



**MEETING OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE OF
WESTERN ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND MEXICO'S NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL**

PHOENIX, ARIZONA MARCH 10, 11 AND 12

C O N C L U S I O N S

For the United States of America and the United Mexican States it is essential to strengthen our joint efforts to guarantee better security conditions and the administration of justice among our respective countries.

The current environment requires the development of a common strategy to reduce the consumption and smuggling of drugs; develop better administrative and legal frameworks to reduce weapons trafficking; and control the source of organized criminal power, money laundering.

The Conference of Western Attorneys General of the United States of America appreciates the dedicated participation of Mexico's National Conference of Attorneys General which is represented in this forum by the state attorneys general of Aguascalientes, Baja California, Baja California Sur, Chihuahua, Colima, Durango, Guerrero, Hidalgo,





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Morelos, Oaxaca, San Luis Potosi, Sonora, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas, as well as the Attorney General of Military Justice. We express our gratitude to the Attorney General of the Republic of Mexico and Chair of Mexico's National Conference of Attorneys General, Eduardo Medina Mora Icaza, for his support of this forum dedicated to the exchange of ideas and the development of joint actions to benefit our respective countries.

As a result of this meeting, the Conference of Western Attorneys General and Mexico's National Conference of Attorneys General agree to consolidate and strengthen our collaborative relationship to combat organized crime with a common and global vision.

Strengthening our relationship allow us to jointly construct a dialogue based on the recognition of our strengths and common challenges, as well the development and implementation of integrated solutions that require the mutual commitment of our respective countries and societies.





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The understanding of criminal trends on each side of the border permits us to develop better investigative tools and prosecution of crimes linked to human trafficking, drug trafficking and weapons trafficking, as well as enhance the timely exchange of information of the methods by which organized crime conceal their illegal gains.

The collaborative efforts initiated by border attorneys general in both countries provide valuable experiences that make it possible today to work jointly to develop a binational agenda that incorporates the use of technological systems, judicial advances and joint investigations on human trafficking, weapons trafficking, drug trafficking and money laundering crimes.

The commitment to jointly combat human trafficking crimes implies greater coordination and integration among law enforcement institutions in our countries through professional capacity programs for state and federal prosecutorial officials, as well as the exchange of information of successful crime victim programs.





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Human trafficking and smuggling are crimes that require us to act in a comprehensive manner considering preventative actions, the effective prosecution of crimes and the attention and support of crime victims.

The fight against money laundering constitutes a critical aspect to successfully combat international organized crime. As such, we must enhance our prosecutorial capacities to establish protocols for the exchange of investigative information.

To share experiences and effectively combat money laundering we agree on the need to convene multidisciplinary forums focused on the analysis of regulatory and legal frameworks in both countries, as well as strategies used for the detection and prosecution of money laundering crimes.

Organized crime has developed strategies to smuggle firearms and ammunitions from the United States of America, thereby evading law enforcement efforts implemented along the border and maintaining a constant flow of firearms used against law enforcement in Mexico.





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It is in our interest to put in place operational mechanisms that enhance our surveillance and control of the illegal smuggling of weapons and explosives that affect the security of our communities.

The results achieved through the exchange of information related to weapons and explosives smuggling compels us to further strengthen the existing linkages between Mexico's Attorney General's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms of the United States of America (ATF) aimed at developing new methods for ballistic investigations and the generation of crime statistics.

In an effort to inhibit the introduction of clandestine firearms and explosives to Mexico, we recognize the need to establish better policies that regulate the acquisition of firearms in the United States of America to avoid their access and smuggling by organized crime.





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Conscious that binational cooperation is based on mutual trust and responsibility, we manifest our commitment to provide continuity to the binational dialogue and collaboration in the fight against organized crime, and in particular the fight against drugs.

The differences in our legal frameworks should be understood as an opportunity to enhance judicial actions and not as an impediment that protects criminals that operate along our shared border region. Such understating will enable us to build on successful efforts such as the OASISS Program and expand to other criminal activities such as weapons trafficking and marijuana interdiction.

