

Statement by the Government of Mexico

Special session on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016

Interactive discussion on “Cross-cutting issues: new challenges, threats and realities in preventing and addressing the world drug problem in compliance with relevant international law, including the three drug control conventions; strengthening the principle of common and shared responsibility and international cooperation”

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

We highly value the opportunity to engage in this constructive dialogue on the new challenges, threats and realities in preventing and addressing the world drug problem. As stated before, the cost of the current strategy has been disproportionate in terms of the related harm and the unsatisfactory results provided, and should bring us to a realignment of our international cooperation.

Bringing in new approaches has been a constant in the implementation of the existing legal framework. UNGASS 1998 adopted a Declaration on Drug Demand Reduction, highlighting an element that is now one of the three pillars of the global strategy. It further provided for the inclusion of alternative development as a priority action.

It is the view of the Government of Mexico that UNGASS 2016 should lead us to agree on the priorities which best reflect the present-day context, such as:

- The full recognition of the socio-economic harm related to the world drug problem, such as violence and social disintegration, its effects in the preservation of democratic regimes, and its implications for our policies in this field.
- The usefulness of resorting to alternatives to incarceration for minor offences in all aspects of the illicit drug market, while maintaining decisive action against organized crime.

- The full implementation of the three drug control conventions, considering as well the obligations, commitments and priorities of States in areas such as health, human rights and development.
- The consideration of the transnational effects of unilateral policies and measures, in particular those which represent major regulatory changes, with a view to ensure full compliance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, and the comprehensive nature of international cooperation.
- An efficient collective response to the drastic increase in the number of identified psychoactive substances, and the strengthening of national capacities to face this challenge.
- Ensuring the availability and access of controlled substances for medical purposes to all those who need them, including through the adoption of more efficient measures to prevent their diversion.
- Evaluation of the efficiency of international cooperation in combatting money laundering and its links to corruption and transnational organized crime, including the illicit trafficking in persons and firearms, with a view to the investigation and prosecution of cases.
- The efficient distribution of mandates and responsibilities among the international entities responsible for these issues, including the UNDP, the WHO and the UNHCR, with a view to generate synergies and ensure a comprehensive and balanced approach.

We greatly appreciate the interventions by all the panellists, and look forward to continue working on the themes which have been addressed at this special segment in building consensus on the way to 2016.