



## Contribution by the Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

### To the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

#### 2022 Theme:

**“Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”**

#### I. Introduction

This contribution is submitted by **H.E. Mr. Takeshi HIKIHARA (Japan), the Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) at its thirty-first session**, in response to a letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council of 23 November 2021, inviting the Commission to provide an input to the 2022 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The 2022 HLPF will be organized under the auspices of ECOSOC at the UN headquarters in New York from 5 to 15 July 2022, on the theme **“Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”**. The input aims to highlight the guidance and key measures put forth by the CCPCJ which contribute from a crime prevention and criminal justice perspective to building back better after the COVID-19 pandemic, all while striving to meet the commitments contained in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) is the **principal policymaking body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice**, acts as the **preparatory and implementing body for the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice** and, together with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), acts as the **governing body of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**. While the work of the CCPCJ contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as laid out in this contribution, it goes beyond – and is not to be considered solely from the angle of the 2030 Agenda.

The CCPCJ works on a large portfolio of issues; the ones addressed in this contribution do not reflect the work of the Commission in a comprehensive manner, but represent **examples related to the 2022 HLPF theme and the selected SDGs, namely SDGs 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 14 (Life below Water), 15 (Life on Land) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).**

The contribution **covers the period March 2021-February 2022<sup>1</sup>**. The work of the Commission, as has been the case with other intergovernmental entities, has been heavily impacted by the pandemic. As described below, the Commission took a frontrunner role in the United Nations system, with an almost immediate transition from in-person to online and hybrid meetings, to ensure full business continuity.

The **Fourteenth United Nations Crime Congress, for which the CCPCJ has undertaken the preparatory work**, which was foreseen to take place in Kyoto in 2020, was postponed and held on **7-12 March 2021** in a hybrid format - most of the participants took part in the Congress in an online format, via a special event platform, while a limited number of participants attended in person in the Kyoto International Conference Centre. A record number of more than 5,000 participants participated in the Congress, representing 152 Member States, 114 NGOs, 37 IGOs, 600 individual experts and several UN entities and institutes. At the opening of the Fourteenth Crime Congress on 7 March 2021, Member States adopted the ***“Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”*** by consensus, which represented in the years to come the key political commitment on crime prevention and criminal justice and was **endorsed by the Commission at its 30<sup>th</sup> regular session (GA Resolution 76/181).**

The **30<sup>th</sup> session of the CCPCJ, chaired by H.E. Ambassador Alessandro CORTESE (Italy)**, held **its main session from 17 to 21 May 2021**, gathering over 1,115 participants representing 125 Member States, 7 UN bodies and agencies, 15 intergovernmental organizations and 49 non-governmental organizations. At the margins of the May meeting, 84 side events were organized, co-sponsored by Member States, UN entities, international and regional organizations and civil society - covering a wide range of topics related to crime prevention, criminal justice and rule of law.

The Commission acts not only as the preparatory body for the Fourteenth United Nations Crime Congress but also as its follow-up body. In this capacity, and following the request contained in the Kyoto Declaration, the Commission adopted (as decided in ***GA resolution 76/181***), in consultation with Member States a **multiyear workplan of thematic discussions to effectively follow up on the Kyoto Declaration**, which follows the four pillars of the declaration, namely Pillar 1 on Advancing

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<sup>1</sup> Considering that the submission deadline is 1 March 2022.

crime prevention; Pillar II on Advancing the criminal justice system; Pillar III on Promoting the rule of law; and Pillar IV on Promoting international cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime.

In this context, the Commission held the **first set of thematic discussions on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration from 10 to 12 November 2021**. The discussions focused on “Advancing crime prevention”, including the following sub-topics: (i) Addressing the root causes of and preventing crime in an evidence-based manner; (ii) addressing the economic dimension of crime; and (iii) mainstreaming a gender perspective into crime prevention as well as addressing the needs and protecting the rights of children and youth in crime prevention, and empowering youth in crime prevention. The procedural report can be found on the following website: <https://adobe.ly/3AJEzKG> and a Chair’s Summary containing the Salient Points made during the Thematic Discussions has been submitted for consideration by the CCPCJ at its regular 31<sup>st</sup> session in May 2022 (E/CN.15/2022/CRP.1).

