The Igarapé Institute

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The Igarapé Institute is a think tank based in Brazil devoted to evidence-based policy and action on complex security and development challenges. The Institute's approach emphasizes: (i) diagnostics and research, (ii) informed debate and action across public and private spheres, and (iii) the design of tailor-made solutions that are people-centred. The Institute regularly issues policy and research papers at www.igarape.org.br.

The Igarapé Institute currently works on three themes: global and national drug policy, violence prevention and reduction, and international cooperation and assistance. It serves as the Secretariat for the Global Commission on Drug Policy and promotes assessments and evaluations of violence reduction projects across Latin America. Working at the global, regional, and national levels, the Institute is a reference for governments, private sector actors, international agencies and non-governmental organizations. The Igarapé Institute has research partnerships in Latin America and the Caribbean, Western Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

The Igarapé Institute is based in Rio de Janeiro, with branches in Brasília and São Paulo. It has partnerships and projects with foreign ministries, the police and justice sectors, and development actors in Brazil, Colombia, Haiti, Mexico, Guatemala, the United States of America and across Sub-Saharan Africa and Western Europe. The Institute collaborates with a wide range of partners including, among others, Canada, Norway, United Kingdom, the Bernard Van Leer Foundation, Google, Open Society Foundations, the International Development Research Centre, the United Nations and private donors.

VPA focal person

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Robert Muggah is an internationally recognized specialist on international security, public safety, smart cities. He co-founded the Igarapé Institute - a think and do tank working on data-driven safety and justice across Latin America and Africa. He also co-founded the SecDev Foundation and Group - organizations devoted to cyber-security and stability in the Middle East and Eurasia, and South Asia regions. He is a regular consultant to the UN, IADB, World Bank and several firms ranging from Google to McKinseys. Between 2000-2011 he was research director of the Geneva-based Small Arms Survey.

He has authored dozens of peer-review articles and written and edited seven books on cities, arms control, stability operations, refugees, and the rise of digital gangs and cyber cartels. Robert publishes regularly with the Guardian, El Pais, Foreign Affairs, Globe and Mail, o Globo, LA Times, New York Times, Wired and is a speaker at the Chicago Council, World Economic Forum (Davos), and TED in 2015, 2016 and 2017. He serves on UN Secretary General appointed panels and helps convene a range of international networks, including the Global Parliament of Mayors.

Robert received his DPhil from the University of Oxford and is a fellow or faculty at Singularity University in San Francisco, the University of San Diego, the Graduate Institute in Geneva, the University of British Colombia in Vancover and the Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro.