



Speech by Minister of Internal Affairs of Belarus
General-Major Kuleshov Anatoliy

*On joint counteraction against actual challenge and threats of the criminal underworld
representing the priority of anti-criminal policy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Belarus*

Dear Minister of State,

Dear Secretary General,

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to begin my speech with words of sincere gratitude to His Excellency Minister of State of Internal Affairs of the State of Qatar Sheikh Abdalla Ben Naser Halifa Al Tani for showing kind hospitality to our delegation and for the excellent organization of the event. I am happy to have an opportunity to renew my acquaintance with your wonderful country and people, whose cordiality will remain in my memory for ever.

I would like to express my special gratitude to the officers of INTERPOL's General Secretariat and especially to you, Secretary General Noble. Thanks in

large part to your managerial abilities events held by INTERPOL have risen to even higher levels.

Dear Participants of the General Assembly,

The agenda of today's meeting, being very actual and up to date, goes far beyond the scope of the ordinary. New threats and challenges put on every country special demands for strengthening national and collective security. The lines of our co-operation grow steadily. They include objectives such as combating terrorism, organized crime, narcotic drugs, illegal immigration and other crimes.

Nowadays, no single country can afford to ignore the problem of terrorism or rely on settling it alone.

It is possible to counteract the problem of terrorism only by means of concerted measures carried out by the whole international community.

It is of the utmost importance that all countries participate in the universal antiterrorist conventions to establish a system of jurisdiction that would not allow terrorists to find shelter in any country of the world.

Belarus also carries out all possible measures to implement standards of international instruments including examination of best practices in the activity of international organizations.

The Commonwealth of Independent States, before many other regional organizations, managed to evaluate the threat of dissemination of international terrorism. In 1999 the Heads of States of CIS member-countries signed a Co-operation Agreement in the Fight Against Terrorism which resulted in creation of the effective Antiterrorist Center.

However, the efforts on combating terrorism will not be a success without simultaneous actions against illegal trafficking in narcotic drugs, illicit migration, trafficking in human beings and transnational organized crime as a whole.

We regret to acknowledge the rising problem of trafficking in human beings. The modern trade in slaves affects women and children. Obviously, that problem cannot be solved without eliminating illegal demand for human 'commodity'. Thereby we need to work out the relevant legislative measures and establish close co-operation with international organizations and countries of destination for trafficked human beings.

Illegal migration represents another serious trans-border challenge. Nowadays the routes of illegal immigrants go through the territories of most of the former Soviet Union countries.

The main influx of illegal immigrants into our countries originates from the regions whose territories are involved in military operations, areas of large-scale activity of international drug mafia and terrorist organizations.

It is known that criminal associations in many instances develop black economies. In this respect combating economic crimes and corruption must be one of the priorities of law enforcement.

The mutual exchange of information aimed at the prevention and investigation of such crimes will contribute greatly to the effectiveness of work. It is necessary to continue developing legal and organizational basis in the field of combating high-tech and information technology crimes in particular.

These are just some of the actual challenges now facing our countries. Our joint efforts will make possible not only to protect interests of our citizens but enrich international co-operation in the area of combating crime, thus deliberately destroying international ties between criminal networks.

Dear Colleagues,

In conclusion I would like once again to express my sincere thanks to the organizers of the event and especially to Qatar's authorities for the excellent organization of the meeting and their warm hospitality. Such meetings as we can see today are very topical and useful.

Thank you for your kind attention.