

**Delegation of the Republic of Armenia**

**30th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

*Vienna, 19 May 2021*

**Statement (3) - Agenda Item 1**

Mr. Chair,

On behalf of Ambassador Papikyan, I would like to thank members of the Commission for placing their trust and confidence in the Armenian candidature for the position of the 3rd Vice Chair of the CCPCJ at its 30th session. We want to assure you that the Armenian delegation would do its utmost to justify this trust and to bring its contribution to the work of the CCPCJ and its Bureau in these difficult times.

We regret that we had to go down of this unnecessary and in a way dangerous path of electing through voting of the only and uncontested nomination of the Eastern European Group to the above-mentioned position, thus challenging the long-established practice and the methods of work of the Commission, which we wish the CCPCJ could have avoided.

Armenia strongly believes that upholding the Vienna spirit, collegiality and mutual respect are crucial for ensuring the successful multilateralism in face of many challenges that we - the member states are facing today.

Having said this, Armenia would like to stress that this unnecessary vote should in no way set a precedent for the future work of the Commission and other relevant Vienna-based intergovernmental bodies.

We believe that the whole process of this election as well as its outcome has sent a strong message that the long-established practices should not be challenged and the Vienna Spirit should be upheld.

Last but not least, Mr. Chair, we would like to thank you and the Secretariat for your patience, leadership and wisdom in leading us through this difficult path.

Thank you