



**Permanent Mission of Turkey  
to the Office of the United Nations in Vienna**

TENTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON  
THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND  
THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

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Mr. President,  
Distinguished Ministers and Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a member of the Government of the Republic of Turkey, I have the honour to address the Plenary of the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

This Congress has a special importance for two reasons:

Firstly, in the light of globalization, this Congress has a role of messenger for the future developments in the field of International Criminal Law regarding particularly organized transnational crimes.

Secondly, it constitutes an exceptional opportunity to discuss and formulate ways and means of combating such forms of crimes by enhancing international cooperation.

Globalization, even if we do not have a unanimous definition of it, has stamped its influence on the course of events in the world. As a result of globalization, the world has become more interdependent, where political, economic, social and cultural relations are not restricted to territorial boundaries of States. Globalization has positively furnished society in different ways. Nevertheless, it profoundly affected legal, political and security structures adversely. Criminality, particularly in the form of criminal organization, corruption, trafficking in illicit drugs and firearms, sexual exploitation of children and women has reached an alarming level. Crime organizations are increasingly utilizing sophisticated methods and transnational means that need very effective and determined national and international counter-measures.

The spread of xenophobia and racial discrimination as it appears particularly in the Western countries can also be considered among the negative impacts of the globalization process. Turkey is deeply concerned with this phenomenon and is determined to contribute to all international crime prevention strategies which aim to hinder different kinds of such intolerance. The full implementation of the rule of law in all countries is the principal remedy to overcome these forms of threats to humanity.

Mr. President,

I would like to explain very briefly some undesired impacts of globalization on my country's crime rate and measures taken in order to combat the inconveniences, particularly in the fields of money-laundering and corruption.

Turkey is located on the so-called Balkan Route along which a significant proportion of heroin is sent towards the West. But she is also a transit country for the movement of cocaine, synthetic tablets like captagon and ecstasy and chemical substances used in the manufacture of heroin from the West to the East. For years, Turkey has been making a very resolute struggle against drug trafficking by using all of her available resources. What we have learned during this struggle is that drug-trafficking constitutes one of the largest sources of illegal proceeds and a method to create a strong financial basis for illegal arms trafficking by terrorist organizations.

In order to eradicate utterly this wickedness, Turkey has introduced a considerable number of measures against money laundering. The new Law on Prevention of Money Laundering brought penal sanctions against money laundering offence and ancillary measures such as controlled delivery and

freezing or seizure of assets, which are linked with money laundering. A Financial Crimes Investigation Board has been established by this Law.

Since corruption has been going on for centuries, at national and international levels, the globalization of the world economy has given a new dimension to it and made it increasingly complicated to be detected and punished. Turkey closely scrutinize the international developments in this field and has already signed "The Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions" which was recently approved by the Parliament.

Mr. President,

I also would like to give some brief information about the new Law on Combating Profit-Oriented Criminal Organizations. In order to combat criminal organizations, the Law empowered the investigative authorities with special procedural techniques such as tapping or intercepting telecommunications, clandestine surveillance, reviewing records and data, employing secret agents. Yet to safeguard the respect for human rights, such measures can only be implemented according to the decisions of judges. Some protective measures are also provided for witnesses and the officers.

Mr. President,

I would now like to dwell on a human tragedy, which is the trafficking in human beings committed by organized criminal groups.

Turkey, at the crossroads of Asia, Middle-East and Europe has frequently been confronted with this problem. Migrants enter Turkey either with fraudulent

documents or without having travel documents. All arrangements are done by criminal organizations. These poor people are coming in the hope of finding work in any country, even for very low wages. Therefore, they are open to any kind of exploitation.

The general picture of the organized crimes shows that international cooperation is absolutely necessary to make domestic measures more effective in order to combat such transnational crimes.

In this regard, the completion of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime as well as the additional protocols thereto will constitute a very important step in the fight against organized crimes if they cover all forms of organized crime, including terrorism. In the course of the resolute struggle which has been carried out by Turkey against terrorism and other forms of organized crime, ample evidence has been brought into light that there exists indeed a close link between organized crime and subversive terrorist activities. Technological and scientific developments have helped to create new forms of crime which can only be fought through international scientific, technical and legal cooperation.

If we do not reflect this evident link between organized crime and terrorism in the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, we will have an international instrument which has many loopholes for criminals. Such a weakness may raise grave problems which could not be easily solved during the implementation phase. It is obvious that criminals and crime organizations do not wait us to correct the deficiencies in the conventions.

Mr. President,

All States should take the necessary measures to strengthen cooperation, especially in the areas of mutual legal assistance in criminal matters in its broadest meaning, including transfer of proceedings, extradition, transfer of prisoners with a view of increasing the effectiveness of criminal justice system and safeguarding the respect for human rights.

In Turkey, the issues relating to international cooperation in criminal matters are generally governed by provisions of the bilateral and multilateral agreements of which the Republic of Turkey is a signatory. According to the Turkish Constitution international treaties, after being duly put into effect, become part of the Turkish national law. Turkey signed over 40 mutual legal assistance conventions with other countries. Furthermore she is a party to most of the major conventions in the field of criminal law which have emanated from the Council of Europe.

I would like to add that preparations for detailed national regulations on the principal issues of international cooperation like extradition in criminal matters have been started at ministerial level.

Nevertheless the enactment of conventions or new laws are the first steps but not the last ones on the way to struggle against crime and criminals. In practice, we are facing profound problems stemming from their interpretation and implementation by the States. The differences of interpretation might nullify conventions totally. Therefore, a common understanding on their content and harmonization of practices by the law enforcement agencies is as much important as the negotiation of international conventions.

Mr. President,

I am confident that this Congress will have a successful outcome in strengthening our common goal of combating crime and contributing to the enhancement of international cooperation in the struggle against transnational criminality.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.