

Eleventh United Nations Congress  
on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice  
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STATEMENT

by

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Mr President,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, please let me congratulate you, Mr President, on your election to the chair of this important Congress and extend my gratitude to the government and the people of Thailand for their marvellous hospitality and thank also the Secretariat for all the efforts put into the organisation of this event.

Mr President,

In a globalized world strategic alliances have become a key factor for success. Organized Criminal groups have, long ago, taken advantage of the liberalization of international exchanges in all its forms and joined forces across borders and continents. It is, therefore, high time for the international community of law-abiding States and peoples to go further in doing the same and for that purpose to make better use of the existing legal and political framework in order to successfully combat organized crime and terrorism.

Mr President,

Such framework does exist and it is not a static one. It covers a wide range of crimes and includes well-established provisions regarding cross-cutting issues such as the fight against organized crime and money laundering. The international regime embodies a comprehensive framework of conventions and standards, including statements issued periodically by international bodies or professional organizations to address new trends as they emerge. It is usefully supplemented by several multilateral initiatives on a regional level. Many States have engaged in a series of mutual evaluations undertaken through regional bodies for countering money-laundering and the financing of terrorism that are similar to the Financial Action Task Force. This regional approach has been effective because neighboring States often have a common language, legal system and culture and are frequently at a similar stage of policy development and implementation.

Mr President,

While we welcome these strategic alliances at a regional level, we would like to stress that the overall aim of such initiatives must be to enhance the consistency of measures taken against money-laundering and the funding of terrorism worldwide. In this regard the United Nations has a crucial role to play, in particular by providing technical assistance to member States. Therefore, the capacity building resources of UNODC should be strengthened in order to improve the implementation of the various international conventions on crime prevention and criminal justice, including robust mechanisms for rule-of-law assistance. Liechtenstein has been supporting these activities and in particular the work of the Global Program against Money Laundering, the GPML. This program has proved instrumental in identifying major areas requiring coordination and focus of money laundering efforts, such as the area of specific responses needed to target proceeds of crime in cash-based economies. We have lent support to GPML activities through financial contributions as well as by providing expertise for training seminars.

Mr President,

The GPML has made technical assistance and training to Financial Intelligence Units a priority of its work. In Liechtenstein we have made the experience that close working relations between the FIU and the professional circles concerned help create the mutual trust which is necessary to establish a preventive system that is not only working in theory but also in practice. The active support and involvement of individuals and groups outside the public sector must not be neglected if we are to create successful alliances against crime. In order to promote such support, in particular at a local level, it is vital to ensure the development and maintenance of fair and efficient criminal justice institutions. The rule of law is the basic element of any strategy to combat those who break the law. It is also a prerequisite for the trust of the people in the State and its institutions. Any alliance against crime must therefore be built on the rule of law. As at the national level, this holds true at the international level where mutual trust is also a key factor for enhancing our common efforts to free the world from crime.

I thank you.