

## **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 of civil society working with the UNODC and member states on crime and justice issues, is pleased to take the floor and express appreciation for this Constructive Dialogue following the UNTOC Working Group on Trafficking in Firearms.

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

The role of civil society in contributing to the implementation of the Protocol is incredibly important, whether on collecting data, raising awareness, advocacy, supporting legal processes, supporting UNODC in compiling its digest of cases that was presented yesterday, and more generally on all of the work that it does on research, analysis, monitoring implementation. We therefore note, once again, the unfortunate practice that has evolved which means that **civil society is not able to participate in the Working Groups**. This is not just unfortunate for civil society - this is a weakness of the UNTOC review process, and deprives states of important sources of information and analysis.

We also note with deep concern the slow and uncertain progress of the review mechanism, but 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 of firearms, as provided for by the Protocol.

This crime has grown in its pervasiveness, complexity and damages, and interlinkages with other types of organized crime, despite the widespread ratification of the Convention and the Protocol. The root causes of this phenomenon have also evolved and got more challenging since the adoption of 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 working towards delivering a civil society declaration at the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties in October, based on the inputs given in the constructive dialogues and our consultation with our membership and other civil society stakeholders. This declaration will ensure a coordinated intervention from civil society into the UNTOC review process, the first of its kind, in a Conference and process that has historically been challenging for civil society to engage with.

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

Thank you.