

New York, October 1, 2012.

Joint Declaration

The Governments of Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico, convinced that transnational organized crime, in particular the violence it spreads in undertaking its criminal activities, represents a serious problem that compromises development, security and democratic coexistence in all nations, and that the United Nations should urgently attend to this problem:

Declare that:

1. The consumption of illegal drugs is a powerful incentive for the activities of organized crime in all regions of the world.
2. Despite the efforts undertaken by the international community in the last decades, the consumption of these substances continues to increase at the global level, which in turn generates considerable earnings for criminal organizations throughout the world.
3. With enormous financial resources, transnational criminal organizations are capable of penetrating and corrupting State's institutions.
4. It is essential to apply more effective measures in order to prevent the illegal flow of weapons to criminal organizations.
5. While the flow of resources from drugs and weapons consumers toward criminal organizations is not prevented, these criminal organizations will continue to threaten our societies and our governments.
6. Consequently, it is urgent to review the focus that until today the international community has maintained regarding drugs, with the aim of preventing the financial flows derived from the illegal drug market.
7. This review should be conducted rigorously and responsibly, based on scientific data, with the aim of establishing effective public policies in this area.
8. States should intensify their efforts in order to continue strengthening institutions and the policies of each country in the prevention and sanction of crime; social programs in education, health, leisure and employment; as well as in the prevention and the treatment of addictions in the aim of to preserving the social fabric.

9. States should reaffirm their commitment to combating with determination, and in accordance with the principle of shared and differentiated responsibility, transnational organized groups through international cooperation mechanisms.

10. The United Nations should exert its corresponding leadership in this effort and conduct a profound process of reflection in order to analyze all available options, including regulatory or market measures, with the aim of establishing a new paradigm that prevents the flow of financial resources to organized criminal organizations.

11. In this regard, the Governments of Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico invite the Member States of the United Nations to promptly begin a process of consultations in order to evaluate the achievements and limitations of current policy, as well as in regards to the violence that the production, trafficking and the consumption of drugs generates throughout the world.

12. We consider that these results should culminate in an international conference that would allow for the necessary decision to be taken in order to enhance the efficiency of the strategies and instruments with which the international community faces the challenge presented by drugs and their consequences.