



Republic of North Macedonia

Ministry of Justice

**Address of Minister of Justice Bojan Marichikj  
At the High Level Segment Session during the 14th United Nations  
Congress on Crime Prevention And Criminal Justice**

***Dear colleagues' ministers,***

***Your Excellencies,***

***Ladies and gentlemen,***

It is my great pleasure and honor to have the opportunity to address the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention And Criminal Justice. Allow me to express my deep gratitude to the United Nations bodies for supporting the numerous activities in the field of criminal justice in the Republic of North Macedonia. In this context, I would like to emphasize our role in the UNODC Regional Program for South Eastern Europe (2020-2023).

The reform of the judiciary in North Macedonia is one of the highest priorities set out in the national policies and strategies. In the past few years, North Macedonia has increased its efforts and delivered tangible results in the key areas such as the judiciary, fight against corruption, organized crime, and especially white-collar crime.

Due to the pandemic, as I believe many countries have faced the same challenges, North Macedonia has accelerated the digitalization of the justice system, full digitalization of the court cases management and the introduction of online trials.

In order to ensure judicial independence, accountability and transparency, North Macedonia started a process of objective filtering and depoliticization of the judiciary and prosecution. The purpose of the process is strengthening the responsibility, transparency, and ethics of the judiciary.

It is a concept where the judges through their bodies, check the work of the judges and increase the quality of their work. At this point, 11 judges





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are dismissed for ill-treatment. Our concept ensures a strong mechanism for independent judiciary which was acknowledged by many international reports.

Your Excellencies,

Let me briefly inform you about the challenges we will be focusing on in the field of criminal law in the forthcoming period.

To begin with the most important project, we are currently working on the preparation of a new Criminal Code in which we implement all the latest international standards such as a Directive and other international instruments in the area of fight against terrorism, Istanbul convention on gender based violence, or set of provisions aimed to protect journalists and media workers' rights.

The work on the Law on Criminal Procedure will be intensified in the next period. Having in mind the fact that this law is in a way a constitution for human rights, we focused our activities in this area towards harmonization of the law with the latest international standards in criminal procedure law, and especially the latest directives of the European Union in this area.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Finally, let me once again express my satisfaction that at this eminent meeting, I had the opportunity to share with you our experience and challenges for the coming period, in terms of crime prevention, especially from the point of view of the need to define indicators, as well as preparation of analyzes and evaluations in the field of criminal justice. Given the characteristics of organized crime, I would like to emphasize the importance of regional and international cooperation, as a crucial prerequisite for successful dealing with the sophisticated forms of crime.

Thank you for your attention.