



European Union

**Regional Workshop on the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT)**

***Vienna, 21-22 March 2023***

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- It is a great pleasure to be here today, together with Masood Karimipour, to open the UNODC Regional Workshop on the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.
- Only a few months ago, the UNODC, with the support from the EU and Canada, co-organised a successful event in Vienna to celebrate the 15 years anniversary of ICSANT, which is one of the key international instruments to mitigate the risks linked to nuclear proliferation by non-state actors.
- The current nuclear risks are unacceptable. In times as these when the rules-based international order is under tremendous pressure because of the gross violations of the UN Charter, it is more important than ever that we step up our efforts to promote the universalisation and the effective implementation of international legally-binding instruments such as ICSANT.
- The EU continues to encourage all UN Member States to join ICSANT and to establish a robust legal national framework which is required for an effective criminal justice response to intentional and illicit conduct involving nuclear or other radioactive materials.
- In this context, I very much welcome the organisation of today's dedicated workshop which brings together judges and prosecutors from South Eastern Europe. The Western Balkans remains important for the EU, given our efforts to promote regional cooperation and support the European perspective of the countries of the region. I hope you will find this workshop useful and that it will help you in your professional efforts to strengthen your national legal

and criminal justice response. As part of the judiciary, you have an essential role in ensuring that the law is correctly applied.

- The EU is pleased to support the work of the UNODC in this and other areas. Since 2018, the EU has contributed with 5 million euros in project funding to help the ICSANT grow, evolve, enhance, and improve. Last year, through this project, the ICSANT website was launched, offering good practices and model legislation to interested States. The EU has also supported the release of The Manual on Fictional Cases related to Offences under this Convention, as well as tailor-made e-learning modules and other training materials.
- We greatly appreciate the vast experience accumulated by the UNODC - and other international organisations such as the IAEA and UNICRI which are present here – in assisting States to build their capacities and reduce the likelihood that nuclear and other radioactive material falls into wrong hands and is used for terrorist or other criminal purposes.
- I would like to thank once again UNODC for the fruitful cooperation with the EU and wish all participants interesting discussions.

Thank you for your attention.