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**Commission on Crime Prevention  
and Criminal Justice****Thirty-third session**

Vienna, 13–17 May 2024

Item 10 of the provisional agenda\*

**Contributions by the Commission to the work of the  
Economic and Social Council, in line with General  
Assembly resolutions 75/290 A and 75/290 B,  
including follow-up to and review and  
implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable  
Development****How can the Commission on Crime Prevention and  
Criminal Justice Contribute to the Accelerated  
Implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular Goal 16?****Contributions by Member States and Stakeholders\*\*****I. Introduction**

1. In its resolution 78/225, entitled “Enhancing the contributions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, the General Assembly invited Member States and relevant United Nations entities, international and regional organizations, the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network and other relevant stakeholders to provide, as appropriate, to the Commission, through its secretariat, for consideration during its thirty-third session, views on how the Commission can contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 16. It also requested the Commission to transmit that information along with the outcome of its consideration to the high-level political forum at its meeting in 2024, within existing reporting requirements.

2. According to this resolution, the Secretariat has invited, through Notes Verbales on 22 December 2023 and on 4 March 2024, Member States, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations agencies, Programme Network Institutes and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC to share their views on the above questions.

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\* E/CN.15/2024/1.

\*\* This document has not been edited.



3. The Secretariat invited stakeholders to structure their replies along two questions, namely:
  1. **How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda?, and**
  2. **In particular, how can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions)?**
4. By 19 April 2024, the Secretariat received submissions by
  - **20 Member States:** Algeria, Armenia, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, France, Jordan, Morocco, Myanmar, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Türkiye, United States of America, and Uzbekistan
  - **14 intergovernmental organizations, United Nations agencies, and Programme Network Institutes:** Asian Forest Cooperation Organization, College For Criminal Law Science Beijing Normal University (CCLS), Council of Europe, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, International Criminal Police Organization, International Development Law Organization, International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law, International Telecommunication Union , League of Arab States, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, United Nations Commission On International Trade Law
  - **15 non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC:** Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Asabe Shehu Yar'Adua **Foundation** (ASYARF), Born Free Foundation, Campus Watch, Diplomatic Council, Fundación para la Democracia Internacional, International Legal Foundation, International Organization for Victim Assistance, Kathak Academy, Mijoro Mandroso, Misère Option Zéro, World Society of the Subjective Physics Sciences Organization, World Society of Victimology, Women's Federation for World Peace, ZONTA International.
5. The present conference room paper attempts to provide a reflection of all submissions. Chapter II contains a brief summary of the proposals for the Commission contained in the submissions. The chapter focuses on the areas that were addressed in the submissions most frequently, presenting a representative and non-exhaustive summary of all proposals received. The full text of all submissions as received is reflected in chapters III–V.

## II. Summary of Proposals

6. Many submissions referred to the context in which the Commission conducted its work on the 2030 Agenda, in particular to General Assembly resolution 78/225, and highlighted the important role of the Commission in the implementation of SDG 16 and the Agenda 2030 as a whole. Proposals were made both on the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda in general, and on Goal 16 and its specific targets.
  1. **How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda?**
7. A number of submissions contained proposals how to raise the profile of the 2030 Agenda during the proceedings of Commission sessions. It was suggested that the Commission hold thematic meetings focusing explicitly on issues pertinent to SDG 16. The Commission could make the SDGs a more important component in the

programmes of its regular and reconvened sessions by structuring them around thematic areas that directly intersect with the objectives of SDG 16. The Commission could also discuss the measures taken since 2015 to implement Goal 16, prioritize specific targets and agree on future measures to implement these targets. Member States that present voluntary national reviews at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development should continue to be encouraged to include information on Goal 16 and to share their experiences, progress made, challenges and impediments with the Commission. Also, further publicity for the work of the Commission's work on the 2030 Agenda was recommended, for example through a website listing states' commitments on crime prevention and criminal justice.

8. The Commission was encouraged to underline the interlinkages of SDG16 with other SDGs at relevant political forums, especially the HLPF and the Summit of the Future, through the organization of side events and the submission of written contributions. Further, the Commission was invited to actively participate in the preparatory process to these events, such as the Expert Group Meeting and the international conference on SDG 16 (May 2024).

