



Statement by
Shri D.V. Sadananda Gowda,
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Government of India
at the
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Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
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Your Excellency Mr. President, Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege and pleasure to be here at the 13th UN Congress on a globally important subject, "Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice". I am particularly delighted that this Conference is being held in the State of Qatar, a country with whom India's close and friendly relations are steeped in history. I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government of the State of Qatar for the excellent organization and warm hospitality. I also extend my gratitude to the United Nations

Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for making tremendous efforts in run up to the Congress. We reiterate our readiness to actively participate in the proceedings of the Congress and look forward to a meaningful outcome under your guidance.

India, a country of over 1.2 billion people and the world's largest democracy, firmly believes in the principles of rule of law which is the bedrock for survival of democratic processes and institutions. Effective and strengthened crime prevention and criminal justice systems are the cornerstone for establishing rule of law and are essential for peace, progress and prosperity of nations. With the increased globalization and emergence of new technologies, crime prevention and criminal justice have acquired transnational dimensions, necessitating greater cooperation among nations for the overall well being of all sections of the global society and more specifically, for the vulnerable and deprived sections.

Indian criminal justice system has gained strength and matured over a period of time as enshrined in the Indian Constitution and the entire gamut of criminal laws. An independent judiciary works as an effective watchdog for ensuring justice to all. It reaffirms the faith of our people and give them confidence in the administration of our criminal justice system. Yet, we are continuously striving for further improvement and strengthening of our crime

prevention mechanisms and criminal justice system. As the Law and Justice Minister of the world's largest democracy, I have been assigned the responsibility for further enhancing the efficacy of the system and strengthening of the institutions.

Distinguished Delegates,

Since the world leaders met last time in Brazil, India has ratified the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crimes (UNTOC) and the three protocols: against trafficking in persons, especially women and children; protocol against smuggling of migrants by land, sea and air; and the protocol against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in fire arms, their parts and components and ammunitions. We have also ratified the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). Such actions demonstrate India's resolve to fight transnational organized crimes and constructive and active contribution to the global efforts in this direction.

There is a lot more required to be done by the world community to effectively implement the provisions of these conventions and protocols in letter and spirit. Greater cooperation is required to tackle heinous crimes like human trafficking, drug and arms trafficking, money laundering, etc. The perpetrators of such crimes, in most of the cases, reside in countries other than those where the crimes are

committed. Operational and cutting edge level partnerships are crucial for the success of such conventions and protocols.

With the rapid growth in information technology and increased use of computer systems by people across the globe, more and more crimes in cyber space are being committed around the world. By the uniqueness of their nature, cyber crimes are posing new challenges in all aspects of human life, including business frauds; increased crime against women and children in cyber space; radicalization of youth in different parts of the world; waging war against States; threatening privacy of individuals; and also the critical infrastructure on which our day to day services and facilities depend. The increasing threats in cyber space possibly have the potential of being even more lethal than conventional wars. There is thus an imperative and urgent need for greater cooperation among the international community to deal with the perpetrators of cybercrime more effectively and evolve new options to deal with this daunting challenge. Time has come to prosecute perpetrators of any form of cyber crime in a timely and effective manner with a view to make the cyber space secure and benefit the people in terms of improved service delivery, crime prevention and detection and ease of doing business.

The global community has inherited rich cultural heritage from our forefathers and it is our duty to preserve

that heritage. Of late, we have witnessed increase in crime against cultural heritage and national monuments arising out of the perverse thinking of fundamentalists and also, smuggling of cultural, historical and artistic relics and objects for illicit benefits. These are crimes against humanity. Global community must unite to prevent these and protect our cultural heritage for posterity.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Terrorism has emerged as the most serious scourge of our times. The whole world has been the victim of an undeclared war by epicenters of terrorism with the aid of well-knit and resourceful terrorist organizations engaged in terrorist activities in different states. Any act of terrorism anywhere is a threat to peace and prosperity of the entire world. Terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, must be condemned in the strongest terms. The international community must have a policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism and towards all those who aid and abet terrorist acts and provide safe havens to their perpetrators. Any country that allows the perpetrators of dastardly terrorist attacks to roam freely and continue their diabolical acts against innocent people, poses a serious threat to all nations.

India has been a victim of terrorism for many years and has lost thousands of innocent men, women and children to the heinous crimes of terrorists.

The Government and people of India are determined to safeguard and nurture the unity, integrity and sovereignty, and the inclusive diversity, freedom and development of the country, and thwart the destructive designs of terrorists. India continues to continuously strengthen domestic mechanisms and cooperation with other countries in the critical area of counter terrorism. India had presented a draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) at the United Nations as far back as in 1996 and has been constructively engaged with the international community for its finalization. I call upon all countries to accelerate efforts for an expeditious conclusion of this crucial convention.

Distinguished Delegates,

Money laundering and terrorism financing are also matters of global concern. The Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF), an intergovernmental body established by the G-7 Summit in Paris in 1989 and responsible for setting global standards on anti-money laundering and combating financing of terrorism, defines money laundering as “the processing of criminal proceeds to disguise their illegal origin in order to legitimize the ill-

gotten gains of crime." India became the 34th country member of the Financial Action Task Force in 2010. India is also a signatory to various United Nations Conventions which deal with anti money laundering and countering financing of terrorism.

I am happy to note that this Congress has endorsed the need for greater international cooperation to effectively deal with critical issues such as unaccounted black money stashed in safe havens, money laundering, crime against women and children, and the process of inclusive and transparent inter-governmental post 2015 development agenda; the strategic orientation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ); gender related killing of women and girls; violence against migrants and their families, etc. This will further ensure crime prevention and administration of criminal justice having positive development impacts on the international community.

I hope that the deliberations at this Conference will help in working out effective strategies to deal firmly with terrorism and other transnational threats and crimes, in all their forms and manifestations, which are challenging our societies on a continuous basis, and will lead to further strengthening of the criminal administration system in respective countries. I would like to assure the world community about India's steadfast and strong commitment

to combating these evils with a view to ensure the safety, security, peace and prosperity of the entire world. It is consistent with our civilizational ethos of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' – the whole world is one family, and 'Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah' – let everyone attain happiness and prosperity.

“Jai Hind”

I thank you.