At its **reconvened 30th session in December 2021**, the Commission held a **thematic discussion on “Effective measures to prevent and counter the smuggling of migrants, while protecting the rights of smuggled migrants, particularly women and children, and those of unaccompanied migrant children”**. A Chair’s summary containing the salient points is contained in the report of the reconvened 30th session (<https://undocs.org/E/2021/30/Add.1>). At the reconvened 30th session, the Commission also agreed on the **themes for the thematic discussions for the period 2022-2025**. In the decision (E/CN.15/2021/L.13), submitted for subsequent adoption by the ECOSOC, the Commission was encouraged to conduct those thematic discussions within the framework of the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration, thereby contributing to the consideration of the annual themes of the Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

In line with this decision, the theme for the **31<sup>st</sup> session of the Commission, scheduled to be held from 16 to 20 May 2022**, will be as follows: **“Strengthening the use of digital evidence in criminal justice and countering cybercrime, including the abuse and exploitation of minors in illegal activities with the use of the Internet”**.

**II. Progress, experience, lessons learned, challenges and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the SDGs 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17 from the vantage point of CCPCJ, bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and interlinkages across the SDGs and targets, including policy implications of their synergies and trade-offs.**

In the *Kyoto Declaration*, negotiated within the CCPCJ, States committed themselves to take decisive actions and action-oriented measures to address challenges and remove international impediments

posed and aggravated by COVID-19 to crime prevention and criminal justice, including by a multilateral approach and strengthening the resilience of law enforcement and other criminal justice institutions through multilateral cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnership, with special attention to the urgent capacity-building and technical assistance needs of developing countries in this regard, bearing in mind the long-term social and economic implications of the pandemic, including for sustainable development and international cooperation, and recognizing that the poorest and most vulnerable were the hardest hit by the impact of the pandemic (para. 15). They further recognized, in light of the ongoing experience of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in preparation for any similar future challenges, the need to review criminal justice systems and to make them more effective, accountable, transparent, inclusive and responsive through promoting digitalization (para. 16).

In **resolution A/RES/76/184, entitled “*Strengthening criminal justice systems during and after the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic*”**, negotiated within the Commission, Member States underlined that the pandemic posed cross-cutting, multifaceted challenges to the criminal justice system and that it required comprehensive, integrated, multisectoral and coordinated responses, including through cooperation between the justice and health sectors.

#### **[SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all](#)**

In its **resolution A/RES/76/183**, negotiated by the Commission, entitled “***Integrating sport into youth crime prevention and criminal justice strategies***”, States recognized that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic had affected youth, especially those who were in vulnerable situations, and that many of the hardships faced during the COVID-19 crisis in the fields of formal and non-formal education and well-being and health, including mental health, in addition to economic dislocations, were also known risk factors associated with crime, violence and illicit drug-related activities and were likely to expose youth to increased victimization and involvement with crime during and after the pandemic.

In the same resolution, States also acknowledged that the recovery from the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the lessons learned provided an opportunity for Member States to design strategies to overcome the crisis, to accelerate progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to foster economic growth and build back better, including by promoting a socially just transition to sustainable development and by supporting inclusive, multisectoral and coordinated approaches to youth well-being. They also noted that the shared challenges that States face in strengthening their economies amid a global pandemic present an opportunity for transformative approaches to crime prevention and renewed efforts involving the youth, sport and education sectors, in particular working with a range of relevant stakeholders, including, where appropriate, partnerships involving the private sector, bearing in mind the primary role and responsibility of Member States in that regard.

During the **thematic discussions on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration, held on 10-12 November 2021**, speakers recognized the crucial role that youth could and should play in preventing crime and violence. Youth was considered an important stakeholder in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and a formidable, positive agent for change in the communities. Speakers highlighted the importance for governments and the international community as a whole, including the United Nations, to listen and support youth voices and recommendations. Young people should be integrated in decision-making on crime prevention and be provided with platforms to discuss issues related to the rule of law and crime prevention. In this connection, reference was made to the First Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness held in October 2021 in Tokyo.

