



**Permanent Mission of the Republic of
Poland
to the United Nations Office and
the International Organizations in Vienna**

**32nd session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
Agenda item 3: General Debate**

**Statement by the Head of the Delegation of Poland
Ambassador Dominika Krois**

Vienna, 22 May 2023

Madame Chair,

Poland aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the UE and its Member States and wishes to add the following remarks in our national capacity.

I congratulate you for presiding of the Commission and I thank you for guiding us through the preparation process and current session itself.

Madame Chair, the mandate of this Commission aiming at dismantling of crime and executing justice is essential for a good life of people, in peace and prosperity.

We would like to draw the attention of this Commission to the criminal activities being perpetrated at the outer border of the European Union.

For the second year in a row we gather on CCPCJ session in conditions of unprovoked and unjustifiable armed aggression of the Russian Federation on Ukraine. This blatant violations of international law by a Security Council permanent member seriously hampers work of the Commission, contaminates spirit of co - operation and forces us to vigilantly scrutinize intentions with which states involved in the aggression, approach work of the Commission.

While Russian Federation continues to bring death and trauma to civilians, destruction of infrastructures, facilitates growth and spillover of organized crime, we wish to put particular emphasis on the systematic deportation of civilian population, including children from the occupied territories of Ukraine. As international reports state: regardless of the destination of deported Ukrainian children - foster families, care centers, camps - they are subject to constant pro-russian indoctrination and re-education. International community following steps taken by the International Criminal Court with respect to the arrest warrants issued against Russia's President and the Russian Commissioner for Children's Rights, has to make

sure that Russia and all those responsible for these actions, war crimes and the other most serious crimes will be held accountable for their actions, in accordance with international law.

That is why, we noted with disappointment and concern draft resolution tabled by Belarus on action against trafficking in persons. Belarus significantly contributes to the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and is co-responsible for the humanitarian crisis there. This includes Belarussian involvement in the deportation of Ukrainian children, which in correlation with the subject of the draft resolution proposed by Belarus is a grim mockery of the Commission's work.

At the same time, Belarussian authorities for almost two years now has been feeding the artificial illegal migration on the EU's eastern border, instrumentally using and weaponizing migrants for its political purposes. Belarussian authorities bring people in buses from its airports to the border with Poland, depose them a few kilometres ahead of the border and tell them "run to the border". Every day there are attempts to illegally cross this border. Only this year there were over 7000 attempts. Trying to destabilise the situation in my country, Belarus cynically uses vulnerable people and abuses their tough situation, taking advantage of their dreams and hopes for better life with no respect for their human dignity.

This strategy is particularly disappointing, since trafficking in human beings is treated as a priority by Poland. Due to our geopolitical location, being at the same time a country of origin, transit and destination for victims of trafficking in human beings, we do see the threats and challenges, the need for strengthening international cooperation in the field of prosecution at the operational and political level and for the protection of potential victims as well as securing the interests of the state.

Madame Chair,

Poland attaches great significance to the work the Commission. We recognize crucial role of the Commission in fostering human rights, rule of law, full and equal access to law and justice, right to fair trial, enhancing criminal justice systems as well as strengthening international co – operation.

Therefore the effective preparation for the next Crime Congress is of key importance.

We would like to praise Japan for their efforts in ensuring proper follow – up to Kyoto Congress, launching the preparatory process for the XV Congress, with significant effort invested in guiding us in negotiations of the resolution in question.

Finally, we wish to thank UNODC for their continuous support for Member States, providing them with the ideas, data and capacity building opportunities.

We also see unquestionable value of the active involvement of the civil society and other multi-stakeholders in pursuing goals of the Commission, with their innovative ideas, comprehensive approach and people – centred perspective.

Thank you Madame Chair.