

**13th United Nations Congress
on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
(12 to 19 April 2015, Doha, Qatar)**

**Speech delivered by the German ambassador, H.E. Konrad Max
Scharinger, in the “High-Level Segment”**

Mr. President,

let me congratulate you on your election. I wish to thank the state and the government of Qatar for the successful organisation of this 13th Crime Congress and for the extraordinary hospitality extended to us all.

The German delegation fully associates itself with the statement by the European Union.

Distinguished delegates,

this Congress addresses major issues of criminal policy in our times, and forms part of a long-standing tradition of global deliberations on the effective and sustainable containment of crime. To overcome the challenges by international crime, it is imperative that experts in the field share their experience and that general standards are established, based on scientific findings.

I will focus my remarks on some of the main topics of this congress.

The subject of human rights rightly pervades the programme of this congress as its one, central idea. The administration of criminal justice and the rule of law depend on each other, and are the basis for the respect of fundamental rights; particularly the rights of women, children, and minorities.

In this context, the abolition of the death penalty is of crucial importance. Germany has been campaigning for this in the context of its roles in the European Union, the Council of Europe, and the United Nations. The reason is that there is no justification for the death penalty, on grounds both of legal ethics and of legal policy. Accordingly, I most energetically support the appeal made by the European Union for all states in which the death penalty is still enforced to refrain from this practice by imposing a moratorium or, at any rate, to perform executions only in keeping with the minimum standards established by the United Nations.

We support all the endeavours pursued by the European Union to protect and promote the human rights situation of lesbian, homosexual, bisexual, transsexual, transgender, and intersexual persons. In many nations of the world, these people become victims of persecution, discrimination, and violence, including torture and murder, because of their sexual orientation and gender identity. In numerous countries, consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex are deemed an offence liable to imprisonment or the death penalty. Germany is fully committed to the principle of the universal validity of human rights and affirms

that any discrimination whatsoever of people based on their sexual orientation or gender identity is unacceptable.

As regards terrorism, we are profoundly shocked by the recent terrorist attacks committed in the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Europe, and appalled by the violence with which terrorist groups are seeking to seize power in some states and to kill or subjugate people of a different origin or of a different faith.

In combating terrorism at the international level, it is indispensable that the law enforcement agencies, the police, the administrative authorities and the intelligence services closely cooperate with each other.

It is of decisive importance that we lend our support to those states who encounter technical difficulties in realising their international duties. In this context we highly appreciate the efforts undertaken in particular by the United Nations and the G 7 states in this field.

As regards organised crime, this is a major issue for Germany as we are particularly affected by it as a result of our geographical location in the centre of Europe. Dealing with organised crime on a national level is not sufficient. It is a form of international crime. This means that effectively combating this type of crime will be possible only by coordinated international action.

Against this backdrop, we welcome the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime and the protocols supplementing it.

They make an important contribution towards the objective of an intensified cooperation at the international level. They continue to be of immense importance for their political message, which is: The community of nations takes the phenomenon of organised crime very seriously, and combats it by creating and applying the corresponding instruments.

This political message is also important regarding the issue of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants. The consequences of these types of crimes are massive.

Human trafficking is one of the most serious crimes against humanity and to be encountered in the most diverse manifestations: as trade into sexual exploitation, trade into exploitative work relationships, trade serving organ harvesting, and other forms of exploitation.

Smuggling of migrants is undertaken by networks exploiting the suffering and desperation of migrants all over the world, often exposing them to mortal danger.

Accordingly, we must absolutely discuss further means of putting a stop to these irresponsible human traffickers and smugglers and their criminal activities contemptuous of human life and dignity!

In order to effectively combat organised crime, it is of the utmost importance to make it as difficult as possible for money laundering to happen. Perpetrators must be prevented from introducing their proceeds they gained by their offences into the legitimate economic

cycle. Therefore we must put in place standards that are as uniform as possible to combat and prevent money laundering. This can only be effectively attained by international collaboration.

In this context we welcome the progress made by the international legal community in this field in the past years. I recall the two most important conventions of the United Nations ratified in this context. The UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and the UN Convention against Corruption are a guideline for the specific legislation to be enacted by the individual contracting State.

It is now time to work towards further implementing and strengthening these systems in place, but not to initiate another UN convention.

Distinguished delegates,

speaking of new forms of crime, cybercrime has taken on dimensions requiring the close cooperation of states. We must develop shared international strategies for combating this type of crime.

In this context, Germany welcomes the efforts by the Council of Europe, which have culminated in the successful ratification of the Cybercrime Convention and its Additional Protocol. The many years in which work was done on this Convention have shown how difficult it is to achieve a binding consensus at the international level. The result obtained represents a very broad consensus in international collaboration, and is all the more welcome as the

convention is open for any non-member States wishing to sign and ratify it.

Permit me to close with the following general remarks:

After twelve successful congresses, the 13th Congress will give a strong impulse to international cooperation in combating organised crime, terrorism, corruption, and in generally preventing crime.

The Doha Declaration mentions the various opportunities available to us in our cooperation, addressing technical and administrative as well as legislative aspects. In this form, it is a suitable basis for an overall international strategy in these fields. The congress thus shows that we refuse to capitulate despite the challenges posed by our time.

Distinguished delegates, thank you very much for your attention.