

**Statement by Norway at the thirty-fifth session of the Commission
on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,
Vienna 1– 5 June 2026**

Chair,
Dear colleagues,

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice must fulfil its role in enhancing criminal justice systems, providing access to justice and promoting safe and secure societies, in a manner that is gender responsive, age sensitive, and in full compliance with international law and international human rights obligations. Achieving these objectives is vital if we wish to fulfil the commitments in Sustainable Development Goal 16.

Chair,
(environmental crime)

The CCPCJ must adapt and respond to emerging forms of crime. Norway would like to highlight the issue of organized environmental crime. Large-scale organized environmental crime significantly contributes to the global loss of biodiversity, climate change as well as pollution. Large-scale organized crime undermines our efforts towards sustainable development, as illegal operations by companies deplete public resources, deprive states of tax revenues, and foster corruption.

Environmental crime is one of the largest, fastest-growing, and most profitable global illicit sectors, and accounts for a very substantial portion of transnational organized crime.

Norway welcomes robust cross-border collaboration among law enforcement agencies and enhanced international cooperation in developing strengthened legal frameworks.

We take note of the discussions since the last CCPCJ that took place in the open-ended intergovernmental expert group on crimes that affect the environment falling within the scope of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. We welcome a continued dialogue on the possible development of any additional protocol to the convention aimed at preventing and combating crimes that affect the environment.

(Review mechanism)

The review mechanism for the implementation of the Convention against transnational organized crime was created in order to improve our responses to organised crime.

We see that the mechanism is moving slowly forward, and not producing the expected results.

Norway is among the many countries struggling to fulfil our obligations in the process.

On this occasion, we wish to pay tribute to the strong efforts made from the UNODC secretariat to support countries. Despite their lack of resources, we experience a positive and innovative approach from the secretariat that is highly motivating for the national experts tasked with conducting the review.

We encourage state parties to give priority to the tasks we all have agreed to undertake, in order to make the review mechanism an efficient instrument for increased efforts against organised crime.

(Participation from civil society)

Many of our countries experience instability, with rising conflict, displacement, and mounting pressure on our communities and organizations trying to hold the line against organized crime.

This is now a serious threat in several parts of the world, as organized crime actively adapts to and exploits instability, making the work of civil society more critical and more difficult than ever.

Organised crime thrives when restrictive laws make it harder for civil society – journalists, activists and civil society organisations - to operate securely and freely.

Our goal in such times must be to ensure that civil society not only is present at the international stage, but is recognized and treated as essential partners in the global response to organized crime.

Local actors know their communities and what works, and are often the first to respond.

We urge all countries to build resilience against organised crime by empowering all relevant civil society stakeholders.

Finally, Mr. Chair, Norway takes this opportunity to warmly welcome the new Executive Director of UNODC Monika Juma to Vienna. We look forward to working closely with you as a strong and reliable partner of UNODC.

Thank you, Chair.