

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 make statement at this Constructive Dialogue following the working groups on international cooperation and technical assistance.

We welcome the growth in participation in the COP 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 international cooperation and technical assistance provisions of the Convention is incredibly important, whether on collecting data, raising awareness, advocacy, supporting legal processes, 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 of the COP**. 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 organized crime.

Transnational Organized Crime has grown in its pervasiveness, complexity and damages, despite the widespread ratification of the Convention. 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 12th 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.

Thank you.