



**STATEMENT OF THE G-77 AND CHINA AT THE THIRTY THIRD SESSION  
OF THE COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE, 13 TO 17 MAY 2024  
DELIVERED BY H.E. MS. LAURA GIL,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF COLOMBIA**

Mr. Chair,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the CCPCJ, as well as to the other elected members of the Bureau. You can count on the full support of the Group for the successful conclusion of this meeting.
2. The Group also extends its thanks to the Secretariat for the excellent work done in preparation of this session.
3. The Group also appreciates all initiatives and efforts of its Member States, which contribute to the work of the Commission, including, inter alia, through tabling resolutions.
4. The Group reaffirms its commitment towards the objectives set forth by the 14<sup>th</sup> UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, including by supporting the holding of the Commission's intersessional thematic discussion, and call all Member States to continue their efforts for a balanced and integral implementation of the Kyoto Declaration in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to strengthen the work on the capacity-building, support and the provision of adequate, long-term, sustainable, effective and demand driven technical and material assistance, equipment and transfer of technology.

Mr. Chair,

5. The Group expresses deep concern about the negative impact of crime on the rule of law, all human rights, socioeconomic development, public health and security, the environment and cultural heritage.
6. The Group also expresses deep concern that crime is becoming increasingly transnational, organized and complex and that criminals are increasingly exploiting new and emerging technologies including the Internet, to carry out their illicit activities, thus creating unprecedented challenges in preventing and combating existing crimes, as well as new and emerging forms of crime.
7. The Group reaffirms the need to enhance bilateral, regional, subregional and international cooperation in criminal matters aimed at preventing and combating transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including issues related to extradition and mutual legal assistance, and call upon Member States to adopt practical approaches that would facilitate such cooperation.
8. The Group reiterates its serious concern over any form of ranking of Member States for the purposes of international cooperation in criminal matters. We remain strongly convinced that upholding multilateralism, including supporting an effective United Nations development system and avoid promulgating, maintaining and imposing any measures and actions, including sanctions and restrictions, on developing countries that are in contravention of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, is essential

to improve solidarity, international cooperation framework and reinforce States' capabilities on crime prevention and criminal justice matters.

9. The Group recalls its commitment to contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through our efforts in crime prevention and criminal justice, with the firm recognition that sustainable development and the rule of law are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, that crime is an impediment to sustainable development and that achieving sustainable development is an enabling factor for States to effectively prevent and combat crime.

10. The Group emphasizes the right of equal access to justice for all, particularly persons in vulnerable situations, and the importance of awareness-raising concerning legal rights, and in this regard the Group commits to taking all necessary steps to provide fair, transparent, effective, non-discriminatory and accountable services that promote access to justice for all, including legal aid.

11. The Group takes note of the outcome documents of the 10th session of the COSP UNCAC and the progress made in the implementation of the Convention, including through its Implementation Review Mechanism. The Group reaffirms its commitment to the Political Declaration adopted during the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Corruption in June 2021 and looks forward for its proper follow-up within UNCAC's subsidiary bodies.

12. The Group urges all UNCAC States Parties to impose a system-wide zero-tolerance policy against corrupt practices and highlights the necessity to take urgent measures to prevent, prosecute and deter all forms of corruption, to strengthen international cooperation to effectively prevent and counter money-laundering and illicit financial flows and enhance measures for the identification, tracing, freezing, seizure, return of assets and recovery of the proceeds of crime or corruption, to deny them safe havens through their eventual confiscation as well as to speed up their recovery and return without restrictions and in accordance with Chapter V of the UNCAC, also with a view to strengthening international cooperation to facilitate the return of persons sought for corruption offences.

13. The Group recognizes the role of the Global Operational Network of Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE) in facilitating transnational cooperation on corruption cases, highlights the achievement made by GlobE, that 202 authorities from 113 countries have joined the Network by the end of April 2024, and encourages State Parties to join the network.

14. The Group deeply regrets that despite the very explicit articles of the UNCAC, there appears to be an increase in the barriers and challenges in the asset recovery process and their return to countries of origin, and in cases that make use of settlements, and in this regard, remind that States Parties shall afford one another the widest measures of international cooperation, and furthermore emphasize that the management, administration and utilization of returned assets is the responsibility of the requesting State and that recovered assets, shall be returned without conditionalities and in full respect of the sovereign rights of the States of origin. We further invite State Parties to address gaps within the international anticorruption framework, particularly on asset recovery, and to consider the need of an additional protocol on asset recovery and the return as part of UNCAC.

15. The Group urges Member States to criminalize all forms of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, including child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse online, to grant authority to law enforcement agencies and to provide appropriate tools to identify victims

and effectively combat child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and bring perpetrators to justice.

16. The Group welcomes the progress made by the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes, within the framework of the United Nations, under the able leadership of the Chair Ambassador Mebarki of Algeria and the assistance of the Secretariat and the Group reaffirms its commitment to engage constructively and in good faith with all delegations in the reconvened concluding session of the Ad Hoc Committee. The Group remains optimistic that the Ad Hoc Committee will be able to submit to the General Assembly at its 78th session a comprehensive and balanced draft convention that addresses the concerns and interests of all Member States, in particular developing countries.