Various speakers elaborated on the need to develop crime prevention programmes that focused on strengthening youth resilience through education, skills training, sport and drug use prevention, such as music-education programmes, the UNODC-UNESCO Education for Justice (E4J) Programme and the UNODC work to empower youth through sport.

The discussion highlighted some key lessons from the implementation of these programmes and identified success factors for youth engagement in crime and violence prevention, such as:

- involving different sectors including the education and health agencies, and not only criminal justice agencies;
- empowering youth to know their rights; recognizing that education could transform societies;
- paying attention to the needs of girls; and
- providing opportunities for youth to be heard, particularly youth from vulnerable groups.

#### **[SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls](#)**

During the **general debate at the regular 30<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission**, many speakers addressed the issue of gender-based violence against women and girls, including sexual violence, describing national initiatives to enhance access to justice for victims through the establishment of specialized services at all stages of the criminal justice response. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on domestic violence was also emphasized by several speakers. Concern was raised by several speakers on the impact that the lockdowns had had on violence and other crimes against women and children, including sexual exploitation.

During the **thematic discussions on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration, held on 10-12 November 2021**, a number of speakers also addressed the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic in this regard. Speakers recalled the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the levels of gender-based violence against women and emphasized the need to develop prevention strategies for this type of violence which took into account the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic related

measures (such as lockdowns, reduction of dedicated law enforcement personnel etc.). It was noted that some of the measures taken by countries to limit the health impact of the pandemic were gender-blind.

As mentioned above, the **prominent theme of the 30<sup>th</sup> session** was “*Effective measures to prevent and counter the smuggling of migrants, while protecting the rights of smuggled migrants, particularly women and children, and those of unaccompanied migrant children*”. During its **reconvened 30<sup>th</sup> session**, The Commission held a thematic discussion on this topic, pursuant to Economic and Social Council decisions 2020/230 and 2021/219. With wide recognition that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has affected migration flows, numerous speakers stressed that the response to the pandemic, in particular mobility restriction measures, had increased migrant smuggling activities that exposed the most vulnerable, including women and children, to dangerous and violent forms of smuggling. Specific drivers of migration that had been exacerbated by the pandemic, including poverty and insecurity, were noted by some speakers. Numerous speakers stressed the need to address the root causes driving migration and some noted the relevance of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in guiding global migration management.

Some speakers noted that the pandemic had also affected irregular migrants in transit and reduced their livelihood and employment opportunities, thereby increasing their vulnerability to exploitation. The need to raise awareness of sanitary measures and vaccination options in communities of irregular migrants, who were often less aware of the risks linked to the pandemic, was noted. Several speakers added that smuggled migrants, owing to their irregular status, were particularly vulnerable to violence, abuse and other crimes, including trafficking in persons, with women and girls commonly subjected to gender-based violence. In that regard, some speakers stressed the need to improve access to justice for irregular migrants who were victims of crimes.

In *resolution A/RES/76/186, entitled “Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons”*, prepared by the Commission, the General Assembly recalled that trafficking in persons was fuelled by high profits for traffickers and demand that fostered all forms of exploitation, with trafficking in persons disproportionately affecting women and girls, who were particularly vulnerable to trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, and recognized that women and children without nationality or without birth registration were particularly vulnerable to trafficking in persons. It further expressed concern that perpetrators of trafficking in persons had misused the Internet and other information and communications technologies to facilitate trafficking in persons, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, for the purpose of recruitment and exploitation, especially of women and children, and controlling victims.

[\*\*SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development,\*\*](#)

and

**SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**

In its *resolution A/RES/76/185*, negotiated by the Commission, entitled “*Preventing and combating crimes that affect the environment*”, the General Assembly expressed its deep concern that activities of organized criminal groups that affect the environment hindered and undermined efforts undertaken by States to protect the environment, promote the rule of law and achieve sustainable development, including efforts to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Assembly recognized that crimes that affect the environment may also have a negative impact on economies, public health, human safety, food security, livelihoods and habitats. It also recognized the need for a balanced, integrated, comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach and response to address the complex and multifaceted challenges related to crimes that affect the environment, and acknowledging that long-term comprehensive and sustainable development-oriented responses are required to address and overcome those challenges.

**SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals**

Fostering partnerships is key in the Commission’s work. The Kyoto Declaration called “upon the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in accordance with its mandate, to adopt the appropriate policy and operational measures for the follow-up to this declaration (...)and invite(d) the Commission to engage with other relevant stakeholders, including the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network (PNI), in order to strengthen global partnership in advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda”.

In this regard, following the regular 30<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission, a PNI meeting was held in which the institutes and UNODC (the Secretariat of the Commission) reported their activities to address the situation of COVID-19 and further discussed the collaborative work of the PNIs in regard to the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration.

The Declaration also promotes multi-stakeholder partnerships and cooperation on a variety of issues, including – amongst others - crime prevention, reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration and combating cybercrime.

<p><b>III. An assessment of the situation regarding the principle of “leaving no one behind” against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic and for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, within the areas addressed by CCPCJ</b></p>
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The Commission recognizes that, in recovering from the pandemic, efforts should focus on the most vulnerable members of society, guided first and foremost by the principle of “leaving no one behind”. This entails making sure that the real and concrete risks posed by COVID-19 on vulnerable members of society, including in the context of crime prevention and criminal justice, are not overlooked. This message was reflected in many CCPCJ resolutions adopted at its thirtieth session in May 2021.

For example, in its *resolution 30/1 on “Strengthening international cooperation in addressing the smuggling of migrants”*, the Commission requested Member States to address challenges in combating the smuggling of migrants resulting from COVID-19. The Commission in the same resolution also encouraged States to effectively promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrant children, stressing the need to avoid approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability, particularly in the wake of the pandemic.

The General Assembly in its *resolution A/RES/76/182, entitled “Reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration”*, negotiated by the Commission, encouraged Member States to develop comprehensive strategies or action plans to reduce reoffending through effective interventions for the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders.

The importance of taking into account the specific needs of women prisoners and women offenders during the development, monitoring and evaluation of responses to the challenges posed by COVID-19 to the criminal justice system was stressed in the resolution on *“Strengthening criminal justice systems during and after the coronavirus disease pandemic”* (resolution 76/184, negotiated by the CCPCJ). In the same resolution, the General Assembly recognized “that the poorest and most vulnerable are among the hardest hit by the impact of the pandemic”.

#### **IV. Actions and policy recommendations in areas requiring urgent attention in relation to the implementation of the SDGs under review**

Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses is indispensable to build back better from the pandemic. Effective crime prevention and strong criminal justice institutions are key to strengthening the rule of law and human rights and serve as a prerequisite for the effective and sustainable fight against organized crime, corruption and terrorism, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. In view of the new challenges faced in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, and those exacerbated by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission resolved to address them through a variety of measures.



As mentioned above, in order to maintain continuity in its work, the CCPCJ has adapted its working methods by conducting virtual or hybrid meetings – which has broadened opportunities for a broad range of stakeholders to meaningfully contribute to its deliberations.

#### **SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all**

In its *resolution A/RES/76/181, entitled “Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”*, negotiated by the Commission, the Assembly endorsed the **Kyoto Declaration** and requested the Commission to adopt the appropriate policy and operational measures for its follow-up. The Kyoto Declaration emphasized several messages related to SDG 4 on education. In the section on *youth empowerment*, States expressed their endeavour to empower youth to become active agents of positive change in their communities to support crime prevention efforts, including by organizing social, educational, cultural, recreational, sports-related youth programmes and youth forums, as well as by using social media platforms and applications and other digital tools to amplify their voice. The importance of education was highlighted in the context of *reducing reoffending*, specifically by providing offenders with access to vocational and technical training and educational programmes to support them to develop the necessary skills for reintegration into society. With the aim of *promoting the rule of law*, the Declaration also stressed the importance of providing access to quality education and promote awareness-raising activities regarding law and policies, including public law-related education for all, to equip the public with the values, skills and knowledge necessary to foster a culture of lawfulness.

