

Delegation of the Republic of Armenia

9th session of the UNTOC COP Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants

General statement

Vienna, 27 June 2022

Mr. Chair,

At the outset allow me to thank you and the Secretariat for your efforts in the lead-up to this session. Armenia highly values the important mandates of the UNTOC Working Groups, and the contribution they make to the member states' efforts in the fight against organized crime.

The very fact of the existence of an international convention against transnational organized crime indicates that the stand alone efforts of states are not sufficient against this crime and there is a need to cooperate with other states for better prevention and response.

It is also important to have effective cooperation with stakeholders outside government sector, such as civil society organizations, private sector, academia and journalists, as their experience, knowledge and expertise could be very beneficial for the state authorities' understanding of different crimes and their effective responses.

This notion is enshrined also in the Convention, the article 32.3 (c) of which mentions that to improve the capacity of States Parties to combat transnational organized crime and to promote and review the implementation of the Convention, the Conference of Parties shall cooperate with relevant international and regional organizations and non-governmental organizations.

Therefore, we would like to welcome the review mechanism of the UNTOC and its Constructive Dialogues and express Armenia's support to the participation of all interested NGOs in such dialogues without discrimination.

Such a participation is beneficial not only for the NGOs, as they have an opportunity to learn from their peers of their best practices and successes, but also for the states parties and their societies, as eventually the knowledge and information gained by the participating NGOs will serve the societies in which they operate.

Thank you

