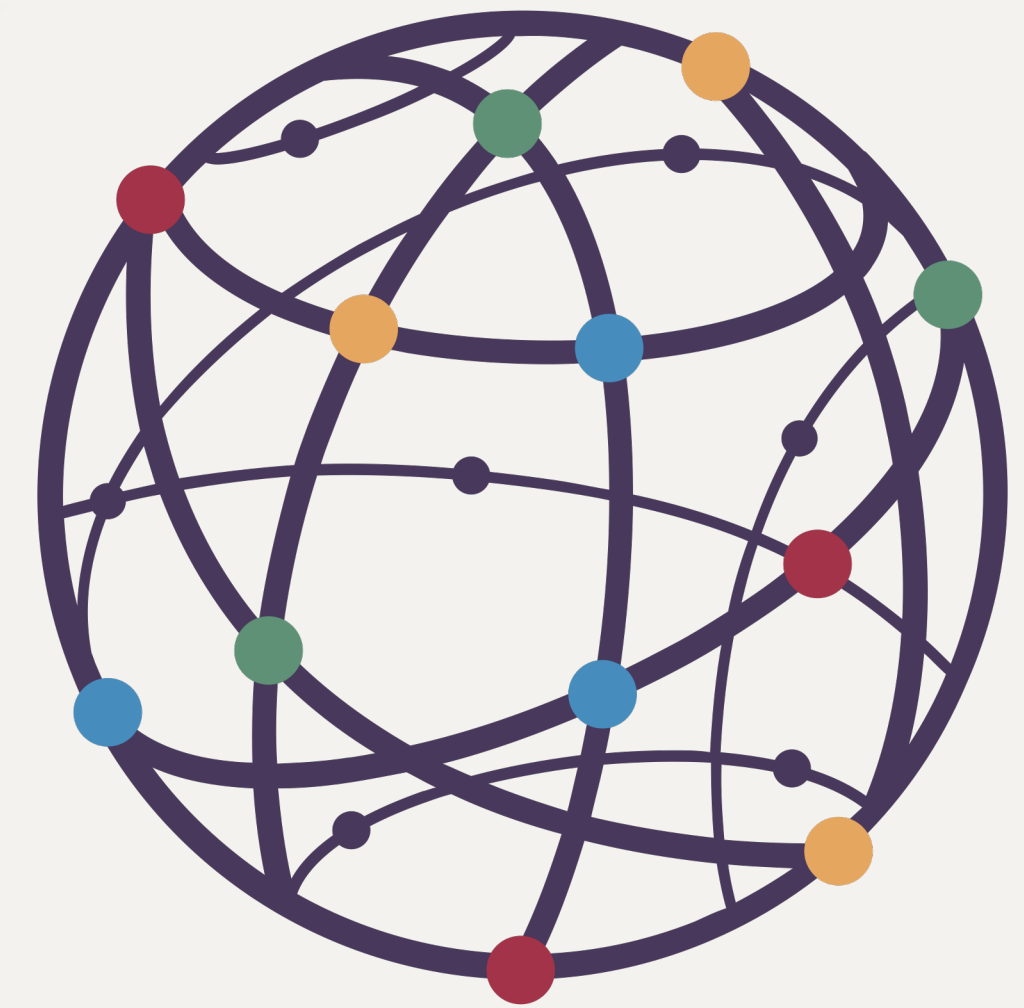


# The Crime Congress and civil society

Meeting of the NGO Alliance on  
Crime Prevention and Criminal  
Justice

12 March 2021



## GLOBAL INITIATIVE

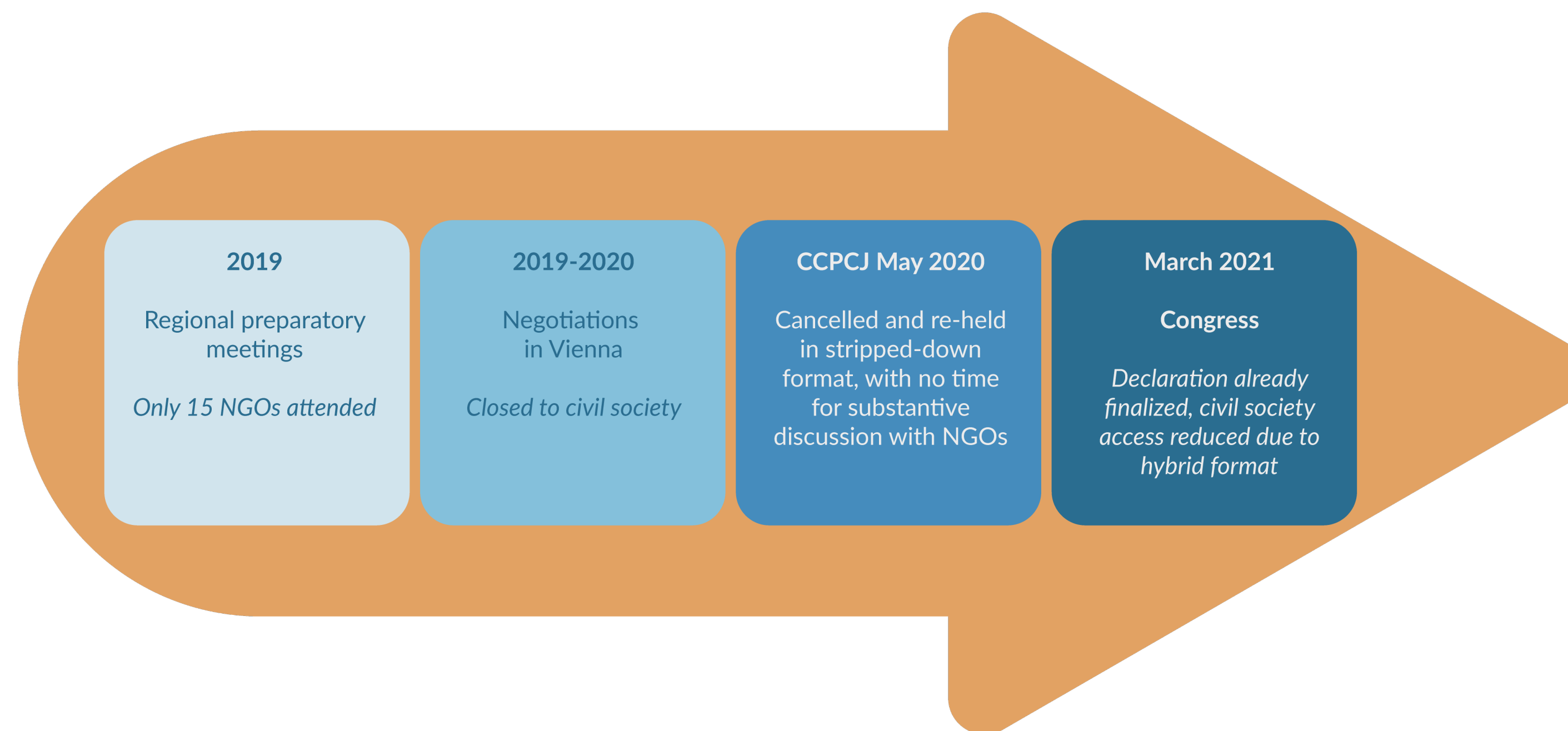
# Mandates



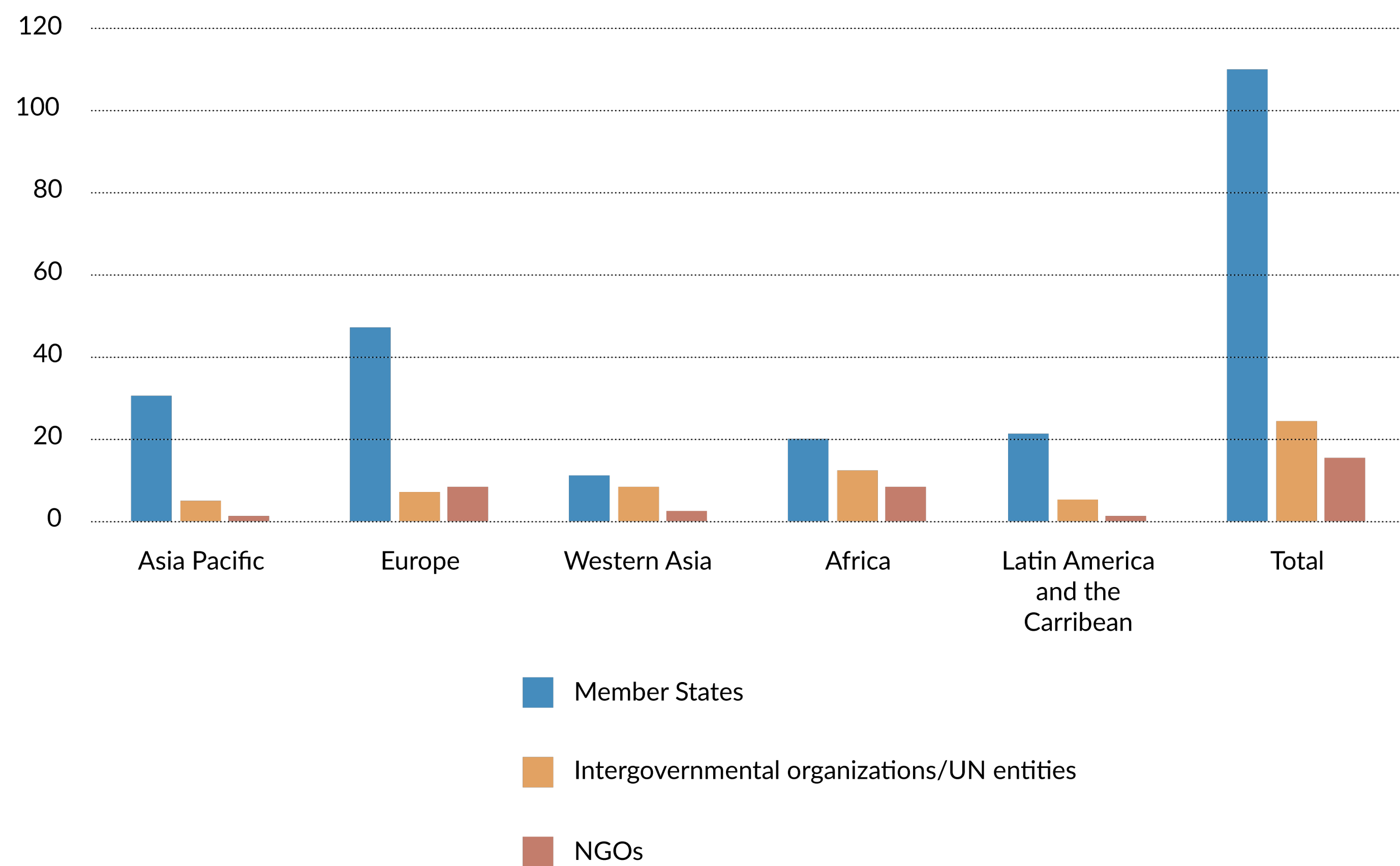
UN General Assembly resolution 46/152: the Congress is a **consultative body** of the UN crime programme and shall provide "***a forum for the exchange of views between States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines***". <https://undocs.org/A/Res/46/152>

UNGA resolution 56/119 “Each congress shall adopt a single declaration containing recommendations **derived from the deliberations** of the high-level segment, the round tables and the workshops, to be submitted to the Commission for its consideration”

## Avenues shut off for engagement with civil society on congress declaration



## Attendance at Congress regional preparatory meetings





# From recognition to a downgraded role



*We emphasize that effective action for crime prevention and criminal justice requires the involvement, as partners and actors, of Governments, regional, and international institutions, intergovernmental, national and non-governmental organizations and various segments of civil society, including the mass media and the private sector, as well as the recognition of their respective roles and contributions*



