

## How to counter transnational organized crime for promoting development

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As you have seen yesterday, especially in the Key Note speeches of François **Voeffray** and **Sarah Cliffe**, the notion of state capture is an emerging threat from transnational organized crime (TOC). States are fragile since many of their officials from developing countries are subject to a huge pressure from transnational organized crime. At the same time, corruption, bribery and other offences related undermine economy development as well as democracy, they do not constitute an end in themselves for organized criminal groups. So, what is the most important for transnational organized crime? This is a very simple objective and even unique goal, which is clearly underlined in the article 2 of the Palermo Convention: “*to obtain a financial or other material benefit*”; it means that all offences committed by those groups are oriented towards that end. Hence, public elections, government programs, Rule of Law, Justice decisions, every single phase or step of public institutions should be corrupted or threatened and members of those institution eventually assassinated in order to achieve that goal and take control, inter alia, of sectors of activities or control of territories.

In such a context, what States should do is obviously to prevent and counter efficiently the phenomenon. Unfortunately, as stressed by many of the speakers of the first day of this Conference on Dialogue on Organized Crime and Development<sup>2</sup>, a significant portion of states decisions are fully directly or indirectly controlled by organized criminal groups. If we look again into the Atlas<sup>3</sup> which was launched on the margins of the last High-Level Session of General Assembly in NY, we can see the huge magnitude of the problem. Conflicts, Terrorism, and their links with mainly environmental crimes and illicit drug trafficking are largely caused by organized criminal groups when there is a convergence between their interests and destabilization of States. Of course, all the bilateral and international development aid providers know that issue; however, those providers are squeezed between their good will of helping people in developing countries and, of course, the importance of delivering the aid properly and without any involvement of any kind with transnational organized crime. Unfortunately, many governments are not strong enough to propose an attitude of resilience against those groups. It should be stressed, as well, that corruption scandals and organized crime influence are not obviously the privilege of developing countries; however, sensitivity on those matters is more important for developing countries since aid is given to those countries for building robust institutions, supporting the economic and financial sectors and moreover, providing primary and indispensable assistance to the poor people. Lamentably, because of organized criminal groups' actions, development efforts are very often pushed-down; this impact should be clearly diminished if we want to stimulate and promote to the appropriate level, institutional development and economic growth.

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<sup>2</sup> Conference organized by the Department of International Cooperation (UK) and the Global Initiative against Organized Crime 12-13 February 2019

<sup>3</sup> World Atlas on Illicit Flows produced by Global Initiative against transnational Organized Crime, RHIPTO and Interpol, (September 2018)

In this context, how could we together, since it should be said it has been for decades that many developing but also developed States are involved without a real success in countering this criminal phenomenon due, as again excellently showed in the Atlas.

We, at the Center of expertise on counter terrorism measures and at the Cybersecurity/Cyber-defense Chair of the Ecoles de St-Cyr Coëtquidan<sup>4</sup>'s Research Centre, we produce independent studies as a component of the Research Centre of the Officers School in order to provide the future highest officers of the French Military Army with all necessary education skills in that field. For example, we provide them with a copy of the Atlas and during special sessions devoted to that effect we discuss with them the results of such studies. That type of education is essential not only for officers but for all types of military or civil servants in developed and developing countries. In that context, I can assure you the French Military Academy, and especially its Research Centre is fully supporting your initiative and even more specifically Development Dialogue process of the position of counter-crime policy in the international development debate. It is so important for us that I am currently working with officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to bring that matters to the attention of the Security Council of the United Nations in the context of implementing the Security Council Presidential Statement on those matters (S/PRST/2018/9) of last year and particularly is para on “encouraging *“fora to enhance knowledge of and support initiatives to address, in the design and implementation of global, regional and national counter-terrorism strategies, the linkages between terrorism and transnational organized crime, including in accordance with resolution 2242 (2015”*. During my next visit to New-York at the end of this month, I should have consultation on that matter and bring key element of involving civil society and the work of Research entities at the center of the UN Security Council agenda against organized crime and its links with terrorist organizations.

Actually, we have to make clear conclusions that countering TOC is first and above all the task of citizens, civil society, NGOs, independent Research Centers, free media and social networks since they are the first victims of organized crime especially in the context of the Human Development Agenda. This evidence is so obvious! Up to now, and despite strong efforts, we probably link still too much overall development and economic development while we have left too much aside Human Development per se. Protecting life and dignity, rule of law and human rights should be at the highest level of our collective and of the Worldwide Agenda. One of the key elements to go into that direction is in diminishing significantly the global negative impact of Transnational Organized Crime against the Broadest Development Agenda. It is quite clear that States have not done enough in that direction and that civil society should be much more involved as the primary victim of this scourge. This is exactly what the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime promotes on a constant basis. We should applaud Mark Shaw, Director of GI, Tuesday Reitano, GI's Operation Director for their courageous work in that endeavor and their constant efforts in that direction. The event of those days is, again, fully supported by the Research Centre of the French Military Academy and rest assure that we will do our utmost to bring that matter to the highest rank in the Global Agenda of the United Nations.

Have a good session today and thank you for your attention.

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<sup>4</sup> The French Officers' Military Academy