

# Citizen participation in international events held in Mexico



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
MÉXICO

**Citizen participation in  
international events  
held in Mexico**

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Thanks for the kind support in this publication to the following  
divisions of Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

Directorate General for the United Nations,  
Directorate General for Human Rights and Democracy,  
Directorate General for Global Affairs,  
Directorate General for America's Regional Organisms and Mechanisms,  
Directorate General for Planning and Policies for International Development,  
Cooperation at the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation.

First edition, 2018

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20 Plaza Juarez, Downtown, Mexico City, 06010.

*Printed in Mexico*

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## Introduction

Among the normative principles of Mexico's foreign policy are the respect, protection and promotion of human rights; the struggle for international peace and security; the international cooperation for development; outlawing the use of force or threat in international relations and the legal equality of States.

These principles are closely linked to Mexico's multilateralism, which has given our nation international recognition and allowed its contributions help to build a better world. Mexico promotes multilateralism based on principle and interest. Participation in international organizations has been the best way to contribute to the best causes for humanity and to promote the development of our country.

Multilateralism has also been an excellent way of incorporating the contributions of civil society and raising its advocacy capacity in international fora and mechanisms while enriching and legitimizing our foreign policy.

The world complexity, the aspiration to democratize our foreign policy and make it closer to the population and the need to achieve more effectiveness in global proposals and actions are the pillars sustaining Mexico's multilateral activity.

International relations are not conducted exclusively between states; faced with the challenges of current reality, any concerted international action requires integrating and taking advantage of the participation of its citizens. In multilateral negotiations, organized civil society has a fundamental role to enrich national positions and strengthen relevant issues for the planet sustainability.

The close and coordinated work with civil society strengthens and enriches the democratic life of the country in diverse themes and spaces. The growing participation of civil society in Mexican foreign policy has strengthened the decision-making on matters of global importance such as drug policy, migration, climate change, sustainable development, arms trade, human rights, transparency and the protection of biodiversity.

Mexican foreign policy has played an important role in the plural articulation of several voices of Mexican society and its inclusion in the negotiation and strengthening processes of national decisions, by nurturing and strengthening the country's position in multilateral spaces and processes.

This practice is one of the greatest successes of Mexican diplomacy, which has helped to build the democratic governance and the country governance and the effective impact of civil society in the definition of the Mexico International Agenda, making it closer to the concrete priorities of the population and sustainable national development.

True to its multilateralist tradition, our country has been distinguished as an excellent host of international events such as the 16 described in this document. In each of them, citizen participation stands out as a hallmark of the added value that the inclusion of diverse actors brings to the spaces of an inclusive multilateralism, which Mexico strongly supports.

Mexico City, November 2018  
Luz Elena Baños Rivas  
Director General for Liaison  
with Civil Society Organizations

# Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons

## *1. General overview*

On February 13 and 14, 2014, 146 states, representatives of international organizations, civil society organizations, legislators, academics and international experts met in Nayarit, Mexico, to participate in the Second International Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, where global and long-term consequences of any nuclear detonation were discussed, in order to reduce this type of arsenals.

Among the countries that possess nuclear weapons, attended India and Pakistan. However, nuclear powers such as China, the United States, France, the United Kingdom and Russia declined the invitation. .

The aforementioned Conference followed up the efforts of the First Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, held in Oslo, Norway, in 2013.

During the Conference, the consequences of a possible detonation were addressed, from different approaches, including areas such as public health, humanitarian assistance, economy, development, environmental issues, climate change, food security, risk management, among others.

The Conference concluded with a call to build a legally binding instrument that will make nuclear disarmament a reality. Mexico, in its



capacity as President of the Second Conference, stressed the importance of this process taking place within a specific time frame and recognizing the humanitarian impact of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the world.

It was highlighted that mass destruction weapons, but first of all nuclear weapons, should be banned and eliminated in a total and definitive manner, in the same way as the international community achieved the total ban of biological and chemical weapons.

In addition, it was agreed that these efforts would be followed up, at the Third Conference, which took place in Vienna, Austria, on December 2014.

## *2. Civil society participation*

The Nayarit Conference was attended by representatives from 146 countries; 119 representatives of 61 Civil Society Organizations (CSO); 8 International Organizations; the International Committee of the Red Cross: 20 national Red Cross societies and the Red Crescent and academics.

Participating CSOs include Amnesty International, Center for Peace Education, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) and Oxfam.

The broad and active participation of civil society reflected the global concern about the effects of nuclear weapons, as well as the growing recognition that this is an issue of the greatest importance to all the peoples of the world, in which all actors must be involved.

The Government of Mexico thanked the participation and contributions of civil society to the Conference and called on governments to forge new and renewed multisectoral alliances with civil society to work on mutually beneficial objectives.

# First High-Level Meeting (HLM1) of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation

## *1. General overview*

The First High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) took place in Mexico on April 15 and 16, 2014. It was a voluntary participation meeting in which all development actors such as governments, international organizations, multilateral banks, civil society, private sector, local governments and parliaments converged, with the aim of promoting efficiency and maximizing the impacts of international cooperation for development.

This meeting provided the space for innovative and dynamic dialogue on five main issues: achievements and challenges in the implementation of principles for development effectiveness; the reinforcement of state capacities to mobilize national resources for effective development; the role of Triangular and South-South Cooperation; the need to cooperate with Middle Income Countries; and the importance of commitment to the private sector as an actor of development.

More than 1,600 delegates participated in its works, including ministers and high-level representatives from 152 countries, international and regional and bilateral development and financial institutions, parliaments,



local and regional authorities, private sector entities, philanthropic foundations, trade unions and organizations of civil society.

The event resulted in the adoption of a Communiqué with concrete commitments to promote the advancement of the development effectiveness agenda, which emerged in Busan in 2011. Likewise, from its celebration, Mexico received the Co-Presidency of the GPEDC for the 2014-2016 period.

## 2. *Civil society participation*<sup>1</sup>

Mexican CSOs held three regional workshops and a National Meeting, during the months of February, March and April 2014, to prepare and define their participation in the meeting. This articulation and preparation process of Mexican civil society took the following conclusions:

- ↪ CSOs are assumed as development actors.
- ↪ CSOs contribute to the implementation of the International Development Cooperation agenda.
- ↪ CSOs benefit from partnerships, participation in spaces for dialogue and exchange of experiences and knowledge.
- ↪ It is necessary to establish clear criteria for participation.
- ↪ Equitable participation in the GPEDC must be guaranteed
- ↪ CSOs can strengthen the link between local and global issues.

