



Prepared by the Executive Board – March 2024

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# **ABOUT THE ALLIANCE**



The Alliance brings together a broad network of civil society organizations contributing to the achievement of security and justice for all. It ensures that civil society are recognized and heard in advancing the crime prevention and criminal justice agenda and in designing, implementing and measuring results of relevant policies everywhere. Under the umbrella of the Alliance, cooperation among its members will be strengthened, reinforcing the expertise and vision of each of the members to add value and support the work of relevant international organizations, especially UNODC. The Alliance encourages its members in playing a key role towards the achievement of the SDGs, and in particular Goal 16 to "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels."

## **History**

Crime-related matters have been dealt with by the United Nations since the 1950s, when the Social Defence Unit was established within the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in



New York. The United Nations Congresses on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (the first one was held in Geneva, in 1955, followed by regular Congresses every five years), provided ample opportunities for exchange and engagement of civil society in the UN programme. Acknowledging the important role of an organization to serve as the main civil society interlocutor and coordinator, the Alliance was established in 1972. In 1980, immediately after

the inauguration of the Vienna International Centre, the Crime Prevention Branch of the UN moved to Vienna. The Alliance followed the shift and became fully operational in Vienna in 1983. In 2019 the Alliance was registered as an NGO in Austria (Verein von Nichtregierungsorganisationen für Verbrechensprävention und Strafrechtspflege).

It is one of three umbrella organizations coordinating civil society organizations around matters of interest of UNODC, with a broad mandate across different treaty and policy-making bodies. The





Alliance supports UNODC and the Commission on crime prevention and criminal justice, by ensuring the meaningful engagement of civil society in the implementation of the crime prevention and criminal justice programme. It regularly represents the interests and opinions of its members in relevant UN venues and channels crucial information on issues and events concerning civil society at the global, regional and local levels. The Alliance and the UNODC have signed an MOU originally in 2019, which has been renewed for a second time in December 2023.

# **CHAIR'S REFLECTIONS ON 2023**

In recent years, the Alliance has built a solid platform for civil society engagement with the UN on crime and justice issues, thanks to the efforts of the Board and in particular my predecessor as Chair, Anna Alvazzi de Frate. I also pay tribute to the Alliance's former Treasurer Ingeborg Geyer and former Secretary Tobias Krachler, who have supported Anna in putting this platform in place when there remain many challenges for civil society to engage with the UN. Former Vice Chair Philip Reichel was instrumental in ensuring a meaningful participation of the Alliance and civil society in recent years, especially at the 2021 Crime Congress, which took place during COVID.

Building on the work that had been done, the Alliance has continued to engage and support civil society participation in a wide variety of processes, particularly in the growing number of engagements that take place under the aegis of the UNODC – including the new and regular programme of constructive dialogues, the ongoing negotiation process for a cybercrime treaty, as well as with the CCPCJ, CND, UNCAC, and New York based processes.

The Alliance is recognized as a key partner by both member states and the UNODC, as demonstrated by the renewal in December of the Alliance-UNODC MOU. We continue to work closely with both permanent missions and other partners in the organization of events across a diversity of issues.

As we move forward, we look ahead to the next UN Crime Congress in 2026 in the UAE, and take seriously our responsibility to support the full participation of civil society, in line with the Congress's mandate, history and practice – which places it as a unique forum for multistakeholder exchange. We look forward to the next Conference of Parties to the UNTOC in 2024, at which the inputs of civil society will help to fill the gap created by the slow pace of the implementation review mechanism, including through a civil society declaration to be delivered by the Alliance.

Finally, we stand ready to engage with all partners to support the effective implementation of multilateral efforts to ensure a fair, effective, just and humane range of efforts towards crime prevention and criminal justice.

Ian Tennant Chair

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# **BOARD MEMBERS 2023**

Members of the Board of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice are elected for a period of two years.

#### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

*lan Tennant*Global Initiative

against Transnational Organized Crime

(GITOC)
Chair

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e.org 2023-2025 Yuliya Zabyelina

Academy of Criminal Justice Science (ACJS)

Secretary
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iance.org 2023-2025 **Tobias Krachler** 

Dominicans for Justice and Peace

(DJP)
Treasurer

treasurer@crimealli

ance.org 2023-2025

**VICE CHAIRS** 

Jay Albanese

**Criminologists Without Borders** 

(CWOB) Vice-Chair 2022-2024

Olivia Rope

Penal Reform International (PRI)

Vice-Chair 2022-2024 Michael O'Connell
Victim Support Asia

Vice-Chair 2023-2025

Anna Alvazzi del Frate Kennis: Knowledge for Safety

and Good Governance

Vice-Chair 2023-2025 Jolanta Łopusiewicz-

Redo

Asia Crime Prevention

Foundation (ACPF) Vice-Chair 2023-2025

**BOARD MEMBERS** 

Tariq Khosa

Centre for Governance Research

(CGR)

**Board Member** 

2022-2024

Linda Witong Soroptimist International Board Member

2023-2025

**AUDITORS** 

Sabine Peters

Gerson Nozea
Rapha International
Board Member
2022-2024

Femi Oyebode

Rural and Urban Aid For Youth Development Initiatives Nigeria Board Member

2023-2025

Nuno Maria
Roque Jorge
International
Federation of
NGOs for the
prevention of
Drug and
Substance
Abuse (IFNGO)
Board Member

2022-2024

(2023-2025) (2023-2

**INTERNS** 

Silvia Marino Diara Doukoure Milena Curzel (2023-2025)

Alessia Tonti Camilla Fedrighini CONSULTANT
Michela Polimeni

# **2023 ACTIVITIES**

## **Informal meetings**

In 2023 the Alliance held 9 informal meetings. It is format which allows members of the Alliance to promote their organizations and engage in meaningful discussions around UN processes. It also allows the Alliance to inform its members on upcoming UN events, invite speakers for briefings and disseminate important updates. The informal meetings are also regularly attended by the UNODC civil society unit, giving updates and clarifications for the membership. Before major UN events, the informal meetings provide the different Secretariats, such as the Secretariat of the Governing Bodies for the CND and CCPCJ, or the Secretariat of the Ad hoc Committee on Cybercrime, to hold special briefings for civil society. Topics usually include information on the registration and participation of NGOs, the organization of side events and exhibitions, and the modalities of oral and written statements.

## January-April

#### 9-20 January - Vienna

From 9 to 20 January 2023, the Fourth session of Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes took place in Vienna. The Alliance attended the event with an in-person delegation led by the Vice-Chair Ian Tennant, and delivered statements supporting the role of civil society in the negotiations and the convention's implementation, as well as championing the need for effective implementation through cross-UN coordination.

## 17 January -Vienna

"Strengthening Multi-Stakeholder Participation In The Ad Hoc Committee On Cybercrime Negotiations".



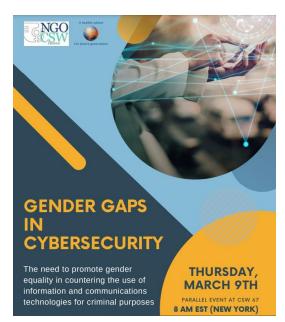
The event, held in the margins of the Fourth Session of the Ad Hoc Committee in Vienna, was organized by the Alliance and the UNODC Civil Society Unit. The discussion focused on enhancing multi-stakeholder participation in countering the misuse of Information and Communications Technologies for criminal purposes. Various international and regional civil society organizations provided suggestions to strengthen meaningful

engagement in this effort. The key points emphasized the importance of predictability and clarity in UN processes, the need for collaboration with other stakeholders and advocated for sharing information with smaller organizations, importance of protecting human rights, including gender

perspectives in negotiations and encouraging Member States to engage more with national stakeholders domestically.

