

**THIRD ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS FOR THE DRAFT KYOTO
DECLARATION OF THE 14^o UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON
CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
(21 – 23 January 2020)**

Dear Ambassador Hikihara:

I would like to start by expressing our deepest appreciation to you and your team for your hard and excellent work. I would even dare to say that, with this document, you have already undertaken 80% or more of your work. And out of the remaining, half of it will be done this morning by getting us on-board with the model and approach you are putting to our consideration. The final push then will be basically to fine-tune the two components of the draft.

In that regard, Mr Chairperson, I would like to underscore that we fully subscribe to your approach: as I already mentioned, it will allow us to have focused discussions on each of the two components, thus avoiding mixing-up the nature of any proposal or suggestion that we may have.

For example, delegations feeling that the political message can be stouter may perfectly well propose language for doing so. One of such elements could be related to major developments that have taken place in-between Congresses, or the connections among past and future Congresses. On the contrary, those who think that there are a couple of important issues such as proportionality of the sentence, or the crimes that have a significant impact on the environment, can also make their proposals, in the appropriate section and with an action-oriented language, as you have already done it very proficiently.

At this point, Mr Chairperson, I do respectfully consider that the burden is more on our shoulders than on yours. We all know how difficult it can be to change our practices and customs in such

formalistic environments. But we have to be truthful with ourselves: the Doha Declaration developed a comprehensive political framework which continues to be valid today; any intention to reformulate it or to dissect it into false priorities would be counter-productive.

The added value that we see with your zero draft is precisely the possibility of sending a sturdy political message for transmitting the solid commitment of the international community to combat crime in all its forms, while identifying areas of action and concrete actions to be undertaken in the near future. That, Mr. Chairperson, is what this Congress is called upon to do, and that, my dear Ambassador, is what your draft is inviting us to do.

We look forward to engaging in the revision of the two components, in order to make specific proposals and comments.

Thank you very much,