions are based on the national legal framework, international instruments signed and ratified by Peru in this area, and recommendations from specialized organizations such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and GELAVEX of the OAS, among others.

- In the fourth quarter of 2021, the DTOC held seminars to present the situational assessments of the project "On the trail of illicit gold proceeds: Strengthening the fight against illegal mining finances" for Peru (with public- and private-sector participation) and Ecuador, which were attended by 1,289 participants. In February and June 2022, workshops were held for Ecuador, Guyana and Suriname, with 363 participants.

- From April 19 to 21, 2022, a virtual seminar on the effective application of special investigative techniques in transnational organized crime cases was held under the auspices of the Subdirectorate of Intelligence, Organized Crime, and Migratory Security (SUBDICOR) of the Investigative Police (PDI) of Chile, which sought to enhance technical capacity for the development of efficient processes for the investigation of

organized crime, in order to examine the existing international legal frameworks governing the use of special investigative techniques.

The seminar was attended by 294 PDI officers, including those from the three National Departments that report to SUBDICOR: Police Intelligence, Migration and International Police, and Anti-Narcotics and Organized Crime.

- Between July 6 and 8, 2022, the DTOC held the "Regional Meeting of Experts on Combating Illicit Mining" in Bogota, Colombia, with the participation of 48 officials from public prosecution services, financial intelligence units, tax and customs agencies, and specialized police forces from Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname.

- From November 2 to 4, 2022, under the auspices of the Public Prosecutor's Office of Guatemala, the DTOC held a virtual seminar on the effective application of special investigative techniques in cases of transnational organized crime, which sought to enhance technical capacity for the development of efficient processes for the investigation of organized crime, in order to examine the existing international legal frameworks governing the use of special investigative techniques.

  The seminar was intended for 154 officials from: (a) the public prosecution service and investigators with authority to prosecute crimes related to the DTOC; (b) the National Civil Police of Guatemala; (c) the Secretariat against Sexual Violence, Exploitation, and Trafficking in Persons (SVET); (d) the Special Investigation Intendancy (IVE); (e) the Ministry of Defense (MINDEF); (f) the General Directorate of Civil Intelligence (DIGICI); and (g) the State Intelligence Secretariat (SIE).

- In Panama City, Panama, on August 16, 2022, the DTOC held the "International Dialogue on Forfeiture: An effective tool in the fight against organized crime," sponsored by Fundación Espacio Cívico. The purpose of the meeting was to provide a space for dialogue to articulate the interest and collaboration of the international community on the subject of forfeiture as a legal mechanism, in order to support the Panamanian State in its study and discussion of proposed law 625 which would introduce legislation on forfeiture of unlawful assets. The event was attended by deputies of the National Assembly, officials from the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Economy and Finance, representatives of the Public Prosecutor's Office and the courts, and members of civil society.

- On September 28, 2022, the DTOC participated in the Public Consultation on the Proposed Law on Forfeiture of Illicit Assets," convened by the Chair of the Committee on Government, Justice and Constitutional Affairs of the Assembly of the Republic of Panama, at which the executive summary that was prepared as a result of the above dialogue was presented.

- On March 30, 2022, the DTOC participated as a panelist in a webinar on sound policy and technology to combat money laundering and corruption in the Americas, organized by Analytics Software & Solutions (SAS), which addressed the challenges that organizations face when it comes to reliably detecting in a timely manner operations involving illicit proceeds; the benefits of analytics and artificial intelligence in responding effectively to

this activity and reducing non-compliance risk; and the importance of money laundering reduction policies.

- As part of the project Strengthening the capacity of Colombian agencies to investigate and recover money laundering and corruption proceeds in Colombia," six training workshops have been held (three on money laundering and three on asset forfeiture) in which more than 200 officials of the Attorney General's Office have been trained and/or updated, with the support and participation of experts from Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Spain, the United States, Italy, and Peru. In addition, methodology guidelines are being designed for money laundering and asset forfeiture investigation, which will be the basis for the development of twelve 120-hour diploma courses for the School of Advanced Studies of the Colombian Prosecutor's Office.

