

## **Summary Report of the 11<sup>th</sup> UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.**

1. The 11<sup>th</sup> congress on Crime prevention and crime justice took place at Queen Sirikit National Convention center Bangkok, Thailand from 18-25 April. The theme of the Congress was “ Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and criminal Justice.”
2. There was 2,370 participants attended the Congress including many Ministers of Justice and other high-level officials as well as the representatives from 167 Non-government organizations along with 1,130 individual experts observers.
3. The Congress official opening ceremony was addressed by the Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn of Thailand on behalf of his majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej.
4. Minister of Justice of Thailand, H.E Mr. Suwat Lipyapanlop, was unanimously elected as the President of the Congress.
5. High-level Congress took place from 23-25 April. Statements were made by 35 high-level officials
6. There were five substance items on the agenda:
  - Effective Measures to Combat Transnational Organized Crime.
  - International Cooperation against Terrorism and link between Criminal Activities.
  - Corruption: threats and trend in the Twenty-first Century.
  - Economic and Financial Crimes: Challenges to sustainable Development.
  - Computer-related Crime.
7. The Congress also organized six workshops, with the participation of inter governmental organization, non-governmental organizations and individual experts on:
  - Enhancing international law and order enforcement cooperation, including extradition measures;
  - Enhancing criminal Justice reform, including restorative justice;

- Strategies and best practices from crime prevention, in particular in related to urban crime and youth at risk;
  - Measures to combat terrorism;
  - Measures to combat economic crime, including money-laundering; and
  - Measures to combat computer-related crime.
8. The congress recommended that the commission on prevention and Crime Justice give consideration to reviewing the adequacy of standard and norms in related to prison management and prisoners. To promote the interests of Victims and the rehabilitation of offenders, it reorganized the important of future development restorative justice police, including alternatives to prosecution. Member State participation in the congress affirmed their determination to pay particular attention to juvenile justice, considering way to ensure the provision of services to children who were victims of crime and children in conflict with the law.
  9. In the afternoon plenary session the “Bangkok Declaration” was unanimously adopted. The Declaration addressed the expansion and dimensions of transnational organized crime, terrorism and the existing links between them and by increasing sophistication and diversification of activates of organized crime as well as issues such as human trafficking, money laundering, corruption, cyber crime, restorative justice and root cause of crime.
  10. According to that declaration, entitled “Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and criminal Justice.” Member state reaffirmed their readiness to seek to improve international cooperation in the fight against crime and terrorism at the multilateral, regional and bilateral levels, in area including extradition and mutual legal assistance. They also sought to ensure nation capacity to engage in international cooperation, in particular in the prevention, investigation, prosecution and adjudication of transnational organized crime and terrorism and in discovering any existing link between them.
  11. The Congress also called on all state that had not yet done so to ratify and implement the provision of the United Nation Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols and the United Nations Convention against Corruption. It further called

upon state and financial institution to continue to make adequate voluntary contribution for the provision of the assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in order to help them build capacity to prevent and tackle crime, to apply the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and crime justice and implement the aforementioned convention and the international drug control convention.

12. Recognizing that comprehensive and effective crime prevention strategies could significantly reduce crime and victimization, the Declaration urged that such strategies address the root cause and risk factors of crime and victimization. United Nations Member States pledged to strengthen international cooperation in order to create an environment conducive to the fight against crime, including by promoting growth and sustainable development and eradicating poverty and unemployment.
13. Nothing that countries emerging from conflict were particularly vulnerable to organized crime and corruption, the Declaration, in its declaration in its Declaration, recommended that member States, regional organization and international entities such as United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in coordination with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, provide more effective responses to those problems, in order to re-establish or sustain the rule of law and deliver justice.
14. The Declaration called on all States that had not yet done so to become parties to and implement the universal instrument against terrorism. It expressed support for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to assist States, in coordination with the Security Council's Counter-terrorism Committee, to support States to become parties and implement those instruments and comply with relevant Security Council resolutions against terrorism. It expressed the hope that the ongoing negotiation of a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism would be concluded as soon as possible and recognized that arriving at a possible definition of terrorism was one of the key issues to be resolved.
15. The Declaration further addressed matters such as theft and trafficking in cultural property and illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna. It noted with concern the rise of kidnapping and trafficking in persons, often committed with the objective of criminal organizations and terrorist activities. Apart from measures to combat those crimes, there was

also a need for measures to provide adequate assistance and protection for the victims and their family. It also noted the concerns raised regarding the illicit removal of and trafficking in human organs.

