

**Statement by Ghana at the 32nd Session of the Commission on Crime
Prevention and Criminal Justice,**

Vienna, 22 May 2023

Thank you, Madam Chair

Executive Director of UNODC , Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

May I at the outset congratulate you on your election as Chair of the 32nd Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as well as to the other elected members of the Bureau. **I am grateful to the Secretariat for the excellent preparation for this session.** Let me assure you of my delegation's constructive engagement and full cooperation during our deliberations. Ghana aligns itself with the statement of the African Group and the Group of 77 and China, and would like to add the following in its national capacity.

Chair,

Enhancing the functioning of the criminal justice system to ensure access to justice and to realize a safe and secure society is an apt theme for this years session. It is the very essence of the commitments of states, particularly, SDG Goal.

Ghana is committed to providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. In this regard, the proper and effective functioning of the criminal justice system is key. This commitment is expressed in a number of policy initiative and reforms that Ghana has undertaken.

In 2018, Ghana passed its Witness Protection Act, to protect witnesses. For victims of violent crimes including domestic violence and trafficking, a One Stop Centre has been built to provide well-coordinated services for their protection and rehabilitation. The Judicial Service, has also conducted research to assess the causes of attrition of sexual abuse cases and has made recommendations for improving access to justice for women and children.

Ghana's Criminal and Other Offences Act, has been amended to provide for plea bargaining in respect of some offences to reduce the caseload of the courts, decongest prisons, and aid in reformation.

To mainstream a gender perspective into crime prevention, the Ghana Prisons Service includes in its training programmes gender specific needs and human rights of female prisoners.

Madam Chair

To conclude, I would like to reiterate Ghana's continued commitment to the prevention and reduction of violence and crime and the promotion of the rule of law in Ghana and to wish us all a successful Session.

I thank you for your attention.