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**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. MARTIN SAJDIK  
PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**High-level General Assembly Thematic Debate  
“Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the  
Post-2015 Development Agenda”**

**25 February 2015**

**Trusteeship Council Chamber, New York**

His Excellency Mr. Sam Kutesa, President of the General Assembly,  
Mr. Deputy Secretary-General,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

It is with great pleasure that I take part in this High-level General Assembly Thematic Debate. I wish to thank H.E. Mr. Sam Kutesa, President of the 69<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly for organizing it.

This timely event comes as we are finalizing the framework for the post-2015 development agenda, to be adopted at the United Nations Summit in September.

The outcome of today’s meeting will also be an important stepping-stone for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Doha in April.

Excellencies,

Globally, hundreds of thousands of people are the victims every year of crime, violence and armed conflict. More recently, violent extremism and terrorism have also become a global challenge. The impact of crime on sustainable development may be seen through its economic, social and environmental costs to society, which can be significant.

Crime prevention must be a component of all social inclusion policies and environmental protection policies, while organized crime and corruption have to be fought effectively in order to achieve economic prosperity.

As we consider the impact of crime on sustainable development, we must also address its economic, social and environmental root causes. Indeed, lack of economic opportunities and lack of social inclusion, as well as environmental insecurity, are a fertile ground for criminality.

The Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals recognized the substantive linkages by devoting one of its proposed goals, Goal 16, to promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions. The targets under this goal include explicit references to several forms of violence and crime, to justice and the rule of law and measures to combat corruption.

A sustainable development approach requires the formulation of effective integrated and multidimensional strategies. To be effective, the response must be also global: where national actions were sufficient over the past, multilateral strategies are now necessary. The use of statistics and big data could help improve public policy making.

Excellencies,

I believe that the ECOSOC is the unifying platform that would enable the cooperation among different stakeholders (member States, non-governmental organizations, civil society, private sector, academia – along with the UN system) required to formulate integrated strategies needed that would help to guide policy-making in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

In this, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice will play the central role in providing normative guidance. Horizontal cooperation between the CCPCJ and the other subsidiary bodies, in particular the Statistical Commission and the Commission on the Status of Women could provide useful cross-cutting policy guidance on a range of issues within crime prevention and criminal justice.

As we consider the post-2015 review architecture, we may wish to consider how the thematic reviews that will take place in the High-level Political Forum, under the auspices of ECOSOC, could take into account the normative work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which can then be channelled by the Council to the Executive Boards and the Specialized Agencies, Funds and Programmes for their support to countries in the field in the implementation of policy guidance.

I am confident that by leveraging the Council's ability to draw on its component parts, it can provide a gateway through which crime prevention and criminal justice could be meaningfully addressed in the post-2015 development agenda.

I thank you.