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13th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

High Level Segment

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Mr President,

Distinguished representatives,

Excellences', ladies and gentlemen,

I am delighted to be a part of this impressive gathering taking place in a critical year for human development. In 2015, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to shape our future – the first opportunity to eradicate poverty and perhaps the last opportunity to collectively address climate change. This Congress is an important gathering which will help us promote crime prevention as an important condition for securing a safer world.

I would like to address three points today: first, to flag the relationship between crime prevention, the rule of law and development; second, to highlight the importance of 'Delivering As One' the joint support our partner countries are asking for on these issues; and third, to stress the

importance of reaching a final agreement on the post-2015 agenda, including the development finance.

The interconnection between crime prevention and development has been recognized in various occasions. In 2005, former UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan made a historic statement when he argued that: *“Humanity will not enjoy security without development, it will not enjoy development without security, and it will not enjoy either without respect for human rights”*. In 2011, the World Bank estimated the economic costs of lost production, due to high levels of crime and violence, to be between 2 to 3 percent of a country’s GDP¹. And in November 2011 members States at a High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the Rule of Law also recognized that: *“the rule of law and development are strongly inter-related and mutually reinforcing”*.

There is now also a better understanding of the interdependent relationship between crime prevention and poverty reduction. Development approaches and resources to tackle poverty can be important pathways to reduce crime and violence as well as to enable drug control. Just as we see the positive impact on poverty levels when countries manage to reduce crime, violence and related insecurity, we also see progress in weaning farmers from drug crop production to legal crops or other non-agricultural activities through “alternative development” approaches.

¹ “Conflict, Security, and Development”, World Bank World Development Report, 2011, p. 65.

Successful crime prevention frees resources for development budgets. Protection from fear opens the door to more protection from want. A good, reliable and trusted criminal justice system for all is part of a fair society, where state actors protect the citizens from unlawful behaviours and redress violent injustice,

UNDP is supporting partner countries to seize these opportunities. We are also engaged in programmes to support effective criminal justice and strengthen the Rule of Law in over 100 countries, including over 40 affected by crisis. Through this work we help strengthen the capacity of governments to be more responsive, to hold perpetrators of crimes accountable and provide victims with measures of redress.

To ensure greater integration and effectiveness of UN efforts to strengthen the rule of law, in 2012 Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon created the UN Global Focal Point for police, justice and corrections, convened by UNDP and DPKO, with strong engagement by UNODC, OHCHR and UNWOMEN. This mechanism for integrated UN support has already proven its added value in conflict countries such as Somalia, the Central African Republic and Mali.

My final remarks focus on the post-2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Member States have affirmed the importance of peace, good governance, human rights and access to justice. Effective governance has become a Development Goal!

Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies includes several targets that are directly related to rule of law and justice, such as access to justice, violence reduction, ending human trafficking, reducing illicit financial and arms flows.

Once adopted by the Members States, hopefully in September this year, the set of Sustainable Development Goals will offer an ambitious framework that aims to provide citizens all over the world, the hope and aspiration to live in peace, dignity and prosperity while sustaining our planet for future generations.

The agenda for people and planet is inseparately connected to our discussions in this Congress. For the people and the planet need crime to be prevented so that justice is the standard upon which societies build their development journey.

Thank you.
