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Presentation title: The Network to Prevent Gun Violence in Mexico and Central America

Gun violence is a contagious epidemic disease created and fostered by specific global industrial sectors. Violence is vector-borne, where guns and ammunition, -mainly coming from the United States of America and Europe into Mexico and Central America, are the culprits, the agents for murder. For decades, gun-related violence has been an ongoing public health problem that alarmingly increases in the region. An epidemic that needs to be given priority attention. The Network was created because the global burden of gun violence accounts for more than 250,000 deaths worldwide, and half of these deaths occur in just six countries – all in the Americas. All preventable. The public health and humanitarian crisis caused by the legal and illegal arms trade pose significant challenges, requiring sound science-based policies, and evidence based programmatic approaches, for making our nations and communities healthy and safer. The Network will act by creating awareness, with actions, and thru scientific non-partisan advocacy. On June 10, 2020, the Network to Prevent Gun Violence in the Americas was formally established. It was formed with the purpose to bring awareness of the global small arms trade and to frame gun violence as a public health issue. We bring together arms trade specialists, epidemiologist, health professionals, human rights advocates, and violence prevention activists to focus on current and future challenges. We will work towards solutions and undertake advocacy efforts to address gun violence in Mexico and Central America. The current affiliated organizations include: Anahuac University Mexico; Center for American Progress; Consortium of Universities for Global Health; Forum on the Arms Trade; Giffords Law Center; Global Exchange / Stop US Arms to Mexico project; Medical College of Wisconsin Office of Global Health; Metropolitan Peace Institute; Newtown Action Alliance; Stimson Center, and the Program for Global Surgery and Social Change, from Harvard University's Medical School.