

Japan's statement under Agenda Item 4
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Thank you, Mr. Vice-President.

Let me begin by congratulating you on your election as Vice-President. I would also like to commend the secretariat for its diligent work in developing the discussion guide and working paper.

Mr. Vice-President,

To tackle this agenda item of addressing challenges facing the criminal justice system, Japan believes there is a clue embedded in the SDGs, in particular Goal 17. Goal 17 enshrines “multi-stakeholder partnerships” as a key to achieving all goals. This is also applicable to this agenda item.

Let me take one example of a common challenge facing our criminal justice systems: reducing reoffending, which has been discussed in depth during Workshop 2.

Mr. Vice-President,

To reduce reoffending, it is critically important to ensure rehabilitative environments throughout all stages towards reintegration, in particular, securing employment and housing, as well as providing counselling. All governments have a role in ensuring that offenders receive these various forms of support, but such support is not deliverable only by the government. Multi-stakeholder partnerships, particularly partnerships with the private sector and community volunteers, are essential.

For example, in Japan, to secure employment for released offenders, correctional facilities partner with the business sector to provide vocational training, enabling offenders to gain skills that are in demand and to secure employment immediately upon release.

To secure housing for released offenders, private organizations called “offender rehabilitation facilities” provide released offenders with temporary residences while they search for more permanent housing. In 2018, more than 10,000 released offenders were able to secure their temporary residences in these facilities.

In addition, community volunteers, called *Hogoshi*, play a significant role in offender

rehabilitation in Japan. *Hogoshi* accept probationers and parolees as neighbours, provide them with empathetic care, consultation and advice, and help them lead their lives without reoffending. There are more than 46,000 *Hogoshi* across Japan.

Mr. Vice-President,

Against the background of growing worldwide attention to reducing offending, the Kyoto Declaration contains a comprehensive set of paragraphs on this critical issue. These paragraphs place special emphasis on multi-stakeholder partnership.

Looking back at the history of the Crime Congress, this forum has contributed to the advancement of policies and practices on crime

prevention and criminal justice by developing relevant UN standards and norms.

Mr. Vice-President,

The Kyoto Declaration has been adopted. Now is the stage to implement it. Given the surge of worldwide interest in reducing reoffending, Japan would like to propose the development of a UN standard and norm on reducing reoffending. Japan believes this would raise awareness among the Member States and shape policies on reducing reoffending. Thank you.