Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

As Chair of CSW it is a great pleasure for me to address the twenty-seventh session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. As Ambassador of Ireland to the UN, I have the great honour to be the first Irish person to Chair CSW and I understand I am also the first Chair of CSW to address your Commission. So a double First today!

As you know each of our ECOSOC functional commissions have their own specific mandates, but of course we also share areas of common interest, but above all we share high ambitions!! That was evident last July, when the five commission chairs, including your own Chair of CCPCJ, participated in a roundtable discussion on the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Indeed that is the essence of the 2030 Agenda approach, not just cooperation but coherence right across the 2030 Agenda.

The Commission on the Status of Women offers a unique, privileged space for that very task. It is an exciting one, as I can testify to after my first chairmanship!!

At CSW we, representatives of Governments, civil society, women’s and youth and girl-led organizations, along with the private sector, media and other stakeholders arrive to share experiences, good practices and build on lessons learned. We undertake concrete actions and work, sometimes through the night !!, to accelerate the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

In 2016, CSW broke new ground and set out a comprehensive roadmap for the critical gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda so as to ensure that no one – no woman and no girl – is left behind.

In our most recent session of CSW in March 2018, UN Member States made even more headway, as we dedicated ourselves to the issues faced by Rural women and Girls, and emphasized our strong commitment to achieving gender equality and the empowerment by reaching a robust agreement. Many doubted that we could as past efforts on this topic had failed, but we surpassed expectations by highlighting the urgency of empowering and supporting those who need it most and have, for too long, been left behind. In many ways we knew the stakes were too high to fail as the conditions of many rural women shame us.
The CSW this year thus added real momentum to the quest to improve the prospects for rural women and girls. We put forth concrete measures to lift rural women and girls out of poverty - to ensure their rights, their well-being and to help resilience. We addressed fundamentally important issues such as access to land, issues of trade, protection of female human rights defenders and sensitive issues on sexual and reproductive health. This strong outcome offers a roadmap on next steps that governments, civil society and women’s groups can undertake and indeed leverage to support the realization of rural women’s rights and address their needs.

As the principal and unique UN policy-making body for gender equality and the empowerment of women, the CSW also exercises a catalytic role in support of gender mainstreaming in all areas of work of the United Nations.

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice has also made important contributions to the accelerated realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including your work in areas such as preventing and ending violence against women and girls, gender-related killings; gender-responsive access to justice; combating trafficking in women; a gender-responsive rule of law are critical to women’s and girls’ rights and experiences in the context of crime prevention and criminal justice. Successful implementation of SDG 16 hinges on all of that work.

Chair,

Today’s thematic discussion on responses to prevent and counter cybercrime in all its forms is surely an area where attention to gender perspectives is urgently needed. We know the use of ICTs and computer technology in all spheres of life has brought new and emerging threats. Pervasive forms of cyber violence and harassment against women and girls is particularly pernicious. This Commission will play a key role in addressing the adequacy of responses to ICT-mediated violence against women and girls. Your looking at the availability of clear legal protections and their implementation by well-trained law enforcement personnel and the judiciary can help to ensure women’s and girls’ access to justice and to effective remedies.

CSW this year highlighted the positive opportunities of ICTs for women’s economic and political empowerment and for their leadership and participation. Across political, civil and social life. Its normative guidance has resulted in enhanced policy frameworks, new partnerships, and expanded data collection in this field. The SDGs have given further impetus to the use of enabling technology to promote the empowerment of women. Let’s use it!!

I would point out however that the CSW has also increasingly voiced its concerns about online violence, cyber bullying and cyber stalking. We called for a safe and secure cyberspace for women and girls.

I know as Chair that this requires a comprehensive effort from all parts of national governments and other stakeholders as well as of women and girls and their organizations. It also require coherence and cooperation across the UN system.
Chair,
The work of the CCPCJ is critical in that. Ensuring the centrality of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls across your entire mandate will accelerate their realization. For that I thank you.

Let me conclude by wishing you and the Commission a successful twenty-seventh session.

I thank you.