

**Statement on behalf of the African Group at the 13th United Nations Congress on
Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, 12 to 19 April, Doha, Qatar Brazil
delivered by H.E. Ambassador, Abel Adhlakun AYOKO**

Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Vienna, 12 April 2015

Mr. President,

1. On behalf of the African Group, allow me to congratulate you on your election as President of the Thirteenth UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The group also extends its congratulations to the other members of the Bureau. We are confident of your leadership and capability to conduct the work of this Congress towards a successful conclusion and assure you of the full support of the African Group.
2. The African Group would like to express its appreciation to the hosting Government of Qatar for all the efforts made in the preparation of this event and the excellent arrangements made in Vienna and Qatar respectively to ensure the efficient participation of all delegates in this Congress.
3. We would like to thank the secretariat for providing the necessary documentation as well as facilitation of regional preparatory meetings.
4. The African Group associates itself with the statement delivered by H.E Ambassador Evandro Didonet of Brazil on behalf of the Group of 77 & China.
5. The African Group takes note of the Africa Regional Preparatory meeting and the recommendations held in 2014 in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) and which clearly identified the areas of concern and the expectations of our Continent.

Mr. President,

6. The Group would like to reiterate its unequivocal condemnation and serious concern about the rise in terrorism and terrorist acts in all parts of the world and stress the necessity of tracking the perpetrators of these acts and bringing them to justice, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. We therefore call on all Member States to strengthen cooperation at the international, regional and sub-regional levels to combat the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters including enhancing and timely information sharing, logistical support and capacity-building activities including as provided by the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the UNODC upon request by Member States.
7. Equally, the Group expresses its deep concern at the increase in incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups, for any purpose, including with the aim of raising funds or gaining political concessions. The Group notes that ransoms paid to terrorists are used as one of the sources of funding for

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FOR THE PRESIDENT OF THE BRITISH COUNCIL

12 April 1951

Dear Sir,

The first of the three copies of the report which you are sending me is for the use of the Council. The second is for the use of the British Council and the third is for the use of the British Council and the British Council. I am sending you the first copy of the report which you are sending me. I am sending you the second copy of the report which you are sending me. I am sending you the third copy of the report which you are sending me.

The British Council is pleased to receive your report on the work of the Council during the year 1950-51. I am sending you the first copy of the report which you are sending me. I am sending you the second copy of the report which you are sending me. I am sending you the third copy of the report which you are sending me.

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their activities, including further kidnappings. In that regard, we call on Member States to enhance international cooperation to address gaps related to our measures to combat financing of terrorism and to take all necessary measures to prevent terrorists from benefiting from ransom payments, including by establishing the payment of ransom as a crime within their domestic legislation.

8. Additionally, the increasing links between terrorist activities and transnational organized crime, in particular, corruption, drug trafficking, trafficking in firearms as well as money-laundering remains a serious concern. The Group believes that all Member States has the responsibility to work collectively to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We would like to call on Member States to strengthen measures aimed at securing borders, in order to prevent these forms of transnational organized crimes and the movement of terrorists groups across borders.
9. Furthermore, the African Group calls on the necessity to take urgent measures to prevent, prosecute and punish corruption, including the transfer abroad and laundering of assets derived from corruption and to cooperate and assist in the identification, freezing and seizures as well as to speed up the recovery and return in accordance with Chapter V of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. In this regard, the Group urges all Member States to enhance international cooperation in particular the simplification of legal procedures to facilitate the unconditional return of illicitly acquired assets to their countries of origin. We also call for the full implementation of the UNCAC, including the pertinent provisions regarding the preventive measures. Equally, the Group welcomes with appreciation the adoption in Panama in 2013 of the resolution 5/4 related to "Follow-Up to The Marrakech Declaration On The Prevention Of Corruption".

Mr. President,

10. The African Group continues to protect children and youth which constitute the vast majority of the population of Africa. It is for this reason that the protection of children and the prevention of their involvement in crime or victimization by crime especially in post-conflict societies remains one of the highest priorities within the Region. In this regard, the Group emphasises that particular attention should be given to the collection of reliable data on all aspects of the relationship between youth and crime, and to address the root causes of the problem as well as to awareness-raising.
11. In the above-context, the Group would like to highlight the importance of existing international instruments for the protection of children such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the United Nations norms and standards towards the development of policies in the area of juvenile justice and calls for their full implementation.

