

## **31<sup>st</sup> session of CCPCJ**

General debate

### **Czech Republic**

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Mr. Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Colleagues,

It is my great honor to speak here on behalf of the Czech Republic. First of all, let me congratulate you, your excellency Mr. Ambassador, for your election as the chair of this session, as well as other members of the bureau for their election.

The Czech Republic fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union and wishes to add the following points in its national capacity.

Within the last few years, the world around us has changed completely. First the covid-19 pandemics which has resulted not only in thousands of health victims worldwide but which has also been a trigger for certain types of crimes, especially in the online environment. And then, just recently and not very far from here, we have been witnessing crimes which most of us had thought belonged only to the history books: crimes against a peaceful nation, war crimes, crimes against humanity. In this respect, the Czech Republic strongly condemns the Russian unprovoked unilateral military action against Ukraine and expresses its deep support and solidarity with the Ukrainian people.

Seeing and living all these changes, it is obvious and inevitable that we have to change too. Change ourselves, change our thinking. To stop disputing over different views but rather see our differences positively. Because as Nelson Mandela once said: "Our differences are our strength, as a species and as a world community." I believe the CCPCJ represents a perfect forum where we can use our differences to our best, discuss and find the best solutions.

The Czech Republic strongly welcomes that this year's thematic debate is focused on fighting cybercrime, as we see it to be one of the most striking transnational phenomena of recent years. Here again the differences in our legislations and national approaches are quite vast but we have a common goal: to fight the perpetrators and help victims. Unfortunately in this modern and fast-developing world where criminals always somehow find the money and technologies to

commit their unlawful acts, we – the governments – unfortunately seem to be a bit behind, but we have to at least try to catch up with them as much as possible. The Czech Republic therefore actively participates in the negotiations of the future UN cybercrime convention and urges other to do so as well, so that we have an instrument flexible and at the same time efficient enough to face the challenges cybercrime represents. This means defining the acts which will be globally treated as criminal, in particular cyber-dependent crimes, setting up procedures of law-enforcement authorities to cooperate internationally, quickly and directly, and reach for electronic evidence. In this respect it will be necessary to reconsider the concept of state sovereignty, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. The issue of capacity building is crucial too. At the same time, we believe that at the moment, there is a lack for a platform for cyber professionals like the IEG was, where they could exchange ideas, approaches and good and bad practices in order to globally fight cybercrime more efficiently. We would therefore welcome the renewal of an IEG or an establishment of a similar working group as soon as possible.

Concerning other crimes, the Czech Republic is fully dedicated to the fight against corruption and to the implementation of the UNCAC review mechanism. We have completed the first review cycle, are undergoing a second one and have served as a reviewer in three other first cycle and two second cycle reviews. We believe it is about time we start discussing how to approach the second phase of the review mechanism, as the first one is coming to an end. We are therefore looking forward to discussions at the upcoming UNCAC working groups to find the best approach.

Also the UNTOC review mechanism has started its first phase and although many reviews are lagging behind especially due to covid, the Czech Republic is determined to undertake all necessary steps and requirements set by the UNTOC review mechanism and to duly participate in it.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the UNODC for the vital role it has been playing in crime prevention and fight against crime in the world and for the expertise it has developed and supported over the years.

Mr. Chair, let me wish you, all the members of the bureau, the Secretariat as well as all of us a successful and fruitful session. Thank you for your attention.