

SLOVENIA

14th UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON CRIME

PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Kyoto, 7-12 March 2021

Statement by

Ms. Lijana Kozlovič, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Slovenia

Madam President, ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, I wish to express my gratitude to the Government of Japan and UNODC for the organization of the 14th Crime Congress.

Slovenia welcomes the efforts, particularly of the Japanese presidency and of the Member States, to facilitate consensus on the political declaration. I believe it will send a strong message of unity in response to the challenges we face in crime prevention and criminal justice.

Measure to prevent money laundering, corruption, human trafficking, and child abuse should be strengthened. The rise of these crimes having an international element and the emergence of cyber-crime coincide with the swift development of new technologies, particularly artificial intelligence. That's is why we strongly support the United Nations regarding the proceeds of organized crime and intensifying cooperation among competent authorities in this field.

It is also important to address the rise of hate speech on social platforms. There is a fine line between free speech as a fundamental right and hate speech as a driving force of hate crimes, especially racism, xenophobia, and even acts of terrorism. Appropriate action is required.

Terrorism remains one of the biggest threats to global security. To effectively respond to this complex threat, a comprehensive concept needs to be put in place, which is focused on prevention. And I believe that the need to obtain and retain data as evidence for crimes committed through new technologies needs to be addressed.

In my opinion, all these phenomena require a balanced approach based on the principles of the rule of law.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Criminal activity undermines the fundamental democratic postulates.

Only a full implementation of United Nations conventions and other mechanisms will allow an efficient response.

I am looking forward to hearing about the experience and best practices of other Member States.

I wish all participants a productive exchange of views and a successful outcome of the Congress.

Stay safe.