9. A more thorough analysis of the state of implementation of the 2030 Agenda was encouraged, for example, through the preparation of a CCPCJ report, subject to available existing resources, highlighting country (or global) progress to achieve the 2030 Agenda and helping countries to identify global and domestic areas where more improvement needed to be made.

10. The importance of broad representation of States and stakeholders during the Commission sessions was underlined in many submissions. Developing countries and other groups of countries with specific problems, for example countries with high rates of violence, should be appropriately represented in the Commission. It was also proposed to strengthen collaborative meeting formats that could further the interaction and collaboration with United Nations bodies, Programme Network Institutes and regional organizations. Active participation by civil society, the private and academia sectors was encouraged, and the importance of multilingualism was also highlighted.

11. Many submissions stressed that the Commission had an instrumental role in information-sharing and the exchange of experience and good practices, and it was suggested that this role could be further enhanced by holding workshops and regional meetings. A number of contributions highlighted thematic areas that the Commission should address prominently, including

- Crime and violence prevention with an emphasis on children and youth
- Community-based crime prevention initiatives, community policing models, partnerships between law enforcement and community organizations
- Promotion of the rule of law, strengthening of legal aid services and ensuring equal access to justice for all
- Awareness and knowledge of the rule of law, improvement of citizens' legal literacy and creation of a culture of respect for the law
- Prison reform, comprehensive programmes for rehabilitation, reintegration, assistance and counselling
- Gender-based violence; intersectionality between gender and other conditions such as poverty, age, sex, and ethnicity
- Children's rights, child protection and empowerment of children in crime prevention and criminal justice, enhanced cooperation of the criminal justice system with child protection, social welfare, health and education systems
- Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption and enhanced synergies between the two instruments

- International cooperation in criminal matters, mutual legal assistance and extradition, promoting existing mechanisms for international cooperation provided through INTERPOL and other intergovernmental organizations
- Victim-centred strategies in combating transnational organized crime, victims' rights and the problem of underreporting of crime and violence
- New and emerging crimes; the convergence of crime markets, polycriminality
- Cybercrime as enabler of transnational organized crime, challenges presented by artificial intelligence in the context of cybercrime
- Financial crime and investigations, the recovery and return of assets
- Crimes that affect the environment, including wildlife trafficking
- Addressing terrorism, including foreign terrorist fighters.

12. A number of submissions underlined the role of the Commission in the promotion of technical assistance and capacity-building, in particular in identifying partners for common projects, coordinating technical assistance initiatives, avoiding duplication and promoting international partnerships. Such coordinative role would also help to direct scarce resources towards the areas where they were most needed.

13. Specific types of technical assistance on crime prevention and criminal justice were highlighted, such as legislative drafting, institutional capacity-building and sharing of expertise as well as promoting good governance, the rule of law, and human rights. Specific SDG-related technical assistance was also mentioned, such as, assistance in the establishment of national SDG 16 centres of excellence or in integrating the goals of the 2030 Agenda at the national level into the strategic plans of the justice sector. It was suggested that the Commission include in its agenda an item or a sub-item on the mobilization of technical assistance and global partnerships.

14. The development of tools such as handbooks, manuals or training materials was suggested for a number of areas, including, the denial of entry for corrupt persons; assisting and protecting trafficking victims including children and adolescents; assessing the effectiveness of policies and programs for offender rehabilitation; evidence-based correctional measures for female and juvenile offenders, and protection systems and practices for ex-offenders.

15. A number of submissions suggested that the Commission should further explore the potential of digital technology and technological innovation, with a view to enhancing crime prevention measures, ensure equal access to justice for all and increase transparency in public institutions. It was suggested that the Commission develop and evaluate model strategies and practical measures on the equitable and inclusive use of digital innovation in crime prevention and criminal justice, ensuring they are backed by frameworks that respect human rights and protect against discrimination.

16. The role of the Commission in promoting data collection and evidence-based approaches in crime prevention and criminal justice through research initiatives, innovative projects and improving data collection efforts was also highlighted. The collection of gender-and age- disaggregated data was specifically mentioned. The importance of data collection was also highlighted in the context of national voluntary reviews and in monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the SDGs.