In the area of crimes against public health and safety, we will promote the strengthening of existing international legal instruments, through ministerial actions and consular support in Mexico, to effectively prosecute individuals that violate laws of the United States of America and cross the border to avoid justice.





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The will of the attorneys general represented by both Conferences permits the establishment of institutional coordination and collaboration agreements that respect international law and the free determination and sovereignty of states as illustrated by the recent binacional agreements by the states of New Mexico – Chihuahua and Idaho – Morelos.

These efforts contribute to the newly adopted judicial reform system in Mexico that will require the entities involved in the administration of justice to enhance and professionalize the duties and expertise of ministerial courts and police investigators.

The members of the Conference of Western Attorneys General of the United States of America and Mexico's National Conference of Attorneys General share a common interest in establishing a unified front to combat organized crime in the following areas:





MONEY LAUNDERING

By:

- Following-up on money transfer information obtained by Mexican authorities;
- Establishing periodic meetings between State Attorneys General of both countries to analyze selected money transmissions from U.S. to Mexico, specific statistics regarding money that crosses the border, drop houses, bulk cash seizures between U.S. – Mexico, automobiles that may be involved in money laundering, and potential trade-based money laundering;
- Identifying legislation related to money laundering to reduce legal barriers between both nations;
- Establishing analytical exchanges, training and mutual support;
- Assigning law enforcement officers to conduct surveillance of money transmitter stores shown by data analysis to be involved in human trafficking/smuggling;
- Expanding the use of controlled deliveries in connection with bulk cash transfers;



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- Establishing joint investigations and analysis of money cards/ stored value products to pursue necessary public policy and legislative responses, and prevent their use in large-scale illicit money transfers; and
- Identify best practices and information gathering techniques similar to those pioneered by the State of Arizona for gathering of data and prosecution of human traffickers. Following the money is the best way to disrupt organized crime.

WEAPONS TRAFFICKING

By:

- Identifying and closing federal, state or local government legal and administrative loopholes related to the regulation of gun shows;
- Expanding registration of multiple gun sales of long-guns, such as AK-47s;
- Promoting the vigorous identification and pursuit of facilitating gun dealers engaged in illegal gun sales;





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- Expanding joint U.S. – Mexico law enforcement undercover operations aimed at targeting illegal arms trafficking; and
- Sharing information with the federal congress of the U.S. and Mexico of the challenges and needs to enhance law enforcement efforts to reduce arms trafficking.

DRUG TRAFFICKING

By:

- Developing joint efforts, including the development of pilot projects, aimed at prosecuting drug traffickers caught with amounts under U.S. federal thresholds. Such efforts would strengthen both countries' efforts to effectively use their resources to prosecute drug traffickers.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

By:

- Systematizing binational exchange of information related to human trafficking to, among other things,



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1. map routes, regions, identify organized smuggling networks and operational modes
 2. identify subjects (i.e. organized smugglers; addresses)
 3. Plan and execute coordinated operations;
 4. Exchange information provided by witnesses;
- Encouraging U.S. and Mexico states to enter into bilateral Memorandums of Agreement, similar to those established by Idaho – Morelos and New Mexico – Chihuahua, aimed at strengthening binational efforts to combat human trafficking including sharing of information and best practices, and multi-disciplinary human trafficking task forces to ensure adequate support of victims;
 - Promoting integrated, “mirror” operations along the U.S. – Mexico border region that permit the identification of international criminal networks and the implementation of judicial procedures that allow greater interdiction of human trafficking; and



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- Planning national and international operations that impact human smuggling activities from Mexico's southern border, including routes, areas of concentration, train and highway corridors, airports and bus terminals.



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General Comments

Merida Initiative: CWAG members, at the next CWAG Annual meeting, to solicit the federal government for resources for the administration of justice.

Technical assistance as Mexico commences the implementation of an adversarial system (i.e. oral arguments).