

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement of India at the High-Level Segment of the 11 th UN Congress On Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice 18 -25 April 2005, Bangkok.

Mr. President,

Let me congratulate you on your election as President of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. My delegation is confident that you will ensure that this Congress has a productive and purposeful outcome. Let me assure you of our complete support in this task.

2. We would like to place on record our appreciation for our gracious hosts, the Government of Thailand for the excellent arrangements made for the hosting of this important event. The Secretariat also deserves to be complimented for all the preparations that have facilitated our work.

3. We would like to associate ourselves with the statement made by . the Ambassador of Indonesia in his capacity as "Chairman of Group of 77 and China", at the inaugural session.

Mr. President,

4. The UN Congress has for over half a century substantially contributed to the evolution of agreed norms and approaches for preventing crime and delivering justice. India firmly believes that this Congress provides a broad platform to Governments, inter-governmental organizations, NGOs and individual experts to collectively suggest appropriate policies and strategies to deal with Transnational Organised Crime and Terrorism. We also believe that the UN Office on Drugs and Crime has an important role to play in assisting members to undertake capacity building through tailor-made technical assistance projects.

5. In the five year period since the 10th UN Congress in Vienna, extraordinary events have occurred which have had far reaching impact on the way the comity of nations address issues like terrorism, transnational crime and the linkages between the two. With globalization leading to the spread of crime and terrorism in various forms across State borders, the need for a concerted response from the International community is *a sine qua non* for the success of this Congress. We would be remiss if we do not reflect appropriate sensitivity to the implications of these extraordinary events.

Mr. President,

6. The global community now has the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols and the UN Convention against Corruption. The origin of these two conventions could be traced to the deliberations and outcomes of the 9th and 10th UN Congresses, which were duly followed up by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The outcome of the 10th UN Congress, the famous Vienna Declaration on "Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century" is a landmark document which has laid down the guide map for the work of CCPCJ. In order to ensure appropriate follow up of the UN Congress, we would like to suggest that the implementation of the outcome of the 11 th UN

Congress should be included as a separate agenda item in the annual sessions of CCPCJ. It is important that the role of the UN Congress is not diluted in any manner by expedient alternative approaches.

7. I would here also like to underline the importance of the preparatory work for the UN Congresses, which has, over time, become institutionalized. The preparatory work is carried out by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as well as the four regional preparatory meetings, which come up with specific recommendations. India believes that it needs to be ensured that the recommendations made by the Member States through the regional preparatory meetings should be appropriately reflected in the outcome of the Congress.

8. The preparatory process recognized the need to go beyond the existing patchwork of bilateral arrangements that do not yield the desired results. While India, apart from signing bilateral Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties, has entered into agreements to combat terrorism and organized crime, signed Extradition Treaties and maintains extradition arrangements with several countries, much work remains to be done for making these arrangements function as effective tools in the fight against Transnational Organised Crime. We therefore believe that the need exists for evolving a comprehensive legislative and operational framework for international cooperation with respect to Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance. Such a framework would, by harmonizing judicial processes facilitate universalisation of these arrangements.

9. We are further of the view that this Congress should recommend that International Control mechanisms should be developed to deal with the widely prevalent money laundering activities as well as counterfeit of currencies.. These need to be evolved to trace, freeze and forfeit funds linked to criminal activity spreading across borders and financing terrorism. Money constitutes the lifeblood of terrorism, and its generation through money laundering to finance terrorist activities needs to be eliminated. Our experience as a victim of cross border terrorism has made us particularly concerned about the threat to international peace and security posed by terrorist activities. In this context we would also urge that the possibility of bringing explosive substances under the scope of an International legal regime should be revisited and explored further.

Mr. President,

10. The Bangkok declaration should set the framework for a more proactive role in preventing and combating crime and terrorism in the coming years. An important element of this would be capacity building to meet the required standards in addressing the emerging threats in crime and terrorism including frontier areas such as cyber crimes, narco-terrorism, prevention of 'mega-terror' incidents, etc while ensuring that non-state actors do not gain access to WMDs. In this scenario, we welcome the finalization of the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. We further reiterate the need for the international community to adopt without any further delay, India's draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, as reiterated in UN Security Council Resolution 1566 of October 8, 2004.

Thank you, Mr. President.