

 **UNODC**
Civil Society Unit



JANUARY, 2024

NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the 5th edition of the UNODC Civil Society Unit Newsletter.

In this edition, we are thrilled to share the latest developments and achievements of the Civil Society Unit (CSU).

Our goal is to highlight the impact and results of activities aiming to mobilize non-governmental stakeholders to work with Member States in addressing the complex challenges related to drugs, crime, and corruption.

We hope you will find the content of the 5th issue informative and engaging.

As we embark on the journey into 2024, we extend our warmest wishes and express gratitude for your ongoing partnership and active participation.

With warm regards,
UNODC Civil Society Unit

The first Civil Society Forum: In-depth Discussions on Corruption



The tenth session of the Conference of the States Parties (COSP) to UNCAC in Atlanta, USA saw a record number of civil society attendees: 948 participants representing 320 NGOs. CSU collaborated with the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) and the UNCAC Coalition to organize the Civil Society Forum on December 10, 2023. The forum was attended by approximately 400 delegates, both in person and virtually. The forum included two high-level panels and breakout sessions, providing an opportunity to discuss in-depth the resolutions and relevant thematic areas: Public Procurement Transparency; the Link between Corruption and Transnational Organized Crime; Civil

Society's Role in Addressing Enablers; Countering Corruption to Reduce Gender Inequalities; Beneficial Ownership and the Misuse of Corporate Vehicles; and Promoting NGO Engagement in Multilateral Bodies.

ASEAN civil society takes first steps in the creation of networks against transnational organized crime

During the “ASEAN for Good Governance: addressing cross border corruption and transnational crime” conference held in Penang, Malaysia on 5-6 December, the Civil Society Unit conducted a training session on UNTOC and its Review Mechanism.

[Read more](#)



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FRAMEWORK



UNODC Youth-led action to prevent violent extremism and terrorism

From 4 to 5 December 2023, UNODC convened the inaugural meeting of the youth-led action board to prevent and respond to violent extremism and terrorism initiative in Vienna. Eight board members from different parts of the world discussed the implementation of the youth-led initiative and explored the way forward. [Read more.](#)

Promoting the Exchange of Experiences between Civil Society Networks in the Americas and Africa in the Context of the UNTOC Review

Under the Stakeholder Engagement for UNTOC (SE4U) project implemented by the UNODC Civil Society Unit, Regional Civil Society Networks for UNTOC Implementation (NET4U) have emerged, established so far in Africa and the Americas.

[Read in English.](#) [Read in Spanish.](#)



Accelerating the implementation of international drug policy commitments in Africa through civil society action



From 8 to 10 November 2023 the African Union Commission, in cooperation with UNODC, UNAIDS, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the U.S. Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) organized a High-Level session on Addressing Drug Use and Substance Use Disorders among Youth, Women and Children in Lusaka, Zambia. The meeting gathered ministers and government officials as well as experts from international organizations and civil society, including NGOs and academia to exchange on best practices and challenges in addressing the rising drug abuse among youth, women and children in the continent. [Read more.](#)

Enhancing implementation of a 'Cybercrime Convention' through a multistakeholder approach

In the margins of the Global Conference on Cyber Capacity Building (GC3B) in Ghana, the UNODC Civil Society Unit, in partnership with the International Chamber of Commerce, the Cyber Peace Institute and Microsoft, organized an event to discuss the importance of multistakeholder contributions in the implementation of a future 'Cybercrime Convention'. A multistakeholder approach ensures that policies are capable of addressing the challenges of cyberspace while respecting the rights of all stakeholders. [Read more](#)



Open Call for Applications for the 2024 Constructive Dialogues!

A large group of people, including men and women in business suits, are posing for a group photo in a conference hall. They are standing behind a long table with microphones and laptops. In the background, there are two large projection screens displaying images of a conference. Above the group, logos for UNODC, UNTOC REVIEW MECHANISM, and SE4U are visible.