**2. In particular, how can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions)?**

17. It was suggested that the Commission recommend that the United Nations Crime Congress set Goal 16 as a prominent theme for a future session of the Commission. Regional and thematic events were also suggested, for example regional forums, thematic dialogues or technical working groups on specific topics such as cybercrime, restorative justice, victim protection or international cooperation addressing

transnational organized crime. Further, the Commission was encouraged to continue its efforts in awareness-raising on the different targets of Goal 16.

18. The importance of partnerships in the implementation of Goal 16 was highlighted, recognizing that the Commission could play a crucial role in strengthening the dialogue between law enforcement, criminal justice agencies and other government sectors on the one hand and the private sector, civil society, academia, the scientific community, and other relevant stakeholders on the other hand.

19. With a view to enhancing data-driven and evidence-based policies on Goal 16, the organization of specific sessions on data collection on the indicators of Goal 16 was suggested. A survey could assess good practices and challenges in data collection on specific indicators and lead to a compilation of countries' experiences in this regard.

20. A number of proposals addressed specific targets of Goal 16, including:

- **Target 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere**

The Commission should promote awareness-raising and educational programmes aimed at tackling the root causes of crime, such as poverty and inequality. The establishment of early warning mechanisms in the context of the Commission to detect and prevent violence and conflict was recommended. The importance of regional viewpoints on crime and violence was especially underlined.

- **16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children**

The Commission should support the development of human rights-based guidance materials on providing care for and supporting children and adolescents that are victims of crime, address the situation of children in detention, reinforce the preventive role of justice and promote a shift towards child rights-based approaches and enhanced cooperation with child protection, social welfare, health and education systems.

- **Target 16.3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all**

The Commission should encourage States to adopt legislative and institutional measures to ensure equal access to justice for all. Particular emphasis was placed on the strengthening of legal aid services and on exploring the potential of digital technology in this regard. The Commission could further explore the contribution of customary and informal justice systems to community problem-solving and cohesion. Model strategies and other practical measures on how to incorporate gender equality in crime prevention and criminal justice were suggested.

- **Target 16.4: By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime**

The Commission should promote awareness-raising, capacity-building and data collection on illicit financial and arms flows. It could also be increasingly used as a forum to facilitate international cooperation in criminal matters to combat corruption, detect, track and prevent illicit financial flows, as well as recover stolen assets. Countries' experiences and challenges in collecting data on SDG 16 indicators, particularly on target 16.4, should be assessed and further discussed.

- **16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms**

The Commission should promote campaigns, awareness-raising and civil society engagement, training programs and assistance in collecting and analysing relevant data. It was, inter alia, suggested that the Commission could invite experts who utilize data and evidence to assist Member States in enhancing their capacity to combat

corruption. Further, the Commission could promote the deployment and utilization of digital solutions to reduce corruption risks.

### III. Submissions by Member States

#### A. Algeria

##### **How can the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda?**

- Work on implementation of national goals through development and implementation of national strategies and action plans based on the Sustainable Development Goals to achieve tangible progress in various fields
- Strengthen capacities in the education and health sectors to ensure universal access to quality services
- Take measures aimed at preserving the environment and promoting sustainability, including the development of renewable energy sources and proactive management of natural resources, taking into account the right of future generations to their share of capacities and resources
- Develop programmes to reduce poverty and improve living conditions for vulnerable segments of society
- Encourage active participation by civil society and the private sector in decision-making processes
- Take measures to establish equality and reduce disparities in opportunity
- Support innovation and development in the economic sector to achieve sustainable growth and provide job opportunities
- Promote active participation by Algeria in international cooperation and the exchange of experiences with other countries to promote sustainable development at the regional and international levels

##### **How can the Commission on Crime Prevention and Justice contribute to accelerating implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 on peace, justice and building strong and effective institutions?**

- Prevent crime through awareness-raising, especially among young people, about the risks of crime and violence for themselves, their families and their surroundings

Improve legal education and awareness on human rights and justice to increase society's understanding of legal issues

