

ROK High-Level Segment Statement for the 14th UN Crime Congress

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I.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates, it is a pleasure / to meet you all.

As the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Korea, it is a great honor to participate in the UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on behalf of Korea.

It is truly unfortunate that I am unable to meet all of you in person, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. However, I am glad that we are gathered today to discuss our cooperation to better prevent and fight crimes, despite the challenges.

I would also like to thank the Japanese government, for preparing this wonderful meeting in Kyoto.

II.

All of us, without exception, have been hit hard by the pandemic over the last year. Amid this global disaster, crimes have evolved in various ways and this has posed critical challenges to our societies.

Notable examples are spike in cybercrimes as a result of zero-contact trend and increased levels of domestic violence due to more time spent at homes.

This is why policies for readily responding to the changing natures of crimes, as well as actively protecting the victims, have become even more important.

Against this backdrop, Korea has implemented various policy measures, focusing on protecting the women and children from increasing numbers of cyber and sex crimes, as well as domestic violence.

More specifically, Korea has revised the relevant laws in order to impose stronger penalties for digital sex crimes and sex crimes against children and youth.

Korea has also strengthened protection measures for child abuse victims, expanding the coverage of protection to potential victims, victims' siblings, and children living with them.

Such policies are some of Korea's efforts to protect the victims and prevent crimes during this unprecedented, global disaster.

III.

There are no borders to Korea's endeavors to prevent crimes and uphold criminal justice.

Long past are the days when one country alone could respond to the globalization of crimes, effectively. This is why Korea actively champions the international cooperation in criminal justice, most notably through our contributions to the UNODC and stronger MLA framework with the ASEAN nations.

IV.

Distinguished Delegates, Korea will actively support the international effort to establish order in criminal justice through crime prevention and rule of law.

Moreover, we will faithfully carry out the duties as a responsible member of the international community.

I look forward to having productive discussions during the Congress on what we can do to pursue our common goal.

Once again, I offer my deepest respect to my fellow delegates, as well as the UNODC.

Thank you for your attention.