



INTERVENCIÓN DE COLOMBIA EN EL LANZAMIENTO DEL INFORME MUNDIAL DE DROGAS (2019)

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Versión pronunciada

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today, on the International Day of the United Nations against the Misuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs, I am pleased to reiterate Colombia's firm commitment to continue working to find a joint solution to the World Drug Problem.

On the occasion of the launch of the World Drug Report, we reiterate our commitment to use all the tools and resources available to protect our people from the threat posed by this problem within the framework of our National Constitution and laws and in fulfillment of our international commitments.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Secretariat of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for the work done to present to Member States, and civil society, a new version of the report whose findings never cease to amaze and worry us.



The report acknowledges that there is still a need to improve research and obtain much more accurate data, but at the same time it presents figures as shocking as the following: 35 million people who, globally, suffer from drug use disorders and who require treatment, or the figure of 585,000 people who have died as a result of drug use in 2017.

This report also reflects the opioid crisis, the new psychoactive substances and the changes in the cannabis markets as an important phenomenon. It reflects as well the unusual increase of illicit crops such as cocaine, which, in Colombia's case, is contextualized in the framework of new alternative development initiatives and the signing of the Final Agreement for the end of conflict signed with the FARC in 2016.

In this regard, it should be mentioned that, in turn, Colombia has doubled its results in terms of the dismantling of production laboratories, from 2334 in 2013 to 4820 in 2016. Likewise, Colombia has a prominent role in terms of interdiction being the country with the largest number of seizures worldwide, with 38% of the total in the world.

This is the opportunity to highlight that ***the reduction of illicit crops constitutes a priority objective for the Government of President Iván Duque Marquez***. To achieve this goal, a wide range of strategies in security and eradication has been combined with the incorporation of scientific and technological developments, which will also be accompanied by the promotion of entrepreneurship and licit economic activities in the areas most affected.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We highlight from this new report how it is divided innovatively, into depressors such as opioids, stimulants like cocaine and amphetamines, and



finally cannabis and hallucinogens. For this reason, although it is mentioned practically in all the booklets, special attention is devoted in the book to this chapter on stimulants in Colombia with an extension of almost four pages.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, our country has an urgent need to call for this Report to use the revitalization of the principle of common and shared responsibility. As it is known to all members of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and, in general, of all governments, the World Drug Problem has been the historical fuel of different forms of violence and criminality that have threatened our democratic institutions, the rule of law, sustainable economic development and citizen security.

However, despite having been driven by an unprecedented demand for this problem, the report that now brings us together does not reflect the efforts of the countries in reducing the demand and supply of illicit drugs, including new psychoactive substances, effective control of the precursor chemicals and effective prevention and punishment of the crime of money laundering and asset laundering.

It is necessary, therefore, that this Report and other sources of information, begin to rethink in relation to the actions of all states against each aspect of the problem. It is not only about referring to Colombia as a cocaine producing country, but also indicating what is done by those in which consumption is high to reduce that trend or what they are doing to reduce and avoid the diversion of precursors, among others.

Let this be the opportunity to ask ourselves: what is the reason why there is such a high demand for these substances? For example, we now see on the news that some countries have made efforts to prosecute those companies that have shamelessly promoted the continued use of opioids, and has sought to assign appropriate responsibility, but what about

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consumers of other illicit substances? Why is that consumption has increased? Why is it so easy to have access to these illicit substances in their own countries? Why does the media promote liberality in their consumption? How to ask a country not to produce while its own citizens have the right to consume?

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The deficiencies in the approach of the World Drug Problem are, in many aspects, the result of the lack of convergence, articulation and synchronization of the individual actions of the States.

Greater cooperation in all aspects and manifestations of this world problem is necessary, so it is not about just a country which makes efforts in reducing supply, but all States being involved in all aspects of the problem.

In this scenario, the World Drug Report in the coming years should begin to reflect the role of States in all aspects and manifestations of this Problem, under the principle of common and shared responsibility.

Thank you.