During the meeting, the CSOs issued a communiqué, which highlighted the realization of three training workshops, in which 158 CSOs from 15 states of Mexico participated and in which they reaffirmed that the dynamic of international cooperation can only be effective if it actively and co-responsibly involves the various sectors implicated in promoting inclusive development.

<sup>1</sup> Information taken from Report: *Preparation process for Mexican CSOs for the First High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation*, GIZ, Antonio Alejo, 2014.



They also urged the promotion of effective participation and transparent collaboration between civil society, governments and the private sector, while urged other actors to favor the creation and strengthening of enabling environments for civil society, both in the political and financing environment, as in the fiscal and legal framework, to maximize the potential of its contribution to development.



# Twenty-Fourth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government

## *1. General overview*

The Summit of Heads of State and Government is the highest instance of the Ibero-American Conference, which is supported by the agreements reached during the meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the Networks of National Coordinators and those Responsible for Cooperation, as well as the Ibero- American ministerial meetings. Until 2014, the meetings were held annually, with Mexico being the venue for that year.

The twenty-fourth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government was held in the City of Veracruz, on December 8 and 9, 2014 and culminated the exercise of Mexico as Pro Tempore Secretariat, as well as the process of renewal of the Conference and restructuring the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB).

Mexico, as the host country, presented -with SEGIB's support- the central theme: "Ibero-America in the 21st Century: Education, Innovation and Culture". The dialogue between the leaders was carried out in a dynamic format in two work plenary sessions allowing a substantive debate on the issues of education, innovation and culture.



The Summit was attended by 18 of the 24 Heads of State and Government of the region (Andorra, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Spain, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Dominican Republic and Uruguay); four vice-presidents (Brazil, Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela), a foreign minister (Argentina) and an ambassador in Mexico (Bolivia).

As a result of the Summit, the Declaration, Program of Action and Resolution of Veracruz was approved, 11 special statements, as well as five administrative documents.

Education, health, culture, employment, integration or migration have been present in the agendas of all the Ibero-American Summits, also integrating issues such as disarmament, terrorism, globalization or the strengthening of democracies and civil society. In this sense, Mexico, in the framework of this Summit, and as depository of the Pro Tempore Secretariat, also held the 10th Ibero-American Civic Encounter.

The purpose of the Ibero-American Civic Encounters is to contribute opinions and experiences to the topics that the Summits address from the specific perspectives of Civil Society Organizations. Representatives of Ibero-American civil society networks participated in the meetings, especially those related to the specific annual theme of the Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, as well as national platforms of the different countries and some organizations that, due to their link with the theme, can contribute to the reflections of each Summit.

## *2. Civil society participation*

The 10th Ibero-American Civic Encounter took place on October 6 and 7, 2014 in Mexico City under the theme "Social innovation: strategic alliances to transform Ibero-America". Civil society organizations,



representatives of education and culture networks, national and international foundations, international cooperation agencies and government officials participated as observers.

The topics discussed in this meeting were, among others, the development of social innovations in education and culture with the purpose of promoting inclusion and equality. Several problems affecting the region countries were highlighted too, including inequality, poverty, discrimination, insecurity, unemployment and exclusion.

The works were divided into two panels and five thematic tables. The first panel focused on social innovation and comprising innovative experiences in education and culture, which allowed identifying the variables that contributed to its development, scaling up, forms of articulation, sustainability and lessons learned. The second panel addressed the experiences of the relationship between governments and civil society, while in the work tables, recommendations and a critical route were developed to encourage and articulate social innovation in the Ibero-American regional cooperation, aimed at advancing towards public policies.

One of the modalities established by Mexico in the conduct of this meeting and supported by the SEGIB, was the formation of four coordinating committees: Mexican Host Committee, Academic Committee, Diffusion Committee and Committee of International Advisors, made up of civil society representatives, academics and government officials. Previous sessions were held, such as the Experts Workshop on Social Innovation, held in May 2014, the Meeting of Social Development Ministers in October 2014 and the First Working Meeting of the Ibero-American Government Network for Liaison with Civil Society Organizations, in November 2014.<sup>2</sup>

This type of meeting attracts a large number of CSOs, and Mexico was no exception. There was an assistance of just over 100 representatives

<sup>2</sup>[https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/87232/Minuta\\_-\\_Red\\_de\\_Gobiernos\\_Iberoamericanos\\_201114\\_\\_2\\_.pdf](https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/87232/Minuta_-_Red_de_Gobiernos_Iberoamericanos_201114__2_.pdf)

[https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/87231/Lista\\_de\\_Asistentes\\_-\\_Red\\_de\\_Gobiernos\\_Iberoamericanos\\_2014.pdf](https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/87231/Lista_de_Asistentes_-_Red_de_Gobiernos_Iberoamericanos_2014.pdf)

<sup>3</sup>[https://www.segib.org/wp-content/uploads/declaracion\\_x\\_encuentro\\_civico\\_iberoamericano\\_0.pdf](https://www.segib.org/wp-content/uploads/declaracion_x_encuentro_civico_iberoamericano_0.pdf)



of civil society in the region, privileging the assistance of sectors working in networks.

As part of the work of this Meeting, the Declaration of Civil Society Organizations of the 10th Ibero-American Civic Encounter was agreed<sup>3</sup>, which was delivered by three representatives of Mexican civil society in the framework of the twenty-fourth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government. The Declaration recommends actions to incorporate social innovation in education and culture, in addition to identifying, knowing and disseminating mechanisms to link governments with civil society organizations, as well as guaranteeing enabling environments for development and strengthening of civil society, within the framework of the regions' persistent inequality and poverty.

Likewise, the Follow-up Action Proposals were adopted, which details the actions to give continuity to social innovation and to improve the interlocution of civil society with Ibero-American governments, in view of the next Summits and the Regional Cooperation Annex, which contains the recommendations to include the social innovation topic to Ibero-American programs.

# First Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty

## *1. General overview*

From August 24 to 27, 2015, the First Conference of States Parties (1CSP) to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) took place in Cancun, Quintana Roo. Prior to the date of entry into force of the ATT, Mexico was elected to serve as provisional secretary of the Treaty and to preside the preparatory process for the 1CSP.