We recognize the role of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, in contributing to the prevention of and the fight against crime and terrorism. We encourage measures to strengthen this role **within the rule of law**





# From recognition to a downgraded role



## Brasil 2010

*We recognize that the development and adoption of crime prevention policies and their monitoring and evaluation are **the responsibility of States**. We believe that such efforts should be based on a participatory, collaborative and integrated approach that includes all relevant stakeholders including those from civil society.*



*We also recognize that, to enhance the effectiveness and fairness of such strategies, we **should take measures to ensure the contribution of civil society**, the private sector and academia, including the network of institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, as well as the media and all other relevant stakeholders, in the development and implementation of crime prevention policies*



# Kyoto Declaration, 2021



**We emphasize our primary role and responsibility as States and Governments for defining crime prevention strategies and policies**

We undertake to enhance multidisciplinary efforts to prevent and combat crime through cooperation and coordination between law enforcement and other criminal justice institutions, and other governmental sectors, **as well as to support their work, by engaging in and fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships with the private sector, civil society, academia and the scientific community, and with other relevant stakeholders as appropriate**

# Proceedings at the Congress

- Very few recognitions of civil society contribution in high level statements, more positive statements under agenda item 3
- No references to civil society in report of Workshop I, one reference in Workshop II, three in Workshop III, two in Workshop IV
- Restricted number of NGO speakers
- Attempting blocking of NGOs by Member States



# What next?

- Space at the UN for civil society is under pressure across the board
- This Congress has demonstrated how the role of civil society can be gradually diminished over time, and it is difficult to recover
- Although we have diverse viewpoints and experiences, we can unite on coordinating and advocating for access for civil society





# THANK YOU



**GLOBAL  
INITIATIVE**  
AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL  
ORGANIZED CRIME



KYOTO CONGRESS  
**2020**

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