#### 7 March - New York

The event "Bridging The Gender Gap In Rural Mountainous Regions – Challenges: Digitalization As One Opportunity" was held in New York during the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the largest of the UN Commissions. The Alliance supported the event and the amplification of rural women's and girls' voices and experiences from different rural mountainous regions.



#### 9 March - New York "Gender Gaps in Cybersecurity"

The event, hosted by the Alliance with the support of NGO CSW and the Committee on Sustainable Development was held remotely during the 67th Commission on the Status of Women. The discussion was opened with a statement from the Alliance's Chair, Anna Alvazzi del Frate, who highlighted the importance of promoting gender equality in addressing these challenges. The panel discussion explored how cybersecurity failures reflect offline patterns of abuse and discrimination, particularly affecting women and girls in the online space. Linda Witong, a member of the board and member of the CSW67 Advocacy Research Group, spoke in

detail about the scale of cybercrime worldwide and provided harrowing statistics about the lengths criminals go to for financial gain, despite this not being their only motivation.

#### 13 - 17 March - Vienna

During these dates the **sixty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs** took place in Vienna. The Alliance participated in-person with a delegation and delivered a statement.

## 11-21 April – Vienna

The fifth session of the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes was held in Vienna International Center from 11 to 21 April. The Alliance participated with a delegation led by Vice-Chair Ian Tennant and Board Member Tariq Khosa.

17 April - The Alliance Vice-Chair delivered a Statement on April 17 highlighting several key points regarding the importance of international cooperation and diplomatic relations, including principles such as sovereignty, reciprocity, and victim and witness protection. The Vice-Chair emphasized the importance of achieving a balance in the digital space, taking into account factors such as human

rights, freedom, and privacy.

19 April - On April 19, the Alliance further contributed to the discussion with a statement delivered on the need for effective implementation of the convention, with collaboration with civil society stakeholders.



## May - June

## 4-5 May - Vienna

The Alliance, together with UNODC Civil Society
Unit organized a Multi-stakeholders'
Preparation Day before the Constructive
Dialogue on Firearms on 4 May. The
preparatory day consisted of a briefing on the

Constructive Dialogue, a thematic discussion on stakeholder engagement on implementing and reviewing the Firearms Protocol, a reflection of outcomes of the 2022 Constructive Dialogue, an introduction to the Stakeholder Engagement for UNTOC training, and networking opportunities. of the Alliance took part in the Constructive Dialogue meeting on 5 May, which was filled with panel discussions, statements and questions by the participating civil society organizations and member states.

#### 22-26 May - Vienna

In the margins of the thirty-second CCPCJ, the Alliance together with the UNODC Civil Society Unit organized several events to ensure meaningful engagement of NGOs:

22 May - NGO Briefing on the CCPCJ.

#### 24 May:

- On this day an informal dialogue with the Executive Director of UNODC, Ms. Ghada Waly took
  place, chaired by the Alliance Chair. The questions were collected by the Alliance from civil
  society participants before the dialogue.
- Side event: "Safety Net for victims of organized crime bridging the justice gap through civil society actions"

The UNODC Civil Society Unit, supported by the Alliance, the governments of Sweden and the United States, the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, and the Stakeholder Engagement for UNTOC (SE4U) organized the event. It highlighted the challenges faced by victims of organized crime. Further highlighting the role of civil society organizations in addressing gaps left by the justice system. The event facilitated discussions among individuals with lived experiences, grassroot organizations supporting victims, and policymakers shaping responses to organized crime at both national and international levels.

"Enhancing Justice Through the United Nations Reform"

This event was organized by the Permanent Mission of Italy in Vienna with the support of the Alliance, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS), American Society of Criminology (ASC), UNSA-Vienna, Diplomatische Akademie Wien, and Academic Council of the United Nations System (ACUNS).

