

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset, I would like to convey my sincere congratulations to you for being elected as the Chairperson of the 27<sup>th</sup> session of the CCPCJ. I assure you that you can count on the full support and cooperation from the Japanese delegation.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to the Secretariat for their dedication in preparing this session.

Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me to start with the 14<sup>th</sup> Crime Congress to be held in Japan.

The Crime Congress, which is held every 5 years, is the largest and most diverse UN conference in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, and has been for over 60 years.

As decided at the previous session of the CCPCJ, the overall theme of the 14<sup>th</sup> Crime Congress will be “Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: toward the achievement of the 2030 Agenda”.

As for the venue, last year in August, Japan decided that the 14<sup>th</sup> Congress should be held in Kyoto.

Kyoto is the old capital of Japan and a major tourist attraction. But it is also the city where the 4<sup>th</sup> Crime Congress in 1970 was held. This will be the second time in 50 years that Japan will be hosting the Crime Congress and it will be our pleasure to host it in such a historic city.

This session of the CCPCJ will formally approve the venue and decide on the exact dates of the 14<sup>th</sup> Crime Congress.

Immediately after this morning session of the plenary, Japan will be organizing a side event on the preparation of the Crime Congress at room M3. We look forward to seeing you there and would like to welcome you all in Kyoto at 2020.

Mr. Chairperson,

The main theme of the 14<sup>th</sup> Crime Congress is closely associated with the Sustainable Development Goals, the SDGs. In this regard, Japan welcomes the initiatives by Member States such as the Conference on Sustainable Development, Crime Prevention and Peaceful Society, co-organized by the Government of Thailand and UNODC

To achieve these goals, Japan has taken numerous and wide-ranged measures, led not only by governments but also by other stakeholders.

In December last year, the Japanese government organized the “SDGs Action Plan 2018” designating eight priority areas.

One of these areas is “Achieving peaceful, safe and secure societies”. This is very much linked to Goal 16, which is the bedrock for sustainable development. In this regard, Japan would like to emphasize the importance of permeating the rule of law throughout society by fostering a culture of lawfulness.

Mr. Chairperson,

The year 2020 will mark 5 years since the adoption of the SDGs, and we will have 10 more years before reaching the targeted year 2030.

The 14<sup>th</sup> Crime Congress will be an excellent opportunity to reflect on the progress that has been made over the first 5 years, and to identify the challenges for the next decade.

Furthermore, looking beyond the 2020 Crime Congress, it is important to engage youth and explore how we can work together after 2020 to achieve our common goals.

We strongly believe that the 14<sup>th</sup> Crime Congress will be a great opportunity, and Japan has decided to organize a Youth Forum in close coordination with the UNODC.

Japan will continue to make every effort to bring the next Congress to a successful conclusion.

We look forward to your advice and support.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.