Statement by Norway

[as held]

Chair,

- Norway warmly welcomes the consensus agreement on the basic documents for the second phase of the Implementation Review Mechanism.
- Our thanks and congratulations go to all delegations and the Secretariat for their hard work and flexibility, and in particular to you, Chair, for your leadership in bringing this process to a successful conclusion.
- Over the past years, Norway has consistently advocated for a more effective, transparent and inclusive review mechanism. We are pleased to have adopted the basic documents for the next review phase, which sets the backdrop for achieving these objectives.
- We welcome the increased focus on follow-up measures in the second phase of the review mechanism. By tracking progress, reforms and remaining challenges since previous reviews, the mechanism can provide a clearer picture of implementation and better identify technical assistance needs.
- Ultimately, the value of the IRM will be measured by whether reviews lead to concrete reforms and more effective action against corruption.
- Civil society, particularly the UNCAC Coalition, deserve special thanks for their constructive engagement throughout the process. Through active involvement and substantive contributions, they have helped shape a review mechanism that will serve as a more effective and useful tool for strengthening implementation of the Convention in the years ahead.
- Broader participation by civil society, academia, the private sector and other stakeholders in the second phase is an important step forward, strengthening the quality and legitimacy of country reviews.
- While Norway had hoped to go further on transparency, the new framework represents important progress. We encourage all States Parties to publish their full country review reports, and share lessons learned as widely as possible.

Chair,

- At a time when multilateral cooperation is under pressure, our joint progress towards a more open, inclusive and accountable review mechanism is a solid achievement.
- Norway remains committed to a strong and effective Implementation Review Mechanism, and looks forward to working with all States Parties and the UNODC to commence country reviews under the second phase as soon as possible.

I thank you.