

A healthy planet



For future generations

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NGO Committee on Sustainable Development VIENNA

Statement to the Crime Congress

Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda Emerging Issues

The world-wide corona pandemic poses unprecedented challenges to the world as a whole. In addition to taking steps to combat the disease and restore public health, the international community will have to draw up plans to address the economic and environmental crises that will follow in COVID's wake.

Without doubt the corona pandemic will give rise to a surge in criminal activity and organised crime. Those criminal activities will not only focus on seizing control of medical and pharmaceutical endeavours, but also on disrupting 'green deal projects', environmental improvement and socio-economic initiatives. Caution, vigilance and major involvement on the part of civil society are essential to advancing crime prevention, strengthening criminal justice and assuring the rule of law.

At the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in October 2020 a resolution on "Preventing and Combatting Crimes that affect the Environment falling within the scope of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime" was adopted.

In § 16 cooperation with secretariats of UN Conventions is requested to achieve the goal of reducing environmental crime. We believe that this goal can only be achieved if the public is informed in a transparent way and involved accordingly and corruption can be stopped.

The UN Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) could be an such an overarching instrument to encourage people to cooperate, as information and participation of stakeholders is a key element in fighting crime and corruption.

The undersigned non-governmental organisations in consultative relationship with the United Nations urge that tangible steps be taken to secure the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Attention should thus focus on sustainable development goal 17 and the essentiality of genuine partnership in combating transnational environmental crime. The undersigned NGOs urge the participants in the Crime Congress, in particular the States member to the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, to:

- a) *Support* the resolution “Preventing and Combatting Crimes that affect the Environment”;
- b) *Encourage* close cooperation between the secretariats of the UN Conventions mentioned in the resolution, as well as the secretariat of the Aarhus Convention;
- c) *Encourage* transparency and consistency of procedures;
- d) *Support* involvement of stake-holders;
- e) *Encourage* public hearings and procedures, as well as provide related training and education;
- f) *Support* evaluation of the activities and measures;
- g) *Report* on progress at relevant UN meetings and conferences.

Endorsement

As main representative of Socialist International Women in Vienna I beg to submit the above statement with the endorsement of my organisation and that of Non-Governmental Organisations in Consultative Relationship with the UN (ECOSOC), Members of the Vienna NGO Committee on Sustainable Development.

The following organizations have joined the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development in this Statement:

1. Graduate Women International (GWI)
2. Initiatives of Change (IoC)
3. International Alliance of Women (IAW)
4. International Association for Advancement of Innovative Solutions to Global Challenges (IAAI)
5. International Federation of Business and Professional Women (IFBPW)
6. International Inner Wheel (IIW)
7. Pax Romana
8. Society for International Development (SID)
9. Servas International
10. Socialist International Women (SIW)
11. Soroptimist International
12. Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWP)
13. Women's International Zionist Organisation (WIZO)
14. World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ)