

Argentine Senate  
Parliamentary Secretariat  
General Directorate of Publications

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DRAFT DECLARATION

The Argentine Senate

HEREBY DECLARES:

Its full support in the creation of a Latin American and Caribbean Criminal Court Against Transnational Organized Crime (COPLA), which would aid in the prosecution and trials of transnational organized crime in the region, and further supports the ongoing campaign which promotes its establishment.

Gabriela Michetti. –

BASIS

Mr. President:

This draft declaration seeks to gain the support of this Chamber in the creation of a Latin American and Caribbean Criminal Court Against Transnational Organized Crime to be established through an international treaty with all countries of the region that wish to join the cause.

This campaign is launched as an institutional response to transnational crime and the ineffective action of most Latin American countries in their endeavor to face and solve transnational organized crime.

Slowly but surely, the proliferation of groups involved in transnational organized crime is becoming the region’s main social problem, it embodies a threat to the democratic systems of its countries and constitutes a huge obstacle for the overall development of the region. Unfortunately, criminals are the only ones who have understood the global nature of the world nowadays, and they use that to their greatest advantage by structuring their own organizations beyond national boundaries. International networks which hide fugitives, global cooperation systems among criminal organizations, and worldwide exchange of information and arms by interconnected mafias are only some of the strategies which erode the effectiveness of national systems of prosecution of organized crime. The ineffectiveness of law enforcements, prosecuting attorneys and national courts, and the progressive co-opting of the justice system and these mafias are hindering the democratic powers of Latin American countries and undermining the citizens’ confidence in Republican institutions, which leads them to opt for authoritarian political parties. Should Latin America successfully face these regional problems, the region would be one step closer to autonomy which is a valuable demonstration of the capacity of integration. Furthermore, it would provide solutions to

particular challenges that most citizens tackle on an everyday basis, especially in the most vulnerable sectors of society.

The need for a regional strategy to tackle transnational organized crime in the region is becoming more evident each day; a strategy which would also set the foundations for the favorable regional integration which is necessary in order to solve the challenges that Latin American countries face. We have taken important steps in the path towards winning the battle against organized crime: the adhesion to the International Criminal Court and the Statute of Rome and our commitment with human rights and international law expressed constitutionally in various international agreements, such as the Pact of San José de Costa Rica and the Palermo Protocol in the United Nations. These are important steps in the battle against the growing organized crime groups in our countries which leave increasingly more devastating consequences in our citizens' safety.

Therefore, we believe that the Argentine Senate should publicly express its full support of this campaign by a draft resolution aimed at developing the Latin American and Caribbean Criminal Court Against Transnational Organized Crime, COPLA for its acronym in Spanish, and the recently launched campaign aimed at establishing the Court in a wide range of Argentine and Latin American civil societies.

To these effects, I ask my fellow colleagues to approve this project.

Gabriella Michetti. -