

STATEMENT OF TÜRKİYE
32nd Session of the CCPCJ
(Vienna, 22-26 May 2023)

Madame Chair,

Let me outset congratulate you, Excellency, for your election to chair this session.

Madame Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Transnational organized crime and terrorism are challenges of major importance to peace, security and development of our societies. We support the work of the Commission, which is a unique forum for the Member States.

I would like to highlight three points.

First, there is no doubt that there are growing links between transnational organized crime and terrorism. This relation was clearly acknowledged in the UN General Assembly Resolutions. Türkiye witnesses this nexus on a regular basis. We have to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed, as underscored also in the Kyoto Declaration.

Türkiye is fighting against several terrorist organizations, such as PKK/PYD/YPG, Fetullah Gülen Terrorist Organization-FETO and DEASH. Every day Turkish authorities find evidence that these organizations finance their activities mostly through organized crime, such as drug trafficking, trafficking in persons and firearms trafficking. PKK plays a key role in the drug trafficking across Europe and beyond. Operations against PKK have revealed that the terrorist organization is active in all stages of illegal drug trade from production to distribution. This fact is also stated in EUROPOL and European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction Reports.

Türkiye will resolutely continue its fight against these terrorist organizations, including their affiliates and supporters in different countries, under different banners and names. We expect genuine solidarity and resolve of the

international community as terrorism poses a serious threat to global peace and security.

Second, the number of people fleeing from violence or instability has reached an unprecedented level. Today, Türkiye is the largest refugee hosting country in the world. We are home to more than 4 million refugees, including 3,75 million Syrians.

We continue to combat irregular migration as well as transnational crime including migrant smuggling and human trafficking, that are often brought along with such migratory flows. As we agreed in the Kyoto Declaration, we should not only adopt and implement effective measures to prevent and combat the smuggling of migrants, but also protect their lives and human rights. We also encourage and exert every effort in strengthening bilateral, regional and international cooperation to help and protect victims. Addressing this global phenomenon requires close and robust international cooperation in a non-discriminatory and comprehensive manner.

Third, in order to decrease the crime rates and enhance social integration and the rule of law, we should give priority to eliminate racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia and discrimination. The recent despicable attacks perpetrated by such instigators in some countries amounting to “expressing hatred of Muslims” can in no way be justified nor tolerated under the guise of freedom of expression or freedom of assembly. Such manifestations only encourage extremism and discrimination.

Madame Chair,

We cannot talk about sustainable development unless we strive for safe and secure communities. Therefore, promoting inclusive and peaceful societies is vital for achieving sustainable development goals.

As we stated in the Kyoto Declaration, we should take decisive actions to improve the resilience of law enforcement and other criminal justice institutions through multilateral cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnership, with special attention to the urgent capacity-building and technical assistance needs of developing countries.

In this regard, Türkiye is an important hub for providing training programmes to the requesting States, together with UNODC and other partner countries. In order to ensure a new vision and understanding of law enforcement training, Turkish International Academy Against Drugs and Organized Crime-TADOC and Turkish Counter Narcotics Training Academy-NEA are contributing not only to the training of the Turkish personnel but also to other national and international law enforcement agencies in the field of combatting crime.

Last but not least, we welcome establishment of the UNODC Regional Office for South Eastern Europe (ROSEE) in İstanbul. We believe this will enhance our existing cooperation and contribute to fostering the capacity of the law enforcement in the region and beyond.

Thank you.