

## Alliance of NGOs on crime prevention and criminal justice

Anna Alvazzi del Frate, Chair

The Alliance of NGOs on crime prevention and criminal justice is the umbrella organization bringing together a broad network of civil society organizations contributing to the achievement of security and justice for all. It ensures that civil society is recognized and heard within the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, including the Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime. The Alliance supports its Members in coordinating their work with the UN, accessing UN processes and meaningfully participating in them.

The recently adopted review mechanism of UNTOC has established a new modality for civil society engagement through the Constructive Dialogues, which are starting today with this first meeting. The Alliance, on behalf of civil society, has great expectations for this process.

The first Constructive Dialogue takes place within the framework of the Working Group on firearms. Working groups have always been inaccessible for NGOs, but very relevant expertise resides in civil society. In implementing the Firearms Protocol, some States have managed to regularly avail themselves of such expertise and keep doing so in the review process. This meeting should provide the opportunity for all States to access international and local expertise which will be very useful in their review process. For this reason we hope that the Constructive Dialogues will become a wonderful opportunity for multi-stakeholder engagement. Unfortunately, this Constructive Dialogue starts with some problems that we hope will be solved soon.

First of all, as you know one NGO who regularly applied to be here and was an important participant in the 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the COP has not been invited to attend this meeting. We are confident that this issue will be solved as soon as possible and definitely before the next Constructive Dialogue takes place.

Secondly, we are concerned for the short timeframe of this meeting, which frankly discourages in-person participation. We hope it will be possible to reconsider this aspect, to allow for a richer programme, thus attracting more participants who would have the possibility to enjoy a very stimulating dialogue.

We are also concerned about how to multiply the effects of the outcomes of the meeting, bringing them to a broader audience. The review mechanism is a long and multi-year process which should build on the knowledge acquired through the Constructive Dialogues.

Mr. Chairman, the Alliance stands ready to cooperate with the Secretariat and Member States to keep encouraging meaningful participation and engagement of civil society in this process. We are willing to support all parts involved in the design of a transparent and inclusive engagement process which will be beneficial to all meetings to come.