

6 May 2022

**Statement by Transparency International (Gillian Dell) to the General Debate (agenda item #3)
of the 31st session of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

Greetings from the Transparency International Secretariat in Berlin, my name is Gillian Dell. We very much appreciate the opportunity to speak to the UN Crime Commission today.

The United Nations is a centre for important anti-corruption work, especially within the framework of the landmark UN Convention against Corruption.

However, we believe that the UN Crime Commission could help strengthen that work and we would like to make five suggestions about how it could do that.

First, the Crime Commission could help [link](#) UNCAC work with the work on the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

The work on the two conventions is currently conducted in silos despite the fact that they have overlaps and complementary components and there would be synergies from coordinating their work. We recommend that the Crime Commission help initiate regular, joint meetings of the UNCAC and UNTOC Conferences.

Second, the Crime Commission could promote greater coordination between anti-corruption work in Vienna and the work of UN human rights bodies in Geneva.

The Human Rights Council has highlighted the importance of human rights standards for anti-corruption efforts and UN human rights bodies regularly make findings about the adverse human rights impacts of corruption in member states. There should be more regular exchanges between human rights and anti-corruption bodies, including in the context of Crime Commission meetings.

Third, the Crime Commission could play a vital role in initiating collective work on grand corruption – which is an organized and transnational crime that causes widespread human rights violations and blocks achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals – and often goes unpunished.

We urge the Crime Commission to work with other UN bodies to establish an intergovernmental expert working group on grand corruption.¹⁰ This working group should develop concrete proposals to plug the gaps in international frameworks that allow grand corruption to thrive.

Fourth, the Crime Commission could contribute to more effective follow-up to the UNGASS against Corruption political declaration by including it as a regular agenda item in its meetings.

Finally, we encourage the Crime Commission to help ensure respect for international human rights standards in the work of intergovernmental bodies meeting in Vienna, including standards for access to information and participation in public affairs. This is crucial for the credibility and effectiveness of those bodies.

Many thanks again for the opportunity to speak to you today.