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REMARKS

by

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Vice Minister of Public Security

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Mr Khoo Boon Hui, President of INTERPOL;

Mr Ronald K. Noble, Secretary General of INTERPOL;

Members of the Executive Committee of INTERPOL;

Heads of Delegations;

Distinguished Delegates;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Since the comprehensive economic reform and international integration in 1986, Vietnam has recorded the impressive economic, social and cultural achievements, improved the lives of people, and seen the growing inflow of foreign investment and tourists. However, an emerging challenge facing our country is transnational and foreigner-related crimes. Vietnam's police became a member of INTERPOL in 1991 to work closely with the police services around the world in response to these crimes. We have received strong support from INTERPOL's Executive Committee and member countries. Over the last two decades, Vietnam's police in general, and Vietnam's INTERPOL in particular, have made enormous progress in preventing and combating crimes and maintaining law and order.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

At this General Assembly, the delegation of Vietnam's Ministry of Public Security would like to share experiences in the national crime prevention strategy.

Our practical experience shows that success in crime prevention depends on both prevention and suppression, strong action at home and close coordination with other countries. As a result, in 1998, the Ministry of Public Security recommended that the Government issue Resolution No. 9 NQ-CP on strengthening crime prevention and suppression. Then, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 138/QĐ – TTg approving the National Crime Prevention Program, which considers crime prevention as an issue of strategic importance.

The program was piloted in four provinces and cities with the highest level of crime, promoting and replicating good models and practices in crime prevention nationwide based on experience and lessons learnt. After five years of implementation, the program was reviewed and reported to the Prime Minister. Subsequently, the Prime Minister issued a Directive which requested relevant ministries, agencies and provinces to continue this initiative, and upgrade it to a National Targeted Program on Crime Prevention (NTP) in 2006.

The Steering Committee for the National Targeted Program was established at the central, provincial and district levels. The Central Steering Committee was chaired by a Deputy Prime Minister, and the Provincial and District Steering Committees were chaired either by a Chairman or a Vice Chairman of the People's Committee at the respective level.

The National Targeted Program on Crime Prevention comprised eight components, including transnational crime prevention and combating.

This NTP has achieved remarkable progress. Vietnam has identified between 90,000 and 100,000 crimes each year on average from 1998 through 2010, down 10.7 per cent from a decade earlier. The number of drug-related criminals arrested has tripled, reducing 25 per cent of the wanted persons. Over 18,000 fugitives have been arrested, or persuaded to give themselves up to police. The program has contributed to ensuring political stability, national security, law and order, and social and economic development in Vietnam. The public has actively responded to this program with growing confidence in the law enforcement agencies and the community-based crime prevention model across the country.

In terms of combating transnational crimes, Vietnam's police have, among others, identified a wide range of transborder crimes; arrested many internationally wanted individuals; suppressed a great deal of dangerous organized criminal gangs; accommodated thousands of requests for mutual legal assistance and extradition; and prevented any terrorist acts from happening.

Ladies and gentlemen;

The National Targeted Program on Crime Prevention has been translated into action, and served as a strategic tool to ensure national security, law and order. Vietnam's police have drawn useful lessons from this initiative, and would like to share with all the member countries of INTERPOL.

Firstly, crime prevention and suppression can only be effective and efficient when concerted efforts are made with the engagement of social and political organizations under the direct management of governments at all levels, and with the police providing guidance and directly combating crimes. Similarly, crime prevention and suppression must go hand in hand, with a focus on the root causes of crime by detecting disputes in the community, reducing poverty and unemployment, eliminating illiteracy and social vices, and strengthening social safety nets.

Secondly, a legal framework for crime prevention and suppression must be developed and improved. The National Assembly and the Government of Vietnam attach special importance to reinforcing legislation, particularly legal documents on crime prevention; and judicial reform towards the rule of law, social justice and democracy, and the safeguarding of human rights.

Thirdly, international cooperation, especially in the fight against transnational crimes, must be strengthened and improved.

Vietnam has expanded its integration in legal matters. Vietnam has signed 18 mutual legal assistance agreements on criminal matters and extradition with 16 countries; nine agreements and memorandum on drug control; four agreements on the prevention of human trafficking; and other multilateral crime prevention conventions; for example, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and international conventions on narcotic drugs, organized crime and terrorism. At the regional level, Vietnam is actively engaged in the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking (COMMIT), ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC), Senior Officials Meeting

on Transnational Crime (SOMTC), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and so on. Vietnam has delivered a wide range of projects as part of the joint statement of the conference on transnational crime; for example, the Asia Regional Trafficking in Persons Project (ARTIP), ASEAN-EU Migration and Border Management Program and other drug control projects.

As a member of INTERPOL and ASEANAPOL, Vietnam's police have worked closely with other police services in the investigation, arrest, expedition and exchange of information on transborder criminals, as well as in training and capacity building.

Fourthly, efforts must be made to develop and strengthen capacities of the police organizations, such as INTERPOL, and police services in the fight against organized crimes, drugs, money laundering, trafficking in human beings, terrorism, corruption, and wanted individuals, and so on.

Finally, resources must be secured. The Government of Vietnam sees crime prevention as a national targeted program with millions of dollars allocated to this initiative each year. Cutting-edge tools, equipment and technologies have been provided to a wide range of projects to deal with narcotic drugs and the root causes of crime. Incentives have been given to the police and those individuals who contribute significantly to crime prevention as a way to further engage the public in this process.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

To further strengthen cooperation between Vietnam's police and INTERPOL's member countries, the Delegation of Vietnam's Ministry of Public Security is committed to:

- Fulfilling all the obligations of a member country; making full use of INTERPOL as a channel to exchange information on transnational crimes; jointly identify and investigate crimes; fight against terrorism; combat drug and human trafficking, cybercrimes and money laundering, and arrest fugitives, and so on;
- Further sharing experiences in combating transnational crimes, especially at a time when transborder crimes tend to shift from developed to developing countries like Vietnam;
- Facilitating and providing training with a view to strengthening capacity in all areas for Vietnam's police.

We look forward to an active response from, and partnership with INTERPOL's member countries in meeting our commitments.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The 80th INTERPOL General Assembly is critical for the future development of the Organization. I strongly believe, with the vision and political will and your strong engagement and contribution, the General Assembly will be a great success, putting forward viable solutions for peace, stability, cooperation and development.

Thank you for your kind attention.