

An EU-LAC Alliance for Citizen Security
Joint Declaration issued by the EU and
Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay¹
in Santa Marta, Colombia, 9 November 2025

A joint response to common threats, based on shared values

1. We reaffirm our **commitment** to address jointly the urgent, persistent, and growing threats to our societies and the environment posed by transnational organized crime and other cross-border challenges to citizen security. We underscore the urgency of a **collective and multilateral approach**, in line with international law, including international human rights law, and international human rights standards, with full respect for the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States. We recognize the growing complexity and transnational nature of these threats and acknowledge that they can originate from or involve individuals across multiple regions.
2. Our cooperation is rooted in our **shared values**, including the promotion, protection, and respect of all human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the inherent dignity of all individuals. We advocate for the rule of law, democracy, including free, fair, inclusive, transparent, and credible elections, and freedom of expression, as well as freedom of association and peaceful assembly, inclusive multilateralism and international cooperation, based on the principles and objectives of the UN Charter. We are committed to fighting against gender-based discrimination and ensuring the meaningful participation in our cooperation of all stakeholders, including women, youth and persons in vulnerable situations.
3. **Bi-regional and intra-regional cooperation** are both indispensable. We will be mindful of national contexts and priorities, legal frameworks and institutional arrangements, taking into account the different capacities of all states including Small Island Developing States. We underscore the importance of strengthening cooperation within and between regions, including with regards to regulatory frameworks and standards, policies and instruments, as well as exchange of good practices and expertise to ensure effective responses, including technologically innovative ones.
4. We strive for a **whole-of-society approach to citizen security**, in accordance with national legal frameworks. Current violence and security threats by poly-criminal networks, working across our regions and globally, negatively impact democratic governance, inclusion policies, inequality and the environment. These interconnected threats in both regions require comprehensive, **integrated**, balanced and multidisciplinary **and evidence-based** approaches. We have to address the root causes, socioeconomic and risk factors, including those that make different segments of society more vulnerable to crime,

¹ This is the list of adhering countries as of 9 February 2026.

prioritizing the development of preventive measures. These should be built through inclusive public policies, respect for human rights as well as comprehensive strategic partnerships—especially with civil society and the private sector, as well as with international agencies, academia, local governments and communities.

5. The provision of statistical data on criminal phenomena and evaluations of policy impacts are vital, including through continuous monitoring mechanisms, data sharing within the applicable regulatory frameworks and joint observatories on criminal phenomena. The protection of personal data and the right to privacy are essential to strengthen cooperation, enabling the exchange of information in the area of law enforcement and criminal justice.
6. To **dismantle the economic and recruitment structures** of criminal organizations, we underscore the need to strengthen financial intelligence and asset tracing mechanisms, especially through the confiscation and recovery of illicit assets across jurisdictions; to address penitentiary challenges, including rehabilitation and the reduction of reoffending; and to promote education and public awareness initiatives, particularly among young people concerning the respect for the rule of law, transparency and human rights.
7. We welcome the **tangible progress** since the Third EU-CELAC Summit (Brussels, 17-18 July 2023) commitment to strengthen cooperation initiatives in the field of citizen security, including through the EU-LAC Partnership on Justice and Security. Key milestones include the La Paz Declaration of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs (February 2024) and the EU-CLASI Ministerial Declaration (March 2025); the high-level bi-regional dialogues of the Justice policy cycle; the joint work in relevant UN mechanisms, and the existing sub-regional mechanisms.
8. We acknowledge the **contribution of EU-funded initiatives**—including EL PAcCTO 2.0, COPOLAD III, EUROFRONT, the Global Illicit Flows Programme, and cybersecurity actions including those under the EU-LAC Digital Alliance and GLACY-e programme—as well as platforms like EMPACT in enhancing our strategic partnership. We further acknowledge the important **initiatives taken in Latin America and the Caribbean** to address the challenges posed by transnational organized crime, including through the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty Organization, MERCOSUR, the Andean Community, the Brasilia Consensus, as well as the establishment of AMERIPOL, and the key work of CARICOM bodies, specifically the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) and the Regional Security System (RSS). We underscore the value of regional initiatives aimed at enhancing cooperation in port and logistics hub security to prevent and dismantle illicit flows.
9. We set up an **Alliance for Citizen Security** as a value-based framework for cooperation to address these threats, collectively and multilaterally, with full respect for human rights and the Rule of Law at all levels. We will build on existing cooperation and mobilise for this purpose the relevant State institutions, agencies, and platforms, as well as the private sector and non-state organizations and associations —across sectors and in both regions, including the European outermost regions and overseas countries and territories.