In line with the latter, the General Assembly, through *resolution 76/183 on “Integrating sport into youth crime prevention and criminal justice strategies”*, negotiated by the Commission, noted the opportunity for transformative approaches to crime prevention and renewed efforts involving the youth, sport and education sectors amid the COVID-19 pandemic. It encouraged Member States to integrate sports-based interventions into crime prevention and criminal justice strategies and programmes with a view to addressing risk factors of crime and victimization, including programme elements that provide learning and social support for youth, particularly in schools and educational institutions and investing in capacity-building of trainers and facilitators. The resolution recognized the role of sport in building back better and engaging youth during and after the pandemic and highlighted its contribution to education and social inclusion objectives, as well as the importance of engaging in play and recreational activities for positive child development.

The role of education, vocational and technical training in furthering rehabilitation and reintegration efforts for those in conflict with the law was also emphasized by General Assembly resolution *A/RES/76/184 on “Strengthening criminal justice systems during and after the coronavirus disease*

*(COVID-19) pandemic” and resolution 76/182 on “Reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration”*. In the latter, UNODC was requested to develop model strategies on reducing reoffending, an initiative which is currently ongoing.

In the context of strengthening criminal justice systems during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, *General Assembly resolution 76/184 on “Strengthening criminal justice systems during and after the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”* stressed the importance of capacity-building for criminal justice officials and practitioners and specialized training and education for prison staff and relevant criminal justice officials.

### **SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

In the **Kyoto Declaration**, gender features prominently. The Declaration calls for mainstreaming a gender perspective into **crime prevention**, including through the prevention of all forms of gender-related violence, crime and victimization, including gender-related killings, by undertaking an analysis of gender-related specific needs and circumstances, as well as by soliciting contributions from impacted groups. It also stresses the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective into **criminal justice systems** through measures which include removing impediments to the advancement of women and women’s empowerment in law enforcement and other criminal justice institutions, and ensuring the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. In addition, the Declaration highlighted the need to promote gender-responsive measures that address the gender-specific needs of both offenders and victims, including the protection of women and girls from revictimization in criminal justice proceedings.

In *General Assembly resolution 76/183 on “Integrating sport into youth crime prevention and criminal justice strategies”*, which was negotiated by the Commission, Member States reaffirmed the contributions sport makes to the empowerment of women and emphasized the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective into sport-based crime prevention programmes as well as the need to provide a wide range of safe and accessible sports programmes for women and girls that reinforce their empowerment and gender equality. Further, the resolution requested UNODC to continue supporting Member States regarding the empowerment of girls, the prevention of gender-based violence, and the safeguarding of participants in sports and sport-based interventions from violence and abuse, in particular individuals in vulnerable situations, including children and women.

*General Assembly resolution 76/182 on “Reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration”*, prepared by the Commission, recalled the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders, (the Bangkok Rules). *General Assembly resolution 76/184 on “Strengthening criminal justice systems during and after the COVID-19 pandemic”* also recommended the application of the Bangkok Rules and encouraged Member States

to mainstream a gender perspective into their criminal justice systems and to take into account the specific needs of women prisoners and women offenders when developing, monitoring and evaluating responses to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to the criminal justice system. In addition, the resolution encouraged Member States to promote alternatives to imprisonment taking into account the background, including gender-specific circumstances, of offenders.

The Commission, in its *resolution 30/1 on “Strengthening international cooperation in addressing the smuggling of migrants”*, encouraged Member States to mainstream a gender perspective into migrant smuggling prevention policies, programmes, legislation and other actions to more effectively counter that crime and protect the rights of migrants, by undertaking an analysis of gender specific needs and circumstances, as well as by soliciting contributions from impacted groups. The importance of eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres was emphasized also in *ECOSOC resolution 2021/25 on the “Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons”*, which was negotiated by the Commission. The Council reaffirmed the Plan of Action’s aim to promote a gender-sensitive approach to addressing all factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking in persons and requested UNODC to encourage contributions by States for the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

**[SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development](#)**

and

**[SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss](#)**

As outlined in the 2020 UNODC World Wildlife Crime Report<sup>2</sup>, putting an end to wildlife crime is an essential part of building back better from the COVID-19 crisis. Preparing the road to recovery provides the chance to reset humans’ relationship with nature and lay the foundations of a more just and more resilient world – working together to eliminate wildlife trafficking, prevent future pandemics and put us back on track towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2021, the General Assembly adopted *resolution 76/185 on “Preventing and combating crimes that affect the environment”*, negotiated by the Commission, which is relevant to the advancement of both SDG 14 and SDG 15. In it, the General Assembly recognized that crimes that affect the environment may also have a negative impact on economies, public health, human safety, food security, livelihoods and habitats. It urged Member States to adopt effective measures to prevent and combat crimes that

