

Pacific Region Transnational Crime Seminar, Brisbane, December 2000

Towards an Asia/Pacific alliance against transnational organized crime

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for East Asia and the Pacific

On behalf of the United Nations (ODCCP) I would like to express our gratitude for the invitation **to share with you our vision** for a global strategy against transnational organized crime.

United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP)	
United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educate the world about the dangers of drug abuse;• Strengthens international action against drug production, trafficking and drug related crime• Promote efforts to reduce drug abuse, particularly among the young and vulnerable• Builds local, national and international partnerships to address drug issues; and,• Provides information, analysis and expertise on the drug issue.	Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promotes international cooperation in crime prevention and control;• Supports the development of criminal justice systems; and,• Assists Member States in addressing the challenges and threats posed by the changing nature of transnational organized crime.

While talking to a distinguished group of delegates of Island Nations, as a representative of the international community, I must first of all recognize your essential role in the wider map of humankind and its rapidly changing historical challenges.

Globalization has taught some hard lessons in this part of the world during the year 2000.

During the past century colonization is finished. During the new century

we are all parts -at the same time patrons and servants- of the same global rules. Globalization should serve the people not predate on them. In almost all international debates of the new millennium, the topic of globalization has been the dominating theme. According to various gurus, the options are that globalization will be: the era of justice, or a disaster of cultures, the end of Nation States or the beginning of a global governance. By creative prophetizing, globalization was assigned both magical and diabolical powers. The definitions published so far are already enough to rewrite all the books on technology, economics, biology, and ethics of the 21st century. Very little of what has been said is certain, except for one characteristic: globalization is not a political option, a political platform, an economic ideology, or a social theory. It is rather an evolution of human relations.

Globalization has taught some hard lessons in this part of the world in the year 2000

Globalization:

is an unstoppable evolution of humankind.

should serve the people, not prey on them.

is beyond our control: it is ridiculous to resist because it will happen anyhow.

its rules are being written and will shape the future.



It is beyond our control, it is already happening, whether you like it or not, just like every other evolution that have defined the eras of humanity.

Something that can be discussed and influenced, however, is the set of rules governing globalization. According to which rules are chosen, globalization could undo or tighten the knots of conflict between societies and impose or postpone the acceleration of the rights of the poor. Globalization could give, for the first time, a real chance for dignity and a full meaningful life to every human being in a way that prevents the dominating class from impeding upon this. In many crisis spots of the world, poverty, economic underdevelopment and regional conflicts cross paths in a skein that is difficult to untangle.

Two fundamental tracks guide now the journey of humankind

towards comprehensive peace, good governance, human rights and sustainable human development. They are freedom from want and freedom from fear.

Two fundamental tracks guide the journey of humankind towards comprehensive peace, good governance, human rights, and sustainable human development

- **Freedom from WANT**
- **Freedom from FEAR**



Globalization has opened unexpected windows of opportunity to achieve a true **freedom from want** in most of the poorest continents and communities of

our planet. But it also brought formidable challenges to those who are on the frontline of peoples' expectations in the area of **freedom from fear**.

Whenever one global predator remains unchecked in the Caribbean, in Italy or in China, in Colombia or in Russia, or in any part of the world his predatory criminal act can bring death, sorrow and threaten economic and political security in the Pacific Islands. When transnational organized crime wins a small battle in a small island of the Pacific it is also threatening the human security of many communities in China or the United States.

The new security issues are a test of the very foundations of our rules of law.

The most pressing of all credible sovereignty, independence, civil liberties is transnational organised crime. The cross border trafficking of narcotics, the new slave trade, the proliferation of criminal cartels, represent not only the breakdown of law and order, but the very erosion of the fabric of society, of its fundamental shared values, of its essential institutions. Often today a case of pedophilia, a murder in the street, the corruption of a judge, or the stealing of the brain of young generations through ecstasy pills, is not only the robbery of one life, it is an indicator of a global "evil uncivil forces" who are stealing our past, our present, our future.

I am glad to bring to you two great good news. In the coming year 2001, you shall have **two new powerful tools for effective co-operation against transnational organized crime**

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
12-15 December 2000, Palermo

Signatories to be established in the following areas:

- Participation in an organized criminal group;
 - Extradition and legal assistance
 - Money laundering
 - Corruption
 - Obstruction of justice
- plus 3 additional protocols*



International Congress

In pursuit of a drug free ASEAN 2015
Sharing the vision, leading the change
11-13 October 2000, Bangkok

- Leaders and policy makers have reaffirmed their political will and commitment to combat against illicit drugs
- **ACCORD** Plan of Action* was unanimously endorsed by 378 participants from 36 countries and 16 organizations

* **ACCORD**: ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs



At our Regional Centre in Bangkok, new mandates will be added to the drug control programmes: the new ODCCP Regional Centre will support and facilitate new initiatives in crime prevention.