Joint Commitments

We commit to:

10. Swiftly implement the commitments of the La Paz Declaration approved at the XXIVth High Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs (February 2024), the third EU-CLASI Ministerial Declaration² (March 2025), as well as of other relevant commitments undertaken at the bi-regional level, with appropriate involvement of all concerned government bodies.
11. Promote **justice cooperation**, respecting international data protection standards and acting in accordance with national legal frameworks, through the operationalisation and enhancement of tools to make it more effective, including instruments to facilitate the electronic transmission of requests for international legal and judicial co-operation between central authorities, as well as the opportunity to make full use of existing instruments that have a binding nature for each country, including those provided by regional organizations, or to devise additional international instruments for international judicial cooperation. We will strengthen the Justice Policy Cycle between relevant authorities of both regions, including by organising regular ministerial meetings.
12. **Fight all the multiple forms of discrimination** and gender-based violence, also when technology-facilitated, also by promoting the role of all stakeholders in law enforcement, including women, persons in vulnerable situations and minorities, and by reinforcing institutional capacity in prevention and protection.
13. Strengthen cooperation in **border management and resilience**, including to combat trafficking in persons and strengthen the transnational response to migrant smuggling, including by building on the experience of the Atenas Network. In this perspective, intensify efforts and cooperation to reduce the exposure of people on the move to trafficking in persons, to protect the rights of all migrants regardless of their status, to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration, in full respect of international human rights law and in line with commitments in the Agenda 2030, the Pact for the Future and other relevant international instruments.
14. Support national and regional efforts to **prevent and fight corruption** in all its forms through enhanced international cooperation and strengthened anticorruption, integrity and transparency policies, recognizing its transversal impact on human rights, governance, and the fight against organized crime.
15. Strengthen cooperation in **maritime security** through multilateral cooperation initiatives, including for information sharing and deploying joint operations, based on relevant experiences, including the Treaty of San José³. We reaffirm our commitment to the fundamental principles of international law regarding maritime threats, including in the fight against the illicit trafficking of firearms, ammunition, explosives and drugs.
16. Take firm and strengthened action against **crimes that affect the environment**, also in countries of supply, transit and demand of waste, wildlife and other environment-affecting illicit trafficking, through enhanced international cooperation based on the principle of shared responsibility.

² Countries currently not members of CLASI are not expected to implement the operational cooperation priorities of the EU-CLASI Ministerial Declaration.

³ Agreement Concerning Co-operation in Suppressing Illicit Maritime and Air Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in the Caribbean Area.

17. Promote adequate and sustainable opportunities for **economic inclusion**, access to economic, social and cultural rights, basic services and education, as well as participation, especially for the youth, women and persons in vulnerable situations exposed to recruitment by criminal organizations.
18. Building in priority on existing bi-regional, bilateral and multilateral frameworks, **enhance cooperation in relevant policy areas**, including:
 - a. fight against transnational organised crime including illicit trafficking in firearms, ammunition and explosives, and in drugs; fight against international illicit financial flows and money laundering; trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling, crimes that affect the environment, smuggling of commercial goods, trafficking in cultural property, cybercrime;
 - b. balanced and comprehensive drugs policies;
 - c. maritime security, logistics hubs and ports' security, resilience of trade routes against criminal infiltration, and prevention of criminal recruitment (especially youth recruitment);
 - d. cooperation in criminal asset seizure and recovery, internal security and law enforcement, including by Joint Investigation efforts where possible;
 - e. justice cooperation, mutual legal assistance, cross-border police and customs cooperation, including by data exchange in accordance with relevant legal frameworks;
 - f. capacity building for reforms of penitentiary institutions and criminal justice systems, including to improve human rights protection;
 - g. identify and address emerging threats to citizen security.
19. Promote the implementation of applicable standards and work towards their compatibility and where opportune convergence in view of a **more effective operational cooperation** for citizen security, whilst respecting fundamental rights, including on the protection of personal data, criminal procedure rights and information sharing, within the applicable regulatory frameworks.
20. Enhance cooperation in **multilateral fora** relevant for citizen security, including the fight against transnational organised crime, drug policy, and anti-corruption.
21. Promote **inter-agency cooperation** across policy areas in a whole-of-government approach, leveraging all available resources, assets and frameworks, also by building on the existing regional and bi-regional frameworks.
22. Recognising the importance of the Constitutive Treaty of **Ameripol**, encourage its swift ratification.
23. Enhance dialogue between EU and LAC partners on emerging threats that may affect citizens' security, including those with **global implications**, to reinforce international cooperation and promote a more strategic, result-oriented and beneficial partnership.
24. Regularly review the progress of these shared commitments.