6.1 Strengthening Inter-American Anti-Corruption Mechanisms

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The UNDP carried out the following activities for strengthening inter-American anti-corruption mechanisms:

- **Dominican Republic:** UNDP, through its regional SIGOB project, Bureau of Governmental Integrity and Ethics (DIGEIG) of the Dominican Republic with the design of a proposed methodology for developing the National Anti-Corruption Plan. The DIGEIG is the governing entity on ethics, transparency, open governance, the fight against corruption, conflict of interests, and freedom of access to information in the governmental administrative sphere.

  Through the design and implementation of an Integrity and Management Indicators Dashboard, the judicial branch of the Dominican Republic also received support in management monitoring for measuring corruption risks. The Indicators Dashboard was designed as a management and monitoring mechanism for integrity in administrative procedures that reflect service quality and transparency. Its purpose is to consolidate the results of key indicators that certain governing bodies produce in accordance with specific regulations, in order to have current consolidated information on the institutions' performance in terms of transparency, accountability, effectiveness and efficiency.

  The indicators monitored by the Dashboard include Fixed Assets, Audit Management, Procurement and Contracting, Budget Management, Disciplinary Integrity System, Ethical Integrity System, Judicial Transparency, and Digital Services.

- **Ecuador:** Technical support was provided by the UNDP country office in Ecuador to share comparative experiences and design the Presidential Decree on Transparency, Integrity and Anticorruption and the process for updating the country's public policy on transparency.

  Similarly, the UNDP provided support to the Integrity and Transparency Training Program in Ecuador, through a high-level course for the ministerial cabinet entitled "Transformational leadership: Integrity and Transparency in Public Management".

Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO), Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy (SSD), Organization of American States (OAS)

Electoral observation and cooperation

Mandate 25

The Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) deploys electoral observation missions (EOM),[15] in order to study and analyze different specific aspects of electoral organization, including electoral justice (analysis of the legal and regulatory frameworks under which elections are held), campaign finance (study of political finance systems, their application and accountability) and gender (analysis of the conditions for women and men to exercise their political rights effectively).

- In 2020, in addition to those already mentioned missions were deployed in Bolivia, Brazil and the United States; in 2021, in The Bahamas, Bolivia, El Salvador, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Saint Lucia;[16]and in 2022, in Costa Rica, Colombia, (legislative and presidential), Grenada, Mexico, (recall process), Saint Kitts and Nevis, Brazil, Peru, and Dominica. During those missions, electoral justice, political finance, and gender methodologies were implemented.

Electoral Technical Cooperation

- In 2021 DECO provided technical assistance to the Tribunal of Electoral Justice (TJE) of Honduras in a legal review with the aim of harmonizing regulations between the system of administrative appeals, in force after the approval in 2021 of the new Electoral Law, and the system of judicial challenge procedures.

- Likewise in 2021, DECO initiated a process to address the issue of disinformation in elections. To that end, it developed a virtual workshop for representatives of electoral authorities in the region, and two more in 2022.

  The participants in the workshops analyzed good practices that should be incorporated into the planning of measures by electoral bodies against disinformation, together with challenges and lessons learned in recent electoral processes in the region that should be included.

  They also discussed opportunities for cooperation to counter this threat and possible measures to strengthen the capacities of electoral authorities to combat it. That same year, a DECO technical team collaborated with a workshop and a compilation document on the subject for the National Elections Board (JNE) of Peru to strengthen the institution's ability to combat disinformation.

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15. The reports and recommendations of each EOM are available at www.oas.org/EOMDatabase/default.aspx?Lang=en
16. No electoral justice was applied.

- In March 2022, the High-Level Group to Strengthen the Political Participation of Women was officially installed, a DECO initiative supported by the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) that seeks to disseminate the recommendations of OAS EOMs on women's political participation and foster dialogue among stakeholders in order to advance the implementation of such recommendations in countries that voluntarily join the initiative.

  The Dominican Republic was the first country to issue an invitation to the Group to visit the country. The visit took place in May and included an agenda with government representatives, electoral and other public authorities, members of congress, and civil society organizations.

