

**Statement on behalf of the African Group at the 14th United Nations  
Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.**

**07 to 12 Mars, Kyoto, Japan**

**Delivered by H.E.Ms. Teodolinda Rosa Rodrigues Coelho, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Angola,**

**Mme. President,**

1. The African Group associates itself with the statement of the Group of 77 & China.
2. On behalf of the African Group, allow me to congratulate you on your election as President of the Congress. The Group also extends its congratulations to the other members of the Bureau and assures of its full support.
3. The African Group expresses its appreciation to the Government of Japan for all the efforts made in the preparation of this event. Special mention goes to H.E. Ambassador Takeshi Hikihara and his team for their exemplary work on the Political Declaration. The Group would like also to thank the secretariat for their efforts.

**Mme. President,**

4. The Group welcomes the theme for this Congress, and is of the view that sustainable development and the rule of law at all levels are strongly interrelated and mutually reinforcing and reaffirms its commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
5. The Group remains convinced that crime is a major obstacle to the economic and social development of the Continent and to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The African Union has recognized organized crime, drug trafficking and illicit financial flows as obstacles to the achievement of AU Agenda 2063, and urges all States to develop and implement strategies to prevent and combat them, as well as, reiterates its unequivocal condemnation and serious concern about the rise in terrorism and terrorist acts.
6. Additionally, the increasing links between terrorist activities and transnational organized crime, in particular, corruption, drug trafficking, trafficking in firearms as well as money-laundering remains a serious concern. The Group believes that all Member States have the responsibility to work collectively to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.
7. Furthermore, the African Group calls on the necessity to take urgent measures to prevent, prosecute and punish corruption, including the transfer abroad and laundering of assets derived from corruption and to cooperate and assist in the identification, freezing and seizures as well as to speed up the recovery and return in accordance with chapter V of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

**Mme. President,**

8. The protection of children and youth which constitute the vast majority of the population of Africa, remains one of the highest priorities within the region and simultaneously encourages countries to enhance cooperation and to develop effective measures to prevent the smuggling of migrants, while ensuring the

protection of their rights, including access to justice without any discrimination, and non-criminalization in accordance with the UNTOC and its Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants.

**Mme. President,**

9. The African Group is of the view that the effective application of the UN standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice is fundamental in support of fair, humane, and accountable criminal justice systems, as well as, remains seized with the continuous and unabated illicit trafficking in cultural property and its links to the financing of organized crime and terrorism.
10. The Group recognizes the complex nature of cybercrime and will continue to actively participate in the process ongoing, toward the elaboration of a comprehensive international Convention on Cybercrime within the framework of the United Nations, taking into full consideration existing national, regional and international instruments and efforts at all.
11. In addition, the Group expresses concerns over the continuous challenge posed by crimes that have an impact on the environment such as wildlife crime, illicit trafficking in precious metals and illegal mining and commends ongoing efforts to improve effective measures to prevent and counter these crimes.

**Mme. President,**

12. The African Group believes that the fight against crime is a common responsibility. While recognising our shared responsibility to uphold the human dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms; the Group calls on the full respect of the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States, their national laws as well as their socio-cultural and religious particularities.

We thank you.