

MALTA

The Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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Minister for Home Affairs, National Security and Law Enforcement

Pre-recorded Statement for the High-Level Segment

Mr Chairperson

Ministers, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Malta would like to commend Japan for the successful organisation of this fourteenth Crime Congress.

The Maltese delegation fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union.

Despite these challenging times we have succeeded in sustaining a 65-year long legacy, and responsibility, of coming together to discuss the linkages between crime prevention, criminal justice, and sustainable development.

Through today's high level gathering, we are giving a clear and strong political message.

Crime continues to evolve in adapting itself very swiftly to the efforts made to thwart it. The COVID-19 pandemic has yet again shown that criminals can be one-step ahead of us. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that prevention and justice remain vigilant and proactive.

It is equally our shared responsibility to guarantee the protection of the rule of law.

The promotion and protection of the rule of law through the advancement of crime prevention and criminal justice, is paramount to the safeguarding as well as promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies.

Allow me to share with you some of Malta's efforts in this regard.

Malta set up the Crime Prevention Strategy 2017 – 2021, a strategic document aimed at streamlining the work of numerous agencies in view of crime prevention and recidivism.

The strategy redefined policing beyond what had been previously experienced, with the setting up of community and target policing. The benefits and outcome from the community policing teams are extremely encouraging, so much so that an incremental expansion programme is to be concluded by 2023.

In 2020, we also launched a Transformation Strategy for the Malta Police Force. The strategy we are implementing includes a roadmap for the next five-years to strengthen even further the safety and security of our citizens. Our continued aim is to ensure that Malta remains a safe place.

As I conclude, I will leave you with a call to action.

The crime challenges we are facing are trans-national. Criminal networks are becoming extremely innovative, exploiting to the full emerging and new technologies. Let us therefore commit to not only implement the existing international legal instruments, but to invest more in multilateralism and international cooperation. It is only by working together that we can aspire to achieve the fundamental objectives of the Charter of the United Nations: global peace, security, prosperity, justice, and the preservation of human rights for all.

Thank You.

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