

Statement by
His Excellency Mr. Anisul Huq, MP
Hon'ble Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs,
Government of Bangladesh
at the 14th UN Congress
on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
Kyoto, Japan 7-12 March 2021

Madam President - Excellency Ms. Yoko KAMIKAWA, Minister of Justice, Japan

At the beginning, I would like to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau. I assure you of Bangladesh delegation's full support and cooperation in discharging your important responsibilities.

We believe, the theme of this Congress - *Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* - is apt and timely. For a sustainable future, we must collectively intensify our crime prevention efforts within the context of social and economic development.

Madam President,

While we align with the statements delivered by Group of 77 & China, and Non-Aligned Movement, I would like to add the following in my national capacity:

Bangladesh is constitutionally committed to uphold rule of law, fundamental human rights and freedom, equality and justice for all of her citizens.

We consider the Agenda 2030 as a key to our national and global future and SDG 16 as a critical part of the Agenda to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

To effectively implement SDG 16, we have taken various measures such as the formation of the National Human Rights Commission, the issuance of the Right to Information Act, and governance related initiatives such as annual performance agreement (APA), citizen charter, national integrity strategy (NIS), and grievance redress system (GRS).

Under SDG 16, Bangladesh has made significant progress, including reducing all forms of violence and related death rates; giving legal identity for all including birth registration; and developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels. We are putting our best efforts to ensure public access to information; to protect fundamental freedoms; substantially reduce corruption; and strengthen

national institutions, including through international cooperation, for capacity building at all levels to prevent crime, violence and to combat terrorism. To meet these obligations, we have already enacted laws.

Madam President,

We would like to emphasize on full and effective implementation of UNCAC and UNTOC, and their review mechanisms, and to enhance tailor made capacity-building and technical assistance, particularly for LDCs and Countries in Transition, for comprehensive and integrated development strategies, taking into account the specific dimensions of prevention and effective law enforcement of each State Party.

Madam President,

We believe that the Political Declaration of this Congress will provide necessary political support and strategic guidance to relevant institutions and bodies on crime prevention and criminal justice, including on their work related to human trafficking, narcotic drugs, illicit trafficking of cultural property, terrorism, corruption, money laundering, cybercrime, violence against women, wildlife trafficking, and violence against and exploitation of migrants.

Madam President,

We strongly feel that UNODC needs adequate and sustainable resources to effectively implement its mandate and we urge all States to increase their contributions to UNODC.

Madam President,

Before concluding, I would like to reiterate Bangladesh's firm commitment to crime prevention, criminal justice and rule of law, as well as to Agenda 2030, which are high on the agenda of the Government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Thank you, Madam President.