

CYPRUS

Minister of Justice and Public Order – Intervention at the 14th
United Nations Conference on Crime Prevention and Criminal
Justice

Dear colleagues, on behalf of the Republic of Cyprus, I congratulate the Government of Japan and the Secretariat for organising the 14th United Nations Conference on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and look forward to the adoption of the Kyoto Declaration. The pandemic may have not allowed most of us being physically present despite our desire, but fortunately technology provides us with the opportunity to have this meeting and exchange views on subjects of common interest.

The United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice have been, throughout their 65-year legacy, an important international forum where developments, achievements as well as future challenges are discussed and useful conclusions are reached for all participants. Within this framework the current congress included in its agenda of discussion a series of issues that represent the most crucial contemporary aspects of crime prevention.

We share the belief that crime prevention is the key for social cohesion and economic prosperity of our communities. This requires a multi-disciplinary approach, that will include close collaboration between judicial and law enforcement authorities with other sectors, in order to tackle the root causes of crime. To achieve tangible results, we need to emphasize on data quality and to this end we shall utilize all available innovative technological solutions for data analysis.

Our criminal justice systems are facing complex challenges, including high levels of crime and new emerging forms of criminality. We need to take on all required initiatives to ensure safety for our communities. At the same time, we must provide justice and reparation for the victims and hold accountable crime offenders, while ensuring their rehabilitation and social integration.

I firmly believe that a strong rule of law protects the fundamental values of our societies and is essential to the progress, security and development of our democracies. I also share the belief that the rule of law is a key condition for sustainable development and social stability and within this framework providing access to justice for all is imperative.

Therefore, cooperation, joint effort and mutual support in international organizations are crucial to further develop multilateral solutions to promote the rule of law, prevent and address all forms of crime and address the challenges currently facing the criminal justice system.

I would like to reiterate my confidence on the conference's added value to achieving common goals and wish we all have a fruitful discussion that will pave the way for an enhanced international cooperation framework.

Thank you.