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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA TO  
THE INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS  
VIENNA

**Remarks delivered by Ambassador Igli Hasani,  
Permanent Representative of Albania to the International Organizations in Vienna,  
30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, General Debate,  
Vienna, 17 May 2021**

Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair,

I congratulate you and the Secretariat for the successful organization of this session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. We appreciate the valuable work of the UNODC in supporting the efforts of the Member States on crime prevention and criminal justice.

I am pleased to represent here today Albania – a country undergoing a deep transformation in the justice sector and making big strides in crime prevention, criminal justice and rule of law, in line with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and of course towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Criminal justice is one of the pillars of an overarching and unprecedented justice reform launched in Albania in 2016, which has laid a firm foundation towards ridding the judiciary from corruption and building a worthy justice system for the Albanian people.

Recalling the Doha Declaration of 2015, I would like to reaffirm the engagement that Albania has undertaken and integrated in its legal order.

My country has undertaken important steps in the fight against corruption, including through the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Network in 17 service-providing agencies.

A decentralized prosecution is already functional, with vetted prosecutors. A recently established, specialized National Bureau of Investigation constitutes a best practice in the fight against corruption and organized crime.

Albania has re-designed criminal justice in the framework of sustainable development, with a new and modern criminal code, harmonized with European Union Directives and the ratified international agreements. We are now working on a package of laws providing efficient procedures reflected in the criminal procedure code.

My country's focus on children and youth in crime prevention is reflected in the Juvenile Justice Code, which for the first time separated the adults from juvenile justice. The establishment of the Juvenile and Youth Crime Prevention Centre helps young people in conflict with law with rehabilitation and re-integration programmes.

A comprehensive penitentiary reform has concluded, with modern infrastructure, increased security, and elimination of overcrowding in prisons. Health services have proven to rise to the challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Increased access to justice for the most vulnerable is fully achieved through a system of free legal aid that is operational since 2018, where 20 per cent are criminal cases.

The fight against corruption, combined with measures to prevent money laundering and organized crime, resulted in successful legal and digitalization initiatives. An effective system of confiscation of illegally acquired assets has been created, which reallocates assets to the state budget and reinvests parts thereof in social enterprises.

International co-operation in criminal matters is strengthened through the electronic case-management system for the prioritization of letters rogatory.

Mr. Vice Chair,

The 2030 Agenda for Albania envisages enhanced social justice, efficient compensation for victims of organized crime and trafficking, networked juvenile rehabilitation institutions, a penitentiary academy, a strengthened gender component in access to justice, digital liaison of law enforcement agencies that further facilitate international co-operation, guaranteeing the protection of rights, access to justice and wellbeing for every member of the society.

Albania is determined to advance the commitments undertaken in this year's Kyoto Declaration, and we thank Japan for the successful congress in March. We look forward to the UN General Assembly Special Session against Corruption in June.

I wish you success in guiding this session of the CCPCJ and look forward to fruitful discussions.  
Thank you!