

31ST SESSION**COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS
ON FOLLOW-UP TO KYOTO DECLARATION**

Opening Segment, 5 December 2022

Video message by H.E. Ms. Lachezara STOEVA,
President of the Economic and Social Council

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to address you all at the 2022 Thematic Discussions on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration, organized by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

As one of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, CCPCJ plays a key role in improving international action to prevent and address national and transnational crime and in advancing the efficiency and fairness of criminal justice systems. In doing so, and with SDG16 on peace, justice and strong institutions at the core of its work, the Commission makes an important contribution to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This is particularly relevant as we approach the mid-term review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which will take place at the SDG Summit in September 2023.

The comprehensive follow-up process to the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration undertaken by the Commission is central to this contribution.

The experiences and lessons learnt you will exchange over the next three days on advancing criminal justice systems will help to translate the commitments laid out in the Declaration into action which, ultimately, will allow for an integrated, resilient and inclusive implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Excellencies,

This year, the high-level political forum on sustainable development will focus on building back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all spheres of our life, affecting countries, communities and individuals. Crime prevention and criminal justice were no exception.

Criminal justice systems around the world continue to face challenges in fulfilling their mandates and in ensuring equal access to justice, especially for those further left behind.

I am confident that this year's thematic discussions on the Kyoto Declaration will enable a fruitful debate on innovative solutions to advance criminal justice systems, build back better from COVID-19, and learn from successful measures put in place during the pandemic to ensure access to justice for all.

Excellencies,

To conclude, I would like to thank the Commission for the substantive contributions you continue to provide to the High-level political forum on sustainable development, including for 2023. I would also like to thank you for the active role the Commission has played in the review of the work of ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies, bringing forward the Vienna perspective, providing valuable insights to the discussions and contributing to the successful outcome.

Finally, let me underscore that effective crime prevention and strong criminal justice institutions serve as a prerequisite to countering organized crime, corruption and terrorism, and are key to strengthening the rule of law and human rights and, ultimately, to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

You can count on the full support of the Council in the execution of your mandate.

I wish you fruitful discussions.

Thank you.