ODCCP Regional Centre in Bangkok will support and facilitate new initiatives in crime prevention

- Global Programme against Corruption
- Global Programme against Trafficking in Human Beings
- Global Studies on Organized Crime



To me there is one fundamental message in the successes and failures of the last few years: the transnational organized crime innovate faster and better than law enforcement, **and they network very much better than what we do**. They always trust each other, they never betray. Can we say the same of our national and international crime-fighting framework?

The regular time gap between illicit moves of global predators and the response by legislation and national law and order institutions is often beyond two years. International response might be even slower. Most countries often repeat litanies of sovereign rights in fighting transnational crime without realizing that the threat does not come from another sovereign entity. It comes instead from inside (national and outside (transnational) non-sovereign criminal networks, which act much more aggressively than States. States and Parliaments in many parts of the world

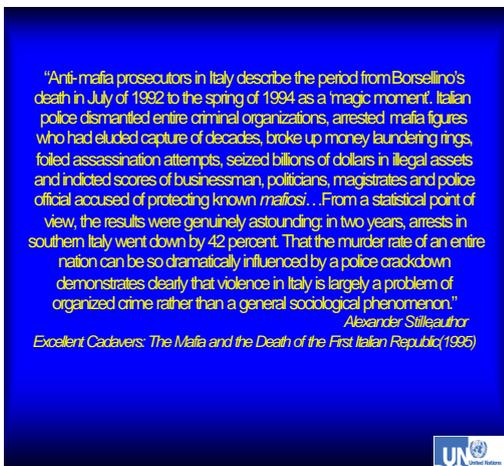
ACCORD establishes a dynamic Plan of Action, which rests on four pillars:

-  Proactively advocating civic awareness on dangers of drugs and social response
-  Building consensus and sharing best practices on demand reduction
-  Strengthening the rule of law by an enhanced network of control measures and improved law enforcement co-operation and legislative review
-  Eliminating the supply of illicit drugs by boosting alternative development programmes and community participation in the eradication of illicit crops

The achievement of the Plan will be continually measured through a regional monitoring mechanism owned by all the stakeholders



have effectively defended national sovereignty when confronting transnational non-traditional security threats, only to find themselves to have lost the war against ruthless nets of foreign criminals. Contrary to traditional wars, a country that has lost its war with transnational crime does not even have the escape of declaring defeat, sign a peace agreement and rebuild a new country. Transnational crime does not leave a country when it has penetrated it.



Also, global predators do not discriminate between real respectable States, rough States, human rights pushers or human rights destroyers, supra-States, flag-States, democracies, dictatorships, kingdoms and republics. Those categories carefully watched by diplomats are unknown to transnational crime. Anybody can play the transnational monopoly game, and actually too many play it. Democracies often help the criminals, without knowing it, by putting generalised economic and foreign aid embargoes on “rough states” . In such a way, poor people suffer most: destitution and desperation then guarantees that getting everyday’s food becomes more

important than fighting for freedom and democracy. Furthermore, internationally enforced isolation help the dictators to make illicit deals with global predators and hide their abuses.

Intl. Crimes Inc. is also the biggest, and least recognized, threat to human rights because it is the only one operating at global level. And there are almost no civil organisations advocating the rights of the million of poor people who fall victims of Crimes Inc.

A new awareness can reduce the advantage of uncivil society against civil society.

New conventions and laws, if accompanied by their implementation and application can help towards the solution. It is imperative to reduce the gap between the clocks: the clock of accelerated interdependence and of its globalisation risks vs. the slow-motion clock of domestic and multilateral decision making.

Thus I wish to appeal to your governments for an internationalisation of actions because the solution to global predators cannot be solely domestic. However the novelty must come from people, from the informal, personal, domestic, dimension of society in which attitudes can change. Therefore an appeal to people to realize that the solution does not lie in the building of higher and higher individual protective fences but in the building of common bridges. Social capital must thus be the key to win against dirty money. To achieve a true worldwide human security might require a few more decades, but the protagonists have to surface right now.

