

**STATEMENT OF VIET NAM AT THE THIRTY FIRST SESSION OF
THE COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL
JUSTICE, 16-20 May 2022,**

*Delivered by Mrs. Le Duc Hanh,
Director General of the Department of International Law and Treaties, Ministry
of Foreign Affairs, Viet Nam.
Vienna, 16 May 2022*

Mr. Chairman,

The Delegation of Viet Nam joins the other delegations in congratulating you on your election and presents our full support.

Viet Nam associates itself with the statement of the Group of 77 and China and the statement of the Asia Pacific Group.

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

The long-lasting impacts of Covid-19 throughout 2021, the struggle for economy recovery and maintaining stability amidst enormous challenges, together with the use and misuse of ground-breaking technologies continue to change our everyday life and work. The magnitude and complexity of crimes require our best and constant efforts both individually and more important, collectively.

In Viet Nam recently, there is a constant rise in the use of ICTs to commit severe frauds, including forging credit cards, organising and operating online illegal gambling on large scale, or stealing, trading and exploiting personal information and data for criminal purposes. The police has uncovered criminal gangs who illegally expropriating and trading personal data amounting to 1.300 gigabytes, for instance.

The innovation of communication has blurred the boundaries between states and criminals have been taking advantage of the gaps between states' legal systems to commit crimes and evade liabilities. For example, it is almost impossible for the police of a country to gather evidence and further investigation if the servers of illegal gambling games are placed in foreign countries, due to the lack of effective cooperation of such foreign countries.

In this context, more than ever, international cooperation is crucial. In this regard, enhancing international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice matters is part of our commitment to pursue profound and comprehensive integration. Despite challenges caused by the pandemic, continued cooperation

activities and programs, such as EU – Viet Nam Justice and Legal Empowerment Programs, UNICEF-Viet Nam Project of Strengthened Access to Justice and Protection of Minors in Contact with the Law, the workshop held by the Ministry of Public Security of Viet Nam on international cooperation on counter terrorism last February, with the participation of representatives from the UNODC and more than thirty countries, including diplomats, law enforcement officers and the academics, just to name a few activities, are vivid expressions of our commitment to enhance effective international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice.

Viet Nam continue to implements in good faith its obligations under international treaties to which it is Contracting Party, including the UNCAC and UNTOC, numerous international instrument on counter-terrorism and regional and bilateral agreements on preventing and combating crimes. Viet Nam has recently concluded numerous bilateral agreements on exchange of intelligence information and transfer of sentenced persons. The conclusion of these agreements reflects our practical approach in criminal cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

In order to enhance practical cooperation, we believe a balanced and integral implementation of the Kyoto Declaration requires genuine dialogue and enhanced professionalism.

Firstly, in my delegation's view, dialogue should aim at enhancing mutual understanding and trust among States and practitioners, rather than spreading tension and distrust. Dialogues on the basis of mutual respect, through best practices sharing and constructive discussion, rather than criticizing and confronting, are extremely important for cooperation. In this regard, dialogue within a universal framework, such as the on-going negotiation of the Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes would be hopefully an example of multilateral effort to elaborate universal norms and standards on the matter. Beside such UN mechanisms, regional mechanisms, including in our region, the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crimes and Senior Officer Meeting on Transnational Crimes provide excellent frameworks for dialogue and cooperation.

Technical assistance and capacity building, from this perspective, should be considered as opportunities for dialogue and exchange, rather than an one-way process. The countries and organizations providing adequate, long-term,

sustainable, effective and demand driven technical assistance and receiving countries, both benefit from this process.

Secondly, in terms of professionalism, networking and cooperation among criminal justice practitioners should be particularly encouraged. In this regard, we recall that the Kyoto Declaration stipulates that we “endeavour to... establish and enhance regional and cross-regional cooperation networks of law enforcement and other criminal justice practitioners to exchange information and best practices with a view to, inter alia, building trust among them and further facilitating international cooperation”.

Furthermore, professionalism requires that all form of cooperation, in particular mutual legal assistance and interregional police cooperation in fugitive operations ought to be conducted in good faith and practical manner. In this regard, arbitrariness, especially arbitrariness based on political consideration, should be eliminated for the purpose of healthy relationship of cooperation. Finally, professionalism means to use resources wisely and in a cost-effective way, a crucial requirement in the context of a developing country like Viet Nam.

In conclusion, we strongly believe that genuine dialogue and professionalism are key elements to facilitate practical and effective international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice. We count on the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as the principal policy-making body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice in fostering an atmosphere of genuine dialogue and professionalism aiming at realizing the objectives set forth by the Fourteenth UN Crime Congress.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.