

## UN Forum on Business and Human Rights

Highlighting the role of illicit trade in perpetuating human rights abuses

**Geneva, Switzerland, 27 November 2019** – The Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT) joined more than 2,000 experts, practitioners, civil society and business leaders for the annual UN Forum on Business and Human Rights on 25-27 November. This year’s theme, "Time to act: Governments as catalysts for business respect for human rights", provided a unique space for dialogue between governments, business, civil society, affected groups and international organizations on trends, challenges and good practices in preventing and addressing business-related human rights impacts.

**“Addressing forced labor, child labor, and human trafficking requires a true partnership between legal business and governments,”** said TRACIT Director of Program, Ms. Ulrika Bonnier. **“But we must also recognize the role that illicit trade has in perpetuating these crimes.”**

Contrary to legal enterprises that operate in the open, where transparency facilitates oversight of employee rights in the supply chain, TRACIT is drawing attention to illicit traders who operate their criminal enterprises without regard to laws and regulations in place – including laws protecting employee rights.

**“Illegal actors operating in dark do so at the expense of those most vulnerable to abuse, including children, women, and migrant workers,”** said Ms. Bonnier. **“While it is important to look at law-abiding companies and their supply chains, insufficient attention has been given the human rights violations perpetrated by criminal enterprises and in the production of illicit goods.”**

In order to help governments and business better understand how their efforts to respect human rights must account for the negative forces of illicit trade, TRACIT is partnering with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to organize the [UNCTAD Illicit Trade Forum](#) from 3 to 4 February 2020 at the UNCTAD office in Geneva, Switzerland. The event will discuss the role of illicit trade in inhibiting positive development outcomes and, in particular, the implications for the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**“To reach the commitments made under the 2030 agenda, governments must take a stronger stance against illicit trade and its associated crimes, such as money laundering, forced labor and corruption,”** said Ms. Bonnier.

### About TRACIT

The Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade ([TRACIT](#)) is an independent, private sector initiative to drive change 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.

**CONTACT:**

Cindy Braddon

Head of Communications and Public Policy, TRACIT

Tel: +1 571-365-6885 / [cindy.braddon@TRACIT.org](mailto:cindy.braddon@TRACIT.org) / Twitter: [@TRACIT\\_org](https://twitter.com/TRACIT_org)