Other activities

- In 2021, in keeping with resolution AG/RES. 2931 (XLIX-O/19), the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy, through DECO, published the Electoral Good Practices Guide for Strengthening Electoral Processes, a document that makes a significant contribution to the work of the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy in that, for the first time, it brings together in a single text the principles, rights, electoral procedural aspects, and substantive legal developments in the inter-American system, such as decisions of the Inter-American Juridical Committee, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights; resolutions of the General Assembly and the Permanent Council of the OAS; and recommendations from EOMs.

Department for the Promotion of Peace and Coordination with Subnational Governments, Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy (SSD), Organization of American States (OAS)

Institutional capacity building

The Department for the Promotion of Peace and Coordination with Subnational Governments (DPPCGS) continued its efforts to strengthen institutional capacity in peace studies and training in mediation, negotiation, preventive diplomacy, and conflict management techniques.

- To that end, it offered courses and workshops with the support of the University of Kent and the Forum of Federations and trained a total of 120 senior diplomats from 32 member states. It also addressed the correlation between conflict prevention and the promotion of peace on the one hand, and the fight against corruption on the other, in order to ensure the proper performance of the functions of public authorities.

- In the context of the pandemic, a webinar on the role of subnational governments was also held and a Practical Guide for an Effective Response to COVID-19 at the Subnational Leve was developed as an important contribution to hemispheric efforts to strengthen democratic governance at the local level, to promote the participation of subnational governments in hemispheric dialogue, and to highlight the importance of increased cooperation to address the impacts of the pandemic and combat corruption.

- The DPPCGS also established strategic partnerships with regional and international actors, including the Inter-American Confederation of Public Relations (CONFIARP), the Monterrey Technological Institute, Search for Common Ground, and the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Youth, as well as participating in three international forums, at which it spoke on the role of the OAS in dispute settlement from different perspectives, including transparency and the anti-corruption.

Mandates 3 and 4

- Within the framework of the Education for Peace Program established by the General Assembly and supported by the Summit of the Americas (AG/RES. 1604 (XXVIII-O/98); CP/CSH-160/99 rev. 1; REPEP/doc. 9/99 rev. 2)) and the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices (AG/RES. 2931 (XLIX-O/19), the DPPCGS published a digital children's book to encourage the learning of values and practices related to democratic political culture. The book highlights the importance of developing a culture of transparency, citizen participation, and corruption prevention for strengthening democratic and civic values from early childhood. The DPPCGS held a seminar to promote the book through the Inter-American Confederation of Public Relations, which increased the dissemination of knowledge about education-for-peace processes.

- To the same end, the DPPCGS produced two other children's books titled "Mediation and Peace" and "Climate Change and Peace," which highlight the correlation between mediation and climate change with peace, security, transparency, and healthy governance practices.

- Likewise, the DPPCGS produced two educational mini-documentaries on "Democracy and Peace" and "Women and Peace" to present the role of the OAS in promoting peace within and among its member states, and to highlight the importance of developing a culture of transparency, citizen participation, and prevention of corruption. All this, in order to ensure a more inclusive, just, and peaceful environment in which citizens can participate in policy formulation and decision making in their own countries, based on shared values such as freedom, equality, constitutional order, and the peaceful transition of power and government.

Mandate 5

- The DPPCGS updated the publication "Peace, Democracy and Conflict Resolution"; the Virtual Library of Inter-American Peace Initiatives; the interactive maps of OAS political and peace missions, as well as the interactive map on the Inter-American Democratic Charter, as reference sources on the Organization's peace and conflict management efforts, including initiatives to prevent and combat corruption and impunity, such as those carried out within the framework of the CICIES and the MACCIH.
- In addition, a compilation of data and statistics was compiled, including information on the state of democracy in the region and progress made in preventing and combating corruption and impunity, which were represented in graphs and disseminated through social networks to give greater visibility to the regional overview, reflecting political,

economic, social, and environmental trends in member states and serving as a source of information for raising public awareness.

- Also, in accordance with the mandate to preserve the institutional memory, good practices and lessons learned by the Organization and the inter-American system in the area of peacebuilding and peacekeeping, the DPPCGS produced a promotional video on the role of the OAS in peace and conflict prevention, which looks closely at the effects of corruption on democratic sustainability.

