Mr. President,

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak at this commemorative meeting to mark the 10th anniversary of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

At the outset, I would also like to join others to express appreciation for all the panelists, who shared with us their views and brought to light different perspectives on how to promote a coherent multilateral approach to transnational organized crime.

Mr. President,

Ten years ago, when the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols dealing with trafficking in persons, the smuggling of migrants as well as the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, it represented a significant advance in the battle against transnational organized crime. Since then 154 countries have ratified the Convention.

I have the pleasure today to convey to you, and through you to this august Assembly that the Government of India have also decided to ratify the Convention and its three Protocols.
India is also committed to working through various regional and international cooperation mechanisms towards a world free of transnational organized crime, illicit drugs, money laundering, illegal arms transactions, human trafficking and people smuggling and above all, terrorism.

Mr. President,

India has been a victim of terrorism for decades and we have lost countless innocent lives to heinous terrorist attacks. Terrorism has also affected most other countries and, indeed, is the scourge of our times. It undermines peace, democracy and freedom, endangering the international community and humankind as a whole.

While the Transnational Organized Crime Convention makes for strengthened cooperation among law enforcement apparatuses of countries, it is critical that we strengthen the specific multilateral terrorism targeting legal framework. The Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) has reached a point where the legal issues have been well resolved. We now need to give the necessary political push so that the Convention is urgently adopted.

Mr. President,

We recognize that international cooperation in criminal matters is the cornerstone of efforts of States to prevent, prosecute and punish transnational crime. It is important that we clearly acknowledge the critical role of cooperation among States in the fight against transnational crime, and particularly transnational organized crime, and take steps for enhancing and reinforcing international cooperation at all levels.

The international community, including the UN, must also be willing to contribute and help States that seek financial and technical assistance in their efforts at capacity-building and training and in putting in place the administrative and legal framework, institutional reforms that are required for fighting transnational organized crime.

Mr. President,

We are also concerned at the growing scale worldwide of trafficking of persons and complexities involved in dealing with this issue. While national efforts to eliminate trafficking are essential, it is also critical to have greater cohesion in the international community’s efforts in addressing this issue. In this context, the establishment of institutional arrangements at the bilateral, regional and international levels has become indispensable.

The international community must also come together for a coordinated and far-sighted global approach. A United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons is presently being debated at the General Assembly. It is important that we bring the debate to an early conclusion and adopt the plan.
Mr. President,

The stepped up pace of globalization in recent years has seen vastly increased movement of people, goods and services across borders. There have also been very significant improvements in information and communication technology. While these have overall benefit to humankind, we need to reckon with the fact that these have also provided a platform for organized crime to increase its transnational footprint.

In this context, we are deeply concerned about new areas of transnational crimes like cyber-crime, economic fraud and identity-related crimes and their links with other criminal and terrorist activities. In our view, these developments demand that we agree to take a wider look at transnational organized crime encompassing these new and emerging threats while also dealing with crime prevention, criminal justice and treatment of offenders.

At this 10th anniversary of the Convention, it is critical that we commit ourselves to translate our obligations into actions with an even greater degree of cooperation.

Thank you, Mr President.