

14<sup>th</sup> UN Congress  
on Crime Prevention and Criminal  
Justice  
Closing Statement by the President  
Ms. Kamikawa Yoko  
Minister of Justice, Japan

Excellencies,  
Distinguished participants,

I have the pleasure to address the  
Congress at its closing.

In the course of the last six days, we  
have discussed *what* challenges we are  
faced with, *how* we address them, and  
*with whom* we tackle them, in our  
endeavour to advance crime prevention  
and criminal justice in furtherance of

our effort to promote the rule of law and achieve the SDGs.

Allow me to share with you my key takeaways from our discussions.

I begin with the issue as to *what* challenges we are faced with.

There was general recognition that the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately impacted the most vulnerable.

It was noted that the pandemic has made those already left behind even further left behind.

Emphasis was given to the rule of law and the independence of judiciaries. They have been repeatedly challenged, and continue to be faced with evolving challenges.

The youth, in their recommendation of the Youth Forum, cautioned that rapid digitalization of the society has created huge risk and harm in cyberspace, including cybercrime, cyber-bullying and cyber-harassment.

I now turn to the issue on *how* we address these challenges.

There was broad consensus that the SDGs had become even more important at the moment when the fabric of societies was fraying. Accordingly, our pledge to achieve the SDGs is now crystallized into the Kyoto Declaration.

It is time to take action. Kyoto Congress and Kyoto Declaration are not goals but starting points.

Following the Declaration, our next step is to implement it to realize just, peaceful and inclusive societies.

We must abide by our commitment to achieve a society where no one is left behind. In doing so, I stress that the

most vulnerable that are exposed to hardships, such as extreme poverty, discrimination, social bias, and lack of access to justice, must not be left behind.

Let us make the year 2021 a landmark of our renewed commitment towards 2030.

Finally, I address the issue as to *with whom* we tackle these challenges.

The Kyoto Declaration gives us a straightforward answer. The Declaration guides us to engage *multi-stakeholder*

*partnerships* to prevent and combat crime.

This is in line with Goal 17 of the SDGs.

Target 16 of the Goal 17 states, and I quote: “enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by *multi-stakeholder partnerships* to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries.”

The concept of *multi-stakeholder partnerships* reflects a fundamental reality –no government, no community,

no civil society, and no individual can sustain alone.

After sixty-five years since its inception, the Congress continues to bring together diverse stakeholders, including governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, academia and individual experts.

Why does it so?

This is clearly because, to fight crime, seek justice and promote the rule of law, no stakeholder can succeed alone.

The diversity of the Congress is representative of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development and the

need for it to be complemented by *multi-stakeholder partnerships*.

It brings us to conclude that the significance of *multi-stakeholder partnerships* is all the more important as we collectively make efforts in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. This should be highlighted as the legacy of the Congress we must pass on to the next Congress and onwards.

Once again, let us collaborate. And let us cooperate.

Now is the time for solidarity. It is time to strengthen *multi-stakeholder*



*partnerships* to build just, peaceful and inclusive societies in our post- COVID-19 world.

Let us live up to our commitment hand in hand towards our brighter future from here where we unite - Kyoto.

Thank you very much.