

**10<sup>th</sup> UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE PREVENTION OF  
CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS  
VIENNA, 10-17 APRIL 2000**

**AGENDA ITEM 4:**

**INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL CRIME:  
NEW CHALLENGES IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY**

**DELEGATION OF CAMEROON  
VIENNA, 13<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2000**

Mr. Chairman,

It gives me and my delegation great pleasure to be part of the millennium Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders holding in this great historic city of Vienna.

On this special occasion, may we be privileged to share the pride and honor of your election to preside over the deliberations of the congress. To you and to the other members of The Bureau, we say Congratulations and further wish you God's guidance and clairvoyance in the accomplishment of the exacting task that is yours throughout the congress.

It pleases us also to thank and encourage the UN Center for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, Vienna for the excellent work it has done and is doing in the field of crime.

Mr. Chairman,

It is common knowledge that globalization, marked by great technological advancements in transportation and telecommunication has produced major upsets in the economic, political, social and cultural fabrics of world communities. Without discounting the positive results of this phenomenon, it is manifest that it has hatched new variants of criminality including transnational organized crime. The social threat posed by organized crime to national and international security, second to none except military oppression, poses new challenges to the international community. Its variants comprise traffic in Persons particularly women and children for economic slavery and prostitution, smuggling in arms and ammunitions, traffic in illegal drugs, smuggling of migrants laundering huge sums of money, proceeds of crime, etc.

In its armors, are the weapons of fraud on a global scale, corruption and bribery of public officials, opinion leaders etc.

Mr. Chairman,

It is equally common ground, that in the face of these rapidly growing new versions of crime, individual government actions as well as traditional international forms of cooperation are greatly inadequate and ill adapted.

International cooperation is both a challenge in itself and an opportunity. It is a challenge that the international community must regularly address, safeguarding its dynamic nature and really integrating viable and workable standards to continually reinforce it. This largely depends in the political will of each and every nation. As an opportunity, international cooperation's problem-solving, whence its urgency in combating organized crime.

Mr. Chairman,

This is no gainsaying the fact that new forms of international cooperation are indispensable in a bid to meet the new challenges. The draft convention on transnational organized crime and its three additional protocols seek to achieve satisfactory results in this domain.

But while international cooperation must be relentlessly pursued there is need to contemplate a higher level of inter - state relationships. In the face of a global threat, there is inescapable global responsibility. To effectively combat and overcome the enemy, global SOLIDARITY is a sine qua non; solidarity based in moral, material, financial or physical contributions, each partly surrendering the best it can afford to the extent of its capabilities, when and where need arises. This was the situation in the great wars yesterday, it is still valid today.

It is in this perspective that we fervently support the statement of the Group 77 and China to the congress and that of the African Group also supporting it. The creation of a Special Fund to assist less privileged countries in this domain will be an expression par excellence of international solidarity. It will help to harmonize and achieve minimum compliance by all states with the obligations under the convention.

We further wish to join the Chinese delegation in their comments on the draft convention. In particular, we take to heart and underscore the principle of sovereignty, equality and mutual benefits. The temptation of transposing and imposing unachievable standards in the draft convention should be firmly resisted and discarded in favor of more meaningful, equitable and confidence - inspiring provisions. We need not overemphasize the fact that general acceptability of the convention will greatly facilitate and enhance its global implementation.

Cameroon, faithful to the endearing policies of peace and security at the national, sub-regional, regional and international levels, as exemplified in her national laws and treaty obligations, will like to see in the convention a comprehensive balance and equitable instrument capable of meeting the aspirations of the majority if not all nations of the world.