



REGERINGSKANSLIET

**Ministry of Justice
Sweden**

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**Speech to be delivered by Director-General for international Affairs
Mikael Tollerz at the 11th United Nations Congress on Crime
Prevention and Criminal Justice, 18-25 April 2005, Bangkok,
Thailand**

High-level Segment

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sweden fully aligns itself with the statement on behalf of the European Union given by the Presidency. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a few issues that Sweden considers to be of particular importance.

Transnational organized crime takes full advantage of the globalization of the world economy and the rapid technological advances. One of the most important ways to fight this threat is to actively support the work carried out in the framework of the United Nations. The UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols is to be considered a milestone for international cooperation, especially in the important area of international judicial co-operation.

Further, I would like to mention the successful elaboration of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Corruption raises serious moral and political concerns, undermines good governance and economic development and distorts international competitive conditions. The successful elaboration of the Convention shows however the deep commitment of the community of nations to seriously combat this phenomenon. Sweden has signed the Convention and is in the process towards ratification.

Another great threat that calls for global counter measures, and where the United Nations has a leading role, is the fight against terrorism. There has been increased support for the existing conventions for suppression of these crimes. The combat against terrorism has also resulted in new international instruments, from the Council of Europe, the European Union and the UN Security Council. The main challenge today lies in the implementation of these instruments.

In order to obtain valuable synergy effects and better utilization of scarce resources, Sweden has during this Congress launched the idea of the United Nation establishing a common assistance programme in order to build better **State-capacity** in the legal field. Such a programme could, based on a solid rule of law-approach, address various forms of serious crimes of a transnational character. Hence, assistance to enhance international cooperation, including among law enforcement and judicial authorities, would be an essential component in this programme.

Mr. President,

It has been an honour and a privilege for Sweden to, through the Swedish Economic Crime Bureau, organize a workshop on Economic Crimes including Money Laundering during this Congress, together with United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of

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Another great challenge for all of us is to ensure that all perpetrators of crime are brought to justice.

in the last decades,
The international community has paid a lot of attention to ~~this~~ ^{the} issue that there ~~is~~ ^{should be} no impunity for perpetrators of the most serious crimes in our time.

Sweden attaches great importance to the work carried out by ^{the} various United Nations International Criminal Tribunals.

Sweden also welcomes the entry into force of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the important work under way by this body.

We believe it essential that countries, that have not yet done so, ratify or accede to the Statute of the International Criminal Court without delay.

Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI). This important workshop has shown that the topic of economic crimes is multi-faceted and that we **have a joint responsibility** to continue and reinforce the fight against economic crime. This is a crime that affects not only individual natural and legal persons but also the society as a whole with repercussions on national and global economy. In a global context his work should preferably be carried out under the auspices of the United Nations.

Co-operation within the United Nations also provides a valuable forum for an exchange of experience on methods to prevent and fight crime at the national level. We must use the criminal justice systems in innovative ways and take advantage of the possibilities to prevent crime from re-occurring, inter alia through juvenile justice, non-custodial penalties and restorative justice .

All parts of society must be involved in the crime preventive efforts. This includes reducing the opportunities to commit crime or preventing the development of individuals' propensity to commit crime. To offer prerequisites for a life which does not involve crime is of particular importance in the case of young offenders.

The treatment of offenders is another aspect of crime prevention. It is highly important that imprisonment is combined with education, medical treatment and programmes designed to minimise the risk of recidivism. The United Nations has made considerable and important efforts to promote more humane treatment of prisoners. Sweden considers that the United Nations should continue to give high priority to this matter. The global abolition of the death penalty is of great importance in the work for a humane crime policy.

We must also improve our support to those who become victims and suffer from criminal acts. This is an area where a considerable development has taken place, including here in the United Nations.

Mr. President,

I would like to underline that combating crime must be done with all possible means, but at all times with legitimate methods, in compliance with the rule of law and human rights. We strongly believe that in respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and by promoting high standards of fairness and humanity in the criminal justice system we would render a more efficient justice, which in turn would lead to a reduction of criminality.

I would like to assure you of Sweden's ongoing commitment to the work of the United Nations.

Thank you, Mr. President.