

**STATEMENT BY H.E. KYUNG HAN KIM, VICE MINISTER OF
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**THE TENTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS 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 21st Century)**

I.

Mr. President,

It is a great privilege for me to speak before distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea, at the Tenth Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. I take this opportunity to extend my sincere congratulations to you, Mr. President, on your election as President of the Tenth Congress. I am sure that under your brilliant leadership and dedication, this Congress will be a great success.

I thank you all, the staff of the CICP (Centre for International Crime Prevention) and the Government of Austria for your hospitality and excellent arrangements for this Congress. As we approach the 21st century, the interdependence among nations is intensifying rapidly to a degree of what we call "global village". However, by the same trend, we are seriously challenged by the internationalization of crimes.

The number of transnational organized crime is increasing and an alarming number of criminals are crossing borders in pursuit of safe haven.

As these challenges are great, our times have committed us to the task of promoting international cooperation in criminal justice. And more specifically, we are urged to commit ourselves to the fight against transnational organized crimes, corruption and cyber crimes which have become some of the most serious concerns to the international community. The importance of strengthening international cooperation to effectively combat these crimes can never be overemphasized.

II.

As you know, today's organized crimes pose serious social problems in most countries. Crime organizations have little difficulty in crossing national boundaries to operate trafficking in drugs, firearms and human-beings, smuggling of migrants and counterfeiting of money. Their crimes enrich them with tremendous amount of proceeds and profits. With these illicit proceeds and profits, they expand the sphere of their activities even into legal businesses.

In this sense, I believe that the UN's effort to finalize and adopt the "Convention against Transnational Organized Crime" is timely and also meaningful. The Convention will provide a systematic and comprehensive approach to laws and procedures for the fight against transnational organized crimes. It will criminalize money laundering, bribery and obstruction of justice and streamline the procedures for extradition and mutual legal assistance in connection with these crimes.

The Korean Government fully supports this effort by the UN, and strongly recommends all the Member States to participate herein.

III.

Now I would like to move on to my second issue, corruption. The impact of corruption is not confined to harming individual's integrity and reputation. It threatens the rule of law, undermines citizens' confidence in their governments and paralyzes public moral sense. In the end, corruption impairs efficient allocation of resources and disturbs market system on both domestic and international level.

In this context, the Korean Government has formed a special committee on anti-corruption in 1999, which coordinates anti-corruption programs and activities in Korea. Diverse anti-corruption programs are being prepared and enforced under the comprehensive strategy designed by the committee. Furthermore, Korea has signed and ratified the OECD anti-bribery convention, and has enacted an implementing bill, which is in full force now. Korea is also stepping up its efforts to crack down on corruption among public officials. With all these efforts, public awareness against corruption has increased, and corruption among public officials is diminishing at a remarkable rate in Korea.

Mr. President,

Nowadays, economic activities are no longer limited within one's national borders. Corruption follows economic activities across the borders. Some call this new phenomenon "transnational corruption". Thus, corruption is no longer a problem limited within the border of a nation.

For this reason, I believe it is very important for as many nations as possible to work together to build effective strategies against corruption and share relevant information and experiences with each other.

With this in mind, the Korean Government is planning to host the Eleventh International Anti-Corruption Conference, organized by the Transparency International in Seoul in 2003. We are also planning to host the Third Global Forum on Fighting Corruption in the same year, which was first held in Washington, D.C in February of 1999. We hope that these meetings would contribute to the creation of international consensus on combating corruption, and would further lead to the adoption of an international anti-corruption instrument.

IV.

Lastly, I would like to talk about cyber crimes.

In this world of information technology, we are confronted with new challenges of cyber crimes such as Internet fraud and gambling, Internet pornography and prostitution and Web attacks.

Earlier this year, some leading web sites such as Yahoo and CNN.com were attacked by unidentified hackers and were programmed to deny service for some time. Cyber crimes are no longer simply an ingredient to blockbuster films that used to attract moviegoers, but are realities before us that can bring disasters in our own lives.

In order to fight against these crimes, each nation should first take necessary measures to improve the domestic laws and regulations against cyber crimes. Cyberspace of a country with lax or inadequate law will be used by cyber perpetrators as "data haven" by concealing their identities to evade pursuit of law enforcement authorities. Therefore, we need to establish an international standard on cyber crimes and develop an international training program that will provide each nation with technical assistance useful for implementation of the standard.

Also, there is a strong need for a network of international cooperation, which would enable us to have immediate access to information and technology of other countries. The network will help us track down the cyber perpetrators, collect evidence and break the chain of crimes.

You all know that the preparation of cyber crime convention is currently in progress within the framework of the Council of Europe. I believe it will provide a good model for a convention against cyber crimes on the international level.

In this respect, I propose that a UN conference should be convened in the near future to establish international standard for combating cyber crimes.

Mr. President and distinguished delegates,

Fighting crimes in isolation could not sufficiently protect our citizens and society from these new threats of crimes. We should prevent our national borders from being obstacles in preventing such crimes or prosecuting those perpetrators. I firmly believe that only our collective efforts would make this possible.

Thank you.