

**MULTILATERALISM AT WORK:
EU–UN 40 YEARS TOGETHER IN VIENNA
(2ND JULY 2019)**

TALKING POINTS

- I would like to start by expressing my deepest appreciation for having being invited to this splendid celebration.
- The various entities headquartered at UNOV played a primal role in the agenda of Mexico, whether for addressing the World Drug Problem or promoting Criminal Justice and Crime Prevention, Sustainable Energy for All or the pacific use of the Outer Space and of Nuclear Energy. The EU constitutes one of Mexico's main and most valued partners, both at the policy-making discussions of the governing bodies and for the delivery of technical cooperation on the ground.
- It is then with great pleasure, that I will make some brief comments about the CRIMJUST project undertaken under the framework of the Cocaine Route Program, a flag effort of the Europe Union and UNODC, benefiting from the invaluable contributions of INTERPOL and Transparency International.
- Beforehand, let me make reference to a very recent tragedy: last Friday a person died on flight that departed from Mexico City. The cause of death: 246 cocaine capsules previously ingested exploded inside this person's stomach! Should have we stayed at the level of stereotypes, nurtured by telenovelas (*soap-operas*) or cheap politicians, we could immediately have concluded that that person undoubtedly was a young Mexican or Colombian, most probably a woman, traveling from Mexico to the United States. Indeed, the traveler arrived to Mexico City from Colombia. But it was a Japanese middle age man (42 years) traveling to Narita International Airport in Japan.
- I referred to that tragic incident to highlight the importance of programs such as the Cocaine Route Program on at least two accounts: on one side, the imperative need of having access to good information, deriving from

hard data and solid evidence, if we are true in combating crime and illicit drugs trafficking. On the other, it is a stark reminder that transnational organized crime and drug trafficking are present everywhere and affect everyone. Those are global challenges which can only be addressed through multilateral cooperation and the involvement of all actors, including partners such as the EU, UNODC, INTERPOL and TI.

- I will highlight one example of a project undertaken under CRIMJUST, which enshrines the principles just mentioned: as part of CRIMJUST, representatives from partner countries visited Mexico to exchange best practices on how to tackle effectively drug trafficking. Participants coming Argentina, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Panama engaged with representatives of the Mexican Federal Police and the Attorney General of the Republic in Mexico to exchange experiences and best practices of international cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of cases related to organized crime.
- The exchange visit allowed participants to discuss avenues to learn from Mexico's experiences concerning investigation and disruption of cocaine trafficking, as well as to share methodologies and tools for international cooperation between law enforcement agencies. Those encounters opened venues for future cooperation.
- Our Law Enforcement Agencies and Officers both my country, my region and elsewhere need to continuously be trained and to developed new and refresh old partnerships. As this example shows, the partnership between the EU-UNODC and Mexico through CRIMJUST not only benefited my country, but spread to the region as well. Let me finished then, by expressing my gratitude to the European Union and UNODC for our partnerships and to invite them to foster that partnership in the coming years.