

14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

National Statement on behalf of the Government of Mexico by Mrs. Martha Delgado Peralta, Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Courtesy transcript for the use of Interpreters

(Greetings)

My country reaffirms its commitment to Justice, Rule of Law and the Culture of Lawfulness. Mexico is convinced that Multilateralism provides the best platform for responding with an integral and long-term vision to the challenges posed by organized crime and violence, and for addressing the root causes resulting from the lack of opportunities, marginalization, and inequality.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic we see that the damage caused by criminal organizations is still on the rise. Therefore, we celebrate that governments, international civil society organizations, academics and experts are gathered here to jointly advance justice and legality and to respect and protect Human Rights by preventing and combatting illicit firearms markets, corruption, illicit financial flows, drug-trafficking, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, trafficking in wildlife and cultural goods, and cybercrime.

These last few months have allowed us to better understand that crime is a global problem which can only be overcome with the involvement of the international community, including governments, international organizations, parliaments, private sector, civil society and academia. We also have a better understanding about the need to sum efforts to close the gaps between the policies that address crime prevention and criminal justice, and those that seek to achieve Sustainable Development in its three dimensions: economic, social and environmental, as recognized in our joint commitment to accomplish by 2030 the Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this regard, Mexico praises the decision of this Congress of "Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda".

The administration of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador is undertaking a profound transformation of public life, prioritizing peace, with greater justice, security, and well-being. We are working on a comprehensive strategy focused on fostering actions on public security and law enforcement and on increasing opportunities for all; and, particularly for the most vulnerable sectors.

It is not only about prosecuting crimes, but also about addressing the structural causes that have fueled violence and crime, such as poverty, inequality, and lack of opportunities; and, materializing our State's obligation to provide security for our people in its broadest dimension of well-being and

integral development, while empowering individuals for building safe, sustainable and inclusive communities, in line with the 2030 Agenda.

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Today, we have a better institutional articulation, with the creation of the National Guard, a transversal fight against corruption; and by having strengthened our financial intelligence capabilities against arms, fuel, and drug trafficking, while always prioritizing the respect and protection of human rights.

Mexico will continue promoting measures to prevent all forms of violence, strengthen gender perspective in all areas, and advance in the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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Mexico acknowledges the value of this Congress as the highest multilateral venue for guiding the work of the United Nations in the coming years, in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

We recognize as a fundamental principle in these efforts that we all have a voice and experiences to contribute whether they come from governments at the various levels or the deliberations by international organizations, the strategies at ground-level of civil society organizations and the private sector; or the action-oriented analyses provided by experts and academics for moving towards humane, fair and sustainable solutions.

Let me conclude by expressing our deepest gratitude to the Government and to the people of Japan and wishing them a successful Congress. I am confident that the new normality resulting from the pandemic will intensify solidarity and collective efforts to promote just, peaceful, prosperous and equitable societies.

When the "Decade of Action" comes to an end in 2030, we will be pleased that we will have achieved the Sustainable Development Goals and stopped the violence, corruption and weakening of social fabric caused by criminal markets.

Thank you,