

VIENNA DISCUSSION FORUM 2019
ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN THROUGH CRIME PREVENTION,
CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSES AND WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT
21ST NOVEMBER 2019

Today is the first of a series of engagements that I and many of you, are having of the next days related to Women and Violence, including the involvement of women on organized crime. Disregarding the importance of these series of event as political correctness or mere opportunism, other than offensive to the victims of violence and to all those women, like my fellow panellist Inka Lilja, who are daily risking their lives and well-being and that of their partners and families, is losing sight of the urgency of addressing this issue in all its complexities.

Therefore, I would like to praise the organizers and to recognize the leadership of Mr Fedotov and Mr Yong by forging a partnership between their two entities, UNODC and UNIDO. A partnership that precisely recognizes the complexities that I referred to. We are looking forward for having in the near future, other Vienna based entities engaging on this matter, bearing in mind that violence and crime affecting women are present in every single walk of life.

When women are involved in crime, notwithstanding if it is as victims or perpetrators, its unfortunately very common to see, over and again, a downward spiral of their families and especially their children falling into disrepair, making them easier to be drafted by criminal organizations. This exponential damage also extends to their communities.

That is why we give a great consideration to the partnership that we have developing with UNODC for addressing this challenge in a comprehensive manner.

Dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to underscore that the Liaison and Partnership Office of UNODC in Mexico have been the pioneer since 2013, in bringing a gender perspective in all of its activities.

Let me share a couple of examples on how the gender perspective is crucial for the projects implemented in my countries:

I. Programa de Fortalecimiento para la Seguridad de Grupos en Situación de Vulnerabilidad: aimed to developed the abilities of police and other officers for preventing, identifying, responding and channeling properly victims of gender violence, particularly women and girls.

II. Diplomado en investigación, prevención del Femicidio y actuación policial: aimed to strengthen the capacity of first responders and agents to care for victims and to develop the criminal and criminalistic investigation technics on feminicides cases.

III. Programa Género y Justicia: for supporting local authorities in handling Gender-Violence alerts, including through the harmonization to the highest international standards of local frameworks and the strengthening coordination of the different actors.

IV. Chuka: Rompe el Silencio: a videogame to raise awareness and to prevent violence against child, especially sexual exploitation, developed under the Doha Declaration's Initiative Education for Justice.

V. Iniciativa Spotlight México: an interagency strategy for identifying, fostering, systematizing and disseminating good practices at the three levels of Government and from the international community and civil society.

VI. Trata de Personas: a specialization training program for prosecuting officers, aimed to strengthen national capacities and

forging partnerships with the private sector and civil society, for preventing and identifying trafficking in persons and illicit trafficking of migrants.

VII. Grupo Asesor en Derechos Humanos y Perspectiva de

Género: a specialized group entasked with developing guidelines for actions oriented to implement the UNODC Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (2018 – 2021).

I know, Miwa and colleagues of UNODC, that I can speak on your behalf by stating that UNODC, as well as my Government, are more than willing to make available the knowledge gained with these and other initiatives to every single region and country in the world.

But I cannot end my intervention without highlighting the importance of the work undertaken at the community-level. A couple of weeks ago I had the honor to host a meeting between the Chair of the Resilience Fund of the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, Mrs Siria Gastelum and representatives from various States and regions.

With the permission of my dear friends from GI-TOC, I will just mention a couple of projects that that organization is undertaking, including in my own country: Finding a voice amid the silence in Mexico; Healing through Resilience and Dialogue in Cape Town, South Africa and, Supporting Safe Spaces in Tanzania.

Of course, these are only a few examples of the tremendous work that this and organizations, and the women themselves, are carrying out for elimination Gender-based violence and for addressing the impact of crime on women and girls. But I wanted to share them, anyway, because like you, everyday I ask myself, as the Representative of Mexico to UNIDO and UNODC and as woman, what can I do to contribute, and who my “I” can add up with others to become a “We”.

I want to express my appreciation to all my fellow Speakers for their contributions. We will explore all possible avenues that their interventions may present, to continue making our humble contribution to this urgent matter.

Thank you very much.