Statement

By

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at

the Third Committee

On

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Agenda Item 108) and
International Drug Control (Agenda Item 109)

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Mr. Chairman,

Today’s world, despite global efforts to combat international crimes, in all their dimensions, continues to face challenges that undermine the collective existence of the community of nations. Indeed, the effects of illegal human and drug trafficking, corruption, transnational organized crimes are negatively impacting the development aspirations of states, enjoyment of human rights, the promotion of rule of law and maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

Ethiopia, in order to address these challenges, has adopted a Criminal Justice Policy which places special emphasis on transnational organized crimes, corruption and terrorism as critical and focus areas of our criminal justice system. It is in line with this policy that the government of Ethiopia has put in place institutional structure and coordination mechanisms whereby the police, public prosecutors and the judiciary collaborate and work together to fight these crimes and punish their perpetrators.

In addition to national endeavors to mitigate and eliminate the negative effects of crimes, the Policy has accorded significance to international cooperation and partnerships, in particular in capacity building, sharing intelligence and best practices. Moreover, collaboration in conducting investigations of transnational organized crimes, protection of victims and witnesses, transfer of sentenced persons, extradition, cooperation in mutual legal assistance as well as confiscation and return of the fruits of crimes are other important areas for international cooperation.
Mr. Chairman,

In our sub region-the Horn of Africa unfortunately illegal trafficking of persons, circulation of prohibited drugs and associated crimes remain a major and continuing concern. The victims of trafficking are experiencing extremely risky and dangerous situations which expose them to severe abuses, including physical and sexual assault, confinement, incarceration and murder. Most are exposed to severe depression and mental illness which, in some cases, led them to commit suicide.

We recognize that poverty, unemployment, lack of socio economic opportunities are the principal contributing factors that make these persons vulnerable to trafficking. Sustainable long-term solution to these intolerable situations, we believe, lies in pursuing appropriate and rapid economic development, democratization and good governance policies, and to effectively implement them to address unemployment and poverty which are pervasive throughout our society, despite encouraging progress has been achieved so far in this regard.

Recognizing the magnitude of the challenges, a national movement against human trafficking has been launched recently and extensive media campaign is being conducted to create awareness regarding the kinds of crimes involved in irregular migration and trafficking in persons, including the changing tactics deployed by traffickers to deceive potential migrants. This national movement is coordinated and overseen by a National Council chaired by senior deputy prime minister, and that the Council is structured at federal and regional levels. The main objective of the Council is to search for a long term solution, ensure and promote rights of migrants and protect them from physical and mental diseases, killings and other life-threatening problems.

Mr. Chairman,

Equally, Ethiopia accords serious attention to the fight against corruption and corruption related crimes. We have demonstrated our strong political commitment to prevent and combat corruption as well as to bring to justice those persons who committed these crimes regardless of their status or positions in
government institutions, business community and in the society as a whole. Moreover, our Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission is undertaking a massive awareness raising programs aimed at creating in the long run a society with zero-tolerance to corruption.

Mr. Chairman,

Ethiopia is a party to all three United Nations legal instruments on drug controls and has ratified the United Convention against Transnational Organized Crimes and the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Our national drug policy, in conformity with these international legal agreements, aims to deter the illegal manufacturing, distribution and consumption of narcotic and psychotropic substances. At present, the government of Ethiopia is also implementing a National Integrated Program for the period of 2011-2015, launched in collaboration and with the technical assistance of UNODC.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, Ethiopia as a state party to a number of international legal instruments on international crimes and controlling illegal drugs, remains committed to working together with partners, including with the UN relevant organs, to combat and address global crimes and illegal drug trafficking.

Thank you.