The ATT was adopted in New York, on April 2, 2013, through Resolution 67/234B of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Composed of 28 articles, the Treaty aims to establish common international standards that regulate the international trade in conventional weapons, as well as preventing their deviation and eliminating their illicit trafficking in order to contribute to peace, security and regional and international stability.

The instrument entered into force on December 24, 2014, after the 50 signatures necessary for that purpose were reached. For its part, Mexico signed the Treaty on June 3, 2013 and ratified it on September 25 of that year, issuing a declaration of provisional application to articles 6 and 7 of the instrument.

The States Parties to the ATT adopted the Regulations of the Conferences, which will govern decision-making and the future implementation of the



Treaty; the financing mechanism or Financial Regulation; the Regulations of the Secretariat; agreed as the permanent headquarters of the Secretariat in Geneva City, Switzerland; and they elected Dumisani Dladla, of South Africa, as head of the Permanent Secretariat.

A draft format for national reports was presented, agreeing that from May 2016, member states should report their weapons imports and exports. Due to the relevant advances and the approved norms, the First Conference was qualified by the Mexican government as a success.

## *2. Civil society participation*

The Conference was attended by more than 120 representatives from member countries, international and regional organizations, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) -among them are Control Arms, Amnesty International and Oxfam- and academics who met with the objective of defining an institutional regime for the operation and implementation of the Treaty.

Control Arms presented, with the support of the governments of Australia, Austria, Mexico, Norway, the Netherlands and Trinidad and Tobago, the first edition of a monitoring and analysis report called ATT Monitor, which will be published annually within the framework of the Conferences of the States Parties.

In addition, Mexico and Control Arms stressed that governments and civil society must continue joining efforts and voices to ensure that the objectives and the principles emanating from the ATT must be translated into tangible results, as the Cancun meeting reiterated that the ultimate purpose of the Treaty is to save lives. Both reaffirmed the importance of the full implementation of the Treaty, as well as its commitment to the joint objective of promoting its universalization in order to continue contributing to international peace and security.

# Open Government Partnership Global Summit

## *1. General overview*

The Open Government Partnership Global Summit (OGP) took place from October 27 to 29, 2015, in Mexico City, chaired by our country.

The Open Government Partnership is a multilateral initiative comprised of 75 countries that work together with civil society to promote citizen participation, increase transparency, fight corruption and use technology as an enabler of this openness. Mexico was one of the eight founding countries of OGP.

Open governments share information and knowledge, with the only limit of protection and data privacy, and promote the collaborative culture of citizens and businesses. This in order to promote an active role in citizens to generate content of free use for society.

The 2015 OGP Global Summit was attended by more than 2,200 people, including 475 high-level representatives from 66 States, 44 Ministers and Vice Ministers, 61 Parliamentarians, nine Mayors and four Governors, as well as representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs), businessmen, academics and journalists. The central theme of the summit was "Openness for all: Enabling Sustainable Development". At the end of the Summit, Mexico delivered the OGP Presidency to the Vice President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa, for the 2015-2016 period.



On September 27, 2015, within the framework of the 70th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization, the OGP Steering Committee approved a political declaration in which the member States committed themselves to adopt the principles of open government as mechanisms for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## *2. Civil society participation*

Within the framework of the Summit, the "Civil Society Day" was held, in which a full day was dedicated to the participation of CSOs. On behalf of Mexico, participated CSOs such as Artículo 19, Centro de Investigación para el Desarrollo (CIDAC), SocialTIC, Cultura Ecológica (CEAC), Fundar, Gestión Social y Cooperación (GESOC), Instituto Mexicano de la Competitividad (IMCO) and Transparencia Mexicana.

These organizations spoke in favor of the federal government's priority to accelerate efforts to achieve results and impact on open government in the shortest time. They proposed to have public and systematized information on the actions of attention, rescue and reconstruction carried out by the government in areas affected by natural disasters; that the scholarship offer by the federal government must be available in one place; to reorganize and make functional the database of missing people in the country, among other proposals.

The agenda of the Summit was designed to promote collaboration between CSOs and government officials, as well as to promote the dialogue about open government to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals with different themes such as open government, open data, open parliament, access to information, access to justice, money and power, civic technology, civic space and innovation in the public sector.



During the Mexican presidency of the OGP (2014-2015), the approval of the following initiatives was supported:

1. The adoption of the "Declaration on Open Government for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda".
2. The promotion of the International Open Data Charter.
3. The creation of three networks of reformers to promote the exchange of experiences in matters of open government at a regional and global level with the OAS, the OECD and the GovLab of the University of New York.
4. The creation of a Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data.
5. The incorporation of the OAS and ECLAC as new OGP strategic allies.



# Thirty-Sixth Session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

## *1. General overview*

The thirty-sixth Period of Sessions of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) took place from May 23 to 26, 2016, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Mexico City. The sessions are the most important meetings of ECLAC, are held every two years to guide the work, analyze the most relevant issues for the economic and social development of the region and review the progress of the Commission's activities.

Mexico co-chaired this session with the theme "Horizons 2030: Equality at the centre of sustainable development", which resulted in a document which ECLAC offered to the countries as an input for the identification of the priorities region in relation to the 2030 Agenda. This document examines the policies and necessary partnerships to move towards a development trajectory that ensures greater equality and environmental sustainability in the region.

On this occasion, the "Resolution of Mexico" (Resolution 700) was approved, which created the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, which is the regional mechanism for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa



Action Agenda on financing for development. Representatives of the member states, UN agencies, as well as the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC participate in these fora, which will be held until 2030 and provide useful opportunities for learning through voluntary examinations, exchanges of good practices and discussion of the common goals of the region.

## *2. Civil society participation*

Sixty Civil Society Organizations representatives of the region participated, among them, the following Mexican CSOs: Acciones Afirmativas, Balance, ESPOLEA, AIESEC, Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir, Movimiento Mundial para la Infancia, OXFAM, Save the Children and The Hunger Project. Organizations from different countries of Latin America participated too, such as the Articulación Feminista Marcosur from Uruguay; Incidejoven from Guatemala, Unidos por la Esperanza from Argentina and the regional network Asociación Latinoamericana de Organismos de Promoción (ALOP).

