

NORWAY'S OPENING STATEMENT CCPCJ 2021

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to see representatives from across the globe gathered this week to discuss issues of common concern.

However, I am deeply concerned that crime is becoming increasingly transnational, organized and sophisticated in its use of new technologies. States are responsible to protect and promote all human rights in our effort to prevent and combat crime.

There is one particular kind of crime that is of special concern to me. This crime is linked to high-value objects, and made possible through widespread financial crime such as corruption. It funds terrorist groups and organized crime. Consequently, it constitutes a direct threat to global security.

I am talking about environmental crimes.

Environmental crimes affect the vulnerable and marginalized people in areas where the crimes are committed, while also affecting us all at a global scale through its ripple effects.

These are crimes that affects ecosystems, and with them water resources and livelihoods of many.

These are crimes that have devastating effects on species of animals and plants, going extinct because of aggressive poaching.

Large-scale illegal logging affects the global climate that we all depend on, whether we live in Bogotá or in Bergen.

Illegal mining is funding terrorist groups and weakens fragile states.

Those who expose environmental crime, including indigenous peoples, activists and journalists, play a vital role in revealing such crime. They take considerable risks to their own lives and health by doing so. Countries must strengthen their commitment to protect environmental defenders.

We must work together – across borders and missions – to prevent, disrupt and prosecute those who benefit from illegal exploitation of natural resources.

This year, I am excited that we will be negotiating a first resolution that covers all environmental crime areas.

I am thankful to France for taking lead, and for all member states that are working hard to make the resolution *Preventing and Combatting Crimes that Affect the Environment* as strong as possible.

Norway is a proud supporter of various initiatives, including collaboration between UNODC, INTERPOL and civil society. I hope this meeting will catalyse increased support to fight environmental crime.

With this, I wish us all a very successful meeting.

Thank you!