Madam moderator,

My delegation thanks the distinguished panelists for their insightful presentation on regional perspectives of crime prevention and criminal justice.

Madam moderator,

Crimes and insecurity remain a major impediment to peace, prosperity, and development in many countries, particularly in developing ones. The multi-faceted threats of human trafficking, drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking, and contraband arms trade and ammunition have compelled regional and sub-regional organizations to intensify effective cooperation to combat trans-boundary criminal activities.

Madam moderator,

In recent years, connectivity master plan initiatives in the Southeast Asia Region have significantly contributed to rapidly increasing people to people contacts and economic growth of the region. At the same time, we witness growing transnational crimes as the flow of people and cargo get faster and easier. Consequently, an effective border management system plays pivotal role in preventing and combating transnational crimes.

It is impossible for a country to develop and implement an effective management system alone to govern its porous borders due to the changing nature and intense complexity of the crimes. The UNODC Border Liaison Office (BLO) network in Greater Mekong Sub-region, which Myanmar is a member, is one of the best forms of partnership between the United Nations’ Agency and a sub-regional organization. The BLO has been playing a critical role in prevention and combating transnational crimes in Southeast Asia.

Madam moderator,

It is necessary to adopt holistic approach to respond the ever increasing threats posed by the transnational crimes. It would only be effective if the United Nations and regional or sub-regional organizations work together in close coordination and cooperation.
In this connection, my delegation would like to recommend the United Nations to deepen its focus on areas such as capacity building and information sharing through strengthening of strategic partnerships between the United Nations and regional or sub-regional organization to implement crime prevention initiatives and criminal justice responses.

Madam moderator,

As a member of ASEAN, the Government of Myanmar has been actively participating in all the ASEAN regional initiatives and frameworks to prevent and combat transnational crimes, terrorism, and violent extremism. At the same time, it has also been closely involved in the sub-regional platforms such as Mekong Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Drug Control.

At the national level, the Government of Myanmar has launched its first-ever nationwide crime prevention strategy (2018 to 2020). The Strategy includes four main areas namely, crime prevention through social development; community-based crime prevention; environment induced crime prevention; and rehabilitation and reintegration programming.

The Government also sets high priority to fight against corruption and illicit narcotic drug trafficking. The Anti-Corruption Commission has been reconstituted with stronger mandate and authority to perform its duties to combat corruption nation-wide.

To intensify efforts to address the threat of drug abuse and drug trafficking, the President Office has established the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department under its direct management. The newly created department solicits information from the public concerning drug abuse, trafficking and other drug related crimes and takes strong legal actions.

Madam moderator,

My delegation strongly hopes that the UNODC will continue playing critical role in strengthening of partnership between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organization to implement the United Nations agendas on crime prevention initiatives and criminal justice responses. In this regard, Myanmar is committed to working in close cooperation with regional and international partners including the United Nations to meet 2030 Agenda, particularly Goal 16 on peace, justice and sustainable development.

I thank you.