

Closing Statement of President H.E Amb. Amina C. Mohamed at the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

Director General, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, the fifth Conference of UNTOC that is ending today has provided a unique and very special opportunity to all of us to make a contribution on a subject that is of unparalleled importance. We all came to this Conference fully aware of its significance in the fight against transnational organized crime and of the importance of reaching a common understanding for concrete advances and I believe we have an outcome that provides very clear signals to everybody outside this room that the Governments that are gathered here want the implementation of UNTOC and its Protocols to move full speed ahead, that our commitment to fight all forms of transnational organized crime has not wavered and that our commitment is both tough and smart.

We are of one mind that national and international organized crime raises the level of violence, fraud, corruption, steals our children's' youth, shatters their dreams, destroys our neighbourhoods, weakens our instruments of governance, strangles free enterprise. Examples of desperation and destruction in our communities is all around us and in all parts of the world, from the poorest corners to some of the wealthiest. For it is true that in the context of our globalized environment organized crime syndicates have no states, they are decentralised and they move freely across borders. Links have developed between and among them and their greatest motivation remains greed, which knows no bounds and enormous financial gain.

But it has been said before on this particular subject that “the world is full of suffering, it is also full of overcoming suffering”. That is why as parties to UNTOC we agree that we require every capability within the national and international toolkit to be used in a robust and effective manner, equally important in this fight is multi-national and multi-agency cooperation. As law abiding citizens of this, our common space, I believe we have the political will and the courage not to allow those who profit from a life of crime to enjoy its financial benefits.

As I said during the opening of our Conference we have done some work but a lot remains to be done but in fact our Executive Director Mr. Fedotov said it much better on being asked at a press conference whether we had lost the war against organized crime since there seem to be more incidents of organized crime. He responded “we have not lost the war but we have not won it yet” and I think probably that was the best way to express the feelings of all of us.

I would like to express my personal appreciation for the assistance of the extended Bureau and the Bureau in the work of the fifth session of the Conference. I also want to thank all of you, all delegations for the spirit of cooperation and comrpise that they have shown that has enabled us to successfully complete our work.

I would also like to thank the people who worked behind the scenes, from the conference room officers, who have assisted us so ably this week, all the conference service staff that have serviced the meeting, including those who have edited, translated, reproduced and distributed our documentation.

I think I speak for all of you when I express our appreciation to all secretariat staff that have contributed to and facilitated our work by preparing the documentation and drafting of the report of the session, as well as for providing advice and support to all delegations at various stages of our deliberations.

Finally our thanks go to our interpreters and the technical staff in the sound cabin, without whom our work would have been much more difficult, in fact probably impossible.

Finally let me wish all of you returning home a safe journey home and to all and everyone of you a well-deserved restful weekend.