Your Excellency, thank you for giving us the floor.

The UNTOC and its protocols has repeatedly addressed the various situations faced by refugees, trafficked persons, and migrants on their journey. Yet in doing so, we run the risk of primarily focusing on the injustices they face en route, while being smuggled or trafficked, or after arriving in their countries of destination.

We at 'Dominicans for Justice and Peace' believe that the issue must be viewed from a broader perspective. It is not enough to make escape routes safer or even to block them off. It is not enough to take action against organized criminal groups engaged in trafficking and smuggling of migrants. It is not enough to reduce it to a question of funding on such a complex issue.

Rather, we must raise awareness that it is the responsibility of us all to create conditions in the countries of origin to enable people to live in dignity. This involves not only economic aid, the creation of suitable social structures, a culture of lawfulness, but also a conscious and sustainable approach to the environment. Only by safeguarding the environment people can sustain livelihoods and create prosperity for themselves and the future generations.

'Dominicans for Justice and Peace' incorporates environmental protection in its work, thereby enabling people to build a future and a dignified life in their ancestral homelands. And we very often see how crimes affecting the environment go hand in hand with other more "traditionally recognized" forms of crimes or build the foundation for other crimes to flourish. The nexus between the core convention and its protocols and environmental crimes is evident.

We therefore support the push for an additional protocol on Crimes affecting the Environment to supplement this landmark convention and its protocol. We call on the Conference to adopt the resolution and to pave the way for this much needed evidence supported protocol.

Thank you very much!