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Joint CND & CCPCJ Special Event

to honour the visit of the President of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly
H.E. Ms. María Fernanda ESPINOSA GARCÉS
on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Vienna International Centre

“Contributions of the Vienna Commissions to the
implementation of the 2030 Agenda”

23 August 2019, 3:00 PM
Conference Room C3, 7th floor, C-Building, VIC

H.E. Ambassador Alena KUPCHYNA
**Chair of the 28th session of the Commission on Crime
Prevention and Criminal Justice**

President Espinosa Garcés,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me welcome you all to our meeting today.

I would like to thank H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the General Assembly at its 73rd session, for joining us today in the context of the 40th anniversary of the Vienna International Centre. It is an honour having you here with us.

I am delighted that this event is jointly organised by the Commission on Crime Prevention on Criminal Justice, which I currently have the honour of chairing, and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, represented here today

by the Chair, my dear colleague, H.E. Mr. Bakhet. It also is my great pleasure to welcome Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of UNODC, and our moderator, UNIS Director, Mr. Martin Nesirky.

On 23 August 1979, exactly 40 years ago, **the Vienna International Centre** was opened and became one of the headquarters of the United Nations. Today, around 5,000 employees from more than 125 countries are working here to improve the lives of people around the world. The United Nations family of organizations and agencies in Vienna contribute their share to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals within their mandates and respective areas of work, and also in a cross-cutting and collective manner.

As you know, the CCPCJ, as the **main United Nations policy-making organ on matters of criminal justice and crime prevention**, works on **achieving peace and security** as well as **the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.

This work is focused primarily on implementation of **Sustainable Development Goal 16** – on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies and providing access to justice for all – which touches upon the core mandates of CCPCJ, namely strengthening the rule of law, addressing crime, corruption and terrorism.

To overcome the threats posed by crime, **comprehensive strategies** are needed **which include crime prevention and criminal justice responses**. In one of the resolutions, tabled by my country and adopted in

May this year, the Commission highlighted that it is crucial to engage all members of society in crime prevention.

Concerned that new and evolving information and communications technologies are being misused to commit crimes against children, the Commission, during its 28th session, focused on “Countering child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse online”. As you will recall, the Commission also negotiated resolutions on “education for justice and the rule of law in the context of sustainable development”, which also relates to **sustainable development goal 4** on quality education, and “on integrating sport in youth crime prevention”.

The work of the CCPCJ also contributes to other SDGs, including **Sustainable Development Goal 11** on making cities and human settlements inclusive and safe, which is related to the Commission’s work on analysing and eliminating physical violence; **Sustainable Development Goal 15** on the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, closely linked to the work of the Commission on eliminating wild life crime; and **Sustainable Development Goal 5** on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls.

Access to justice for all and the fight against corruption are also essential to ensure not only peaceful, but also prosperous societies, in line with **Sustainable Development Goals 8 and 16**. Access to justice empowers people and ensures inclusiveness and equality in order to protect their rights. **Access to legal aid** is a central element of ensuring equal access to justice for all, especially for the poorest and most vulnerable. Without

access to legal aid, people are at high risk of having their rights ignored or violated when they interact with the criminal justice system.

Special reference is to be made to the work of the CCPCJ as the preparatory body for the **United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice** and as the body that translates the outcome of these Congresses into follow-up actions. The Commission decided that the overarching topic of the **14th UN Crime Congress, which will be held in Kyoto in April 2020**, is “*Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda*”. Prior to the Congress, a **youth forum** will be held in Kyoto. It allows high school and university students from around the world to discuss ways to improve our society and deepen their understanding of issues related to crime prevention and criminal justice.

Dear Ms. President,

We very much count on your support and that of your office to **make the contributions by the CCPCJ more visible and better known in New York**. We hope that the substantive input submitted to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July will also be taken into consideration in the lead up to the High-Level Political Forum, held under the auspices of the General Assembly, in September.

In conclusion, allow me to refer – in this regard – to the resolution, adopted by the General Assembly in December last year, on **enhancing the role of the CCPCJ in contributing to the implementation of the 2030**

Agenda. We have a lot to offer and we stand ready to do so. We look forward to work closely with you in the period ahead!

Thank you.