

Mr. Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Colleagues,

I am greatly honoured to speak here on behalf of the Czech Republic. First of all, let me congratulate you, Your Excellency Ambassador Cortese, for your election as the Chair of this session, as well as all the other members of the bureau.

At the outset, I would like to thank the UNODC for the vital role it has been playing in crime prevention and fight against crime in the world. For a long time already we have been able to say that expertise on crime prevention and criminal justice lies in Vienna. We are happy the UN in Vienna, and in particular the UNODC, continues to serve as a place for expert discussions where the spirit of consensus is always found.

This year has been full of remarkable events. First the Kyoto Congress took place which the Japanese government managed to organize perfectly and which, despite the circumstances, has shown to be the largest Crime Congress in the UN history. The Czech Republic is proud it had been able to participate in this unique gathering. In this context, we would like to express our appreciation to the Japanese government and in particular extend our thanks to His Excellency, Ambassador Takeshi Hikiyama, for the incredible diplomatic leadership during the negotiations of the Kyoto Declaration. We all now have to strengthen our efforts to bring all the ideas enshrined in the declaration to life and thus also help to fulfil the 2030 Agenda. The Czech Republic is fully committed to this endeavor.

Another remarkable event will be the UNGASS meeting in two weeks from now. The Czech Republic is fully dedicated to the fight against corruption and to the implementation of the UNCAC review mechanism. We have completed the first review cycle, are undergoing the second one and have served as a reviewer in two other second cycle reviews. The Czech Republic therefore strongly welcomes the recently agreed declaration which will be adopted in New York at an UNGASS session. The declaration emphasizes our commitments which we have as States Parties to UNCAC and reminds us of the efforts which still have to be undertaken globally to a full implementation of the Convention.

Thirdly, we should not forget that the UNTOC review mechanism has started its first phase after so many years of its preparation and the Czech Republic is determined to undertake all necessary steps and requirements set by the new mechanism for the review of implementation of the Convention.

And, last but not least, there have been important cybercrime meetings in the UN, in particular the Intergovernmental Expert Group meeting in April and the Ad-Hoc Committee meeting last week. The Czech Republic places an utmost importance on the fight against cybercrime and appreciates the leading role of the UNODC in this respect. We highly value the work of the IEG which has submitted to the Commission its conclusions and recommendations from its work as discussed at its recent April meeting. We believe such a forum for practitioners is very valuable and we would like to express our hope that a similar forum will be created to follow up on the findings and recommendations of the IEG.

Dear colleagues, let me thank you for your commitment to all the topics which are on the agenda of this year's CCPCJ and let's make sure together that the spirit of consensus never dies in Vienna.

Mr. Chair, let me wish you, all members of the bureau, the Secretariat as well as all of us a successful and fruitful session. Thank you for your attention.