#### 25 May:

- The informal dialogue with the chair of the CCPCJ, H.E Ms. Mary Wangui Mugwanja of Kenya was held in the morning, chaired by the Alliance Chair. Questions were again collected by the Alliance prior to the event.
- "Rethinking Criminal Justice Responses In Addressing Overdose In The Criminal Justice System"

The Alliance, in collaboration with the UNODC Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation Section, the permanent missions of Australia and Norway, and Vienna NGO Committee On Drugs, organized this side event. The Chief of the UNODC Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation Section emphasized the significance of multisectoral and multicomponent approaches to tackle overdoses within the criminal justice system. The event featured five panelists from diverse regions sharing valuable insights on their strategies for addressing overdoses in this context.

"Ending Harmful Practices: Preventing Violence And Ensuring Access To Justice –
 Good Practices"

This side event was organized by the Alliance with the support and collaboration of ZONTA international, Soroptimist international, NGOCSW Vienna, Committee on Sustainable Development, and Graduate Women International. Panelists engaged in discussions about challenges and effective strategies related to addressing Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation. Topics included



methods to enhance awareness and shift attitudes, the development and endorsement of relevant laws and policies, and the encouragement of community-level changes in social norms and practices regarding these issues.

- "The Role of Incarcerated Individuals In Implementing The Kyoto Declaration"
   This side event was organized by UNODC Research with the support of Institute for Human Rights and Jailhouse Lawyer Initiative. The Alliance participated with a delegation at the event.
- "Gender-Based Violence Rethinking The Definition Of Torture"

The side event was organized by the Alliance with the support of Person against Non-State Torture (NST), IADL, Committee on Sustainable Development, and the permanent Mission of Honduras.

## "Multi-Stakeholder Contribution To The UN Crime Prevention And Criminal Justice Programme"

This side event was hybrid, it was organized from the Alliance with the support of UNODC. Ian Tennant, the newly elected Chair, and Anna Alvazzi del Frate, the newly elected Vice-Chair, both spoke at the event.

#### 26 May: "Enhancing Criminal Justice amid Artificial Intelligence"

This side event was organized by the Alliance with the support and collaboration of International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges, GLOCHA, Justizgeschichte & Rechtstaat, UNSA-Vienna, American Society of Criminology (ASC), Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS), International Association of Judges (IAJ), and Diplomatische Akademie Wien.

#### 24 May - Vienna

General assembly of the Alliance: the Annual General Assembly was held in a hybrid format via Zoom and at the VIC, facilitated by the Secretary of the Alliance, Tobias Krachler. Ian Tennant was elected as the new Chair, Yuliya Zabyelina was elected as the new Secretary of the Alliance, and Tobias Krachler followed Ingeborg Geyer as the new Treasurer. Further elected as Member of the Board were Femi Oyebode (RUAYDI) and Linda Witong (Soroptimist). The minutes of the General Assembly can be found on the website of the Alliance.



### 31 May - Vienna

On 31 May the second Constructive Dialogue on Technical Assistance was held. The Alliance worked closely with UNODC in facilitating civil society participation, raising awareness and sharing information especially on the multistakeholder preparation day which took place on the 30 May. The Chair of the Alliance, Ian Tennant, stressed the crucial role that CSOs can play in the implementation

of the UNTOC review mechanism. The Chair underscored the potential of these dialogues to serve as substantive multistakeholder forums in the future. Additionally, he pointed out civil society's inability to participate in UNTOC Working Groups and emphasized the importance of civil society inputs in the UNTOC review process. He suggested that such discussions could help bridge the gap between civil society and state deliberations. Amid challenges in the pace and progress of the UNTOC review

mechanism, the Alliance believes that civil society engagement could drive action and progress.

#### 20-21 June - Vienna

The Alliance was present at the **fifth intersessional consultation of the Ad Hoc Committee** that took place in Vienna. Chair Ian Tennant led a delegation in-person of the Alliance at the event.

