

State Capture by Organized Crime: Implications for Governance and National Security



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Abstract

Organized crime as a serious threat to national security in Peru is a phenomenon that manifests itself through the infiltration of criminal organizations into government institutions, where they establish corrupt links with public officials. This corruption not only facilitates impunity for criminal activities, but also erodes public confidence in the political system, weakening the legitimacy of institutions and undermining the rule of law. Indeed, state capture allows criminal groups to manipulate public policies to their advantage, aggravating the situation of insecurity and violence in the country. By controlling territories and populations, these organizations create an environment conducive to the expansion of their illicit activities, affecting social and economic development. The lack of an effective state response to these dynamics creates a vicious cycle of distrust and hopelessness among the population, which often sees organized crime as an alternative to government ineffectiveness. It is crucial to implement a comprehensive approach that addresses criminal manifestations, strengthens democratic institutions, promotes transparency and accountability, and restores public confidence in the system.

Keywords: Organised crime; National security; Governance; Corruption

Introduction

Corruption, in essence, is the abuse of power that some people wield for their own benefit, betraying the trust placed in them. This phenomenon not only includes acts such as bribery or embezzlement, but also practices such as nepotism and the misuse of confidential information. On the one hand, many people believe that corruption weakens the state, but its effects go further; it can contribute to environmental damage, intensify conflicts based on ethnicity or religion, and fuel the growing economic inequality we face. Furthermore, corruption undermines the credibility of our institutions, causing distrust and frustration in society. This not only generates a sense of discontent but can also lead to increased violence and social exclusion, posing serious challenges to our security and well-being as citizens [1].

A country's economic development faces serious challenges when corruption is present. Not only does it create an environment conducive to organized crime, but it also destabilizes markets, scaring away investors. This translates into slower growth and greater financial instability. In fact, the situation is so worrying that a country with high levels of corruption could experience

a reduction of up to 5% in investment compared to those where corruption is not a problem, which could result in annual losses of up to 0.5% in long-term GDP growth. Corruption is a serious consequence of the functioning of government, as it is often used to cover up actions and protect individual interests rather than the common good. This phenomenon has a destructive impact on many fronts. On the one hand, large amounts of money are diverted from the formal economy, fueling the growth of the informal economy. This, in turn, complicates the implementation of effective economic policies and undermines citizens' trust in their authorities [2].

Corruption not only hinders the progress of individual countries but also represents an obstacle to sustainable development and economic progress worldwide. It is important to understand that corruption is not only a social problem but also has deep political roots, as it is closely linked to the exercise of state power. This situation greatly influences how political decisions are made and implemented, which in turn impacts the level of corruption in each nation. Violence and homicides remain a serious problem in Latin America, especially in Mexico and Central America, where

these regions are among the most dangerous in the world. Their main objective is to obtain profit through extortion and fight each other for control of neighborhoods and local drug markets. The types of violence vary from country to country, but there is a notable trend toward the fragmentation of drug cartels in Mexico [3]. The presence of criminal organizations in Paraguay not only affects local society but also other countries where these groups operate. It is essential to ask ourselves whether our current laws are effective in combating these crimes. These organizations interfere in various ways with daily life and cause serious harm to the development and well-being of society [4].

Today, organized crime has become one of the main challenges facing society, as it infiltrates to such an extent that it forms mafias that control and influence various institutions. This represents a major obstacle for the State, which must fight to maintain the rule of law and democracy. These groups, due to their highly organized nature and entrepreneurial approach, have created illegal markets where they offer illicit goods and services, taking advantage of the lack of regulation and the ineffectiveness of the State in establishing a genuine plan to combat crime. The interaction between cyberspace and the absence of financial regulations facilitates the laundering of money obtained from illegal activities, as simply moving capital can cleanse these illicit funds. Therefore, it is crucial to clearly define what constitutes organized crime in order to effectively address these problems [5].

Organized crime remains an important issue requiring attention on Peru's public agenda, as evidenced by the recent approval of the National Multisectoral Policy to Combat this Problem, which will be in effect from 2019 to 2030 (Supreme Decree No. 17-2019-IN). This initiative seeks to establish a unified approach to combating organized crime in the country. According to official reports, this phenomenon is highly complex; for example, in 2017, the Ministry of the Interior highlighted that criminal organizations in Peru are characterized by committing both economic and violent crimes, controlling specific areas of the country, having connections with inmates and current authorities, and operating with highly complex organizational structures. The problem arises when those interpreting the law do not use a systematic approach or fail to consider the temporal context of the law, which generates confusion and a lack of clarity about how the law is applied [6].

