



**Statement of the G-77 And China
during the 15th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates,
26 September to 1 October 2026,
delivered by H.E. Shambhu S. Kumaran,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India**

Mr. President,

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 15th 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 the United Arab Emirates for its hospitality and remarkable efforts in preparing and hosting this important event in these difficult times. Special mention goes to H.E. Judge Abdulrahman Murad AlBlooshi, Chairperson of the UAE National Organizing Committee, and his team for their exemplary work on the Abu Dhabi Declaration. We also extend our appreciation to the Secretariat for its tireless work.

3. 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.

Mr. President,

4. The Group welcomes the theme “Accelerating crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: protecting people and planet and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the digital age” for this Congress and is of the view that sustainable development, crime prevention, criminal justice 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.

5. The Group reaffirms that, the evidence-based approach to crime prevention should be vigorously promoted to enhance the professionalism, scientific rigour and effectiveness of crime-prevention efforts. The Group, in line with the main themes of the Congress’ workshops, calls upon States to strengthen the collection, analysis and evaluation of crime-related data, refine crime-prevention policies on the basis of empirical research while respecting national priorities and legal frameworks, and share good practices at national, regional and international levels to facilitate the effective implementation of crime-prevention strategies.

6. The Group welcomes the growing number of States that have ratified or acceded to the UNTOC and its Protocols, UNCAC, and the Cybercrime Convention since the 14th Crime Congress in Kyoto.

7. The Group welcomes the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime: *Strengthening International Cooperation for Combating Certain Crimes Committed by Means of Information and Communications Technology Systems and for the Sharing of Evidence in Electronic Form of Serious Crimes*, and encourages States to consider

signing and ratifying the Convention in order to ensure its early entry into force and to make the best efforts to adopt its rules of procedure.

8. The Group underscores the need for all States Parties to effectively implement UNTOC and UNCAC and acknowledges the role played by the respective Review Mechanisms in improving the implementation of such Conventions, which are intergovernmental in nature, non-intrusive, non-punitive and non-ranking.

9. 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 tailored capacity-building and technical assistance initiatives particularly for developing countries upon their request, to strengthen strategies in a comprehensive and integrated manner, taking into account the specific needs and priorities.

Mr. President,

10. 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 new developments and evolving crime trends and tools for its prevention, investigation, prosecution, and punishment.

11. 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 damage to the cultural heritages of our nations, and in the process, contributes to the erosion of our identities.

12. 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.

13. The Group acknowledges any existing, increasing or potential links, in some cases, between transnational organized crime and illicit activities in particular, drug trafficking, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, fraud including online scams, illegal mining, money laundering, illicit financial flows, terrorism and its financing, among others, while reaffirming the need for enhanced bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international cooperation in the area of information exchange, extradition and mutual legal assistance, in accordance with domestic legislation with the aim of contributing to eradicating the threat posed by transnational organized crime.

14. The Group emphasizes that, greater attention should be paid to the research, monitoring and response to new, emerging and evolving forms of crime, with particular focus on growing threats such as transnational organized crime, cybercrime, crimes that affect the environment falling within the scope of UNTOC, offences involving virtual assets, telecom and online fraud and scams. The Group calls for strengthening information-sharing, capacity-building and technical assistance at the national, regional and international levels to effectively prevent and combat these evolving criminal threats.

15. The Group strongly condemns trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which constitutes an offence under the Transnational Organized Crime Convention and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and a serious threat to human dignity and physical integrity, human rights and sustainable development.

16. The Group also recognizes that trafficking in persons for the purpose of forced criminality is a form of trafficking that has risen in numbers. The Group urges Member States, in accordance with domestic law, to enhance cooperation to combat trafficking in persons for the purpose of forced criminality, including those related to fraud and online scam operations,

and, as appropriate, to protect human trafficking victims in these operations consistent with the non-punishment principle.

17. The Group urges Member States to criminalize child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, including child sexual exploitation and online sexual abuse, allowing for the prosecution of perpetrators, to grant law enforcement agencies appropriate powers and to provide tools to identify victims and perpetrators and their hotspots in order to effectively combat child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

Mr. President,

18. On the particular issue of prevention of terrorism, and in order to face this challenge, the Group calls for the strengthening of international responses, in accordance with national legislation, through more effective implementation 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 reiterate that all efforts to counter it should be in line with international law.

19. We express serious concerns over the steady rise in hate crimes targeting individuals and communities, based on their religion or belief, xenophobia and racism and call for intensifying our collective efforts to prevent and counter it, including through raising public awareness, developing educational programmes, establishing robust legal frameworks as well as investigating and prosecuting hate crimes, in all their forms and manifestations.

20. The Group underscores the need to address crimes that affect the environment falling within the scope of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

21. 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 Nelson Mandela Rules and the Bangkok Rules (whose 10th and 15th anniversaries were celebrated in 2025), as well as the Beijing Rules.

22. The Group recognizes that preventing and reducing reoffending constitutes a major practical challenge in criminal justice, welcomes the adoption of the United Nations Model Strategies on Reducing Reoffending, and calls upon States to adopt multi-sectoral comprehensive approaches, advance offender rehabilitation and social reintegration, and promote alternatives to imprisonment, so as to reduce rates of reoffending.

23. 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. The Group further encourages States to strengthen their responses and adopt practical measures on the elimination of violence against women, including through victim-centered, trauma-informed investigations and the collection of data disaggregated by sex on femicide.

24. 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 and access to justice, as well as non-criminalization in accordance with domestic law and applicable international obligations.

Mr. President,

25. The Group calls upon UNCAC States parties to further improve the implementation of the measures available under the Convention for asset recovery and return, including through effective, efficient and responsive international cooperation. 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, undue delay and in full respect of the sovereign rights of the states of origin. The Group further stresses that the return of assets should ensure transparency and accountability on part of the requested States.

26. The Group expresses its serious concern over any form of ranking of Member States for the purposes of international cooperation in criminal matters and remains strongly convinced that upholding multilateralism, including by supporting an effective United Nations development system, is essential to strengthen solidarity, enhance international cooperation and reinforce States' capacities to address and effectively counter transnational organized crime. In this regard, the Group stresses the need to address, tackle and effectively respond to international challenges and barriers that hinder such cooperation, including measures imposed on developing countries that are not consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and obligations under international law, and urges States, consistent with their international obligations, to refrain from applying such measures.

27. The Group recognizes that crime has multiple and interrelated causes which are exacerbated by socio-economic conditions that continue to threaten society and require strengthened comprehensive crime prevention approaches that take into consideration local, cultural, and social contexts, ensuring equality before the law and non-discrimination and based on respect for the rule of law.

28. The Group reiterates that the UNODC needs adequate and sustainable resources to allow it to effectively implement an increasingly complex mandate including through enhancing the provision of technical assistance and capacity building programmes to developing countries, upon request, to enable them to honour their commitments. Therefore, the Group urges all States to increase their unconditional contributions, specifically to the General-Purpose Fund of UNODC considering the current liquidity crisis that the UN currently finds itself in.

29. The Group of 77 and China places great emphasis on the importance of the outcome of this Congress.

Thank you, Mr. President.