

**Statement by Norway at the thirty-second session of the
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,
Vienna 22 – 26 May 2023**

Chair,

Dear colleagues,

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice has an important role in enhancing criminal justice systems, providing access to justice and promoting safe and secure societies. Achieving these objectives is vital if we wish to fulfil the commitments in Sustainable Development Goal 16.

As we speak, however, the international community is facing serious threats to our common goal of peaceful and inclusive societies. The Russian Federation's unprovoked and ongoing aggression against Ukraine has led to massive suffering, large-scale humanitarian needs and destruction of civilian infrastructure. The Russian aggression is a clear violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We condemn Russia's attack against Ukraine in the strongest possible terms.

War - as well as organized crime - undermine sustainable development, rob states of tax revenues and stimulates corruption. They have devastating effects on human health, as well as global peace and security.

Chair,

Combating environmental crime is of high priority for Norway. We encourage all countries to step up their efforts, and to support civil society and human rights defenders in their important work.

The Kyoto declaration emphasizes the importance of an *evidence base* for strategies to prevent crime and improve the delivery of justice. In recent years, countries have become increasingly aware that a main weakness often is found in the way law enforcement representatives communicate with suspects, witnesses and victims during interviews and court proceedings.

While great achievements have been made in developing technical tools for law enforcement and in many parts of forensic science, there has not been the same scientific approach to understanding the process of interviewing. One result is that countries have had to face cases of miscarriages of justice that have had catastrophic consequences for those involved.

With the development of *the Mendez principles on effective interviewing for investigations and information gathering*, launched two years ago, we have an example of evidence-based standards for law enforcement. Norway welcomes UNODC's efforts in promoting these standards world-wide.

Chair,

Violence against women remains widespread at all levels of society, in all countries in the world. Norway is no exception in this regard. We believe a coordinated approach from relevant authorities and civil society is needed to prevent gender-related violence. Strategies must be evidence-led.

In 2018, the Norwegian government launched an Intimate Partner Homicide Commission tasked with reviewing a range of domestic homicide cases. The objective was to strengthen the knowledge base regarding risk factors and possible signs of warning.

The review showed that most homicides took place after one or more signs of warning. In the Commission's view, the case examination shows that there is significant potential for preventing domestic homicides.

Following the commission's recommendation, the Government is establishing a permanent partner homicide commission. The aim is to learn from shortcomings and to further develop the work of preventing severe domestic violence and homicides.

We encourage other countries to develop broad and evidence-led strategies to prevent violence against women.

Thank you, Chair.