



**STATEMENT OF THE G-77 AND CHINA AT THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF
THE COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE,
31st session from 16-20 MAY 2022
DELIVERED BY H.E. AZZEDDINE FARHANE, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF MOROCCO**

Vienna, 16 May 2022

Mr. Chair,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the 31st Session of the CCPCJ, as well as to the other elected members of the Bureau. You can count on the full support of the Group for the successful conclusion of this meeting.

2. We also extend our thanks to the Secretariat for the excellent work done in preparation of this session.

3. We reaffirm our commitment towards the objectives set forth by the 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, including by supporting the holding of the Commission's intersessional thematic discussion, and calls all Member States to continue their efforts for a balanced and integral implementation of the Kyoto Declaration in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to strengthen the work on the capacity-building, support and the provision of adequate, long-term, sustainable, effective and demand driven technical assistance.

Mr. Chair,

4. We reaffirm the need to enhance bilateral, regional, subregional and international cooperation in criminal matters aimed at preventing and combating transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism, including issues related to extradition and mutual legal assistance, and call upon Member States to adopt practical approaches that would facilitate such cooperation.

5. We reiterate our serious concern over any form of ranking of Member States for the purposes of international cooperation in criminal matters. We remain strongly convinced that upholding multilateralism, including supporting an effective United Nations development system and avoid promulgating and imposing any measures and actions on developing countries not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, is essential to improve solidarity, international cooperation framework and reinforce States' capabilities on crime prevention and criminal justice matters.

Mr. Chair,

6. We congratulate the Government of Egypt for successfully hosting the 9th session of the COSP UNCAC, welcome its outcome documents and the progress made by States in implementing the Convention, including, inter alia, through the mechanism for the review of implementation of the UNCAC.

7. We reaffirm our commitment to the Political Declaration adopted during the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in June 2021 and look forward to the upcoming UNCAC intersessional meeting, in September 2022.

8. We reiterate the necessity to take urgent measures to prevent, prosecute and deter all forms of corruption, as well as the transfer abroad and laundering of assets derived from corruption, and to deny safe havens to any legal or natural person who has committed or is liable for an act of corruption, and the proceeds of the crime.

9. We insist on the need to strengthen international cooperation to effectively prevent and counter money-laundering and illicit financial flows and enhance measures for the identification, tracing, freezing, seizure, and recovery of the proceeds of crime or corruption, to deny them safe havens through their eventual confiscation as well as to speed up their recovery and return without restrictions and in accordance with Chapter V of the UNCAC..

10. We deeply regret that despite the very explicit articles of the UNCAC, there appears to be an increase in the barriers and challenges in the asset recovery process and their return to countries of origin, and in cases that make use of settlements, and in this regard, remind that States Parties shall afford one another the widest measures of international cooperation, and furthermore emphasize that the management, administration and utilization of returned assets is the responsibility of the requesting State and that recovered assets, shall be returned without conditionalities and in full respect of the sovereign rights of the States of origin. We further invite State Parties to address gaps within the international anticorruption framework particularly on asset recovery, and to consider the need of an additional protocol on asset recovery and the return as part of UNCAC.

11. We welcome the theme of the 31st session of the CCPCJ of "Strengthening the use of digital evidence in criminal justice and countering cybercrime, including the abuse and exploitation of minors in illegal activities with the use of the Internet".

12. We recognize the complex nature of cybercrime and welcome the successful holding of the first session of the Ad Hoc Committee and praise the able leadership of the Chair Ambassador Mebarki of Algeria and the assistance of the Secretariat. In this regard we will continue to actively participate in the elaboration of a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communication technologies for criminal purposes within the framework of the United Nations, taking into full consideration existing national, regional and international instruments and efforts on combating the use of information and communication technologies for criminal purposes, taking into account, inter alia, the concerns and interests of all Member States, in particular developing countries.

Mr. Chair,

13. We attach great importance to combating Trafficking in Persons and any initiative to combat this crime should give due importance to addressing root causes, the prevention aspect, respecting the rights of the victims and promoting effective law enforcement, the demand aspect of this problem and providing assistance to victims, and groups in vulnerable situations, especially women and children. We therefore strongly call

attention to the necessity for a full and effective implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

14. We express concern over the constant violation of the rights of migrants and urges the international community to ensure that the human rights of smuggled migrants, particularly the unaccompanied children, are respected and that the safety and security of smuggled migrants are granted utmost priority regardless of their immigration status, nationality, gender, ethnicity, age or religion.

15. Regarding trafficking on firearms we reaffirm our concerns about the continuing problem of illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts, components and ammunition as another form of transnational organized crime.

16. We acknowledge any existing, increasing or potential links, in some cases, between transnational organized crime and other illicit activities, in particular drug trafficking and money laundering, illicit financial flows and terrorism and its financing, and reaffirm the need for enhancing bilateral, regional and international cooperation, including in the areas of exchange of information, extradition and mutual legal assistance, in accordance with domestic legislation and with the aim to contributing to countering the threat posed by transnational organized crime.

Mr. Chair,

17. We call upon all Member States to develop and implement a comprehensive crime prevention and justice system policy, with a view to prevent the involvement of children in criminal activities and in this regard to integrate children's perspective into crime prevention policies and the overall rule of law efforts. The Group reiterates the importance of the use and application of the United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in support of effective, fair, humane, and accountable criminal justice systems, especially for women and children. In this regard, the Group encourages Member States to give due consideration to the Bangkok Rules, the Nelson Mandela Rules, as well as the Beijing Rules.

18. We deplore the rise of hate crimes around the world and in this regard underline the importance of respect for religious, ethnic and cultural diversity, and call for all States to promote a culture of tolerance and respect among individuals, societies and nations.

19. We wish to express our particular concern for the illicit trafficking of cultural property and related offences, including the involvement of organized criminal groups, which continues to inflict increasing damage to the cultural heritage of our nations, and thus, to part of our identities.

18. We underscore the need to address crimes that have a significant impact on protected species of wild fauna and flora such as, illegal mining, illicit trafficking in forest products, biological and natural resources, wildlife, as well as precious metals, in the respective fora.

20. We underscore the need to better understand and enhance our efforts, in accordance with each Member's national law, against the smuggling of commercial goods.

Mr. Chair,

21. On the issue of prevention of terrorism, the Group calls for strengthening international responses, in accordance with national legislation and the implementation

and application of the UNTOC, and all applicable regional and international counterterrorism legal instruments, as well as the comprehensive, balanced and effective implementation of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy. We strongly reaffirm that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, civilization, nationality or ethnicity, and reiterates that all efforts to counter it should be in line with international law.

22. We recognize the positive role played by the intergovernmental working group to improve the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (FINGOV) as an appropriate forum for a fruitful dialogue on UNODC's program development and implementation. We look forward for the achievement of the full potential of its current format.

23. We reiterate that UNODC needs adequate and sustainable resources to allow it to effectively implement an increasingly complex mandate. Therefore, we urge all States to increase their unconditional contributions, specifically to the General Purpose Fund of UNODC.

24. We stress the need to reinforce efforts on the Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters and express concern that equitable geographical representation from developing countries and gender balance is still to be achieved, especially at the senior and policy-making levels, are still unpair and adversely affect the highest standards of efficiency, technical competence, and integrity of the UNODC.

25. Therefore, we urge the Executive Director to intensify her efforts to ensure that adequate, and proper equitable geographical distribution and gender balance are fully incorporated, as principles, in the recruitment policy of UNODC, both at headquarters, and its Field Offices, particularly at the senior and policy-making levels and for professional posts requiring specific skills.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.