To promote efforts to prevent and combat crime, the United States is a party to bilateral mutual legal assistance treaties (MLATs) with countries throughout this Hemisphere. The bilateral MLATs to which the United States is a party and considers in force are identified below under the topic entitled "Bilateral Treaties." The United States is also a party to the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and its optional Protocol. In addition, the statutory provision set forth below under the topic "Legislation" is relevant to the execution of mutual legal assistance requests, letters rogatory, and other requests for international assistance in criminal matters.