Statement by Mr. Cho Young-moo, Director of Human Rights and Social Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea
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Mr. Chairperson,

Certainly the drug- and crime-related problems should be addressed with the concerted efforts of the global community. We have made remarkable progress in making the world a safer place from drugs and crime. However, we still face challenges. The drug- and crime-related problems are taking on diverse forms in this rapidly changing world, thus requiring more effective approach to address them. In this regard, it is commendable that the UNODC, as a facilitator of regional and international cooperation in this field, has worked toward a strong partnership with other agencies within or beyond the United Nations system.

My delegation would like to make some comments on tackling these important issues.

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the high-level review of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action in 2014, and the special session on the world drug problem in 2016. The principle of common and shared responsibility among diverse actors, contained in the Declaration and Plan of Action, has become an important guideline for countering the world drug problem. We believe that these two meetings will serve as great opportunities to review the progress and achievements made for the past five years and to set out new directions for our future efforts to address the drug-related problems.

The Government of the Republic of Korea has been strengthening its cooperation with law enforcement agencies in the Asia-Pacific region, since the Republic of Korea recognizes that transnational criminal organizations try to do the so-called ‘drug-laundering’ via its territory, or hire Korean nationals as drug-carriers. We will continue this collaboration with our neighboring countries by providing technical support and training programs.
In addition, the Republic of Korea Government has also been making financial contributions to the Global Synthetics Monitoring, Analyses, Reporting and Trends Programme (Global SMART Programme). Moreover, the Korean Government has launched the Joint Project against New Psychoactive Substances this year, in collaboration with the World Customs Organization Regional Intelligence Liaison Office Asia and the Pacific (WCO RILO A/P). This Project aims to facilitate intelligence sharing on the detection of new drugs among 30 participating countries in the region. We have also strengthened cooperation with ASEAN countries by launching the Asia-Pacific Information and Coordination Center for Drug Crime (APICC) in September 2012. We hope these mechanisms will play central roles in facilitating the exchange of drug-related information and intelligence among law enforcement agencies in the region.

In order to counter money-laundering, the global community should root out financial sources of drug-related offenders by tracking down and confiscating all their illegal properties. Drug serves as a financial resource of criminal groups, thus generating even more serious problems. In this regard, the Korean Government launched the International Money Laundering Investigation Team in 2010, which focuses on tracking illegal financing overseas and recapturing the criminal proceeds spilled abroad.

In the area of judicial cooperation, the Republic of Korea has held Anti-Drug Liaison Officials’ Meeting for International Cooperation (ADLOMICO) and International Working Group Meeting on Drug Smuggling Responses every year. These annual meetings enable us to share information and investigation techniques and enhance mutual legal assistance regarding the illicit drug market in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Chairperson,

Taking this opportunity, I would like to inform that the Republic of Korea is underway to ratify the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its Protocols in the near future. The ROK has amended its Criminal Act last April, which meets the standards of UNTOC, inter alia, by introducing the comprehensive definition of trafficking in persons and modifying provisions for the formation of organized criminal group.

Mr. Chairperson,

Now I would like to move on to the issue of secure cyberspace.

The emergence of cyberspace is a notable milestone that changes the world rapidly. In spite of its contributions to greater freedom, prosperity, and transparency, cyberspace has also become a new sphere of activities for organized criminal groups. The Republic of Korea, as one of the leading actors in the area of information and communications technologies (ICT), has made many achievements such as the fast broadband, e-Government, and e-Commerce. At the same time, however, it has experienced various challenges including several massive-scale Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attacks.
Against this backdrop, we believe that the international community should move forward to develop technologies and mechanisms to secure the reliability and integrity of sensitive data and to explore norms of behavior in cyberspace to tackle borderless cybercrimes. In this regard, the Government of the Republic of Korea is providing technical assistance to law enforcement officials in developing countries that have the political will to fight against cybercrimes. We are willing to take part in the activities of the UN Asian and Pacific Training Centre for ICT for Development and Trans Eurasian Information Network (TEIN) Cooperation Centre.

The Republic of Korea will host the Conference on Cyberspace in Seoul next week, from 17 to 18 October. The Conference is a high-level forum that covers comprehensive cyber issues including economic growth, cyber security, capacity building, and cybercrimes, with the participation of multi-stakeholders, namely senior government officials, industry leaders, representatives of the Internet technical community and civil society. We believe that next week’s gathering under the agenda “Global Prosperity through an Open and Secure Cyberspace” will be a great chance to share ideas and create a common understanding around the globe on this newly-emerged issue.

Mr. Chairperson,

To conclude, I would like to reiterate the importance of effective international cooperation and reaffirm our commitment to tackle the global threats posed by drug trafficking, cybercrimes and other transnational crimes.

Thank you.