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I would like to refer to an alarming point in the report of the Secretary General where it is underlined that reports indicate organized crime-related homicides killed almost as many people as armed conflicts from 2015 to 2021. This finding alone leaves no room for the seriousness of the problem we are confronting.

We would like to highlight the particular relevance of providing security and justice for women, girls and for all children, taking into account the vulnerability of those groups. The situation of children who become victims of exploitation and gender-based violence, and who are targeted by terrorist or criminal groups, should be addressed with utmost care.

Mr. Chairman,

At national level, Türkiye has continued its efforts to uphold the rule of law through various initiatives. Recently, the Ministry of Justice announced its “2024-2028 Strategic Plan”, whereby “a not-delayed and foreseeable justice system, based on the rule of law” is put forward as the main vision. The overall mission is explained as “to foster and implement policies to render judicial services in a just, expeditious and effective way, based on the the rule of law, on the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, and on human rights”. The Strategic Plan aims at promoting institutional capacity of the judiciary, better achieving criminal justice, promoting right to defense and human rights.

Furthermore, Türkiye has entered into a number of mutual legal assistance treaties with different countries to streamline its joint judicial actions with its counterparts in line with human rights standards. These bilateral treaties contain clauses that ensure due process and observe the rule of law at all stages of judicial interaction.

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Mr. Chairman,

The full, equal and equitable participation at all levels in the international legal system cannot be overstated. We will continue to support the efforts of the UN to that end.

Thank you.