



**ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND  
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**

**HONOURABLE ZIYAMBI ZIYAMBI (M.P)**

**AT THE**

**FOURTEENTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON CRIME  
PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**KYOTO, JAPAN**

**7 – 12 MARCH 2021**

PROTOCOL:

THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, HIS EXCELLENCY ANTONIO GUTERRES

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME, GHADA FATHI WALY

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE OF JAPAN, HONOURABLE YOKO KAMIKAWA

REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBER STATES HERE PRESENT,

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VARIOUS NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS,

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATIONS,

NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

ALL PROTOCOLS ARE OBSERVED,

On behalf of the Government of Zimbabwe and of my delegation, I would like to express my profound appreciation to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for affording us this opportunity to present our statement to the Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. We are also indebted to the Government of Japan for hosting the 14<sup>th</sup> Crime Congress.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

These are trying times for the world as we have to deal with a scourging pandemic whilst on the other hand trying to balance the demands of effective crime prevention and justice delivery. The world is reeling under the effects of Covid-19 and many aspects of our daily lives have been adversely affected. This platform is just what we all need to learn from each other and also share experiences on the best ways to respond to new and emerging circumstances.

As the Government of Zimbabwe, we reaffirm our commitment to the Doha Declaration of 2015 by ensuring an effective criminal justice system that is constituted of institutions accessible to every citizen. To this end, efforts have been made to strengthen and capacitate our institutions.

Corruption has become endemic in all spheres of our lives and it is our Government's thrust to capacitate all institutions involved in fighting the scourge. We have partnered UN agencies and some civil society organisations in ongoing anti-corruption trainings being held for the Judiciary, Prosecuting Authority and the Police. The country has further set up specialised Anti-Corruption Courts which are mandated with trying corruption matters.

Zimbabwe stands firm in strengthening integrated approaches to challenges faced in the criminal justice system. We have put in place a robust system that protects women and children from abuse especially when they come in conflict with the law. Coupled with that, the Government of Zimbabwe has put in place a strong Domestic Violence Act that protects women and men equally from domestic violence. We also have in place, a Victim Friendly Unit (VFU) which is the first contact point for women and/or children who have suffered abuse. This VFU also extends to the Court and ensures the protection of victims of gender-based crimes as well as offering them counselling services.

The Government of Zimbabwe would like to extend its appreciation to the UNODC for the continued collaboration in the area of trafficking in persons. We have received support in fortifying our laws to ensure the fight against trafficking in persons is won.

Regarding prison inmates, the Government of Zimbabwe has since adopted a rehabilitative thrust which has seen most correctional facilities setting up vocational training centres for empowering inmates.

We remain committed to the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 16 about peace, justice and strong institutions. As the Ministry of Justice, our main objective is to ensure accessible, efficient and effective justice delivery and this can only be achieved where there is rule of law, strong institutions and a coordinated approach by all the relevant stakeholders, including Civil Society.

Like all other countries, Zimbabwe has fallen victim to cybercrimes as well as new and emerging forms of crime and in response, we are in the process of enacting laws that combat cybercrime and other related offences. It is the Government of Zimbabwe's hope that platforms as this one will offer further and better opportunities for collaboration in the global fight against all forms of crime.

Lastly, let me emphasize my Government's commitment to the full implementation of the Kyoto Declaration.

**I THANK YOU ALL.**