

32ND SESSION
COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Opening Segment
22 May 2023

Draft video message H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva,
President of the Economic and Social Council

Honourable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

It is a pleasure to address the thirty-second session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

The Commission plays a key role in advancing crime prevention and improving criminal justice systems, promoting the rule of law, and enhancing international cooperation to address all forms of crimes. Through these channels, the Commission makes an important contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I welcome the thematic focus of the thirty-second session of the Commission, which is *“Enhancing the functioning of the criminal justice system to ensure access to justice and to realize a safe and secure society”*.

Ensuring access to justice and realizing a safe and secure society are core commitments of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 16 and with important interlinkages with all other Goals.

I am also very pleased to see that the CCPCJ conducted a comprehensive follow-up to the Fourteenth Crime Congress, held in Japan in 2021, and has widely promoted the important policy commitments contained in its outcome, the Kyoto Declaration, including on crimes against the environment. I welcome the

Commission's preparatory work for the Fifteenth Crime Congress and look forward to hearing from your deliberations on these preparations.

Excellencies,

This year's High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development will focus on *Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels*. I thank the Commission for having submitted again a substantive contribution to enrich our discussions.

Your input will also be an important contribution to the upcoming milestone SDG Summit in September 2023, which will take place as we mark the mid-point to the 2030 Agenda deadline and will provide a vital opportunity to commit to concrete action to implement the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Like all of you, I welcome the recent announcement by the Director General of the World Health Organization of the end to COVID-19 as a global health emergency. However, the pandemic has posed long-lasting and cross-cutting, multifaceted challenges to the criminal justice system. We will need to continue to focus on the most vulnerable members of society, guided by the principle of "leaving no one behind". The work of the Commission is crucial to make criminal justice systems more effective, accountable, transparent, inclusive and responsive.

The Council will continue supporting the work of the Commission, including through facilitating its collaboration and coordination with other ECOSOC functional commissions.

I wish you fruitful deliberations and look forward to receiving the outcome of your session.

Thank you.