

**Remarks by Zhang Fusen, the Head of Chinese Delegation and the
Minister of Justice of China on the 11th UN Congress on Crime
Prevention and Criminal Justice**

(April 23, 2005, Bangkok)

Mr. President,

First of all, please allow me to congratulate you and other officers of the General Committee for your election on behalf of the Chinese delegation. I am convinced that the Congress would surely be successful with your excellent leadership. I would also like to avail this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for the diligent and contributive work of the government, legal community and warmhearted people of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Mr. President,

This year witnesses the 60th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. During the past 60 years, the United Nations has played an active role in promoting the peace and security of the world, and the development and respect of human rights. With the great promotion of UN and the Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the international community has increasingly deepened its understanding of the harm of transnational organized crime and other grave crimes and has intensified its measures in preventing and combating of these crimes.

Mr. President,

With the development of economic globalization, the trend of crime internationalization has become increasingly apparent. The transnational organized crime and other severe crimes have imposed grave threat on the peace and development of the world and the stability and progress of the society, harming people from all over the world.

As well all know, the causes of transnational organized crime are very complicated, involving political, economic, social development and other respects of different countries. Therefore, it is impossible to root out the problem only by relying on combating. Chinese delegation believes that international community must further consolidate the research on transnational organized crime. In line with the national conditions, while combating, the priority shall be given to the prevention and efforts shall be made to prevent it from occurring according to the different causes of crime.

With the ever aggravation of transnational organized crime, corruption, terrorist and other forms of crimes, consensus have been made by the international community to strengthen cooperation, respond effectively, control comprehensively and combine the punishment and prevention. There is a Chinese saying that no crime can escape from the punishment of the closely-knitted legal network, to the effect that a tight legal network shall be built to prevent the crime and punish the offender.

Mr. President,

As one of the members of UN, China has, as always stressed the prevention and combating of crimes. Great efforts have been made in improving national legislation and enhancing international cooperation. In recent years, China has made major revisions to the criminal legislation. On the basis of the Criminal Law revised in 1997, China is formulating the Law against Money Laundering according to the changes in crime situations so as to effectively control and combating the predicate offences of money laundering. Up till now, China has ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption and have also inked 71 bilateral legal cooperation treaties and agreements with 47 countries, most of which involve in the mutual legal assistance on the affairs of criminal justice. Besides, China has signed treaties on extradition with 23 countries and acceded to over 20 multilateral conventions comprising of the contents on international judicial cooperation. It is also one the important aspects of China conducting judicial cooperation with other countries to collaborate with countries concerned in the transfer of the sentenced. China has established specialized organs to be responsible for the investigation and prevention of organized crime. In recent years, the law enforcement authorities have launched a series of campaigns against criminal organizations with the nature of mafia, smuggling and economic crimes, and destroyed many organizations engaging in violence and economic crimes and smuggling groups. Authorities against embezzlement and bribery have, as always, prioritized the fight against corruption and achieved remarkable results. The Ministry of Justice of China is willing to join with its counterparts in other countries, the neighboring countries in particular, to build up mechanisms of exchanges and consultations aiming at enhancing international judicial cooperation to conduct various forms of substantive cooperation.

Mr. President,

With the concerted effort of the international community, the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Convention against Corruption formed within the framework of UN represent important legal weapons of the international community to further regulate and promote international cooperation, and effectively control and prevent transnational organized crime. Chinese delegation believes that the aforementioned conventions shall be the legal basis for States Parties to conduct cooperation in extradition and criminal justice and play their due roles in combating transnational organized crime. Chinese delegation hereby appeals to the member countries of UN for accelerating their signature and ratification of the UN conventions

concerned, including the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and Convention against Corruption. Within the framework of signed and ratified UN conventions and bilateral treaties concerning criminal justice cooperation, the relevant international judicial cooperation shall be conducted extensively and pragmatically, including extradition, the recovery and return of the assets deriving from crimes and the transnational investigation and obtaining of evidence. The relevant national and international organizations shall provide technical assistance for developing countries with the purpose of improving their capacities in the implementations of conventions concerning the prevention and combating of transnational crime, including holding workshops, seminars and adopting other effective forms.

Mr. President,

Chinese delegation is convinced that, as an important political document and fruit of the joint effort of all governments, the Bangkok Declaration would certainly lay a new foundation for the international community to strengthen cooperation and effectively prevent crimes in the future.

Last but not the least, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that Chinese government, as always, would step up cooperation with member countries and relevant international organizations within the framework of UN and join with international community to make its due contribution to effectively curb and prevent transnational organized crime and various forms of severe crimes.

Thank you Mr. President.