Mr. President,

12. The African Group reiterates its strong condemnation over the violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families motivated by racism, racial discrimination, stigmatisation and hate crimes, xenophobia, and other related forms of intolerance. In particular the practice of mandatory detention of irregular migrants, their criminalisation and treatment in the context of border control, is inconsistent with international human rights laws and must therefore be seized. In this context the Group encourages states to consider ratifying the existing relevant international legal instruments including the international convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families.
13. At the same time, the African Group encourages countries to enhance cooperation in a comprehensive manner and to develop effective measures to prevent the smuggling of migrants, while ensuring the protection of their rights, including access to justice regardless of their immigration status, nationality, gender, ethnicity, age or religion, and non-criminalization in accordance with parties' obligations under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.

Mr. President,

14. The African Group is of the view that the exchange of good experiences and the effective application of the UN standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice is fundamental and calls for their continuous up-dating where necessary, taking into account the new developments. In this respect, the African Group welcomes the work of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Group on the Revision of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and takes note of the draft updated Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, as finalised by the Expert Group at its meeting held in Cape Town, South Africa from 02 to 05 March 2015 and looks forward to the consideration of and action by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on this revision.
15. Additionally, the Group reaffirm its commitment and strong political will in support of effective, fair and accountable criminal justice systems and institutions comprising them. In this regard, the Group encourages all Member States to take concrete steps to ensure effective implementation of the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems, through, inter alia, development of national plans for review and reform of legal aid policies for expansion of access to effective legal aid for indigent criminal defendants and to consider establishment of mechanisms for continuous assessment of the implementation of the UN Principles and Guidelines.

Mr. President,

16. The African Group remains seized with the continuous and unabated illicit trafficking in cultural property. In this regard, we stress the urgent need to enhance international cooperation to counter the illicit trafficking in cultural property, as it represents a very serious form of organised crime, and a violation of the cultural heritage of all peoples of the world. Accordingly, we stress the importance of developing a legal instrument within the framework of the United Nations to address this issue and to strengthen international commitment to tackle the illicit trafficking in cultural property.
17. The global threat posed by the rise of criminal activities carried over the internet, in particular the use of new information technology to perpetrate criminal offences including child pornography, terrorism related activities, financial crimes and other serious crimes also remain a serious concern for the African Group. In our view, cybercrime requires a comprehensive response that goes beyond the provision of technical assistance and the scope of existing instruments governing transnational organised crime. In this regard, while welcoming the work done by the open-ended working group on cybercrime as well as the comprehensive study on cybercrime, the Group stresses the urgent need for all Member States to elaborate and adopt a legally-binding instrument on cybercrime in order to enhance international cooperation and to effectively address this global challenge.
18. In addition, the Group expresses concerns over the continuous challenge posed by crimes that have an impact on the environment such as Rhino Poaching. The Group commends ongoing efforts and collaboration by its Member States to improve effective measures to prevent and counter these crimes. We believe that strengthening legislation, capacity-building, law enforcement efforts and criminal justice responses in dealing with transnational organised crime, corruption and money-laundering linked to such crimes will further enhance international cooperation.
19. Furthermore, the challenge posed by illicit trafficking in precious metals and illegal mining continues to have an impact on sustainable development in Africa. In this context, the Group notes with appreciation the ongoing efforts currently undertaken by the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute in designing and promoting an international strategy to combat illicit trafficking in precious metals. We therefore look forward to the conclusion of this process.

Mr. President,

20. The evolving nature of transnational organised crime activities poses a real challenge to our continent and seriously threatens our efforts towards sustainable development. Therefore, our Group would like to call for the provision of relevant and adequate technical assistance including equipment, based on the specific needs of requesting countries in order to strengthen their capacities to fight such criminal activities and protect their populations. Therefore the Group calls for strong support to all African regional instruments and initiatives aimed at fighting terrorism, drug trafficking and other transnational organised crimes. Furthermore the Group recalls the role played by the African Centre for Study and Research on Terrorism based in Algeria and

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calls for its strong support along with all other relevant African mechanisms and instruments.

21. In addition, we reaffirm that the provision of technical assistance including legal advisory training of criminal justice practitioners, legislative drafting, capacity building and equipment is fundamental in order to strengthen the legal frameworks and build the capacities of our countries to deal effectively with the prevention and suppression of terrorism including the financing of terrorism, corruption, money-laundering and trafficking in persons.

Mr. President,

22. The African Group believes that the fight against criminal activities is a common responsibility of all countries. While recognising our shared responsibility to uphold the human dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms of all; the African Group calls on the full respect of the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States, their national laws as well as their socio-cultural and religious peculiarities.
23. In conclusion, the African Group would like to welcome with appreciation the extension of the offer by the Government of Japan, to host the forthcoming 14th United Nations Crime Congress in 2020.
24. Finally, Mr. President, the African Group would like to reiterate once again its sincere gratitude to the people and the Government of Qatar for their warm and generous hospitality and for the excellent preparation and outstanding facilities provided for the hosting of the 13th United Nations Crime Congress.

I thank you.

