

Statement on behalf of the Alliance of NGOs

Thank you, Chair. This statement is made on behalf of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the umbrella organization of civil society organizations engaging with the UN on crime and justice issues.

Civil society has a long history supporting the UN's work in this area both in the CCPCJ, as the policy making body, and the Congress – as a multistakeholder platform for exchange and consultative body.

Civil society is diverse, as are the topics discussed at the CCPCJ, with its priorities identified in the Kyoto Declaration. But across all of the Declaration's topics it is clear that the experience, analysis and insights of civil society are vital:

- Civil society is a vital partner in providing the community based perspectives needed to understand the root causes of crime, to design effective prevention programmes, and to support the mainstreaming of gender-sensitive approaches, and support for youth and children.
- Civil society acts as champions and advocates for victims and their rights and access to justice, and for whistleblowers and reporting persons. They work in partnership with governments and the UN to implement prison reform programmes.
- They strive for due process, accountability and transparency, supporting the rule of law.
- Their work provides access to the latest information, data and analysis.

The Alliance brings these insights to bear at the CCPCJ, and in related processes such as the UNTOC COP, where we will deliver a Civil Society Declaration later this year.

Chair, both UN and civil society reports paint a bleak picture of progress towards the achievement of SDG 16 and therefore the main objectives outlined in the Kyoto Declaration.

We continue to see exploitative and violent activities such as gender-based violence and child sexual abuse, crimes continue to rise including those targeted by our existing conventions such as human trafficking, human smuggling and trafficking in firearms – as well as, in the midst of the climate crisis, crimes that affect the environment, all of which are enabled by and benefit from corruption and a weak rule of law. But too often there is a lack of access to justice, poor prison conditions, human rights violations, and a lack of support and redress for victims.

The scale of the challenges require governments, civil society and international organizations to work together, including here at the CCPCJ and at the next Congress in UAE in 2026.

Thank you