

Republic of

K●**OREA**

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Statement by
the Vice-Minister of Justice
of the Republic of Korea
H.E. Mr. Kim Sang-Hee
on the Occasion of the High-level
Segment of the 11th UN Crime Congress

I.

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to deliver my sincere congratulations on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Korea on your election as president of this Congress.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to the Tai Government for its hospitality in hosting this important Congress and its excellent preparation.

My special thanks goes to the UNODC for its tireless efforts and dedication to make this event a great success as well.

II.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

For more than five decades, we have endeavored to establish international norms and standards in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice under the aegis of the UN.

However, despite our strenuous efforts and achievements, challenges including corruption, transnational organized crime and terrorism continue to pose serious threats to humanity as the phenomena of globalization and informatization are accelerating faster than ever before.

III.

Mr. President,

The Korean government has been strongly committed to promoting international cooperation in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice in order to effectively deal with such crimes.

First of all, with regard to corruption, President Roh's government has pursued the realization of a 'corruption-free society' through its focus on 'fairness and transparency' since its inauguration in 2003.

As part of such efforts, the Korean government has enacted foundational legislation in this area including the 'Anti-corruption Act,' which provides a framework for defining and punishing official corruption.

In addition, the Korean government has established significant new institutions including the 'Korea Independent Commission against Corruption,' which is responsible for analyzing the root causes of corruption and formulating relevant policy initiatives.

The Ministry of Justice and Supreme Public Prosecutors' Office have built up a nationwide supervisory system for the purpose of improving the efficiency of investigation.

Under the supervisory system, illegally obtained properties are traced and confiscated by all means and anyone who has been involved in corruption will be harshly punished and restricted from reinstatement.

Second, the Korean government has come up with a strong legal system to deal with transnational organized crimes.

The Special Act on Aggravated Punishment on Specific Crimes, which imposes harsher penalties for organized crime, has been enacted and entered into force. The Proceeds of Crime Act has been enacted as well.

By the same token, law enforcement authorities have been closely cooperating to set up a 'Special Task Force against International Criminal Organizations' under the leadership of the Supreme Public Prosecutors' Office.

Third, the Korean Government has continuously stepped up its counter-terrorism efforts in a multi-faceted way based on the recognition that terrorism is not just a problem of one nation but extends well beyond national borders, ultimately affecting the entire global community.

In this context, we have already ratified all 12 international conventions against terrorism and have taken

proper measures to strengthen border security, facilitate information sharing, and promote cooperation among relevant agencies.

Moreover, the Korean government has launched various capacity-building programs in a bid to assist the international community in addressing challenges posed by terrorist activities.

We are well aware that international cooperation is a basic prerequisite for the eradication of transnational crimes and are committed to doing our part in this regard.

As demonstrated by its participation in international conferences on terrorism led by international organizations such as the UN, APEC, ASEAN+3 and the ARF, the Korean government has sought to play a significant role in international efforts to stop the spread of transnational

crimes.

We also hosted a number of related forums including The Global Forum III in 2003, the International Association of Prosecutors Conference in 2004 and seminars and workshops on cyber-terrorism in cooperation with the APEC and the ARF.

Based on the understanding that close cooperation between nations is crucial in the fight against the growing threat of transnational crime, the Korean Government has already signed extradition treaties with 22 countries and treaties for mutual legal assistance with 17 countries.

IV.

Mr. President,

The response of government to crime should go hand in hand with human rights protections in the area of criminal procedure. To this end, a fair and effective legal system should be established and carefully maintained.

This year, the 'Presidential Committee on Judicial Reform', an advisory council to the president composed of civic groups and experts from relevant government agencies, was established to press ahead with judicial reforms in a comprehensive and systematic fashion.

In order to promote innovation within Korea's judicial system, this Committee is taking charge of various

activities ranging from public participation in the judicial process, improvement in criminal procedure and sentencing, protection of victims to the streamlining of criminal justice systems.

V.

Mr. President, and Distinguished Delegates,

Please allow me to assure you that the Korean government will continue to do all it can to work with member states toward achieving our common goals of liberty, security and prosperity.

Thank you for your attention.

KIM, Sang-Hee

Vice Minister of Justice

The Republic of Korea