Organized crime is becoming a major problem, as violence related to this activity has been steadily increasing. According to a Colombian specialist, this growth is linked to the emergence of a new generation of much younger criminals, willing to resort to violence, who take advantage of the criminal legacy of their ancestors but do not abide by the rules of traditional organizations. Therefore, it is appropriate to speak of Latin America as an "insecure peace"; although the region is considered a peaceful area, it faces high levels of violence, and the apparent tranquility does not always ensure respect for people's fundamental rights [7]. Globalization has brought about rapid changes in all aspects of national

life. While it offers many benefits, it also brings with it new challenges and threats to security, both nationally and internationally. Today, phenomena such as global terrorism and transnational organized crime are clear examples of how the world's increased connectivity has increased risks. Furthermore, problems such as natural disasters, common crime, arms trafficking, human trafficking, and public health crises pose serious threats to nations, affecting not only individual well-being but also national development [8].

The crime that has plagued Colombia, and which unfortunately continues, has generated great concern in society and has been the subject of intense media coverage. A notable aspect of this situation is the variety of actors involved in the systematic appropriation of public resources or in obtaining benefits from public policies for economic purposes, including businessmen, politicians, and illegal armed groups [9]. The reality of organized crime is complex and varies in its causes, characteristics, and effects, impacting the entire society, but especially those regions where the State has a more limited presence. This represents a major challenge for South American countries, which face enormous pressure from these criminal organizations. The effects of this situation are felt by the entire population, including young people, who are particularly vulnerable. Criminal organizations have managed to expand their influence and establish connections with similar groups in neighboring countries, thus continuing their criminal activities that impact local communities, but they do so in different ways [10].

In a 2020 World Economic Forum global risk report, "information infrastructure collapse" was highlighted as one of the six most worrying risks for the future up to 2030 [11]. There is broad agreement that organized crime represents a significant threat to the security of modern states, as well as to the societies that comprise them and their citizens. This threat is due to several factors, such as the vast amount of money it moves, its ability to corrode public institutions to the point of capturing them, its ability to extract fiscal resources that, under other circumstances, could be used for more constructive purposes, and the violence that often accompanies its activities, whether through clashes between gangs or clashes with the State [12].

Organized Crime

Concept

Organized crime is an active organization involving at least three people, each with defined roles. Organized crime can be understood as a group of individuals who join together in structures, whether rigid or flexible, with the purpose of improving their economic and political situation through illegal activities. However, the structures of these organizations vary considerably and depend on several factors, such as their origin, number of members, the type of crimes they commit, and their level of sophistication. We can find everything from highly hierarchical organizations with a vertical structure and centralized management to more

flexible groups that operate collectively and in a decentralized manner. Today, many of these organizations are adopting business-like models to coordinate actions more effectively and expand their markets for the sale of illicit products. It is relevant to mention that organized crime is dedicated to creating illegal markets and supplying them with goods and services that, by their nature, are prohibited, restricted, or controlled, such as drugs, weapons, prostitution, and other products [13].

Criminal organizations are groups formed with the clear purpose of generating and accumulating wealth, primarily through illegal activities. These entities remain active and operational through violence, corruption, or even merging with legitimate businesses. Their ability to obtain enormous profits is manifested in how they launder their money through complex fraudulent structures in banks they control, participating in areas such as legal gambling, life insurance, fake lotteries, casinos, currency exchange agencies, and real estate. For a long time, the Mafia was viewed solely as a phenomenon associated with certain ethnic groups with limited education, which was attributed to poverty. However, the reality has changed drastically. Today, these organizations have evolved and have become protagonists in drug, arms, and human trafficking, as well as illegal activities such as prostitution, illegal immigration, organ trafficking, and kidnapping. Furthermore, they continue to engage in crimes such as illegal gambling, theft, extortion, predatory lending, piracy, smuggling, and even contract killings, without neglecting their operations in the legal world, where they often raise money through extortion and market speculation. In short, organized crime has managed to adapt surprisingly well to the modern economy, strengthening its social influence through tools such as tax havens, the constant movement of capital, secret accounts, and the sale of public assets, which allows them to increasingly undermine state resources [14].