Applications now open for 2024 Constructive Dialogues

Deadlines for applications:
On Firearms: 3 December 2023, midnight CET | On TA&IC, TIP, and SOM: 4 February 2024, midnight CET

Photo © UNODC UNTOC

Non-governmental stakeholders are invited to apply to the following 2024 Constructive Dialogues:

- International Cooperation & Technical Assistance (7 June 2024)
- Trafficking in Persons (10 July 2024)
- Smuggling of Migrants (15 July 2024)

[Read more and apply here!](#)



Protecting human rights and dignity of smuggled migrants at the core of discussions of the Constructive Dialogue

The Constructive Dialogue on the Smuggling of Migrants saw the participation of 65 non-governmental stakeholders from civil society organizations, academia and the private sector and representatives from 38 governments. [Read more](#)

Tackling child trafficking and corruption in the context of human trafficking: key topics of 2023 Constructive Dialogue on Trafficking in Persons

During the constructive dialogue, 157 participants from civil society organizations, academia and the private sector and representatives from 51 governments discussed responses to those concerns through stronger implementation of the Protocol on Trafficking in Persons as well as the status and developments of the Review Mechanism for UNTOC and its Protocols. [Read more.](#)



Breaking barriers: including civil society in the fight against transnational organized crime in Kenya

As the first Voluntary Pilot Initiative (VPI) to create a collaborative space on tackling organized crime, the government of Kenya prompted civil society to support their implementation of UNTOC. [Read more](#)

Together against corruption at the Multi-stakeholder Workshop in Montenegro

The three-day workshop organized, by UNODC Civil Society Unit in partnership with the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) and with support from the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), aimed to delve deeply into the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), with a specific focus on Chapter II concerning preventive measures and Chapter V related to asset recovery. [Read more.](#)



Leveraging civil society engagement in implementing international drug policy commitments

UNODC in collaboration with the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC), hosted a highly successful online workshop titled, "The Road Towards 2024 – how to effectively engage in the CND thematic discussions", which took place on 7 September 2023. [Read more.](#)



Multistakeholder perspectives on cybercrime convention developments



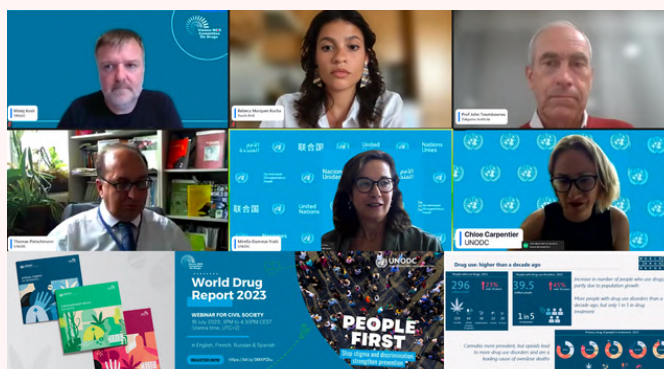
The sixth negotiating session of the Ad Hoc Committee (AHC) to elaborate the United Nations (UN) cybercrime convention took place at the UN in New York from 21 August to 1 September. This session marked in-depth negotiations on the draft convention, with the aim to adopt a focused criminal justice instrument that advances international cooperation to fight cybercrime, while respecting human rights. [Read more.](#)

Role and potential of law enforcement cooperation highlighted at the Constructive Dialogue on International Cooperation



Examining data from the World Drug Report 2023: a webinar for civil society

The UNODC Civil Society Unit (CSU) and the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC) jointly organized a webinar for civil society, presenting the key findings of the 2023 World Drug Report. The webinar provided a spotlight on the latest global and regional trends. Simultaneous interpretation in English, Russian, Spanish and French allowed participants to discuss the latest data. [Read more.](#)



Launch of new video: "Stakeholder Engagement for UNTOC (SE4U) project"



The "Stakeholder Engagement for UNTOC (SE4U) project" video highlights the SE4U project and its key activities to support the effective and impactful engagement of civil society organizations in UNTOC and its Review Mechanism. Find more information on the SE4U Project and its activities [here](#). [Watch video.](#)

Calendar of events - January-April 2024

- Regional Cybercrime Consultation Africa – 18 January 2024, Virtual
- Regional Cybercrime Consultation Americas – 18 January 2024, Virtual
- Reception for cybercrime experts in preparation to the AHC7 – 18 January 2024, Vienna, Austria
- Webinar: Civil Society Engagement in the 2024 CND High-Level segment - 26 January 2024
- [Concluding session of the Ad Hoc Committee](#) – 29 January to 9 February 2024, New York, USA
- Webinar for NGOs: attending the 67th CND - modalities, side events, etc - 7 February 2024
- [SE4U Self-Paced Course UNTOC](#) – February and March 2024
- High level segment of the 67th CND - 14-15 March 2024
- 67th CND - 18-22 March 2024
- [Constructive Dialogue on Firearms](#) - 5 April 2024



<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/ngos/cst.html>

