



# Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*

**Comprehensive and balanced approaches to  
prevent and adequately respond to new and  
emerging forms of transnational crime**

## **Statement submitted by the Environmental Investigation Agency\*\***

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**Comprehensive and balanced approaches to prevent and adequately respond to new and emerging forms of transnational crime**

The Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, The Black Fish, the Environmental Investigation Agency, Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, TRAFFIC, World Animal Protection, and WWF are civil society organizations working at the nexus of conservation and environmental crime, such as wildlife crime, including marine and forest crime, and pollution crime.

*We welcome* the increased high-level attention that these transnational organized crime types have received in recent years, including through the United Nations General Assembly and ECOSOC resolutions and by Member States.

*We are encouraged* by the recognition of the severe impact of these transnational organized environmental crimes on development and stability, noted also in the opening ceremony statements by the United Nations Secretary-General and the President of the United Nations General Assembly.

As noted by the working paper for agenda item 5 “Comprehensive and balanced approaches to prevent and adequately respond to new and emerging forms of transnational crime”, many of the acts associated with transnational organized environmental crime have been taking place for decades. Such networks are now far more complex, sophisticated and organized, and require the criminal justice community to adapt quickly and to act fast.

*We urge* Member States to; increase investment in capacity to undertake intelligence-led enforcement and target the serious transnational organized networks and the enterprises and individuals involved. Integration of environmental criminal information with national crime databases, would improve profiling and mapping of these networks.

*We appeal* to those Member States that do not currently treat transnational organized environmental crime as “serious” as per the definitions of UNTOC, to amend legislation to provide for penalties that are proportionate, but that will also serve as an effective deterrent.

*We reiterate* that international cooperation is essential in combating transnational organized environmental crime, including the use of specialized investigation techniques applied in combating other forms of serious transnational organized crime, such as financial investigations, controlled deliveries, and asset recovery.

*To strengthen* prosecutions, greater access to and analysis of concluded court judgements would enable governments to respond accordingly and strengthen prosecutions.

*We encourage* Member States to actively engage with and involve civil society in monitoring implementation of efforts to combat environmental crime and its effects throughout the world we share.

*We draw attention* to the fragmented legal frameworks currently in place to address the phenomenon of transnational organized environmental crime. This diversity of legal perspectives constitutes one of the main obstacles towards an appropriate and coherent global legal response to transnational organized environmental crime. Specific challenges would benefit from informed discussion drawing upon now

established legal tools such as the EU Crime Directive and existing UNTOC Protocols.

*We encourage* Member States to find a space for a broad cross-sectoral dialogue process to explore, through an open and non-prescriptive approach, the options for a global legal response to transnational organized environmental crime. Such a dialogue process should engage experts in law, enforcement, conservation, and other relevant fields, including Ministry of Home Affairs/Justice, to develop and refine ideas on specific tools that could be established.

*We draw attention* to the ongoing process to agree text for a United Nations General Assembly resolution on wildlife crime, including marine and forest crime. We encourage Member States to support its adoption, ensuring that it acknowledges the links between environmental and other types of transnational organized crime, and the threat posed by these crimes to peaceful and sustainable development.

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