Organized crime can be easily identified by its access to both human and material resources, as well as its ability to protect itself, use violence, promote criminal values, and attack the state. It also has consolidated structures that allow it to operate effectively. Because of these characteristics, it is best to limit the use of these terms to social research contexts. In legal disciplines, it is more appropriate to refer to delinquency rather than organized crime. The term “organized crime” includes expressions such as criminal organization, organized criminal group, structured association, and structured criminal group, all of which derive from both international and regional legal norms. In the case of Spain, the expressions “organization” and “criminal group” are also used. It is important to keep in mind that the same term may not have the same meaning in all countries, so it is advisable to contextualize its use. This also applies to the legal system of Peru, where it cannot be assumed that terms such as criminal organization, illicit association, criminal association, illicit group, criminal group, or criminal band are equivalent. Each of these terms is linked to specific legal regulations that may vary at different times and in different contexts [12].

Characteristics

Organized crime is characterized by its ability to operate consistently, which allows its members to remain united over time. These organizations are dedicated to offering illegal goods and services and commit serious crimes using violence and fear as tools. According to the author, four essential elements must be present for organized crime to exist. First, they carry out illegal activities. Second, they establish complex networks that allow them to operate safely and ensure their influence endures. Third, their primary focus revolves around the economic and financial aspect, which is the driving force behind their existence. Finally, they have a leadership responsible for planning, directing, and supervising all criminal activities, which is fundamental to their survival and growth. The opening of legitimate markets, driven by globalization, has created fertile ground for these organizations to operate, as they know how to take advantage of the demand for goods and services in societies with good purchasing power. This gives them the opportunity to apply their experience and pursue a strategy that allows them to infiltrate political, social and economic spaces, whether through legal action, offering financial support or establishing new investments in legitimate businesses [13].

The political links of organized crime

Criminal organizations can facilitate corruption using coercion, threats, and violence. However, they often prefer to resort to bribery, taking advantage of certain individuals' greed or their political aspirations. The influence of these organizations over public administrations can vary in severity. At its most basic, this may include occasional bribes to low-ranking officials, such as police officers or customs officers, to obtain passports, permits, or bypass customs controls. It may also involve tampering with evidence or accessing sensitive information. The situation becomes more complicated when the official, rather than simply bribing, begins to collaborate more directly with the criminal organization, acting officially on its behalf and even participating in illegal activities. Furthermore, it is common for organizations to bribe prison officials to ensure the protection of their incarcerated members.

Corruption takes a considerable leap when these organizations manage to influence mid- or high-level officials within the public administration, either through bribery, incorporating these officials into their ranks, or infiltrating collaborators at key levels. The most worrying case occurs when these dynamics extend to the justice system. In some Latin American countries, this has resulted in impunity for organized crime, obstructing investigations, tampering with evidence, and sometimes resulting in the dismissal of trials. The high number of uninvestigated serious crimes and criminal escapes in places like Honduras and Guatemala is truly alarming. Furthermore, infiltration of public administrations can be used to fraudulently obtain public contracts or subsidies. In some cases, they have even gone so far as to sell public sector jobs, as seen in Italy. The most damaging level of corruption occurs when criminal organizations manage to secure the cooperation of high-ranking officials in key areas, as occurred in Mexico with the

fight against drugs. This is essential to facilitate illegal activities, including trafficking in heavy weapons, radioactive materials and military technology.

It's important to note that the purchase of services from low-level officials is more common and easier in developing countries, where salaries are often very insufficient. In China, the situation is aggravated because penalties for corruption may not be sufficiently severe. Furthermore, these illegal collaborations often occur through friends or relatives, which facilitates the connection between the parties involved. It's also important to consider that the improper granting of permits, contracts, or concessions tends to become normalized, which in turn opens the door for criminal organizations to infiltrate more easily. When a criminal organization strengthens, its possibilities of influencing politicians and the government increase, sometimes resulting in what is called "state capture," as the World Bank puts it. In this context, criminality can even affect the formulation and execution of laws or public policies. This influence is achieved by recruiting leaders and high-ranking officials, who can introduce candidates or political parties with criminal connections, or finance the campaigns of certain parties. Organized crime has no qualms about bribing senators, parliamentarians, congressmen, or members of the government, using not only money but also threats or blackmail. For example, during Boris Yeltsin's presidency in Russia, a member of parliament dared to declare that approximately 70 percent of government employees had ties to the Russian mafia, suggesting that within that group, there was a significant number of high-ranking officials involved in corruption.