During the debate on the "Regional dimension of monitoring the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," the Executive Director of the Consorcio para el Diálogo Parlamentario y la Equidad de México, Daphne Cuevas Ortiz, presented a report on the results of the civil society working day (National Day) "Implementing the Agenda with a Perspective on Social and Economic Inclusion". In her presentation, she emphasized that, just as the 2030 Agenda was the result of a participatory process, its implementation would only be guaranteed if all the interested actors are equally involved in it and highlighted the need for the region to establish new criteria for the indicators development.

She also highlighted the participatory and inclusive nature of the 2030 Agenda, which encourages the participation of all relevant actors, including civil society organizations, academia and the private sector, recommending an institutionalized participation of the multiple stakeholders, civil society being prominent among them.

# Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13) to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

## *1. General overview*

Mexico, as depositary of the COP presidency, organized through the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) and the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO), the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP13) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) of the United Nations, which took place from December 2 to 17, 2016, in Cancun, Quintana Roo.

The Conferences of the Parties (known as COPs) are the highest governing body of various multilateral agreements such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); United Nations Conference on the Fight against Desertification (UNCCD); United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), among others. These Conferences are made up of the countries that have ratified these agreements. The COP of the CBD is currently comprised of 196 countries or parties that have ratified this agreement. This COP holds bi-annual meetings in which the most important decisions are taken regarding the operation, implementation and monitoring of the Convention. These meetings also involve some observers, such as civil society organizations, other United Nations agencies and States that are not part of the Convention.



SEMARNAT and CONABIO participated in the different negotiations of the COP and supported the decisions that were adopted by consensus during their meetings. For COP 13, CONABIO served as the leader of substantive issues and coordinated the national position for the different issues reviewed in the negotiations of this Conference, namely: 8th COP-MOP of the Cartagena Protocol (COP-MOP 8) and the 2nd COP-MOP of the Nagoya Protocol (COP-MOP 2).

Nearly ten thousand participants, including representatives of States parties, observer countries, international organizations and other stakeholders met in Cancun to negotiate agreements and commitments that promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as compliance with the Strategic Plan for the Biological Diversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets.

## *2. Civil society participation*

Within the framework of COP 13, various dissemination events, exhibitions, presentations, fairs, etc., as well as forums for civil society, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities were held. In addition, previous coordination meetings took place between SEMARNAT, CONABIO and Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, such as the follows:

- ✦ Working meeting with Reforestamos México, A.C., organization responsible for articulating the Forum "Partnerships of Civil Society and Youth for the Integration of Biodiversity for the Wellbeing". June 21, 2016.
  
- ✦ Inter-Secretariat Meeting on the Conference of the Parties (COP 13). August 17, 2016.



- ↪ Working meeting with the Coordination Unit for Social Participation and Transparency (UCPAST) of SEMARNAT on inter-institutional work to develop at the Conference of the Parties (COP 13). August 24, 2016.
- ↪ Meeting of information and dialogue with civil society organizations, prior to the Conference of the Parties (COP 13). September 20, 2016.
- ↪ Participation of the Directorate General Directorate for Liaison with Civil Society Organizations (DGVOSC) as a speaker in the Forum "Civil and Youth Partnerships for the Integration of Biodiversity for the Wellbeing", which was held at the Convention Center of Cancun, Quintana Roo. November 28, 2016.

With regard to the involvement of civil society, SEMARNAT, in coordination with the CBD Secretariat, UCPAST and CONABIO were set up as a Coordinating Committee to carry out different regional workshops in preparation for the Forum "Alliances of Civil Society and Youth for the Integration of Biodiversity for the Wellbeing ". In this context, 10 regional workshops were held whose objectives were to disseminate the scope of the CBD and its Protocols and promote the involvement and participation of civil society in this type of international processes. The workshops counted with the participation of an Organizing Committee made up of 11 civil society organizations, environmentalists, young people, indigenous people and promoters of social and cultural rights, among others. These organizations concluded their participation with the "Pronouncement of Civil Society Organizations for the 13th COP to the CBD"<sup>4</sup> and with the "Declaration of indigenous peoples, local communities and Afro-descendants of Mexico in the framework of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13) to the Convention on Biological Diversity"<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>4</sup>See: <https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/2016/pronunciamentonacionalosc30nov2016-11-30.pdf>

<sup>5</sup>See: <https://www.cbd.int/traditional/presentations/20161211-declaracionnacional-summit.pdf>



For Mexican civil society, participation in COP 13 was essential, since it allowed for the formation of the Mexican Alliance for Biodiversity, as well as the Mexican chapter of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN)<sup>6</sup>, both groups aimed at improving the efforts of young people in order to address the challenges of biological diversity at national and local level, articulating the progress in the work of the CBD towards COP 14, to be held in Sharm El- Sheikh, Egypt, from November 17 to 29, 2018, where Mexico will deliver the Presidency.

<sup>6</sup>The Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) is the largest international network of youth organizations and individuals, whose common objective is the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of it. GYBN Mexico starts in 2016 within the framework of COP13 of the CBD. The analysis of the proposal of the Law of Biodiversity of Mexico is highlighted with the participation of 105 young people from 14 provinces who presented a common position document to Mexican legislators ([www.gybn.org](http://www.gybn.org)).

# Eleventh Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum

## *1. General overview*

The eleventh meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), organized by the Government of Mexico and the United Nations system, was held at Palacio de la Cultura y la Comunicación (PALCCO), in Zapopan, Jalisco, from December 6 to 9, 2016. More than 2,000 delegates from 123 countries participated, among them: Mexican government officials, such as Aristóteles Sandoval, Governor of the State of Jalisco, Alejandra Lagunes, Coordinator of the National Digital Strategy of the Republic Presidency, international organizations, private sector, academia, civil society and technological community. Additionally, there were thousands of other active participants through online systems. The attendees met with the purpose of working on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and discussions about the future and the development of the internet. It was raised the need to measure the impact of information and communication technologies (ICTs) on the SDGs and their role in achieving them, the topic addressed was "Make inclusive and sustainable growth possible".

The central axis of eleven sessions was gender equality, childhood and youth. Among these topics, the situation of these groups was raised in relation to their Internet access, current gaps, concerns for their



safety and online harassment, as well as opportunities to address such challenges. The majority of the participants agreed on the importance of empowering women, children and youth not only through access to the Internet, but also through the creation of capacities and the development of local content and services, with the use of specialized and thought-out programs for each context and beneficiary.