We can contribute to rebuild better human security in a globalised world

- An Asia/Pacific alliance against transnational organized crime would be beneficial to us all.
- It can be done if we agree now and build a cooperative network and an effective partnership.



Embrace it or not, globalisation requires now that the mankind fight united against its dark side. It will happen, it is already happening. Those who do not see it happening or do not want it to happen will continue to buy time and stick to outdated strategies. To rebuild human security in a globalised world will not be an easy task.

I know that all of you have made the enhancement of the rule of law the goal of your life. The exceptional threats of the 21st century just require some special efforts in a more proactive international partnerships. Our common goal will become reality, we shall overcome.

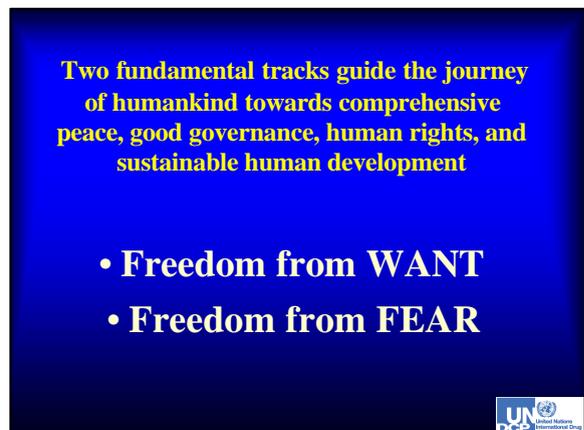
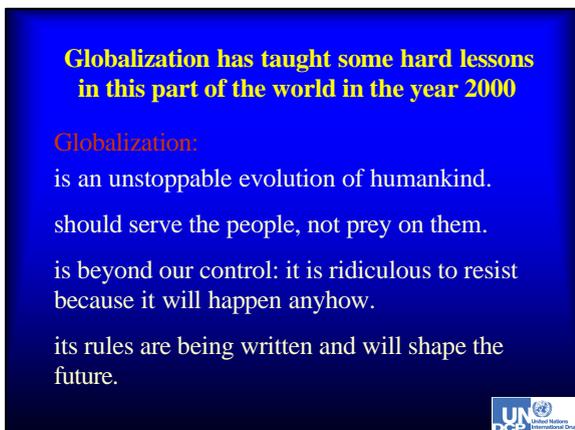
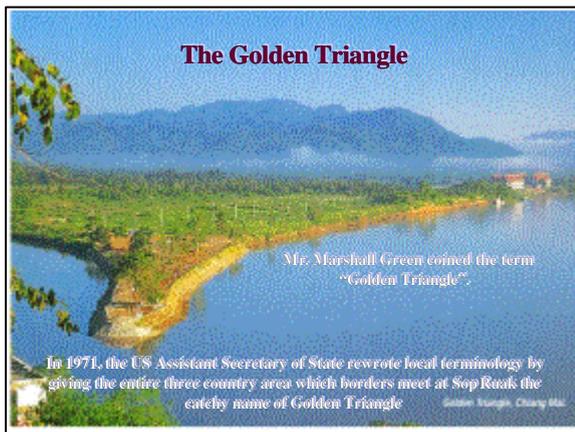
Thank you

**Our common goal
will become reality**

We shall overcome

Thank you





Freedom from fear

Transnational organized crime is the most pressing of all threats to credible sovereignty, independence and civil liberties.

- We are at war with them
- we must continue to engage
- we must win this war together



Two new tools to win over evil *uncivil* forces

- The UN Convention against transnational organized crime
- The ACCORD Plan of Action



The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime 12-15 December 2000, Palermo

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UNDCP IN EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



Mission Statement

The United Nations International Drug Control Programme's Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok aims to:

enhance joint efforts among countries of the region toward the suppression of illicit drugs and transnational crime.



Our strategies

- **Strengthening the capacity** of government agencies and civil society institutions by implementing regional and national projects.
- **Facilitating cooperation** among countries of the region to control production, trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs and drug related crime and corruption.
- **Serving as an advocate** for a drug resistant East Asia and the Pacific region by promoting public and political awareness through media and the civil society.



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ACCORD Plan of Action

The regional co-operative mechanism

The Challenge:

- Duplication of efforts, misuse and waste of resources
- Need for a cooperative mechanism

The Action:

- To establish a coordination and monitoring mechanism
- To design a framework of data collection and trend analysis
- To be operational by the end of the year 2001



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