

## **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 Trafficking in Persons.

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.

The role of civil society in contributing to the implementation of the Protocol is well known and understood, and diverse – whether on victim protection and support, prevention, and on monitoring implementation. 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 preventing and countering trafficking in persons, as provided for by the Protocol.

This crime has grown in its pervasiveness and damages, and interlinkages with other types of organized crime, despite the widespread ratification of the Convention and the Protocol. It is therefore more important than ever that multistakeholder data, evidence and best practice can be heard, despite the slow progress of the mechanism.

In that context, we are thinking ahead to the next Conference of Parties in 2024, and invite others to work with the Alliance 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.