Limitations in operational capacity

The operational capacity of the institutions responsible for combating organized crime in Peru has been severely affected by a series of limitations that hamper their effectiveness. A lack of human, technological, and financial resources has been a determining factor in this problem. Many of the entities responsible for public security face a shortage of trained personnel, which limits their ability to conduct thorough investigations and respond promptly to organized crime threats. On the other hand, the shortage of advanced technology and appropriate tools for data collection and analysis has hampered the identification and dismantling of criminal networks. This lack of resources not only affects the daily operations of these institutions but also discourages professionals from remaining in these entities, further exacerbating the situation. The combination of these deficiencies creates an environment conducive to impunity and the strengthening of criminal organizations, constituting a considerable challenge to national security.

Fragmented personnel training has also led officers to operate in isolation, lacking the necessary support to coordinate efforts with other agencies or international institutions. This training deficit not only affects the operational capacity of security forces but also generates public distrust toward the institutions responsible for security. High staff turnover and a lack of resources for

continuing education programs have contributed to a deficit in the knowledge and skills needed to address a constantly evolving phenomenon. Therefore, it is evident that the operational capacity of institutions dedicated to combating organized crime is compromised by multiple factors, limiting their effectiveness and undermining public confidence in the justice system. This situation requires a thorough review of institutional structures and a determined commitment to strengthening operational capacities, thus ensuring a more effective response to the threats posed by organized crime [6].

Socioeconomic, Political and Cultural Factors Related to Organized Crime

Socioeconomic factors

Socioeconomic factors are key to the rise of organized crime, as situations such as poverty, unemployment, and inequality create a favorable environment for the emergence of these organizations. In places where economic opportunities are limited, vulnerable communities are forced to find alternative ways to survive, which often leads them to engage in illegal activities. This problem is exacerbated in regions with a weak state presence, where criminal organizations can establish themselves as alternative actors, providing not only income but also a sense of belonging and security in unprotected communities. Poverty and social exclusion perpetuate the cycle of crime, as individuals in precarious situations may be attracted by the promise of quick profits offered by organized crime. Lack of access to basic services such as education and healthcare limits opportunities for personal and community development, creating a cycle of hopelessness that facilitates the recruitment of individuals by criminal groups. Thus, organized crime not only thrives on poverty and inequality, but also reflects the State's failure to guarantee well-being and social justice.

Additionally, social inequality can generate a sense of injustice and frustration, leading to violence being considered a normal means of resolving conflicts. Social exclusion, which keeps certain groups on the margins of full participation in economic and political life, facilitates the recruitment of individuals by criminal organizations, which exploit their vulnerability and desperation. Thus, organized crime becomes a reaction to the structural deficiencies of society, perpetuating a cycle of violence and criminality that is difficult to dismantle without effective interventions that address the socioeconomic causes of the problem.

Political factors

Political factors play a crucial role in the dynamics of organized crime, as corruption and state capture by these organizations represent major challenges to national security. Organized crime's infiltration of government institutions gives these organizations the ability to manipulate decision-making processes and undermine the rule of law. This symbiotic relationship between crime and politics not only enables impunity but also distorts governance, weakening public trust in institutions and creating a favorable climate for the expansion of criminal activities [2].

Corruption is presented as a key enabler that allows organized crime to operate unchecked. Criminal groups employ tactics such as bribery and extortion to co-opt public officials, allowing them to influence public policy for their own benefit. This systematic corruption not only impedes effective law enforcement but also undermines state legitimacy, generating a vicious cycle where a lack of transparency and accountability further fuels crime [3].

Additionally, institutional weakness in many Latin American countries is accentuated by the connection between organized crime and politics. This relationship allows criminal organizations not only to evade justice but also to impose their own agenda to the detriment of collective well-being. The capture of the state by organized crime transforms political decisions, which should be aimed at the common good, into tools that perpetuate inequality and social suffering. In this context, it is essential that strategies to combat organized crime adopt a comprehensive approach that includes both the repression of criminal activities and the promotion of transparency and accountability within institutions. Only through a firm and sustained commitment from all stakeholders can public trust be restored and institutions ensured to act in the best interests of the public, dismantling the corruption networks that allow organized crime to flourish.

