

Special Declaration 10: Of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States about the world drug problem

The Heads of State and Government of the Latin America and the Caribbean States gathered in Costa Rica, on the occasion of the III Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), on 28th and 29th January 2015,

Reiterating its commitment with the Santiago Declaration of the First Summit of CELAC, held in Santiago, Chile, on January 27th and 28th of 2013; where in paragraphs 28 and 29, it was expressed support for the debate on the achievements and limitations of current policies to address the world drug problem;

Considering the Special Declaration of the Second Summit of CELAC, held in Havana, Cuba, on 28th and 29th January 2014, which stressed the need for a comprehensive, multidisciplinary and balanced approach to this problem;

Reaffirming the importance of strengthening the regional cooperation to address the world drug problem, as highlighted in the Communiqué of the First Ministerial Meeting on the world drug problem CELAC held in La Antigua Guatemala, on 13th and 14th May 2014;

Recognizing that the global drug problem has implications in the public health, public safety and well-being of humanity, particularly children and adolescents, also undermines the rule of law, the democratic institutions, the political stability and affects the development, that, therefore, must be addressed in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, from a comprehensive, balanced, multidisciplinary approach based on full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, based on policies and actions towards the welfare and health of individuals, in accordance with the three UN Conventions, in particular with the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the Political Declaration of 2009.

1. Emphasize the importance of preserving the welfare, quality of life and respect for the human rights and the inclusion of the human person as the center of the policies against drugs, and the need of promoting administrative and legislative measures in the field of health, education and social inclusion to prevent the abuse of drugs, psychotropic substances and new psychoactive substances, with a, strengthened, balanced and multidisciplinary and comprehensive approach to reducing supply and demand, as well as, to reduce the negative economic and social consequences of this phenomenon.
2. Reaffirm that addressing the global drug problem is a common and shared responsibility requiring effective international cooperation, as well as, comprehensive, balanced, and multidisciplinary strategies and policies addressed to reduce the supply and demand in accordance with national laws and the three UN Conventions on drugs and other relevant international instruments, fully respecting the principles and purposes of the UN Charter, particularly the respect for national sovereignty and non interference in the internal affairs of States.
3. Recognize that policies demand reduction to address the world drug problem must be made by adopting an approach with a gender perspective and vulnerable groups given full respect for human rights, and must be designed and implemented with a focus on gender, vulnerable groups, public health and prevention of violence and crime, as well as the need to develop, strengthen and implement in accordance with the reality of each State, strategies that prioritize prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration, as well as reducing violence linked to the problem, in order to strengthen the social fabric and well-being of people.
4. Encourage Member States, within the framework of their national legislation, to work together with civil society, academy and relevant stakeholders to contribute to the efforts of States to address the world drug problem.
5. Emphasize the importance of strengthening, within the framework of their national policies, local economic development through programs of comprehensive, alternative and sustainable development,

including, when appropriate, those with preventive approach, as a set of important measures to counteract the negative consequences of the world drug problem.

6. Call upon the International Community to strengthen international cooperation on the drug world problem, to jointly address this problem by promoting and encouraging comprehensive policies on this issue, in accordance with the international commitments undertaken by the States and emphasize the importance of a broad, transparent, inclusive discussion among Member States, based on scientific evidence and that considers the ancestral culture.

7. Finally, remember that expressed in the Communiqué of the First Ministerial Meeting on the subject, and encourage the need for active participation of Member States CELAC in international forums, in particular in view of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (UNGASS), to be held in New York in 2016, in order to contribute to the examination of the progress, achievements and challenges on the task of dealing with the global drug problem from a comprehensive, transparent and inclusive debate.

Belén, Costa Rica, January 29th, 2015