The discussion of human rights on the internet was discussed in 17 sessions. From the role of intermediaries and the transparency of algorithms to the tension between freedom of expression.

## *2. Civil society participation*

Mexican civil society filed a statement of the systematic online violations of human rights. They did not only warn about state surveillance but also about the lack of action regarding the increase in feminicides, which in some cases have their origin in deceptions and false employment promises through social networks, and which result in extensive human trafficking networks and kidnappers. The CSOs present at the forum spoke about the absence of policies for communities in conditions of marginalization and with limited or without access to digital tools.

Civil society participated in several dialogue roundtables:

- ↪ The role of Civil Society within the IGF: Work modalities and participation modalities.
- ↪ Civil society experiences and its transition process from the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA), entity that is responsible for assigning IP addresses, which is the number used to identify devices such as computers, tablets and cell phones.



- ↔ Civil society and private sector, working for the development and implementation of information and communication technologies in support of the SDGs. Through this partnership, it seeks to obtain better information tools that allow influencing ODS 8 and economic development. Similarly, it was proposed to facilitate Internet access in order to influence ODS 9, to generate a modern industry that guarantees innovation.

Civil society called for a greater inclusion in the negotiation processes of the agreements on the matter. There was a consensus among the different participants regarding the need to strengthen the dialogue and ensure more open processes.



# First Meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development

## *1. General overview*

The first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, a regional mechanism created to monitor and analyze the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development, took place in Mexico City from April 26 to 28, 2017. The Forum that is constituted by the Member States of ECLAC, involves actors from the private sector, civil society organizations, academia, subsidiary organs of ECLAC, development banks, among others. The forum was oriented towards learning among countries and the identification of opportunities for cooperation, based on an exchange of good practices and lessons learned, as well as the discussion of common goals and challenges.

As president of the Thirty-Sixth Session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mexico chaired the forum during 2017 and 2018. In the inaugural session of the first forum, Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray Caso, highlighted the importance of international cooperation and the participation of civil society in



the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals. The ECLAC Executive Secretary, Alicia Bárcena, emphasized the importance of regional integration of Latin America and the Caribbean in order to close the inequality gaps between and within the countries and strengthen the institutional capacities to comply with the 2030 Agenda as a region. The Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto emphasized the importance of exchanging public policy experiences, in order to promote cooperation in the region and improve the implementation strategy of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, highlighted the importance of the regional, sub regional and national context. She emphasized that in order to achieve the SDGs, the United Nations and its Member States must rethink the way they work; it is necessary to apply a truly integrated approach of development that is based on holistic policy formulation, alliances between multiple actors, and collaboration between sectors and beyond borders.

In accordance with the resolution 700 mandate, the Forum presents the annual report on the progress and regional challenges of the 2030 Agenda, prepared by the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, the Report of the Chair of the Forum and the document of conclusions and intergovernmentally agreed recommendations, which present a region balance, as well as actions that are carried out for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. As part of the discussions sessions on ways to implement the 2030 Agenda were included, artificial intelligence and peer learning on the National Volunteer Reports which are presented in the High Level Political Forum.

As part of the deliverables of the Mexican presidency in the Forum, the following stand out: the dialogues with the agencies, funds and programs of the United Nations System at regional level, the formalization of the CSO Working Day; and the organization of transversal roundtables which allow to address cross-cutting issues of the 2030 Agenda, without harming their integrality.



## *2. Civil society participation*

The broad participation of CSOs in the forum was very welcome. Its representative, Danaé Espinoza, presented the civil society declaration, which pointed out the importance of citizen participation in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating of the 2030 Agenda at the local, national, regional and global level. The declaration makes recommendations for guaranteeing the full participation of civil society through an adequate environment of transparency and programs execution and policies related to the SDGs. The document highlighted the importance of progressive fiscal reforms and the regulation of financial and banking systems, based on sustainable financing sources and ratified the civil society commitment to promote inclusive participation that promotes the human rights of all people.

Within the Climate Action topic, the declaration makes recommendations on the inclusion of citizen participation in governance, as well as in the design, monitoring and evaluation of public policies for compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals. In this position, emphasis is placed on the lack of international efforts to include the voices of citizen sectors and a call is made to raise the levels of commitment to guarantee the principle of “Leaving no one behind”.

In the declaration, the States are requested to make efforts to integrate vulnerable groups, such as indigenous peoples, peasant communities, among others, and it is requested to take into account the corruption of extractive companies and promote transparency in this aspect, as well as not approving norms that violate fundamental rights of indigenous peoples.

172 regional CSOs participated in the Forum, of which 124 were from Mexico.





# Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

## *1. General overview*

The Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (Mérida Convention) established the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Merida Convention, which allows the review between governments of each country's progress in compliance with the provisions of this international legal instrument.

The Review Mechanism is governed by the principles of transparency, efficiency, non-invasive, inclusive and impartial, in addition to promoting cooperation among States to prevent and fight corruption; the exchange of opinions, ideas and good practices; and identify difficulties and opportunities for the implementation of the Convention.

In the Second Cycle of the Mechanism for the review of Implementation of the Convention 2016-2020, Chapter II -Preventive Measures- and Chapter V -Asset recovery- are analyzed. Mexico was one of the first countries selected to participate in the first year of revision. The evaluating countries selected to review the implementation of the Convention in Mexico were Guatemala and Sao Tome and Principe.



A part of this process includes the internal consultation to the different national dependencies to attend the checklist for the self-evaluation (questionnaire).

After the Examiners and Mexico maintained an exchange of documents, clarifications and additional information on the responses to the questionnaire -with the consent of the Mexican Government- the in situ visit took place from May 9 to 11, 2017 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The purpose of the visit was to maintaining an open and constructive dialogue that facilitates the exchange of important information to the application of the provisions of chapters II and V of the Convention.

## *2. Civil society participation*

Mexico has been one of the main promoters to include representatives of civil society organizations and the private sector in this Mechanism, an example of which was the participation of both sectors in the in situ visit of the first evaluation cycle (2013).

For the second cycle, the Mexican Government sought both sectors to participate in an informative conference on the operation of the Mechanism (April 20, 2017). During the in situ visit, three CSOs representatives and three from the private sector attended a session held on May 10, 2017. After their presentations, each one interacted with the expert evaluators and with the representatives of the Executive Secretariat of the UNODC.



# Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

## *1. General overview*

From May 22 to 26, 2017, the fifth Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction took place in Cancun, Mexico, attended by approximately 4,200 participants from around 180 countries, international organizations, civil society organizations, actors of the private initiative and technical and scientific institutions. The Global Platform, established in 2006, is the main consultative forum for disaster risk reduction worldwide. It brings together actors from different sectors of development and humanitarian work, as well as from environmental and scientific fields related to disaster risk reduction. Its objective is to expand the political space dedicated by governments to the disaster risk reduction.

The Platform was the first opportunity to assess overall progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, which was adopted in Japan in 2015 at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

The Platform included a Leaders' Forum which was chaired by the President of Mexico and adopted the Cancun High-Level Communiqué "Ensuring the resilience of infrastructure and housing", which recognizes the need to address this challenge in a multisectoral manner. The Global



Platform was attended by seven heads and alternate heads of State and/or Government; the Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations, Ms. Amina Mohammed, and 15 high-level representatives of international agencies, among others. The Global Platform identified important elements to improve preparation plans and risk recovery; strengthen multi-stakeholder platforms for collaboration and coordination between national and local governments and communities; have a regulatory framework and legal system for reconstruction and facilitate the recovery process; development of community capacity; and the local property.

Mexico demonstrated its commitment and support to all policies derived from this meeting, to strengthen its institutional capacities and reduce disaster risks.

## *2. Civil society participation*

The Official Mexican Delegation was accompanied by four representatives of Civil Society Organizations: Aser Maíz, World Vision, Red Mexicana de Estudios Interdisciplinarios para la Prevención de Desastres and Comité de Ayuda en Casos de Emergencias Nacionales, A. C. (CADENA), who enriched with their knowledge the position of the Official Mexican Delegation.



# Forty-Seventh General Assembly of the Organization of American States

## *1. General overview*

The forty-seventh Ordinary Period of Sessions of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (47 OASGA) was held from June 19 to 21, 2017 in Cancun, Quintana Roo, Mexico. Delegations from the 34 Member States of OAS participated. The central theme of the General Assembly was "Strengthening Dialogue and Concertation for Prosperity". President Enrique Peña Nieto headed the inauguration ceremony and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Luis Videgaray Caso, was appointed as president of the 47 OASGA.

The 47 OASGA faced the challenge of overcoming previous experiences with civil society participation, which had been complex due to the difficulty in harmonizing their inclusiveness and representativeness.

## *2. Civil society participation*

The preparatory work of the Government of Mexico demanded an effective coordination of the Directorate General for Liaison with Civil Society Organizations with the thematic divisions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the OAS and with CSOs that provided



recommendations in several informative sessions that were fundamental for the preparation of the OASGA in Cancun. Seven preparatory meetings were held with CSOs, two of them with open call to the civil society in Mexico, with an attendance of more than 70 CSOs and one with all the hemispheric CSOs that would participate in the 47 OASGA, with an attendance of 270 representatives of hemispheric organizations.

An institutional conflict prevention effort was made inviting the National Council to Prevent Discrimination (CONAPRED) to be present during the OASGA to significantly reduce tensions between groups with opposite positions.

On this occasion, Mexico promoted the renewal of the participation format that was used during this activity, seeking the creation of a space conducive to the celebration of a more horizontal, fluid and substantive dialogue between CSOs and government representatives. On the one hand, for the first time, the participants (States representatives, of the General Secretariat of the OAS, of Civil Society and Social Actors) were seated at the same table, at the same level. On the other hand, a mechanics of participation was established through the formation of self-managed hemispheric coalitions of organizations, which shared topics of interest and related positions. Each coalition had a spokesperson that presented the positioning and proposals of its coalition to the Heads of Delegation, the Secretary General, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico as President of the OASGA, the Assistant Secretary General and representatives of other civil society organizations.

The main activity for Civil Society foreseen in the 47 OASGA was the "Dialogue of the Heads of Delegation, the Secretary General, the Assistant Secretary General and Representatives of Civil Society Organizations, Workers, the Private Sector and other Social Actors". At the initiative of Mexico, this format was divided into three segments:



1. Integral Development and Prosperity in the Hemisphere
2. Rule of Law, Human Rights and Democracy.
3. Multidimensional security

Additionally, participating organizations were invited to incorporate the topics of women's empowerment and gender equality during their interventions. The new format facilitated a broader, more equitable and inclusive participation in the OASGA and promoted the advocacy of civil society organizations in the plenary sessions where the same topics were discussed. Likewise, it ensured the representativeness of the participating CSOs.

494 representatives of 308 CSOs participated at the 47th OASGA, grouped into 24 coalitions from 28 countries. These organizations came mostly from Mexico, 119 (with 194 representatives), the United States, 32, Argentina, 20, Colombia, 20, Guatemala, 10, and Paraguay, 10.

It should be noted that of 394 accredited CSOs, 313 registered in a coalition and 308 finally participated in the Dialogue. This format also allowed those CSOs that could not travel to the OASGA venue, to send their position to their coalition, and thus participate in the process.



# Preparatory meeting of the UN on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular migration.

## *1. General overview*

On September 19, 2016, within the framework of the 71st General Assembly of the United Nations (UNGA), the High Level Meeting on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants took place with the participation of Heads of State and Government. Because of this Meeting, the member states adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, through which they committed themselves to adopt two global compacts by 2018: one for safe, orderly and regular migration; another for the refugees' situation. During the plenary session of the High Level Meeting, the Government of Mexico offered to host a preparatory meeting of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

Mexico and Portugal co-chaired the 5th Round Table entitled "Global Compact for Safe Regular and Orderly Migration: Towards realizing the 2030 Agenda". During the work of this table, Mexico reiterated the offer -as a country due to its geography and history is a nation of origin, transit, destination and return of migrants- to organize an international preparatory meeting of the GCM. Mexico also highlighted that all



governments of the world have an ethical obligation to act for protecting integrity and life, rights and dignity of migrants, while, at the same time, ensuring a global agreement of full consensus. It stressed the importance of supporting governments and citizens of transit and destination countries.

