

As of 16 May 2022

Statement for General Debate
16 May 2022
31st Session of CCPCJ

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the 31st Session of the CCPCJ, as well as to the other elected members of the Bureau. We look forward to a productive session under your able chairmanship. You can count on Pakistan's full support.

Mr. Chair,

Pakistan fully aligns itself with the statement by G-77 and China delivered by H.E. Ambassador Azzeddine Farhane, Permanent Representative of Morocco. We have following additional comments in our national capacity.

Pakistan reaffirms its commitment towards the objectives set forth by the 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, including our support to hold the Commission's intersessional thematic discussion. We also call on all Member States to continue their efforts for a balanced and integral implementation of the Kyoto Declaration in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations with a view to strengthen the work on the capacity-building, support and the provision of adequate, long-term, sustainable, effective and demand driven technical assistance.

Mr. Chair,

Crime, in its various forms, including transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism continue to be a challenge for all of us. Criminals and criminal organizations threaten the peace and stability of our societies, undermining efforts aimed at promoting human rights and sustainable development. We need to continue our efforts at national, regional and international levels to prevent and combat crime effectively. Crime including terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, civilization, nationality or ethnicity. We also need to identify and address root causes of these crimes, including socioeconomic factors.

There is a steep rise in incidents of hate speech and hate crimes, and also actions which cause incitement to hatred and result in intolerance, discrimination, hostility and violence against persons on the basis of their race, ethnicity, religion or belief in all regions of the world.

Mr. Chair

Keeping in view the rise in Islamophobia over the world, Pakistan introduced a resolution at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), to declare 15 March as the “International Day to Combat Islamophobia”. The resolution, which was passed by consensus calls upon the members states to commemorate this day to highlight the challenges of racism, discrimination and violence against Muslims and promote a message of tolerance, peaceful co-existence and interfaith and cultural harmony. This is important step toward preventing crime of Islamophobia. This is our collective responsibility. We must build on it and bring it under the framework of CCPCJ.

We must remember that misuse of freedom of expression generates hatred and violence among individuals from and within different societies that may have serious implications at the national, regional and international levels. We emphasize on the importance of respect for religious and cultural diversity and personalities, and therefore call for interfaith and intercultural dialogue aimed at promoting a culture of tolerance and respect among individuals, societies and nations.

Mr. Chair,

Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants call for our continuous focus and attention. Pakistan remains committed to combating Trafficking in Persons focusing on prevention, respect of rights and effective law enforcement. Our fight against this menace will be aided by exploring legal and safe avenues of migration. The free and legal movement of labor, like other factor of production, is the only answer to fully exploit the potentials of global economy.

Mr. Chair

There is also an urgent need of addressing the gaps, barriers and challenges in the international anti-corruption framework particularly on asset recovery by considering an additional dedicated protocol on asset recovery and return as part of the United Nations Convention against

Corruption (UNCAC) with a view to remove the obstacles and overcome challenges.

Pakistan, in light of its domestic legal frameworks and in line with UNCAC, stresses on the need to make efforts to prevent and combat illicit financial flows and corruption. It is imperative to undertake these efforts while strengthening international cooperation for the recovery of all assets acquired illicitly and ensure their return to their respective country of origin.

Mr. Chair,

Pakistan also stands committed to counter crimes against women and children in our society and improve the existing legislative framework to combat physical violence against females. In this regard our Parliament has recently promulgated the Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial), Act, 2021, which is the first of its kind comprehensive law dealing with crimes of physical abuse and violence against women and children. The aforesaid law facilitates the expeditious trial in cases of physical violence and abuse against women and children by virtue of establishing Special Courts, providing legal assistance to victims and introducing in-camera trials to protect the identity of victims. Additionally the said law introduces a victim centric approach by establishing specialized sexual offences unit in the Police force, which specifically deals with rape and physical violence crimes along with anti-rape crises cells being established in major public hospitals in every district of Pakistan.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Pakistan's continued commitment and strong resolve in the fight against Crime. Pakistan remains firmly committed towards effective international cooperation in this regard and looks forward to the successful conclusion of this Session of the CCPCJ.

I thank you.
