



## **Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

***“Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.”***

**Kyoto, Japan — 7 to 12 March 2021**

**Remarks by the Director of UNICRI, Antonia Marie De Meo**

**(Scheduled time: max. 3 minutes)**

Excellencies, Representatives of Member States, Colleagues,

The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) is pleased to participate in the Fourteenth Crime Congress. We extend our gratitude to UNODC and the Government of Japan for hosting this important event.

Since 1968, UNICRI has been the United Nations research and training institute mandated in the field of criminal justice and crime prevention. As such, we necessarily play an important role in research and policy development, as well as emerging trends in criminal justice and crime prevention. In the last year, for example, UNICRI published research reports on:

- Community resilience to radicalization and violent extremism;
- Terrorism and Violent Extremism of Youth in Mali;
- Malicious Uses and Abuses of Artificial Intelligence and Social Media; and
- The Impacts of COVID-19 on Criminal Justice and Crime Prevention for Vulnerable Groups.

UNICRI contributes to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, especially SDG 16, with specialized tools and expertise in research, training, capacity-building, technical assistance, and policy support. We apply the findings from our action-oriented research to inform our programming.

In this Crime Congress, UNICRI is proud to organize the Workshop on “Education and youth engagement as key to making societies resilient to crime” in cooperation with UNODC. Formal and informal education and youth engagement in crime prevention are at the core of UNICRI’s programming around the world.

For example,

- In the Sahel-Maghreb region, we worked with communities and NGOs to strengthen youth resilience to violent extremism, reaching over 23,000 participants.
- As part of the UNOCT Global Programme on the promotion of sport and its values, we deliver innovative sports programmes to enhance resilience and prevent radicalization and violent extremism.
- UNICRI also delivers a renowned LL.M. in Transnational Crime and Justice at our Headquarters in Turin, Italy.

Our programmes are designed to empower young people through knowledge, innovative thinking, dialogue, and participation, engaging with them as partners and change-agents rather than beneficiaries.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICRI transformed and expanded our online trainings for youth and professionals on topics such as new technological advances for law enforcement, malicious uses of social media, hate speech, and protection of cultural heritage.

We look forward to working with all of you to overcome the additional challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic on criminal justice and crime prevention around the world.

Thank you.