



**MINISTRY  
JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**STATEMENT  
BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY MR RONALD LAMOLA MP, MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND  
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, AT THE  
FOURTEENTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON CRIME PREVENTION AND  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE (CCPCJ), KYOTO**

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**Madam President, Ms Yoko Kamikawa**

**United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres**

**Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Ms Ghada Fathi Waly**

**Distinguished delegates,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Government of the Republic of South Africa and it is my pleasure to join other delegations in congratulating Her Excellency, Ms Yoko Kamikawa, Minister of Justice of Japan as the President of the 14<sup>th</sup> Congress on Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ). Be assured of South Africa's full support. I wish to express our sincere appreciation to the host country and the Secretariat for all efforts in preparing for this Congress, particularly during this difficult time when we still have to confront the COVID-19 global pandemic.

We acknowledge the excellent work done by the Ambassador of Japan in Vienna for facilitating the negotiations of this important 14<sup>th</sup> Crime Congress Political Declaration which will guide us in the fight against international organised crime and in advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals for the next five years.

South Africa associates itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the African Group and Group of 77 and China respectively.

Madam President,

The COVID-19 challenge requires us all to put in place measures to curb the pandemic and also deal with its impact on crime and victims. In this regard, my country has, over and above implementing relevant guidelines and directives proposed by the World Health Organisation also, taken the initiative to administer a special parole dispensation for low-risk inmates which targeted the release of 19 000 inmates with a view to providing the required social distancing in prison settings in compliance with the Nelson Mandela Rules.

Madam President,

South Africa views the fight against transnational organised crime as a common and shared responsibility. For this reason, my Government calls for enhanced international cooperation in the fight against all forms of transnational organised crimes, including illicit financial flows. It is my hope that as an international community we develop strong mechanisms to hold states who shun international cooperation accountable in the strongest terms.

In this regard Madam President, South Africa is committed to striving towards the eradication of impunity. By working together with other States, South Africa is ensuring that it does not fall into the trap of becoming an enabler of transnational crime. It is the duty of all States to ensure that criminals do not feel safe wherever they are, we cannot create safe havens for corrupt actors and criminals per se. Therefore, South Africa calls upon all States to make every effort to intensify collaboration with each other, to repatriate assets, and extradite those evading justice, if the citizens of the world are to benefit from instruments such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC) and United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and others of this nature.

Madam President,

As part of the global community, South Africa is further addressing the transnational nature of crime as one of the key challenges all countries face. Part and parcel of this is dealing with, amongst others, the prevention and combating of trafficking in persons, strengthening witness protection and mutual legal assistance, combating organised wildlife crime and promoting internet safety.

In line with the recommendations of some of the past Crime Congresses, I wish to highlight some aspects that, notwithstanding progress made, will continue to be relevant for SA and the Congress here in Kyoto. I want to mention that we are hard at work regarding -

- Strengthening the efficiency of the criminal justice system (CJS) and improving integrity and trust in the CJS;
- Tackling Gender Based Violence and Femicide;
- Eradicating corruption;

- Promoting Crime Prevention;
- Modernising the CJS through amongst others ICT and dealing with cybercrime through an integrated CJS approach. My delegation counts on the support of Member States to successfully complete the mandate of the Intergovernmental Expert Group on Cybercrime. This will provide a building block towards negotiating and adopting a legally binding international instrument on cybercrime as mandated by UN General Assembly Resolution 74/247.

In **conclusion**, Madam President, I take this opportunity to thank delegations for their constructive contribution to the Crime Congress Political Declaration and its adoption by the Congress. I assure you of my delegation's full support. I thank you.