

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR PRESS RELEASE

Presentation of evaluation, 2013-2015 CICIG Work Plan

1 April 2014

Institutional progress of MP and MINGOB

The representatives of various countries at the United Nations expressed their satisfaction on Tuesday with the results achieved in Guatemala through the coordinated efforts of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG), the Ministry of the Interior (MINGOB) and the Public Prosecutor's Office (MP).

The representatives of Costa Rica, Colombia, Canada, Sweden, Switzerland, United States, Mexico, Spain and Uruguay expressed their support for the actions undertaken by CICIG in the country and urged Guatemalan authorities to continue with the efforts of the Commission, which strives to reduce impunity.

This support was expressed during a meeting held on Tuesday at the United Nations' headquarters in New York with the Attorney General of Guatemala, Claudia Paz y Paz, and the Minister of the Interior, Héctor Mauricio López Bonilla. At the meeting the progress achieved in Guatemala through CICIG support in criminal investigations was reviewed.

It was also revealed that a restructuring process began at CICIG in October 2013 with the aim of reorientating and strengthening its Department of Investigation and Litigation. According to authorities, this restructuring has improved the efficiency of CICIG and focused its work on supporting investigations, in accordance with its mandate.

Furthermore, the Commission has provided important support to State institutions in criminal investigations as well as in procedures to nominate and select candidates for positions in different Guatemalan institutions.

Additional areas of CICIG support include assisting in the work of the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation, a body overseen by the Ministry of the Interior, and in creating and defining the structure of a School of Criminal Investigation, in conjunction with the Ministry of the Interior and the Public Prosecutor's Office (MP).

López Bonilla also added that coordinated efforts were being undertaken so that DIGICRI could initiate the investigations and cases for which it was created.

At the meeting, Guatemalan authorities also touched on skills transfer to the MP, stating their intention to bolster the capacities of the Special Anti-Impunity Prosecutor's Bureau.

Guatemalan authorities and the United Nations agreed to provide any contributions they deem necessary to the study into the fight against impunity as well as to define the meaning of impunity.

It was also revealed that CICIG had pledged to draft a good practices manual on the investigation and dismantling of criminal structures.

It has also vowed to assess all justice sector institutions and identify the minimum elements needed to get the fight against impunity on track and to ensure the institutional mission is fulfilled.