

## **Training for members of the Public Prosecutor's Offices of the GRULAC Region in the prevention and prosecution of the illicit traffic of chemicals and waste**

The illegal traffic of chemical products and their waste has an alarming growth throughout the world, generating great profits for criminal organizations, at the same time generating great impacts in areas in which they occur.

With regard to hazardous waste, the Basel Convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous waste and its disposal (1989) is unique in that; it is the only multilateral environmental agreement that considers the illegal traffic of hazardous waste and other waste as a crime. Linked to this condemnation of illegal traffic is the obligation assumed by the Parties to avoid and penalize conduct that contravenes the provisions of the Agreement.

We must also consider the cluster of chemicals and wastes that, in addition to the substances and materials covered by the Basel Convention, are covered by the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Minamata Convention on mercury and its waste, in addition to the national, regional and global agendas that are being developed with other substances, particularly plastics and lead, and the International Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, better known by its acronym SAICM.

In such a way, then, the training of officials and prosecutors of the Public Ministry is a priority, in order to instruct them on the problems and forms of investigation and prevention of this type of infractions and at the same time deepen the compliance with the International Agreements and programs of Chemicals and Waste.

Within the framework of the Basel Convention, we must highlight the work of the Environmental Network to Optimize Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE) whose Sixth Meeting took place in April-February 2022, and Decision BC-15/17 in which the Steering Committee of the Mechanism to Promote Implementation and Compliance (ICC) where the progress of ENFORCE is reported.

Therefore, in accordance with the mandate to carry out activities for the development of implementation and compliance capacities that could help the Parties to the Basel Convention to prevent and combat the illegal traffic of hazardous wastes and other wastes, the training of criminal prosecution bodies.

### ➤ Objectives

- Strengthening of the members of the Public Prosecutor's Offices of the Latin American and Caribbean Region (GRULAC) in order to internalize them in the prevention of the illegal traffic of chemical products and waste, with the following agenda:
  - Regulations, programs, national, regional and global in terms of chemicals and waste,
  - Mode, forms and research strategies,
  - Legal proceedings,

- Designs of tools for its approach, and
  - International coordination.
- Cooperation and synergies between the GRULAC Public Prosecutor's Offices and the illegal traffic of chemical products and waste.
  - Provide training and training in national, regional and international regulations on the illegal traffic of chemical products and waste, including those regulated by the Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam and Minamata Conventions, and other products and substances throughout their life cycle covered by SAICM, such as electrical and electronic equipment and highly dangerous pesticides, plastics, lead, among other judicial procedures and their repression.
  - Exchange good practices in Public Prosecutor's Offices through the exchange of experiences and implementation of national, regional and international procedures in the preventive control of illicit traffic and international trade of chemicals and waste regulated or reached by the Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam Conventions and Minamata, and SAICM.

➤ Convening actors

The Component "Training for members of GRULAC Public Prosecutor's Offices in the prevention and prosecution of illicit trafficking and international trade in chemicals and waste" will be carried out jointly by the Regional Center of the Basel Convention for the South American region, located at the National Institute of Industrial Technology of the Argentine Republic (INTI) in Buenos Aires, by the Basel and Stockholm Regional Center located in Panama, and by the Center for Research and Information on Drugs and Toxics (CIIMET).

➤ Main actors

- Basel Argentina and Panama Regional Centres
- ENFORCE
- GRULAC Environmental Public Ministries.
- INTERPOL

➤ Modality and duration

The activity will be virtual and can be replicated in person in Panama City depending on the existence of available funds. It will be held in a mid-morning session with a duration of four full hours of exposure.

➤ Activities

The Program is detailed below:

09.00 - 09.15 Presentation by the Regional Centres

09.15 - 10.00 First Panel: presentations of regional regulations, programs and projects on illegal trafficking (in charge of the Regional Centres)

10.00 - 10.45 Second Panel: presentations by ENFORCE Basel Convention and INTERPOL on illicit trafficking issues

10.45 - 11.00 Break

11.00 - 12.15 Third Panel: practical cases by the GRULAC Public Prosecutors (three presentations)

12.15 – 12.30 Conclusions and closing of the day