

**Statement of the Group of Asia-Pacific States  
at the 32nd Session of the United Nations Commission on  
Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice  
Vienna, 22-26 May 2023**

*To be delivered by H.E. Mr. Ikram Mohammad Ibrahim, Permanent Representative of  
Malaysia, in his capacity as Chair of the Asia-Pacific Group in Vienna (May-Oct. 2023)*

\*\*\*\*\*

Madam Chairperson,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group. At the outset, the Group congratulates you on your election as Chair of the 32nd Session of the United Nations (UN) Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ). We are confident that, under your able leadership, this session will be constructive and achieve a comprehensive outcome.

We highly appreciate the work of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and request the UNODC to continue assisting Member States in capacity building and technical assistance.

Kyoto Declaration

The Group underlines its commitment towards the implementation of the 2021 Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The implementation of the Kyoto Declaration is instrumental and an important step in advancing the criminal justice system, promoting the rule of law at all levels, and promoting international cooperation and technical assistance.

Transnational Organised Crime

The Group considers the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its Protocols as important instruments to counter transnational organised crime and strengthen international cooperation, mindful of our common and shared responsibility in fighting such crime.

We express our unwavering commitment towards the establishment and implementation of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the UNTOC and its Protocols, which serves as an important guiding tool for States Parties to further implement the said convention.

## Corruption

The Group acknowledges the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) as the core international legal framework to prevent and combat corruption. We commend the progress made in the Convention's implementation, especially those made through its review system.

We reiterate our commitment towards the implementation of the political declaration “our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation” adopted by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) Special Session in New York in June 2021. We look forward to its effective implementation by the UNCAC's subsidiary bodies.

We further reiterate the need for the international community to take urgent measures to prevent, prosecute and deter all forms of corruption, as well as to strengthen international cooperation to further improve measures for the identification, tracing, freezing, seizure and recovery of the illicitly acquired assets and their speedy return to the country of origin, in accordance with Chapter V of UNCAC and relevant domestic legal frameworks.

We urge all UNCAC States parties, and in accordance with their domestic laws, to take concrete measures and strengthen cooperation to hold any person who has committed or is liable for an act of corruption accountable and recover the proceeds of crime by denying safe haven to such persons and the proceeds of their crimes.

## Trafficking In Persons

The Group underscores the value of implementing a victim-oriented approach to prevent and counter all forms of trafficking in persons (TIP) for the purpose of any form of exploitation. The demand aspect, root causes, prevention and law enforcement, and assistance to victims should be at the core of any strategy to combat TIP.

## Smuggling of Migrants

The Group remains concerned regarding the violation of the rights of smuggled migrants. We underscore the need to adopt and implement effective measures to prevent and combat the smuggling of migrants and protect the lives and the human rights of migrants, particularly women, unaccompanied children and adolescents. In particular, we reiterate the importance of tackling the increasing role of

transnational and national organised criminal groups profiting from such crime and other crimes against migrants.

### Terrorism

The Group recognises that terrorism remains one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and reiterates its strong and unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of nationality, ethnicity or religious beliefs. We underscore the need to implement the relevant international legal instruments and UN resolutions to counter terrorism with full respect for domestic laws.

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. We call upon all States to promote a culture of tolerance and respect among individuals, societies and nations.

### Cybercrime

The Group reaffirms its firm support to the elaboration of a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies (ICT) for criminal purposes, in accordance with UNGA Resolution 74/247. We welcome the conclusion of the Fifth Session of the Ad Hoc Committee held in Vienna from 11-21 April 2023. We call upon all Member States to actively participate in the upcoming sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee in New York, with the aim of concluding a future convention on the said matter.

### FinGov

The Group emphasises the need to strengthen the role of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the UNODC (FinGov). We urge UNODC to take concrete steps to improve gender balance and representation of unrepresented and underrepresented countries in the staff composition of its Office.

We remain strongly convinced that upholding multilateralism, including supporting an effective United Nations development system and ensuring restrictive measures and actions towards developing countries are fully in accordance with the international law and Charter of the United Nations, so as to avoid any detrimental effects on their crime prevention and criminal justice efforts, are essential to improve solidarity, international cooperation framework and reinforce States' capabilities on crime prevention and criminal justice matters.

I thank you, Madam Chairperson.