



BANGLADESH

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Statement by

H.E. Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Bangladesh to the UN in New York at the General Debate of the Third
Committee of the 66th Session

of the UNGA on Agenda item 103: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
and Agenda item 104: International Drug Control

New York, 11 October 2012

Mr. Chairman,

Crimes such as trafficking in persons, money laundering, corruption, drug trafficking and drug abuse are becoming more and more transnational in nature in this era of globalization. It is a matter of deep concern that despite international commitments and numerous efforts at national and international levels, such crimes have been increasing. Because of the transnational nature of the crimes as well as the organized networks of the perpetrators, no country can address these crimes alone, while we all are equally affected by such crimes. They threaten international security-hinder national development efforts.

Mr. Chair:

Bangladesh has been making sincere efforts to combat transnational organized crimes. Bangladesh is a state party to several UN Conventions

including UN Convention on Transnational Organized crimes, UN Convention Against Corruption etc.

Trafficking in Persons is one of the most heinous form of organized crime and needs a concerted effort of source, transit and destination countries. As a source and transit country, combating trafficking in persons, particularly women and children is a top priority for Bangladesh. Being a state party to all the major International/UN human rights Instruments, *Palermo Convention* being the most recent one, Bangladesh maintains 'zero tolerance' for the persons engaged in human trafficking and related crimes. It has promulgated many laws and regulations to this end. We have recently enacted *Human Trafficking Deterrence and Suppression Act 2012* to make it fully compliant with the international standards. The Act has defined human trafficking and set provisions for stringent physical and monetary punishment for the perpetrators. A *National Plan of Action 2012-2014* has been outlined as a vital tool for combating human trafficking. Special training programmes are introduced for the capacity-building of law enforcement officials in prevention activities. The Government has opened a website to receive complaints on human trafficking. Steps are being taken to rescue, rehabilitate and reintegrate those women and children who have been victims of trafficking. Regionally, Bangladesh took the lead role to adopt the SAARC Convention on Prevention and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution. Bangladesh is also deeply engaged in the Bali Process towards combating trafficking in persons since its inception in 2002. We whole-heartedly

supported the 'global plan of action to combat trafficking in persons' during its adoption and is trying its best to implement the Plan. We also support the initiative to hold a High-level meeting on appraisal of the progress achieved in implementation of the Global plan of action. Here I would like to draw the attention to the fact that imposition of too much restriction and discriminatory migration regimes by destination countries push people into the hands of traffickers. In this regard, we would appreciate the understanding and cooperation of destination countries in facilitating regular migration so that people are discouraged to go for irregular movements.

Mr. Chair:

Like trafficking in Persons, drug trafficking also poses challenges to our social and economic development. The geographical location of Bangladesh and its long porous border make the country vulnerable to drug trafficking. Youths are the major victims of drug trafficking. While we are party to all major drug related conventions, at the national level, we have several legislation and policies to counter drug trafficking and drug abuse. We are using a three-prong strategies-Supply reduction, demand reduction and harm reduction. Our policy is to limit the use of drugs strictly to legitimate purposes, and prevent any kind of their diversions. The Narcotics Control Act, 1990 is the principal counter-narcotics legislation in Bangladesh. The tobacco control and anti-smoking Act restricts advertisement for tobacco products. For rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug addicts we have few rehabilitation centers, where

skill development and vocational training are given to recovered drug addicts so that they can come out of social stigma and enter into a new life through job placement.

Mr. Chair:

There is no denial of the fact that supply side reduction is key to fight drug abuse. This can be done by sustained alternative development programmes for the cultivators of such crops as well as overall economic development of such regions. On the demand side awareness raising against drug abuse may be a tool. In this regard, we greatly value the role of family. Faith-based organizations and their leaders can also play an important role.

Mr. Chair:

With regard to terrorism, Bangladesh has been following “zero tolerance” in its efforts to counter terrorism. We are party to all UN Conventions on counter-terrorism. The government has enacted Anti-terrorism Act and Money-Laundering prevention act. However, the menace of terrorism cannot be fought in an isolated manner by any single state. We would like to see a holistic approach in our global fight against terrorism. Technical cooperation and international financial assistance in combating terrorism are still not adequate for developing countries, particularly the LDCs to meet the challenges. We would therefore, stress that necessary resources both technical and financial, be geared up to this effect.

To conclude, while developing countries are striving hard to combat the menace of organized crimes, a global partnership is essential given the trans-national nature of this issue. We have very impressive normative frameworks and strong political will at global and national levels. What we require is implementation of those commitments. Bangladesh stands ready to cooperate internationally, regionally as well as multilaterally, the United Nations in particular, to combat organized crimes.

I thank you Mr. Chair.