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27th Session, UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice *Intervention by Liberato Bautista, President of CoNGO*

Vienna, 14 May 2018

As president of CoNGO, the Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations in Consultative Relationship with the UN, I speak on behalf of no fewer than 500 member organisations. At the outset, I would like to thank the Commission and its Member States for their efforts to fight global crime, in particular cyber-crime.

The expectation that the World Wide Web would grant greater freedom and make for better communication and opportunities has not been met. On the contrary, cyberspace has provided unlimited opportunities for crime and abuse. The "dark web", as we know it, provides a platform for illegal activities, including all forms of trafficking and money laundering.

Its impact on development in general beggars description. The loss of financial support for sustainable development in particular is immeasurable.

Multistakeholder cooperation, collaboration, and coordination are essential, not optional, in internet governance. Beyond infrastructure and technological architecture, a truly global framework of internet governance must foster an ethos that is open and transparent, inclusive and participatory, and just and democratic.

The NGO community welcomes every opportunity to cooperate with Member States in combating organised crime and coordinating operations. CoNGO attaches particular importance to:

The interdependence between sustainable development and respect for human rights. We thus welcome the decision of the Human Rights Council to ensure that human rights apply on-line as well as off-line.

The need to enforce legislation regulating internet activities and users' rights. Particular heed should be paid to the role that "facilitators" play in money laundering activities, including the use of the internet in facilitating human trafficking.

Support for the initiative to establish a Cyber Civil Rights Charter. The inclusion of regional, national and international NGOs in the activities of Member States and the United Nations alike in combating cyber-crime;

The urgency of full implementation of the *Aarhus Convention* that has languished for twenty years;

Meaningful action brooks no further delay.

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