Your Highness the Emir of the State of Qatar,
Mr. Chairman,
Esteemed Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, please allow me to express my satisfaction and gratitude to the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar for extending a personal invitation to me to participate in the largest international forum on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. During the past six decades this forum has given, through the exchange of experience and promotion of new solutions to the complex issues with which the criminal justice and security structures are facing with, a monumental contribution to the shaping up of international and national strategies in this domain.

Allow me, above all, to express my sincerest approbation for the host state’s initiative, within the framework of the Youth Forum, to enable the younger generation to exchange views on the importance of the rule of law and its impact on the improvement of quality of their livelihoods and their future. The Republic of Serbia pays particular attention to the national approach in the context of participation of the public in crime prevention and strongly encourages partnerships among the youth, social and economic inclusion and respect for cultural and religious differences. We deem them valuable instruments for sustainable crime prevention as well.

Results of our arrangements stemming from this year’s Congress, in the form of recommendations and policies, shall contribute to our common fight against crime and bolster our cooperation in this area, which presents a building block for the creation of more just and more developed societies and better future for the younger generations. Our intention is to make their lives more secure and of better quality and for their judgement on what we have been able to achieve thus far to serve them as an impetus to continue further.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Exactly fifteen years ago, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted two groundbreaking documents- the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the UN Millennium Declaration. These two documents represent the most significant international instruments for a joint response of the UN Member States in the domain of sustainable development and combating all forms of organized crime.

Organized crime directly threatens and undermines the authority of the states, thus disabling their development. We, as representatives of the states, have a leading role in creating and preserving the institutional framework for a robust crime prevention in all its aspects. By the same token, we are duty-bound and obliged to cooperate and share this responsibility with the private sector, civil society and the media.

One of Serbia’s main priorities within the UN system is the fulfillment of the Millennium development goals and the adoption of the new global development agenda for the period after 2015, in whose drafting we had played an active role. Discrimination, injustice and poverty are directly linked to this phenomenon and crime growth. I honestly believe that once we succeed in providing education, jobs and personal development to everyone but at the same time a humane treatment and a holistic judicial system, crime would not have such a stronghold in the society and would present a threat to the prosperity of our countries on a much lower scale. We believe that the broad international consensus has been reached
pertaining to the rule of law and justice being the core elements for the enhancement of a sustainable social and economic development.

Today, the crime rates are such that they call for continuous work on the enhancement of international and regional cooperation in particular. The Republic of Serbia pays particular attention to strengthening of regional cooperation aiming at preventing international crime. Through the promotion of international and regional cooperation with a view to adopting an integrated approach to these issues within the UN system, the Republic of Serbia is endeavoring to provide its contribution, along with the other Member states, to the creation of technical expertise and assistance mechanisms against the backdrop of strengthening of capacities of national legislation in this regard.

The Republic of Serbia is active in the prevention and suppression of corruption, especially in the introduction of measures pertaining to the more transparent work of the state administration bodies and promotion of integrity and reliability of the criminal justice system. Fight against corruption is at the same time one of the priorities of our OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office which we assumed at the beginning of this year.

Observing the principles of the relevant UN Conventions, Serbia is undertaking all necessary measures in the domain of the fight against cyber-crime and money laundering, as well as in the cooperation in the area of the fight against trafficking in narcotics.

The Republic of Serbia is a Participating State in the Regional program for promotion of justice and security in the SEE region. Implementation of concrete projects envisaged by the Program, which are compatible with strategic priorities of Serbia, have yielded significant results in this field. Within the process of the design of the new Regional Program, over the next-three year period, the Republic of Serbia shall continue its active engagement, in respect of the rule of law and greater security within the region, jointly with other countries from the region, giving its particular contribution by hosting the first of 3 meetings, which is supposed to take place in Belgrade, in the next couple of days (April 16-17, 2015).

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Organized crime has long had a transnational dimension, knows no borders among the countries and does not divide them by the level of their economic advancement. All countries are presented with an equal level of threat of terrorism, it being the most vicious manifestation of politically and ideologically motivated violence, trafficking in human beings, illegal migration and exploitation of women and children. We are also witnesses of the appearance of new forms of crime- cyber-crime, illicit trade in cultural property, dangerous waste etc. The success achieved so far in the prevention of crime and our common fight against the modern crime manifestations is a testimony of our incessant efforts and strong political will in this direction but also of our need for better coordination in delivering better results.

This year is very significant to all of us since this year we will be marking the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Charter, as well as the 60th anniversary since the first UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice took place. Taking this into account, we must continue to, through our perseverance and constant desire to explore new possibilities to respond to the contemporary challenges, jointly contribute to the fulfillment of our aspirations towards a better, more just and a more developed world. The Republic of Serbia will continue to be an active UN Member and a constructive partner to all those who believe that can contribute, through their actions, to the common struggle and achievement of results in the fight for a safer, more just and more prosperous society.
In the end, against this backdrop, I would like to underscore my extinct pleasure due to the support which was given to us by the Member States in the form of our election, as members, into the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) which was established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which was held on April 8, 2015. During the three-year long mandate which will commence on January 1st next year, rest assured that the Republic of Serbia will seek to provide its contribution to the fight against crime within the UN system in the best possible way and with the same zeal which the Republic of Serbia is demonstrating within its own national framework.