

73<sup>rd</sup> United Nations General Assembly  
Third Committee

Agenda Items 109 & 110:  
Crime Prevention & Criminal Justice and International Drug Control

**INDIA STATEMENT**

Ms. Paulomi Tripathi, First Secretary

04 October 2018

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation thanks the Secretary General for his reports under the important agenda items of Crime Prevention & Criminal Justice and International Drug Control. We also thank the Director of UNODC for his comprehensive briefing to the Committee.

We are concerned that transnational crimes and illicit drug trade continue to spread their tentacles in countless forms.

Despite international legal measures and framework for international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice, transnational organized crimes and drug problem continue to pose serious challenges to sustainable development, promotion and protection of human rights and rule of law.

Their linkages with terrorism and armed conflicts threaten international peace and security.

This situation needs to be addressed urgently to build safe, stable, resilient and sustainable world.

Mr. Chairman,

This year's World Drug Report by UNODC documents supply-driven expansions of range of drugs and drug markets at an unprecedented scale. The production of opium is touching new highs and opioids are accounting for 76 per cent of deaths due drug abuse.

While much has been done since the adoption of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action in the year 2009 to address the world drug problem, new challenges have emerged which call for a concerted and balanced response from the international community.

India strongly believes that to handle the new challenges whether it is from the threat of New Psychoactive Substances, sale of drugs on 'darknet', emergence of new trafficking routes or any other issue which we might face in the near future, strong mechanisms of international cooperation is of critical importance.

India accords high priority to combating the drug problem in India. We have accelerated action to provide health and rehabilitation services, generate greater awareness in schools and colleges to protect young people and stringent law enforcement measures against narcotics trafficking.

India is working closely with neighboring countries to address drug problem.

Mr. Chairman,

Since the adoption of the Global Plan of Action to Trafficking in Persons the four Ps of Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnership have become keystones of global anti-trafficking architecture.

India has adopted a multi-pronged approach for addressing this complex issue in all its dimensions.

Strong legislative framework based on the Constitution includes prohibition of bonded and child labour, protection of children and women from sexual exploitation, selling and buying for the purpose of prostitution and for transplantation of human organs. A comprehensive framework is in place to facilitate rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims.

We have also initiated the process of formulating a new legislation on trafficking in persons, covering all aspects including prosecution, prevention and protection of victims, witnesses and complainants, as well as rehabilitation of victims.

Mr. Chairman,

The scourge of terrorism is the gravest violation of human rights and must be dealt with in strongest terms in all its forms and manifestations. India has a zero-tolerance against all criminal activities that sustain terror networks.

Linkages between terrorism, violent extremism, drug production and trade, human trafficking and illegal exploitation of natural resources are well documented. We need coordinated cross-sectoral global response to address these issues comprehensively.

In this context, we welcome establishment of the Office of Counter Terrorism (OCT) last year and the first-ever UN High Level Conference of Heads of Counter Terrorism Agencies in end-June 2018.

We must also strive to replicate the success of the international community against the Islamic State's illicit businesses, to cripple narcotics trade which feeds the global terror nexus, by using the existing templates for curbing illicit trade by terrorists.

We have a body of international legal instruments to prevent and control transnational organized crimes in specific sectors.

Still there is no common strategy at global level to curb spread of criminal activities in cyber space. The draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) has also seen little progress over the years due to lack of agreement on definitional issues.

We need urgent progress in these areas. We cannot afford to create barriers through political boundaries or bureaucracy when criminal and terror networks are increasingly interconnected.

Mr. Chairman,

India strongly supports greater international cooperation in criminal justice responses to address the challenges from transnational organized crimes, terrorism and drugs.

We remain committed to working with Member States and the UN system as key partners to achieve a world free from these menaces.

I thank you.