

Speech by  
H.E ANG Vong Vathana, Minister of Justice of the Kingdom of  
Cambodia at the 11<sup>th</sup> UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal  
Justice  
(18-25 April 2005, Thailand)

Your honorable Mr. President  
**Distinguished delegates,**  
Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, I would like to extend, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, delegates, and myself as a Minister of Justice, to this congress our earnest thanks to Ministry of Justice of Thailand for its superb hospitality and warm reception rendered to us. I am also extremely appreciative of the host country for its great efforts in making favorable condition of this congress.

Mr. President,

I would like to inform the Congress activities of the Royal Government of Cambodia during five years plan (2000-2004) concerning to Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. During that time, Cambodia has complicated political crisis, financial and security problems. At the same time, Cambodia has also been suffered general insecurity influence such as terrorism, drug trafficking, money laundering, women and children trafficking, other transnational organized crimes.

In order to deal with this phenomena, the Royal Government of Cambodia has strong commitment to reform its criminal justice system and to work at national and international levels, in cooperation against terrorism and other transnational organized crimes and to take various countermeasures in dealing with terrorism and other transnational organized crimes; among them are the national legislative measures, and cooperation with other countries through extradition treaties and mutual legal assistance.

In this occasion, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I would like to inform the Congress the situation concerning Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice of the Royal Government of Cambodia as follow:

**Cambodia current legal provision against Transnational Organized Crime**

The existing national laws related to Transnational Organized Crimes are still inadequate. During the past few years, the Royal Government of the kingdom of Cambodia has drafted and promulgated several laws related to Transnational Organized Crimes, which include the provision for imposing severe criminal penalties against organized crime groups as well as protecting victims and witnesses from the violence of organized crimes.

The main domestic laws against Transnational Organized Crimes are; law on punishment of the act of terrorism (January 31, 1992); the provision relating the judiciary and criminal law and criminal procedure applicable in Cambodia during the transnational period (January 31, 1992); law on criminal procedure (January 28, 1993); law on suppression of the kidnapping, trafficking, and exploitation of human persons (January 16, 1996); law on control of drugs (December 09, 1997).

There are several drafting legislations against Transnational Organized Crimes, such as drafting of Criminal Code; Criminal Procedure Code; draft law on Terrorism; Money Laundering; Anti-Corruption Law; Law on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation; Law on **People Smuggling**; etc.

### **International legal cooperation against Transnational Organized Crimes**

The Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia has committed to ratify UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crimes and Protocols supplementing to the Convention. The kingdom of Cambodia has already signed the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crimes, Protocol on Trafficking in Persons and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air on November 11, 2001. The Royal Government of the kingdom of Cambodia is in the process of preparing documents for ratifying and acceding to UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crimes and its Protocol.

In 2005, Royal Government of Cambodia ratified the UN convention on drugs such as: Single Convention on Narcotics Drugs, 1961, Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971, and UN convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic and Psychotropic Substance, 1988.

The Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia has strong commitment to ratify and to access to all UN Conventions and Protocol related to terrorism suppression including financing of terrorism. With this regard, the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia requested assistance from UNODC for organizing the workshop on 12 UN Convention against terrorism, and the IMF for legal and financial assistant in order to draft Law on Money Laundering in conformity with the UN Conventions against Financing Terrorism and provide legal and technical training for judges, prosecutors, officials of the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior and other relevant institutions dealing with the questions of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism.

The Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia signed the MOU with the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand on Bilateral Cooperation for Elimination Trafficking in Children and Women and assisting victims of trafficking on May 31, 2003 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Treaty between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Kingdom of Thailand on Extradition signed on May 06, 1998 in Bangkok, Thailand. Treaty on the Extradition between the Kingdom of Cambodia and Republic of China signed on February 09, 1999, in Beijing, China. On December 19, 2003, the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia signed the Subsidiary Arrangement related to Asia Regional Cooperation to Prevent Trafficking Project with the Government Australia.

The Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia is in the process of signing MOU on Extradition between Laos PDR and Vietnam and signing ASEAN treaty on mutual assistance in criminal matters.

In 2004, Royal Government of Cambodia and Australian Government established Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation to fight against international terrorism for the purpose of creating a framework for international terrorism control and crime prevention cooperation.

In 2005, Australia Government and England have provided technical and financial assistance to the Royal Government of Cambodia for drafting Anti-terrorism Law in conformity with the 12 UN Conventions against Terrorism.

Once again, I would like to thank to Government of Thailand for hosting this Congress.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.