

**Statement of Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, at
the UN Crime Congress (CCPCJ) in Kyoto, March 8, 2021**

Dear Mr. President, dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to express my appreciation to the Government of Japan for organising this congress in person. We know very well that the significance of personal contacts and personal discussions in diplomacy are important and under the current circumstances we would like to express our gratitude to our Japanese friends for hosting this event.

Although we have been faced with a tremendous healthcare related challenge in the recent months, we must not forget that we do have some other very tough challenges ahead of us which pose serious security risks on the entire world.

When it comes to terrorism, illegal migration, the massive violation of the rights of national ethnic and religious minorities, the continuous increase of drug use, these are all security risks we have to address and these are all in close interdependence with organised crime and criminal gangs and groups. Because of the pandemic many activities of the people have been transferred from reality to the digital space. More and more people are using the digital space when it comes to remote work, when it comes to schooling or when it comes to shopping as well. This basically offers a new platform and a new target group for the terrorist organisations which have the chance to spread their radical ideologies, their extremist ideologies and violent ideologies among those who spend most of their time now on the digital space.

Yet, this is another reason why we definitely have to make the best efforts to stop the spread of the coronavirus as soon as possible in the entire world and therefore we need to take advantage of all the vaccines which are considered to be safe and effective.

Dear Mr. President, I would like to assure you that Hungary is committed to the fight against terror. We are proud to host the regional headquarters of the UN Office of Counter Terrorism in Budapest and we are committed to argue in favour of UNOCT to become part of the regular budget of the United Nations.

Dear Mr. President, I am coming from Hungary, a Central-European country, and we Europeans have been faced with the crisis of migration since 2015, so for six continuous years now. We know that illegal migration poses a tremendous security and culture-related risk on Europe and basically on the entire route the migrants are using. But now illegal migration, the massive and uncontrolled flow of migrants pose a huge healthcare related risk on the globe as well.

Taking into consideration that we all had to go through two very strict PCR tests, I assume that those who take part in the massive illegal waves of migration do not have two negative PCR tests from the last 48 hours. We have to put, Mr. President, the hypocrisy and political correctness aside, and we have to underline and understand that there is a strong correlation between illegal migration and organized crime. Since the migrants have to take advantage of the service of human smugglers and human traffickers, thus they contribute to the operation of these networks and we have to be aware that the so-called NGOs take part in these activities as well. Those so-called NGOs are encouraging the waves of illegal migration, they have absolutely untransparent financial background. The sooner the better, we have to stop the operation of these networks as well. Many times, these so-called NGOs are the best partners of the networks of human traffickers and smugglers and they take part in human trafficking as

well. We have to put more emphasis on pushing back these networks in the upcoming period of time.

Let me address another topic Mr. President and dear Colleagues, and this is the massive violation of the rights of the national, ethnic and religious minorities. We, Hungarians consider this issue very important for two reasons. First, because of history, many Hungarians live on the territories of our neighbouring countries. But on the other hand, we are a thousand-year-old Christian country and Christian nation, and we do bear the responsibility for our Christian brothers and sisters all around the world. We have to understand that Christianity became the most persecuted religion.

So far, we have spent sixty million dollars on helping more than seventy thousand Christians in the Middle East and in Africa, not to be forced to leave their homes where their communities have been living for centuries.

Dear Mr. President and dear Colleagues, on the 63rd session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the United Nations, which took place very recently, we have voted against the rescheduling of cannabis. We are proud to have done so together with Japan, because we think that rescheduling cannabis, considering it as a non-dangerous, non-risky object is an outrageous interference with the national drug policies of the countries. And this is a clear step towards drug liberalisation which we consider extremely dangerous.

And to be honest, we were shocked by the fact that the European Commission has launched infringement procedure against Hungary for this voting pattern, instead of making and increasing efforts to prevent the increase of drug use and drug consumption. Given that drug trafficking takes place almost entirely through a chain of organized criminal networks, I would like to emphasize that Hungary is also committed to the crime prevention and to the reduction of transnational and cross-border crime through effective international cooperation. Since 2014, the headquarters of the European Agency for Law Enforcement Training, has been located in Budapest. Hungary actively contributes to the law enforcement training between the member states of the European Union. Moreover, as a member of the EU's Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation, we are also committed to the international judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

Dear Mr. President and dear Colleagues, we have to continue our fight against crime, against organized crime, which is a more challenging task under the current pandemic crisis. We have to continue our fight against the increasing drug use and the drug trafficking as well. And here, I think this is the appropriate time and place to express our respect to all those police officers, prosecutors and judges who participate in this fight and contribute to the success of this fight. Under the current pandemic circumstances, their job is becoming more and more complicated. It is in our interest to be more and more successful and more and more effective in fighting against organized crime. That is why we have to show our respect to all these officers, prosecutors and all those who take part in this fight against crime.

Mr. President, dear Colleagues, once again thank you for the Japanese Ministry of Justice to host our congress this year and I hope that in the upcoming years it is not going to be something interesting and something extraordinary when it comes to personal meeting.

Thank you!