17. The Group attaches great importance to combating trafficking in persons and any initiative to combat this crime should give due importance to addressing root causes, the prevention aspect, respecting the rights of the victims and promoting effective law enforcement, the demand aspect of this problem and providing assistance to victims, and groups in vulnerable situations, especially women and children. We therefore strongly call attention to the necessity for a full and effective implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

18. The Group expresses concern over the constant violation of the rights of migrants and urge the international community to ensure that the human rights of smuggled migrants, particularly the unaccompanied children, are respected and that the safety and security of smuggled migrants are granted utmost priority regardless of their immigration status, nationality, gender, ethnicity, age or religion.

19. The Group reaffirms its concerns about the continuing problem of illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts, components and ammunition as another form of transnational organized crime.

20. The Group acknowledges any existing, increasing or potential links, in some cases, between transnational organized crime and other illicit activities, in particular drug trafficking and money laundering, illicit financial flows and terrorism and its financing, and reaffirms the need for enhancing bilateral, regional and international cooperation, including in the areas of exchange of information, extradition and mutual legal assistance, in accordance with domestic legislation and with the aim to contributing to countering the threat posed by transnational organized crime.

21. The Group emphasizes the primary role and responsibility of States and Governments for defining crime prevention strategies and policies.

22. The Group encourages multidisciplinary efforts to prevent and combat crime through cooperation and coordination between law enforcement and other criminal justice institutions, and other governmental sectors, as well as to support their work, by engaging in and fostering, in accordance with domestic law, partnerships with relevant stakeholders.

23. The Group emphasizes the importance of promoting, facilitating and supporting the widest measures of technical assistance, transfer of technology, financial assistance, material support and training, with a view to enabling law enforcement authorities and criminal justice institutions to effectively prevent and combat crimes, taking into account the specific challenges faced by and the particular needs of developing countries.

24. The Group strongly reaffirms the responsibility of all States to fully promote and protect all human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, and fundamental

freedoms, as well as to uphold the principle of human dignity, in the impartial administration of justice and throughout all our efforts in preventing and combating crime.

25. The Group undertakes to mainstream a gender perspective into the criminal justice system to address the gender-specific needs of both offenders and victims, and to protect women and girls from revictimization in criminal justice proceedings.

26. The Group calls upon Member States to address the needs and protect the rights of children and youth, with due consideration to their vulnerabilities, to ensure their protection from all forms of crime, violence, abuse and exploitation, both online and offline, such as sexual abuse and exploitation of children and trafficking in persons, noting the particular vulnerabilities of children in the context of smuggling of migrants, as well as recruitment by organized criminal groups including gangs, as well as by terrorist groups.

27. We reiterate the importance of the use and application of the United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, namely the Bangkok Rules, the Nelson Mandela Rules, as well as the Beijing Rules, in support of effective, fair, humane, and accountable criminal justice systems, especially for women and children.

28. The Group deplores the rise of hate crimes around the world and in this regard underline the importance of respect for the diversity of religions and beliefs as well as ethnic and cultural diversity, and call for all States to undertake necessary measures to promote a culture of tolerance and respect among societies and nations based on the principles of the international law.

29. The Group expresses its deep concern for the illicit trafficking of cultural property and related offences, including the involvement of organized criminal groups, which continues to inflict increasing damage to the cultural heritage of our nations, and thus, to part of our identities.

30. The Group expresses its concern regarding the crimes that affect the environment and underscores the need to address crimes that have a significant impact on protected species of wild fauna and flora such as, illegal mining, illicit trafficking in forest products, biological and natural resources, wildlife, as well as precious metals, in the respective fora.

31. The Group underscores the need to better understand and enhance its efforts, in accordance with each Member's national law, against the smuggling of commercial goods.

32. On the issue of preventing and combatting of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, the Group calls for strengthening international responses, in accordance with national legislation and the implementation and application of the UNTOC, and all applicable regional and international counterterrorism legal instruments, as well as the comprehensive, balanced and effective implementation of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy. The Group strongly reaffirms that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, civilization, nationality or ethnicity, and reiterates that all efforts to counter it should be in line with international law.

33. The Group emphasizes that UNODC's research work should be based on clear and prior mandates and policy guidance provided by the governing bodies. The Group would also like to emphasize the importance of transparency, regular dialogue and close consultations between all Member States and UNODC regarding the ongoing and planned publications and research activities at all stages. In this regard, the Group stresses the

importance that the publications of UNODC shall be impartial and respect the cultural diversity of Member States.

34. The Group reiterates that UNODC needs adequate and sustainable resources to allow it to effectively implement an increasingly complex mandate. Therefore, the Group urges all States to increase their unearmarked contributions, specifically to the General Purpose Fund of UNODC.

35. Finally, the Group expresses its deep concern that developing countries are still underrepresented in the staff of UNODC and urges the Executive Director to intensify the efforts to ensure that adequate, proper, geographically equitable and gender-balanced distribution are fully realized, as the principles of the recruitment policy of UNODC, both at headquarters, and its Field Offices, particularly at the senior and policy-making levels and for professional posts requiring specific skills. In this context, the Group requests the Executive Director to continue providing comprehensive, disaggregated and detailed information through the reporting entitlements and in the context FINGOV meetings in this regard.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.