

**STANDING AGENDA ITEMS FOCUSED ON THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE
UNIVERSALIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNTOC, INCLUDING ITS
PROVISIONS ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN CRIMINAL MATTERS, STATES
PARTIES' TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL
STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT/PARTICIPATION, GENDER, HUMAN RIGHTS AND
VICTIM CENTRED APPROACHES TO COUNTERING ORGANIZED CRIME**

AGENDA ITEM IV

STATEMENT

GLOBAL INITIATIVE AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

**Constructive Dialogue on International Co-operation
Vienna, 13 September 2023**

Thanks for giving me the floor. I make this statement on behalf of the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime.

This statement focusses on the thematic points highlighted in the agenda item IV.

On the issue of international cooperation and as mentioned by Jean-Paul Laborde earlier, we would like to draw the attention of participants of the Constructive Dialogue to a GI-TOC [report](#) dedicated to this issue, published in October 2021. The report is called “The future of international cooperation against transnational organized crime. The report, drafted by the Canadian based ICCLR highlights the challenges in implementing the cooperation provisions of UNTOC in the current era of geopolitics, and sets out the ways in which cooperation can be improved – envisaging a leading role for civil society in forging new strategies.

The 2020 GI-TOC [report](#) “The promise of Palermo: A political history of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime” also includes an analysis of international cooperation under the Convention, highlighting the lack of publicly available data.

Going further, our more recent [report](#) in 2023, under the EU-funded ENACT programme - Measuring the treatment: The UNTOC in Africa, comes to similar conclusions concerning a lack of consolidated data on the impact of UNTOC across the continent.

Looking at specific criminal markets, in 2022, we published a report on the UNTOC's effectiveness in tackling wildlife crime. This report found that more work to raise awareness and improve implementation was needed, including through supporting the role of NGOs as facilitators of international cooperation.

A common finding across our research is that civil-society voices are vital to achieving effective responses to transnational organized crime. To this purpose GI-TOC encourages civil society present today to access the tools and templates available in GI-TOC's online advice hub called the [UNTOC Hub](#). The UNTOC Hub provides a platform through which civil society groups from communities across the world can find information on how to engage and meaningfully contribute to the review mechanism. To the question earlier about civil society involvement in capacity building, that is capacity building. The resilience fund is GI-TOC's global civil society capacity building tool and has supported over 200 initiatives since 2019 and is supported by the governments of Norway, UK, Netherlands, New Zealand and Germany.

Another point I would like to make is that the Review Mechanism is not the only avenue to assess local needs. This was analyzed by GI-TOC in an [official input](#) to the work of the High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism (HLAB). As an outcome of the process, the HLAB produced its [report](#) for the UN Secretary General ahead of the 2024 Summit of the Future, whose conclusions were a clear recognition of and reference to GI-TOC's analysis and inputs, including its recommendation for a new global strategy against transnational organized crime.

Finally, on the topic of gender, human rights and victim-centred approaches, measures that aim to combat organized crime through international cooperation must meet internationally accepted human rights norms, standards and principles in order not to cause more harm and contribute to conditions that further embed criminality.