



**Intervención del Embajador Guillermo Fernández de Soto**  
**Special virtual event on the 2022 UNODC World Drug Report**

28 de junio de 2022 / 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

5 minutos

Mr. President and Madam Carpentier,

Colombia welcomes the launch of the World Drug Report 2022, especially in the framework of the celebration of the United Nations International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

Colombia reiterates its integral and permanent commitment to success in the fight against the World Drug Problem and its related crimes.

We can only achieve success against this criminal phenomenon by strengthening international cooperation. To this end, Colombia insists on the importance of revitalizing the valuable principle of common and shared responsibility.

Despite significant international legal developments such as the adoption of the Vienna Conventions and regional instruments in this area, the challenges presented by drug trafficking persist, and there are worrying developments that, in some cases, are related to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Colombia is highly concerned about the coordination and collaboration between drug trafficking organizations, terrorist groups, and structures dedicated to other transnational crimes.

Drug trafficking has become a source of money for other illegal activities that threaten peace and security and boosts corruption at the global level.

In addition, I would like to highlight some trends presented in the World Drug Report 2022, on which we must take decisive action:

- There is an expansion of cocaine trafficking from the United States and Europe to Africa and Asia.
- Cocaine use over the past decade has increased overall. However, there is no conclusive information on changes in use trends by 2020.
- Trafficking of synthetic drugs is growing faster than that of drugs of natural origin.
- Production and consumption of opiates continue its dynamic increase.
- There is a significant increase in the participation of women in drug use.

Given the multifaceted nature of the World Drug Problem, the response to this scourge must consider the design of public policies to confront its daily criminal manifestations. But it is also essential to include measures to counteract its social, cultural, economic, political, and environmental dimensions.



Madam President,

Being at the end of President Duque's Administration, I consider it appropriate to refer to the most noticeable results that my country has achieved in the fight against drug trafficking and related crimes in the implementation of our National Anti-Drug Strategy: Ruta-Futuro:

- Implementation of the "Strong Families" program for the prevention of the consumption of psychoactive substances, with benefits for more than 44,400 families.
- Sustained reduction of illicit crops, which went from 171,000 hectares of coca bushes in 2017 to 143,000 in 2020 (a net decrease of 20% during the Duque Administration).
- Inclusion of more than 99,000 families in voluntary illicit crop substitution programs that led to the voluntary substitution of 19,513 hectares of coca crops.
- Seizure, in 2021, of 669,340 kilograms of cocaine, 32% more than what was seized in 2020; the dismantling, in 2021, of 239 cocaine production laboratories and the destruction of 5528 cocaine paste and cocaine base production infrastructures, with an increase of 11% compared to 2020;
- Dismantling of criminal organizations through the capture of more than 43,000 people in 2021 for the crime of trafficking, manufacturing, or carrying of narcotics. 12% more captures than those reported in 2020.
- Implementation of the Territorialized Strategy for strengthening investigative and judicial capacities aimed at dismantling organized crime and disrupting its financial circuits – ETCO-.



- Approval of the Public Policy Document CONPES 4042 of 2021 consolidating the National Anti-Money Laundering Policy, Against the Financing of Terrorism and the Financing of the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Madame President,

The only way we will succeed in the fight against the World Drug Problem is through permanently strengthening international cooperation in the operational, information exchange, technical assistance, and judicial cooperation fields.

Thank you