- Bring justice closer to citizens by enhancing electronic litigation procedures, digitizing and simplifying procedures, establishing new judicial facilities to keep pace with increasing population density, and making use of information and communication technologies in the judicial process, especially remote litigation; work to promote and protect human rights in a way that guarantees all segments of society access to justice
- Provide protection and care for children by raising awareness and integrating them into public life by training them to engage in public affairs and express their opinions within the limits of their age; keep them away from the dangers of wars and armed conflicts; prevent their recruitment in any form; and provide them with health care, in particular through vaccination campaigns and early detection of disease
- Combat corruption through transparency in the allocation of public resources; regulate procurement; create standards of competence and expertise for

awarding official positions and mechanisms for a priori and a posteriori oversight of the conduct of public affairs; strengthen accountability; ensure the involvement of civil society organizations in this process

- Ensure that legitimate institutions are set up to address and resolve citizens' concerns, whether elected local councils or national parliaments; ensure that women and youth are integrated into political activities
- Enshrine the values of tolerance, solidarity and freedom of opinion and belief, such that the freedom and beliefs of others are not prejudiced and discrimination, hate speech and violence are not incited
- Reduce the prevalence of murder for any reason, particularly involving women or children, by imposing the maximum penalties on perpetrators
- Curb the illicit flow of arms, in particular firearms, by adopting laws and regulations that stiffen conditions for individuals to carry personal weapons; severely punish any violations, especially when weapons are used in murder and assault
- Reduce the illicit flow of funds that could be used for criminal purposes by strengthening oversight procedures at banks and financial institutions; intervene in the event of any suspected money laundering, in particular unwarranted purchases; conduct parallel financial investigations into all cases related to terrorism, illicit trafficking in drugs and psychotropic substances, and prostitution; strengthen mechanisms to combat the use of financial agencies to launder the proceeds of crimes
- Combat terrorism in all its forms; combat extremist ideologies that imbue individuals with ideas conducive to terrorist tendencies; hold training courses for operational units to combat terrorism (Arab-European) for the Brigade Mobile de la Police Judiciaire
- Combat trafficking in drugs and psychotropic substances
- Develop penal and punitive policies that will achieve social integration by using alternatives to prosecution and penalties, especially for acts punishable by short sentences; share best practices within the framework of international cooperation
- Strengthen technical and material support for tracking criminal assets; introduce flexible procedures to facilitate their recovery from abroad
- Develop a manual of operational practice devoted to indicators that can identify potential victims of human trafficking, and a referral mechanism to provide them with care
- Develop manuals of best practices, particularly in economic and financial investigations and asset recovery
- Provide the cybercrime investigation authorities with investigative tools such as analytics solutions for mobile phones and digital investigation programmes
- Strengthen forensic procedures and the relevant units in cybercrime cases
- Improve malware analytics
- Improve advanced cryptocurrency investigation techniques (Blockchain and Wallet); combat electronic payment and bank card fraud
- Improve advanced in-depth investigation techniques for cases involving breaches of automated data processing systems
- Work to detect complex violations involving economic and financial harm (reducing illicit financial flows; promoting recovery and return of stolen goods; and combating environmental crime, animal and plant trafficking, and corruption in all its forms)

- Develop statistical and analytical databases by identifying variables and indicators related to trafficking in persons and in particular relating to commercial sexual exploitation and economic exploitation of children; improve techniques for investigating issues related to trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants and irregular migration; listen to human trafficking victims, especially women and children
- Strengthen international cooperation by encouraging the exchange of information, visits, good practices, expertise and successful experiences with States and relevant international organizations in the area of combating all forms of organized crime involving trafficking in persons, drugs, arms and ammunition, and irregular migration
- Combat cybercrime, promote juvenile justice, and anything related to the recovery of criminal assets, in accordance with the recommendations issued by the tenth Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption held in the United States in December 2023
- Increase representation of developing countries in international bodies and institutions, so that such institutions are not monopolized by the major powers

## **B. Armenia**

### **How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda?**

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) plays a pivotal role in advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, particularly concerning Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16), which aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

As the SDG 16 is among the focus SDGs of this year's High-Level Political Forum, the Commission could encourage Member States presenting voluntary national reviews at the High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development to share their experiences, progress made, challenges and impediments in implementing those aspects of the 2030 Agenda that are related to the work of the Commission.

The Commission could also put more emphasis in its work on the new and emerging challenges in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice that have the potential to erode the social resilience, perpetuate vulnerabilities and have a cross-cutting impact on the achievement of SDGs by different countries.

