

Statement by Mr. Paul Robotham, Ambassador of Jamaica to Japan,
at the Eleventh Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,
Bangkok, 18-25 April, 2005

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Government of Jamaica, I wish to congratulate you on your election to the chair of this important Congress and to express my delegation's appreciation to the Royal Thai Government for their warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the success of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. I would also like to thank the United Nations bodies for their work in preparing this session, and to recognize in particular Mr. Antonio Costa, Executive Director of the UNODC, for his appointment as Secretary General, and for his inspiring remarks to the Ministerial segment of this UN Congress.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The record of the past fifty years shows that UN standards and norms can make a significant contribution to the development of crime prevention programmes and measures, and do help to bring the global community closer to a shared vision of the significance of the rule of law to progress and development. The role of the UN in this area is considered crucial, as it is the only universal organ that can provide a global perspective and mobilize the support of both inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations. It is therefore an honour for me to affirm that Jamaica recognizes its responsibility to engage with and support the activities of the United Nations to combat organized crime, terrorism, trafficking in drugs and arms, and other forms of criminal activity, and to urge that all States cooperate to reduce the destructive impact of transnational organized crime on the lives and well-being of peoples around the world.

Mr. President,

Jamaica has not wavered in its resolve to uphold the administration of justice and the rule of law, and is determined to prevent and combat crime and corruption at the local, regional and international levels. At the same time, we remain sensitive to the need to continue to improve and develop new instruments and measures to respond to the constantly evolving threats and challenges, and to do so within a legal framework which respects civil liberties and preserves human rights and justice for all individuals. In this regard, my delegation is pleased to report that Jamaica has already enacted a substantive list of statutes in the areas of corruption prevention, forfeiture of proceeds from drug offences, extradition, firearms, interception of communications, suppression of maritime drug trafficking, money laundering, mutual assistance in criminal matters and the sharing of forfeited property, among others. We believe that these are vital instruments for coping with the increasingly global dimensions of terrorism and organized crime, and also essential tools for consolidating the domestic legislation necessary to give effect to various regional and international treaty arrangements.

As a small, developing country, Jamaica faces many constraints in the fight against organized crime and terrorism. Because of our country's relatively small economy, we lack the resources fully to tackle and overcome large-scale organized crime, particularly when such crimes originate from outside the country. For this reason, Jamaica remains grateful for the external assistance it has received to improve our institutional capacity to confront the growing challenges posed by criminal groups which have access to sophisticated communications technology and the operational capacity to cross international borders. Such assistance has taken the form of training, equipment, expert personnel and support for strategic initiatives, and has come from a number of countries,

particularly the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Canada. By way of example, the Jamaica Constabulary Force (Police) has improved its intelligence management by computerizing all the records of its Special Branch, with the assistance of experts from Scotland Yard. And, similarly, by virtue of the Shiprider Agreement with the United States of America, Jamaica benefits from having patrols in search of drug smugglers in the country's maritime areas.

Jamaica also seeks to enhance its capacity to combat organized crime at the regional level, through our cooperation in various initiatives with other Caribbean and Latin American countries. Jamaica has been an active member of the Caribbean Community's (CARICOM) Regional Task Force on Crime and Security since its inception in July 2001, and has contributed to the work of the Meetings of the Ministers of Justice and Attorneys General (REMJA) on matters concerning the fight against organized crime and corruption. Bilateral Instruments to permit information- sharing and cooperation among police forces have also been signed by Jamaica with a number of countries of the region, including with the Republic of Colombia.

At the international level, we are grateful to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for its technical assistance programmes with Jamaica, particularly its work in promoting the ratification and implementation of international legal instruments such as the Transnational Organized Crime Convention and its three Protocols, the Terrorism Conventions and the Corruption Convention. Indeed, in order to maintain vigilance in the area of crime control, Jamaica has signed and ratified the Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and two of its Protocols (namely the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air). Jamaica is now examining a third Protocol - the Protocol against

the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition - with a view to ratification in the near future. In addition, Jamaica's Terrorism Prevention Bill has been passed by the Jamaican House of Representatives and the Government anticipates that it will become law during the course of this year. I am also pleased to announce that progress is being made with regard to the Corruption Convention and the terrorism-related Conventions, and it is being projected that Jamaica should be in a position to sign these conventions during the forthcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York later this year.

Mr. President,

The Secretary General of the United Nations Mr. Kofi Annan, has emphasized in his Report "In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All", that "we will not enjoy development without security, we will not enjoy security without development, and we will not enjoy either without respect for human rights". The scourges of terrorism, transnational organized crime and criminal activity in general do indeed pose a serious threat to the peaceful and democratic socio-economic development of many countries, including Jamaica, and have the potential to undermine the effective functioning of democracy, accountability and the rule of law. It has been noted that no State, no matter how powerful, can by its own efforts alone make itself invulnerable to today's threats, and we all need the cooperation of other states to make ourselves more secure. This is particularly true in the case of developing countries. In this context, it is indispensable that tangible efforts be made to increase financial and material assistance to developing countries, with a view to strengthening their capacities to combat crime domestically, and enhancing their effectiveness in addressing the most pressing threats, in cooperation with other States.

Thank you