

**Delegation of the Republic of Armenia**  
**Statement at the General Debate**  
**30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**  
*Vienna, 17 May 2021*

Mr. Chair,

Armenia aligns with the statement delivered by Portugal on behalf of the European Union and we would like to make the following remarks in our national capacity.

Armenia would like to thank Ambassador Alessandro Cortese, for his able leadership at the helm of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and wish him every success in conducting the jubilee 30<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission.

Armenia is committed to strengthening our national and international efforts in crime prevention and criminal justice including through active engagement within the relevant international bodies.

We believe that the effective fight against all forms of crime is possible if we address the root causes of crime, such as social, economic, political, humanitarian and other factors that make people vulnerable to different forms of crime, and allow criminals to find fertile ground for their activities.

An important aspect of crime prevention efforts lies with education. Only with educated and informed citizens, cognizant of their rights and responsibilities, mutual respect, tolerance and compassion, we will be able to create necessary conditions for crime prevention.

With the advance of technologies as well as enhanced mobility, crime is becoming increasingly complex, multifaceted and transnational. Therefore, it is our joint responsibility to preserve and strengthen our specialized international bodies as the framework for cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice, including through exchange of best practices and further developing of existing regulations and mechanisms, with the aim to have a more robust and comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice system.

Having said that, we welcome the outcomes of the Kyoto Crime Congress, including its political declaration, as the most recent example of successful multilateralism in this field, and would like to once again thank the Government of Japan for hosting that important event.

Mr. Chair,

Corruption remains one of the main challenges for our societies, draining the resources, eroding and undermining the trust in public institutions.

The fight against corruption is one of the top priorities of Armenia's Government, and Armenia is committed to continuing its efforts at national level to safeguard our society against this crime. Armenia looks forward to the upcoming Special Session of the UN

General Assembly against Corruption, which is going to adopt a robust and comprehensive political declaration to guide our efforts against corruption for the years to come.

At the same time, corruption may undermine the public trust in our international institutions as well. Therefore, Armenia is keen to continue its efforts against the attempts of exporting corruption and corrupt practices into the international fora, such as bribery of foreign public officials, officials of public international organizations, members of interparliamentary assemblies and other forms of foreign bribery.

Mr. Chairman,

In the context of crime prevention and criminal justice the issue of combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is among priority issues for Armenia.

Terrorism continues to pose a serious threat to the security of societies and vulnerable populations especially in the context of armed conflicts. At the same time, gradual evolution of the phenomena of foreign terrorist fighters, when they are recruited and subsequently engaged in armed conflict as mercenaries by some member states is another major concern which should be addressed also at the level of international efforts in crime prevention and criminal justice.

Combating terrorism effectively both at national and international levels is a complex and multidimensional undertaking which should concurrently address the issues of corruption, money laundering, illicit trafficking in firearms, as well as trafficking in persons and other crimes. Therefore, we believe it is crucial to address those ancillary crimes in a more comprehensive manner creating synergies between different investigations carried out by the law enforcement authorities on corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing.

Protection of cultural heritage remains a painful concern for Armenia. We believe that intentional crimes against cultural property, including destruction, misappropriation and alteration, should be addressed and prosecuted within the context of hate crime and be punished as a vivid expression of intolerance, racism and xenophobia. Armenia will continue to raise international awareness about all facades of this crime, which is hampering the peace and security of societies, undermining the possibility of peaceful coexistence.

Thank you, Mr. Chair