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<sup>2</sup> The 2020 UNODC World Wildlife Crime Report:

affect the environment and to use relevant international instruments and strengthen legislation, international cooperation, capacity-building and criminal justice responses. In addition, it called on Member States to make crimes that affect the environment serious crimes as defined in the Organized Crime Convention, and to provide effective assistance to and protection for witnesses of such crimes.

Resolution 76/185 also welcomed the Kyoto Declaration, reaffirmed the central role of the CCPCJ as the main policymaking body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, and reiterated the call made in the Kyoto Declaration to adopt the appropriate policy and operational measures for the follow-up to the Declaration. Operative paragraph 15 of the resolution called upon the CCPCJ to hold, during the intersessional period, expert discussions on preventing and combating crimes that affect the environment with a view to discussing concrete ways to improve strategies and responses to effectively prevent and combat these crimes and to strengthen international cooperation at the operational level on this matter.

Following the request contained in this resolution, **from 14 to 16 February 2022**, the Commission held **intersessional expert discussions on preventing and combating crimes that affect the environment**. National practitioners and policymakers from a large number of UN Member States, UN entities, other intergovernmental and international organizations, and civil society experts exchanged good practices and lessons learned in preventing and combating crimes that affect the environment and strengthening international cooperation. The procedural report is being prepared, and a Chair's Summary containing the Salient Points made during the Thematic Discussions will be submitted for consideration by the CCPCJ at its regular 31<sup>st</sup> session in May 2022 (E/CN.15/2022/CRP.2). More information is available at: [https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/session/31\\_Session\\_2022/ccpcj-thematic-discussions\\_crimes-that-affect-environment.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/session/31_Session_2022/ccpcj-thematic-discussions_crimes-that-affect-environment.html).

### **SDG17: Partnership for the Goals**

Engaging in and fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships with the private sector, civil society, academia and the scientific community, and with other relevant stakeholders as well as facilitating international cooperation and technical assistance in criminal matters are some highlights in the Kyoto Declaration and are central to the work of the Commission.

The *Kyoto Declaration* contains a commitment to address challenges posed or aggravated by COVID-19 to crime prevention and criminal justice, including by a multilateral approach and strengthening the resilience of law enforcement and other criminal justice institutions through multilateral cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnership. The Declaration placed special attention to the urgent capacity-building and technical assistance needs of developing countries, bearing in mind the long-term social and economic implications of the pandemic.

## **Multi-stakeholder partnership**

The *Kyoto Declaration* contains commitments to undertake to enhance multidisciplinary efforts to prevent and combat crime through cooperation and coordination between law enforcement and other criminal justice institutions, and other governmental sectors, as well as to support their work, by engaging in and fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships with the private sector, civil society, academia and the scientific community, and with other relevant stakeholders as appropriate. In the context of reducing reoffending, the Declaration indicates to Promote multi-stakeholder partnerships to reduce reoffending by fostering interagency coordination among relevant government authorities, such as employment and social welfare agencies and local governments, as well as public-private partnerships between those authorities and the community, including cooperating employers and community volunteers who support the long-term and social reintegration of offenders.

## **International Cooperation**

The *Kyoto Declaration* contains commitments to a broad range of forms of cooperation, including by taking measures to, inter alia,

- Intensify concerted global efforts to prevent and combat crime by facilitating and strengthening international cooperation in criminal matters,
- Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of central authorities and other competent authorities responsible for facilitating international cooperation such as mutual legal assistance and extradition,
- Strengthen effective international cooperation in criminal matters, including in the areas of extradition and mutual legal assistance, while effectively addressing existing challenges and difficulties, especially with regard to requests, and promoting good practices, facilitate the use of existing regional and international instruments, including the Convention against Corruption and the Organized Crime Convention, as a legal basis for extradition and mutual legal assistance cooperation, and implement and conclude, as necessary, agreements or arrangements to enhance international cooperation in this regard, and
- Establish or strengthen regional and cross-regional cooperation networks of law enforcement and other criminal justice practitioners and facilitate the formal and informal exchange of information.

