

*ALLIANCE DRAFT STATEMENT FOR AHC 5*

*International cooperation*

The Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice represents over 100 NGOs working to support crime prevention and criminal justice efforts.

As such, we are especially interested to see how this chapter develops and how it will ensure effective implementation of the convention, including through collaboration and cooperation with civil society stakeholders in the implementation of technical assistance efforts under this treaty.

Civil society can and does play a role in capacity building and technical assistance on crime and justice matters, by providing outside expertise, and bringing more sectors of society into the process. Their participation in technical assistance efforts also helps ensure an accountable and effective follow up process.

With regard to this treaty, as a common practice across a range of UN and other technical assistance processes, civil society can provide the substantive expertise that is needed, along with stakeholders from all sectors of society. Examples of existing multistakeholder capacity building efforts have been presented in the margins of this session, and previous AHC meetings and intersessional meetings.

And importantly – given the rights and freedoms risks inherent to cyber policy making, civil society can contribute to evaluation of technical assistance efforts, to ensure that the important references to human rights, victim and witness protection and gender mainstreaming elements are implemented effectively and in line with the highest standards.

As such we welcome the inclusion of references to civil society stakeholders in the draft, as well as the principles included of sustainability, transparency and accountability. We hope to see these references included as the text develops, to ensure assistance is effective.

The drafting of this chapter offers another opportunity to ensure coordination with existing multilateral processes and technical assistance efforts. There is a reference to avoiding the duplication of efforts, but this could be made more clear, especially as there is a lot of inspiration for this convention taken from existing treaties and processes.

So when technical assistance efforts common to other processes are taking place they should be built on and coordinated with existing efforts.

Civil society stakeholders involved in those different processes can provide insights and guidance, based on their experience, to improve the overall effectiveness and transparency of the programmes that may take place under the auspices of this treaty, as well as of related technical assistance efforts more generally.

Thank you

