Y-MUN'17

10th Anniversary

-STUDY GUIDE-

Y-MUN TRAINING DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

OAS

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I.   LETTER OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Esteemed delegates of the Organization of American States,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the 10th edition of Yeditepe Model United Nations Training and Development Conference as the Secretary-General. Organized by the oldest Model United Nations Club in Turkey, every year we try to use our knowledge to provide our participants with an exceptional MUN experience.

Being aware of the current issues that our world is facing, Y-MUN 2017 will simulate 16 different committees. Most of the committees aim to give our participants a demonstration of the world's most urgent problems while some special committees will take you to the past to simulate some crucial events. With our brilliant Academic Team, we are working to provide you the finest academic experience.

In Organization of American States, the delegates will address some of the most concerning issues in Americas. I would like to give my thanks to Ms. Beril Pamir for her amazing skills at guide writing.

Lastly, I would like to give my thanks to my Deputy Secretary-General Mr. Uygar Berk Edebali who supported me greatly during this process and also Mr. Onuralp Acar and his deputies Ms. Dilruba Akçınar and Mr. Ömer Cem Sipahi for their work in creating this amazing conference.

Welcome where the journey begins!

Ege SÜREK

Secretary-General of Y-MUN 2017

II. LETTER OF THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL

Esteemed participants of Y-MUN'17,

As the Under Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, I welcome you all to the Y-MUN Training and Development Conference 2017 and it will my pleasure to assist you during this conference.

I am Beril Pamir. I am a third-year student and I study Political Science and International Relations at Yeditepe University. I have been participating in Model United Nations conferences since 2015. Y-MUN Training and Development Conference will always have a very special place in my heart since it was the first Model United Nations conference that I have ever attended.

The agenda item of this committee is increasing public security with emphasis on the issues of gang violence, trafficking of firearms and human beings. This study guide has been prepared in order to give background information and provide you the compacted data about the agenda item. However, participants are expected to conduct a further research and expand their knowledge about the subject.

Lastly, I would like to thank honorable Secretary-General Ms. Ege Sürek and Deputy Secretary-General Mr. Uygar Berk Edebali for giving me the opportunity to work as an Under Secretary-General and be a part of this amazing conference.

I wish you all the best of luck and I hope that Y-MUN'17 will be a great experience for all of you.

Kind regards,

Beril Pamir

III. INTRODUCTION

A. History of Organization of American States

The foundation of Organization of American States (OAS) is laid on the principles of the Monroe Doctrine which was established on December 2, 1823 by the countries of the Western Hemisphere[i]. The most significant principle that affected the founding of OAS is the principle of an attack against one American State would be considered as an attack against all of them[ii].

Even though there were many attempts to establish a system before, the invitation of United States for a conference was the real spark that made the process begin and continue without any interruption until this day[iii]. As a result of this conference which was held in 1889, the American states decided to meet periodically and build a shared system[iv].

The First International Conference of American States was held in Washington, D.C., from October 1889 to April 1890 with the participation of eighteen American States[v]. This conference constituted the base of the inter-American system which includes "commercial concerns directed toward achieving greater integration; legal concerns with strengthening state and private sector ties in a peaceful environment of regional cooperation and security; and the establishment of specialized institutions in different spheres"[vi]. However, the most important outcome of this conference was that the states agreed to establish the "International Union of American Republics for the prompt collection and distribution of commercial information"[vii]. Later on, the union was renamed as the "Pan American Union" in 1910[viii].

In the year of 1923, the member states signed the Treaty to Avoid or Prevent Conflicts between the American States which is also known as the Gondra Treaty at the Fifth

International Conference of American States[ix]. In 1933, pursuing the "Good Neighbor policy" of the President Franklin Roosevelt of United States, American states adopted the Convention on the Rights and Duties of States at the Seventh International Conference of American States[x]. The convention formally recognized the equality of states and the principle of non-intervention in internal affairs of each other[xi].

