

Alliance of NGOs Statement – 32nd Session of CCPCJ – 22 May 2023

Agenda Item 3: General debate

Anna Alvazzi del Frate, Chair

Thank you, Mme Chairman. I am pleased to present this statement on behalf of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the umbrella organization supporting the overall work of the UN Programme on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. In our position, we work closely with the Secretariat to ensure that relevant civil society participants can meaningfully contribute to the work of the Commission. This includes providing them with full briefings on issues at stake, as we did this morning jointly with the Civil Society Unit of UNODC, glad to see a return to a high level of in-person participation.

We are pleased to announce that NGOs will have the opportunity to engage in two informal dialogues, with the Executive Director of UNODC on Wednesday 24 May and with the Chair of the Commission on Thursday 25 May. We are grateful to both of them for their time and look forward to these opportunities for fruitful discussions.

Through the participation of non-governmental stakeholders, the Commission expands its horizons and gains broader perspectives. The theme of this year, access to justice, has inspired many cross-cutting initiatives, including side events, which bring to Vienna experts in a variety of related domains, from human rights to gender, health, environment.

In this respect, civil society appreciates the thematic discussions within the process of implementation the Kyoto Declaration, which see the participation of a wide range of experts, panellists, and speakers. The Alliance has played an active role in the first two rounds and looks forward to further opportunities to share valuable expertise with Member States.

Finally, the Alliance looks forward to fully engaging in preparations for the 15th Congress, coordinating with relevant bodies and providing expertise as appropriate, noting that civil society has a special place in the history, tradition and mandate of the Congress, which is a forum for exchange of ideas and experiences, rather than a policy-making body.

Thank you.