

Thank you Chair

On behalf of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, we thank the Chair and the Secretariat for hosting this important meeting.

We appreciate the resource constraints that the Secretariat is facing, both in the review mechanism process, the organization of this meeting and in its work in general.

However, we do express regret that this dialogue could only be held online, which further marginalizes the participation of civil society in the review mechanism. We hope that the format of today is not taken as a precedent, and note that there is still time to reconsider how the remainder of Dialogues will take place later in the year.

The hybrid format has always served to include people from around the world, whilst also bringing the dialogue into the same physical space as delegates attending the working groups.

Fundamentally, it would be more logical and efficient, and in line with the rules of the conference of parties, for civil society observers to simply attend the meetings of the working group. And for the constructive dialogue to be more integrated with the working group.

In light of the resource issues being faced by UNODC, the UN80 reform processes, and the growing threat of firearms trafficking, and the need to accelerate implementation of the firearms protocol, we hope that more innovative and efficient models of working can be found in the future.

The Alliance stands ready to support the Secretariat and the Chairs of the Working Groups in developing ideas to this end.

Nonetheless, we are sure that today's meeting will showcase the substantive, technical and constructive inputs of civil society, which supports the enhancement of the implementation of the protocol.

Thank you