

OPENING REMARKS BY PROF. IBRAHIM HAMIS JUMA, CHIEF JUSTICE OF TANZANIA, AT THE STAKEHOLDERS' WORKSHOP ON COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LAWS AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIMES (TOC) HELD ON 3RD AND 4TH SEPTEMBER, 2024 AT THE WHITE SANDS RESORT AND CONFERENCE CENTRE- DAR ES SALAAM.

Honourable Justice Dr. Smokin Wanjala, Director of the Kenya Judiciary Academy,

Honourable Justice Dr. Paul F. Kihwelo, Principal of the Institute of Judicial Administration Lushoto (IJA),

Honourable Judge Elisa Samuel Boerekamp, Director Center of Legal and Judicial Training, Mozambique,

Honourable Justices of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal here present,

Honourable Judges of the High Court from Tanzania, Kenya and Mozambique here present,

Mr. Romualdo Mavedzenge - Global Deputy Director of Programmes-International Development Law Organisation.

Ms. Filomena Chitsondo-Director-Office for Prevention and Combat of Drugs -Mozambique.

Honourable Eva Kiaki Nkya, Chief Registrar, Judiciary of Tanzania,

Ms. Teresa Mugadza, Country Manager, IDLO Kenya,

Honourable Magistrates of various ranks here present,

Prosecutors, Law Enforcement officials here present,

Officials, and all other distinguished officers here present,

Speakers, Moderators, Discussants, and Panelists,

Distinguished Participants,

Firstly, let me take this opportunity to express my profound appreciation for inviting me to join you as your Guest of Honour during this Stakeholders' Workshop on Cooperation and Collaboration in Implementation of Laws Against Transnational Organized Crimes (TOC) and, most importantly, meeting colleagues from Kenya and Mozambique.

Secondly, I would like to commend the Institute of Judicial Administration Lushoto (IJA) and the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) for putting together this crucial workshop at this critical time when the international community is grappling with the growing trend of crimes of international nature that transcend beyond borders.

It is gratifying to note that the IDLO, in collaboration with Judicial Training Institutes in Mozambique, Kenya, and Tanzania with the financial support of USAID over the past couple of months, have worked together in building capacity of key justice sector ecosystem stakeholders in the urge to overcome TOC. Please maintain this spirit to match the global efforts to address TOC.

Thirdly, while recognizing the tremendous efforts and stewardship of the IJA and IDLO in preparing this workshop, I would like to thank all participants for your dedication and commitment to travel to Dar es Salaam in Tanzania to attend this workshop.

The extensive participation witnessed today illustrates your high commitment to our joint fight against TOC. This high turnout should be the trend for future regional events that bring together key stakeholders.

Fourthly, I would like to express my deep gratitude to all the speakers, moderators, discussants, and panelists for wholeheartedly accepting the invitation to participate in this workshop. Your expertise is vital as we work together to enhance our response to TOC.

Last but not least, I would like to commend the close and excellent working relations shown by the three Judicial Training Institutes (JTIs) and other Training Institutes (TIs) in the region in capacity building for Judges, Magistrates, Investigators, and Prosecutors.

Distinguished Participants,

When I looked at the various topics in the programme, I was delighted to note that they all focused on the most critical aspects of the TOC. Topics like Financial Crimes, Human Trafficking, Witness Protection,

Asset Recovery, and International Cooperation and Collaboration are essential to fight against TOC.

The workshop's Main Theme, "**Cooperation and Collaboration in the Implementation of Laws Against Transnational Organized Crimes,**" is timely and critical to our roles as crucial actors in adjudicating, investigating, and prosecuting TOCs due to their complex and cross-border nature. We need cooperation and collaboration as we cannot stand alone against TOC.

Distinguished Participants,

Undoubtedly, the adverse impact of TOC is evident in our region. Countries such as Kenya, Tanzania, and Mozambique each face significant challenges related to TOC. Their geographic locations, socio-economic conditions, and political contexts create conducive environment for TOC to thrive.

However, today, I would like to draw special attention to Tanzania, a country that serves as a focal point for understanding the scope and impact of TOC in East Africa.

Distinguished Participants,

Tanzania is renowned for its rich biodiversity, including some of Africa's most iconic wildlife species. Unfortunately, this very biodiversity is under threat from transnational organized crime syndicate. The illicit ivory trade is a grave concern, with criminal syndicates targeting Tanzania's elephant populations for their ivory. Taste for Government Trophy is illicit international market.

Prevalence of the TOC has invariably led to significant ecological and economic impacts, disrupting ecosystems and undermining local economies that depend on wildlife tourism. Moreover, rhino poaching, while less prevalent than elephant poaching, still poses a severe threat. These crimes endangered species and undermined conservation efforts and the rule of law.

Distinguished Participants,

Our countries are both a source and a transit country for human trafficking. Victims, including women and children, are trafficked for forced labour and sexual exploitation. Organized crime networks

exploit our geographic positions and socio-economic conditions to facilitate the movement of individuals across our borders.

