

# CGR



## CENTRE for GOVERNANCE RESEARCH

PAKISTAN

2021

**NIOC-CGR Statement: Tariq Khosa, Director, CEO**

**UNTOC Constructive Dialogue-27 May 2022**

Chair, Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates: It is indeed a great honour for me to speak at this august forum in order to represent the civil society views on transnational organized crime and the Convention that is under review to measure its effectiveness and implementation by the Member States.

I have been in public service for about half century, starting my law enforcement career in 1973. For about four decades, I was part of the state apparatus in dealing with challenges like terrorism, drug trafficking, migrant smuggling, human trafficking, money laundering and cybercrimes. Since retirement, now for more than a decade, I have had the opportunity to understand and deal with the challenges faced by civil society and victims of organized crime. I am now a firm believer that both the state and society have to foster a concerted and cooperative strategy to combat the complexities posed by the threat of transnational organized crimes. We cannot work in silos; an approach of partnership and cooperation is critical, especially when we are discussing international cooperation and technical assistance today in this extremely important Constructive Dialogue.

Mr. Chairman: the horizon has darkened generally due to the nexus of transnational organized criminal networks with corrupt and greedy stakeholders who wield influence and power in the policy domains due to weakened institutional safeguards. We are living in “interesting times” with a fractured polity and a divided society. Unfortunately, plutocratic pettiness prevails. However, ill-gotten wealth can't buy admiration, respect and trust. But it can buy political power. We are seeing kleptocrats rising against principled stakeholders and those who espouse the rule of law and want to promote good governance. This is the dilemma we face today.

We are here to find solutions and recommend the way forward. Here are my six key recommendations in the context of international cooperation and technical assistance:

1. Under Article 13 of the Convention, utmost efforts should be made for confiscation of proceeds of crime, including property and related equipment. Domestic laws, procedural rules, agreements or arrangements should promote international cooperation in dealing with all transnational organized crimes.
2. Inter-connection of prevention and deterrence demands skills development and capacity building. A whole-of-society approach is required through an international legal framework and public-private partnership.
3. Online child abuse, data protection and corporate responsibility need to be the priorities in tackling the emerging challenges.
4. A Convention on Cybercrime is the need of the hour. UN Ad Hoc Committee is soon going to hold its second meeting in the next few days in Vienna. Efforts should be made to focus on law enforcement and criminal justice and improvements in investigative and prosecution skills.
5. In dealing with transnational organized crime, need for public awareness and education is crucial aspect of developing community resilience.
6. There is a need for a Forum for research and exchange of professional views amongst civil society, NGOs, Experts, Academics, Private Sector and Industry.

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I would like to appreciate great work being done by UNODC Civil Society Unit and the UNTOC Secretariat in facilitating the task of UNTOC Review under Cluster-1 related with Jurisdiction and Criminalization, being undertaken by the National Focal Persons. CSU, in coordination with the Global Initiative Against Transnational OC came up with a Guide for Civil Society Engagement in July 2021 which helped many CSOs undertake meaningful engagements with their respective governments. It is heartening to note that UNODC CSU is encouraging pilot initiatives in different countries to showcase how effective partnership can be fostered between the state and society. Some countries are setting examples worth emulation. I suggest that UNTOC Review Secretariat consider putting together a document of such international best practices.

I would like to conclude that UNTOC review is not a punitive process, nor it involves any sanctions. It is a great opportunity to identify gaps in various laws, policies and processes and foster genuine international cooperation by way of ensuring that effective implementation is achieved through international cooperation and technical assistance. This is the only way forward.

Thank you.

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