



STATEMENT OF THE G-77 AND CHINA DURING THE 10TH UN CONGRESS ON CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS, 10-17 APRIL 2000 - DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR FRUCTUOSO PITTALUGA-FONSECA, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF URUGUAY

Mr. President,

We take this opportunity to thank organizers of the Congress for arranging this important event. We are also thankful to you for providing me the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

The Tenth Congress could not occur at better time than at the dawn of the 21st century to pave the way to address the new challenges facing humanity in the field of criminality such as transnational organized crime, money laundering, trafficking in arms and human beings, corruption and terrorism. In this regard, a concerted action at all levels in order to facilitate throughout the world a dynamic development of criminal policies and procedures focused on social justice, respect for human dignity, freedom, equality and security. No result could be achieved and permanently maintained without addressing the socio-economic roots of criminality.

In order to face the new challenges of the 21st Century particular attention should be given to the situation in developing countries because of the increasing internationalisation of criminal activities and their links with world economy and advanced technologies.

To promote the rule of law and reinforce criminal justice system the needed technical assistance should be granted to developing countries. This will put them in a position to reinforce their democratic institutions, guaranty the independence of their judicial system, implement international norms in the field of the administration of the criminal justice and prevent the marginalization of minorities and all discrimination towards them.

Regarding the future convention on transnational organised crime and associated protocols the Group of 77 and China is convinced that developing countries need to be provided with substantial long term assistance for implementing the obligations arising from the convention and the protocols. Criminal organisations today, use highly sophisticated methods in carrying out their nefarious activities. This enables them to stay a step ahead of the law enforcement agencies.

The battle against organised crime will remain inconclusive if all forms and causes which give rise to such activity are not addressed. It is necessary that steps be taken to strengthen international economic co-operation for fostering more equitable growth and development in the developing countries.

Furthermore, the main objective and core premise of the convention and the protocols should be to promote international co-operation through partnership based on shared responsibility and respect for principles of sovereignty, equal rights and non intervention. The role of the United Nations System to address global challenges with global solidarity should be reinforced. Particularly, a genuine co-operation at international, regional and sub-regional level should be established to mobilise necessary financial resources to assist developing countries in meeting the obligations arising from the implementation of the future United Nations convention against transnational organised crime. For this purpose, a Special Fund for technical assistance to the benefit of the developing countries should be established, in order to reinforce and modernise the administration of criminal justice through the utilisation of new technologies, training and research.

The fight against terrorism in all its forms, taking into account the grave menace it represents to the stability of the countries, should be reinforced. Measures should be taken to identify the obstacles to the progress of international co-operation, against terrorism, among which the convening under the auspices of the United Nations an International Conference and also effective action should be taken to eliminate sources of financing of terrorist activities.

We are also concerned by the increasing menace that constitute the trafficking and abuse of drugs. Particular attention should be given to provide assistance to the developing countries and transit countries affected by the drug world problem, in order to enable them to fight against this menace. On the other hand we are also

concerned by the trafficking in persons, particularly women and children and the smuggling of migrants, whose human rights must be seriously taken into account. A concerted action should also be taken to prevent the illicit manufacturing and trafficking of fire arms its parts and components and ammunitions.

The United Nations should also elaborate new international instruments aiming at the prevention and fight against information network criminality and other related crimes applicable both to developing and developed countries.

We also welcome the proposal for elaboration of an independent instrument of the United Nations against corruption.

The Group of 77 and China would like to stress the need to treat and analyse the social consequences of Crime with a general perspective of prevention against organised crime, raising public awareness, protection and assistance of the victims of organised crime and their families and rehabilitation of criminals.

In order to establish equity in the judicial process, more use of practical methods of reparative justice and substitution measures instead of criminal prosecutions and incarceration should be encouraged. Concrete measures could be taken and with the objective of addressing the grave problem of overcrowding in prisons. Appropriate technical assistance could also be provided to address the problem of juvenile delinquency, by providing better opportunities including training, to the young people. More opportunities should be given to local communities to participate in the formulation of crime prevention policies.

The quinquennial congresses of the United Nations on crime prevention and treatment of offenders should continue to be the privileged forum for the periodical exchange of information, experiences and specialised knowledge in order to formulate concrete recommendations and action oriented proposals pertaining to different types of national and transnational organized crimes. We heartedly welcome the inclusion of the High Level Segment in such Congresses as it indicates political support for the fight against crime and criminality and we hope that this forum will be available in the future also.

Mr. President,

The work of this Congress will remain incomplete unless measures are taken to strengthen the office of Drugs Control and Crime Prevention to enable it to fulfil its mandate. I appeal to all the donor countries especially the major donors to continue their support the ODCCP.