

Speech by Madam Aiying Wu, Minister of Justice of the People's Republic of China, at the High-Level Segment of the 13th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Thank you Madam President,

Please allow me to precede my statement with a note of congratulations from the Chinese delegation on the convocation of the 13th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. We extend to you, Your Highness, and His Excellency the President of the Congress, as well as other members of the General Committee our felicitations on your election. I am confident that this Congress will accomplish its mandate with flying colours under your able leadership. I'd also like to take this opportunity to convey our sincere gratitude to the government and the gracious, hospitable people of our host country, the State of Qatar, for their contributions to this august event in partnership with UNODC.

Madam President, the UN Crime Congress is an international forum on crime prevention and criminal justice at the highest level, with the widest participation, boasting a history that spans six decades. It has played a pivotal role in supporting member states in their effort to improve their CPCJ regimes and regulations and enhance international cooperation. Today, transnational crime, corruption, terrorism and other forms of crime remain highly challenging to countries around the world. The international community should enhance coordination and cooperation to address all these crimes.

The theme of this Crime Congress is "Integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider UN agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and public participation". This theme is very relevant and fitting for the context we are in today. The United Nations, which is 70 years young with an extraordinary track record, is taking on a new mission to help all countries address global challenges and achieve sustainable development. To this end, it is in the process of elaborating the post-2015 development agenda. Among others, the interlinkage between CPCJ and the post-15

agenda has generated a great deal of interest. China sees it necessary to focus the post-2015 development agenda on poverty eradication and other matters that are directly relevant to development; on the other hand, establishing a fair, efficient, authoritative and people-centered CPCJ system, effectively preventing and combating all forms of transnational crime and stepping up related international cooperation would contribute to rule of law, equity and justice, defending human rights and maintaining order and stability, thus providing important safeguards for sustainable development.

Madam President, the Doha Declaration that we have just adopted provides policy guidance and a framework of action for international coordination and cooperation in broad areas of CPCJ in the next five years. China would like to appeal to all parties to demonstrate the strongest will and the spirit of win-win cooperation on the key objectives of CPCJ, take joint action and raise the bar for international coordination and cooperation in the new era. Here, China would like to underscore the following points:

One, we must step up cooperation on the ground and create an international network for combating crime. Further efforts should be made to encourage universal accession to, and effective application of, UNCAC and UNTOC, to conclude bilateral treaties proactively, to strengthen trust and exchange between law enforcers and judiciaries of different countries, to enable mutual assistance to the greatest extent possible, and to upscale cooperation particularly in the areas of extradition, mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and asset recovery. When that's achieved, those guilty of transnational crime, corruption and violent terrorism will have nowhere to hide themselves.

Two, we must strengthen global coordination and effectively respond to cybercrime. Effective response to cybercrime requires the development of an international legal framework in addition to the efforts of individual countries. Five years ago, member states said the following, loud and clear, in the Salvador Declaration: On the issue of cybercrime, we should "examine options to strengthen existing and to propose new national and international legal or other responses to cybercrime." This objective is reiterated in the Doha Declaration adopted at this Congress. China would like to appeal to all parties to pull together and work towards this goal in

the common interest of effective tackling of cybercrime, with a constructive and responsible attitude and a spirit of solidarity and cooperation.

Madam President, rule of law has always been a high priority for the Chinese Government. The government has in recent years made and implemented plans to promote rule of law in a comprehensive manner. Chinese President Xi Jinping set forth a strategic blueprint covering moderate prosperity for all, intensified reform in all domains, comprehensive governance by law and more stringent discipline of the party on all fronts. An important part of this strategic blueprint is comprehensive governance by law. It is one of the basic drivers and fundamental safeguards for achieving the strategic goal of moderate prosperity for all, in addition to the other requisites. This is exactly what the Chinese Government is doing right now, that is, developing rule of law at a faster pace in accordance with the master plan for governance by law. Among others, CPCJ is an important aspect of rule-of-law development. China has been strengthening its work in CPCJ, to good effect.

One, our legislation on criminal matters has been improved on a continual basis. In the light of new developments of crime, China has promulgated a number of legislative documents on food safety, protection of women and children, environmental protection, economic crime, cybercrime, terrorism, corruption and cultural property protection. They provide a legal basis for effectively addressing and combating a variety of crimes.

Two, the crime prevention work has been strengthened on a continual basis. We have introduced innovative approaches to societal governance, proceeding in a systematic, law-based and comprehensive manner and addressing issues at source. The result is a better social environment for containing and reducing crime. We have conducted education campaigns to sensitise the public to rule of law, with a focus on raising the awareness of rule of law among the young population. Vigorous efforts have been made to strengthen corrective education and vocational training for offenders. We have extensively mobilized resources from all walks of life for the aftercare, assistance and education for persons released from prison, to facilitate their reintegration.

Three, criminal justice has been improving. We have rigorously applied such legal principles as the principle of legality and the principle of presumption of innocence. The exclusionary rule against illegal evidence has also been established.

We have improved the system of defence for suspects and defendants. We provide support for lawyers to practise according to law. We have perfected special protection for minors. The scope of legal assistance in criminal matters has been expanded. The impartiality of criminal justice has been promoted and safeguarded. We have vigorously enhanced transparency of judicial processes. The reeducation-through-labour system has been abolished and prison work strengthened. We have comprehensively introduced community-based correctional service and promoted and improved a unified penal enforcement system.

Four, international cooperation has been reinforced on a continual basis. China attaches great importance to combating transnational crime and actively engages itself in international cooperation under multilateral conventions, including UNCAC and UNTOC. To date, China has concluded 129 treaties with 64 countries regarding mutual legal assistance, extradition and transfer of sentenced persons. China has also established bilateral enforcement partnerships with some countries to aggressively hunt down fugitives and recover criminal proceeds across borders. We have achieved high-profile successes in combating various types of transnational crime.

When implementing the aforementioned initiatives, the Chinese Government has stayed within the context of Chinese realities while drawing on and benchmarking against the best practices of the international community, including the norms and rules of the United Nations in CPCJ.

Madam President, China shall soldier on steadfastly along our current path, that is, to develop ours into a rule-of-law country. Internationally, the Chinese Government stands ready to continue working with the rest of the world, scale up cooperation in CPCJ and strive towards international rule of law, equity and justice, the greater good for all peoples, social stability and prosperity and, last but not least, sustainable development.

Thank you, Madam President.