Cultural Factors

Cultural factors play a fundamental role in the dynamics of organized crime, as they affect the perception and acceptance of criminal activities within communities. The normalization of illegality and a culture of crime have become entrenched in societies where violence and corruption are considered part of daily life. This phenomenon results in a desensitization of the population toward criminal acts, where crime becomes seen as a viable alternative for subsistence. The acceptance of criminal behavior is sometimes driven by narratives that idealize criminal figures, turning them into role models, especially among young people [15].

Furthermore, drug trafficking has significantly influenced local culture, affecting not only social and economic dynamics but also the values and behaviors of the communities involved. The presence of drug trafficking organizations has led to the normalization of violence and corruption, which in turn weakens trust in institutions and promotes a culture of impunity. This context has changed the aspirations of young people, who, faced with a lack of legitimate opportunities, may view drug trafficking as a quick way to achieve economic success [16].

The culture of illegality is also reflected in the acceptance of criminal practices as a way of life, where communities facing poverty and exclusion may see crime as a viable option to improve their quality of life. This situation generates a cycle in which organized crime not only becomes a relevant player in the informal economy but also manages to infiltrate social and political structures, blurring the lines between legal and illegal [17]. Therefore,

it is crucial to consider these cultural factors when designing public policies and intervention strategies. Promoting a culture of legality and strengthening social cohesion are essential aspects to counteracting the influence of organized crime. This requires not only the implementation of punitive measures, but also supporting legitimate alternatives that allow communities to develop a sense of belonging and empowerment, thus challenging the idea of crime as the only option.

Organized Crime as a Threat to National Security

National security refers to the protection of the interests of a country and its citizens, incorporating key elements such as economic stability, territorial integrity, and the defense of human rights. Within this framework, phenomena such as corruption and corporate crime are considered significant threats, as they can weaken state institutions and negatively affect the nation's economic and social development. National security is viewed as an essential component for the growth and prosperity of a free society. Furthermore, combating corruption must be an integral part of national security strategies, as its impact can undermine the legitimacy of the democratic state and the protection of the rights and property of the population.

National security is a broad concept that not only focuses on protecting the state but also encompasses the security of various elements that make up the nation. This means it extends to the defense of government institutions, which are essential for the management of public affairs. Furthermore, national security is part of a broader system that includes the protection of citizens' rights and freedoms. Thus, it is not only about confronting external threats but also ensuring a safe and stable environment that fosters social development and individual well-being. Therefore, it is crucial for maintaining a democratic order and ensuring that the rights of every person are respected. The relationship between state security and citizen security is vital, as any threat directed at the state can have direct consequences on people's lives and the stability of society as a whole.

Organized crime is seen as one of the main threats to national security, as its illegal activities, such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, and smuggling, create an environment of violence and instability. These practices not only put the population's security at risk but also weaken trust in government institutions and the rule of law. The presence of criminal groups can lead to an increase in violence, which in turn affects the state's ability to guarantee the protection and well-being of its citizens. Furthermore, organized crime is closely linked to corruption, and both problems can have a very negative impact on human rights. These organizations often operate clandestinely and employ violence to maintain control over their activities. This can lead to human rights violations, such as extortion, kidnappings, and the murder of those who dare to oppose them. Corruption, for its part, allows them to act with impunity, further worsening the human rights situation in the communities affected by its effects.

Organized crime can threaten a country's economic stability by disrupting markets and discouraging investment. Corruption related to these criminal activities can lead to public tenders being rigged and contracts being awarded to corrupt companies, resulting in ineffective management of public resources. This not only negatively impacts economic growth but can also increase inequality and social exclusion, creating a cycle of poverty and desperation that, in turn, fuels more crime. Furthermore, corruption in judicial and law enforcement institutions allows organized crime to operate without fear of consequences. When officials are bribed or threatened, it creates an environment in which criminals can operate with impunity. This situation not only undermines trust in the judicial system but also makes it difficult for the State to investigate and prosecute perpetrators, perpetuating the cycle of criminality and corruption. Given the seriousness of organized crime, it is vital that national security strategies include specific actions to combat it. It's not just about enforcing the law, but also about implementing policies that address the root causes of these problems, such as poverty, lack of opportunity, and corruption itself. Collaboration between different sectors—government, civil society, and the private sector—is essential to developing a comprehensive approach that strengthens national security and protects the rights of all citizens.

