

Call for Proposals for Policy Documents

Organized Crime in Latin America and the Caribbean

I. Context

Latin America and the Caribbean is the most violent region in the world, with disproportionately high rates of crime and homicide. A significant portion of this violence is linked to organized crime, which not only directly contributes to high homicide rates but also amplifies inequalities and perpetuates a cycle of social exclusion. These dynamics erode the institutional fabric, weaken the state's capacity to respond to violence, and impact the provision of public goods, investment, and economic growth.

The evolution of organized crime into fragmented and decentralized networks has increased its adaptability and resilience. Activities such as drug trafficking, extortion, and illegal mining have diversified their routes and markets, consolidating illicit economies that perpetuate violence and insecurity. Furthermore, access to firearms enhances these groups' ability to maintain territorial control, intensifying levels of violence. The connection between organized crime and human rights violations, along with its impact on the most vulnerable communities, highlights the need for a coordinated approach that also addresses the indirect victims of these dynamics.

As part of the alliance between CAF, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the World Bank, this initiative seeks to generate useful knowledge to guide public policies addressing these complexities. This call is part of this joint effort.

II. Objective

To fund the development of up to five policy documents that provide evidence-based recommendations to guide the formulation of effective public policies in Latin America and the Caribbean.

III. Priority Topics

Proposals must align with one of the following key topics:

1. Availability of firearms.

Access and circulation of firearms and their relationship with violence levels. Illegal arms trafficking in the region and international collaboration to curb it. Public policies to restrict access to firearms and their impact on citizen security.

2. Multiplying factors of criminal activity.

Social, economic, and institutional conditions that promote the expansion of organized crime. Impact of economic inequality, corruption, and institutional weaknesses. Interactions between these factors and territorial control by criminal groups.

3. The role of education in combating organized crime.

Successful educational programs in preventing recruitment by criminal groups. The impact of education on reducing violence and fostering community resilience. The relationship between lack of access to education and the perpetuation of criminal activities.

4. The other side of statistics: indirect victims of organized crime.

Economic and social impact on communities affected by organized crime. Consequences such as forced displacement, loss of employment opportunities, and psychological effects. Improvement in measuring and highlighting the indirect effects of organized crime.

5. Organized crime and human rights.

Connection between criminal activities and violations of fundamental rights. Systematic abuse: extortion, human trafficking, and gender-based violence. Strategies to protect vulnerable communities and groups and strengthen human rights guarantees.

Important note: The points included under each topic are intended to guide applications and do not constitute an exhaustive or mandatory list. The content of each proposal must align with the general topic, but applicants have the discretion to define the focus and aspects to be developed.

IV. Expected Content of the Documents

A policy document synthesizes relevant knowledge on a specific topic, based on a rigorous diagnosis and solid evidence available in the specialized literature. Its objective is to identify knowledge gaps and propose practical, action-oriented recommendations to inform the formulation and implementation of public policies. These documents foster well-founded discussions and provide key inputs for designing effective strategies in the public sphere.

Each policy document must:

- Systematize the available evidence on the topic, identifying knowledge gaps and proposing priority areas for research, as applicable.
- Address coordination between levels of government and governmental agencies, as well as international collaboration, when relevant.
- Discuss the implications for public policies and propose policy alternatives that balance immediate achievements with structural reforms.
- Be approximately 6,000 to 9,000 words in length (excluding annexes).

Additionally, the documents should adopt a practical and policy-oriented approach, generating useful inputs for the formulation of effective strategies in the public sphere. While each document is expected to be standalone, it may also contribute to a comprehensive regional report on organized crime and violence in Latin America and the Caribbean.

V. Budget and Financing

Each selected proposal will receive funding of up to USD 12,000 to develop the policy document. The amount will be disbursed under a consultancy contract with the responsible researcher or their affiliated institution.

VI. Activities and Deliverables

Selected teams will have up to eight months to complete the policy document. During this period, researchers are expected to develop the following:

- Initial deliverable: An annotated outline of the policy document, within the first six weeks after the contract is signed.
- First draft: A draft containing initial findings and preliminary recommendations, by the second quarter of 2025.
- Final version: A comprehensive document including an in-depth analysis and key recommendations, by the third quarter of 2025.

Flexibility in deadlines may be discussed on a case-by-case basis based on project needs.

VII. Evaluation and Selection

Proposals will be evaluated by a committee of CAF experts. The evaluation will consider aspects such as the clarity and structure of the proposal, its regional coverage, and the capacities and experience of the team.

VIII. How to Apply

Interested applicants must complete the following [online form](#) by Friday, February 7, 2025, at 11:59 PM (Buenos Aires time). The form requires the submission of the following documents in Spanish or English:

1. Work proposal: A document of up to 800 words describing the topic to be addressed and the proposed structure for the policy document.
2. Team composition: A list of team members, including their names, affiliations, and roles.
3. CV of the principal researcher or team: Up to two CVs, each a maximum of two pages.

IX. Contact

In the following [document](#), you will find a list of frequently asked questions related to the call. If you still have questions, we invite you to send your inquiries to investigacion@caf.com by Friday, January 10, 2025.