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**Statement by Ms. Mariana Benitez Tiburcio
Deputy Attorney General for
Legal and International Affairs**

**General Debate of High Level Review
57° Session of Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Vienna, Austria, March 13, 2014**

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Deputy Attorney General for International and Legal Affairs of
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Mr. President of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,
Very distinguished representatives,

This is an invaluable opportunity to address you, on behalf of the government of Mexico, with the full conviction that this international event will lead us to reaffirm that the ultimate goal of the policies and actions against the world drug problem is to ensure the wellbeing and health of society.

Following the tradition of my country to favor multilateral agreement, Mexico is committed to the balanced implementation of the pillars of demand and supply reduction and international judicial cooperation under the principle of common and shared responsibility, as well as with the compliance of the provisions of the international legal verification instruments.

However, from the experience and evidence collected so far, we must recognize that these efforts are not enough to solve a problem that is not regional but global in nature.

Strategies to reduce demand and supply, undertaken under the pillars of the Political Declaration and Action Plan of the UN in this matter, should not cause more harmful effects than the damage of origin generated by the demand and supply of drugs.

Mexico intends to take this opportunity not only to endorse commitments, but to recognize the need to enrich the existing pillars with a vision that integrates the efforts aimed at preventing and reducing the negative effects, the costs to the social fabric,

public health, justice, the development of society and ultimately the rule of law and the validity of democratic institutions.

Mexico considers that the new dynamics and approaches, which have emerged in recent years, should be analyzed and not denied, but reaffirms that unilateral actions do not favor the practice of shared responsibility that should prevail on this matter, nor do they favor agreement or international cooperation.

Recently, attention has been focused only on policies that some countries or local authorities have implemented for the specific case of marijuana. However, we must remember that this only constitutes a single element of the international debate. In the face of uncertainties about the implementation of the conventions, we must also remember that only coordinated action will allow us to respond to global challenges.

We all agree that the drug problem transcends national boundaries. That should result in more joint considerations and concerted actions, which are more likely to be generated collectively, if we start from a long-term perspective that puts the wellbeing of the individual and his rights as a citizen at the core.

Thus, for the special session of the General Assembly of the UN to be devoted to this subject in 2016, Mexico aims to promote a critical and constructive debate, respectful of international conventions, in order for the action plan to be enriched. My country wants to ensure that new approaches and handling perspectives of the problem are objectively evaluated, projecting the most appropriate and viable scenarios for the reality of each State.

Mexico wishes that the preparatory process starts this year and is enriched by the inputs given by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Secretariat of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) as well as other UN bodies and international organizations, considering that this process emanates from the mandate of the General Assembly, highest body of the UN system.

In particular, it is our interest that good practices, lessons and processes of regional character are taken into account, as was the case with the Hemispheric Drug Report of the Organization of American States (OAS) and with the regional report on citizen security program United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which addresses the links of the drug trafficking phenomenon with transnational organized crime, arms trafficking, money laundering and human trafficking.

For the government of Mexico, it is of critical importance that in this and in forthcoming multilateral meetings, which are part of the process towards 2016, the active and diverse participation of academia and civil society is ensured. Through the synergy between a responsible State and an active citizenship, the structural causes of the global drug problem could be better tackled.

In building spaces for debate, Mexico will privilege finding commonalities that combine with existing conventions without dismissing the enrichment of the Action Plan. Such as: 1) Promoting comprehensive and active prevention strategies that not only imply a reduction in consumption but also the prevention of damage to the social fabric that are compatible with law enforcement; 2) Favoring treatment over criminalization, promoting the implementation of alternatives to imprisonment, which are consistent with the rule of law; 3) Strengthening policies aimed at dealing with drug consumption as a public health issue, focused on the individual and the prevalence of human rights.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express that the Mexican Government aligns itself with the position expressed by other delegations towards opposing the application of the death penalty for drug-related offences, and to remind delegations that my country has abolished the death penalty under all circumstances.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I want to emphasize that the government of President Enrique Peña Nieto is convinced

that in our country, it is necessary to consolidate a change of vision, in which justice, inclusion and prevention are the key elements to ensure that communities and all areas of public coexistence are true spaces of peace and security.

This approach does not neglect law enforcement, as evidenced by our actions, but seeks to balance and counteract the vulnerabilities that can lead to violence and crime through social programs.

We consider that matters regarding crime prevention and law enforcement are interdependent of sustainable development, the rule of law and human rights.

Mexico will continue to promote solid and informed arguments to adopt more accurate measures not only domestically but regionally and globally. In this regard, we wish to seize the opportunities provided by the United Nations system to perform plural processes, as we hope is the case with this exercise that brings us together today.

Thank you very much.

