

31th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Vienna, 16-20 May 2022

General Debate

Statement by Bulgaria

*Distinguished Chair,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

At the outset I would like to congratulate Ambassador Hikihara for being elected as Chair of this Conference and wish him successful Chairmanship. I am honoured to be able to serve as his Vice-Chair.

Chair,
Bulgaria associates with the Statement of the European Union and in a national capacity I would like to add a few lines as follows:

I would like to express full support for the valuable work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The Commission plays a crucial role as the principal policymaking body of the United Nations in fostering multilateral dialogue and cooperation in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. Today multilateralism is challenged by the Russian Federation's unlawful, unjustified and unprovoked aggression against Ukraine. It is causing massive loss of life and harm to civilians. Bulgaria expresses its full solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. We strongly condemn the acts of war crime committed by the Russian Federation in Ukraine, which are threatening international security, stability and violate international law and our common UN principles.

In these challenging times Bulgaria continue to attach great importance to the CCPCJ's role in the United Nations system. The Convention has strengthened the international normative framework on crime prevention and has addressed destabilizing effects of the crime. It is an important tool of the Member States in promoting sustainable development goals. Organized crime, corruption and illicit financial flows continue to pose a chronic and ubiquitous challenge for many countries, thus undermining the social cohesion of the societies.

The war in Ukraine and the refugee flows in Europe creates even higher risk of human trafficking as one the main criminal activities of the organized crime. As it was stated in our expert presentation during the previous CCPCJ thematic debate in December last year, no single country is able to counter the transnational human trafficking regardless of its dedication and preparedness. It is therefore important to enhance cooperation in this regard by enabling more efficient cross border information and evidence sharing between national prosecution and law enforcement agencies.

Another crime also very often of a cross border nature is the rising phenomenon of hate speech. We express concern about the complex manifestation of this negative trend that undermines the freedom of speech and its capacity to be used in hybrid operations.

Bulgaria welcomes the topic of this session thematic discussion. “Strengthening the use of digital evidence in criminal justice and countering cybercrime, including the abuse and exploitation of minors in illegal activities with the use of the Internet”. We hope that this will be a valuable opportunity to bring closer different legislative approaches and investigative measures for gathering electronic evidence with the ultimate aim of ensuring better protection of minors in the cyber space. Child abuse in Internet is a heinous crime that require a strong and unequivocal response from all governments. We urge all state parties to join efforts in countering aiming cybercrime, whose victims are the most vulnerable members of our societies.