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### Closing remarks

Dear participants,

10 years ago, the ministers of Justice of the CoE member States gathered in the beautiful island of Lanzarote to discuss access to justice by children and migrants. It was against this backdrop that the Lanzarote Convention saw the light. 10 years later, we can be proud of the progress we have achieved.

The Lanzarote Community is thriving, getting stronger and bigger. One of the reasons is that we are ready to acknowledge and address our weaknesses. Another reason is that we are eager to unleash the potential of an even stronger partnership.

Let me thank in particular to those who, during these two days have open their hearts and shared with us the most difficult moments of their lives. Their stories bring purpose to our work. They also give direction.

Since 2006, Ending all violence against children has been a pillar of the Council of Europe strategies on the rights of the child. As you have no doubt noticed during the conference, the whole Council of Europe is mobilized to realize the vision of a Europe fit for children. Working together, we build synergies and keep filling the gaps and removing the obstacles to the protection of children from sexual violence.

The Ad-Hoc Committee on the Rights of the Child (the CAHENF) is addressing a number of issues closely related to the topics you have addresses these days. These include the preparation of guidelines on the rights of the child in the digital environment as well as guidelines on safeguards for migrant and refugee children. The work in the field of child participation and child friendly justices will also help member States to implement the Lanzarote Convention.

During these days, we also had the pleasure to count on the contribution of the group of experts involved in the project Pro Safe Sports +, a joint project of the EU and the CoE addressing sexual abuse of children in sport. Very soon, the results of this work will be helping sport federations and clubs, coaches, parents and children to prevent and respond to abuse.

We also look forward to discussing further in the Lanzarote and other committees how to better support our member States in achieving the SDGs. The countdown to 2030 has already started and the clock is ticking.

Last, but not least, let me thank you for the boost that your support, contribution and commitment represents for our team. As you all know, sexual abuse of children is a very difficult topic and we often work with a pit in our stomachs. It is rewarding and uplifting to notice we are making progress and that we are not alone.

Thank you very much and safe trip back home!