In the Second World War, most of the Latin American states decided to side with the United States and as a result, they declared war against the Axis powers[xii]. The support of Latin American states for the United States surely brought the American states closer. Thus, after this global conflict, they decided to reinforce this cooperation with the adoption of a formal mutual-defense pact called the Inter American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance which is also known as the Rio Treaty in 1947[xiii]. However, by 1948, it was clear that a stronger security system was needed with the start of the Cold War[xiv]. That is why with the leading of the United States, the charter of Organization of American States and American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man were signed 21 American states in order to codify the institutions and principles of the inter-American system legally[xv]. The purposes of the newly established organization were "to strengthen the peace and security of the Western Hemisphere, to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes between member states, to provide for collective security, and to encourage cooperation in economic, social, and cultural matters"[xvi].

In order to carry out the provisions of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights was established in 1959[xvii]. In the following years, the organization tremendously expanded its programs in the fields of economy, social, culture, science and technology[xviii]. In 1979, Inter-American Court of

Human Rights was created because of the abuses made by authoritarian governments. Furthermore, growing concerns about the trafficking of narcotics promoted the creation of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission in 1986[xix]. The OAS acknowledged the challenges posed by terrorism by establishing the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism in 1999 and also, it recognized the near-universal commitment to democracy in the region through the adoption of the Inter-American Democratic Charter in 2001[xx].

B. Functioning of Organization of American States

The OAS is composed of different kinds of committees, councils, and other institutional organs[xxi]. The Organization of American States accomplishes its objectives by means of the following[xxii]:

"The General Assembly, the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the Councils (the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development), the Inter-American Juridical Committee, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the General Secretariat, the specialized conferences, the specialized organizations; and other entities established by the General Assembly[xxiii]".

But there are three fundamental bodies that have the responsibility for setting and carrying out the agenda of the OAS: the General Assembly, the Permanent Council, and the General Secretariat[xxiv].

1. The General Assembly

The main policymaking organ of the Organization of American states is the General Assembly and it composes of delegations from every participating member state[xxv]. The

General Assembly determines the mandates, actions, policies, and mechanism of the OAS[xxvi]. Furthermore, all of its functions are defined in the charter of the Organization[xxvii].

General Assembly meets annually during the period determined by the Rules of Procedure and at a place chosen with the rotation principle[xxviii]. In the meeting, the debate about the current issues, approve the budget of the organization and set policies in order to govern the other bodies of OAS[xxix]. However, according to the charter, in special circumstances, if the two-thirds of Member States approve, the Permanent council can convoke a special session of General Assembly[xxx].

In the General Assembly, all member states have the right to be represented, and each state has the right to one vote[xxxi]. Most of the decisions are adopted through an absolute majority of the member states but there are special occasions where the decisions are adopted through the majority of two-thirds of members such as the adoption of the agenda, the approval of budgetary matters[xxxii]. However, the General Assembly tends to take decisions by consensus in practice[xxxiii].

2. Permanent Council

The day-to-day business of the organization is handled by the Permanent Council[xxxiv]. The Council meets regularly throughout the year and the headquarters of the Council is located in Washington, DC[xxxv]. Every member state appoints one representative to the Permanent Council, and every one of them has the right to one single vote[xxxvi]. Two-thirds of the majority is required while taking decisions in the Council[xxxvii]. However, like the General Assembly, the Permanent Council tends to operate by consensus[xxxviii].

Chapter XII of the charter of Organization of the American States and the other inter-American instruments specifies the powers of The Permanent Council[xxxix]. Also, the General Assembly and the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs deploys it functions as well[xl]. Furthermore, The Permanent Council serves as the Preparatory Committee to the General Assembly and carries out the mandates of the General Assembly or of the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in the cases when the implementation process has not been decided to be conducted another body of OAS[xli].

If the member states request, the Council arranges draft agreements in order to increase the cooperation between the Organization of American States, the United Nations, and other inter-American institutions[xlii]. The Council checks the reports of the different organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system and shows them the General Assembly[xliii]. If it is seen necessary, the Council can make any observations and recommendations as a result of viewing the reports[xliv].