16. The Declaration reaffirmed the foundational importance of implementation of existing instruments and the further development of national measures and international cooperation in criminal matters, in issues such as cyber crime, money-laundering, in cultural property, extradition, mutual legal assistance, recovery and return of the proceeds of crime.
17. Regarding computer-related crime, the Congress invited the Commission on Crime Prevention and Crime Justice to examine the feasibility of further assistance in that area. It also sought to improve international cooperation to combat and identify organized crime and terrorism.
18. Recognized the importance of protecting witnesses and victims of crime and terrorism. Member States in the Declaration committed themselves to strengthening the legal and financial framework to provide support to such victims.
19. The Congress encouraged measures to strengthen the role of individuals and groups outside the public sector such as non-governmental organizations in contributing to the fight against crime and terrorism.
20. The Congress reaffirmed continued support and commitment to the United Nations and to its Crime Prevention and Justice program, especially the Commission on Crime Prevention and Crime Justice and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Interregional Crime Research Institute and the Institute of the Program network.
21. At the end of the Congress the Secretary-General of the Congress, ANTONIO MARIA COSTA, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, said it was an honour on the part of the United Nations to thank the Thai Government, the people and His Majesty for their generous hospitality. The meeting had been in a class by itself, "a lesson in efficiency, generosity and hospitality". During the meetings, he had heard a commitment to address the question of transnational organized crime and general crime, as well as terrorism. The crime Congress was different from other United Nations gatherings, "a stand-alone event in the galaxy of United Nations sessions", because it brought together stakeholders

that usually were not part of the United Nations meetings including the representatives of the judicial system, non-governmental organization and civil society. There also had been representatives of both crime victims and offenders.

22. The representatives of Pakistan, (on behalf of the Asian Group), Paraguay, (on behalf of the “Group of 77” development nation and China), Luxembourg (on behalf of the European Union) and Syria (on behalf of the Arab group) took the floor to express appreciation the government and people of Thailand for their hospitality and excellent work in arranging the Eleventh Crime Congress. They also paid tribute to the president of the Congress and the Congress Vice-president handling the Congress deliberation. Special tributes were also paid o the Secretary-General of the Congress, Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director of the United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime; Executive Secretary of the Congress, Eduardo Vetere; and the United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime Conference Service Coordinator, Service. Liselotte Waldheim-Natural.
23. Before receiving a standing ovation Congress Executive Secretary EDUARDO VETERE took the floor to thank delegates for their kind words. He said he felt overwhelmed, not only by the expressions if appreciation, but also by the warmth and friendship behind them. He extended thanks to the Thai Organization Committee of the Ministry of Justice for what if had done from the early planning stages of the Congress to its execution. He would also not forget the smiles of al the young students who had volunteered at the conference. He also honoured the Conference Service coordinator, Ms. Waldheim-Natural, who also retiring from the United Nation.
24. The president of the Congress, SUWAT LIPTAPANLOP, minister of justice of Thailand, thanking every body involved in the preparation and organization the Congress, it has been an honour and privilege to have been president of the Congress, not only a personal honour but also an honour of the Royal Thai Government, the minister of justice and for all the people of Thailand. During the past eight days, it had become apparent that all countries were concerned about terrorism, human trafficking, drug abuse, translation organized crime achieved through a common approach. No one could doubt that, over the past eight days, the United Nation Congress on crime Presentation justice had provide a stage for facilitating

the essential sharing of experience and knowledge needed for such united, common approach. He said Participations in the Eleventh Crime Congress had reach new level, especially in the attendance of Ministers and Attorneys General. He was impressed by the dedication of all participants and also by the Bangkok Declaration. "Now we all have the duty of a parent, to cherish it and see that it grow to fulfill its potential", he said. He hoped it would become a strong platform on which action plans for the suppression of crime and the furtherance of crime justice could be constructed. He was convinced that, in formulating policies, exchanging views and learning to listen to each other the next five years would see a large number of important advances being made, based on international cooperation at all levels " I am equally sure that buy the time the nest Congress convenes in 2010 we will be faced with new dilemmas, new permutations in crime", he said on the behalf of the behalf of the Royal Thai Government he presented the Executive Director of the United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime, Mr. Costa, painting made by an inmate at one of the correctional facilities in Bangkok. He side the scene depicted was the Grand Place and the Temple of the Emerald Buddha. That place was dear to the hearts of all Thai People.

25. Mr. COSTA in thanking Mr. Suwat, said it was an Example of complete Thai generosity. The painting would be further prominently in the Secretariat building in Vienna.
26. Mr. Suwat then paid tribute to the Secretary at the Congress, Mr. Vetere who had been the mastermind, the brain and the inspiration for the work of the united Nation in criminal justice matters and wished him the best for his forth coming retirement. He would always be in welcome honored guest in Thailand.

\*\*\*He then declared the congress officially closed \*\*\*