

Statement on behalf of the **African Group** at 31st Session of the Commission on
Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)

Delivered by **H.E. Ms. Faouzia BOUMAIZA MEBARKI**

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the People's Democratic Republic of
Algeria to the United Nations in Vienna

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Mr. Chair,

1. On behalf of the African Group, let me convey my congratulations on your election as Chair of the 31st Session of the CCPCJ, as well as to the other members of the Bureau. We also extend our thanks to the Secretariat for the excellent work done in preparation for the session.
2. The Group fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Group of 77 and China.
3. As we note our concern with the continuing spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in some regions, we reiterate the need for global solidarity and unity in addressing its socio-economic impact on crime prevention and criminal justice in order to build back better and leave no one behind.
4. Transnational organized crime remains a serious challenge to the international community. Our efforts to fight this challenge should not only focus on its effects, but also its root causes, with a view to enhance the sustainable development of our countries in accordance with the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development as well as the African Union's Agenda 2063.
5. We would like to highlight the importance of the UNCAC and UNTOC and its Protocols in the fight against transnational organized crime and corruption and reiterate our strong commitment to their implementation by the States Parties.
6. We believe that the fight against transnational organized crime, is a common and shared responsibility which requires the enhancement of bilateral, regional, sub-regional and international cooperation. In this regard, we call upon UNODC to continue the provision of adequate and sustainable technical assistance, including equipment, as well as capacity-building programs, based on the specific needs of requesting countries.

7. We recognize the complex nature of cybercrime and welcomes the successful holding of the first session of the Ad Hoc Committee and praise the able leadership of the Chair Ambassador Mebarki of Algeria and the assistance of the Secretariat. In this regard. We urge all Member States to spare no efforts to achieve consensus and enable the Ad Hoc Committee to fulfill its mandate, taking into account, inter alia, the concerns and interests of all Member States, in particular developing countries.
8. We attach great importance to the phenomenon of migration which continues to pose problems at various level, first and foremost to Africa. In that regard, and in order to address the real and pressing need for Africa to generate knowledge and better understand the migration phenomenon, an African Migration Observatory has been inaugurated by African union, on December 2020, as an AU organ, to develop, through reliable and accurate data on migration and mobility, clear, effective and realistic migration policies and programs.
9. We reiterate the African Union's aspiration to "Silence for the Guns in 2030", as reiterated by the decision of the African Union 14th Extraordinary Session on "Silencing the Guns".
10. We reiterate also our unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and emphasize that it should not be associated with any religion, civilization or nationality. we stress the need to develop effective responses to this phenomenon and to tackle its root causes.
11. We reiterate further the need to enhance international cooperation to address the increasing links between terrorist activities and transnational organized crime, in particular, corruption, drug trafficking, trafficking in firearms, and trafficking in persons, money-laundering, trafficking in cultural property, and illicit financial flows as well as cybercrime and the use of the internet for terrorist purposes.
12. We congratulate Egypt for the excellent organization of the ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption which was held in December 2021,
13. We emphasize that the management, administration and utilization of returned assets is the responsibility of the requesting State and that recovered assets, shall be returned without conditionalities and in full respect of the sovereign rights of the States of origin. We further invite State Parties to address gaps within the international anticorruption framework particularly on asset recovery, and to

consider the need of an additional protocol on asset recovery and the return as part of UNCAC.

14. We acknowledge the progress made since the launch of the Group of Friends of Nelson Mandela Rules and commends the Secretariat for the technical assistance provided to Member States in accelerating the practical implementation, as appropriate, of the Standard Minimum Rules. We welcome the forthcoming launch of the UNODC Toolkit on the Rules on Nelson Mandela International Day, 18 July 2022.
15. We stress the need to enhance international cooperation to combat trafficking in cultural property and in this regard, recall the importance of the international guidelines for crime prevention and criminal justice responses with respect to trafficking in cultural property and other related offences.
16. We underscore the need to address crimes that have a significant impact on protected species of wild fauna and flora such as, illegal mining, illicit trafficking in forest products, biological and natural resources, wildlife, including endangered species, as well as precious metals, in the respective fora.
17. Finally, Mr. Chair, the Group would like to stress the need for all of the programmes and initiatives conducted by UNODC to be implemented in close consultation with Member States and in line with existing mandates.

I thank you.