



**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES MAGISTRATS
UNIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE MAGISTRADOS
INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG DER RICHTER
UNIONE INTERNAZIONALE DEI MAGISTRATI**
PALAZZO DI GIUSTIZIA - PIAZZA CAVOUR - 00193 ROMA - ITALY

GREETINGS

from the International Association of Judges to the Union of Judges of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Please accept my greetings on behalf of the International Association of Judges (“IAJ”) to the Union of Judges of the Republic of Kazakhstan. This is the 8th Congress of the Union of Judges which traditionally takes place every four years with the participation of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. It is an honour for me, as President of the IAJ, to extend greetings on behalf of our members. Your association has been an active participant of the IAJ for a number of years and was the generous host of our annual meeting in 2019. We value your participation in the work of the IAJ.

It was only last year that the IAJ held its annual congress in Nur-Sultan in what has now become a very different world. None of us could have imagined how totally our world would change in 2020 and how difficult it has become for Judges to maintain their important work.

The meeting of the IAJ last year coincided with an important international justice forum in which Judges and court administrators participated. I was privileged to have welcomed distinguish guests and colleagues to that forum last year and noted its importance with the following words:

It is important that judicial associations and court administrators speak with each other about how best to achieve the objectives of, on the one

hand, providing justice in accordance with the Rule of Law by an independent judiciary, and on the other hand, providing it efficiently and within the constraints of the resources which are available. The two aspects of judicial administration (namely, the provision of justice and its administration) may sometimes come into conflict. The dictates of efficiency, and the limitations of resources, may sometimes put strains upon the delivery of impartial justice in accordance with the Rule of Law.

The thoughts behind those words have become even more important today as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The concern for our health by the uncontrolled spread of a virus has seen the suspension of some rights, freedoms and law. Our concern to save lives comes at a great cost to ensure that the Rule of Law is maintained and that judicial decisions are made independently.

We all thought that the response to the pandemic would be only a temporary interruption to the ordinary course of justice. We all thought that the Rule of Law and the independence of the judiciary would not be harmed long-term by what we thought was likely to be a short-term emergency. Events are showing us, however, that that is not the case. Events are showing us that the measures taken to deal with the pandemic are lasting longer and may have a lasting impact upon the Rule of Law, the independence of the judiciary and, of course, justice.

Last year I said that it was important that judicial associations and court administrators speak with each other about how best to achieve the objective of providing justice in accordance with law by an independent judiciary at the same time as providing it efficiently and within the constraints of the resources which are available. I repeat that sentiment and add that it is important for the voice of judges to be heard in how that objective is to be achieved. Your association is an important voice in your country. You see the daily impact of measures designed

to deal with the pandemic upon your independence, upon the Rule of Law, upon the administration of justice and upon the community. Your voice is independent of the disputes which parties bring to you and the interest of government. Your voice is the only voice through which the Rule of Law administered by independent Judges is likely to be expressed.

I welcome all of the delegates to the VIII Congress of the Union of Judges of the Republic of Kazakhstan. I am pleased to see that it is taking place even if it is occurring in less than ideal conditions. I wish you all the best in your deliberations and look forward to hearing of your outcomes.

G T Pagone