

**Remarks of Dr. Selmo Cikotić - Minister of Security BiH**  
**14<sup>th</sup> UN CONGRESS ON CRIME PREVENTIONAL AND CRIMINAL**  
**JUSTICE**

Excellences,

Ladies and Gentleman,

Dear Colleagues Ministers,

I'd like to express my gratitude to Minister Yoko Kamikawa and the Government of Japan, as well as to the United Nations, for the extraordinary organization of this Congress, despite the harsh pandemic circumstances.

We all live in a world of global unprecedented and constantly growing security risks and threats, which have made all the actors of the international relations and international security interdependent more than ever before.

I share the attitude of some previous speakers that democracy and functional political and security systems, as well as judicial system, create positive environment for cooperation of different governmental, all security and specific judicial structures at the national level.

Apart from the national level cooperation, a cooperation at the regional and wider international level, in today's time, is not just desired but very often badly required for the functional work of all national elements for crime prevention and criminal justice.

The fight against all security and stability threats, corruption and organized crime, in particular, strengthens not just the credibility and integrity of the state judicial system, but of the security system and the country as a whole.

The state of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Western Balkans region is still burdened with some previous and some current political distances and disagreements between different actors and governments. Regionally, we don't share the same view of the magnitude and seriousness of these existing gaps and distances, but we all agree upon the fact that the criminals

and organized crime groups across the region, cooperate much better than the governmental structures do.

Therefore, the better and more effective governmental organization and functions at the regional level, as well as at the state level, are required if we want to catch up the speed and level of the desired security and judicial national systems and regional cooperation. Such cooperation may give answers to many security challenges including massive illegal migrations that are negatively affecting the whole region and every single state of the Western Balkans.

The creation of such state of affairs will require leaders, brave and strong enough, to close these gaps and understand the simple fact that cooperation and integration are much better than confrontation and fragmentation for all participants involved.

We strongly welcome all the documents adopted at this Congress, since the fact that national crime prevention and criminal justice elements inevitably, more and more, rely upon the international legal infrastructure and universally relevant legal documents. Contrary, if our national judicial systems do not keep pace with an overall speed of change, and the development of appropriate documents, we may not expect the prevalence of rule of law and sustainable development as we all desire.

At the end, I'd like to thank you all for your contribution you have made to the success of the Congress, and creation of its documents, hoping we will all jointly work on their successful implementation.

Thank you all very much.