

**8ª Conferencia de las Partes en la
Convención de las Naciones Unidas contra la
Delincuencia Organizada Transnacional**

**Intervención de la Embajadora Alicia Buenrostro Massieu en el evento paralelo
“A Gender Perspective to Combatting Transnational Organized Crime”**

20 de octubre de 2016

Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

Given the privilege of being the first speaker at this event, I would first like to welcome my colleague, Ambassador Hammer, to Vienna, and to thank him and his team for taking the lead in this initiative, under the current Australian Chairmanship of MIKTA. I would also like to express our appreciation for the support of UNODC, represented by the Director of Treaty Affairs, Mr. John Brandolino.

Before focusing on the main issue that brings us here today, it also falls on me to provide a brief introduction on the MIKTA partnership, for those not yet familiar with the acronym. MIKTA is a diverse, multicultural and cross-regional gathering of countries that share core values and similarities. As a like-minded group on many relevant issues, we are committed to being active contributors in major international forums.

That is the spirit that drove us all to raise awareness of the importance of promoting a gender perspective in our joint efforts towards combatting transnational organized crime. It is no coincidence that we do so at the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention, the prime forum for addressing the challenges of transnational organized crime in all its forms.

This issue has recently gained momentum in the Vienna-based bodies, but it is certainly not a new one. The first World Conference on Women was held in Mexico City over 40 years ago, and while considerable challenges remain in this regard, significant progress has been made since.

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represents one of the most ambitious steps in this direction, setting us on a collective path towards achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls in the next 15 years. The Agenda recognizes the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective as crucial to its implementation.

The Government of Mexico considers this approach valid also when implementing the provisions of the Palermo Convention, and its Protocols addressing trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants and illicit trafficking in firearms.

In preventing and combatting transnational organized crime, my country privileges the adoption of an integrated and comprehensive approach that addresses its root causes.

A lack of educational or employment opportunities, informal labor, and a deterioration of public spaces, are examples of social factors that have been linked as drivers towards criminal activities. Addressing issues such as the exposure to unsafe or violent surroundings, a deterioration of the social fabric, early pregnancy rates and social marginalization and exclusion, have proven to be effective in designing and implementing awareness raising and preventive measures.

Mainstreaming a gender perspective into these efforts means that our interventions should take into account the specific needs of women and girls affected by organized crime in all its manifestations, and to consider gender-related vulnerabilities that may enable participation in criminal activities. Interventions based on empowering women and girls should be a key component our crime prevention strategies.

Furthermore, violence against women and sexual exploitation, while not exclusive to transnational organized crime, must be tackled in the context of our efforts in this field. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, is fundamental in this regard. Examples of concrete measures towards implementing the provisions of the Protocol is the establishment of 29 Justice Centers for Women by the National Commission on Violence Against Women, which offer preventive counseling and attention for victims of trafficking and violence. The National Justice Procurement Program has also strengthened a human rights-based and gender perspective into all judicial and prosecutorial proceedings.

In designing and implementing these strategies, States require adequate diagnostics and indicators to promote informed decision-making. Generating, collecting and analyzing disaggregated data and statistics is key to effectively measure crime and victimization trends, to effectively address such issues as the smuggling of migrants, or the illicit trafficking in firearms, and their links to other forms of serious crimes.

Mexico has taken concrete steps in adopting a gender perspective into statistical development, by promoting the collection, generation and analysis of disaggregated data to support the development of public policies and programs, contribute to achieve gender equality, and help monitor the compliance with international obligations.

In this regard, the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) and UNODC have come a long way by jointly establishing the Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Government, Crime, Victimization and Justice.

Based on this very positive experience, the Mexican Government will soon be launching a Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics, led by INEGI, which aims at building on the work, experience and knowledge developed at the national, regional and international levels in the field of gender statistics.

The Centre of Excellence will contribute to the empowerment of women and gender equality through research, the exchange of best practices, promoting dialogue among key stakeholders, and fostering international cooperation in the field of statistical systems.

In the medium and long-term, the Centre aims at developing tangible products and tools to strengthen technical capacities towards measuring and monitoring the gender component of the Sustainable Development Goals and other related international obligations, by developing and implementing training programs on gender statistics, and promoting knowledge management initiatives in the field of gender statistics.

This is just a brief overview of how Mexico is working towards mainstreaming a gender perspective into the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols. We look forward to learning from the experience of our MIKTA partners, and hope that this discussion encourages others to join this conversation, as part of our efforts to revitalize the work of the Conference of the Parties.

Thank you, Mr. Moderator.