The Permanent Council makes sure that the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat are observed and applied[xlv]. Moreover, it approves regulatory provisions that let the General Secretariat perform its administrative function when the General Assembly is not in session[xlvi]. Lastly, another function of the Permanent Council is to works for preserving friendly relations between member states and be a mediator in the times of disputes among them[xlvii].

3. General Secretariat

The General Secretariat is the central and permanent organ of the Organization of American States[xlviii]. The Secretariat carries out the functions assigned to it by the Charter of

OAS, other inter-American treaties, and agreements, and by the General Assembly[xlix]. It performs the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly, the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, or the Councils[l].

The General Secretariat is directed by the Secretary-General and the Assistant Secretary-General and they are elected by the General Assembly to serve for five-year with the possibility of getting elected for only one more time[li]. In the charter of Organization of American States, it has been stated that the Secretary-General is a legal representative of the organization and is allowed to participate in all OAS meetings with a voice but without a vote[lii]. The Secretary-General is also empowered to establish offices and hire personnel to implement OAS mandates[liii].

Some analysts argue that "the effectiveness of the OAS critically depends on the consistent, vigorous, and sometimes risk-taking leadership of the Secretary-General[liv]."

IV. AGENDA ITEM: Increasing public security with emphasis on the issues of gang violence, trafficking of firearms and human beings

A. Introduction to the Topic

1. History of the problem

Most countries in Americas have to deal with a phenomenon that is having a huge impact on their security: organized crime, linked primarily to drug trafficking, money laundering, arms trafficking, human trafficking, and kidnapping, much more[lv]. The situation is highly intense that even in some countries there are localities where impunity rate is tremendous and the rule of law is being replaced by the power and influence of organized crime[lvi]. With the

increase of trafficking in weapons and people, different types of crime industries have come into existence and they have networks in several countries[lvii]. The rapid expansion of transnational organized crime also affects the quality of living through other kinds of violence, the privatization of security, the militarization of the police, and the corruption brings[lviii]. Moreover, it has an effect on some economic sectors as well, such as the tourism sector, which is the largest source of income for many countries in Americas, especially in the Caribbean[lix].

The criminal gangs are another problem that impacts most countries in the region and it is not a new phenomenon as well[lx]. The gangs emerged mainly in the aftermath of civil war and boosted by mass deportations from the United States[lxi]. Their age scale starts from children who are young as eight-years-old and moves up to the adults older than 21 and even up to 50 years of age[lxii]. The members of criminal gangs tend to commit all types[lxiii]. They are responsible for brutal acts of violence, chronic abuse of women, and more recently, the forced displacement of children and families[lxiv]. Central America, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras are the ones that suffer greatly from the problem of criminal gangs; however, they are also present in the United States and Mexico, and to varying degrees in Caribbean countries and in some South American countries[lxv].

Mara is a type of gang that originally emerged in the United States and then spread to the Central American countries; their estimated number is up 54,000 in the three Northern Triangle countries, namely El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras[lxvi]. Although they are not the only type of gangs dedicated to violent crime, the Maras have helped to increase Central American murder rates to the highest in the world[lxvii]. For instance, when the gangs called a truce in El Salvador, the rates of homicides halved in a one night[lxviii].

Trafficking of firearms is another issue that the Americas face for many years. The problem of trafficking of firearms can be originated to the three civil wars where huge numbers of firearms were imported and disseminated within Central America: Guatemala (1960- 1996), El Salvador (1980-1992), and Nicaragua (1972-1991)[lxix]. Most of these firearms were provided by Cold War allies to both the states and rebel groups[lxx].

