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**XLV MEETING OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS  
FOR THE CONTROL OF MONEY LAUNDERING  
October 4 and 5, 2018  
Santa Cruz, Bolivia**

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**OPENING REMARKS DR. ANA TERESA MORALES OLIVERA  
GENERAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FINANCIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT (FIU) BOLIVIA**

**2018**



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**Ana Teresa Morales Olivera**

**General Executive Director - Financial Investigations Unit**

Mr. Mario Guillen Suarez - Minister of Economy and Public Finance of the Plurinational State of Bolivia; Mr. Carlos Romero - Minister of Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia; Mr. Nelson Mena - Representative of the Organization of American States and Technical Secretary of the Group of Experts for the Control of Money Laundering - GELAVEX; my friend María Epifanía González - Pro Tempore Chair - Minister Executive Secretary of the Secretariat for the Prevention of Money Laundering or Property (UIF-SEPRELAD) and outgoing Chair of the Group of Experts for the Control of Money Laundering; Vice Minister of Social Defense and Controlled Substances, Felipe Cáceres; Mr. Deputy Attorney of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Javier Moncada; Mr. Thierry Rostan, Representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime UNODC BOLIVIA; And all delegations of the member countries of the OAS that are present.

Welcome to the brothers of Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, El Salvador, Trinidad and Tobago; Observers Members of the different International Organizations that we also have the pleasure of welcoming in our land.

As a representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, we proudly and with great commitment took the Chair of GELAVEX and we reiterate to the delegations of all participating countries the welcome words already expressed by our Minister of Economy, hoping that they feel embraced by multiculturalism and warmth of our people.

Although currently the institutionality of the International Community has given us signs that discourage our vocation to find proper solutions to regional problems, today we reiterate our conviction that multilateralism is the only answer to common problems when we take the shared responsibilities of all States.

We assume the chair of the GELAVEX, convinced that what has been achieved by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in the fight against drug abuse, confirms that multilateralism must now be more than ever understood by the States as a platform to combat crime. This can only be achieved if it is based on a deep respect for the sovereignty of the States and their self-determination to face this crime and its consequences. Only the sovereign



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understanding of the States of their own problems and of the design of solutions can deploy the sufficient dose of audacity and creativity required to achieve the maximum forcefulness for the solutions and the reparations of the multiple damages of the crime.

Only freedom, base of the autonomy can serve as support to achieve genuine and effective multilateral progress in the fight against drug abuse and its correlated economic crimes, such as Money Laundering, called by our Bolivian Criminal System as "Legitimation of Illicit Earnings".

We are aware that the damage of drug abuse to the economy of the region is huge, however, this damage is much more serious when analyzing the impact of drug abuse on the health of society. In Bolivia, we call it in our Political Constitution of the State as "Living Well", which is a concept that integrates not only the material well-being of our people, but also their spiritual well-being from an integral view of the human being in indissoluble unity with Mother Earth.

Our national progress that you will hear today in from our Minister Carlos Romero, show that the invasion of national sovereignties and the vertical imposition of the actions that countries must take on this and other matters is opposed to a notion of multilateralism. Multilateralism is understood as the expansion of democratic spaces and the exercise of the people's rights to both access to material assets and the multiple spiritual dimensions of happiness, which we understand in Bolivia as the "Living Well" that can only be achieved through the full exercise of the principles that in Bolivia we take from our indigenous world, such as reciprocity, harmony, redistribution and complementarity that are components that are articulated with the values of modern social states of law.

Multilateralism is understood as complementarity, in which everyone gives the best of themselves to the extent that they contribute to the highest aspirations of the people and keeps for themselves other elements of their own that, for not being outside the common core, must be subject to the vertical or dominant controls that lead to the invasion of freedom and autonomy deserved by all the communities that compose our humanity. Finally, in this International Forum, we reiterate our position already expressed in several international forums and platforms that the fair progress and achievements of the Inter-American community must be based on the genuine and sincere acceptance of the responsibility quotas that all States have and of our shared responsibility. This will allow us



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to articulate in a solid way the wills of our countries to combat the trafficking and use and abuse of drugs, and the key element of such crimes which is money laundering. This Group of Experts constitutes the hemispheric most important forum for the debate, analysis and conclusions regarding the struggle of the OAS Member States against money laundering and terrorism financing. In this framework, tomorrow we will propose guidelines for common work for the next year of the GELAVEX Group of Experts.

We welcome all the guests and we hope you feel like home, thank you.