



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MRS NADA KRUGER AT THE 30TH SESSION
OF THE COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL
JUSTICE (CCPCJ), 17 MAY 2021, VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

(To be checked against delivery)

Mr. Chair,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. On behalf of my Government and delegation I congratulate the Chair and other members of the Bureau on their election to the 30th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. You are assured of Namibia's full support, and we wish the Commission success.
2. I also wish to commend the Secretariat for the preparation for this session.
3. Namibia aligns herself with the statements delivered by the African Group and the Group of 77 and China respectively.

Mr. Chair,

4. Namibia welcomes the discussions on "Effective measures to prevent and counter the smuggling of migrants, while protecting the rights of smuggled migrants, particularly women and children, and those of unaccompanied migrant children". It is our considered view that the smuggling of migrants, particularly women and children, as a form of human trafficking, is a serious crime that is committed by sophisticated organised groups, and which requires an equally sophisticated and organised response by States. To this extent, we underscore the obligation that States have under the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol to prevent smuggling, but more importantly also to protect the rights of smuggled migrants, particularly women, children and unaccompanied children.

Mr Chair,

5. In Namibia, the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol is used in the investigation and prosecution of smuggling of migrants as well as protecting the rights of smuggled migrants under the Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2018 (Act No. 1 of 2018), which seeks, *inter alia*, to criminalise human trafficking and to provide protection measures to victims of trafficking.
6. At the regional level, Namibia is a State Party to the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa, that creates a framework for a regular migration dialogue among the Member States of the Southern African Development Community and enhances inter-state cooperation in an effort to improve migration governance.

Mr. Chair,

7. Namibia strives towards fulfilling the implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto and the United Nations Convention against Corruption. We recognise that trade in illicit wildlife, cybercrime, corruption, money laundering, human trafficking, drug trafficking and terrorism not only pose a threat to national peace and security but also to regional and global peace and security. Therefore, my delegation underscores the importance of International Cooperation in preventing and fighting transnational organised crime.

8. We look forward to constructive participation in the Review mechanisms of both the Conventions and welcome the assistance received from the UNODC in preparation for the review cycles. In this regard we need to iron out all cooperation challenges experienced between States to enhance cooperation.

9. Namibia joins others in expressing concern regarding the increasing challenges posed by cybercrime, including child sexual abuse, which was exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. These challenges need a common unity of purpose, and therefore my delegation welcomes the establishment of the Cybercrime Ad Hoc Committee, the election of Amb Mebarki of Algeria as Chair, and looks forward to constructive negotiations in establishing an international instrument on Cybercrime.

10. Let me at this juncture thank the Government of Japan for the outstanding organization of the 14th Crime Congress. During the congress Namibia had the opportunity to showcase the success of our collaboration with the UNODC in prison-based rehabilitation programmes. We hope to continue building on this strong technical cooperation basis.

11. **In conclusion, Mr Chair, allow me to express Namibia's condemnation of the violence in the Gaza strip. Namibia expresses solidarity with the Palestinian people, and calls on the Israeli forces to end the violent acts against the Palestinian people.**

I thank you.