## **July-October**

#### 14 July – Vienna

#### World Youth Skills Day: collaborations for agenda 2030.

Three Sessions were held at the United Nations in Vienna. The Chair of the Alliance Ian Tennant gave the opening remarks of the first session "From 2023 to 2030: building collaboration", an interactive and intersectional approach to finding shared solutions regarding the theme: 'Skilling teachers, trainers and youth for a transformative future'. Furthermore, the Chair reminded us of the important role that youth can have in building a more sustainable and prosperous future.

Other two session were held:

- "Education and youth engagement as key to making societies resilient to crime" focused on engaging young people as drivers of change, particularly in implementing the 2030 Agenda and the goals related to crime prevention, criminal justice and rule of law.
- "Bridging climate divides" explored collaborative development of transformative narratives for climate impact.

## 25 July – Lagos

Alliance Board member Femi Oyebode attended, on behalf of the Alliance, the Consultation with Civil Society Organizations on the preparation of the UNODC Strategic Framework for Engagement with countries from West Africa (2024-2030). At the meeting, Mr Oyebode presented the work of the Alliance, at the consultation which was intended to provide a forum for NGOs to share their views on the most pressing challenges related to transnational organised crime in the region and to define the priorities to address them effectively, including through collaboration with UNODC.

## 21 August – 1 September – New York

Between 21 August and 1 September, the **sixth session of the Ad Hoc Committee** was held in New York, the Alliance participated with a delegation in-person led by Chair Ian Tennant. Intervening at the side event "**Multi-stakeholder's perspectives on developments at the 6th session of the AHC Committee**", he outlined the important role of civil society in the negotiation process and highlighted his appreciation for the open process of engagement instituted by the Ad Hoc Committee.

## 4 - 6 September

Olivia Rope, Vice Chair of the Alliance represented the Alliance at the open-ended intergovernmental

expert group on the development of model strategies on reducing reoffending. The event was facilitated by UNODC in a virtual format. It saw a large number of participating member states, 44 in total, and 12 relevant non-governmental stakeholders were also invited. A draft model strategy was discussed by the attending delegates.

#### 13 September - Vienna

On 13 September the Constructive Dialogue on International Cooperation was held in Vienna. Key topics of the dialogue included "the role and potential of law enforcement cooperation highlighted at the constructive dialogue on international cooperation". The Alliance attended inperson with a delegation, and worked with UNODC to hold a multistakeholder preparation day on the 12 September.

#### 21-22 September - Vienna

On 21 and 22 September the Thematic Discussions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration took place in Vienna. As in the previous Thematic Discussions, the Alliance, as the process specific umbrella network, has played a key role in organizing and coordinating the civil society participating in the session. It was also part of the panel on "Effective, accountable, impartial and inclusive institution; effective anticorruption efforts; social, educational and other measures".

#### 4 October - Vienna

On 4 October the Constructive Dialogue on Trafficking in Persons took place in Vienna. The key topic of the dialogue was "tackling child trafficking and corruption in the context of human trafficking". The Alliance attended in-person with a delegation. In his statement, the Chair of the Alliance, Ian Tennant, highlighted the importance of including more substantive, interactive and open discussion between CSOs and Member State, as contribution to the implementation of UNTOC review mechanism. The Alliance also worked with the UNODC Civil Society Unit to organize a multistakeholder preparatory day on the day previous to the Constructive Dialogue.

#### 9 October - Vienna

On 9 October the Constructive Dialogue on the Smuggling of Migrants was held in Vienna, the key topic of the dialogue was "protecting human rights and dignity of smuggled migrants". The Alliance attended in-person with a delegation. In his statement, the Chair of the Alliance, Ian Tennant underlined the key role of CSOs and urged Member States to continue involving civil society stakeholders in the UNTOC review mechanism. The Alliance also worked with the UNODC Civil Society Unit to organize a multistakeholder preparatory day on the day previous to the Constructive Dialogue.



#### **November-December**

#### 29 November - "De-carbonizing organized crime"

This event was held remotely by the Alliance as part of its working group on Crimes that affect the Environment. The speaker, Stefano Betti, an International Security and Criminal Policy Expert, was held in high regards by the participants and members of the working group.

