

United States Mexico Joint Statement on The Prevention of Violence in the Border Region

The United States and Mexico share an interest in creating a border that promotes security, economic competitiveness, and vibrant bi-national communities. The extent, complexity, and interrelated character of these goals present special challenges that require close bilateral coordination and communication.

Both governments are committed to guarantee the safe and secure flow of people across the border and share a deep concern about events at our border that result in the loss of human life. Recent incidents along our common border underscore the urgency with which the United States and Mexico need to take decisive actions to avoid the recurrence of such events. They also highlight the need to confirm our shared responsibility for border security and public safety and the resolve to strengthen our partnership. The United States and Mexico are committed to enforce the law fully in all cases in which violence of any kind or form affects or threatens citizens of either country.

The current level of understanding, collaboration, and coordination between the United States and Mexico is historic and unprecedented. Over the last 18 months, both governments have worked closely on a wide variety of issues, including cross-border communications, port of entry operations, facilitation of legitimate trade and travel, information sharing, law enforcement training, repatriation procedures, operations against organized crime, and other efforts to enhance public safety. The United States and Mexico consider that deeper bilateral cooperation is essential to deter border violence, minimize the need for United States and Mexican federal law enforcement officers to resort to lethal force, and ensure that such use of force is consistent with the policies and standards of our respective agencies and in compliance with bilateral law and international instruments to which the United States and Mexico are both parties.

Accordingly, under the auspices of the Declaration by the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Mexican States Concerning Twenty-First Century Border Management – and the Executive

Steering Committee established to put that Declaration into practice – the United States and Mexico identify the following areas for deepened collaboration:

- Sharing law enforcement practices and procedures regarding the official use of lethal force; consulting with one another regarding the means, methods, and standards governing the use of lethal and less than lethal weapons; as well as policies on patrolling and pursuit of individuals in border areas; and training and awareness programs.
- Strengthening domestic training, coordination, and all policy measures necessary to prevent cross-border shootings with lethal and less than lethal weapons, consistent with legal standards and in compliance with mutually recognized commitments to exercise enforcement actions in full respect of each country's territorial sovereignty and in recognition of the value of human life.
- Improved cooperative situational awareness through the regular sharing of appropriate information and bi-national risk and common threat assessments and mapping of crime and violence in border regions, to improve the distribution of enforcement resources and capabilities in both countries.
- Improving how the U.S. and Mexican governments share information on incident investigations and the results of such investigations.
- Patrolling on either side of the border in high risk areas identified through the assessments so as to prevent and adequately respond to crime and violence, including incidents of rock-throwing, incursions, port runners, assaults on law enforcement personnel, and other criminal incidents involving private individuals.
- Proactive, coordinated border-wide law enforcement responses to violence and crime, including improved cross-border communications and assistance between investigative authorities.

- Improvement and full implementation of established liaison channels and standard operating procedures, including Border Liaison Mechanisms, Border Violence Protocols, Port Security Committees, Border Enforcement Security Task Forces, and other programs, which will be updated and expanded as appropriate.

Both governments will work to initiate promptly appropriate actions to implement the foregoing commitments and will ensure coordination and systematic follow-up through an ad-hoc mechanism agreed upon by the Executive Steering Committee established in the Declaration Concerning Twenty-First Century Border Management.

Executed this 15th day of December, 2010