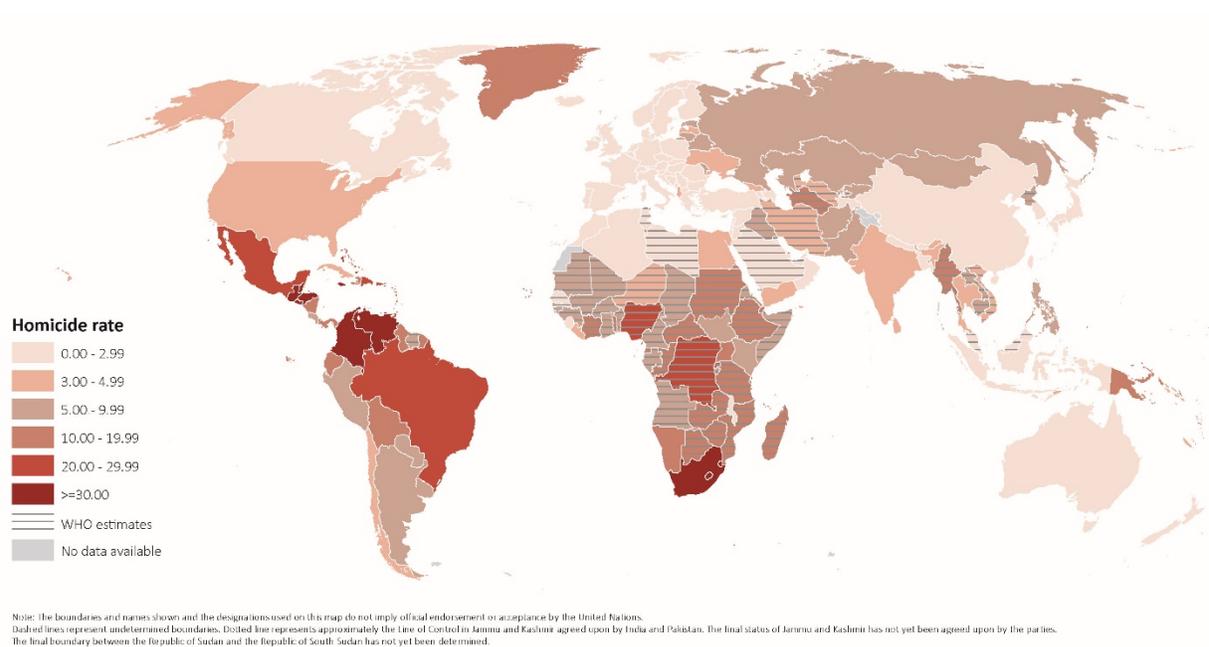**Figure 1 Source: Homicide rates, by country or territory (2012 or latest year), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Global Homicide Report 2013.**

Smuggling also created new routes for moving weapons in the region[lxxi]. The firearms that were imported during the war remained in circulation when the wars ended[lxxii]. Moreover, only a small amount of weapons that were given to the civilian groups was able to be collected.

B. Public Security in OAS countries

The concept of public security has become more complex than the past decades[lxxiii]. Currently, threats to the security are not only about the traditional military sphere, they also include problems that have a direct impact on lives of people, such as gang violence, trafficking of firearms, or human beings[lxxiv]. The Organization of American States works on many fronts to make sure that the peoples of the Western Hemisphere are well-protected and safe from the various threats of today's modern world[lxxv].

The feeling of being insecure and being under threat are two phenomena that differ from actual crime in many ways[lxxvi]. The major reason of growing public fear is previous victimization, either direct or indirect[lxxvii]. Apart from that, there are several more factors that cause public fear such as heavy media coverage of security issues, the wide reporting of unusually violent incidents, and the emergence of communications media dedicated specifically to such issues[lxxviii].

Another interesting fact about public security is that a decrease in the rate of crime does not affect public perception of crime which in some context also means that a lower level of victimization will not necessarily reduce fear[lxxix].

Public mistrust of the institutions responsible for control and prevention of crime is closely connected to the feeling of being insecure as explained above[lxxx]. The basis of that perception is difficult to define, but it can be linked to three phenomena[lxxxi]. The first one is the abuse of force by government institutions, especially by the police[lxxxii]. The second is that the impact of corruption into the daily workings of different parts of the criminal justice system has an influence on the general public, which is aware of and may even be the victim

of such corruption[lxxxiii]. Finally, the slow-moving pace of the criminal justice system and the low case-solution rate leave public discouraged with a capacity of government about solving the problem in an effective way[lxxxiv].

