



BANGLADESH

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Statement
By

H.E. Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury
Ambassador & Permanent Representative
of Bangladesh to the United Nations

at the
Third Committee of the 60th Session
of the United Nations General Assembly
on

Agenda item 106: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
Agenda item 107: International Drug Control

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PERMANENT MISSION OF BANGLADESH TO THE UNITED NATIONS

227 East 45th Street, 14th Floor, New York, NY 10017

E-mail: bangladesh@un.int, web site: www.un.int/bangladesh

Tel (212) 867-3434 • Fax (212) 972-4038

Mr. Chairman,

May I begin by expressing our deepest condolences to the delegation of Pakistan on the tragedy that has befallen their country in the form of the disastrous earth quakes. Also to the delegation of India and Afghanistan whose countries have also sustained grave sufferings. Bangladeshis feel a strong sense of solidarity with their peoples among these sad times.

My delegation thanks the Secretary General for his reports on the items before us. Appreciation is owed to Mr. Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for his presentation as well. We deeply value the work of the UNODC.

Mr. Chairman,

Transnational crime is a threat to all. It is often interconnected with the abuse as well as trafficking of drugs, illicit arms trade, trafficking in persons, corruption and various illegal trades. It is a serious threat to development, peace and security.

Bangladesh's commitment to combat transnational crimes is unflinching. We support all international and regional efforts in this regard. At national level, we have taken adequate measures for prevention of all forms of crimes including through legislative arrangements to clamp down on criminal activities.

We have established an Independent Anti-Corruption Commission. The Commission conducts investigation for the offences under Anti Corruption Act 2004 and for the punishable offences under Prevention of Corruption Act 1947. It can initiate *suo moto* investigation into any case of malpractice. For creating public awareness against corruption, the Commission arranges seminars, symposiums and workshops on its functions, duties and responsibilities.

Mr. Chairman,

We condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Bangladesh has ratified twelve UN Conventions on terrorism. She is also a party to SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Regional Convention for Terrorism.

The Government has enacted the Money Laundering Prevention Act 2002 in line with the Political Declaration adopted by the 20th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

Trafficking in persons remains a major concern for us. The Government has ratified the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution in 2002.

Bangladesh has ratified all the three major UN drug conventions of 1961, 1971 and 1988. We have ratified the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1990. We have concluded a number of bilateral agreements and MOUs with several countries to interdict drug trafficking and diversion of precursor chemicals. We stand ready to further this cooperation with member states and international organizations.

On the domestic front, the Government has enacted the necessary laws and rules to encounter drug trafficking and local drug trades namely *The Narcotics Control Act, 1990* for drug enforcement; *The Narcotics Control Rules, 1999* for introducing the licensing system to control illicit drugs and precursor chemicals; *The Narcotics Control (Amendment) Act, 2000* incorporating the relevant provisions of the UN Drug Convention of 1988 and limiting the time period for investigation of drug cases; and *The Narcotics Control (Amendment) Act, 2004* redefining 'alcohol'. Bangladesh laws have strict penalties for drug offenders.

Import of raw opium into the country is totally prohibited since 1984. In accordance with the provision of 1961 Convention on Narcotic Drugs, Bangladesh prohibited cultivation of cannabis in 1987. The complete ban on storage, distribution, sale and consumption of cannabis came in 1989. The Narcotics Control Act, 1990 as amended in 2000, 2002 and 2004 re-enforces these sanctions and included the psychotropic substances as controlled drugs.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation welcomes the outcome of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held in Bangkok this year. We need to take coordinated measures to implement the decisions and recommendations of the Bangkok Declaration.

The United Nations should deepen its partnership with the regional efforts to combat organized crimes /and drugs. Funding and technical cooperation for the developing countries are also essential. We must make endeavor together to counter these global threats in order that we are able to reach the goals of peace and prosperity for all.