

Statement by Mr. Mayank Joshi, First Secretary at the High Level General Assembly Thematic Debate "Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the Post 2015 Development Agenda" at the United Nations, on 25th February, 2015.

Mr. Chairperson,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

Allow me at the outset to express my appreciation to the speakers and panelists for their presentations.

Mr. Chairperson,

The stepped up pace of globalization in recent years has not only accelerated flow and exchange of trade, capital, technology, information and ideas, it has also provided a platform for organized crime to vastly increase its transnational footprint.

This has also led to a deepening nexus between money laundering, terrorism, transnational organized crime, illicit drugs, trafficking in persons and illegal arms trade.

Enhanced international cooperation is therefore essential to support the efforts of countries to prevent, prosecute and punish transnational crime including in particular trafficking in persons. It is important that we take steps for enhancing and reinforcing international cooperation at all levels for this purpose.

The international community, including the UN, must also step forward to contribute and assist countries with financial and technical support in their efforts at capacity-building, training and institutional reforms that are required for preventing crime and ensuring criminal justice.

Mr. Chairperson,

The topic of today's debate speaks of 'integrating' crime prevention and criminal justice into the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The canvass of the Post-2015 Development Agenda is indeed a wide one. It encompasses the three dimensions of sustainable development, which itself covers nearly every kind of collective human endeavor. As such, there can hardly be an issue that does not have a bearing, direct or indirect, on sustainable development.

There is however a difference between a topic being relevant to sustainable development and the imperative of *integrating* it into the development agenda. The latter does not necessarily follow from the former.

What is required is complementarity and synergy of efforts in United Nations as a whole.

For us, the primary touchstone of the Post-2015 Development Agenda is that it is an agenda for growth and development. Its primary and central focus should be to fight poverty and deprivation and promote sustainable development. For this, the holistic vision of action contained in the SDGs must guide international cooperation under the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

While issues such as crime prevention and criminal justice are indeed important, the proposals for *integrating* them into the Post-2015 Development Agenda need to be viewed with due caution.

Rather than expanding the scope of the agenda by introducing new issues, we should focus our collective efforts under the Post-2015 Development Agenda on implementing the holistic vision contained in the SDGs for ending poverty and promoting sustainable development.

We should simultaneously continue to focus on creating and strengthening the right mechanisms for international cooperation for crime prevention and criminal justice and for these mechanisms to support the vision of development contained in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

I thank you.