One of such challenges, which fall within the purview of the Commission, is the evolving threat of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) which pose a significant threat to regional and global security by often fuelling violence on ethnic and religious grounds and crimes against humanity in conflict zones and posing risks to their home countries due to returning radicalized FTFs. The major interlinkages of organized recruitment and transit of FTFs to conflict zones, with organized crime, money laundering and cross-border trafficking has further exacerbated the issue resulting in blurring the lines between the FTFs and foreign mercenaries.

Combatting this challenge requires a multifaceted approach. Security Council resolutions 2178 and 2396 address the threat of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) through measures like border security and information sharing. The UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) supports Member States in implementing these measures, including improved tracking and disruption of FTF mobility, and promoting human rights-based treatment of associated children. UNOCT also coordinates initiatives on border security, countering terrorist financing, and cybersecurity to combat the FTF phenomenon. The Security Council Sanctions Committees play an important role in ensuring accountability for terrorist entities and individuals assessing the global terrorism threat and emerging trend in the activities of terrorist



organizations, while monitoring compliance of the UN member states with the sanctions regimes. The CCPCJ could have a pivotal role on the crosscutting matters relating to all the mentioned UN entities and its active engagement in this processes, leveraging its knowledge and expertise and bringing its contribution to the mentioned UN entities could be of utmost value for the effective and coordinated fight against terrorism and FTF challenge.

CCPCJ can also promote social inclusion and resilience-building in vulnerable communities to prevent FTF recruitment. This involves community engagement, education, and economic opportunities targeting underlying factors that make individuals susceptible to radicalization. Further enhanced cooperation and information sharing are vital to disrupt FTF networks. This includes strengthening border controls, intelligence-sharing mechanisms, and implementing counter-terrorism measures while respecting human rights standards. CCPCJ can support efforts to prosecute FTFs, strengthen legal frameworks, enhance judicial cooperation, and provide technical assistance to countries investigating and prosecuting FTF-related crimes. Additionally, leveraging partnerships with UN agencies, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector can enhance CCPCJ's efforts. By fostering collaboration and sharing best practices, the CCPCJ can maximize its impact and significantly promote sustainable development worldwide.

**In particular, how can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions)?**

Contributions could address a range of issues, for example, proposals relating to:

- The organization of the work of the Commission, the format of its meetings and its cooperation with other intergovernmental bodies, or specific thematic areas that the Commission should promote;
- Support by the Secretariat to the Commissions, including tools and documentation that would enable the Commission to better contribute to Agenda 2030;
- The ways and means in which the Commission can contribute to raising the “profile”/ “relevance” of crime prevention and criminal justice action during the preparations for the next meeting of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the Summit of the Future, both to be held in 2024.

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) holds significant potential to advance the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16) by implementing strategic measures in its operations, cooperation efforts, and engagement with global forums. CCPCJ can organize thematic meetings focusing on issues pertinent to SDG 16, such as the prevention of violent extremism and terrorism, with a specific focus on Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs). These sessions can facilitate dialogue among member states, exchange of best practices, and the development of coordinated strategies to combat this pressing transnational threat. Strengthening cooperation with bodies like the United Nations Security Council and its Sanctions Committees, and the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate, the UNOCT can bolster CCPCJ's efforts in combating terrorism and promoting peace and security. By aligning strategies and sharing resources, a more comprehensive approach to addressing FTF-related challenges can be achieved. The Secretariat can provide essential support by offering tools and documentation that deepen understanding of the intersection between crime prevention, criminal justice, and sustainable development. This includes compiling research findings, case studies, and policy briefs on the impact of FTFs on peace, justice, and strong institutions, aiding in awareness-building among member states and stakeholders. Advocating for the integration of FTF-related discussions into high-level forums like the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the Summit of the Future can elevate the importance of addressing terrorism and violent extremism in achieving SDG 16 targets. By showcasing the significance of addressing FTFs within broader efforts for

peace, justice, and strong institutions, CCPCJ can rally greater political commitment and resources towards this crucial issue. By focusing on addressing FTFs within the framework of crime prevention and criminal justice, the Commission can play a pivotal role in achieving lasting peace, justice, and strong institutions worldwide.

