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Message
**Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention
and Criminal Justice**

Kyoto International Conference Center, Japan
Sunday, 7 to Friday, 12 March 2021

Excellencies,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to address the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

On behalf of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), I warmly congratulate the Government of Japan for hosting this milestone event. I also congratulate our colleagues in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for the preparations for the Congress.

UN DESA applauds the thematic focus of the Congress, on “advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.”

As secretariat for the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, we look forward to the dissemination of the outcomes of this Congress at the 2021 HLPF. Among others, it will review progress in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 16, which aims to:

- promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development;
- provide access to justice for all; and
- build effective, accountable, impartial and inclusive institutions.

In this context, UN DESA welcomes the consideration – within the framework of the Congress – the multidimensional approaches to promoting the rule of law, fighting corruption and strengthening institution building.

The review of digital technology’s role in fighting crimes, improving public safety and empowering law enforcement is also timely. Indeed, digital technologies continue to open new opportunities.

We also welcome the discussion on how to prevent the use of digital technologies for committing cybercrimes. And, we note with appreciation, the discussion on effective ways and means to integrate sport into youth crime prevention and criminal justice strategies.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,

In these and other related areas, UN DESA has ongoing research and capacity building activities. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with Member States and with colleagues at the UN Office on Drugs and Crime in our common pursuit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I thank you.
