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STATEMENT BY

**H.E. MR. HAMID AWALUDIN
MINISTER FOR LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

**BEFORE THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT
OF THE ELEVENTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS
ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

BANGKOK, 23 APRIL 2005

Mr. President,

I would like to express how pleased my delegation is to see a dear colleague from ASEAN presiding over the Eleventh UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Rest assured that my delegation will do its utmost to bring about a successful conclusion. Let me also take this opportunity to thank the Government and people of Thailand for hosting this august meeting and for their warm welcome and hospitality extended to us all.

Mr. President,

It is not a mere coincidence that the first United Nations Congress in 1955 was held at the same year with the Asia-African Conference. While we gather here, 50 years after the first Congress, leaders of Asia and Africa are assembling in Jakarta, Indonesia, to chart the way to strengthen cooperation, address and resolve global challenges based on a New Asian-African Strategic Partnership. In this connection, this Congress should also be able to come up with a new vigor to increase our cooperation and synergies of our approaches by well-targeted, well-resourced, balanced and comprehensive measures to counter the formidable challenges and threats before us.

Mr. President,

In September 2005, the leaders of the world will gather at the United Nations in New York to review the progress made and to draw a road map to achieve the goals, targets and objectives set out in the Millennium Declaration. This historic summit demonstrates the central role of multilateralism in responding the threats and challenges in an increasingly borderless world. Transnational crime and terrorism, identified by the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges, and Change as two of the six clusters of threats in this century, recognise no border and therefore should be addressed with concerted efforts at all levels. No state can stand alone hence collective strategies, collective institutions and a sense of collective responsibility is

indispensable. Addressing this enormous task needs leadership and the United Nations is the best available alternative tool for us.

Stocktaking of the progress made at the national level, my delegation has the honour to present its national report as a follow-up the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice in 2000. The report is a manifestation of our strong commitment to strengthen our efforts in crime prevention and criminal justice. It is noted in parts of the report of the looming gaps that need to be further identified and to be closed through concerted and cooperative actions.

Mr. President,

In the last five days of our congress, much has been said and contributed in the plenary meetings, committees and workshops during which my delegation has participated actively. However, allow me to highlight some issues of great importance to my delegation.

Transnational organized crime has ever been increasing global threat whose menace cannot be at all underestimated. While we are collectively still too slow in addressing familiar types of crime before us, new forms of crime, that are transnational in nature, that demand attention continue to unfold. Dealing with these new phenomena requires conceptual development and implementation of new approaches. Since there is no other forum better equipped to address them, this Congress should not fail to reflect them in its declaration. On its part, Indonesia is ready to engage in future undertakings on this matter and, at the national level, we continue to strengthen our national legislation to meet international regulations including in mutual legal assistance.

Mr. President,

It is commonly agreed that transnational organized crime is mainly motivated by financial gains and terrorism, while differs in its motive, needs to finance

their activities. Even though there is no clear indication of the link between the two, one important strategy to prevent and combat transnational organized crime and terrorism is their ability to launder money. Indonesia recognizes the fact that Financial Task Force has filled the vacuum of the international anti-money laundering regime. However, my delegation is in agreement with the recommendation of the High-Level Panel that the General Assembly needs to negotiate and endorse a comprehensive international convention on money laundering. One particular reason emanates from our conviction that the United Nations should provide leadership in responding to the threats especially in international regulatory framework.

While noting the recent adoption of the UN Convention on Nuclear Terrorism, we should reenergize our efforts in completing the negotiations on the draft Comprehensive Convention on Terrorism. This convention, given the General Assembly's unique legitimacy in normative terms, is pivotal in establishing a comprehensive, balanced, inclusive strategy in the prevention and combating terrorism — a strategy that addresses root causes and strengthen rule of law and human rights or a strategy that is broader than coercive measures. In this light, Indonesia supports the Secretary-General's affirmation that, in our struggle against terrorism, we must never compromise human rights for as to do so would serve to facilitate the interest of terrorists.

Mr. President,

Our experience as exemplified in our national report reconfirms our belief that strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice without technical assistance, capacity building and international cooperation is a mere rhetoric. Capacity building and international cooperation are therefore the keys. Willingness to share national experiences and to cooperate including in combating economic and financial crimes as a challenge to sustainable development is essential. Resources and action are not mutually exclusive consequently more action demands more resources. This Congress should, in our view, identify better mechanisms for international cooperation through

predictable and sustained action and resources to fill the gaps in international cooperation.

Five years after the signing of the TOC Convention in 2000, we are still far lagging behind in our action against addressing these growing threats let alone to defeat them. But we need to be cautious because it is a crime if we continue to advance our narrow political interests in the fight against transnational organized crime, terrorism, money laundering and corruption. We have to follow-up the international legal framework in an objective, fair and just manner. One thing that comes to mind is the need to trace and recover the proceeds of crime, including through laundering activities, and to trace and recover assets accrued from corrupt practices.

Mr. President,

Indonesia has been successful in its early phases of transition to a fully democratic country. Much remains to be done but it is our fervent belief that strengthening rule of law, respect for human rights and good governance are of importance. The three principles are also the very basic ingredients of building an effective crime prevention and criminal justice system. Democratization process goes perfectly with the purpose of strengthening criminal justice system. We are confident therefore that this Congress is able to identify the challenges and threats confronted us and best ways to address them in conformity with the UN Charter and relevant international laws. Such an outcome, not less, will chart the way forward and contribute positively to negotiations and outcome of the United Nations Summit this September on international peace, prosperity and security.

I thank you.