



**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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**PRESIDENT OF THE 69<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**AT**

**THE OPENING OF THE 13<sup>TH</sup> UNITED NATIONS  
CONGRESS ON CRIME PREVENTION  
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**DOHA, QATAR**

**12 APRIL 2015**

*[Please check against delivery]*

His Highness Sheikh Tamin bin Hamad Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar,

His Excellency Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, President of the 13th United Nations Crime Congress,

Excellencies,

Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General,

Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to be here and thank the Government and people of Qatar for hosting the 13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. I also thank them for supporting the work of the United Nations, particularly the activities and priorities of the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly.

The theme for this 13<sup>th</sup> Congress: *“Integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda...”* is both timely and important, for two reasons:

First, it provides an opportunity to review our collective efforts to shape the agenda of the United Nations on crime prevention and criminal justice. This is an important forum to focus on crimes affecting the ability of millions of people around the world to realize a life of prosperity and dignity.

Second, and of great importance, it will feed into the ongoing intergovernmental process being for formulating an inclusive and transformative post-2015 development agenda.

### **Excellencies,**

Advances in information communication technologies (ICT) have been important drivers of the globalisation process. New enterprises and services, and major developments in production have sprung up across the globe since the ICT revolution. Entire societies have been transformed, and people's lives changed for the better. We can now share knowledge, experiences and whatever else we want is a matter of seconds.

However, the ICT and globalisation transformation has also generated significant challenges and risks. Along the globalisation trajectory, new criminal threats are emerging; a challenge further exacerbated by the speed with which individuals and criminal gangs can share information around the world.

Whether it is armed violence by criminal gangs or drug trafficking; human trafficking or trafficking of human organs; terrorism or cybercrime; corruption or other forms of transnational organised crime; there is a compelling case for enhanced international action to combat and dismantle networks and platforms that perpetuate these crimes.

While crime is an unfortunate reality in all countries around the world, there are varying degrees of intensity and frequency. As the Secretary-General's report on the state of crime and criminal justice systems worldwide points out, there has been an increase in some crimes since the 12<sup>th</sup> Congress in Salvador, especially terrorism and drug-related crimes.

There are also dramatic and negative impacts on the poor and vulnerable, especially with regard to illicit trafficking and armed violence. We have an obligation to address these problems to secure our sustainable future. Finding solutions to the threat of cybercrime is also urgent, moreso for developing countries.

I am pleased that this Congress will also focus on new and emerging forms of transnational crime, including wildlife and forest crime, which are of great concern for many countries. These crimes not only threaten environmental sustainability, they also affect national economies and can contribute to grave security risks, including funnelling transnational organized crime.

**Excellencies,**

While working to prevent crime, we must acknowledge that governance, including rule of law, is an essential ingredient for sustainable and inclusive economic growth and development. No doubt, these two go hand-in-glove with the need for a fair and independent criminal justice system.

These issues will be critically important as we formulate the post-2015 development agenda. As I have previously stated, our efforts to attract private sector investment, and its contribution to the new agenda, requires a degree of certainty regarding the business environment.

Issues such as integrity of contracts and fair and impartial access to timely justice, speak to the need to strengthen rule of law and criminal justice as enabling frameworks for business to prosper; and by extension, growth and development.

Increasingly, there is greater recognition that criminality, including organized crime, flourishes in countries with weak institutions and legislation, poor accountability mechanisms, corruption, porous borders and limited service delivery for citizens.

We should exert all efforts to create peaceful, just and prosperous societies by strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice systems, norms and standards, while combating the threats that undermine them, in particular transnational organized crime, illicit trafficking and corruption.

Law enforcement at the national level plays a critical role in preventing and controlling crime. Greater cooperation and coordination at bilateral, regional and multilateral level is therefore essential to combat the growing trend of transnational organized

crime. Emphasis should especially be given to capacity building in crime detection and prevention, sharing of quality crime information, and data and forensic analysis.

Steps taken thus far are encouraging. Goal Sixteen, as proposed by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, seeks to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. We should concretise this aspiration with clear targets and implementation indicators.

### **Excellencies,**

In February, the General Assembly held a High-level Thematic Debate on integrating crime prevention and criminal justice in the post-2015 development agenda. The debate had an important outcome, and highlighted that there is an important relationship between rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice, and sustainable development.

Participants stressed the urgent need to strengthen the implementation of legal frameworks, and to enhance international cooperation, including on technical assistance and capacity building. They also recognized the need for broad and inclusive public participation in the development and implementation of crime prevention and criminal justice strategies.

I hope those conclusions will support you in your discussions and deliberations over the next week.

Let us use this forum to generate concrete ideas that can positively contribute to the on-going negotiating process for the post-2015 development agenda in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice.

I thank you for your attention.