

**TENTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON THE  
PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF  
OFFENDERS**

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY HIS EXCELLENCY  
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**KINGDOM OF NORWAY**

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**Check against delivery**

Mr. President,

Let me first echo other delegations in congratulating you on your election as President of the High level segment.

Norway highly welcomes the important work of this Congress, which it considers to be of crucial importance for meeting the challenges of combating transnational, organised crime.

Norway strongly believes that the ongoing negotiations for setting up a Convention against Transnational Organised Crime with three additional protocols will initiate a new chapter in global cooperation in the field of fighting international crime. We remain strongly committed to the finalization of the draft convention and the three protocols during the upcoming sessions of the Ad hoc Committee. The completion of the four legal instruments this year is a matter of urgency. The longer we negotiate, the more offences orchestrated by transnational organized crime will remain unpunished, and the more victims will suffer from the lack of a regime for global cooperation. Provided that the negotiations are concluded in a satisfactory manner, which we are confident they will, Norway will rapidly move to implement the Convention and the protocols through national legislation.

The negotiations on the Convention have been brought forward in an efficient manner and we would like to pay tribute to the Secretariat and to the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, Ambassador Lauriola, in this respect.

In a process of setting up such a comprehensive international legal instrument, the inclusion of all countries is a vital question. Norwegian authorities therefore have provided a voluntary contribution for the participation of the 'Least Developed Countries' in the negotiations.

One part of the Convention, which in our view is of particular importance in this global effort, is the fight against and the effective criminalization of corruption. Corruption is a barrier for development based on economic growth, social partnership, good governance and transparency. Therefore, Norway also welcomes the initiative for a separate legal instrument against corruption that includes all forms of corruption, not only acts related to organised crime.

While the Convention provides an overall framework for increased cooperation globally, the three protocols address specific areas that urgently need international attention, and involve forms of criminal activities that are under constant attention and surveillance by the Norwegian government.

Of special concern is the increased level of trafficking in human beings such as trafficking in women, sexual exploitation of children and young adults for profit making purposes in the form of pornography, as well as prostitution. This has in the later years assumed new and alarming dimensions at both the national and international level. New technology, like Internet, has expanded the profitable market for pornography, including child pornography.

Furthermore, the increase in global travelling and tourism has made it easier for offenders to travel to countries with the purpose of exploiting children and young adults for sexual purposes.

From a Norwegian point of view, there is a need for harmonising the national legislation on trafficking in human beings, especially as regards sexual exploitation of children and young adults, in order to improve the coordination and effectiveness of action taken at national and

international level. Furthermore, we must put forth measures that make the public aware of the devastating effects of transforming women and children into objects of consumption.

It is obvious that trafficking in human beings can not be seen as a national issue. It calls for international cooperation on a variety of issues. The protocol under consideration by the Ad hoc Committee greatly contributes to this work

As for the firearms protocol, Norway aim for a protocol that can become a decisive tool in preventing the alarming increase in illicit trafficking of firearms, both internationally and to and across our own territory. We see the firearms protocol as an important contribution to global human security. On a national level we will certainly benefit from a number of technical elements in the draft text, such as standards for deactivation and record keeping.

Mr. President, law enforcement in Norway is to a large extent focused on developing new methods in crime prevention, and we believe that modern and well functioning programs in this field are of substantial importance to avoid the increase of several kinds of crime.

Prevention of crime is an issue that is given priority by the Norwegian government, and is an integral part of the general strategy for fighting crime in Norway. Crime prevention is a response not only related to the judicial system, but to the society as a whole. Norway therefore has attached importance to improve coordination between local authorities and the police. The Norwegian government has recently put forward an action plan for the prevention of crime among juveniles. This action plan is a joint document for all ministries and agencies involved. An important measure is to assist the local communities in reinforcing the cooperation on a community level between the schools, the social services, the police as well as voluntary organisations.

The Norwegian police force has an obligation to focus on efficient problem solving in its assessment of what measures to apply in fighting crime. This is a method, which require good knowledge of the local conditions. Community policing, which includes close contact with the public, is given priority in the Norwegian police service. Still, there is always a need for developing new strategies and methods to meet future and changing challenges.

New types of crime require new responses. I would therefore like to draw the attention of the Congress to the international computer conference "Internet as the Scene of Crime" to be held in Oslo 29-31 May. The conference will offer an excellent opportunity to in-depth discussions on the challenges of Internet crime.

Norway welcomes the development of the UN Centre for International Crime Prevention into a body also providing technical assistance in key areas. For Norway it is important that all UN agencies focus on their comparative advantages. The centre has to find its role among a number of multilateral agencies. We believe that the Crime Centre has an important role to play in the field of international police and judicial cooperation. Norway has therefore already decided to provide voluntary contributions to both the Global Programme against Corruption and the Global Programme on Trafficking in Human Beings.

Mr. President, the tenth UN Crime Congress will guide our future cooperation. There are a number of regional cooperation initiatives on criminal justice around the world. Regional efforts, however, should not - and can not, substitute global ones. However, we should not forget the challenge and responsibility we now confront on a *national* level, to implement and give a convincing follow-up to the global thinking and measures of the Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its additional protocols.

Thank you, Mr. President.