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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA TO
THE INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS
VIENNA

**Remarks delivered by Ambassador Eglantina Gjermeni,
Permanent Representative of Albania to the International Organizations in Vienna,
32nd Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

General Debate

Vienna, 22 May 2023

Thank you, Madam Chair,

I congratulate you and the Secretariat for the successful organization of this session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Albania appreciates the valuable work of the UNODC in supporting the efforts of the Member States on crime prevention and criminal justice.

At the start, let me note that Albania condemns in the strongest terms Russia's ongoing illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, which has far-reaching consequences in Ukraine and beyond. The Government and people of Albania stand in full solidarity with Ukraine and its people.

As we gather here in Vienna in this distinguished Commission, we are presented with a unique opportunity to address crucial matters pertaining to global crime prevention and criminal justice. The agenda before us is comprehensive and ambitious. On behalf of the Albanian Government, I would like to state that we stand ready to engage throughout the discussions and take decisive action to ensure safety in our societies.

We look forward to learning from the experience of other countries in sharpening the crime prevention and criminal justice mechanisms. At the same time, we are willing to contribute by sharing Albania's own experience, which has embarked on a one-of-a-kind reform in the judiciary.

Through the establishment of special prosecution offices and court – respectively investigating and adjudicating cases of organized crime and corruption – we believe that we have created a sound basis for carrying out a solid track record in the justice system. And through the participation in joint investigation teams with European Union members and other countries, we are more and more becoming a reliable partner in fighting transnational organized crime.

As we progress towards accomplishing our goals in paving the way towards EU accession, we are increasingly engaged in ensuring full alignment with the best international standards in the area of the rule of law, including the proper implementation of UNTOC and UNCAC, and towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As various challenges still lie ahead in the process of proper implementation, it is our priority to focus in putting in place strategies which serve a two-fold goal: strengthening the criminal justice system and ensuring equal access and due process rights.

Matters related to Sustainable Development Goal 16, namely the rule of law and justice for all, combatting violence against women and children, reducing illicit financial and arms flows, fighting corruption and terrorism, and good governance, remain priorities of our justice policy.

For these very reasons we look forward to the meaningful exchange of ideas and collective efforts from members states, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, today and the days ahead. Emerging crime trends make us more aware of the need for crafting response mechanisms collectively, as well as addressing new challenges in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. I wish you success in guiding this session of the CCPCJ and look forward to fruitful discussions. Thank you!