



Ministry of Justice

ITALY

**13th UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON CRIME
PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Doha, 12-19 April 2015

Statement by the Head of Delegation of the Italian Republic

Hon. Andrea Orlando, Minister of Justice

Plenary Session 12 April, 2015

Thank you Mr. President

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary General, Mr. Executive Director,
Distinguished Heads of Delegation, Distinguished Delegates

I, too, wish to express my greetings and thanks to the Government
of Qatar and UNODC for organizing this Crime Congress. In

sharing the statement by the European Union, I would like to make some remarks in my national capacity.

1) Italy, which celebrates the sixtieth anniversary of its UN membership this year, reaffirms here its commitment to crime prevention and criminal justice in a broader framework to promote the rule of law, which we consider to be - together with elements such as the promotion of human rights, democratic institutions, effective governance and the fight against corruption - a fundamental aspect of a fourth cross-cutting political pillar of the post-2015 Development Agenda, based on the full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and on the protection of vulnerable groups. In this context my country firmly supports the campaign for the abolition of the death penalty.

2) The dramatic recurrence of the terrorist threat in Europe and the Mediterranean, as well as in the Middle East and Africa, urges us to strengthen judicial cooperation and exchange of information with all the countries involved. Italy is ready to provide its extensive expertise, in particular in the investigative field, with special attention to the repression of any conduct aimed at political subversion based on extremism or radicalism of any kind, typical of a type of terrorism unconnected with any religion or belief. At

the same time, we are constantly mobilized in preventing and combating transnational organized crime, with particular reference to the fight against criminal networks running the smuggling of migrants in the Mediterranean and the protection of the right to life of migrants: thanks to the Italian operation *Mare Nostrum*, we rescued the lives of over 100 thousand migrants from October 2013 to December 2014. The EU operation Triton, currently under way, has already rescued about six thousand people. We call on UN Members to ensure the full and universal implementation of the Palermo Convention and its Protocols, in particular the one on the smuggling of migrants, whose number of ratifications is still unsatisfactory and which is, for the most part, insufficiently implemented. We also hope for the rapid definition of a review mechanism of the Palermo Convention and its Protocols, to improve its implementation in order to fight more effectively old and new forms of crime.

3) The fight against organized crime requires us to improve investigations into criminal assets, extend the effectiveness of seizure and confiscation of assets, foster a more dynamic use of confiscated resources for the benefit of citizens. Italy has taken the lead on this front, but we must understand that the illegal accumulation of wealth is detrimental to a healthy economy, it

distorts competition and generates poverty and inequalities. That is why we need to step up the efforts to fight crimes which generate illegal profits of vast proportions, such as money laundering and related illicit financial flows, tax offenses and fraud against consumers.

4) In this context, I would like to highlight three evolving aspects of criminal phenomena, which are also obstacles to development and underline the need to strengthen international judicial cooperation: I am thinking of the illicit trafficking in cultural property, a particularly serious phenomenon in the Middle East, especially in Iraq and Syria, and the Mediterranean. We promoted the process leading to the adoption of the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property. Italy is financing the preparation of a technical manual for their implementation, to be published soon by UNODC, with a view to ensuring more effective and streamlined forms of mutual legal assistance and of recovery and return of cultural property.

5) A different sort of awareness is developing also in relation to environmental crimes, mainly due to the seriousness of toxic waste trafficking and relevant consequences, which are sometimes

irreparable for human health. As a matter of fact, in Italy we are introducing criminal offences which will sanction more effectively environmental disaster and pollution, even with financial penalties.

6) As to counterfeiting, we need to promote increased knowledge of this phenomenon and strengthen international cooperation between the judicial authorities and police forces of all countries. In this regard, we welcome the reference in the Doha Declaration to this new form of crime, which has currently become an increasingly important source of profit for transnational criminal organizations.

Mr. President,

Italy firmly supports the adoption of the Doha Declaration. Compared to the ones of previous Congresses, it offers a more updated representation of the challenges posed by criminal phenomena and allows a clear progress towards our common objectives. We hope that in May the Crime Commission may significantly progress on the various subjects of the Declaration. In this regard, I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the negotiating commitment of the Presidency and of the facilitator,

Mexico, and for the support of the UNODC Secretariat in the preparation of the Declaration.

Finally, I share the importance of ensuring an active and participating role for the leading forces of civil society and voluntary organizations, the private sector and studies and research institutions, including those of the UN Network for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice without whose contribution - our experience in the fight against domestic terrorism and the mafia is an example - organized crime, terrorism and corruption cannot be considered to be completely defeated.

Let me conclude by wishing you a fruitful Session, hoping that the Doha Crime Congress may be functional to further progress in international cooperation to uphold the rule of law, also in the framework of the new development goals.

Thank you.