

Opening 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, I would like to thank you most sincerely for the honour of electing me President of the fifth session of the Conference. Allow me to express my appreciation to the African Group for the trust the members have shown in nominating me and to my colleagues at the Kenyan Mission for their support and encouragement.

Distinguished Participants, I wish on your behalf to thank Assistant Secretary Elizabeth Verville for her able and selfless leadership. Elizabeth, as we express our gratitude to you, we must remember that the highest honour we can bestow on you is to carry your work and effort to the next level paying particular attention to the areas that you devoted much work and effort to. I am indeed gratified that you continue to be a member of the Bureau for we all have much to learn from you and there is so much more that you must contribute to our common effort to rid the world of these hideous forms of crime.

On my part, I very much welcome the opportunity to serve the conference in this capacity especially at this tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The fifth Conference provides a unique and excellent opportunity to take stock of the road travelled so far and to renew our commitment to the Convention and its ideals by achieving the objectives that we set for ourselves at this Conference. I believe it is particularly critical that we reaffirm our readiness to effectively deal with what one would call the traditional forms of transnational crime even as we prepare to tackle new and emerging forms of crime. In doing that we must be guided by Ghandi's words: "The difference between what we do and we are capable of doing would suffice to solve most of the worlds problems".

I am sure you agree with me that we have made some progress in the last ten years but it is also true that a lot remains that requires concerted effort, that requires focused attention and creative and innovative ideas as well as additional resources. We have set standards, we have created awareness, we have provided technical assistance and learnt from each others best practices. Our efforts, however, have been undermined by inadequate resources, by quickly mutating forms of crime by possible relationships between different forms of crime and by new and re-emerging forms of transnational crimes.

So much remains to be done and time is of the essence if we are to stay ahead of the architects of crime so in the days ahead as we carry out our responsibilities all of us together, let us remember the words of Leo Tolstoy: "I now understand that my welfare is only possible if I acknowledge my unity with all the people of the world without exception". I am confident dear delegates that the deliberations of this fifth session will yield tangible results that will enable State Parties to advance international measures in combating crime including by working on progress towards a review mechanism. However, given the agenda before us is quite lengthy our concerted efforts are required in order for us to make meaningful progress. I therefore call on your full cooperation throughout this session.