Mexico hosted the Balance Meeting (phase II), from December 4 to 6, 2017, in Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco. In this three-day meeting, 600 delegates from UN member states, as well as representatives of international organizations, civil society organizations and other relevant actors -including groups of migrants-, jointly defined a vision for the Compact. They addressed, among others topics, the results of the six informal thematic consultations held throughout the year and other relevant processes, as well as discussing the means of implementation, follow-up mechanism and review for the construction of the Compact. This meeting was co-chaired by Ambassador Juan José Gómez Camacho (Mexico) and Ambassador Jürg Lauber (Switzerland), in their capacity as co-facilitators of the Global Compact process.

Mexico stressed that the respect for the human rights of all migrants; the recognition of the value of their contributions to the countries' economic, social and cultural development; the strengthening of dialogue and international cooperation; the fight against migrant and human trafficking, as well as the protection of vulnerable groups -such as migrant children and adolescents- are fundamental elements to advance towards an effective global governance of migrations.

The preparatory meeting in Puerto Vallarta made it clear that the United Nations continues to be the multilateral forum by excellence to reflecting, discussing and finding solutions to global challenges and opportunities, such as international migration and the people-based approach.

<sup>7</sup>See: [http://www.ecapguatemala.org.gt/sites/default/files/PropuestasMLPMM\\_0.pdf](http://www.ecapguatemala.org.gt/sites/default/files/PropuestasMLPMM_0.pdf)

<sup>8</sup>See: <https://refugeemigrants.un.org/intergovernmental-negotiations>



## *2. Civil society participation*

The civil society participation in the Puerto Vallarta meeting was very prominent, with the participation of the Latin American Bloc, made up of 60 organizations from Latin America and the Caribbean, which articulated the efforts of this process coordinated by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to hold parallel meetings in Chile, El Salvador, Honduras and Mexico, among other countries.

The Latin American Bloc formulated 17 points<sup>7</sup> with the purpose of incorporating them into the draft of the Global Compact. Among the objectives set by civil society to be incorporated into the Zero Draft, the following stand out:

- ↪ Address all aspects of international migration, including humanitarian, development, human rights aspects, among others.
- ↪ Make an important contribution to global governance and improve coordination in the international migration area.
- ↪ Present a framework for broad international cooperation on migrants and human mobility.
- ↪ Establish a series of extendable commitments, means of implementation and a framework for monitoring and examination among Member States regarding international migrations in all its dimensions.
- ↪ Develop a global compact on migration, in an open, transparent and inclusive process, with the effective participation of all stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, academic institutions, parliaments, diaspora communities and migratory organizations.

The articulated work of Mexican civil society in Puerto Vallarta facilitated its incorporation into the Official Mexican Delegation participating in phase III<sup>8</sup> of the intergovernmental negotiations started in February 2018 with the presentation of the Zero Draft of the Global

<sup>7</sup>See: [https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180711\\_final\\_draft\\_0.pdf](https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180711_final_draft_0.pdf)



Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The participation of representatives of: FM4 Paso Libre, Dignidad y Justicia en el Camino, A.C.; Instituto de Estudios y Divulgación sobre Migración A.C. (INEDIM) and Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración, A.C. (IMUMI), CSOs with large expertise in forming networks and collectives to work on the topic in Mexico while maintaining links with the countries of the diaspora.

In addition, these CSOs maintained a close collaboration with the Directorate General for Human Rights and Democracy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, allowing for a better performance of the official Delegation during the 6 negotiation sessions that took place from February to July 2018. They provided elements supported in the effective exercise of rights, which States could implement at the national and international levels.

On July 13, 2018, the member states of the United Nations agreed on the final draft of the Compact<sup>9</sup> that will be formally adopted at the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, that will take place in Marrakech, Morocco, on December 10 and 11, 2018. It is the first document negotiated globally within the framework of the United Nations, which deals with international migration in all its dimensions, through a framework of international cooperation, whose central elements are embodied in 23 objectives and commitments that cover the entire migratory cycle, thus offering a comprehensive perspective, based on high standards of human rights.

# Third Retreat of the Group of Friends of Monterrey

## *1. General overview*

The Group of Friends of Monterrey is a group made up of governments, the private sector, civil society and other institutional actors, which since its creation in 2002, meets from time to time to engage in dialogue and establish agreements on Financing for Development.

The Group of Friends of Monterrey has met for three consecutive years in our country, 2016 and 2017 in Mexico City, and on March 19 and 20, 2018 in the city of Oaxaca. This third edition was carried out by combining round tables for discussion, plenary sessions and interactive meeting groups with the participation of multilateral organizations, financial institutions, academia, civil society organizations (CSOs) and the private sector.

The objectives of the Retreat of the Group of Friends of Monterrey are the following:

- ↳ Promote informal commitments among diverse partners on priority issues of the Financing for Development Agenda, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



- ↩ Engage in an inclusive dialogue with civil society and multiple stakeholders.
- ↩ Hold preliminary discussions at the annual meeting of the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development.

The 2018 edition of the Retreat had the support of the Governments of Germany and Switzerland, and as co-organizers to Bangladesh, Cape Verde, Chile, Indonesia, Belarus, the Czech Republic and Ethiopia. The meeting was attended by 41 countries, 12 international organizations, various CSOs, foundations, the private sector and academia, among others.

On March 13, the Directorate General for Liaison with Civil Society Organizations held a meeting with the civil society and the Directorate General of Planning and Policies for International Development Cooperation of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID). The purpose of this meeting was to initiate a dialogue on the CSOs position with regard to the Third Forum of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and Financing for Development, as well as the third Retreat of the Group of Friends of Monterrey.

It should be noted that Mexico's position document, both in the Retreat and in the ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum, was written with the inputs from the civil society, after the aforementioned consultation.

## *2. Civil society participation*

The Civil Society Group on Financing for Development published its position on the third ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development 2018, which highlighted the urgency of eliminating structural barriers not allowing a sustainable socio-economic transformation, based on multilateralism for the democratization of global economic governance. The positioning emphasized the dissonance between the urgency of global challenges and the lack of ambition of public policies on financing



and investment. The group calls for a restructuring of the financial and monetary system, so the topics of public funds, taxation, investment, debt and financing are aligned with sustainable development.

The Civil Society Organizations participating in the Oaxaca Retreat were:

- ↳ Patricia Miranda Tapia, representative of the Latin American region and member of the Red Latinoamericana sobre Deuda, Desarrollo y Derechos.
- ↳ Dereje Alemayehu, representative of the African continent and member of Global Alliance for Tax Justice.
- ↳ Eva Hanfstängl, representative of Europe and member of Brot fuer die Welt.
- ↳ Eric LeCompte, representative of Europe and member of Brot fuer die Welt.
- ↳ Stefano Prato, representative of Society for International Development.
- ↳ Itza Helen Castillo, representative of World Vision.



