

**Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

**Intersessional meetings**

**16 February 2022, approx. 5:45/6:00 PM**

**Board Room C, C-Building, V.I.C.**

**Closing Remarks John BRANDOLINO**

**Director, Division for Treaty Affairs**

Mister Chair,

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to address the Commission and deliver some closing remarks.

Excellencies, distinguished participants,

Over the last three days we have had extremely rich discussions on crimes that affect the environment.

We have heard experts from Member States, United Nations entities, international and regional organizations and civil society, joining us from all corners of the world.

As was mentioned during the session, crimes that affect the environment present a challenge to the international community's efforts to attain the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, directly impacting the achievement of several of the seventeen Sustainable

Development Goals, including those related to the Food–Water–Health Nexus (SDGs 2, 3 and 6), energy and climate (SDGs 7 and 13), poverty and inequality (SDGs 1 and 10), environmental conservation (SDGs 14 and 15), as well as effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels (SDG 16).

These Expert Discussions raised awareness about crimes that affect the environment, showcased the important work UNODC has been doing in this area, and brought together the key stakeholders to share their expertise, with the CCPCJ acting as the convening forum for dialogue.

It is clear from the discussions that we need a balanced, integrated, comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach and response to address the complex and multifaceted challenges related to crimes that affect the environment.

I am very pleased that we had over the course of the last three days our UNODC experts joining from HQ and our field offices.

We will continue to pursue this line of work, strengthened by the CCPCJ's new mandate and this energizing session, through our global programmes and network of field offices, backed of course by our research, and analysis branch.

UNODC will work together with Member States, other UN entities, international organizations, the civil society and other stakeholders in this field in the period ahead.

In closing, Mr Chairman, let me thank you and Ambassador FARHANE, the first Vice-Chair of the Commission, for steering and leading the discussions over the last three days, and for all those experts and participants who contributed.

Thank you very much.