

STATEMENT  
BY H.E. Mr. RHOUSDY SOERIAATMADJA  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDONESIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS

BEFORE  
THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF  
THE TENTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON THE  
PREVENTION OF CRIME AND TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

Vienna, 15 April 2000

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Indonesian delegation, I would like to congratulate you on your election as President of the high level segment of the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders. We are confident that under your wise leadership we will achieve substantive progress in our work. We also would like to congratulate H.E. Mr. Penuell Maduna of South Africa for his election as President of this Tenth Congress. The same spirit of felicitation goes as well to the other officers for their respective election as members of the General Committee of this Congress.

My delegation would also like to extend its high appreciation and gratitude to the Government of Austria for hosting this Congress. It is our earnest hope that the Congress would serve as a global forum to encourage a more effective concerted action, within a spirit of cooperation, to combat the world crime problem.

Mr. President,

Indonesia places great importance on the program of work of the Congress which offers a great opportunity for all delegations to reach agreement on a long-term plan of action to meet the challenges posed by transnational crime. This effort is clearly reflected in the theme of the Tenth Congress: *"meeting the challenges of the twenty-first century."* We are all aware that the problems of combating crimes characterized by new features and dimensions evolved in the era of globalization cannot be adequately addressed by individual Government. A conducive international cooperation is required to ensure the prevention of crime on a global scale, and to uphold national efforts in fostering criminal justice systems.

At the national level, Indonesia has been undertaking extensive measures and legal reform to cope with transnational organized crimes such as illicit drug trafficking, the smuggling of illegal immigrants, firearms and ammunition smuggling, and money laundering. Those criminal acts will no doubt have a negative impact on national security and social stability.

Mr. President,

Until today, Indonesia has been undertaking several stages of policy steps to strengthen its legislation measures, mainly to support the process of democratization and to ensure good governance, human rights and criminal justice. Bilateral co-operations in legal matters have been taken with other countries, such as extradition treaties with Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Australia. Recently, we just agreed with Malaysia to review our Extradition Treaty, and to some extent, we would also discuss the future cooperation to recognize the respective national court's decisions. An Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in criminal matters has also been concluded with Australia. In this respect, we believe that the different legal systems and the absence of bilateral agreement with another country should not be deemed as a serious impediment for international cooperation to combat transnational organized crime. Therefore, we would like to call upon member States to work together closely to build and strengthen our national capacities for fighting transnational organized crime and to reinforce regional cooperation, especially with respect to extradition and mutual legal assistance. This coordinated action should be well accepted as our common and shared responsibility in fighting the world's crime problems.

On this occasion, my delegation would also like to reiterate its firm support for the finalizing of the elaboration of the International Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children; as well as the Protocol

against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea; and the Protocol against illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms. In this respect, we welcome the efforts being made by the Center for International Crime Prevention and by the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Research Institute to develop a comprehensive global overview of the organized crime as a reference tool and to assist member States in building their respective capacity in areas covered by the Convention and the Protocols thereto.

Mr. President,

As a matter of fact, among all the East Asian countries that were severely hit by the Asian financial crisis, Indonesia suffered the most, being the only country that also sustained a major political crisis and social upheaval as a consequence of this calamity. Indeed, the financial crisis led to a threefold crisis in Indonesian economic, social and political development. This created a number of multidimensional problems, which the present democratically elected Government inherited. Today we must also face the reality of ethnic and religious strife in some parts of the country. These problems have to be addressed promptly and cautiously. We are determined in this regard to restore and maintain political and social stability, as well as to put the economy back on track to steady and sustainable growth as quickly as possible. And in this era of interdependence, we also feel the need of support and assistance from the international community to achieve this goal. Therefore, it is necessary to develop and promote technical co-operation programs including providing financial assistance to the developing countries in their efforts to strengthen the domestic criminal justice systems and to fight transnational organized crime. In this connection, we believe that the developing countries should be able to identify their respective priorities in acquiring technical and financial assistance to ensure the most effective way for preventing and combating crime.

The Government of Indonesia, propelled to office by the people's demand for good governance, has also been taking vigorous measures to eliminate corruption, collusion and nepotism or at least to reduce them to the maximum

extent and to improve the efficiency and transparency of public administration as well as community involvement in combating corruption. We realize that it would not be easy to achieve this goal, but our newly elected Government is willing to work together with the international community for the elaboration of an international instrument against corruption.

Mr. President,

Indonesia remains committed to cooperate with this international organization in fostering crime prevention and criminal justice systems. To this end, my delegation feels the need of the adoption of the draft Declaration on Crime and Justice, as a political impetus toward our common endeavor to combat international crime. This draft Declaration eventually could be submitted to the Economic and Social Council and to the Millennium Assembly for further consideration and action.

We should keep building our courage and commitment to achieve something significant to combat international crime as we strive to make the world a more peaceful place for all people to live in. We believe that this Congress would significantly contribute to our efforts in creating a conducive environment for international cooperation to deal more effectively with the new challenges of crime prevention and criminal justice.

I thank you, Mr. President.