

President

Mr. ~~Chairman~~, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The global nature of organized crime, terrorism, corruption and economic crime requires multilateral approach and solidarity within the international community. These forms of serious crime, in particular terrorism, continue to spread throughout the world in more sophisticated and dangerous forms. Slovakia considers terrorist attacks and their barbaric methods as a threat against the values of freedom, democracy, justice, the rule of law and human rights, particularly the right to life, and that is why we support all actions regarding the fight against terrorism initiated at various international fora. Crime as a phenomenon that does not distinguish national frontiers poses great challenges, which require joint efforts of all states and relevant institutions. The unique position of the United Nations, being an international organization of a global character, offers a great opportunity to tackle the problems of organized crime, terrorism, corruption and various forms of economic crime at a trans-national level.

The condition of a successful strategy of the fight against terrorism and organized crime is to exceed the framework of the national frontiers towards not only international, but trans-national cooperation, since terrorism and organized crime has a trans-national nature. Fight against terrorism and organized crime requires in particular the perfect and faultless domestic legislation and an effective system of international instruments, which should ensure

- the prevention and elimination of sources of crime,
- functioning of an effective law enforcement structure and mechanisms of sanctions, and
- universal cross border cooperation of all law enforcement authorities - police, prosecuting authorities and courts of all democratic states.

At the same time, it is important to take into account the principle that the fight against organized crime, including terrorism, must be compatible with fundamental freedoms and human rights that form the basic values of our civilization. We must not forget, that it is these values, against which terrorist attacks are aimed at.

Yet, while bearing in mind, the constitutional rights that suspects of terrorist acts and organized crime have, we should not lose sight of the rights of the victims of these crimes. Offenders usually have their lawyers, who take care of their constitutional rights. On the other hand, there is often nobody to take care of the rights of the victims – many of whom, especially in cases of terrorist acts – are not among us anymore. It is therefore our duty to take care of protecting life and liberty of law-abiding citizens.

President
Mr. Chairman,

Slovakia is a party to the majority of important universal international treaties in the field of organized crime, terrorism, corruption and economic crime and has implemented the obligations resulting from these international treaties to its internal legal system. Like other countries, we are not immune to the activities of organized crime, and therefore we are trying to address these issues also at the national level. As for the institutional measures, a Special Prosecution Office and a Special Court were established last year, with jurisdiction over organized crime, terrorism, corruption and most severe forms of financial crime. As far as legislative measures are concerned, the institute of a cooperating (or a "crown") witness and the possibility to use sting operations, were introduced into our Criminal Procedure Code in the year 2003. These measures turned to be an effective tool in the fight against organized crime and corruption and are

included also in the draft Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code being discussed in our parliament at present.

President
Mr. ~~Chairman,~~

We consider unacceptable the fact, that organized crime and terror would be in a position to influence the democratic choices of human society and its values developed thorough centuries. It is our responsibility to do the utmost to eliminate these phenomena to the maximum extent possible.

Thank you for your attention.