

an agreed roadmap with the Minister of Finance. Unfortunately, the commitments were not achieved. Secondly, cooperation with the Ministry of Security and Justice, the Action's leading counterpart, turned inadequate for political reasons.

The original budget support program was implemented under the leadership of the Ministry for Justice and Public Security. In order to continue supporting the Government's efforts to prevent violence at schools, the proposal of this amendment is to reallocate the remaining funds to the implementation of violence prevention programs led by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MINEDUCYT), specifically under priority number five of the education policy: "A school that promotes an education for coexistence, inclusion and diversity". This specifically entails continued support to the following programmes under said policy: 1) Open School for Coexistence 2) Psychosocial Care for School Life 3) Strengthening Skills for Productivity 4) Implementation of Gender Equality and Equity Policy.

These programmes under the education policy "A school that promotes an education for coexistence, inclusion and diversity" contribute directly to the achievement of the objectives defined in the Financing Agreement in force.

The above mentioned programmes that are being implemented by the Ministry are part of the Strategic Institutional Plan (PEI) 2019-2024. These programmes contribute fully development of children, adolescents and young people, as well as the safety of teachers, must move to a perspective that supports school coexistence, a culture of peace and alternative conflict resolution.

The violence prevention programmes that the European Union has been supporting since 2018 continues to be implemented by the MINEDUCYT. Each of the programme components support the student population to participate in after-school programs, promoting the organization, participation, student leadership and development of meaningful learning that motivates student retention in a context of high dropout rates.

The proposed action complements the EU programme LAMARR (ACT-61402), recently approved through the AAP 2023, which offers vocational training opportunities for young people, especially the most vulnerable. Both programmes aim at strengthening the professionalization and integration of disadvantaged young men and women from marginalised neighbourhoods in the labour market, taking advantage of the opportunities provided by the digital transformation.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

The election of President Nayib Bukele in 2019 represented a break with the previous political establishment of two political parties that fought during the civil war and signed the peace agreement (1980-1992). In the 2021 legislative elections, the President's party, Nuevas Ideas, and its allies, won an outright majority in the Legislative Assembly. Since his election, President Bukele has adopted a populist tone and made decisions that cause concern about separation of powers, checks and balances and respect for human rights.

In Spring 2022, following a surge in gang related violence the Legislature declared a state of emergency suspending some constitutional rights and conducting mass arrests on alleged gang members. While this has raised serious concerns about human rights abuses and rule of law, one year into the state of emergency there has been a clear decrease in murder rates, and gang activity has almost ceased. The government's action against violence has proven extremely popular among the population, but the situation has also brought forth the continued necessity of addressing the roots causes of violence with