

**Remarks by the UNODC Executive Director
Conclusion of the 23rd session of the Commission
on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
16 May 2014**

**Mr Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Congratulations on a successful conclusion of the 23rd session of the Commission.

As recent events in Nigeria and Lampedusa have made clear, the Crime Commission bears a heavy responsibility, as the principal policymaking body of the UN addressing some of the most serious threats we face today.

I strongly condemn the violent abduction of the schoolgirls in Chibok, and I know we all stand in solidarity with the families, and the people and government of Nigeria.

We must support crucial work on the ground with our redoubled efforts here, to strengthen collective action against crime.

As UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said earlier this week, “the threat posed by Boko Haram is not an isolated issue. It requires us to strengthen counterterrorism and our efforts against piracy, human trafficking, and the illicit drug trade... it demands strengthened regional cooperation.”

The resolutions and the discussions that have taken place over the past week at the Commission seek to address these very issues.

Important standards and norms have been agreed and recommended to ECOSOC for adoption by the GA.

Your efforts have also helped to put the spotlight on urgent threats such as wildlife and forest crime, the smuggling of migrants and other critical issues.

It is vital that we continue to advance global action on these issues as we move towards the 13th Crime Congress in Qatar next April, and the September 2015 UN summit on the post-2015 development agenda.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We take the responsibilities you have given us through the resolutions with the utmost seriousness.

As you know, UNODC continues to face severe budgetary constraints.

We have responded with comprehensive reforms, in close consultation with you, so we can continue to support Member States to address the threats of drugs and crime as effectively and efficiently as possible.

I hope we can rely on you to help us accomplish the tasks entrusted to UNODC by providing the necessary contributions, including general purpose funding, in a spirit of shared responsibility.

We will continue to engage and work closely with you on the way forward.

Mr. Chairman, congratulations once again on a successful 23rd session, and thanks to you all.