

**General Statement by the leader of Nepalese
Delegation to the Eleventh United Nations Congress
on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
Bangkok, April 18-25, 2005**

Mr. President

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

At the outset, allow me Mr. President to congratulate you most warmly on your election as the President of this historic Eleventh UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to the United Nations for organizing this important congress.

Mr. President,

I, on behalf of the Nepalese delegation, would also like to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand for having hosted this Congress in this beautiful city of Bangkok and for warm welcome and hospitality accord to us ever since our arrival here.

Mr. President,

As I understand, the international community particularly under the aegis of the United Nations System has been striving for the prevention of crime and for the adoption of an effective system of criminal justice. However, it is a bitter fact to note that despite the commitments of the international community to prevent crime, nations of the world are still being subjected to be the victims of it. New forms and dimensions of crime are still emerging in the various countries of the

world and the new technologies have contributed to develop them rapidly. Transnational organized crime is assuming different dimensions and its nature of commissioning are also becoming complicated.

Terrorism is a serious threat to international peace, security and development. Globalization and technical advances have made cross-border movements of terrorists and transfer of their money and weapons easily. My own country Nepal is also the victim of such menace.

Mr. President,

Prevention of corruption is another challenge facing by the world community. It not only undermines ethical values and justice, it damages democratic institutions, national economy and rule of law. Corruption is linked to and facilitates other forms of serious crimes, in particular transnational organized crime, human trafficking, and economic crime including money laundering. His Majesty's Government of Nepal is committed to prevent corruption in the Country. Nepal has also signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

Mr. President,

Tremendous expansion of Internet networking and use of computers have contributed to the emergence of a new problem of computer crime. However, such cyber crimes are completely new to many of the developing countries and yet to make responsive legal frameworks and to criminalize it. Hence, national efforts to combat such crime need international co-operation in a more effective manner than ever before.

Mr. President,

In my view, the topics selected for deliberation during this Congress are, therefore, very pertinent and important in meeting the challenges of the twenty first century. As in the past, this Congress has opened with great interest and

expectations of the people in general and the member states of the United Nations in particular.

Mr. President,

Going through the annual criminal data of Nepal, the crime rate in the country is very low, and it is hardly being seen any organized criminal syndicates operating their business in the country. However, during the past few year economic activities encompassing different areas and sectors of financial and commercial trading have expanded both domestically and internationally, and new technologies have helped it to develop more rapidly. Such economic and technological advancement have also been manipulated for all kinds of illegal purposes and this has left us no more immune from the menace of transnational organized crime of money laundering, smuggling, corruption, illicit trafficking of drugs and trafficking of women and children. We do fully agree that government acting individually or in isolation or through their traditional approach can no longer face these new challenges. Not even the traditional forms of regional or international cooperation would be able to cope with this challenge.

Mr. President,

It is gratifying to note that His Majesty's Government of Nepal is fully committed to protecting the worth and value of every person and it is doing every thing possible at its disposal to protect and promote human rights to the best of its ability and resources. Nepal is a party to most of the major anti-terrorism conventions and international human rights instruments. The Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal, 1990 has guaranteed most of the universally recognized fundamental rights of the people. The right regarding criminal justice has been recognized the fundamental right of an individual. The Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal has also prohibited from making law

which provides for capital punishment. Nepal is also the party to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and thus since 1990 we have abolished the death penalty in the country by incorporating a constitutional provision.

Mr. President,

As I referred earlier, the nature of crime is changing and new forms of crimes are emerging, such crimes can only be prevented with the sustainable efforts, commitment and the regional and international co-operation. Closer collaboration and co-operation amongst the law enforcement agencies of various countries should not only be established but also must be encouraged by all the concerned. Exchange of useful information and co-operation must be formalized amongst the criminal justice agencies in order to help them in discharging this function effectively. Various international and regional organizations under the umbrella of the United Nations can play an active and effective role for providing regional and international co-operation in the prevention of crime and treatment of offenders.

Mr. President,

I would like to take this opportunity to extend warm gratitude and best wishes to all the esteemed delegations present here and extend best wishes for the successful and fruitful conclusion of this Congress.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.