

**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”**

**7 - 12 March 2021 in Kyoto, Japan**

Madam President, Excellencies, distinguished participants of the Congress, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to congratulate the Government of Japan and the UNODC secretariat for organising the 14<sup>th</sup> United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Lithuania fully aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and the Member states. In our national capacity we would like to stress the following:

The **respect for human dignity** and protection of fundamental rights of prisoners requires **modernization of correctional infrastructure** by ensuring safe prison environment. It demands significant resources of time and finances and should be addressed **holistically**.

The **expansion of alternative sanctions and parole mechanisms** has significant benefits for **reducing prison population** on the one hand. On the other hand, it creates preconditions **to concentrate on quality of social rehabilitation measures** to reduce the recidivism rates in a long-term perspective.

Our experience with **the open-type prison** and development of **half-way houses** demonstrates a **positive impact** on inmates` integrational capabilities.

Lithuania encourages closer co-operation **on the transfer of sentenced persons** to serve their sentences in their home countries. Various options could be undertaken in this regard. One to mention - the **Council of Europe Convention** of 1983 on the transfer of sentenced persons **has become an universal instrument** in this area with 68 states being the party to it.

The efficient exchange of high-quality data, existence of digital channels and ability to analyse it quickly and effectively is a precondition for **successful law enforcement cooperation**. On the other hand, the availability of electronic means in courts can improve **access to justice**, reduce costs and boost cross-border cooperation between judicial authorities. **Sharing our best practices** would definitely help us to achieve this goal.

I am happy to notice that **modern technologies** have already been widely **introduced into the Lithuanian pre-trial investigation and judicial procedures.**

The digitalisation of procedures shall ensure **that no one is left behind** and more importantly our **common values**, such as privacy, non-discrimination, the right to a fair trial are not undermined.

In the view of progress made in the **field of artificial intelligence**, we believe, that we should explore the ways to engage it into day-to-day judicial and law enforcement work.

**Legal aid is an essential tool** for ensuring access to justice and effective defence of persons' rights and interests. The necessity to provide legal aid is crucial **for socially vulnerable groups, such as victims of crimes and children.** The **legal aid to victims of crimes** requires an additional attentiveness. Therefore, we support the **development of a specialized network for legal aid providers** to exchange information and best practices as well as to assist each other.

We **endorse** the provisions of the Declaration regarding the **fight against all kind of trafficking in human beings.** The **prevention** with a special focus on **vulnerable groups** and establishing and strengthening of transnational referral mechanisms **is of great importance.** The mechanism used in the **Baltic Sea Region** serves a good example which **could be developed into a tool used broader.**

We underline the need to develop **a common THB victim identification tool** with a special attention to the concept of **presumed victim definition.**

Finally, Lithuania supports the Declaration. We completely agree that sustainable development and the rule of law are interlinked.