

## **UNODC's role in the International Cooperation to Fight People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime**

Opening speech at 2nd Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Ministers and Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Mr. Antonio Maria Costa and of our Global Programme against Human Trafficking, I wish to express our appreciation for the work and the outstanding initial results of the Bali process and in particular the ad hoc experts groups mechanism established by the Bali I Ministerial Conference.

The UNODC, as the secretariat of the UN Convention on Transnational organized crime, has already initiated, immediately after the Global Conference in Palermo in December 2000, to facilitate Member countries co-operation in this field. To prepare model legislation as appropriate for civil law, common law as well as Islamic law countries, will be tantamount to good initial collaboration in this field.

At the Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, we have completed a need assessment on human trafficking legislation, border control, victim compensation, judicial training, mutual legal assistance, money laundering, training of law enforcement and other issues where UN technical assistance might help. A UN Inter-agency joint regional project on data collection and cooperation on human trafficking is ongoing to which UNODC has provided a senior legal adviser on Human Trafficking.

We also implement an ASEM - European Commission project against money laundering from all forms of crime in cooperation with the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering. A pilot initiative on computer based training of law enforcement on Human Trafficking is undergoing the trial and testing phase. Finally pre-ratification assistance for the Convention on Transnational Crime and the two protocols on people smuggling and human trafficking especially women and children, is available for countries who apply for it.

In conclusion, the UNODC as the main UN agency, mandated to facilitate Member Countries cooperation in the field of fight against Transnational Organized Crime, is willing and able to cooperate and support the ad hoc experts group initiated by Bali I and consolidated by Bali II.

Thank you.