



ELEVENTH UN CONGRESS ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Bangkok, Thailand 18-25 April 2005



19 April 2005

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

In Committee I of the 11th UN Crime Congress today, the possibility of a new UN convention on money-laundering was the subject of much debate.

The United States representative said that there was still much work to be done with the existing convention before determining that there was need for yet another convention on money-laundering. The representative of Luxemburg speaking on behalf of the European Union concurred, saying that the EU was not in favour of drafting a convention on money-laundering.

The representative of the United Kingdom said that the international community should avoid seeing new conventions as the automatic solution. He said that, if there was one theme he would like to see emerging from the deliberations, it was “implementation, implementation and implementation”.

The representative of Morocco said it was necessary to adopt a global policy on the crime of money-laundering in the form of modern laws and the enhancement of financial systems.

The representative of Turkey supported the High-Level Panel’s recommendation to draft an international convention on money-laundering, saying that such a convention could make non-mandatory provisions of other UN conventions mandatory, and adherence to Financial Action Task Force recommendations universal.

The Republic of Korea pointed out that law enforcement agencies needed a system that facilitated information sharing to address the global threat of e-crime. He added that advanced nations needed to provide developing countries with financial, educational and technical assistance.

The Nigerian representative stressed that his country would not tolerate corruption and economic and financial crimes anymore. Nigeria has charged five of its largest banks for allowing corruption to flourish in the country. The representative of Brazil felt that international cooperation in the fight against international crime seemed to be a kind of taboo.

Switzerland noted that Swiss regulations to counter money-laundering were among the most effective in the world. He said it was easiest to detect funds from criminal organizations when they entered the financial system. Therefore, it was crucial to develop a level of training and monitoring of the people involved in this task.

The representative of Italy said it was important that investigations into money-laundering be assigned to a specialized police force. Ukraine said that one had to realize that criminal work was often linked with politics, as some criminal structures tried to lobby the authorities.

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On the subject of cyber crime, Cameroon said that the weak link was the lack of an appropriate framework to deal with cyber crime. That framework was currently being drafted, and the Congress provided an opportunity to address the issue, he said.

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