

## **Declaration**

### **Launch of the Alliance for Security, Justice and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)**

**WE**, the representatives of the countries and institutions gathered in the City of Bridgetown, reaffirm the critical importance of citizen security for the well-being and development of our nations. With this in mind, **we declare our intention to launch and join the Alliance for Security, Justice and Development, to coordinate vision and responses in addressing organized crime in Latin America and the Caribbean.**

The Alliance aims to promote evidence-based regional, subregional, and national actions and public policies to strengthen institutions, prevent community harms including youth recruitment, curb illicit financial flows, and mobilize resources to address and provide coordinated responses to the rapid expansion, growth and influence of organized crime in our nations.

To fulfill this objective, the Alliance has a steering committee and three technical groups where countries are working together and jointly defining priority actions aimed at:

- Protecting the populations and communities that are most vulnerable and most exposed to the influence of organized crime.
- Strengthening security and justice institutions and other strategic sectors to improve their performance and the effectiveness and efficiency of their responses to organized crime.
- Reducing financial flows and curbing illicit markets to reduce the operational capacity, power, influence and legitimacy of criminal groups.

The Alliance is a regional initiative for dialogue, cooperation, and collective action, and aims to be a platform that aggregates governments and its different security and justice areas, multilateral and other organizations, private sector, civil society, and others.

The Alliance also seeks to mobilize resources and technical support to generate and share knowledge, foster collective learning, and design, implement, and evaluate policies that expand the impact and scale of interventions. These resources will support pilot projects to test innovative solutions for preventing and responding to organized crime, as well as to scale up and assess effective interventions. Resources will also be used to strengthen institutional capacities, expand regional experience and networks, and promote the sustainability of policies in this sector.

The Alliance leverages the experience, knowledge, lending programs, and technical expertise of several organizations and MDBs, including the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and its member countries. The IDB will act as the Technical Secretariat of the Alliance, providing technical and strategic support for the planning and coordination of the Alliance work.

**WE EXPRESS OUR SUPPORT FOR THIS INITIATIVE,** which seeks to transform shared challenges into opportunities for a safer, fairer, and more prosperous future for present and future generations in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In Bridgetown, Barbados, on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024.