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I REPUBLIKËS SË SHQIPËRISË  
PRANË ORGANIZATAVE  
NDËRKOMBËTARE  
VJENË

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA TO  
THE INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS  
VIENNA

**Remarks delivered by Ambassador Eglantina Gjermeni,  
Permanent Representative of Albania to the International Organizations in Vienna,  
31<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, General Debate,  
Vienna, 17 May 2022**

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

I congratulate you and the Secretariat for successfully organizing this session of the CCPCJ. Albania appreciates the valuable work of the UNODC in supporting the efforts of the Member States on crime prevention and criminal justice.

At the outset, let me note that Albania condemns in the strongest terms Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine. The Government and people of Albania stand in full solidarity with Ukraine and its people.

Returning to the matter of the day, I am happy to inform this distinguished Commission that Albania has continued the deep transformation of its justice sector. It has brought already great progress in crime prevention, criminal justice and rule of law, in line with the UNTOC and UNCAC, and towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Matters related to Sustainable Development Goal 16, namely the rule of law and justice for all, combatting violence against women and children, reducing illicit financial and arms flows, fighting corruption and terrorism, and good governance, remain priorities of our justice policy.

The sweeping justice reform has been Albania's major steps toward tackling corruption at all levels, strengthening the integrity of the public administration, supporting the independence and functional autonomy independent institutions, promoting a more effective and efficient institutional cooperation, and increasing public trust in the judiciary.

Since October 2021, a General Department of Anti-Corruption has been established in the Ministry of Justice. The network of anti-corruption coordinators is extended to 47 state institutions, with over 70 professionals dealing with corruption in the public administration.

My country continues to adopt substantive and procedural amendments to criminal legislation, towards further harmonization with European Union Directives and ratified international agreements, under chapters 23 and 24 of the EU integration process.

Crime prevention policy starts with our youth. Albania has in place a full package of legislation and bylaws regulating the Juvenile and the Youth Crime Prevention Centre in all phases of the process. Since 2018, groups in need have increased access to justice through a system of free legal aid.

Further, an effective system of confiscation of criminal proceeds has been created, which reallocates assets to the state budget and reinvests parts thereof in social enterprises. International judicial co-operation in criminal matters is strengthened through the electronic case-management system for the prioritization of letters rogatory.

Mr. Chair,

I would like to reaffirm Albania's engagement to integrate the Doha Declaration of 2015 in its legal order. My country is determined to advance the commitments undertaken also in last year's Kyoto Declaration. Albania is pleased to be co-sponsoring at this session of the CCPCJ, together with the United Kingdom and others, a draft resolution on strengthening the protection of children from sexual exploitation and abuse. I wish you success in guiding this session of the CCPCJ and look forward to fruitful discussions. Thank you!