

Excellencies and distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Sri Lanka aligns itself with the statements of the Asia Pacific Group and the G77 = China and wishes to make the following remarks in its national capacity.

Sri Lanka congratulates His Excellency Ambassador Mr. Alessandro Cortese of Italy and other members of the Bureau on their election and ensures the fullest support and cooperation to successfully steering the proceedings of the 30th Session of CCPCJ.

Mr. Chair,

The Government of Sri Lanka highly appreciates the efforts of the Government of Japan and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for organization and successful conclusion of the 14th UN Crime Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held in Kyoto, Japan despite the challenges posed by the COVID- 19 pandemic.

Sri Lanka enacted Prevention of Terrorism (Proscription of Extremist Organizations) Regulations No. 1 in 2019, the Convention on the Suppression of Terrorist Financing Act, the Prevention on Money Laundering Act and the Financial Transactions Reporting Act and amended the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Act to give effect to Sri Lanka's obligations as a signatory to the International Convention on the Suppression of Terrorist Financing adopted by the United Nations to prohibit the financing of terrorist acts, terrorists and terrorist organizations.

Mr. Chair,

Pursuant to the ratification of the Protocol, the Government of Sri Lanka has criminalized the offence of human trafficking in its varied forms by bringing in an amendment to the Penal Code by Amendment Act No. 16 of 2006. Section 360 (1) of this Amendment which is in line with the definition of trafficking in the Protocol prescribes stringent punishment which includes a minimum mandatory term of incarceration.

Mr Chair,

In recognition of the seriousness of Human Trafficking, the Parliament of Sri Lanka in the year of 2017 introduced by way of an amendment to the Prevention of Crimes Act the requirement that convicted offenders of the offence of human trafficking should be fingerprinted.

The development of a "Standard Operating Procedure" separately for adults and children on identification, protection, and referral of victims of human trafficking bears testimony to Sri Lanka's firm commitment to eradicate this heinous crime.

Mr Chair,

Sri Lanka established the National Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force in 2010. The Task Force is the national coordinating body which advises and monitors activities to be implemented in combating human trafficking which is chaired by the Ministry of Justice.

Sri Lanka enacted the Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Act in 2007 in compliance with accepted international norms, standards and best practices to uphold the rights

and entitlements of victims and witnesses of crime. Further amendment was brought into this Act to provide to testify or make a statement from any remote location outside Sri Lanka.

Mr. Chair,

Sri Lanka firmly believes that enhancing international cooperation, particularly in the areas of mutual legal assistance, exchange of information, extradition and identification in accordance with domestic legislation is of utmost significance to contribute to countering the threats posed by transnational organized crime and to sustain effective criminal justice responses as well as prevention of crime in its all forms and shapes.

Sri Lanka reiterates its firm commitment to uphold the effective functioning of criminal justice systems and urges member States to join hands to work together to eliminate crime and all of its manifestations to ensure a better future for our peoples.

Thank you.