

Madam Chair, delegates, distinguished guests,

The United Kingdom is pleased to participate in the Thirty Second Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

First of all, I want to emphasise that no nation can thrive or deliver its full potential when its people are subject to unprovoked aggression. The United Kingdom will continue to stand firm in the face of such injustice and offer our full support to the people and the Government of Ukraine. After more than a year of fighting and destruction, Russia must be held accountable for its actions and must end its illegal war.

This year's CCPCJ is a valuable opportunity to work together and tackle those issues that affect us all. This is why the UK remains committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and enabling Access to Justice. It is essential that we cooperate across international borders if we are to meet our objectives.

The UK is committed to working in constructive collaboration with UNODC, Member States and partners across the globe. We are proud to deliver a side event alongside India to demonstrate the virtues of court digitization and allowing video evidence in court. Enabling video technology can dramatically enhance access to justice for everyone. Its use supports our shared ambition to build back better after the global pandemic and provides better support for the most vulnerable, especially victims of crimes such as rape and human trafficking.

Likewise, homicide affects societies everywhere. The UK will host a Roundtable event, where we will share our new approach to better identify and respond to trends in homicide data. We strongly encourage the exchange of expertise, knowledge and new ideas so that, together, we can understand and develop effective interventions and reduce the rates of the most harmful crimes.

Finally, the UK is committed to continuing our funding of UNODC's Organised Crime Strategy Toolkit. This project has already reached over 500 participants in jurisdictions across Europe, Africa, Latin America and Central Asia. We hope others can benefit from the Toolkit, which supports Member States to create and enhance holistic national strategies and combat organised crime.

Addressing global threats to our lives and wellbeing is the responsibility of each and every one of us. We welcome this opportunity to engage with all nations in our collective pursuit of an increasingly safe and just world. I wish you a positive and productive week, and look forward to working alongside you all.