

## **Traduction de courtoise**

### **Statement by France at the 14th Congress for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Kyoto 8 to 12 March**

**Pronounced by Eric Dupond-Moretti**

**Minister of Justice**

Madam President,

Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would first of all like to associate myself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and thank Japan for having been able, in this unprecedented health context, to organize this important Congress.

I wish I could have been present in order to testify, in person, to the importance that France attaches to the strengthening of international cooperation for crime prevention and criminal justice. This is, unfortunately, not possible due to the restrictions that are indispensable to protect our populations and put an end to the pandemic.

The Covid-19 crisis has led to profound upheavals. Its impact, make no mistake about it, will be lasting. It will unfortunately go far beyond the too many victims we have to deplore in each of our countries.

This crisis has also been seized as an opportunity for criminal groups that have taken advantage of our increased vulnerability to expand their transnational networks and develop their destabilizing activities. New forms of crime have thus multiplied, such as the trafficking of falsified medicines, cybercrime, which now strikes even in our hospitals, and cyber-terrorism.

This situation requires us to strengthen our collective mobilization in order to bring, to a situation of exceptional gravity, an exceptional response. The declaration we are adopting today is an important step in this direction and will provide us with an ambitious roadmap for the next five years.

It largely corresponds to the priorities that I myself am implementing in my country, whether it be the fight against sexual violence, juvenile justice, confiscation of the proceeds of crime or, of course, the fight against terrorism, which unfortunately is still topical in France.

in order to be effective, our action against crime must be based on a clear framework. Our international Conventions form the basis for this. We must ensure that the commitments made are properly implemented.

Our action must also be based on fundamental principles on which we cannot compromise, in particular: independent and impartial judicial systems, respect for human rights, the rights of the defense, the right to a fair trial and the proportionality of sentencing.

This action must, finally, rely on international actors whose competence and crucial role are recognized by all, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. I would like to commend its Executive Director, Ms Ghada Waly, for her determined action to strengthen the capacities of the most vulnerable countries, particularly in West Africa and the Sahel. In that regard, France fully supports the strategy that she has put in place since she took office at the head of UNODC.

Allow me to conclude by expressing my satisfaction with the commitment we are making today to strengthen our collective fight against environmental crime. During the last UN Biodiversity Summit, President Macron stressed the need to "put a definitive end to all illegal activities that endanger nature, destroy ecosystems, undermine the rule of law and jeopardize the sustainable development of humankind". This mobilization is absolutely critical for our fellow citizens and for our children who are calling us to this fight.

Let us not disappoint them.

Thank you.