All of you invariably read annual TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORTS issued by the United States Department of State. The United States Secretary of State's introduction to the TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS 2024 REPORT looks at two sides digital technology plays in trafficking in persons.

On the downside, the US Secretary of State pointed out that digital tools have amplified the reach, scale, and speed of trafficking in persons. On the more positive side, he added, technology is also one of our most powerful tools to combat this enduring scourge.

In her message in the TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS 2024 REPORT, the Ambassador at large, Cindy Dyer, also underscored the importance of digital technology:

“In our fight against human trafficking, we must constantly strive to connect and unite through innovation, including optimization of our use of digital

technology. Traffickers take advantage of the ever-shifting nature of the internet to exploit others; it is imperative that we, too, embrace technology to counter this trend. Digital technology has given us new ways to prevent trafficking, protect victims, prosecute bad actors, and forge global partnerships to combat this crime.”

I am glad to note, later today, Hon. Justice Kassim Robert will discuss a topic on technology – “The Role of Technology in Detecting and Preventing and Prevailing Finarest, Crimes”. The drug trade, a transnational organized crime, represents a growing threat to the world at large and developing countries in particular. Porous East African borders serve as a transit point for heroin originating from Asia, with trafficking networks exploiting the extensive coastlines and porous borders. The production of narcotic drugs and distribution aggravates public health, fuels other crimes, and has a domino effect of the breakup of families. Drug traffickers always want to stay ahead of our law enforcement. They take full advantage of precedents of our courts, they explain legal technicalities which courts sometime over use.

Distinguished Participants,

Kenya, Mozambique, and Tanzania's extensive coastline make it vulnerable to various forms of maritime crime. Illegal fishing by foreign vessels is a significant concern, as it depletes marine resources and negatively impacts local fisheries. This illicit activity threatens the marine ecosystem and affects the livelihoods of local communities.

Additionally, piracy and armed robbery at sea pose risks to our maritime industry and trade routes. Addressing maritime crime involves enhancing maritime security, improving regulatory frameworks, and fostering international cooperation.

Arms trafficking is another TOC affecting our Region as they often serve as transit points for illegal arms, particularly as conflicts in the Great Lakes region drive demand for weapons.

The illicit arms trade intensifies violence and instability in neighbouring conflict zones, undermining regional security efforts and contributing to ongoing conflicts.

Distinguished Participants,

Our individual States cannot win the fight against the TOC if they stand singly in isolation. We cannot overemphasize the importance of joint efforts that transcend national jurisdictions.

We cannot win the fight against TOC if we dig deep and hide behind our national sovereignty. Even within national sovereignty, national crime-fighting stakeholders cannot afford to work in silos without actively sharing information or collaborating against transnational crimes. Effective counteraction against TOC requires national, regional, and global cooperation and collaboration.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) highlights the importance of sharing intelligence, harmonizing legal frameworks, and conducting joint operations to address complex and challenging transnational organized crimes. Global cooperation is essential for tackling criminal networks' sophisticated and adaptive methods.

Research conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) provides critical insights into the nature and impact of transnational organized crimes (TOC):

- TOC activities undermine the rule of law by corrupting officials, manipulating legal frameworks, and creating parallel criminal systems that challenge state authority. The erosion of legal institutions and the undermining public trust in the rule of law are significant consequences of these crimes. Create new illicit legal culture that lives besides the ineffective mainstream legal culture.
- TOC inflicts severe economic costs on countries, especially developing countries. These include losses in revenue due to illegal activities, increased security and enforcement expenditures, and adverse effects on legitimate businesses and communities. The economic, environmental and climatic impact of TOC can be profound, affecting both national and local economies.

- TOC also often fuels and aggravates civil wars and regional conflicts. For example, the illicit arms trade can perpetuate violence and instability in conflict-prone areas, while drug trafficking and human trafficking can contribute to social and economic instability. The interconnected nature of these crimes means that they often have broader regional implications.

Distinguished Participants,

I am afraid, I must repeat myself. Effective counteraction against TOC requires global cooperation and collaboration and starrily of critical information. UNODC highlights the importance of sharing intelligence, harmonizing legal frameworks, and conducting joint operations to address these complex and transnational issues. Regional and international collaboration is essential for tackling criminal networks' sophisticated and adaptive methods.

Distinguished Participants,

As we proceed with this workshop, I encourage you to participate actively. Your discussions must lead to actionable resolutions to enhance strategies and responses against transnational organized crimes.

This workshop is a unique opportunity to build robust networks, share valuable knowledge, and develop practical solutions to strengthen our collective capacity to combat transnational organized crimes.

By engaging fully in this workshop, we can work together to address the challenges posed by TOC and improve our overall effectiveness in combating these threats. I hope at the end of this workshop, new personal and institutional connections convection will emerge, and existing convections will become even stronger!

Distinguished Participants,

We have a packed programme of two days ahead of us, so it is time for this workshop to begin. I am pleased to declare this Stakeholders' Workshop on Cooperation and Collaboration in the Implementation of Laws Against Transnational Organized Crimes officially open.

Thank you for your kind attention.