

## TRACIT calls for attention to illicit trade during UN Crime Congress

**Kyoto, March 12, 2021 (Virtual)** – Today, the Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT) participated in the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The special session of the Congress examined the criminal elements that underpin all forms of illicit trade and, specifically, those undermining the ambitions of SDG 16 to achieve peace and justice in the world.

TRACIT participated in the Congress with the aim to inform decision makers of the urgency to address the criminal elements associated with illicit trade that hold back progress on achieving SDG 16.

***“Our research shows that illicit trade significantly compromises achievement of all the SDGs by crowding out legitimate economic activity, depriving governments of revenues for investment in vital public services, dislocating hundreds of thousands of legitimate jobs and causing irreversible damage to ecosystems and human lives,” said TRACIT Director-General Jeff Hardy.***

In a paper published for the Congress, TRACIT explained that achieving SDG 16 is a prerequisite for achieving all the development goals, as it aims to deliver peaceful and inclusive societies with effective governance based on rule-of-law principles.

Illicit trade—in all its forms—stands in direct juxtaposition to SDG 16 and threatens achievement of its objective and several of its underlying targets: Feeding violence (16.1), exploiting women and children (16.2), undermining trust in institutions and the rule of law (16.3), generating enormous illicit financial flows (16.4), breeding corruption (16.5), and financing terrorism (16A).

***“While illicit trade poses a threat to all 17 SDGs, nowhere is the nexus as evident than in SDG 16,” said Mr. Hardy. “Across the board, this goal is negatively impacted by all types of illicit trade examined in this study.”***

The special session also featured Mr. Graham Mott, Economic Affairs Officer at UNCTAD, Mr. Shane Britton, CEO of Crime Stoppers International and Mr. Filippo Musca, Director General of the Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights.

The TRACIT report is available here: <http://www.un-congress.org/Publication/View/4054152a-fd07-4193-a915-b40e9b8a9a81>

### **About TRACIT**

The Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade ([TRACIT](http://www.tracit.org)) is an independent, private sector initiative to mitigate the economic and social damages of illicit trade by strengthening government enforcement mechanisms and mobilizing businesses across industry sectors most impacted by illicit trade.

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