

Statement by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia Nikola Selakovic at the High-Level Segment of the 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (7-9 March 2021, Kyoto)

Madam Chairperson,

Madam Secretary General,

Esteemed Excellencies,

I would like to thank the Government of Japan and UNODC for the opportunity to exchange views on issues of crime prevention and criminal justice despite the pandemic.

Much like the pandemic, facing the problem of organized crime calls for a global response.

I would like to thank Japanese ambassador Hikihara for the skill of conducting negotiations on the harmonization of the Kyoto Declaration, which is an important indicator of

commitment to creating and maintaining an institutional framework for crime prevention as one of the main preconditions for promoting sustainable development goals.

The fight against all forms of crime is a top priority of the Serbian Government and an integral part of the EU accession process. It is also our moral duty to leave a world that is safer, more just and better for the generations to come.

In its Second Serious and Organized Crime Threat Assessment from 2019, Serbia identified as its goal to eliminate high-tech crime, human trafficking, terrorism and irregular migration.

When it comes to **combating high-tech crime** - Serbia has established in a timely manner a normative and institutional framework that regulates prevention of abuse in this area. The Office of the Special Prosecutor for Cybercrime was

established as well as a special court department and a special police unit.

In the field of **the fight against corruption** - we are guided by the postulates set out in the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the UN Convention against Corruption. I would like to point out the efforts made by the Anti-Corruption Agency, as an independent state body, to protect the public interest, build individual and institutional integrity, strengthen transparency and accountability of the public administration.

We strongly condemn all forms of terrorism, including extremism and radicalism, and call for them to be fully eradicated, while implementing the relevant UN resolutions and conventions and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In order to combat these complex phenomena efficiently and successfully, it is of vital importance to build capacities of our societies and states, while exchanging experiences at the regional and global levels.

Back in 1970 when Japan hosted this event for the first time, we demonstrated strong political will to draw attention to the problem. Today, it is upon us to reaffirm this willingness and translate it into concrete steps.

Finally, let me recall the words of Ryunosuke Akutagawa - *“Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean”*.

Thank you for your attention.