

STATEMENT AT INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF CCPCJ, 2 SEPTEMBER 2026

Chair,

Thank you for the updates.

According to General Assembly resolution 46/152, the crime congresses, as a consultative body of the programme on crime prevention and criminal justice, provide a forum for:

- The exchange of views between States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines;

Civil society groups, and individual experts, are therefore a key constituency in the mandate and proceedings of the Congresses.

Unfortunately – at the 14th Congress in Kyoto, civil society could not attend in person due to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

For different reasons, it looks increasingly likely that the 15th Congress will go ahead in circumstances that will greatly reduce civil society participation.

As part of their commitment to the Congress, in my position as Chair of the NGO Alliance, I was pleased to see how more NGOs than ever had applied to attend the Congress, and I saw how civil society organizations dug deep to invest their scarce financial resources into attending the originally scheduled Congress in April, and how they attended the preparatory regional meetings in greater numbers than ever. However, when the original Congress was postponed, many lost money as bookings were cancelled or could not be refunded.

As it stands – it is difficult for organizations to invest resources and send representatives to the 15th Congress in person. Aside from security risks for representatives requiring organizations to review and analyse relevant travel advisories themselves, they have to consider financial risks if there is disruption or delays, they have to consider whether their organizational travel insurance will support them in certain situations, as well as the knock on effects of potential travel disruption.

All of these reasons are why many civil society organizations have already decided not to attend in person.

Civil society is committed to taking part in whatever way it can to contribute to the the Congress. A Congress taking place in the current circumstances will greatly reduce civil

society in person participation, and therefore reduce the impact of the Congress as a platform for exchange between sectors.

We hope that the Secretariat, Host Country, and all member states consider what can be done to ensure that a fruitful exchange can take place, with as many civil society participations as possible – including through re-organization of the agenda, for example to cluster confirmed in person side events together, and through the provision of support for civil society in-person attendees.

I welcome the announcement that remote statements will be incorporated, and would request that this facility is also to civil society.

Thank you