1. Gang violence

There have been long discussions with the experts about the formal way to define the term of the gang and what kind of people should be as gang members[lxxxv]. In general, most experts approve the fact that most gangs have a name and a sense of identity, which can sometimes be indicated by symbols including clothing, graffiti, colors, and hand signs that are unique to the group[lxxxvi].

Street gangs (maras) are a version of the classic territorial organized crime groups[lxxxvii]. Their essential feature that distinguishes them from the classical ones is that they are composed almost entirely of youth[lxxxviii]. Furthermore, they are usually not classified as "organized crime groups" in the region since their goal is not gaining anything financially[lxxxix]. They are primarily engaged in local affairs and for them; territorial control is about identity, about respect, and about their place in the world[xc].

The northern triangle countries have the highest homicide rates in the world[xci]. Some of the Central American governments blame the gangs for these high rates of murder in their countries[xcii]. Homicides committed by the gang members usually happen when the gangs try to discipline their members or punish those who attempt to leave, dispute territory, confront law enforcement and their families, and punish those who fail to follow with their orders[xciii].

Women and children are often targets of gang violence[xciv]. Initiations of gangs for men and women are different from each other. For instance, whereas men are subject to a beating,

women are often forced to have sex with various members of the gang[xcv]. Moreover, after being a member of the gang, women are expected to commit crimes, sometimes dressed like men, but also to carry out the work related to household, such as cooking and cleaning for the group[xcvi]. Female gang members are expected to be tolerant if their partners are unfaithful however if they happen to do the same, they may be murdered[xcvii]. Even women and girls who are not directly connected to the gangs get murdered as a result of turf battles, jealousy, and revenge[xcviii].

The rising numbers of gang members in the countries could be explained in three ways. First, gangs are trying to expand the territory that they rule[xcix]. Second, there is a huge competition going on between different gangs and as a consequence, sometimes gang members flee from rival gangs[c]. Lastly, tough government policies for controlling gang are driving gang members into neighboring countries[ci].

There are some main factors makes the gang problem worse. The northern triangle countries have long histories of armed conflict and political repression[cii]. The aspect of having a history of conflicts and authoritarian rule has restricted the improvement of the rule of law and democratic institutions[ciii]. Moreover, the long-term armed conflicts led to the increase of illicit firearms and a tendency to use violence as a means of solving disputes[civ].

Additionally, poverty, inequality, and unemployment are economic factors that have a huge effect on the structure of society[cv]. These factors lead to lack of opportunities for the young population[cvi]. That is why unemployed youth and youth who do not have family or community support is one of the main targets of the gangs[cvii]. As a result, many of these youth join gangs in order to achieve social support, a source of livelihood and protection[cviii].

Stigmas in the society against gangs and former gang members have made the process of leaving a gang extremely difficult[cix]. Many organizations are not willing to hire people who were members of a gang before and especially those who have criminal records are having the main problem to be integrated into the society because of the prejudice in the society[cx].

The implementation of tight anti-gang sanctions has overwhelmed prisons[cxi]. The conditions in prisons are often very harsh[cxii]. They are overcrowded, they do not have efficient sanitation, and they have staffing shortages[cxiii]. One of the reasons why the prisons are overpopulated is that they are filled with thousands of suspected gang members and many have not even been convicted of any crimes[cxiv].

Lastly, policymakers in Central and Latin America have expressed their growing concerns about U.S. deporting individuals with criminal records are increasing the gang and gang-related citizen security problems in the region[cxv].

2. Trafficking of firearms and human beings

a. Firearms

Trafficking in firearms has extremely high human and economic costs in the Americas and is linked to multiple forms of crime and violence[cxvi]. Latin America has the highest level of armed violence in the world, with a total of 42% of murders by firearms[cxvii].

Apart from Latin America, violence by firearms is one of the most crucial problems in Central America[cxviii]. That is why topping the flow of weapons to criminals is a top priority in both regions[cxix]. The problem of armed violence also affects the capability of governance in the region[cxx]. Local police are concerned about the fact that they are out-gunned when the organized criminals have access to military arms left over from the civil

wars[cxxi]. This imbalance of power between local forces and organized criminals is often used to justify the use of the military in policy-making by governments[cxxii]. For these reasons, it is necessary to examine the nature of the regional illicit firearms market[cxxiii].

