

Madam Chair

The Delegation of Norway would like to respond to the statement made by the representative of the United World of Indigenous Peoples. In his statement the representative repeated earlier accusations against a Norwegian NGO, the Norwegian Church Aid, operating in Laos.

Norway expects all officials and all development partners that receive Norwegian funding to observe a strict zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, in accordance with international standards and regulations.

Hence, the allegations of such exploitation and abuse by employees of the Norwegian Church among the Akha tribe in Laos have been the subject of a thorough process of inquiry by the Norwegian Agency of Development Cooperation. The report concludes that these allegations could not be substantiated. At the same time, the report also concludes that it was not possible to prove the contrary.

Norway takes these kind of allegations very seriously. We will continue our efforts to prevent and combat sexual exploitation and abuse by officials and development partners that receive Norwegian funding.

Thank you, Madam Chair

JONAS SØLLE