



## **Declaration of the GRULAC on Organized Crime in Latin America and the Caribbean**

Geneva, Switzerland, March 24, 2024

The Geopolitical Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) issues the following statement regarding Organized Crime in our region:

The member countries of GRULAC recognize the joint efforts made by various countries in our region to strengthen regional cooperation in the fight against organized crime. However, we continue to observe a troubling ease in the transportation of drugs and weapons across regional borders, highlighting the need to build a comprehensive, coordinated, and effective regional policy that limits the transportation of drugs and weapons.

We consider regional international coordination indispensable, given the transnational nature of the criminal organizations operating in Latin America and the Caribbean, which requires joint actions for their confrontation.

The Parliaments of GRULAC acknowledge a serious vulnerability in the port controls of the region, facilitating the illegal export of drugs and weapons through these entry points in all member countries.

Similarly, we consider it essential in this regional fight to request the cooperation of the United States of America to tighten and improve its arms sales control policy, considering that the current policy does not allow us to guarantee the security of our region.



The Member Parliaments recognize the severity of crimes such as extortion, kidnapping, and intentional killings in our region, so we consider it important to build a comprehensive and regional solution that allows us to combat them jointly.

Regarding the financing of organized crime, we recognize its role in perpetuating these illicit activities in the region, so we consider it essential to build regional mechanisms for exchange and cooperation to limit such activity.

Organized crime represents a threat to the democratic stability of the countries in our region, especially when it seeks to involve itself in the political processes of the region by influencing electoral processes, whether through financing political campaigns, promoting candidates from within its ranks, or obstructing the arrival of candidates who are uncomfortable for them through intimidation or even attacking their integrity.

Failure to curb the activities or growth of Organized Crime is a direct threat to the Rule of Law. As Parliaments, we recognize the importance of ensuring the rule of law over the rule of violence; failing to do so would be a dereliction of duty by the State.

The Member Parliaments of GRULAC reaffirm our commitment to regional cooperation and the adoption of effective measures to confront organized crime, recognizing its direct impact on the security and well-being of the people in our region.