



Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

19 February 2021

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda**

**International cooperation and technical assistance
to prevent and address all forms of crime: (b) New
and emerging forms of crime**

Statement submitted by Socialist International Women***

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Statement¹ to the Crime Congress

Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda

Emerging Issues

The worldwide corona pandemic poses unprecedented challenges to the world as a whole. In addition to taking steps to combat the disease and restore public health, the international community will have to draw up plans to address the economic and environmental crises that will follow in COVID's wake.

Without doubt the corona pandemic will give rise to a surge in criminal activity and organized crime. Those criminal activities will not only focus on seizing control of medical and pharmaceutical endeavours, but also on disrupting "green deal projects", environmental improvement and socioeconomic initiatives. Caution, vigilance and major involvement on the part of civil society are essential to advancing crime prevention, strengthening criminal justice and assuring the rule of law.

At the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in October 2020 a resolution on "Preventing and Combating Crimes that affect the Environment falling within the scope of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime" was adopted.

In § 16 cooperation with secretariats of United Nations Conventions is requested to achieve the goal of reducing environmental crime. We believe that this goal can only be achieved if the public is informed in a transparent way and involved accordingly and corruption can be stopped.

The United Nations Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) could be an such an overarching instrument to encourage people to cooperate, as information and participation of stakeholders is a key element in fighting crime and corruption.

The undersigned non-governmental organizations in consultative relationship with the United Nations urge that tangible steps be taken to secure the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Attention should thus focus on sustainable development goal 17 and the essentiality of genuine partnership in combating transnational environmental crime. The undersigned NGOs urge the participants in the Crime Congress, in particular the States member to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, to:

- (a) *Support* the resolution "Preventing and Combating Crimes that affect the Environment";
- (b) *Encourage* close cooperation between the secretariats of the United Nations Conventions mentioned in the resolution, as well as the secretariat of the Aarhus Convention;
- (c) *Encourage* transparency and consistency of procedures;
- (d) *Support* involvement of stakeholders;
- (e) *Encourage* public hearings and procedures, as well as provide related training and education;
- (f) *Support* evaluation of the activities and measures;
- (g) *Report* on progress at relevant United Nations meetings and conferences.

¹ By the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development Vienna

Supporting the statement:

The following non-governmental organizations in consultative relationship with the United Nations (ECOSOC) and Members of the Vienna NGO Committee on Sustainable Development, support the statement:

- (1) Graduate Women International (GWI)
 - (2) Initiatives of Change (IoC)
 - (3) International Alliance of Women (IAW)
 - (4) International Association for Advancement of Innovative Solutions to Global Challenges (IAAI)
 - (5) International Federation of Business and Professional Women (IFBPW)
 - (6) International Inner Wheel (IIW)
 - (7) Pax Romana
 - (8) Society for International Development (SID)
 - (9) Servas International
 - (10) Socialist International Women (SIW)
 - (11) Soroptimist International
 - (12) Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWP)
 - (13) Women's International Zionist Organisation (WIZO)
 - (14) World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ)
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