

THE 14TH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON CRIME PREVENTION AND
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

**“Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the
achievement of the 2030 Agenda”**

Statement of H.E. Gocha Lordkipanidze, the Minister of Justice of Georgia
Kyoto, Japan, 7-9 March 2021

Excellences,

Distinguished Representatives of the States,

Ladies and gentlemen,

- I am **honoured to address you from Georgia** at this important event organized by UNODC and Japanese Government;
- The **world is now living through a critical period**, when the **pandemic** endangers the **humanity**;
- however, **despite the difficulties**, sustainably enhancing **justice systems should remain in our agenda**;
- During the recent years **Georgia has undergone significant criminal justice system reforms** having in mind: crime prevention, rule of law and human rights;
- One of the best examples - **adoption of a separate Juvenile Justice Code**, based on entirely **new philosophy**;
- Now the **non-custodial measure** to children in conflict with law is a **default and criminal sanction an exceptional rule**;
- **Diversion** is intensively used at the same time;
- The **holistic approach** involves the creation of the **child-friendly infrastructure in penitentiary** system.
- For this aim, we **plan to create family-type prisons** for juveniles;
- We invested significant efforts to **develop institutional framework** in line with the best **international standards**;

- We have:
 - started **building small scale prisons**;
 - improved the **working conditions**;
 - strengthened **rehabilitation-resocialization** approach;
 - improved **vocational training** and **working opportunities** for inmates;
 - further strengthened **penitentiary healthcare** system.
- By these reforms we **strive to change the institutional culture** and embed **human rights based approach** into policy-planning and implementation;
- These **reforms also entail effective cooperation at regional and international level**;
- Notably, an **agreement** between Georgia and **EUROJUST** unlocked a possibility of **effectively combating trans-border crimes**;
- Furthermore, Georgia is **actively engaged in cooperation** with the **International Criminal Court to investigate the 2008 war**.
- This is the **first time** when the **Court entered Europe's legal geography** and launched an investigation into the **complex international conflict**.
- We **stand ready to continue** our steadfast **cooperation with the Court to ensure that justice will be served** for the victims of the most serious international crimes.
- In concluding **let me remain optimistic** that we together can **end this pandemic** and **achieve goals of criminal justice**.
- Thank you!