

TURKEY

Distinguished Chair,

My Counterpart, Minister of Justice Ms. Kamikawa,

Esteemed Participants,

I would like to extend my gratitude for your kind invitation.

I wish that the Congress will contribute to the international judicial cooperation.

We have understood the significance of such cooperation during the pandemic affecting all around the world.

This pandemic has also taught us the importance of functioning of the justice in an uninterrupted fashion.

During the last year, we had to suspend, limit or postpone many social and economic activities.

However, we have all understood that the access to justice cannot be suspended even during such global public crisis.

Access to justice is the right of every individual and the fundamental guarantee of all rights.

The main element and the main objective of the family of humanity is the realization of global justice.

Therefore, even under the most serious conditions, it needs to be ensured, developed and protected.

We produced our comprehensive strategy and action plan by taking into account such sensitivities in the first days of the pandemic.

We have benefitted significantly from initiating the digital transformation in the judicial services in our country many years before the pandemic.

We provided highly important services with National Judiciary Informatics System and e-government applications.

We keep on taking innovative steps such as e-hearing system we have developed by observing the fundamental procedural guarantees.

The innovative applications we follow also include other solutions to facilitate the access to justice by the disadvantaged people such as the disabled.

Such transition which has become more and more meaningful and important during the pandemic is among the objectives of the Judicial Reform Strategy, our roadmap in the reform efforts.

Our Strategy Document, the product of a comprehensive and multilateral consultation process, was unveiled in 2019 by our President Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

We attach special importance to strengthening independence of the judiciary, ensuring its functioning in a just and effective manner and to gain the trust of the society. Facilitating access to justice is the focus of our reform strategy.

Likewise, with a view to protecting and developing fundamental rights and freedoms effectively, we have prepared a new action plan on human rights in line with our Strategy document.

Our Action Plan has been recently announced to the public by our President.

Distinguished Participants,

While mentioning our will to protect the rights and freedoms more efficiently, I would like to draw your attention to a greater and common threat to rights and freedoms.

This threat is terrorism which increasingly targets more countries and requires the sincere cooperation of international society to be eradicated with a joint fight against terrorism.

Turkey is a country that has seriously suffered from terrorism. We are determined to fight against any kind of terrorism without any discrimination of religion, language and ethnicity. And we consider such combat as a struggle of rights and freedoms.

Some of the criminals who attempted to abolish democracy and destroy our constitutional order which is based on rights and freedoms on 15 July 2016 are treated as refugees in some of the countries today.

Another terrorist organization, which martyred our innocent people in the terrorist camp in the Northern Iraq a week ago, continues to collect money and recruit members for its future bloody acts in the countries where they act freely under the guarantee of impunity.

Such attitudes of some countries almost guarding the criminals is contrary to the international law. This attitude can only be explained by double standard.

This issue does not only consist of a political or legal problem. We also face a moral problem.

We should remember that ensuring justice, security and peace for our societies is not a local target anymore; neither is it a regional target.

We are more dependent on each other more than ever before in a world where the problems and threats are globalized as much as the opportunities and possibilities.

I believe that we need to meet on a common ground of mutual understanding and sincere cooperation in the fight against all kinds of transnational crimes, foremost against terrorism.

We, as Turkey, are ready to participate in and contribute to all efforts conducted internationally, especially under the body of the United Nations.

I would like to extend my deepest regards to everyone. Thank you again for your kind attention.