#### 7-8 December - Vienna

The Alliance participated in the reconvened thirty-second session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) and the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs with a delegation. The

Alliance Chair made a statement on behalf of the Alliance and the VNGOC outlining the key role of civil society in supporting implementation of the policies and resolutions of the Commissions.

#### 11-15 December - Atlanta, USA



The Alliance, represented by the Ian Tennant (Chair), Yuliya Zabylina (Secretary), and Gerson Nozea (Board Member), attended the 10th session of the Conference of the States Parties (COSP) to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), taking place in Atlanta. The Chair of the Alliance also delivered a statement and spoke about lessons learned from both UNTOC and UNCAC Review Mechanisms.

He also announced a plan for civil society Declaration at UNTOC COP next year.

# **Working Groups**

Working groups provide an informal space for coordination on an issue or process of relevance to the Alliance and its mandate as an umbrella body. They carry out a number of activities throughout the year, such as briefings, exhibitions, and side events during the various UN processes taking place in and outside of Vienna.

## Working group on crimes that affect the environment (CAE)

Coordinator: TBC

Crimes affecting the environment have slowly been able to garner more attention over the last couple of years. Highlighting the importance of this issue has also been part of Alliance's work. Therefore, the aim of this working group is to focus on crimes against the environment, environmental issues and climate change.

# Working Group on Gender-based violence as torture inflicted by nonstate actors (NST)

Coordinator: Ingeborg Geyer

The aim of this working group is to document research towards a model strategy to promote global awareness to end non-State torture crimes, especially against women and girls. The group is also actively engaged with the international agenda on femicide and gender-based violence.

## MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE

Membership in the Alliance is regulated by the Statutes. As of 31 December 2023, the Alliance counted 136 ordinary members and 26 extraordinary members, for a total of 162 NGOs, plus 36 individual members. Approximately 60 per cent of the members were in good standing, including 15 who obtained a waiver of their fee for 2023.

## **Trends in 2023-2025**

A steady increase in the number of ordinary members has been observed since the registration of the Alliance in Austria in 2019. This trend continued in 2023. During 2023, the Alliance received



70 membership applications from NGOs, to be included as ordinary, extraordinary, and individual members. Eligibility of applicants is assessed by the Executive Board based on the documentation provided in the applications. A monthly list of new applicants is submitted to the Board for admission. The scope of the work of NGOs, as declared in the membership questionnaire, indicated that more than half of the new members had a national scope, followed by more than a third with international scope and the remaining ones with regional scope.

The applying NGOs were involved in a diverse range of activities, with a considerable number of organizations engaging in activities related to transnational organized crime, crimes against the environment, and cybercrime. In 2021 the Alliance started cooperation with the Resilience Fund of the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime to establish a fee waiver program for NGOs in need. The program covered the 2023 membership fee of 15 non-governmental organizations. It continues to be important for financially less liquid, but very often important grassroot organizations.

## **Honorary Members**

- Yael Danieli
- Christian Kuhn
- Karen Judd Smith
- Michael Platzer

Two Honorary Members of the Alliance, Marlene Parenzan and Gary Hill, passed away in 2022. Their contribution to the engagement of civil society with the UN, and to the work of the Alliance in particular, will be hugely missed.

## **WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

The website of the Alliance registered over 2100 users in 2023. Most users were from Austria, followed by the United States and Italy. In total, users from 140 different countries/territories visited the website in 2023. The homepage is the most frequently visited, followed by the event page.

The mailing list of the Alliance, including membership at large, expanded to include 65 contacts in total. At the end of 2023 the Alliance counted 471 X followers (83 more than in 2022) and 327 followers in LinkedIn (254 more than in 2022). 11 new videos of events, statements, and webinars were uploaded to the Alliance YouTube channel in 2023, accumulating over 600 individual views.