## C. China

### **Proposals on how the Commission can contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

Important concepts and aspirations – such as the concept of “community with a shared future for humankind”, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative – should be actively advocated in relevant work of the Commission.

States should be called upon to increase awareness of the importance of crime prevention, which is achieved by eliminating the root causes of crime through poverty reduction and development; and to strengthen awareness and knowledge of the rule of law, improve citizens’ legal literacy and effectively create a positive social atmosphere of respect for the law and abiding by it.

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption should be effectively brought into play, with international cooperation on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and on extradition being strengthened in accordance with the Conventions. Various traditional forms of organized crime and corruption should be comprehensively dealt with, and the investigation of and response to crimes such as telecommunications fraud, cybercrime, money-laundering, environmental crime and crimes against cultural property should be strengthened. It is suggested that early warning cooperation concerning corruption in immigrant investor programmes – on the model of the Initiative on Denial of Safe Haven to the Proceeds of Corruption and similar initiatives – be included in the agenda of the high-level political forum. The use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as the Kyoto Declaration, should be strengthened to support national crime prevention and criminal justice efforts.

It is suggested to further improve technical assistance in the field of criminal justice, optimize technical assistance programmes, strengthen the mechanism for dialogue and coordination between aid donors and aid recipient countries, thoroughly assess and understand developing countries’ needs for capacity-building in preventing and combating crime, and afford effective assistance to developing countries in their capacity-building efforts. The Commission, in pursuit of its stated mandate, should actively promote the allocation of counter-terrorism resources to developing countries, especially in Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia and other front-line areas, in the fight against terrorism, strengthen capacity-building in developing countries in the area of counter-terrorism, and attach importance to addressing diversified threats such as the misuse of emerging technologies by terrorists and the financing of terrorism. Toolkits should be developed on relevant topics, such as national policies and a handbook on international cooperation for the denial of entry for corrupt persons, a compilation of regulatory policies on immigrant investor programmes and sharing of good practices, as well as manuals on such matters as the following: institutional and community capacity-building related to the social reintegration of offenders, evidence-based correctional measures for female and juvenile offenders, and protection systems and practices for ex-offenders.

Communication and coordination between the Commission and other international or regional bodies, including the other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, UNODC and INTERPOL, should be strengthened to give full play to the role of various organizations as platforms for assisting countries in different regions in building regional networks for preventing and combating crime.

The organization and management of Commission sessions should be further improved so that their role can be fully realized. Debate at the Commission's sessions has resulted in a number of important parliamentary documents, including declarations and resolutions. Often, though, consultations on resolutions have been conducted mainly in English, which poses problems for participants from non-English-speaking countries. Owing to language constraints, many Member State experts who are more familiar with the topics are unable to participate, thus preventing the role of an international conference from being fully realized. It is recommended that all meetings of the Commission be provided with interpretation services from and into the official languages of the United Nations.

**In view of their importance to the accelerated implementation of Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it is suggested that relevant topics for discussion on the following topics be established:**

Prevention and countering of various traditional forms of organized crime and terrorist crimes, and investigation of and response to such crimes as telecommunications fraud, cybercrime, money-laundering, environmental crime and crimes against cultural property.

Prevention and countering of corruption-related crimes, strengthening of international cooperation to fight corruption, promotion of the return of criminal assets, and engaging in early warning cooperation concerning corruption in immigrant investor programmes, which includes specific measures in such areas as: more detailed background checks into immigrant investor programmes, more rigorous regulatory oversight of immigration intermediaries, sharing of financial information on individuals involved in corruption, and establishment of a joint follow-up mechanism on punishment.

Promotion of crime prevention and the sharing and exchange of national experience in the field of crime prevention, encouraging all countries to strengthen their efforts to prevent juvenile delinquency and provide comprehensive protection for children and youth. Special arrangements should be made for juvenile offenders in various aspects, such as investigation, prosecution, trial and serving of sentences, and assistance should be provided for the reintegration of juvenile offenders in society.

Promotion of the development of criminal justice systems. Crime prevention, prison reform, community-based corrections and comprehensive programmes combining reintegration, assistance and counselling should be promoted to help offenders return to society smoothly and to reduce recidivism. Promotion of the rule of law, strengthening of legal aid services and ensuring equal access to justice for all.

