

as the implementing institutions. In accordance with this MoU, UN-LiREC and CICAD have initiated a training and capacity building project for customs, police and other relevant officials as well as a programme on information sharing and databases.

Sources of Funding

The Lima Regional Centre receives its funding through two channels: direct contributions to its trust fund and partnerships in connection with specific activities. Between 1987 and 1998, the total contributions to the trust fund were US\$395,113, and the average yearly donation was between US\$15,000 and US\$40,000 (with the exception of 1993 when the Government of Canada donated US\$120,000 in support of a particular event).

Following the revival of the Centre's activities in 1997, donations sharply increased. By the end of 1999, the Centre had received US\$555,642 in *direct* contributions from nineteen countries, eleven of which were Latin American. In 1999 alone, *indirect* contributions to the Centre, totaled US\$367,000. Seven countries and institutions contributed by sharing or covering the costs of events. However, despite the strong growth in support since 1997, the situation of UN-LiREC's trust fund remains unstable. Aside from Peru's donations as the host country, there is no regular, continuing source of funding from traditional or potential donors. There is a widely shared view that the UN-LiREC is under-resourced.

MERCOSUR

Programming and Resource Allocation

In 1998, Bolivia, Chile and MERCOSUR approved a Joint Mechanism to develop a registration system for both buyers and vendors of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials. The effectiveness of this Joint Mechanism remains untested.

Under the Joint Mechanism agreement, states are responsible for reporting to the central authority any person or company that is involved in the selling, purchasing, importation, exportation, distribution or other stage of trade associated with firearms, explosives, ammunition and other related materials. This necessarily includes the person's/group's name, document number, reason for and location of activities and the name of export or import ports authorized for use. Signatory states that do not have a national arms database must, in accordance with their domestic legislation, create a register that documents owners of firearms, ammunition, explosives and any related parts.

Sources of Funding

N/A