



ELEVENTH UN CONGRESS ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Bangkok, Thailand 18-25 April 2005



25 April 2005

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

The Eleventh UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice today adopted the “Bangkok Declaration” which addressed such issues as trafficking in human beings, money-laundering, corruption, cybercrime, restorative justice, terrorism and transnational organized crime.

At a press briefing, Antonio Maria Costa, Secretary-General of the Congress, and Executive Director, United Nations *Office on Drugs and Crime*, said the Declaration, “had a lot of substance”.

He highlighted key aspects of the Declaration, referring to the call for ratification and implementation of the existing universal instruments against terrorism. In this context, he lauded Zambia’s ratification of the Firearms Control Protocol -- the last needed for the Protocol to enter into force.

The High-Level Segment of the Congress also concluded its session today.

Abdulkaki M. Swadi, Adviser, Ministry of Justice of Iraq, said his Government was committed to fighting terrorism and crime in all its forms, and technical assistance was needed in that respect. He said Iraq was currently working on a legal framework in which to fight crime; and thanked UNODC for its determination to cooperate with his country.

Iskandar Ghattas, Assistant Minister of Justice for International and Cultural Cooperation Division of Egypt, said the fight against terrorism was one of the Congress’ most basic concerns.

Tun Shin, Deputy Attorney-General of Myanmar, said his country was actively addressing the area of economic and financial crimes. A money-laundering control law had been promulgated in 2002, in accordance with international standards and the Financial Action Task Force recommendations.

On the issue of cybercrime, Guy De Vel, Observer and Director-General of the Council of Europe, said that many speakers had stressed the importance of the Europe Council convention on cybercrime -- the only one existing which was open to non-member States. Kedar Paudel, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs of Nepal, said that cybercrime was relatively new to many developing countries, which had yet to create the necessary legal framework to confront it.

Friedrich Hamburger, European Commission Ambassador to Thailand, said the EU was committed to remaining at the forefront of the fight against money-laundering, and the financing of terrorism by constantly improving its anti-money laundering framework.

Patrick Villemur, France, said that his Government attached great importance to capacity-building in terms of operational instruments. Given the demands of implementing already existing

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instruments, he did not think it was wise to open new fields of endeavour as that would dilute what had already been achieved.

Dato Haji Kifrawi Bin Dato Haji Kifli, Attorney-General of Brunei Darussalam, said his Government had enacted a new law on the smuggling and trafficking of persons and that its extradition law was being reviewed to simplify the process.

Mohammed Bin Ali Koman, Secretary-General of the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior, said that it had proposed a fourth protocol to Prevent and Punish the Trade in Human Organs in the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Commission two years ago. It hoped that negotiations on a comprehensive convention to combat terrorism would be successful and that the international community would agree on a decisive definition of terrorism that would distinguish between terrorism and the legitimate right in struggling for liberation and countering aggression.

The Congress closed with the adoption of the Report of the Congress.

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