

**STATEMENT OF THE ASIA AND PACIFIC GROUP  
AT THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE  
13th UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON CRIME  
PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**12 APRIL 2015, DOHA**

**To be delivered by**

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Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan**

**Statement**  
**on Behalf of the Asian and Pacific Group**  
**Thirteenth United Nations Congress on**  
**Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**  
**12–19 April 2015**  
**Doha, Qatar**

**Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. I have the honor and privilege to make this statement on behalf of the Asian and Pacific Group. At the outset, the Group wishes to warmly congratulate you and other members of the General Committee on your election. The Group would also like to express sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government of the State of Qatar for the outstanding organization and warm hospitality of this very important meeting. Special thanks go as well to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for the tremendous efforts and facilitation throughout the preparatory process, including the regional preparatory meetings, in the run up to the Crime Congress. The Group reiterates its readiness to actively participate in the proceedings and activities of the Crime Congress and looks forward to a productive and meaningful outcome under your able guidance.

**Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

2. The convening of the Thirteenth Congress could not have come at a better and more relevant time. The United Nations Summit for the

adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, to be held on 27-29 September 2015 in New York, provides an excellent opportunity for the Crime Congress to underline the relationship and nexus between the justice sector and sustainable development, while integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider UN agenda in the most effective manner.

3. Furthermore, the Congress continues to serve as a unique and vital forum that brings together policy makers, professionals and experts while at the same time providing ample space for a thorough discussion on how best to tackle challenges relating to current and emerging forms and trends of crime; thus considerably contributing to the national, regional and international efforts in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice. It is therefore crucial that our deliberations reinforce the Doha Declaration as a roadmap with concrete measures and action-oriented recommendations for the upcoming five years.

4. In this context and building on the Salvador Declaration which recognized the centrality of crime prevention and the criminal justice system to the rule of law and that long-term sustainable economic and social development and the establishment of a functioning, efficient, effective and humane criminal justice have a positive influence on each other, the Doha Declaration, which we fully support, reiterates the importance of promoting peaceful, corruption free, and inclusive societies for sustainable development while focusing on a people-centered approach that provides access to justice for all with effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

**Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

5. In spite of the fact that much progress has been made especially in respect of enhancing the international legal framework including relevant United Nations guidelines and standards, many issues remain of paramount concern that warrant our undivided attention and collective commitment.

6. Compounded with their transnational scope and far-reaching implications, environment-related crimes are increasingly posing multi-layered threats not only to the wildlife and ecological resources but also to the living and safety of communities and societies as well as to economies and development. It is essential to seriously and adequately address those threats including through adopting a preventative approach while enhancing regional and international cooperation particularly in sharing information and providing technical assistance and capacity-building.

7. In addition, cybercrime has increasingly become a multi-dimensional and transnational challenge that targets individuals, corporations and states on the one hand and facilitates committing other serious crimes on the other. Criminals and organized crime groups misuse sophisticated tools and technology for their criminal intention which leads to aggravation of the threats to the security and economies of many countries. This demands a holistic approach which includes enhancing national capacity building as well as effective coordination and

cooperation in deterring and preventing such crime. In this context, the Group welcomes the work of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Group to conduct a Comprehensive Study on the Problem of Cybercrime and Responses to it by Member States, the International Community, and the Private Sector.

8. The fact that illicit trafficking in cultural property and other related offences continues unabated demonstrates that the international response has been lagging behind in protecting and preserving the global cultural heritage. Therefore, it is crucial that the legal and institutional infrastructure as well as implementation and cooperation at the national, regional and international levels commensurate with the risks and threats associated with such crimes; thus providing an effective protection and recovery of cultural property. In this respect, the Group welcomes the adoption of the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences and looks forward to others steps and measures that will enhance our collective responsibility in the prevention and protection against trafficking in cultural property.

**Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

9. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption constitute the pillar of the International legal framework in combating transnational organized crime and corruption. However, the efficacy of those

instruments largely depends on the faithful implementation of their provisions and international cooperation particularly in respect of mutual legal assistance and extradition, where states should afford each other the widest possible assistance to enable competent national authorities to efficiently discharge their mandates with a view to upholding criminal justice.

10. Moreover and in the context of combatting corruption, the Group wishes to underscore the importance of international cooperation with respect to the recovery of illicitly acquired assets. In this connection, the Group urges all States to take all necessary measures to ensure the speedy return of the said assets to the country of origin.

**Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

11. Human rights, the rule of law and criminal justice systems are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. Under their jurisdiction, Member States are encouraged to promote and protect a wide range of human rights of all individuals especially those affected by crime, including women, children, youth, migrants and members of their families. Also, it is vital to accord due attention to those groups in conflict and post-conflict situations.

12. In this connection, the Group calls for Member States to integrate rights-based, gender-specific approach in their national crime prevention and criminal justice policy. In this regard, The United Nations standards and norms may serve as practical tools for Member States in accounting

for justice and the rule of law.

13. The Group wishes to highlight that the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, especially women and children, is growing in scale and complexity worldwide. States should provide, pursuant to their obligations under international and domestic laws, adequate protection and assistance to the victims of traffickers, while addressing the root causes thereof.

14. The Group strongly and unequivocally condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. The Group wishes to underline the imperative of making concerted efforts to eradicate the scourge of terrorism in accordance with international law, including human rights law, refugee law and humanitarian law

15. While expressing great appreciation to UNODC in fulfilling its mandate, the Group cannot stress enough the importance of inter-agency cooperation and technical assistance for the transfer of technology and capacity-building of criminal justice systems in order to effectively prevent and suppress crime, including those relating to terrorism. The Group urges the Office to continue to work with relevant stakeholders in refining needs assessment processes and mechanisms of Member States.

16. Finally, the Group wishes to express its full support for the Government of Japan in its bid to host the upcoming Crime Congress in

2020.

I thank you