



ELEVENTH UN CONGRESS ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Bangkok, Thailand 18-25 April 2005



24 April 2005

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

Speaking at the High-Level Segment of the Eleventh United Nations Crime Congress, Stephen Stedman, Special Adviser to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan today urged Member States to support the global strategy against terrorism put forward by Mr. Annan and underlined the need to agree on a universal definition of terrorism that could be part of a declaration at the high-level summit to be held in New York in September. The summit will mark the opening of the sixtieth General Assembly and the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations. In relation to the fight against terrorism, Mr. Annan had put forward the following concepts: dissuasion, deterrence, denial, development and defence of human rights at an International Summit on Democracy, Terrorism and Security held in Madrid in March 2005.

Turkey's experience in its struggle against terrorism had shown that determination and international cooperation were of the utmost importance said Cemil Cicek, Minister of Justice of Turkey. Christopher Ellison, Minister for Justice and Customs of Australia, said that money-laundering was the life blood of transnational organized crime and terrorism; Waldir Pires, Minister of State for Control and Transparency, Brazil, said that, while corruption was at the origin of many criminal activities, money-laundering was at the destination of criminal actions.

Nemine Ould Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Maouloud, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Justice of Mauritania, said that, in order to fight terrorism, his country focused on three pillars: the fight against poverty, ignorance and illiteracy; the promotion of women; and the protection of children. Maurice Kamto, Vice-Minister of Justice of Cameroon, expressed his hope that the international community would integrate the fight against poverty in its fight against crime and terrorism. He said poverty was the soil in which most crimes flourished. The Attorney-General of Cuba, Juan Escalona Reguera, reiterated his Government's strongest condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, wherever and whenever committed and with whatever motivations, including terrorism with States involved directly or indirectly.

Anrey Novikov, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, supported a fuller development of the potential of the United Nations as an instrument to counter new terrorist challenges and threats.

Kalombo Thomson Mwansa, Minister of Home Affairs of Zambia, said his Government had adopted a zero-tolerance policy against corruption. He noted that, since Zambia was bordered by eight countries, it was extremely vulnerable to transnational criminal groups.

Le The Tiem, Vice-Minister of Public Security of Viet Nam, observed that a number of factors obstructed the cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime, including the existence of different legal systems and concepts of criminal extradition.

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P.V Bhide, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs of India, suggested that the implementation of the outcome of the Eleventh Congress be included as a separate agenda item in the annual sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Patricia Olamendi Torres, Undersecretary for Multilateral and Human Rights of Mexico, asked the Congress to support Mr. Annan's reform efforts. She also said all must ratify and incorporate the various crime-related UN conventions into national legislation.

At a press briefing today, Jean-Paul Laborde, Chief, Terrorism Prevention Branch, United Nations *Office on Drugs and Crime* (UNODC), said that multilateral instruments that allowed States to cooperate with each other were essential in the fight against terrorism and, in that regard, UNODC helped requesting Member States to create a global legal framework. Burkhard Dammann, Senior Programme Management Officer, UNODC Bangkok, defined witness protection as a key element in the fight against trafficking in human beings. He also said that, besides trafficking for sexual exploitation, the numbers for men trafficked for the purpose of forced labour were also high. Akira Fujino, Regional Representative, UNODC, spoke on the various projects the UNODC was working on in the region. Public Service Announcements produced by the UNODC on human trafficking were shown after the press briefing.

The UNODC also released two CD-ROMs with Documentation from the First to the Tenth United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (1955-2000) and the Compilation of United Nations Resolutions and Documents on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (1947-2005), as well as a DVD on "Making Standards Work", a documentary commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

Two ancillary meetings provided suggestions on how financial/political institutions and civil society actors might identify and fight corruption. Other sessions discussed good practices for protecting the rights of children in conflict with the law and for preventing crime by focusing on the role of the family. Significant interest was shown in two ancillary meetings that were added to the official schedule on "women strategizing for penal abolition" and on setting standards in criminal justice in Kashmir, India.

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