



# MEDIA RELEASE

## Illicit trade is holding back progress on achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals

**New York, 25 September 2019** – Today, the Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT) participated in a meeting on “Achieving the SDGs: Filling the Funding Gap,” hosted by United Nations Development Program and Global Financial Integrity.

The event provided an opportunity for key stakeholders to address trade-related ways to promote sustainable development, how to help governments curtail trade misinvoicing (which is estimated to pull close to \$200 billion from developing economies annually) and what might be done to address illicit trade in key business sectors important to development such as fish, timber, mining and oil.

TRACIT referenced its report, *Mapping the Impact on the Sustainable Development Goals of Illicit Trade*, which maps the 17 UN SDGs against 12 key sectors that participate significantly in international trade.

From smuggling, counterfeiting and tax evasion, to the illegal sale or possession of goods, services, humans and wildlife, illicit trade is compromising the attainment of the UN SDGs in significant ways, crowding out legitimate economic activity, depriving governments of revenues for investment in vital public services, dislocating millions of legitimate jobs and causing irreversible damage to ecosystems and human lives.

*“The socio-economic impacts of illicit trade present significant deterrence to all 17 of the SDGs,” said TRACIT Director of Programs Louis Bonnier. “This illegal activity poses major obstacles to sustainable development, holding back progress, increasing costs and pushing achievement of the goals further away.”*

### 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.

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