

Human Rights Council 13th session

Statement by Norway

10 March 2010

Annual full day meeting on the right of the Child : “The fight against sexual violence against children”.

Morning Panel: Manifestations of sexual violence against boys and girls

We thank the members of the panel for providing valuable insight to the causes of sexual violence against boys and girls. Building awareness and improving the understanding of the problem is a prerequisite for the development of successful strategies for combating such violence.

The interventions confirm sexual violence remains a problem in all regions of the world and in all areas of children’s lives.

Norway joins the special representative on violence against children in armed conflict, Ms Radhika Coomaraswamy, in stressing our particular concern with the devastating phenomenon of sexual violence in conflict situations, that each year destroys the lives of thousands children, in particular girls.

We see that there is a need to improve coordination in this area in order to provide a stronger and more effective response. We would like to hear the panelists views on how such coordination best can be secured, and what can be the role of the Human Rights Council in this regard.