As it was mentioned above, imported firearms remained in the market even after the wars have ended[cxxiv]. Although local governments, governments, and international community made efforts, there were many weapons that were unaccounted[cxxv].

Today, these firearms are mainly in the interest of criminals, especially those who have military backgrounds and those who aim to control large areas of territories, particularly in rural areas[cxxvi]. Handguns are the most used firearm type since it is more concealable, easier to use in close quarters, and efficient for many criminal tasks[cxxvii]. Most handguns are bought legally in the United States while some are smuggled to the region[cxxviii]. Much more is licitly imported, however, later on, they are diverted to illicit use[cxxix]. Thus, the issue in Americas is mostly about diverting handguns from both the licit civilian market and the armories of the military and local forces[cxxx].

There are two sets of flows of weapons in the region. The first one is the movement of firearms within countries and across the borders in the region, and the second one is the movement of weapons from Central America to other
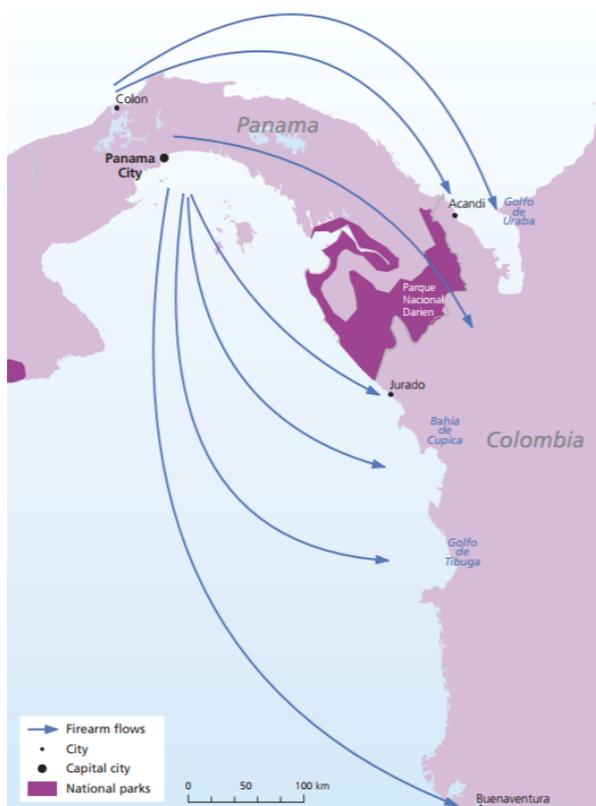

Figure 2 Source: UNODC, elaborated with information from UNODC Field Office in

countries, in particular to Colombia and Mexico[cxxxi]. Moreover, the largest sources of illegal firearms in the region are military and police stockpiles in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala[cxxxii]. Also, there are two other countries are significant in this trade: Nicaragua and Panama[cxxxiii].

The role of Nicaragua in the trade of weapons is a surprise, given by the fact that the country had the most successful weapons destruction programme in the region, and a low rate of murder, and murders by firearms in particular compared to the other countries in the region[cxxxiv]. Despite these factors, Nicaragua runs the highest weapons surplus in the region[cxxxv]. Furthermore, it has been the popular spot for illicit weapons shipments[cxxxvi].

The allowance of duty-free arms purchases makes Panama a crucial country in the arms trade[cxxxvii]. The problem here is that weapons can be bought in a legal way in these duty-free shops, however then the weapons are sent to other Central American countries illegally[cxxxviii]. Moreover, Colombia has traditionally been one of the main destination markets for the weapons[cxxxix]. A research conducted by UNODC estimated that 36% of the illegal firearms trafficked to Colombia originate in Central America, particularly from Nicaragua and Panama[cxl].

