

**Statement of the Minister of Justice of the Slovak Republic**

**13<sup>th</sup> United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

**12-19 April 2015**

Your Highness, Secretary General of the United Nations, Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, allow me to thank the Qatar Government for its excellent and warm welcome and hospitality. I would like to thank in particular for your work in preparing this Congress.

We have joined the EU statement and I would like to add few words in national capacity.

**(Crime prevention)**

The crime presents a serious threat to core values of pluralist democracy, rule of law, human rights, fundamental freedoms and the principle of human dignity.

It takes a multidisciplinary approach to prevent and counter crime, violence, corruption and terrorism and to adopt multi-faceted instruments to address it.

Prevention is the cheapest and most effective way to deal with crime, so we should continuously pay a due attention to the crime prevention.

In this respect it is important to choose a comprehensive approach to counter crime, violence, corruption and terrorism in order to implement the crime prevention effectively.

Slovakia supports the effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems involving the active participation and inclusion of all sectors of society while respecting the human dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In this context Slovakia has developed a Strategy on prevention of crime and anti-society activities which is complemented also by corresponding legal framework.

Crime prevention should consist of balanced, comprehensive and coordinated set of preventive, social, educational and control measures at national, regional and local level.

There can be no security and no development without justice. Crime prevention and criminal justice create safer and richer societies.

Therefore, our policy should be focused on education, work, medical care, rehabilitation, social reintegration and the prevention of recidivism as it is stated in Doha Declaration.

**(ESMO)**

This Congress provides also a space for identifying priorities and sharing best practices in crime prevention and criminal justice.

In this context, we would like to share with you information about the introduction of electronic monitoring system of accused and convicted persons in Slovakia.

A sanction of house arrest was introduced in Slovakia already in 2006, but the system of technical control was not introduced at that time.

With the new electronic monitoring system which we are introducing this year, we would be able to monitor the execution of decisions imposing the house arrest.

Thanks to the electronic system we will enhance imposing of alternative penalties and we will limit overcrowding of prisons.

At the same time, the system should ameliorate the rehabilitation process of criminals and their integration into the society, thus preventing further crimes.

The new system should cover also execution of other decisions issued in criminal proceedings such as conditional deferral of punishment by prison sentence with probation supervision, conditional release from serving a prison sentence or conditional suspension of criminal proceedings.

Moreover, the system will allow better enforcement of specific judgments in civil proceedings in order to strengthen the protection of victims of domestic violence.

Although we are not first in the world to introduce such electronic monitoring system of accused and convicted persons, we are prepared to share our experiences with its introduction with those who are only planning to do so.

We are persuaded that by exchange of experiences we can enhance the use of non-custodial sanctions and to fight the prison overcrowding while preventing crimes via better probation system.

#### **(Conclusion)**

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To conclude, allow me to underline that our task as leaders is to shape a world in which people can enjoy freedom and prosperity.

Therefore, we should promote enhancing of international cooperation, upholding the rule of law and ensuring the effectiveness of the crime prevention and criminal justice systems, including by trying to integrate the criminals into our society.

These few days should enable us to reaffirm our determination to prevent and to combat many forms of crime which is also reflected in adopted Doha Declaration.

Personally, I would like to highlight parts of the Doha Declaration regarding promotion of crime prevention and its emphasis on the use of available electronic and IT systems to reach these objectives.

Thank you for your attention.