



Dear Representatives,

Dear all,

Libera Associations Names and Numbers Against Mafias (Associazioni nomi e numeri contro le mafie), is the network that joins in Italy by about 1600 organisations. This year, we celebrate our 25th anniversary and after 20 years we confirm our support for the Palermo Convention, a convention signed in a city that is to us, the epitome of our commitment.

From the beginning we promoted a stronger cooperation between judicial and investigative authorities at the transnational level based on the principle of mutual recognition with regards to freezing and confiscation orders, as already succeeding at European level.

For this reason, we stress once again the crucial importance of re-using confiscated assets for social purposes as a model to be taken into account by the State Parties.

As reminded also in the Merida Convention, the re-use of confiscated assets for social purposes is a key instrument to create healthy and wealthy societies, but it also allows generating economy and resources for our territories, free of corrupt and criminal systems.

In line with these purposes, we want to foster a commitment for the revision of the definition of organized crime, in order to emphasize the importance of analyzing the internal organizational model - strong ties – and the standards for the incrimination of external relations - to which criminal importance must be attributed, to completely isolate the action of criminal associations.

We are well aware that this meeting represents a key opportunity for us to also share the point of view of activists and associations belonging to the international networks that Libera has long promoted in Europe, Latin America and Africa, and we firmly believe that repressive action must be complemented by a focused greater involvement of civil society.

Now more than ever, the Palermo Convention must not be a target, but a starting point for everyone's commitment.

In the words of Mauro Rostagno - sociologist and journalist killed in a mafia ambush in Trapani in 1988 - "*We do not want to find our place in this society. We want to create a society in which it is worth finding a place*".

Thank you Mr. President, thank to all the Representatives