

Statement

Alliance of NGOs on crime prevention and criminal justice

Dr. Anna Alvazzi del Frate, Chair

Thank you Mr President

In 1995, when the Beijing Platform was adopted, the Crime Commission was just three years old and gender issues hardly appeared among its priorities. Since then, much has been done, and important milestones have been reached. Still, we are far from achieving gender equality and there is room for improvement also thanks to recent developments.

While the twelve areas of concern of the Beijing Platform indicated some key directions, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, represents now the overall container for the commitments expressed 25 years ago. Elimination of violence against women is now clearly the desired outcome of coordinated policies that include education, employment, health, development, and therefore requires the full engagement of all different stakeholders.

The Alliance of NGOs on crime prevention and criminal justice has accompanied the work of the Crime Commission since its inception and is now equipped with a new stronger structure. This will help to support further work towards the achievement of security and justice for all, of which gender equality and empowering women and girls are prerequisites.

At the 2015 Crime Congress in Doha the Alliance recommended Member States to increase their focus on community-centered initiatives, to provide legal aid and increase the participation of women and youth in consultative processes. It also asked for increased efforts in the implementation of the UN Rules for the Treatment of Women in Prison and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders - the Bangkok Rules – in recognition of the gender-specific needs of women in the criminal justice system. Over the past few years the Alliance and its members have also been very active in promoting awareness around femicide and the role of women in organized crime.

Overall, there is a need for strengthening the implementation of the Beijing commitments. For all of us here, this includes promoting a comprehensive understanding and mainstreaming of how gender issues apply to crime prevention and criminal justice. The Alliance and its members are willing to play a significant role in this respect, supporting mainstreaming through civil society participation.

Finally, I would like to mention to all participants that on 29 June the Alliance will co-sponsor a webinar on Violence against women and covid, jointly with the Coalition of Faith-Based Organizations, the NGO Committee on the Status of Women in Vienna, KAICIID International Dialogue Centre and UNODC.

Thank you.