

National Statement by Mr T Raja Kumar,
Deputy Secretary (International), Ministry of Home Affairs

1. Mr Chair, allow me to thank the UNODC and Executive Director Waly for convening this session.

Singapore's Approach to Tackling Crime

2. Singapore's national approach to tackling crime is underpinned by our strong emphasis on the rule of law - backed by good governance, clean and credible public institutions, and the effective implementation of crime prevention policies.

3. We recognise that public education and strong community support are key to the success of our efforts. Singapore has also recognised that successful rehabilitation is integral to ensuring sustained crime prevention. We invest significantly in evidence-based programmes and partner extensively with the community to support the re-integration of ex-offenders.

4. This approach has worked well for us. Singapore's overall crime rate remains low and our recidivism rate has dropped to a 30-year low of 22%. Our people feel safe.

Singapore's Commitment to International Instruments

5. Singapore recognises that we need to collaborate as an international community in the fight against transnational crime, including terrorism. We are committed to international efforts in countering transnational crime and to upholding our relevant international obligations. We are a party to 15 international counter-terrorism agreements, and support the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We take this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the UN Convention Against Corruption. We fully support and will actively participate in the review process of both treaties.

International Cooperation

6. Mr Chair, as more people and businesses operate online because of the COVID-19 pandemic, new crime typologies have emerged.

7. The increasingly borderless nature of crime means that regional and international cooperation are critical to law enforcement success in tackling crime.

8. Singapore works closely with the UNODC, and key partners such as INTERPOL and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to combat international economic crime, money laundering and terrorism financing.

9. For instance, we worked with INTERPOL to initiate the formation of the INTERPOL Global Financial Crime Task Force to combat the threat of cyberfraud and disrupt the financial flows of criminal syndicates. We also initiated the formation of the ASEAN Cyber Desk at the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation to galvanise an ASEAN regional response against cybercrime.

10. We look forward to sharing our insights and strategies to disrupt illicit money flows at a side event that we are co-organising with UNODC, INTERPOL and Germany. We welcome members to join us for the discussion.

Conclusion

11. Mr Chair, our comprehensive approach to crime prevention has allowed us to build a safe and secure Singapore for our people. Singapore will continue to support the work of the UNODC and contribute to strengthening regional and international cooperation against transnational crime, including the scourge of terrorism and drugs.

12. Thank you.