Mandate 7

- The DPPCGS held a virtual seminar on the role of women in peace processes to highlight the importance of including women at all decision-making levels in conflict and post-conflict scenarios. It also published "A Guide to Strengthening the Role of Women in Peacebuilding," which provides a comprehensive analysis of women's contributions to peacebuilding efforts both in the Americas and globally and details existing frameworks and action plans at the national level.

- An event was also held to launch the Guide, with the participation of prominent women working in the field of conflict management, raising awareness of the key role played by women in peace processes. It is also important to highlight the incorporation of gender perspective in the mediation and negotiation training offered to member states. The DPPCGS also produced the mini-documentary "Women and Peace" to educate and promote gender equity and equality and the empowerment of women in conflict and post-conflict scenarios to ensure a sustainable life and lasting peace.

- Special meeting on corruption and gender, March 14, 2023 (virtual and face-to-face, OAS)

Within the framework of the 39th Plenary Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC) and at the invitation of the Chair of the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC, the Summits Secretariat presented the publication "Impacts of Corruption on Women's Rights in the Americas: An Agenda under Construction," which was prepared jointly with the Inter-American Commission of Women in 2022. The meeting was convened on the basis of the recommendations included in the publication, in which it is suggested that the relationship between corruption and women's rights be further explored.

The main purpose of the publication was to advance the debate led by organizations such as the OAS, Transparency International, UNDP, and Eurosocial regarding the differential impact of corruption on women's rights, in order to advance towards substantive equality and, at the same time, combat corruption as one of the main threats to the rule of law and democratic governance in the region.

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Mandates 12 and 17

- In relation to capacity building for member states to achieve safe and healthy working conditions and encourage use of new technologies (mandates 17 and 12), the ILO promotes the digitization of labor inspection systems, enabling follow-up on labor inspections, not only through real-time reporting, but also through an automatic monitoring system on the time that a labor inspector takes for each stage of the investigation process. In short, electronic inspection case systems are designed to manage inspection cases and activities in real time, improve statistics and administrative records, and serve as a digital archive with information for users.

- In Brazil, the development of Business Intelligence (BI) systems enables territorial studies to understand the situation faced by women, young people, vulnerable populations (including LGTBIQ+ groups), and indigenous populations, among others, in addition to having monitoring system components that report on cases of child labor and forced labor. In the Caribbean (Trinidad and Tobago, St. Lucia, Jamaica) this support has enabled the introduction and institutionalization of mobile devices and the use of electronic databases for informed and efficient decision making, as well as strengthening strategic compliance mechanisms related to child labor.

- More generally, the ILO encourages and strengthens tripartite consultation processes, since social dialogue is crucial for exchanging key information, ensuring sectoral participation, and securing approval for regulatory instruments and, where applicable, national policy instruments that strengthen labor market institutions. In Colombia, the strengthening of monitoring and control systems is aimed, among other things, at expanding the coverage of collective bargaining. In Honduras and Panama, social dialogue bodies have been strengthened for conciliation and the handling of workplace complaints, while in Costa Rica, labor inspection guides have been prepared for follow-up and application in labor promotion and supervision programs.

- In Peru, labor inspection tools have been proposed with a view to being scaled up in other sectors, in addition to continuing to support the development of ICT tools. In Argentina, a labor inspection strengthening process began with the creation of a Comprehensive Labor and Social Security Inspection System. In addition, improvements in the detection of unregistered employment have been identified, contributing to a reduction in labor informality. In Uruguay, the formulation of a national occupational health and safety policy and program is being considered to make further progress in this area in a sustainable manner. This includes the inclusion of mental and behavioral disorders in the list of occupational diseases, supported by employment dialogues to ensure the legitimacy and sustainability of measures.

- In September 2022, a Technical Meeting on Whistleblower Protection in the Public Services Sector (Mandate 24 of the Lima Commitment) was held to address the vulnerability of public administrations, among other sectors, to corruption and to examine a key strategy for ensuring integrity in public administrations, namely, whistleblower protection in the public service sector, in addition to proposing the review of national, regional and international policies and practices relating to whistleblower protection and

assessing the extent to which elements of this problem have been addressed in international labor standards (Labour Relations (Public Service) Convention, 1978 (No. 151)).