

Concept Note
Breakout Group on
The Dual Nature of Technology as Means of and Tool against Organized Crime
Youth Consultation Preceding COP12 UNTOC

Useful documents:

- Dedicated page for the COP12 Youth Consultation [HERE](#)

Overview:

The breakout group will explore the dual nature of technology as means of and tool against organized crime. Technology could be misused and exploited by criminal groups to facilitate the commission of crime, but technology could also offer efficiencies and increased capabilities for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of crime. The breakout group aims to provide youth participants with a deeper understanding of the role of technology in exacerbating and combating transnational organized crime, to engage them in discussions about measures to ensure the responsible use of technology, and to explore opportunities for collaboration between UNODC and youth participants to strengthen engagement in addressing these issues.

Date/Time: Thursday 10 October, 15:30-16:45

15:30 – 15:50	The dual nature of technology as means of and tool against organized crime <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Substantive overview of the topic</i>- <i>Cindy Ho, Associate Expert, Conference Support Section, Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch</i> <p><i>Note: Link to the relevant draft resolution on the Implementation of the provisions on international cooperation of UNTOC being negotiated on (CTOC COP 2024 L.4 E.pdf (unodc.org))</i></p>
15:50 – 16:30	Breakout groups discussing the dual nature of technology as means of and tool against organized crime <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Questions to be discussed: see below</i>• <i>Moderators:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Citlalin Castaneda De La Mora, Associate Legal Officer, Conference Support Section, Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch</i>- <i>Cindy HO, Associate Expert, Conference Support Section, Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch</i>- <i>Sarah Pirker, Civil Society Unit</i>- <i>Konrad Gertz, Civil Society Unit</i>
16:30 – 16:45	Summary of the outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Rapporteurs report back on the recommendations made</i>

Objectives:

- Raise youth's awareness of the links between technology and transnational organized criminal activities.
- Increase youth's understanding of UNODC's work in combating transnational organized crime through the development and use of technological tools.
- Facilitate the exchange of ideas for increasing youth engagement in addressing transnational organized crime through the use of technology and innovative tools.
- Formulate recommendations for the Conference of Parties on enhancing youth engagement in efforts to prevent transnational organized crime through the use of technology and innovative tools.

Structure:

1. **Presentation:** Overview of the role and impact of technology in transnational organized crime and UNODC's approach. This will set the stage for an interactive discussion in the breakout groups.
2. **Breakout group discussion:** Youth participants will be asked to share their views, experience and ideas in small working groups. They will be invited to reflect on their experiences and knowledge of the use of technology in aggravating and combating transnational organized crime; and brainstorm on ways to enhance/strengthen youth engagement in various levels to address this topic.
3. **Summary of outcomes:** A pre-identified rapporteur will present the recommendations of the breakout groups.

Possible Discussion Points:

1. How is technology misused by criminals to facilitate the commission of transnational organized crime in your region? How is this affecting youth and what are the challenges you face?
2. How can youth be empowered to recognize and avoid technology-enabled crimes such as online fraud, human trafficking and hacking?
3. How can governments and youth-led organizations collaborate to strengthen prevention efforts and disrupt organized criminal groups through technological tools?
4. What are the human rights considerations in using technology-based tools to address crime? How to ensure responsible and ethical use of these tools?
5. What role can youth play in developing or promoting technology solutions to prevent or disrupt organized crime activities?

Expected Outcomes:

- Identification of key challenges and opportunities of the use of technology in responding to transnational organized crime.
- Concrete recommendations from youth participants on how to enhance their involvement in efforts to prevent transnational organized crime through the use of technology and innovative tools.

- Insights on potential partnerships or existing best practices among youth, civil society, and governments to prevent transnational organized crime through the use of technology and innovative tools.

This breakout session will contribute to shape the recommendations that will be delivered to Member States during the plenary statement and contribute to a more inclusive and youth-driven approach to address and prevent transnational organized crime through the use of technology and innovative tools.

Pre-reading Materials:

- Background paper of the role and impact of technology with regard to international cooperation in criminal matters: opportunities, challenges and capacity-building needs, prepared for the Working Group on International Cooperation 2024 ([CTOC COP WG.3 2024 2 E.pdf \(unodc.org\)](#)).
- Background paper of the current crime trends, recent developments and emerging solutions, in particular new technologies as means for and tools against crime, prepared for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice ([v2000548.pdf \(un.org\)](#)).