

The Eleventh United Nations Congress
on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Bangkok

18-25 April 2005

Statement of Minister for Interior of Pakistan

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Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, *Respected members of criminal justice community,*
Ladies and Gentlemen!

**I feel honoured to have availed the opportunity to
lead Pakistan's delegation to the** *High-level Segment of the* **11th United Nations
Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
being held in this beautiful city of** *Smiles.* ~~Bangkok.~~

I have no doubt that the 11th Congress will come up with important recommendations on how to meet the law and order challenges of the 21st Century, especially the challenges the international community is faced with due to new forms of criminality such as terrorism, transnational organised crime, and corruption.

I strongly believe that not only will the deliberations of the Congress have far-reaching impact on national law enforcement policies and criminal justice practices of countries across the

globe, but, by promoting the sharing of knowledge and dissemination of relevant expertise and experience, the Congress will be of immense benefit in ^{the formulation of} ~~formulating~~ international best practices; in facilitating collaboration between practitioners in the various disciplines of criminal justice system; in fostering viable and innovative approaches intended to reinvent existing systems, in mustering partnerships with public; and in providing a roadmap for more humane and effective methods of crime prevention and criminal justice.

Mr. President!

As a responsible member of the international community and as a front line state, Pakistan since 9/11 has played an historic role in the global war against terrorism. Nowhere in the world will you probably see so much effort being put in to curb terrorism, extremism and sectarianism as in Pakistan under the brave and visionary leadership of President Musharraf, several extremely serious attempts on his life notwithstanding.

Not only are we a party to almost all international instruments on terrorism, we are already a signatory

to UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime and UN Convention on Corruption. Let me also

announce before this august gathering that ~~we are~~ ^{the Government of} Pakistan has decided to ratify the Convention on TOC and we ~~now very close to ratifying these Conventions.~~ will be depositing the instruments of ratification during the course of this High-level Segment.

Indeed, Pakistan's Anti-Terrorist Act of 1997 is probably the most comprehensive law on the statute books. Our Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance 2002 is also one of the latest.

Mr. President!

We in Pakistan have also taken several steps to bring our national criminal justice legislation and practices closer to internationally recognised principles as reflected in United Nations standards and norms. More significantly, Judiciary was completely separated from the Executive in 2001. The anachronistic - colonial - Police Act of 1861 was replaced in 2002 with a modern police law, which seeks to transform police from a 'public-frightening' outfit into a 'public-friendly' service organisation. Indeed, the historic police reforms the present government introduced in 2002 are regarded as a model by many countries of the region providing a way forward for 21st century policing. Government of

Pakistan is exceptionally embarked upon spending billions on several law-and-justice-related capacity building IT projects including establishment of modern state of the art forensic science laboratories, automated fingerprint identification system, and police record and office management information system.

Mr. President!

The globalization of many contemporary crime problems has made international cooperation an urgent priority. In this context, Pakistan views appreciatively the leadership role both of UNODC and ~~Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and UNODC~~ in sensitizing the international community to focus their attention on such critical issues as enhanced human security and access to justice.

The Government of Pakistan also duly recognises the important role of UN Congresses, and has therefore decided to formally propose that the 12th Congress to be held in 2010 may take place in Pakistan. It is our earnest hope that Pakistan will be afforded the opportunity to host the next Congress.

In the end, let me place on record our gratitude to the government of Thailand and the Secretary^{General} of the 11th Congress and his staff for organising this momentous event in such a superb manner.

Thank you and God bless you all!