AGENDA ITEM 2

**ORAL STATEMENT**

**ALLIANCE OF NGOS ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**Constructive Dialogue on Trafficking in Persons**

Thank you for giving me the floor. I am making this statement on behalf of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

I would like to thank the Secretariat and Chair for bringing us together today, for the last of this year’s Constructive Dialogues.

Whilst we maintain that civil society Observers should be able to attend the Working Group itself, we appreciate the openness that you Chair, and other Member State representatives who are here, have brought to these proceedings.

In light of the latest financial updates and developments, we would like to highlight the opportunity for efficiency that could also come with combining working group and Constructive Dialogue proceedings – reducing duplication, and allowing for more interactive collaboration.

We also express our ongoing concern about the slow pace and limited outcomes of the review mechanism, as demonstrated in the presentation. We hope that it can be reinvigorated, through increased resourcing and multisectoral cooperation.

Chair,

I would like to reiterate some key points that we published at the 12th UNTOC COP, in our civil society declaration. Throughout various Constructive Dialogues over previous years, , the Alliance collected input from civil society participants and drafted a Declaration to represent the most salient points raised by civil society throughout this period.

It contains key concerns and recommendations of civil society when it comes to the implementation of the UNTOC.

It highlights that the threat of organized crime is more challenging than ever. We cannot afford to work in silos, or to ignore the input of different sectors and constituencies, including importantly – the voices of survivors.

On the smuggling of migrants protocol, the Declaration states:

The role of civil society in the universalization and implementation of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants is extremely important, especially in the context of the human rights risks inherent in state responses to irregular migration and migrant smuggling.

Evidence-based research led by civil society is needed to identify global hotspots, understand their underlying factors and drivers through innovative approaches at national, regional and global levels. It is essential to acknowledge the coercion, exploitation, physical or psychological abuse, inhumane conditions, or other factors that lead to and propagate the smuggling of migrants, and accordingly provide protection and rehabilitation services to those who face such situations.

Distinct experiences of children need to be documented and pushed forward to ensure adequate protections are afforded by CSOs and the State for children smuggled and children born from irregular migrant parents to prevent statelessness. The treatment of migrants by governments must also adhere to international human rights standards outlined in various legal instruments as well as the migrant smuggling protocol.

The promotion of broader strategies to manage migration, including safe and legal pathways, should be integrated with efforts to implement the Protocol.

I look forward to all of the member states and civil society contributions today, and thank you for your attention.