

ECOSOC Management Segment 2021

DRAFT SPEAKING NOTES FOR H.E. Mr. Alessandro Cortese, Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its thirtieth session

22 July 2021

SLIDE 1 – *Introduction*

Distinguished representatives,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to present the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which is the principle policy-making body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

SLIDE 2 – *30th session of the Commission*

This year the Commission held its regular thirtieth session from 17 to 21 May, in Vienna and online.

I am proud to report that our session brought together **1,115 participants** representing **125 Member States, 7 UN bodies and agencies, 15 intergovernmental organizations and 49 non-governmental organizations.**

I believe these numbers demonstrate the high relevance of the topics dealt with by the CCPCJ, and the importance that Member States attach to them.

The thirtieth session saw **84 online side events** - covering a wide range of topics related to crime prevention, criminal justice and rule of law.

SLIDE 3 – *Ceremonial Segment*

2021 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the Commission, established in 1992.

To commemorate this important date, we held a ceremonial opening segment on the first day of the May session.

We were very much honored by high-level speakers addressing this ceremonial segment, including Ambassador Munir Akram, President of ECOSOC.

SLIDE 4 – *Resolutions Adopted at the 30th CCPCJ*

Let us now take a look at the resolutions considered at the thirtieth session.

The Commission:

- **adopted** one CCPCJ resolution;
- **recommended** to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of another one; and
- also **recommended** – through the Economic and Social Council - the approval of five more resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly.

These resolutions – which are now before you for your consideration - cover a wide range of topics, such as:

- Combating crimes affecting the environment,
- Reducing reoffending,
- Integrating sport into youth crime prevention strategies,
- Strengthening criminal justice systems in light of COVID-19, and
- Measures to combat trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.

There is one more resolution on the follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice – and we will talk about it later in more detail.

I would like to underline here that all these resolutions contain elements that contribute to the implementation of specific sustainable development goals.

Equally important, most of these resolutions reflect the need to take into account the challenges either posed or further exacerbated by the pandemic, while designing and implementing crime prevention and criminal justice policies.

SLIDE 5 – CCPCJ contribution to the 2030 Agenda

During the thirtieth session, speakers highlighted that the Commission plays a key role with regard to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

Let's take a look at some concrete examples in this regard.

One example is that the **overall theme on preventing and countering the smuggling of migrants**, under which the Commission held its thirtieth session this year, is closely linked to Goal 16.

An interactive thematic discussion on this topic will be organized at the reconvened 30th session in December, to provide Member States and other relevant stakeholders with an opportunity to further exchange information in this regard.

Furthermore, the Commission had at the May session again a **standing agenda item** to facilitate an exchange of views on its contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Finally, the Commission has also this year, as was the case in previous years, submitted a substantive contribution to the **High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development** and we held, together with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs a side event during this year's HLPF. I had in addition the pleasure to participate as panellist in the Integration Segment

SLIDE 6 - Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

I would now like to say a few words about the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, for which the Commission acts as the preparatory and implementing body.

The Fourteenth Crime Congress was held from 7 to 12 March 2021 in Kyoto, Japan, under the overall theme “Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda”.

A record number of more than **5,600 participants** participated in the Congress, representing **152 Member States, 114 NGOs, 37 IGOs, 600 individual experts** and several UN entities and institutes.

Most of the participants took part in the Congress in an online format, via a special event platform, while a limited number of participants attended in person in the Kyoto International Conference Centre.

SLIDE 7 – Kyoto Declaration

At the opening of the Fourteenth Crime Congress, Member States adopted the Kyoto Declaration, which will represent in the years to come the **key political commitment on crime prevention and criminal justice**.

The Kyoto Declaration reaffirmed that sustainable development and the rule of law are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

It also took due account of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on crime prevention and criminal justice.

SLIDE 8 – Fourteenth Crime Congress: Follow-up

The Commission discussed the follow-up to the Fourteenth Crime Congress at its session in May, under a standalone agenda item.

As mentioned before, Member States negotiated a dedicated **resolution**, for adoption by the General Assembly.

In that resolution, the Commission endorsed the Kyoto Declaration as well as outlined policy and operational recommendations for the follow-up.

These include holding by the Commission **of intersessional thematic discussions** to effectively follow-up on the Kyoto Declaration, through the sharing of information, good practices and lessons learned.

SLIDE 9 - Conclusion

You can find all relevant information related to the CCPCJ and the Fourteenth Crime Congress on the respective websites and social media accounts which I invite you to visit.

The Commission is very much looking forward to continuing its cooperation with the Economic and Social Council in the period ahead.

Thank you very much for your attention.