Another route of trafficking of firearms is from Central America to Mexico. It has been alleged that half the military weaponry found in Mexico actually originates in Central America[cxli]. Additionally, many of the hand grenades that Mexican organized criminal groups use come from Guatemalan military stocks and heavy arms in the country have been traced back to sales by the United States to the Honduran military[cxlii].

There is no clear identification of the traffickers of firearms just like there are no clear trading routes for weapons[cxliii]. All kinds of individuals have a possibility to become involved in the process of moving guns, for-profit on the basis of full time or part-time[cxliv]. However, there is also strong evidence of involvement by both corrupt officials and territorial organized crime groups in the trafficking of firearms[cxlv].

Apart from the corrupt officials, the role of the police and military in supplying guns to criminals is evident as well[cxlvi]. In many developing regions, police and military officers sell or ret their firearms in order to have a way of gaining more money and supplement their income[cxlvii]. The threat of purchase of weapons provided by policy and military is especially a risk in countries where there are large military stocks relative to the number of active duty military[cxlviii].

b. Human beings

Trafficking in persons is:

• An underreported crime, where men, women, adolescents and children are exploited mainly sexually and through labor;
• A process, beginning with the recruitment and ending with the exploitation of the victim;
• A crime that violates the human rights of its victims;
• A crime that is characterized by the retention of documents, increase of debts, confinement, threats and/or emotional, psychological, and physical violence.

Figure 3 Source: Oas.org, Organization of American States

Trafficking in Persons =

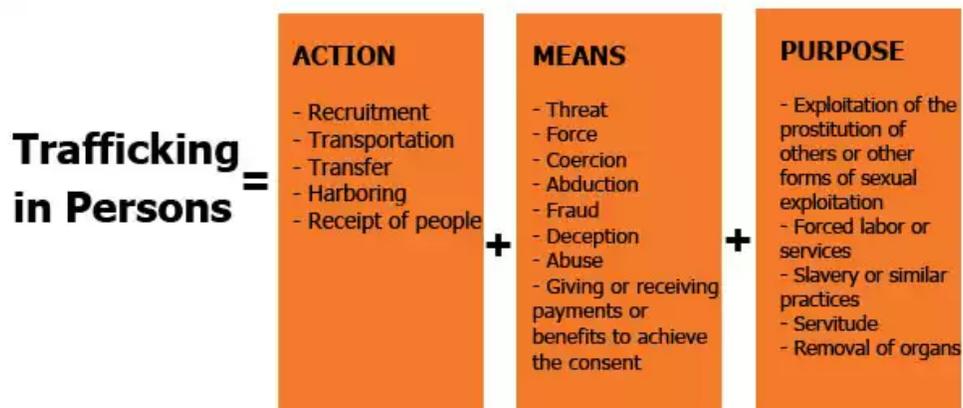| ACTION	MEANS	PURPOSE
- Recruitment - Transportation - Transfer - Harboring - Receipt of people	- Threat - Force - Coercion - Abduction - Fraud - Deception - Abuse - Giving or receiving payments or benefits to achieve the consent	- Exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation - Forced labor or services - Slavery or similar practices - Servitude - Removal of organs

Figure 4 Source: Oas.org, Organization of American States

The terms of "trafficking in persons" and "smuggling of migrants" are often used as they have the same or similar meanings however it should be pointed out that there is a clear difference between them.

In the term of trafficking of human beings, the aim is the exploitation of an individual for several intentions such as sexual, labor, domestic servitude, removal of organs, exploitation resulting from the illegal adoption of children, and much more[cxlix]. In order to be more effective, the trafficker captures, transports and shelters these people by threatening them, using force or any other forms of coercion[cl]. Besides, having benefits or receiving payments to achieve the consent of an individual having control over another one for goals of exploitation is also considered as trafficking[cli].

On the other hand, the term of "smuggling of migrants" refers to the objective of providing illegal entry of an individual in a country of which the person is not a national or permanent resident, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or another material benefit in turn[clii].

Sexual exploitation is one of the major ways of trafficking of human beings in the Americas[cliii]. Not only women and girls but men and boys also become victims of this type of exploitation[cliv]. The victims get tricked into the trafficking by the false promises of getting a better job and having a higher level of lifestyle[clv]. Traffickers often use violence, threats, fraud, and coercion in order to retain their victims[clvi].

