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Item 6 (e) of the provisional agenda*

**Integration and coordination of efforts by the
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and by
Member States in the field of crime prevention and
criminal justice: Other activities in support of the
work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and
Crime, in particular activities of the United Nations
crime prevention and criminal justice programme
network, non-governmental organizations and
other bodies**

Statement submitted by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council**

The Secretary-General has received the following paper, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* [E/CN.15/2024/1](#).

** Issued without formal editing.



Note on the Resilience Fund: Supporting community responses to organized crime

A. INTRODUCTION

On 21 May 2019, in the margins of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna (CCPCJ), the Resilience Fund was launched by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC), with the support of the government of Norway. It was launched with a mission of identifying, incubating, and amplifying community responses against organized crime. The Fund was designed to strengthen community resilience in regions affected by conflict, violence, and criminal governance, empowering local initiatives and fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders.

In the ongoing struggle against the far-reaching impacts of organized crime, the Resilience Fund seeks to foster resilience and collaboration. Rooted in the collective efforts of grassroots activists, journalists, and community leaders, this initiative stands as a testament to the power of community-driven action in countering the pervasive influence of criminal entities worldwide.

The Fund has received direct financial support from the governments of Norway, Netherlands, UK, USA, Germany and New Zealand.

B. SUPPORT MECHANISMS OFFERED BY THE RESILIENCE FUND

Grants

In communities facing the direct impacts of organized crime, the scarcity of financial resources poses a significant challenge. The Resilience Fund directly addresses this issue by providing grants to activists, journalists, community leaders, grassroots organizations, in such regions for community projects aimed at enhancing resilience. By targeting fragile areas, the Fund ensures that resources reach those who are often overlooked, thereby making a tangible difference in communities most in need.

Capacity Building

Through the Fund's training and mentoring program, partners receive guidance on navigating the unique challenges presented by their environments, including cyber threats, physical security risks, and the complexities of criminal economies. This approach starts with an understanding of criminal markets, criminal actors, and identifying local manifestations of organized crime and developing strategies to counteract them.

Networking and collaboration

The Resilience Fund facilitates networking and collaboration opportunities through Resilience Dialogues and the Resilience Fund Community Platform, enabling participants to influence global policy and strengthen their initiatives through collaboration.

C. IMPACT AND REACH

Since its inception in 2019 with the initial support of the Government of Norway, the Resilience Fund has made significant strides, empowering a total of 159 grantees across 54 countries spanning five continents. These dedicated partners have spearheaded 243 projects, each aimed at fortifying communities against the multifaceted threats posed by organized crime. Within these grants, our Fellowship program supports individuals working around the world on issues ranging from environmental crime to human rights. The Fund has consistently championed initiatives that tackle the root causes of criminality while amplifying the voices of marginalized groups.

In April 2024, the Fund launched its fifth fellowship edition, looking at Fragility and Resilience. Each year, the program selects a theme that reflects the various ways

organized crime undermines community safety and stability, such as Disappearances (2020), Extortions (2021), Environmental Crimes (2022), and Human Rights (2023). In 2024, the Fund seeks civil society actors supporting communities in various contexts of Fragility, specifically considering communities facing conflict.

Overview 2019-2023:

- 159 grantees, working on 243 projects in 54 countries across 5 continents
- 4 Fellowships editions
- 100+ members of the Resilience Fund Community Platform with access to funding, training and engagement opportunities.
- 50+ Resilience Dialogues

Upcoming relevant events 2024:

- 5th edition of the Fellowship launched on April 30 on the theme 'Fragility and Resilience'.
- Call for applications: <https://resiliencefund.globalinitiative.net/2024-resilience-fellowship/>
- 60+ grants for 2024

D. TESTIMONIALS

2023 Fellow

The Fund has supported initiatives that affirm and recognize the lived experience of LGBTQ+ community members concerning the impact of organized crime, while ensuring community voices are heard.

2020 Fellow

Thanks to the Fellowship, twice as many journalists, researchers and professors have approached us to learn more about the issue of disappearances. This has given me momentum to go out and raise my voice.

Grantee

The crucial lesson from my advocacy project for indigenous women and local communities fighting land concessions and grabbing is that women play a vital role as the ultimate defenders of their land and environment. Their strong sense of ownership and commitment to safeguarding the environment for future generations make them invaluable guardians.

Grantee

With the project 'Community Empowerment to Reduce Deforestation' I have learned, especially, about community work. We have learned that working in community, working together, is extremely important not only in combating environmental crime, but for the sustainable development of rural communities.

Grantee

The Fund has empowered us to enhance evidence gathering on transboundary forest and environmental crimes, expand global information dissemination for advocacy against such crimes, and provide increased technical, material, and financial aid to forest communities engaged in joint patrols. It has also facilitated networking with the international community and enabled information sharing within the Resilience Network.

Grantee

We were able to expand our scope and impact more people directly in our local community, strengthening our network of youth for peace. The project also enabled

our organization to strengthen its ties with other social actors, including the media, youth organizations, local authorities, etc.

E. APPOINTMENT OF BENTE ANGELL-HANSEN AS CHAIR OF ADVISORY COUNCIL

In March 2024, the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC) appointed former senior Norwegian diplomat Bente Angell-Hansen as Chair of the Advisory Council of the Resilience Fund.

The Resilience Fund will benefit from her experience and insights as it expands its funding, capacity building and networking support to civil society organizations and individuals around the world.

Ms Angell-Hansen has served in several senior roles in the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, including as Permanent Representative to the UN in Vienna, and Secretary General of the Ministry. She went on to serve as President of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Surveillance Authority, and currently serves as a board member of the World Bank/WHO Global Preparedness Monitoring Board.

Ms Angell-Hansen joins existing Council members Gwen Boniface (Canada), Juan Camilo Cock Misas (Colombia), Janet Mawiyoo (Kenya) and Miguel Syjuco (the Philippines) to advocate for and promote the work of the Fund, and to support the continuation and expansion of the Fund's activities.

Upon her appointment, Bente Angell-Hansen said:

'I have been continually inspired and impressed by the courage, bravery and impact of the GI-TOC Resilience Fund community, and I am humbled to become part of the team supporting the Fund's work. In recent years, the problems of transnational organized crime have worsened, causing untold suffering and hindering efforts to support peace, development and human rights. Despite these challenges, including through the Resilience Fund, the GI-TOC is resolutely putting in place strategic efforts to make a difference, both at the community level and at the multilateral level.'
