Transnational crime is common in the Democratic Republic of Congo, due to weak governance and the country’s natural resources, which are the envy of many individuals and states. This situation is at the root of ongoing armed and intercommunal conflicts in the eastern part of the country.

The current armed and inter-community conflicts as well as the illegal exploitation of natural resources (minerals, illegal exploitation in protected areas and forests) in North Kivu and Ituri provinces reinforce transnational crime, particularly human trafficking, including women and girls who are victims of sexual and gender-based violence, abuse and sexual exploitation. In addition, children are victims of physical, sexual and psychological abuse and exploitation in their communities; some are forced into the military and others into forced labor at mining sites and in communities.

Thus, on the margins of this constructive dialogue on technical assistance, we the Réseau Femme et Développement au Nord Kivu en RDC (REFED/NK), a civil society organization that works for the promotion and defense of the right of vulnerable women and girls, children and other marginalized groups of people in rural and peri-urban areas in conflict and post-conflict situations, recommend the following:

- To strengthen advocacy on transitional and restorative justice for victims of crime in States that have ratified the various UNODC Protocols,
- To States that have ratified this convention, to international and regional non-governmental organizations to respect the principles of localization of humanitarian aid in order to reach and assist the real victims of transnational crime,
- For the attainment of SDG 16, which promotes peace, justice and effective institutions, the implementation of new approaches focused on direct technical assistance to victims, technical support and capacity building of civil society organizations working directly with local victims of transnational crime and the roles of civil society in the fight against it.