# **Fourth Conference of States Parties to the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials**

## *1. General overview*

The fourth Conference of States Parties to the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials (CIFTA) was held on April 4 and 5, 2018, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Mexico City.

Representatives of 24 member countries of the Organization of American States and three Permanent Observers participated in the conference: Japan, the United Kingdom and the Holy See. Representatives of regional or sub-regional entities and inter-American organizations, specialized agencies of the United Nations, and special guests were also present, in addition representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) from Brazil, Mexico, the United States, Austria and France. The OAS opened the participation to CSOs with consultative status to the OAS, moreover those that do not have it, upon request of registration.



The meeting objective was to evaluate the functioning of CIFTA throughout its 20 years of work, as well as to approve the new Course of Action 2018 - 2022, which establishes the lines of work to be followed by the Member States over the next few years. In addition, a Commemorative Declaration was issued 20 years after the entry into force of CIFTA, which reaffirms it as the first binding multilateral instrument against the firearms manufacture and illicit trafficking.

During the conference, the trends, challenges and consequences of illicit arms trafficking were addressed, as well as possible mechanisms to provide comprehensive attention to this issue. On the other hand, aspects such as the application of the Convention were analyzed; also the experiences, developments, challenges and needs at the national level for the implementation of the Convention; the sub regional efforts; the promotion of border cooperation; the collaboration between the production industry and the national authorities; the improvement of quality, collection and analysis of information; the participation of civil society in national efforts to prevent this transnational crime; and the actions to reduce illicit arms flows in compliance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

CIFTA seeks to establish controls and regulations on the manufacture and illicit trafficking of firearms. All the OAS Member States have signed the Convention and 31 have ratified it. The Convention seeks to promote and facilitate cooperation and the exchange of information and experiences among the States Parties.

The Convention includes a series of provisions that, when the treaty is ratified, must be included in national laws and regulations. Specifically, it addresses the need for States to mark weapons to track and identify their origin, import and custody; establish as criminal offenses the illicit manufacturing and trafficking of firearms; properly manage confiscated or expropriated weapons; and ensure that export, import and transit licensing regimes are implemented.



## 2. *Civil society participation*

At the initiative of the Mexican government, CIFTA had the participation of civil society organizations (CSOs) for the first time. The OAS made available a Virtual Consultation to receive the opinions from Civil Society Organizations and collect its inputs to nourish the States' dialogue process. At the end of the Conference' First Plenary Session, Catherine Pognat, Chief of the Civil Society Relations Section of the OAS, gave a report on the results of the virtual survey. To close this segment, Mexican Magda Coss, Director of the organization 24-0, had an intervention in which she highlighted the need to consider and take advantage of the work carried out by civil society in relation to the prevention of violence, the respect for human rights and human security.

On behalf of Mexico, the following CSOs representatives participated as assistants:

- ↔ Iván Uranga Favela and Diana Ávila, from Movimiento Mexicano por la Paz y el Desarrollo.
- ↔ John Lindsay-Poland, from Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña “Tlachinollan”.
- ↔ Juan Contreras Nieves and René A. Ramírez Juárez, from Federación Mexicana de Calidad de Vida y Deporte A.C.
- ↔ Lisa Sánchez and Javier Mancera de Arrigunaga, from México Unido contra la Delincuencia A.C.
- ↔ Mariana López Nolasco and David Ramírez Garay, from México Evalúa, Centro de Análisis de Políticas Públicas A,C,
- ↔ Natalia Báez and Montserrat Martínez, from Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, A.C. (CMDPDH).
- ↔ Raúl Zepeda and Carlos Galindo from Instituto Belisario Domínguez.
- ↔ Salvador Ortega López, from Unidad Industrial Iztapalapa, A.C.



# Sixty-Third Regular Session of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission

## *1. General overview*

The sixty-third Regular Session of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) took place in Mexico City from April 25 to 27, 2018. The Vice-Minister for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Miguel Ruíz-Cabañas; the Executive Secretary of CICAD, Adam Naam; the Secretary of Multidimensional Security of the Organization of American States (OAS), Claudia Paz y Paz, and Mexico's General Attorney and President of CICAD Alberto Elías Beltrán, participated at the opening ceremony.

CICAD is the political forum of the American continent aimed to deal with the drugs problem. The Executive Secretariat of CICAD is responsible for strengthening human and institutional capacities and channeling the collective efforts of its member States to reduce the production, trafficking and consumption of illegal drugs. The Hemispheric Drug Strategy, approved in May 2010, expresses the firm commitment of the member States to face the consequences of drug trafficking, which pose an increasing threat to health, economic development, social cohesion and compliance of the law.



The sessions of the sixty-third CICAD included the participation of official delegates, experts from international organizations, academia and civil society, who stressed the importance of working from the local level to materialize commitments and recommendations of the 2016 UNGASS (considered the greatest advance, integrity and balance for drug policies) at the regional, national and global levels. The meeting also served as preparation for the High-Level meeting of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) to be held in March 2019, in Vienna, Austria.

## *2. Civil society participation*

Within the session, there was a presence of civil society organizations in the room and a panel dedicated to civil society was organized, which aimed to outline the emergence of a new paradigm of drug policies and the will of governments and civil society to incorporate in practice elements of public health, human rights, gender perspective and sustainable development. On behalf of Mexico, the following speakers participated: Lisa Sánchez, from México Unido contra la Delincuencia (MUCD), and Kenya Cuevas, defender of human rights and Director of Casa de las Muñecas Tiresias.

The conclusions of the sessions expressed the importance of the participation of organized civil society through their representatives, who are experts in the subject, in order to promote synergies through plural and inclusive dialogue.

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*Citizen participation in international events held in Mexico*

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*Citizen participation in international events held in Mexico,*  
finished printed in November 2018 in the workshops of  
Amelia Hernández Ugalde, SEPRIM - HEUA730908AM1  
Siembra #1 int. S-5 Col. San Simón Culhuacán,  
Del. Iztapalapa C.P. 09800, Mexico City  
500 copies were printed in coated paper of 75 grs.



**Undersecretariat for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights**  
Directorate General for Liaison with Civil Society Organizations