The main victims of trafficking of human beings are "vulnerable groups, especially from low-income environments, indigenous communities, and LGBTI groups, homeless youth, and victims of domestic violence[clvii]".

The traffickers use certain strategies to achieve their goal such as but not limited to: "developing emotional relationships with possible victims, employment promises, marriage promises, physical, emotional and physiological abuse, sexual harassment, confiscate documents and money, isolation from family and friends, use of drugs, expensive gifts[clviii]".

Trafficking of human beings through labor exploitation is not distinguished by the type of work that is executed as being legal or illegal under national laws[clix]. Labor exploitation is defined by the nature of the relationship between the employer and the employee[clx].

It can be stated that labor exploitation is a different form of modern slavery in the sense that people who are national or foreigner are forced to work under oppression, the use of coercion or fraud[clxi]. The places where it occurs does not have a single type; labor exploitation can be found in the domestic field, small or large businesses and urban or rural areas[clxii].

Despite the fact that most member states of Organization of American States have supportive legislation in order to prevent forced labor and other representations of slavery, this crime is still underreported which makes it more difficult to apply protective legislation in an effective way[clxiii].

C. Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

The General Secretariat of Organization of American States established the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA) in order to intensify the relations among the stakeholders as a method for achieving a more efficient cooperation, to provide the basis for the exchange of knowledge, to promote technical assistance and the exchange of promising practices in this area[clxiv].

Many countries and international institutions are aware of the problem of trafficking in persons. Thus, as a response, 167 of them signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its underlying protocols[clxv]:

"Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition[clxvi]."

In 2004, member states of the Organization of American States adopted the Resolution 2019/04[clxvii]. The resolution called for high-level national authorities to have regular meetings and discuss about the issue of trafficking of people[clxviii]. Later on, in the year of 2010, the states agreed on the First Work Plan against Trafficking in Persons in the Western Hemisphere for the period of 2010-2014[clxix]. In 2014, another crucial development was the adoption of the Brasilia Declaration and the II Work Plan against Trafficking in Persons in the Western Hemisphere[clxx].

The Americans was the first in the world on establishing a regional instrument for the control of the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms[clxxi]. The member states

created the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials (CIFTA) in 1997[clxxii].

The CIFTA stresses the need for authorizations of transit, imports and exports; the strengthening the control at points of exports[clxxiii]. That is why the Convention created a Consultative Committee constituted by a representative for each state to check its implementation, to promote the exchange of information and experiences, to further promote the cooperation and to encourage training between States.[clxxiv].

The Resolution AG/RES. 2461 (XXXIX-O/09) adopted by the OAS General Assembly requests the Permanent Council to gather within the framework of the Working Group to Prepare a Regional Strategy to Promote Inter-American Cooperation in Dealing with Criminal Gangs of the Committee on Hemispheric Security[clxxv].

The First Special Meeting on the Phenomenon of Criminal Gangs was held on January 17, 2008 Washington, D.C[clxxvi]. During the Second Special Meeting of the OAS Permanent Council which was held on March 2, 2010, the Member States of Organization of American States, Inter-American organizations, international organizations and civil society, presented their views in order to proceed with the detailing of the Regional Strategy in Dealing with Criminal Gangs[clxxvii].

D. Conclusion

1. Questions to Consider

- What role can Organization of American States play in maintaining public security member states?

- How can public dear be decreased?

- What can be done to stop people joining the gangs?

- How can we end the gang violence?

- What can be done in order to prevent the trafficking firearms and human beings?

- What role, in any, can non-governmental organizations or the private organizations play to take a stance on the issue of public security with special emphasis on gang violence and trafficking of firearms and human beings?

- Are issues related to is a problem for all countries or the problem is more important for specific countries?

- What kind of financial or governmental assistance can developed countries or donors provide?

- Which, if any, of the programs and activities of the Organization of American States, should be continued or expanded?

- Should the Organization of American states establish new bodies to solve the issue?

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