

**General statement by the Romanian delegation to the 31<sup>st</sup> session of  
CCPCJ**

*Vienna, 16-20 May 2022*

Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me to join the previous speakers in welcoming you as Chair of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. I wish you every success in guiding our deliberations.

Romania fully subscribes to the EU statement. In addition, I would like to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

From the outset, I would like to reiterate my country's strong condemnation of Russia premeditated, unjustified and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine. We call on Russia to immediately and unconditionally cease its military actions and withdraw all its troops and equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. The Romanian authorities have been providing immediate humanitarian assistance to those fleeing the war, as well as access to medical services, education and labour market. Also, the authorities have been taking comprehensive preventive measures to tackle the challenges connected to this unprecedented flow of refugees, also any possible criminal activity.

Let me also express our firm condemnation of the cyberattacks carried out against Ukraine, before and after the beginning of the war. Such destructive activities are carried out in disregard of the international framework for responsible state behavior in cyberspace, as established through the consensus reports of the UN Group of Governmental Experts and Open-Ended Working Group. Romania, along with its international partners, strongly condemns the cyber-attacks on KA-SAT/Viasat network, which affected users across the EU member states, including Romania. Cyber-attacks on critical infrastructure have destabilizing effects.

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the topic of this year's thematic discussion referring to the use of digital evidence and the countering of cybercrime. Romania attaches significant importance to this matter, through constant updating of the legislative

framework, continued institutional development and awareness-raising, both on the reactive and preventive side.

We have built a strong liaison with our partners, in particular the European Union and Council of Europe. We are very much committed to the standards and principles promoted through existing international instruments and in this context, we welcome the recent adoption of the Second Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime.

At the same time, we are looking forward to the discussions to be held in May-June in the framework of the *Ad Hoc committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes*. We believe that any outcome of the discussions on this topic would need to ensure a strong balance between procedural measures and human rights, while approaching also substantial issues and matters pertaining to international cooperation in this field. Digital evidence is in our opinion vital for solving criminal files not only related to cybercrimes in general, but also in respect of very serious offences, such as money-laundering, corruption, trafficking in human beings, transnational organized crime.

When talking about cybercrime, an essential aspect is the matter of capacity building and technical assistance.

In 2013, the UN Intergovernmental Expert Group reached a broad agreement on capacity building as one of the most effective means to address the challenge of cybercrime.

ROMANIA has been involved along the years in various capacity building and trainings in the matter of cybercrime, but some important initiatives need to be reminded here. The Government of Romania in 2013 proposed the creation of a Cybercrime Programme Office of the Council of Europe in Bucharest. That office currently has 35 staff and a budget of almost 40 million Euros for one purpose only: to strengthen criminal justice capacities on cybercrime worldwide.

Operational since April 2014, that office has since delivered well over 1500 activities benefitting more than 140 countries through training, or the strengthening of legislation, public/private or international cooperation and other measures.

Together with the future European Union Cybersecurity Competence Centre located in Bucharest, this shows in conjunction with other action lines,

Romania's overall and practical commitment to tackle the challenges posed by cyber issues.

Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me also to briefly address the matter of international cooperation. We remain committed to the wide application of the UN Conventions, in particular UNTOC and the Protocols thereto and UNCAC, as essential tools for dealing with extradition and mutual legal assistance. Through the review processes that are currently undertaken, with the support of UNODC, we should aim at gaining a comprehensive overview of the challenges encountered in the application of these conventions, as well as an inventory of good practices. Romania contributed to the negotiations on the review mechanism of UNTOC and its additional Protocols, with the view of adoption a strong, flexible, and budget-neutral mechanism.

In order to facilitate the execution of our international cooperation requests, we continued to make use of the existing EU networks and agencies, and we are exploring the idea of joining new ones, based on our practitioners needs. In this context, we would like to thank UNODC Secretariat for promoting new regional networks, such as SeaJust and CASC Network, as well as for facilitating contacts with contact points from these networks.

Let me conclude by addressing the prevention dimension. In line with the commitments set out in the Kyoto Declaration, Romanian authorities looked for an integrated, strategic approach in order to address the major concerns for the criminal justice system. Targeted and proactive policy-making, with an emphasis on preventive measures, built on the successes of the past whilst making the most of new research and tools to protect the public, will lead to sustained reductions in crime and antisocial behavior. Consequently, in 2021 Romania adopted a package of interconnected strategies in the fields of preventing and combating organized crime, anticorruption and asset recovery, with focus on prevention-oriented measures.

As a final remark, I would like to express my conviction that under your dedicated leadership we all be able, at the end of this week, to conclude a successful session. And in this respect, you can fully count on Romania's support.

Thank you!