Influence of Organized Crime on Institutions

The influence of organized crime on institutions constitutes one of the most serious threats to the effectiveness of the rule of law, as it undermines citizens' trust in government structures and reduces the State's capacity to ensure the safety and well-being of its inhabitants. This phenomenon manifests itself through corruption, where public officials can be co-opted or bribed to facilitate the activities of organized crime, which, in turn, allows these groups to operate with impunity and extend their influence in different areas of society [18]. The infiltration of organized crime into public institutions results in deep corruption that compromises the effectiveness of the rule of law, fueling a cycle of impunity that destabilizes governance and erodes citizen trust. By establishing ties with corrupt officials, these criminal organizations manipulate judicial decisions and processes, weakening the integrity of the institutions responsible for justice and security.

This systemic corruption not only hampers law enforcement, but also encourages violence and illegal activities, creating an environment where human rights are at risk and the population feels vulnerable. Organized crime not only seeks economic gain through illegal activities but also attempts to forge collusion with public officials, resulting in the corruption of state officials. This symbiotic relationship between power structures and organized crime creates an environment where the law is applied selectively, favoring criminals and leaving citizens unprotected [19]. Corruption has become a key tool for organized crime in its quest to seize political power and influence government decisions, thus weakening the rule of law [2].

In this context, it is essential that the State implement comprehensive and coordinated measures to dismantle these corruption networks and restore public confidence, ensuring that institutions act for the benefit of society and not as instruments of organized crime [18]. The fight against organized crime requires an approach that addresses not only criminal manifestations but also strengthens democratic institutions and promotes transparency and accountability in the exercise of power [5].

Conclusions

The alarming panorama in which organized crime has managed to infiltrate the country's political and administrative power structures, weakening the State's ability to guarantee the security and well-being of its citizens. Through various criminal modalities, such as drug trafficking and corruption, these organizations have established corrupt ties with public officials, allowing them to operate with impunity and protecting their criminal interests at the expense of the rule of law.

The characteristics and modalities of organized crime in Peru demonstrate its diversification, transnationalization, and violence. These characteristics not only reflect the complexity of the phenomenon but also underscore the intrinsic relationship between organized crime and socioeconomic factors such as poverty and corruption. The State's failure to address these problems has created an environment conducive to the expansion of organized crime, which in turn has weakened public trust in institutions and undermined governance. Current legislation to combat organized crime has shown limited effectiveness due to multiple factors, including a lack of resources, inadequate personnel training, and poor inter-institutional coordination. These limitations have prevented state institutions from responding effectively to organized crime threats, perpetuating a cycle of impunity and violence that challenges the country's political and social stability. Fragmented efforts and the lack of a comprehensive approach have been significant obstacles to the implementation of effective policies.

Furthermore, the research highlights the importance of addressing the underlying causes of organized crime, such as social inequality and lack of economic opportunities. Without a multifaceted approach that combines criminal prosecution measures with social prevention policies and strengthening governance, it will be difficult to reverse state capture by these criminal organizations. In short, state capture by organized crime in Peru represents a critical threat to national security and governability. It is imperative to implement profound legislative reforms, which also promote transparency, accountability, and citizen participation. Only through a determined and coordinated commitment between state institutions and civil society can this phenomenon be effectively addressed and confidence in the democratic system restored.

It is imperative that the Peruvian State strengthen its institutions responsible for security and justice. This includes adequate

resource allocation, ongoing staff training, and the implementation of internal control mechanisms that guarantee transparency and accountability. The creation of specialized units to combat organized crime can improve the effectiveness of operations and the response to this phenomenon.

The fight against organized crime must adopt a comprehensive approach that combines criminal prosecution measures with social prevention policies. This involves addressing the underlying causes of crime, such as poverty, inequality, and lack of opportunity. Investing in social and economic development programs can help reduce communities' vulnerability to the influence of organized crime. Es fundamental mejorar la coordinación entre las diferentes entidades del Estado que participan en la lucha contra el crimen organizado. La creación de un sistema de información compartido y protocolos de actuación conjunta facilitará la detección y desarticulación de redes criminales, así como la implementación de estrategias más efectivas. Promoting the active participation of civil society in the fight against organized crime is essential. This includes encouraging the reporting of criminal activities and collaboration with authorities. Furthermore, transparency policies must be implemented to restore public trust in institutions, ensuring that citizens feel their rights are protected.

Finally, given the transnational nature of organized crime, it is crucial to establish alliances and collaborations with other countries and international organizations. Sharing information, resources, and best practices will strengthen the fight against organized crime at the regional and global levels.

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