**Statement Memo for Agenda item 9**

**Follow up to the 13th UN Crime Congress and Preparation for the 14th UN Crime Congress**

**Delivered by Mr. Yoshimitsu Yamauchi, Assistant Vice Minister of Justice**

**(Intro)**

* Thank you Mr. Chair,
* Japan, as the host country of the nextCongress thanks the UNODC secretariat for their excellent work in preparation for the 14th Crime Congress.

**(Congress preparation and Youth Forum)**

* As mentioned earlier in our statement, the 14th Congress will be held in Kyoto, in April 2020.
* Japan would like to thank the Member States for their support and cooperation, and welcomes the adoption at the COW of the resolution to confirm the venue and to decide the exact dates of the 14th Congress.
* Mr. Chair, Japan would like to underscore the importance of engaging the youth in our work towards achieving the 2030 agenda. Youth are the agents of positive change and torch bearer towards the future. In consultation with the UNODC, Japan decided to organize a Youth Forum prior to the Crime Congress in April 2020, to provide a forum for Youth to actively participate in our joint effort. The specific modality will be developed in due course and Japan looks forward to being able to announce the details to the Member States at the next session of the CCPCJ.

**(Discussion guide)**

Mr. Chair,

* Japan requests the discussion guide to be finalized promptly, so that it can serve as a useful basis for discussion at the regional preparatory meeting and the actual Congress in 2020.
* Regarding the content of the discussion guide, Japan appreciates its draft prepared by the secretariat. The discussion guide is well balanced and highlights the unique opportunity of the 14th Congress to take stock of the progress made by the Member States in the first 5 years since adoption of the SDGs, and to engage in strategic discussion to identify matters of priority towards the target year 2030 of such development goals.
* Mr. Chair, In order to further improve the draft discussion guide, Japan has a couple of suggestions for consideration.
* First point is to make a clear reference to the issue of reoffending under the Agenda item 4. The issue of reoffending will be addressed at the 14th Congress under workshop topic 2 entitled “Reducing reoffending: identifying risks and developing solutions. However, in order to keep the clear upstream and downstream connection between the agenda item and the workshop topic, Japan advise the secretariat to make clear reference to prevention of reoffending under both the agenda item 4 and workshop topic 2 of the discussion guide.
* Second point that Japan suggests is to encourage Member States to share good practices or positive experience in promoting a culture of lawfulness under the agenda item 5. Japan welcomes the current draft which recalls the general understanding we reached at the last session of the CCPCJ with regard to fostering a culture of lawfulness, which I quote that “there was a widely shared understanding of fostering a culture of lawfulness under the agenda item 5 as approach by governments towards the general public to promote trust and respect for the law and its enforcement”. Japan notes that some further fine tuning of the discussion guide in line with such understanding would be helpful, as we hope that it will foster active discussion and lead to positive outcome at the 14th Congress.
* Japan will continue to make every effort to bring the next Crime Congress to a successful conclusion. We look forward to receiving more inputs from the Member States and look forward to welcoming you all in Kyoto.
* Thank you for your attention.