

GUATEMALA



Geneva Declaration Regional Review Conference on Armed Violence and Development

Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia

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Thank your Chair. First of all, I will like to apologize about my English. Second of all, the delegation of Guatemala wants to thank the opportunity to make a statement. In addition thank the Swiss Government, the Secretariat, UNDP and all the organizers of this important meeting.

As mentioned, Guatemala in April of this year was host of the First regional meeting review of Geneva Declaration on armed violence and development for Latin America and the Caribbean. A number of one hundred participants attend the conference including the signatory countries of the Geneva declaration and other countries committed in reduction of the armed violence, as well as government institutions, NGO'S, local and regional organizations of the civil society achieving an important participation to discuss the relevant topics related on armed violence in Latin America and the Caribbean and the importance of reducing it, as a factor that would allow the development.

The regional conferences highlights the special CHARACTER of the commitments assumed by the states from political declarations, the importance of act and book in the agendas of the countries the implementation of the Geneva Declaration. In this effort, Guatemala knows the importance of the armed violence in development and the costs assumed by states fighting against it. Costs that can be used in the reduction of risk factors focus in the young people, in prevention.

In this effort, the Ministry of Interior, especially the third Vice minister for Violence and Crime Prevention takes the responsibility of being organizer of the event assuming the responsibility of highlighting the armed violence consequences , the responsibilities of the institutions of the State and the importance of having state policies, national policies that responds to the needs of the population. As well public policies and programmes have to be accompanied by resources and capacities for their implementation.

The functioning of the Vice minister includes the formulation of programs and projects to reduce the risk factors involving all the state institutions. This allows us to generate activities based on primary prevention trying to reduce the armed violence and the crimes related to it. Another responsibility is to formulate the instruments for prevention, and the concrete product is the national policy for violence and crime prevention.

When we analyze which were the basic components that this important document had to contain, the works began with the experts in different areas to formulate the bases of the policy. I will like to highlight this because the policy contains and address the importance of reducing armed violence as a factor for development. In our experience, we need to change the idea of the Guatemalan culture about guns. In addition we are reducing armed violence, however every year we can see the statistics of victims of the armed violence that impacts in the families affecting the life, the health, the security, the financial component and finally all the state functioning. Latin America and the Caribbean is a young region, and we have to pay a special attention to this part of the population in order to reduce violence. We need to involve the young people in the development of policies to reduce the armed violence and prevention.

That's why we are promoting the bases of a violence and crime prevention policy assumed by the people as a proper, as a commitment, orientated to the participation of the population in civil safety and the peaceful co-existence the pacific relationships between them, which helps us in reduction of the violence and crime, as well as in perception of the people of being victims of violence. This work is possible if we can commit all the local authorities and the importance of the civil society, reform of the legal frameworks and implementation of strategies of investigation and criminal procedures.

On this particular the Conference last April in Guatemala gave us the opportunity of having a series of debates on the commitment of the States signatories of the Geneva Declaration on the reduction of the global problem of armed violence related to the insecurity.

It was an important space to exchange of information and lessons learned between all the participants.

In these terms I will like to conclude highlighting some of the products of the meeting in Guatemala, mentioned in the chair summary as lessons learned:

1. We have to design public citizen security policies based on comprehensive strategies which envision the prevention of violence, its penalization, and which promote peaceful co-existence and help for the victims and survivors of armed violence.

Just to mention, Guatemala recently launch the National violence and crime prevention policy, citizens security and peaceful coexistence which includes 5 principal thematic parts related to prevention of violence against children, gender violence, juvenile violence, traffic security and armed violence. This is an important step in the pursuit of implementing the Geneva declaration and other international instruments adopted by Guatemala.

We are in the begging of implementing two hundred and seventy seven guidelines especially formulated for local authorities, community authorities executed by the development councils.

This is the product of the analysis of crime statistics and social conditions in the territories, which give us the diagnosis of the three hundred and thirty five municipalities to decide what guidelines to implement depending the priorities, in some of them reducing the armed violence. We will like to invite all the participants to know the Guatemalan violence and crime prevention policy two thousand fourteen two thousand thirty four.

2. To increase the real opportunities of human development for the youth, and to include this topic in the policies for prevention of armed violence. To reinforce the values of peaceful co-existence, including the participation, tolerance, and to prevent the stigmatization of vulnerable populations.

3. To link citizen security policies to strategies for reducing impunity, by means of strengthening the institutions of justice and security, with the aim of generating greater confidence in citizens and institutions; and to promote a virtuous circle between development, confidence and security.
4. To strengthen national co-ordination and regional co-operation in order to reduce the impact of firearms, identify gaps in knowledge, and determine the dynamics of arms trafficking, with the aim of devising better regulations.
5. To promote models of local management of citizen security which promote civil society's active participation, especially of local communities in the forging, control, and implementation of public policies.
6. To prevent any gender violence in a domestic setting and in the public sphere, by defeating the cultural pattern of armed violence as a symbol of masculinity, and investing in education as a tool for overcoming such a pattern.
7. To invest in the management of knowledge, in the exchange of experiences, and in South-South co-operation, as mechanisms for analyzing and nurturing public safety plans which promote a greater understanding of the overall challenges, solutions, and responses.