



**SCRIPT FOR THE BREAKFAST TO
“BRAINSTORM AND EXCHANGE VIEWS ON
THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM”.**

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Dear colleagues,

Thank you so much for coming today.

Following the adoption of the “Ministerial Declaration” on strengthening our actions at the national, regional and international levels to accelerate the implementation of our joint commitments to address and counter the world drug problem”, we decided to convene this meeting in New York to exchange views and brainstorm on:

- Lessons learned from the past decade (2009-2019) and its normative outcome.
- Expected trends in international drug policies.
- Potential role of the Permanent Missions to the UN in New York.



In our case ... Colombia's commitment to combat the World Drug Problem is based on the implementation of the obligations contained in the three (3) International Drug Conventions and other relevant instruments, always having present the principles of integrality, balance and common and shared responsibility.

The Ministerial Declaration adopted last March in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which is the natural framework for advancing all negotiations related to the address of the World Drug Problem, contains our common purpose of accelerating implementation of our joint commitments to the world drug problem.

These challenges, and those identified in the Ministerial Declaration we adopted last March, are present with different intensity from one country to another, but no society is immune from them. **That is why Colombia insists on the full validity of the principle of common and shared responsibility.**

Colombia has spared no effort at all levels and areas to counter the world drug problem. However, **we hope that all States will have this same willingness to face specific challenges** such as those posed by new psychoactive substances; effective control of chemical precursors; effective prevention and punishment of asset laundering and money laundering, among many others.



Colombia recently adopted a comprehensive policy to address the drug problem in a balanced manner, as a response to the massive growth of illicit coca crops: **64% annually between 2013 and 2017.**

Our policy recognizes the need to articulate efforts in all dimensions: citizen security, sustainable economic development, law enforcement, public health environmental protection, institutional consolidation and stabilization in the territories.

We aim to reduce the availability of illicit drugs and regain the land we have lost, by reducing illicit crops. To this end, we will use voluntary and forced eradication, crop substitution, alternative development, payment for environmental services, incorporation of new technologies and scientific developments, among others.

Although there is still a long way to go, in Colombia, as President Iván Duque has mentioned, we will not give up, nor will we accept to live under a threat against our institutional integrity, sustainable economic development and social progress.

Colleagues,

The Ministerial Declaration that we adopted last March binds us to accelerate the implementation of the commitments identified in the three (3) policy documents of the last decade.



For Colombia, the strengthening of bilateral, regional and international cooperation, the construction of national capacities and technical assistance constitute the main basis for accelerating such implementation.

At the same time, the decisions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should be adopted based on quality information. Therefore, the collection of comparable and reliable data through the strengthening and simplification of the questionnaire that feeds the annual reports – ARQ- is a pending task that we cannot neglect.

Under that consideration, Colombia will participate actively in all relevant discussions to achieve this goal in 2022, as well as in the review of the advances in drugs in 2029 and in its mid-term review.

Now, I would like to give Simone Monasebian the floor, Simone as you know is the Director of the UNODC office in New York.

And then I would like to open the floor for comments that you may have.