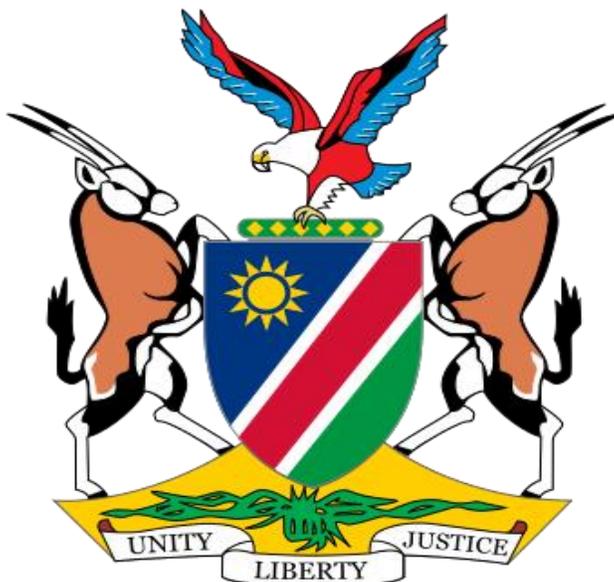


REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

STATEMENT AT THE 14TH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON CRIME

PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

(CCPCJ)

(To be checked against delivery)

08March 2021

Kyoto, Japan

Statement by Hon. Yvonne Dausab, MP, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Namibia at the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) delivered on 8 March 2021 in Kyoto, Japan.

Madame President, H.E. Ms. Yoko KAMIKAWA, Minister of Justice, Japan

Your Excellencies Members of the General Committee

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Mme President,

1. On behalf of my Government and my delegation I have the honour and privilege to congratulate you on your election as the President of the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. I also congratulate the members of the General Committee on their election. We also want to express our profound gratitude to the people and Government of Japan for hosting the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Namibia aligns herself with the statements delivered by the African Group and the Group of 77 and China respectively.
2. Namibia welcomes the adoption of Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as we reflect on Doha Declaration adopted at the Thirteenth Congress in which we reaffirmed the need to integrate crime prevention and criminal justice issues into the wider agenda of the United Nations in order to enhance system-wide coordination.

3. My delegation applauds the role of the Crime Congress to exchange views between States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and individual experts, the exchange of experiences in research, law and policy development, and the identification of emerging trends and issues in crime prevention and criminal justice.

Mme President,

4. We express our grave concern about the situation derived from the corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and its social and economic implications which has created new opportunities for and transformed the patterns and modus operandi of criminals and organized criminal syndicates in different forms and to different extents, as well as challenges and danger posed to criminal justice system. We are also pleased and welcome the efforts and work done by pharmaceutical companies and organisations to find the vaccine against the corona virus disease.
5. Namibia welcomes the adoption of the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences, which took place during the 23rd Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and its further adoption and integration through the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

6. We avail ourselves of the existing tools of the anti-corruption and anti transnational organised crime tools, particularly when we have implementing the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), and other international instruments at our disposal. We urge States that have not yet done so to ratify these legal instruments.

Mme President,

8. We are concerned by the increasing challenges posed by cybercrime. These challenges need a common unity of purpose that should go beyond the provision of technical assistance and the scope of existing instruments governing transnational organized crime. My delegation welcomes the work done by Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on cybercrime as well as the comprehensive study on cybercrime.
9. Whilst we share the concerns of the international community on the issue of drug trafficking and drug abuse, and acknowledge the seriousness of these offences and the devastating consequences thereof, we are also concerned about the continued imposition of capital punishment for these offences and call upon the international community to reconsider the death penalty as an appropriate sentence for these offences.

Mme President,

10. Namibia encourage States to remove barriers and overcome obstacles to applying measures for the recovery of assets, in particular by simplifying their legal procedures, where appropriate and in accordance with domestic laws, taking into consideration the 2030 13 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the use of returned assets in accordance with domestic laws and in line with domestic priorities, and bearing in mind resolution 8/9 which was adopted by the Conference of State Parties to UNCAC at its eighth session, held in Abu Dhabi from 16 to 20 December 2019 that emphasised the strengthening the recovery of stolen assets and their return that will support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

11. We are cognisance of measures to strengthen and address the threat of new emerging and evolving forms of crime, as well as their possible links with organized criminal groups as a source of lucrative profits for their illicit activities.

Mme President,

12. In conclusion, my delegation wishes you and the members of the General Committee success in your work and we look forward to constructive engagement with all other delegations during this week.

I thank you.