

NORWAY. NATIONAL STATEMENT UNTOC COP 13

Ambassador Rolf Einar Fife

President,

Let me at the outset congratulate you on the election of president of this session, and I assure you and the elected bureau of the full support of the Norwegian delegation

Transnational organized crime is rapidly evolving, and our response must evolve with it. Our efforts must be firmly anchored in full and effective implementation of the UNTOC convention and its Protocols. We are pleased that the Abu Dhabi Declaration sets a clear agenda for the coming years.

President,

The recruitment and use of children by organized criminal groups is a major challenge, also in Norway. We see a negative development with young offenders committing very violent and serious crimes, including linked to criminal networks.

Social media provide criminal networks with broad reach and easy access to children and young people.

Many who let themselves be recruited face significant and complex challenges, making them vulnerable to well-organized criminal networks that offer money, status, and a sense of belonging.

Violent assignments are communicated through digital platforms that function as marketplaces for the ordering, coordination, and facilitation of violent acts.

The combination of criminal networks and rapid recruitment of children and juveniles into criminal activity, gives rise to serious concern. These networks are transnational, and we need coordinated international action.

Norway has responded in a number of ways on a national level, including by introducing a new criminal provision that penalizes the *involvement* of minors in criminal activities.

President,

We are grateful to the secretariat for preparing conference papers on how to strengthen the future effectiveness of the Review Mechanism.

We are at a critical juncture.

Norway is among the countries struggling to fulfill its tasks in the review process. The secretariat has provided us with tremendous assistance and guidance throughout, and we have drawn the conclusion that such *substantive* support by the secretariat throughout the whole review process is invaluable.

We are grateful for the clear messages from the secretariat and we urge all to carefully consider possible measures that can bring the review mechanism rapidly forward.

Finally, President,

Crimes that affect the natural environment are a growing threat and generate billions in illicit profits for organized criminal groups. Because this type of organised crime is international in nature, our response must be founded on international cooperation. The intergovernmental expert group on crimes that affect the environment brought gaps in the international legal framework to light. Norway supports the ongoing discussions at the COP to address such gaps.

Thank you