



**STATEMENT OF THE G-77 AND CHINA AT THE THIRTY SECOND
SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND
CRIMINAL JUSTICE, 22 TO 26 MAY 2023
DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. AFTAB AHMAD KHOKHER,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN**

Mr. Chair,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the 32nd 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 and material assistance, including equipment and transfer of technology.

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 in all its forms and manifestations, 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, maintaining and imposing any measures and actions, including sanctions and restrictions, on developing countries that are 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 welcome the outcome documents of the 9th session of the COSP UNCAC and the progress made in the implementation of the Convention, including through its mechanism for the review. We reaffirm our commitment to the Political Declaration adopted during the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Corruption in June 2021 and look forward for its proper follow-up within UNCAC's subsidiary bodies.

7. We highlight the necessity to take urgent measures to prevent, prosecute and deter all forms of corruption, 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.

8. 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.

9. We welcome the thematic discussion of the 32nd session of the CCPCJ on “Enhancing the functioning of the criminal justice system to ensure access to justice and to realize a safe and secure society”.

10. We recognize the importance of legal aid as an enabler for providing access to Justice for All and are cognizant of the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Principles and Guidelines for Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems and their contributions in this regard.

11. We welcome the progress made by the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes, within the framework of the United Nations, under the able leadership of the Chair Ambassador Mebarki of Algeria and the assistance of the Secretariat. We reaffirm our commitment to engage constructively and in good faith with all delegations in the sixth session of the Ad Hoc Committee and remain optimistic that we will be able to agree on a draft convention to be submitted to the General Assembly at its 78th session, in a manner that also addresses the concerns and interests of all Member States, in particular developing countries.

Mr. Chair,

12. 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.

13. We express concern over the constant violation of the rights of migrants and urge 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.

14. 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.

15. 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,

16. 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.

17. We reiterate the importance of the use and application of the United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, namely the Bangkok Rules, the Nelson Mandela Rules, as well as the Beijing Rules, in support of effective, fair, humane, and accountable criminal justice systems, especially for women and children.

18. We deplore the rise of hate crimes around the world and in this regard underline the importance of respect for the diversity of religions and beliefs as well as ethnic and cultural diversity, and call for all States to undertake necessary measures to promote a culture of tolerance and respect among societies and nations based on the principles of the international law.

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.

20. 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.

21. 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,

22. On the issue of preventing and combatting of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, 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.

23. 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.

24. 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.

25. 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 are still to be achieved, especially at the senior and policy-making levels of the UNODC.

26. Therefore, we urge the Executive Director to intensify the 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. In this context, we request the Executive Director to continue providing comprehensive, disaggregated and detailed information through the reporting entitlements and in the context FINGOV meetings in this regard.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.