

Asuncion, May 2019

**President  
Dip. Miguel Cuevas  
Honorable Chamber of Deputies**

Dear:

I have the honor of addressing you and your dignified intermediary to the other members of this Honorable Chamber of Deputies in order to present the Draft Declaration, "**THAT DECLARES OF NATIONAL INTEREST THE CREATION OF A LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COURT AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (COPLA)**", for your subsequent processing and corresponding consideration.

Transnational organized crime is a relatively recent phenomenon that is spreading with unprecedented rapidity and is also devastating our country. It is a criminal system resulting from recent globalization. For this reason, a campaign was launched from Argentina to create a Latin American and Caribbean Criminal Court against Transnational Organized Crime (COPLA) so that organizations associated with crime that operate in more than one country within the region may be trialled with supranational competency. Thus, crimes linked to the illicit trafficking of narcotics, weapons, persons, cultural goods or undeclared assets could be investigated, prosecuted and judged by a permanent institution that, lying outside the framework and mandates of national powers, will act with true independence, discretion, and supranational power. The COPLA would, then, not replace national jurisdictions, but rather collaborate with them, without being subject to any pre-existing regional body nor to the political or judicial systems of the States that adhere to it. This initiative, spawned from Argentine civil society, already has the explicit support of the Chamber of Deputies of Argentina, the Argentine Senate and the Mercosur Parliament. In addition, the Ministers of Security and Justice and Human Rights of Argentina brought this issue to the attention of Mercosur, receiving strong support, especially from their current Brazilian counterparts.

The competency of the COPLA would be:

To try those who administer, organize, or promote transnational organized criminal groups intending to commit any of the following crimes:

- The illicit trafficking of narcotics or psychotropic substances
- The illicit manufacturing and/or trafficking of firearms, their components, and ammunition
- Human trafficking
- The Illicit trafficking of migrants
- The trafficking of cultural goods
- Money laundering
- Transnational bribery

As a court, it would seek to:

- 1) Try and judge members and high ranking individuals of transnational criminal organizations who are persistently unpunished and/or protected by complicit national judicial systems.
- 2) To recover the illegally obtained goods from these organizations; an extraordinarily effective means of diminishing their power as seen successfully executed in Italy, Colombia, and other countries. Such repossessions would contribute to reparations to the victims, both individually and collectively.

With the conviction of having the support for the approval of this Draft Declaration, I take this opportunity to salute you with my highest esteem.

Declaration №...

**“THAT DECLARES OF NATIONAL INTEREST THE CREATION OF A LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COURT AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME”**

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**THE HONORABLE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES DECLARES:**

**Article 1:** Of national interest the creation of the LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN CRIMINAL COURT AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (COPLA) sponsored by the Argentine non-governmental organization Global Democracy in response to the declaration of the United Nations - Palermo Convention against Transnational Crime, and with the support of the Argentine government, directed toward countries that can take the initiative to join in order to optimize the fight against organized crime.

**Article 2:** To urge the State of Paraguay to adhere to the initiative and provide all necessary support in addition of using its resources to inform on a national level of relative events.