

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Dominika Krois
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations Office and the
International Organizations in Vienna
XIV United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
“Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law:
towards achieving the 2030 Agenda”, 7-12 March 2021, Kyoto, Japan

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Poland fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States and would like to offer some additional remarks in its national capacity.

Poland wholeheartedly congratulates Japan and the Secretariat of the Governing Bodies on the excellent organization of the Congress in the difficult circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We consider multilateral platforms, such as this Congress, as invaluable opportunities to exchange information and good practices, but also to share information on new challenges.

Mr. President,

As we are all aware, crime is an ever evolving phenomenon with its new forms emerging constantly. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has posed new challenges in this regard, which may halt or delay progress necessary to achieve the goals and targets of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in many countries.

Fighting organized and serious crime is no longer possible at national level alone. International cooperation including data exchange and monitoring of the international criminal environment are yielding good results in this regard.

Most of the necessary legal prerequisites to fight crime internationally more effectively have already been established. We fully support the main international legal instruments – UNCAC and UNTOC, that aim at fighting corruption and transnational organized crime.

We also have full confidence in the UNODC and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as the bodies enabling Members States to better implement their obligations with regard to fighting crime.

However, we must increase efforts and take further steps to apply existing provisions and mechanisms more consistently in practice, also with regard to the use of the latest technology.

The emergence of new criminal phenomena and the evolution of the technological tools available to both law enforcement and criminals requires the adaptation of international cooperation mechanisms.

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced even more changes in the modus operandi and imposed greater flexibility in this sphere. Restrictions related to the pandemic result in an increase in the use of the Internet, cross-border FINTECH tools and services (such as PayPal or Polish BLIK), using modern technologies for the transfer of illegal property benefits. This concerns i.a. cryptocurrency exchanges, foreign payment institutions.

To support law enforcement cooperation, based mainly on information exchange, the Polish Police use a number of tools such as PNR (Passenger Name Record), ETIAS (European Travel Information and Authorization System), SIS (Schengen Information System), EMPACT (European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats), which focus on interoperability and are supported by Europol, Eurojust, Frontex, OLAF (The European Anti-Fraud Office), CEPOL (European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training), of which Poland is a member.

Representatives of the Polish Police take an active part in the implementation of the EU Policy Cycle in combating serious and organized crime and are actively involved in several EMPACT's - in particular EMPACT Cannabis, Cocaine and Heroin, as well as in cybercrime, organized property crime, trafficking in human beings, illicit firearms trafficking, environmental crime, financial and money laundering crimes and others.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is beyond doubt that sustainable development cannot be guaranteed without secure environment, providing appropriate living and working conditions for every individual. The strategic priorities and areas, as defined in the recent EU Security Union Strategy, serve these aims to a large extent. They include fighting organized crime and human trafficking, countering terrorism and the prevention of violent radicalization, resilience of critical infrastructures and public spaces, fighting cybercrime, including fighting child sexual abuse, law enforcement cooperation and information exchange, research and innovation.

The COVID-19 pandemic influenced heavily the fight against organized crime and we must work together to adapt to the new reality. Serious and organized crime knows no borders and the international cooperation has proved how important it is to exchange information on new phenomena, the modus operandi of perpetrators and best practices that help to detect and combat them effectively. Our response will be more adequate if agreed unanimously, by consensus. United, we will be able to face new challenges more effectively and efficiently.

Thank you for your attention.