

**Statement on behalf of the Government of Mexico by Mr. Roberto Campa Cifrian,
Undersecretary of Prevention and Citizen Participation of the Ministry of the
Interior**

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High Level Segment

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Mr. Chair, distinguished representatives, ladies and gentlemen:

Mexico would like to express its appreciation to the Government of Qatar for the warm welcome provided, and recognizes the leadership it has exerted in the preparations for this event. We appreciate the opportunity that the 13th Congress provides towards promoting effective cooperation among States and ensuring the coordination of efforts within the United Nations system aimed at preventing and countering crime, including transnational organized crime.

States have recognized the close relationship between the rule of law and sustainable development, including its importance for effectively maintaining peace and security, as well as for the respect for human rights. We have further reaffirmed the importance of fair, humane, effective and transparent criminal justice systems, which must provide attention to victims, through comprehensive crime prevention strategies.

Mexico is transitioning into an accusatory and oral criminal justice system. This represents a paradigm shift, through which we are promoting the adoption of alternatives to incarceration and of restorative justice schemes.

It is a priority for my country to continue to exchange and analyze best practices and lessons learned in the design and implementation of policies and programs to prevent crime and violence. These include the strengthening of social policies, in close cooperation with all interested stakeholders, especially civil society.

Through the National Program for Social Prevention of Violence and Crime, the Government of Mexico has worked to reduce the risk factors that lead to violence and crime in our country. We seek to address their structural causes, focusing our efforts on three thousand priority localities, through 51 federal programs and 99 specific programs.

We have invested resources into reclaiming public spaces, strengthening community cohesion and providing children, youth and women with a sense of community ownership. We have expanded access to full-time shift schools, created productive projects and offered psychological attention and legal counselling services. Communication committees focusing on crime prevention have also been created in each federal entity, and actions are being carried out to strengthen citizen networks aimed at reducing the vulnerability of priority population groups.

The Government of Mexico has promoted various initiatives such as the creation of a Proximity Police, and other initiatives oriented at providing comprehensive care for women and young victims of violence and crime, the design of alternative projects, and the economic reactivation of productive projects for young people and for the imprisoned population.

As part of these efforts, Mexico highlights the importance of relying on information and data to guide our actions. My Government has developed a model of management, performance and perception indexes and indicators, which has led to a significant increase in the percentage of citizens that organize to address security problems, and resulted in a significant reduction of high impact crimes associated with organized crime. This has improved citizen perception of security, in both the public and private sphere.

We promote informed decision-making and reaffirm our interest in working in cooperation with States, regional and international organizations, as well as all relevant social sectors, in the development of tools to the implementation and evaluation of crime prevention policies and programs.

Mr. Chair,

International cooperation is fundamental to effectively counter the various manifestations of transnational organized crime, including those recognized in the existing international instruments and the new and emerging forms of crime.

Trafficking in persons continues to be a global affliction, in response to which Mexico published in 2012 a General Law to prevent, punish and eradicate human trafficking. In that same year my country adopted a regulatory framework which provides the necessary protection for victims, those affected by these crimes and witnesses to them.

Smuggling of migrants is also a problematic that continues to be of great concern. Mexico underlines the importance of not criminalizing irregular migration, an approach which my country formalized under the Immigration Law that was adopted in May 2011. Our national legislation stipulates that under no condition shall irregular immigration imply in itself an offense, nor will the commission of an illicit act be prejudged for the fact of being an undocumented immigrant.

We further emphasize the need to reinforce appropriate measures to counter the illicit trafficking of firearms, a serious challenge not only for my country, but for the Americas as a whole.

Mr. Chair,

The collective commitment expressed in the Doha Declaration will guide the efforts of the international community over the next five years. Mexico fully shares the emphasis placed on education and public participation, as we believe that there is no more effective way to prevent and combat crime. Rest assured of our strong commitment to promote a culture of peace and legality, as essential tools towards strengthening the Rule of law.