

**Presentation for Thematic Session 1 of the 2021
CCPCJ Thematic Discussions**

(November 10, 2021)

ZHOU Yong

Research Professor and Vice Director-General,
Institute for Crime Prevention, Ministry of Justice of China

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Shortly after the adoption of the Kyoto Declaration, the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) organizes thematic discussions on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration, it is both timely and important.

(on "addressing the causes of crime, including root causes")

Mr. Chair,

Article 21 of the Kyoto Declaration emphasizes that crime prevention should focus on addressing the causes of crime, especially the root causes. We believe that this is significantly important for all countries in the world to improve the effectiveness of crime prevention. Here is a brief share of China's experience.

As we all know, poverty is one of the biggest challenges of the world's sustainable development, so poverty reduction is listed as the first goal of the 17 sustainable development goals in the UN 2030 Agenda. At the same time, there is also a very close relationship between poverty and crime. Poverty and hunger, disease, family division, drop-out of school, unemployment, discrimination, exclusion, etc., often constitute a breeding ground for crime. Poverty is regarded as one of the root causes of crime. Therefore, Poverty reduction contributes to the prevention of crime fundamentally.

The Chinese government attaches great importance to poverty reduction. Since 2012, China has acted in the unprecedented scale and the most effective way to eradicate poverty in human history. After eight years' continuous struggle, by the end of 2020, China had completed the task of poverty alleviation as scheduled. Under the current standard, 98.99 million poor rural people, 128000 poor villages, 832 poverty-stricken counties have been lifted out of poverty, the tasks of eliminating absolute poverty have been completed. China, which accounts for nearly one fifth of the world's population, has comprehensively eliminated absolute poverty and achieved the poverty reduction goal of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule. It is not only a

milestone event in the history of China, but also a major event in the history of human poverty reduction and human development. It has made great contributions to the development of global poverty reduction and human development progress. UN Secretary General Mr. Guterres has highly praised this for many times.

It should be pointed out that poverty alleviation not only greatly improves the living standards of the poor people in China, but also significantly and effectively helps to reduce crimes, thus making China a safer, more harmonious and stable country. According to the statistics data from the Ministry of Public Security, by 2020, the total number of criminal cases filed in China had declined for five consecutive years, the number of eight major criminal cases and public security cases investigated had decreased for six consecutive years. According to the survey conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics, the national residents' satisfaction with social security reached 83.6%, ranking first among the 15 satisfaction index. China's experience has further revealed that we should pay attention to solving the root causes of crime, such as poverty, which will help to fundamentally prevent crime. To a certain extent, this

also confirms what Liszt, a famous German criminal law scholar, said that "the best social policy is the best criminal policy".

(on "evidence based crime prevention")

Mr. Chair,

Accurate, comprehensive and effective crime and criminal justice statistics is not only an important basis for scientific decision-making and good practice in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, but also an urgent requirement for strengthening evidence-based crime prevention strategies.

China attaches great importance to crime and criminal justice statistics. In December 2019, the Ministry of justice and UNODC successfully co-hosted the Asia-Pacific Conference on Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics in Chengdu, China. The meeting was held within the framework of the "Roadmaps for Improving the Quality and Availability of Crime Statistics at international and national levels (E/CN.3/2013/11 and E/CN.3/2015/8)" approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission and CCPCJ. The theme of the conference was "establishing a modern and efficient criminal justice statistics system", which aimed to improve the quality and data availability of crime and criminal justice statistics in the Asia-Pacific region and promote the integration of criminal justice statistics in the region into the goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Representatives from UNODC and more than 10 countries such as China, Pakistan, Thailand and South Korea, as well as from UNODC-KOSTAT and UNODC-INEGI attended the meeting. Focusing on the theme of the conference, the participants successively discussed and exchanged the latest progress and current goals of crime and Criminal Justice Statistics in the Asia-Pacific region, the evaluation indicators of the United Nations sustainable development goals for 2015-2030, the international classification of crime statistics, the new development and new tools of modern crime statistics, the United Nations Crime Trend Survey, the methods of corruption investigation and other specific topics in depth.

The International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) is a standard tool developed by the United Nations in recent years. It is of great significance to improve the quality and availability of crime trend data. From 2019 to 2020, the Ministry of Justice of China developed the international classification of crime statistics (China Version 1.0), a localized tool of China, and conducted a data test when filling in the United Nations 2020 crime trend questionnaire. Due to the differences between the classification of crime statistics of UN and China, there are some difficulties in the test of data reporting, which we are trying to solve now. Next, we will update the tools of the Chinese version according to the amendment of the criminal law of China, so as to effectively

promote the data reporting to the United Nations Crime Trend Survey.

(on "crime prevention strategies adapted to local conditions")

Mr. Chair,

As pointed out in Article 26 of the Kyoto Declaration, crime prevention strategies should be tailored on the basis of respecting the rule of law and taking into account the actual situation of local society, economy, culture and other aspects. We agree that it is particularly important for a country's crime prevention strategy to be compatible with local conditions.

In recent years, China has implemented a series of effective crime prevention strategies in view of the current situation and existing problems. First, from January 2018 to the end of 2020, China carried out a special struggle to combat organized criminal gangs, conquered a number of major criminal cases that had been unsolved for a long time, effectively and significantly improved the social security environment. Second, China has focused on improving the top-level design for the construction of the rule of law, issued the *Plan For the Construction of China Under the Rule of Law(2020-2025)*, the *Implementation Outline for the Construction of a Society Under the Rule of Law (2020-2025)* and the *Implementation Outline for the Construction of a Government Under the Rule of Law(2021-2025)*, providing strong support for promoting crime

prevention and criminal justice under the rule of law. Third, China has continued to strengthen the legislative work of crime governance, promulgated the *Eleventh Amendment of the Criminal Law*, revised the *Law on the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency*, and promulgated the *Law on Community Correction*, etc., so as to provide a more powerful legal guarantee for crime prevention and criminal justice. Fourth, China is implementing the *Eighth Five-Year Plan(2021-2025) on Carrying Out Publicity and Education to Raise Public Awareness of the Law*, to further strengthen legal awareness among the public, and strive to cultivate a social atmosphere where the public is familiar with laws and regulations, and actively abide by and consult them in their daily lives.

Thanks for your attention, Mr. Chair.