Secretary-General Guterres,
Prime Minister Solberg,
Executive Director Fedotov,
Ambassador Bouchaara,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very happy to have this opportunity to welcome you all to Vienna on the occasion of the twenty-seventh session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. As representative of the host country, I am especially honoured and delighted to have the privilege of the Secretary General's presence here today.

Your participation, Secretary General, is a highly welcome and merited expression of your appreciation of the importance of the work of this Commission and also of UNODC in general.

Phenomena such as cybercrime, human trafficking or the linkages between terrorism and organized crime are issues we must address in a determined, evidence-based way if we are to achieve progress towards realizing the 2030 agenda.
Let me emphasize at this point that not only UNODC but also all other organizations in the VIC have crucial contributions to make to achieving the SDGs.

Needless to say, Austria is doing and will continue to do everything possible to support them in this endeavour.

Furthermore, I would like to take this opportunity to stress that my country, as an ardent advocate of effective multilateralism, fully stands behind your efforts, Secretary General, to increase efficiency, accountability and transparency within the United Nations system.

We are ready to work closely together with you in order to ensure that this reform process further enhances the ability of the Vienna Based Organizations to contribute to the fulfilment of the UN system’s crucial task to steer mankind towards a peaceful, prosperous future and to preserve our planet for future generations.

Turning back to the agenda before the Committee assembled here this week, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Bouchaara on taking over the CCPCJ chair. I am convinced that with your able leadership and guidance, this session will be a full success. Rest assured that Austria will spare no efforts to support you in that task.

Let me conclude by once more expressing Austria's gratitude to the Secretary General for honouring us with his visit and by wishing all of you every success in the current CCPCJ session.

Thank you for your kind attention.