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**Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and  
Criminal Justice**

**Statement to the High-level segment**

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Mr President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

First, I would like to thank the Government of Thailand for its warm welcome and generous hospitality. Let me also thank the Thai Government and the United Nations bodies for their work in preparing this congress. It has been excellently organised with interesting and constructive discussions.

Previous crime congresses have had considerable impact on the international crime prevention and criminal justice area, and have influenced national policies and professional practices. Norway is convinced that this congress, too, will play a significant role in the fight against crime.

Since the Vienna Congress, the changes in the global "crime picture" have been dramatic. The fight against international terrorism has moved to the centre of public attention, and been placed high on the political agenda. Terrorism is not only a domestic challenge, but also an international concern that requires co-operation.

The priorities of international crime prevention have shifted from traditional crime, to transnational organised crime, terrorism, trafficking in human beings, corruption and money laundering.

Before making further remarks, I would like to remind you that Norway associates itself with yesterday's statement by the European Union.

Mr President,  
Norway has signed and ratified the Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its three additional protocols. The Entry into force of this convention and two of its protocols is a milestone in the global fight against transnational organised crime. We encourage all Member States to ratify the convention and its protocols.

Mr President,  
Let me turn to the serious crime – trafficking in human beings. In line with the Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocol against Trafficking in Persons, comprehensive action at national, regional and international level is necessary in this area.

The Norwegian Government has established a Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Women and Children. Within this framework Norway has allocated considerable means to projects targeting trafficking in human beings in a number of countries in Europe, Asia and Africa.

We are currently working on a new three-year plan that will be launched in June this year. The establishment of comprehensive victim assistance and protection mechanisms are key factors in getting victims to testify against the perpetrators.

Mr President,

The problem of witness intimidation has increased over the past decades, and there is a growing recognition of the need for witness protection in criminal proceedings. Establishing witness protection programmes and international co-operation is thus of great importance. In line with the UN conventions, Norway has amended its legislation to ensure witness protection, and witness protection programmes have been set up.

Mr President,

The Norwegian authorities give high priority to the fight against corruption. Corruption causes major problems and constitutes a threat to the rule of law, democracy, human rights and social justice. Corruption can also impede sustainable development and distort competition. It is a problem for all countries and, not least, harmful to developing countries. Combating corruption requires national as well as international efforts.

In 2004 the Norwegian Government launched a new extensive Action Plan against Economic Crime, proposing a number of measures at national and international level. Let me stress, the fact that the fight against corruption constitutes an important part of Norwegian development policy.

The Norwegian Government has established an Anti Corruption and Money Laundering Project under the leadership of special adviser Eva Joly. The project is used both on national and international levels. Its activities include among other, awareness raising measures, and involvement in evaluations related to follow-up mechanisms in the FATF, GRECO and the OECD.

Mr President,

Norway played an active role during the negotiation of the UN Convention against Corruption. Norway signed the convention in Mexico in December 2003. I am pleased to inform you that my Government will recommend the Parliament to give its consent to the ratification of this Convention as soon as possible within this year.

The Convention is comprehensive, and is the first global instrument designed to fight corruption. It will be a useful tool and necessary framework to this end. The Convention will not, however, solve our common corruption problems and serve its purpose, unless it is effectively enforced. We cannot allow any disparity between what is said, and what is done. This would undermine the credibility of the Convention as well as the credibility of States in their fight against corruption.

It is therefore of the utmost importance to have an effective and objective follow-up mechanism. Norway urges all Member States to consider the best way to achieve this - before the Conference of the States Parties takes place.

Mr President,

Terrorism has become a major threat to international peace and security. We cannot accept the undermining of international and national rule of law by acts of terrorism. In order to combat this evil, international co-operation is crucial. All Member States must refuse to give safe haven to those who finance, plan, support or commit terrorist acts. Any person who participates in such crime must be brought to justice.

The Norwegian Government clearly recognises the United Nations' central role in the global response to terrorism. We have ratified the 12 universal UN Conventions and protocols against terrorism and taken a number of legislative measures in this respect.

There is broad international consensus that every available measure within the framework of generally accepted standards for human and civil rights, must be used to prevent serious and organised crime and - not least - international terrorism. In order to obtain this, we have to focus on its underlying causes, such as political, social and religious problems and conflicts. Here we must admit that we still have an important job to do.

Mr President,

In these testing times the UN system is more important than ever. It should be given all the support it deserves to accomplish its significant work in order to secure justice, human rights and human dignity.

To conclude, let me refer to what was said by Executive Director Costa in his remarks yesterday; it is crucial that this congress sends a clear signal to the world about our determination to fight all forms of crime.

Thank you, for your attention.