

74<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly  
Third Committee

Agenda Items 106, 107 & 108:  
Crime Prevention & Criminal Justice, Countering the use of information and  
communications technologies for criminal purposes &  
International drug control

**INDIA STATEMENT**

Ms. Paulomi Tripathi, First Secretary  
03 October 2019

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation thanks the Secretary General for his reports under these agenda items. We also thank today's briefers for sharing their insights.

Transnational organized crimes continue to undermine efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals, and threaten international peace and security.

Its impact is not limited to rule of law and governance. Rather, its deleterious effect on domestic resource mobilization through money laundering, corruption and other economic offences, impede development.

Symbiotic relationship between transnational organized crimes and terrorism adds complexity to this issue.

Terrorist organizations are increasingly drawing sustenance by using transnational organized criminal networks for illicit activities to raise funds.

Crime syndicates are in cahoots with terrorists, providing them services such as counterfeiting, money laundering, arms dealing, drug trafficking and smuggling terrorists across borders.

The activities of ISIL, Al Shabab and Boko Haram using extortion, human trafficking, extraction of natural resources, trade in cultural artefacts and illicit taxation in areas under their control, manifest the blurring of lines between crime and terror.

There is also increasing evidence that narcotics are being used not just for terror financing but for luring youth to be recruited by the terrorists.

Revenue generated by illicit activities of terrorists and criminal groups are moved across borders and exchanged through open networks.

This situation calls for far more coherent and resolute response.

The UN needs to increase cooperation with other bodies such as Financial Action Task Force, which is playing a significant role in setting global standards for preventing and combating money laundering and terrorist financing.

The structure of organized crime groups is changing towards more loosely associated networks that are difficult to interdict. They are using an array of new and emerging technologies, including drones, virtual currencies, encrypted communications and artificial intelligence. This requires increased sophistication and timely sharing of operational information among law enforcement agencies across jurisdictions and borders.

Mr. Chairman,

Today some 35 million people suffer from drug use disorders and 11 million inject drugs, of whom 1.4 million live with HIV and 5.6 million live with hepatitis C.

We need broader international cooperation based on criminal justice and health responses.

A balanced approach is needed to address misuse of prescription drugs, while guaranteeing availability and access to such medicines.

In India, while criminal justice remains important, there is increasing focus on demand reduction.

India has recently initiated a National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction. It focuses on preventive education, awareness generation, capacity building, counselling, treatment and rehabilitation to ensure drug demand reduction by 2023.

Mr. Chairman,

The traffickers are increasingly using the internet and social media. We need stronger partnerships with civil society and private sector and more resources for law enforcement to address this phenomenon.

India has adopted a multi-pronged, multi stakeholder approach towards prevention and timely investigation of crimes of trafficking. Capacity

building of law enforcement agencies and judiciary has been accorded high priority.

A comprehensive programme is in place to facilitate rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of the victims and to facilitate repatriation of cross-border victims to their country of origin.

Mr. Chairman,

Cybercrime differs significantly from traditional crimes in terms of its nature, scope, means, evidence and activities; therefore, information exchange in real time or near-real time is essential for evidence collection to bring cybercriminals to justice.

In India there are legal provisions to deal with cybercrimes. Dedicated cells for reporting and investigation, and cyber forensic labs for training of law enforcement and judiciary have been set up.

There is also a need for greater multilateral cooperation in the field of cybercrime especially for facilitating swift information exchange essential for preventing cybercrime and for furnishing digital evidence in cybercrime investigations.

My delegation would look forward to further discussions on this issue.

I thank you.