

Alliance of NGOs on crime prevention and criminal justice

Ian Tennant, Chair

The Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as the umbrella organization supporting the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, is pleased to take the floor and represent civil society in expressing appreciation for this Constructive Dialogue following the UNTOC Working Group on International Cooperation.

We welcome the growth in participation in Constructive Dialogues from both civil society and member states, and note how the discussions have evolved since last year to include more substantive, interactive and open discussion.

Civil society has a key role to play in enhancing international cooperation efforts, and it is already happening outside of this process. It is therefore worth recalling that **Civil society cannot participate in Working Groups**, and this is a weakness of the UNTOC review process.

Noting with deep concern the slow progress of the review mechanism, we have no doubt that more interactive and multistakeholder exchanges are needed to help move the review process forward and to more generally support states in achieving their objectives on international cooperation in criminal matters, as provided for by the UNTOC.

The global threats and damages caused by organized crime are clearly greater than when the UNTOC was adopted, and despite the challenges civil society continues to work with states to facilitate and provide solutions, responses, and the data and tools to enhance international cooperation.

In that context, we are thinking ahead to the next Conference of Parties in 2024, and invite others to consider what we can do to integrate coordinated and impactful perspectives from civil society, building on the inputs made to the Constructive Dialogues that have taken place so far.

Finally, we are grateful to all stakeholders and donors for facilitating in-person attendance.

Thank you.