



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. What does COPLA mean?

The acronym COPLA stands for “Corte Penal Latinoamericana y del Caribe contra el Crimen Transnacional Organizado”. In English, “Latin American and Caribbean Criminal Court Against Transnational Organized Crime”.

### 2. What is the COPLA campaign?

It is a campaign which petitions for the creation and enforcement of a Latin American and Caribbean Criminal Court Against Transnational Organized Crime (COPLA). A growing Argentinian NGO called “Democracia Global” leads the initiative, which aims to reach all the people and social and political organizations from Latin American and the Caribbean who wish to join the battle against organized crime not only on a regional scale, but also through international cooperation.

### 3. What is COPLA's goal?

COPLA wishes to fight transnational organized crime through a justice system which would simultaneously promote public security policies on a regional scale.

### 4. What is transnational organized crime?

According to the Palermo Convention (article 2.A) an “organized criminal group” is a group of three or more people that has:

- committed an offence punishable by a maximum deprivation of liberty of at least 4 years;

- committed an offence in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or material benefit;
- to do so, the offence is committed in one State but involves an organized criminal group that engages in criminal activities in more than one state or has substantial effects in another state.

The definition of “transnational organized crime” includes all the profit-seeking criminal activities committed on an international level. It is quite a broad definition as it considers the global scale of the problem and the need to achieve global and regional cooperation to face and solve these problems.

### 5. What could COPLA achieve?

As an established court, COPLA could:

- 1) Internationally prosecute key members of criminal groups which usually go unpunished and/or protected by national judicial and political networks of complicity.
- 2) Confiscate the assets from said criminal groups. In some countries, this has proved to significantly reduce the power that the organized criminal groups have.

As a regional institution against organized crime, COPLA could:

- 1) Supervise the situation in the Latin American and Caribbean region.
- 2) Improve national criminal legislation.
- 3) Promote cooperation of judicial systems and law enforcements between member countries.



4) Offer protection programs to the witnesses testifying against crimes and to the thousands of volunteers who actively participate in the fight against organized crime and its consequences.

### 6. Which countries can be a part of COPLA?

All countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

### 7. How would COPLA reach its goals?

- A) By creating a Latin American and global wide coalition against organized crime.
- B) By getting as many citizens of the world as possible to participate, specially lawyers, members of parliament, scholars and artists.
- C) By drafting a Statute, thus ensuring compatibility with the existing national constitutions and international treaties.
- D) By joining forces with important political figures, from political parties and their representatives in parliament to regional organizations and governments.

### 8. Who can join?

Every citizen or organization that supports the creation of a Latin American and Caribbean Criminal Court Against Transnational Organized Crime.

### 9. How can I join the campaign?

You can join COPLA by signing the petition

for its establishment. You can do so in the following link:

<http://www.coalicioncopla.org/en/petition-form/>.

### 10. How can I help COPLA grow?

All those who wish to help establish COPLA can do so in any of the following ways:

- A. **Signing:** Join the petition at <http://www.coalicioncopla.org/en/petition-form/>.
- B. **Donation:** The campaign for the creation of COPLA needs funds to establish a network of NGOs which could impulse the creation of the Court in their own countries. To do so, financial support is necessary to carry out events, meetings, presentations and to draft all types of documents. All those who wish to donate may do so in Argentine pesos or American dollars through the following secure link: <http://www.coalicioncopla.org/en/donations/>.
- C. **Time and Skills:** Contribute to the campaign with your time and skills. Join our team from anywhere in the world! If you are interested, contact us at [info@coalicioncopla.org](mailto:info@coalicioncopla.org).
- D. **Contacts:** If you know any NGOs or academic or political groups that may be able to contribute to COPLA's campaign, help us get in contact with them to create a network and a coalition. Contact us at [info@coalicioncopla.org](mailto:info@coalicioncopla.org).  
**We will quickly get back to you!**