

Introduction

Let me first express my sincere gratitude to Executive Director Waly and her team for organizing this important meeting.

Kyoto Congress

Last March, Japan hosted the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Kyoto. Despite the huge challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in organizing an international conference of this scale, the Congress turned out to be a great success. I would like to thank once again the UNODC Secretariat for their dedication in the realization of the Conference, and all delegations for their participation albeit strict quarantine measures. Let me also express my gratitude for your contributions in the negotiation and adoption of the Kyoto Declaration.

Kyoto Declaration & Thematic Discussions

The Kyoto Declaration is a robust and concise document. It will serve as a roadmap for the international community to advance crime prevention and criminal justice agendas. As host country of the Congress, we hope to play an active role in our joint effort to follow-up on the Kyoto Declaration.

In May this year, the CCPCJ adopted a resolution tabled by Japan entitled “Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice” in which, inter alia, Member States endorsed the Kyoto Declaration.

OP11 of this resolution requested the Commission to hold intersessional thematic discussions on the sharing of information, good practices and lessons learned regarding the follow-up to the Declaration. Japan decided to provide financial support to annual holding of these discussions over the course of 4 years, starting with this intersessional meeting.

We hope to work closely with the UNODC secretariat to ensure effective thematic discussions every year.

Other initiatives

Japan is also engaged in developing three initiatives to implement several key commitments agreed in the Kyoto Declaration with necessary contributions.

The first initiative is the creation of UN model strategies on reducing reoffending. This exercise takes into account relevant provisions in the existing standards and norms in crime

prevention and criminal justice, current developments in practices, researches, and tools as well as the outcome of the deliberations of the Kyoto Congress. The model strategies will serve as useful tools for Member States to advance their efforts in reducing reoffending.

The second initiative is establishing the Criminal Justice Forum for Asia and the Pacific. It aims to strengthen international cooperation in the fields of mutual legal assistance and offender treatment and rehabilitation in the Asia-Pacific region. For this purpose, this forum will provide regular opportunities for criminal justice practitioners to deepen mutual understanding, share best practices, build mutual trust and identify challenges and find solutions.

The third initiative is the annual holding of the Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness. This forum is designed to empowering youth to become active agents of positive change by providing opportunities to discuss pertinent issues related to youth and to create networks with youth from around the world. The first Forum was successfully held in October in Tokyo under the overall theme of “The role of youth in achieving a diverse and inclusive society”.

In this regard, it is my great pleasure to introduce Ms. Tsenguunbileg Naranpurev (ツェングーンビレグ・ナランピューレブ) who will address the CCPCJ in her capacity as the representative of the Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness. I hope Ms. Naranpurev (ナランピューレブ) will provide us with an overview on the fresh and innovative ideas discussed by youth participants.

Conclusion

Let me conclude my remarks with a hope that this first intersessional thematic discussion would achieve its purpose as a fruitful occasion for all participants to deepen their knowledge and to strengthen mutual understanding.

Thank you.