



**STATEMENT OF THE G-77 AND CHINA DURING THE FOURTEENTH UN
CONGRESS ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
KYOTO, JAPAN 7-12 MARCH 2021,
DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ALEJANDRO SOLANO ORTÍZ,
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Madam President, [H.E. Ms. Yoko KAMIKAWA, Minister of Justice, Japan]

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Group 77 and China. The Group is pleased to see you presiding over the General Committee of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and expresses to you and all Members of the Bureau its full support in the tasks ahead.

2. The Group thanks the Government of Japan for its hospitality and remarkable efforts made in preparing and hosting this important event in these difficult times. Special mention goes to H.E. Ambassador Takeshi Hikihara and his team for their exemplary work on the Political Declaration.

3. We extend our appreciation to the Secretariat for their tireless work.

4. This Congress remains a unique opportunity for bringing together representatives from governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and individual experts to address various topics in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

Madam President,

5. The Group welcomes the theme for this Congress, and is of the view that sustainable development and the rule of law at all levels are strongly interrelated and mutually reinforcing and, in this regard, reaffirms its commitment to the comprehensive and balanced implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

6. The Group welcomes the growing number of States that have ratified, accepted, or acceded to the UNTOC and its Protocols, as well as to UNCAC, since the Crime Congress in Doha.

7. The Group underscores the need for all States Parties to fully and effectively implement these instruments and acknowledges the role played by the Review Mechanism in improving the implementation of UNCAC and looks forward for the contribution that UNTOC's Review Mechanism can provide to States Parties towards the implementation of the Convention and the provision of technical assistance and cooperation.

8. The Group emphasizes the need to enhance international cooperation to prevent and combat crimes defined by the Conventions and the Protocols and underscores the need to enhance tailor made capacity-building and technical assistance upon request to developing countries to develop strategies in a comprehensive and integrated manner, taking into account the specific dimensions of prevention and effective law enforcement of each States Party.

Madam President,

9. The Group views the Crime Congress not only as a forum for debating issues relating to crime prevention and criminal justice, but also as an opportunity for Member States to provide strategic orientation to other policy-making bodies in this area, in

particular the CCPCJ, on developments and trends of crime and tools for its prevention, investigation, prosecution, and punishment.

10. The Group highlights and expresses its particular concern over the illicit trafficking of cultural property and related offences, including the increasing involvement of organized criminal groups, and terrorist groups, which continues to inflict increasing damages to the cultural heritage of our nations, and thus, to part of our identities.

11. The Group underscores the need to better understand and enhance our efforts, in accordance with each Member's national law, against the smuggling of commercial goods.

12. The Group acknowledges any existing, increasing or potential links, in some cases, between transnational organized crime and other illicit activities, in particular drug trafficking and money laundering, illicit financial flows and terrorism and its financing, and reaffirms the need for enhancing bilateral, regional and international cooperation in the area of exchange of information, extradition and mutual legal assistance, in accordance with domestic legislation and with the aim to contributing to countering the threat posed by transnational organized crime.

13. The Group recognizes the complex nature of cybercrime and will continue to actively participate in the implementation of UN GA Resolution 74/247 on elaboration of a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communication technologies for criminal purposes within the framework of the United Nations, taking into full consideration existing national, regional and international instruments and efforts at the national, regional and international levels on combating the use of information and communication technologies for criminal purposes, in particular the work and outcomes of the Open Ended Intergovernmental Expert Group to conduct a comprehensive study on cybercrime". We support the elaboration of a convention that takes into account, inter alia, the concerns and interests of all Member States, in particular developing countries.

Madam President,

14. On the particular issue of prevention of terrorism, and in order to face this challenge, the Group calls for strengthening international responses, in accordance with national legislation inter-alia, through more effective implementation and application of the UNTOC, and all applicable regional and international counter-terrorism legal instruments, as well as the comprehensive, balanced and effective implementation of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy. We strongly reaffirm that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, civilization, nationality or ethnicity, and reiterates that all efforts to counter it should be in line with international law.

15. The Group underscores the need to address crimes that have a significant impact on protected species of wild fauna and flora such as, illegal mining, trafficking in forest products, biological and natural resources, wildlife, as well as precious metals, in the respective fora.

16. The Group reiterates the importance of the use and application of the United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in support of effective, fair, humane, and accountable criminal justice systems, especially for women and children. In this regard, the Group encourages Member States to give due consideration to the Bangkok Rules, the Nelson Mandela Rules, as well as the Beijing Rules.

17. The Group strongly condemns all forms of violence against women, including gender-related killing of women and girls, which is the most extreme form of violence against women and calls upon the international community to prevent, prosecute and penalize such crimes and punish its perpetrators, according to their domestic legislation.

We also encourage the provision of access to justice and effective remedies to all, in particular, to victims for the harm suffered, as an important way of integrating gender perspectives into criminal justice system.

18. The Group also strongly condemns all forms of violence against and exploitation of migrants, migrant workers, and their families. The Group encourages countries to enhance cooperation in a comprehensive manner to develop effective measures to prevent the smuggling of migrants, while ensuring the protection of their rights, including access to justice regardless of their immigration status, nationality, race, gender, ethnicity, age or religion, and non-criminalization in accordance with domestic law and applicable international obligations.

Madam President,

19. The Group deeply regrets that despite the very explicit articles of the UNCAC, there appears to be an increase in the barriers and challenges in the asset recovery process and their return to countries of origin, including in cases that make use of settlements, and in this regard, reminds that States Parties shall afford one another the widest measures of international cooperation, and furthermore emphasizes that the management, administration and utilization of returned assets is the responsibility of the requesting state and that recovered assets, shall be returned without conditionalities and in full respect of the sovereign rights of the states of origin.

20. The Group expresses its serious concern over any form of ranking of Member States for the purposes of international cooperation in criminal matters. The Group remains strongly convinced that upholding multilateralism, including supporting an effective United Nations development system and avoid promulgating and imposing any measures and actions on developing countries not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, is essential to improve solidarity, international cooperation framework and reinforce States' capabilities to address and counter the transnational organized crimes.

21. The Group reiterates that UNODC needs adequate and sustainable resources to allow it to effectively implement an increasingly complex mandate. Therefore, the Group urges all States to increase their unconditional contributions, specifically to the General-Purpose Fund of UNODC.

22. The Group of 77 and China places great emphasis on the importance of the outcome of this Congress as well as on an adequate follow-up of the commitments adopted in its framework.

Thank you, Madam President.