All resolutions adopted by the Commission in 2021 called for the strengthening of international cooperation and multistakeholder engagement in their respective areas – whether to tackle wildlife crime, trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, to strengthen crime prevention and criminal

justice systems, integrate sport into youth crime prevention strategies, or reducing reoffending. In particular, *General Assembly resolution 76/184, entitled “Strengthening criminal justice systems during and after the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”*, invites Member States to exchange, including through UNODC, information on national legislation, best practices and technical assistance and to strengthen international cooperation in addressing the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to the criminal justice system, including to its facilities, institutions and non-custodial settings, taking into account the contributions of relevant stakeholders such as civil society and academia with a view to better preparing for future similar challenges.

### **Technical Assistance**

The *Kyoto Declaration* contains a commitment to promote, facilitate and support the widest measures of technical assistance, including material support and training, with a view to enabling law enforcement authorities and criminal justice institutions to effectively prevent and combat crimes, taking into account the specific challenges faced by and the particular needs of developing countries.

*General Assembly resolution 76/184* requests UNODC, through the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building, to conduct in close consultation with Member States further studies on the impact of COVID-19 on criminal justice systems and to provide recommendations on advancing criminal justice reforms, with an emphasis on the future preparedness of the criminal justice system, in particular prison systems, to tackle challenges arising from pandemics and widespread health-related issues.

### **Financing development**

The *Kyoto Declaration*, endorsed by the General Assembly in *GA resolution 76/181*, reaffirmed the role of UNODC as the leading entity of the United Nations supporting Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice through the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building, and stressed the need to provide sufficient, stable and predictable funding. It also emphasized the role of the Vienna-based intergovernmental forums, including policymaking bodies and their subsidiary bodies, within the United Nations system on crime prevention and criminal justice as a most valuable and global source of knowledge, inputs, guidance and best practices in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice within their respective mandates.

<p><b>V. Policy recommendations, commitments and cooperation measures for promoting a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery from the pandemic while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</b></p>
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The following recommendations may be considered by the High-level Political Forum with a view to building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic and advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda, from the perspective of crime prevention and criminal justice:

- Reiterate the importance of intensifying concerted global efforts to prevent and combat crime in order to achieve sustainable development and peaceful societies, directing such efforts towards making criminal justice systems more effective, accountable, transparent, inclusive and responsive, and to promoting evidence-informed crime prevention measures;
- Encourage States to mainstream crime prevention and criminal justice into their COVID-19 recovery plans with a view to build back better and ensure that no one is left behind, thereby retaining effective measures set up or strengthened during the pandemic, such as the use of new technologies to ensure the continuity of crime prevention and support services, and remote access to justice;
- Stress the importance of strengthened international cooperation in criminal matters to effectively dismantle criminal networks and counter transnational organized crime, with a view also to achieve sustainable development;
- Invest in international dialogue, exchange of good practices and lessons learnt, as well as technical assistance for more effective crime prevention and responses to crime during the recovery from the pandemic, in particular through the CCPCJ, including through its thematic discussions on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration;
- Allocate sufficient funding in national post-COVID-19 budgets to strengthen crime prevention and criminal justice systems and make them better prepared for future challenges.

## **VI. Key messages for inclusion into the Ministerial Declaration of the 2022 HLPF**

The following key messages may be included into the Ministerial Declaration of the 2022 HLPF:

- We express grave concern about the ongoing challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic for effective crime prevention and criminal justice, and we reiterate our resolve to intensify concerted global efforts to prevent and combat crime by making criminal justice systems more effective, accountable, transparent, inclusive and responsive and by facilitating and strengthening international cooperation in criminal matters;
- We recall our commitment to implement the Kyoto Declaration on “Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development” adopted at the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2021;

· In this regard, we refer to the first round of thematic discussions on the Kyoto-Declaration follow-up held under the auspices of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, centred on crime prevention and how to build back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and we call upon Member States and all other interested stakeholders to actively participate in the following thematic discussions.