

**UNTOC Constructive Dialogue on International Cooperation
13 September 2023**

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RSIL Statement:

Honorable Chair and Distinguished Delegates,

It is truly a great honour for me to address this esteemed forum, representing the perspective of the civil society on transnational organized crime as well as the implementation of the UNTOC frameworks by Member States.

Article 27 of the UNTOC promulgates law enforcement cooperation and is therefore the backbone in State responses when countering transnational organized crime. Despite the availability of such avenues, there are multiple bottlenecks and hurdles preventing the global north and the global south in effectively exchanging information through formal and informal channels. Additionally, the advent of new technologies, particularly the use of big data and artificial intelligence (AI) create novel challenges.

Indeed, it is critical to note that law enforcement cooperation and human rights go hand-in-hand when navigating these challenges.

To this end, we offer 5 key recommendations:

1. Enhancing capacity-building to improve international cooperation: provision of aid and technical assistance to States in improving the quality of requests when pursuing formal and informal channels.
2. Harmonizing data privacy laws between the global north and global south: allowing for avenues for States' to access information without hindrances of data privacy to pursue investigations more effectively.
3. Updating domestic legislation: particularly criminal procedure codes and penal codes that would depoliticize law enforcement and integrate human rights in approaches when responding to transnational crime.
4. Multilateral treaty on cybercrime and data privacy: Efforts are underway at the UN to achieve this however it is critical that information-sharing protocols between agencies are included within this Convention, along with relevant safeguards to protect privacy.
5. Wider capacity-building in the criminal justice sector: particularly to sensitize justice sector actors such as investigators, prosecutors and the judiciary to the impact of transnational organized crime, vulnerable/at-risk groups, rehabilitation of victims, etc.

When countering transnational organized crime, the State cannot be siloed off from the wider civil society and the international community. It is imperative that cross-cutting partnership and cooperation from all sectors of the society informs States' responses, so that no group is left behind.

I would like to appreciate the UNODC for providing a platform to civil society members to participate and contribute to such initiatives. Together with other civil society partners, we will strive to produce actionable research and knowledge products in pursuance of greater cooperation.

Thank you.