Statement

by

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of

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ROK

at

UN Congress

on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
I. (Greetings)

Honorable President!

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea, I congratulate you on being elected as President.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen!

It is my great honor to speak here as a representative of the Republic of Korea at the UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice which is the most prominent and influential meeting in the field.

Taking this opportunity, I express my appreciation to UNODC and the State of Qatar for all your efforts in making this Congress successful.
II. Implementing Comprehensive Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Policies and Strategies to Promote the Rule of Law and to Support Sustainable Development

Honorable President and distinguished delegates!

It has been widely recognized that crime undermines the foundation for the rule of law, and thus reduces confidence in the Government and hinders sustainable development.

Recognizing this problem, many Governments around the world are endeavoring to establish the rule of law. Today, I would like to introduce the Korean Government’s efforts.

The Government of the Republic of Korea set out comprehensive action to promote the rule of law and root out abnormal practices and structural irregularities by launching the initiative for ‘Normalization of the Abnormal based on the Rule of Law’ as a keystone of its national agenda.
First of all, corruption not only hampers economic growth and
development but also puts resources which ought to be invested
in social development into a wrong place.

The Republic of Korea thoroughly investigates and punishes
criminals and deprives them of criminal proceeds in order to build
an institutional framework that weakens a motive for crime and
realizes justice.

The Korean Government has made diverse efforts such as
strengthening legal systems and expanding a special department
dedicated to recovery of criminal proceeds.

Second, the Korean Government has designated ‘Four Evils of
Society’ to make our society a safer place to live. The four evils
are sexual crime, domestic violence, school violence, and crime
related to food safety. We have focused our effort in eradicating
such crimes and accomplished substantial results.
I believe that I cannot overstress the importance of early prevention of crime and establishment of basic social order for the rule of law and sustainable development.

In this regard, the Korean Ministry of Justice has actively carried out the initiative of the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design or CPTED (섀테드) in the specific area vulnerable to crime in order to eliminate environmental elements that may contribute to crime. Moreover, in cooperation with local communities, we have launched ‘Law Education Theme Park’ where every citizen, regardless of their age and gender, has a chance to get familiar with the law through various experience programs and activities. As of late 2014, about 1.3 million people have visited the Theme Park.

With these efforts, we have made significant achievements in establishing the right culture of law and social order.
III. (International Cooperation to Combat Transnational Organized Crimes)

Ministers and distinguished delegates!

Today, cross-border exchanges of human and material resources are increasing exponentially. It is impossible for a single country to solve transnational crimes alone and therefore, global cooperation is required to find a fundamental solution to the global challenge.

The Korean Government has also kept pace with the international effort by signing Extradition Treaties with 32 countries including the European Convention on Extradition, and Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties with 29 countries including the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, and built a concrete platform to combat transnational organized crimes.
In the meantime, Asian countries including Korea came to an agreement that a regional network was required to combat transnational crimes in the region and launched the Asset Recovery Interagency Network - Asia Pacific (ARIN-AP) with its Secretariat installed in the Supreme Prosecutors’ Office of the Republic of Korea. Now, Asian countries are working closely together to combat transnational organized crimes under this system.

Moreover, in order to take preemptive measures to deal with cybercrimes that are becoming ever more intellectual and professional, the Republic of Korea is responding actively on cybercrimes by expanding human and material resources at the department that specializes in such crimes under the Prosecutors’ Office and continues its cooperation with other countries.
Nonetheless, no country can confront transnational crimes alone.

I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize on how crucial cooperation between all member states is in tackling transnational crimes.

IV. (Public Participation in Strengthening Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice)

Distinguished delegates!

Recently, the international community has been holding discussions on public participation in strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice.

The Korean Government has also endeavored to encourage citizens to participate in the effort to strengthen crime prevention and criminal justice.
First of all, the Korean Ministry of Justice and the Prosecution Service started operating the Citizen’s Committee on Prosecution in August 2010 as part of effort to promote fairness and transparency in investigations by expanding citizens’ participation during investigation procedures. The Committee ensures that citizens’ opinions are well reflected in decisions made by prosecutors.

The Civil Participation in Criminal Trials System in which citizens take part in criminal trials as a jury has been adopted and implemented on January 1, 2008 in order to reinforce democratic justice and transparency and to establish a judicial system that citizens can trust.
The Government of the Republic of Korea will continue to recognize the importance of public participation in strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice. We will do our best to ensure that our judicial administration is backed by citizen’s trust and support.

V. (Conclusion)

Honorable President, and distinguished delegates!

I have talked about the policies and efforts made by the Korean Government to prevent and combat crime. It is important to share policies and practices with other countries to realize criminal justice all over the country. I hope that this Congress offers an excellent opportunity to share our experience and knowledge in eradicating crimes, not least promote close cooperation between all member states.
Once again, I would like to highlight my emphasis on the importance of close and united efforts of the international community in combating crimes.

In conclusion, I extend my appreciation to UNODC and the State of Qatar for all the preparations.

Thank you very much.