Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, let me congratulate you, Mr. President, for your election to lead the twenty-seventh session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

I would like to assure you of the full cooperation and support of my delegation throughout the sessions.

We also appreciate all efforts of the UNODC Secretariat, in organizing this event as well as the excellent work which helped us in preparing for the discussions.

Mr. President,

Transnational organized crime remains among the major challenges to security and development of countries and the international community. It is a threat to the progress of society. Prevention of the organized crime as well as developing appropriate criminal justice responses to such threat should be among the priorities of the Member States. Strengthened international cooperation is key to this end.

In this regard, United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) provides the member states with an excellent forum for convening, exchanging views, sharing experiences and identifying the emerging crime trends. It is also very useful in developing policy options in preventing crime and addressing the necessary criminal justice responses.

Taking this opportunity, I have the pleasure to inform you that Turkey has recently been elected by the ECOSOC as a Member of the CCPCJ for the term 2019-2021. Turkey will continue to provide constructive contribution to the work of the Commission. I would also like to thank all ECOSOC Member States that supported Turkey’s election throughout the process.

Mr. President,

It is deeply concerning that the global threat of terrorism is expanding both geographically and in terms of tactics despite the increasing resources and means devoted for the fight against terrorism. Turkey is combating all kinds of terrorism and terrorist organizations, including PKK/PYD/YPG, Fetullah Gülen Terrorist Organization (FETÖ) and DEASH.

Terrorism and violent extremism are global threats, without any cultural or geographical borders. I should reiterate our resolve to fight all those threats whenever and wherever they occur. The international community must stand united, show equal solidarity and cooperate against terrorism without making any distinction between terrorist organizations.

Turkey has long been emphasizing the clear existence of the link between terrorism and transnational organized crime, such as drug trafficking, money laundering, human trafficking
or trafficking of cultural artefacts. We should further enhance the cooperation to counter the existing and growing links between those symbiotic crimes.

Among many others, as the examples of the PKK or FETÖ demonstrated us, corrupted practices or activities such as money-laundering and embezzlement provide terrorist entities necessary financial sources to exist.

We must also reinforce the **judicial cooperation on the extradition** of the perpetrators of the terrorist acts or any person supporting, facilitating or participating in those acts. We reiterate our call to all member states to resolutely implement “extradite or prosecute principle” and to prevent any abuse of the refugee status by those involved in terrorist acts.

Mr. President,

The main theme of this year’s session on **Cybercrime** is quite timely.

Turkey is a state party to the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols. In addition, The Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (ETS-185), *i.e.* Budapest Convention, has entered into force in Turkey as of 1 January 2015. Turkey has also signed the Council of Europe’s “**Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime, concerning the criminalization of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems (ETS 189)**” on 19 April 2016.

In line with all these international conventions, Turkey has fully updated its legislation on cybercrime. We will provide detailed information on this issue under the relevant agenda item.

Mr. President,

**Technical assistance** is another crucial aspect of our work in this session. We applaud the work done by the UNODC to improve the capacity of requesting States. On its part, Turkey has contributed to the capacity-building activities through providing training to the officials of other governments based on their needs, by making financial contributions to UNODC-led programs, and by hosting high-level international meetings in this field. We will continue to support such activities.

Mr. President,

Last but not least, let me commend the **efforts of the Government of Japan** for their tremendous work so far in organizing the 14th Crime Congress in Kyoto in April 2020. We will spare no effort to support the delegation of Japan in this regard.

I wish that the twenty-seventh session of the CCPCJ contribute to our efforts towards paving the way for promoting peace and security for future generations.

Thank you.