

Commission on Crime Prevention and
Criminal Justice,
Statement by Ms. SHIBATA Noriko
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Mr. Chair,

It is a great honor for me to have this opportunity to deliver a statement on the topic of “empowering youth for crime prevention”.

I also wish to thank the UNODC Secretariat for organizing this very important initiative to follow-up on the Kyoto Declaration.

First of all, I would like to emphasize the importance of youth empowerment in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

Youth are the driving force of our future society as well as the important stakeholders in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the year 2030.

Therefore, it is vital that youth think about and discuss the future of our society with a great deal of hope, and that their voices are incorporated into policies.

With this in mind, Japan organized the Kyoto Congress Youth Forum in February of this year as a prelude to the 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Kyoto.

As you may recall, the recommendations adopted by the youth participants, presented at the Kyoto Congress, included many ideas

reflecting the fresh perspectives of young people.

It was truly an eye-opening experience for us to see the great power and possibilities of young people.

The success of this Forum proved the validity of the Kyoto Declaration, adopted by consensus at the Kyoto Congress.

The Declaration calls on the United Nations and Member States to work together towards the empowerment of young people.

In particular, paragraph 30 calls for the empowering youth to become active agents of positive change in their communities.

With a view to translating the Kyoto Declaration into action, Japan, supported by

the UNODC, held the 1st Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness in Tokyo, on 9 and 10 October of this year.

The youth participants discussed under the overall theme "The role of youth in achieving a diverse and inclusive society" and adopted recommendations as the outcome of their discussions.

As you saw from the presentation by the youth chair Ms. Tsenguunbileg Naranpurev (ツェングーンビレグ・ナランピューレブ) on the first day of this session, the recommendations she presented at this CCPCJ are full of both inspiring and practical ideas, and are based on the real experiences of young people in the COVID-19 pandemic, such as calling for governments to support initiatives of young people to tackle crime prevention and criminal

justice challenges posed by the socio-economic gap and inequality widened by the pandemic.

We were able to see the power and possibilities of young people again through this Global Youth Forum.

Mr. Chair,

Through the success of these two Fora, Japan has rediscovered the importance of providing platforms where youth can deepen their understanding of contemporary issues on the rule of law and justice.

Such platforms help youths understand and share their diverse backgrounds and values, and foster networks and friendships, while bringing their voices to the world.

It is my firm belief that the United Nations and its Member States have a responsibility to amplify and listen carefully to their voices, advocate for the inclusion of youth in policy and programme development in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice.

Mr. Chair,

With a view to engage in continuous empowerment of youth, Japan stands ready to hold the Global Youth Forum next year and beyond, and deliver their voices to the world.

We would like to ask for the continued support of Member States and the UNODC.

Thank you very much.