

A multifaceted approach to turning the Kyoto Declaration into action on the ground

Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
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First of all, thank you for the invitation. One year after the Kyoto Congress, and well into its implementation process, it is time to look ahead and identify how each of us can meaningfully contribute to the Kyoto Declaration's success.

As its predecessors, the Kyoto Declaration foresees an important role for a multitude of stakeholders, including the academic / scientific community, civil society, as well as the private sector. Over time, the opportunities of cooperation between UN bodies, states and civil society have become broader and should allow for a better mutual understanding. For example, occasions such as the CCPCJ thematic discussions on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration, last November, provide a very important, productive exchange of knowledge, which was welcomed by civil society.

The landscape of civil society organizations operating in areas relevant to the Kyoto Declaration includes a wide range of NGOs, from the large international NGOs to much smaller, locally based initiatives. The role of the latter is of utmost importance; many locally based NGOs play a crucial role in community-based crime prevention, victim assistance, reintegration of offenders. Furthermore, they assist victims of trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, gender-based violence and other serious forms of crime. The work of NGOs at the local level is something that should be taken into special consideration. Moreover, in a number of countries, access to justice and services to victims is not equal among the population. The key principle of the 2030 Agenda "leave no one behind" requires close cooperation of all relevant stakeholders on the territory, including both urban and rural areas, to promote inclusive, non-discriminatory and gender-responsive approaches for crime prevention and services. This requires full participation and contribution of civil society in all relevant fora and processes.

Many local NGOs who carry out crime prevention programmes in their respective territories contribute with their examples to the overall baggage of knowledge of good practices for the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration. We look forward to ensuring that their voices can be heard and brought to the attention of the international community. This may require an extra effort in terms of a coordinated programmatic and financial support.

In conclusion, in the spirit of Sustainable Development Goal 16, civil society will be glad to participate in next steps and initiatives aimed at increasing the exchange of knowledge on implementation of the Kyoto Declaration, with a view to promote peaceful and inclusive societies.