## **D. Colombia**

### **How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda?**

The Commission can work towards building stronger collaborations with both UN bodies and regional organizations. This strategic approach not only fosters synergies, but also mitigates the risk of duplicating efforts. Through coordinated action and joint efforts towards a holistic perspective that acknowledges the interconnectedness of the humanitarian, the development, and the peace sectors – Triple Nexus – the Commission can effectively address the underlying drivers of crime, protect the rights of victims, and amplify the impact of crime prevention and criminal justice initiatives, ultimately advancing the progress towards multiple SDGs.

This can be achieved through a more collaborative organization of the Commission's work in initiatives and innovative meeting formats that encourage interactive dialogue with close participation of other regional organizations and UN bodies, where given the impact of crime on the enjoyment of human rights, the coordinated work with the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights is fundamental.

The Commission can also promote innovation and evidence-based approaches in crime prevention and criminal justice. This involves providing support for research initiatives, piloting innovative projects, and improving data collection efforts in key areas such as reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration. Employing technology, data analytics, and research findings will enable the Commission to develop more targeted and impactful interventions that accelerate progress towards SDG targets.

Furthermore, it is imperative to integrate gender and intersectional perspectives into all policies and programs. Colombia recognizes the intersectionality between gender and other conditions such as poverty, age, sex, and ethnicity, understanding that these factors can coexist within individuals and interact with other forms of exclusion.

Therefore, emphasis should be placed on the importance of a criminal policy that respects human rights, which should be based on identifying the diverse conditions of the population.

The Government of Colombia has a firm commitment to peace, both within and outside our borders, based on what we have called the Total Peace Policy. This new vision of Total Peace is based on the change of the concept of Human Security, emphasizing the importance of no longer thinking about it based on the number of deaths, but on the increase of life. Human security can build instruments that can provide a shield for society. If hunger levels are reduced, there will be less crime. If young people can enter a university and have opportunities to access formal and dignified employment, there will be less crime. This Commission is a strategic global ally to achieve these goals and consolidate peace around the world.

**In particular, how can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions)?**

The CCPCJ can structure its agenda around pivotal thematic areas that directly intersect with the objectives of SDG 16. These include prioritizing a victim-centred approach in combating Transnational Organized Crime (TOC), amplifying efforts to bolster international cooperation for the recovery and return of assets, and mainstreaming gender considerations throughout all aspects of its work.

Firstly, the Commission may prioritize a victim-centred strategy in combating Transnational Organized Crime (TOC). By placing victims at the forefront of its strategies, the Commission can ensure that their rights, needs, and voices are central to all interventions. This includes promoting the adoption of comprehensive support policies, such as legal aid, psychosocial assistance, and economic empowerment programs, to help victims recover from the impacts of TOC and rebuild their lives.

Colombia emphasizes that the primary impact in fighting crime should not solely be economic growth but rather the development of individuals. This approach aligns with the Kyoto Declaration, recognizing the adverse effects of crime on various aspects of society, including the rule of law, human rights, socioeconomic development, public health, security, the environment, and cultural heritage.

Moreover, the recovery and return of assets represents another critical focus area. The Commission can facilitate dialogue and collaboration among member states, international organizations, and financial institutions to enhance cooperation in tracing, freezing, confiscating, and repatriating illicitly obtained assets. By streamlining processes and sharing best practices, the Commission can expedite asset recovery efforts and maximize the restitution of stolen assets to TOC victims, aligning with Paragraph 68 of the Kyoto Declaration.

The pursuit of assets derived from criminal activities, should extend beyond recovering illicit gains in a third state. It should conclude with repatriating these assets to the affected country, facilitating effective and comprehensive reparations for the human rights of victims. This stance is in accordance with Paragraph 68 of the Kyoto Declaration, which calls for special consideration in agreements or arrangements for

the return and disposal of confiscated property. By focusing on victim-centred approaches and asset recovery and return, the Commission would aim not only to compensate and repair damages while economically disincentivize criminal activities, but also place a strong focus on the welfare of victims, obtaining justice, recognizing the negative effects of crime on human rights, and the substantial benefits derived from empowering victims in the process.

It is also crucial to incorporate gender perspectives into all policies and programs, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of how gender differences impact both victims and perpetrators of crime. This includes addressing underlying factors, such as gender-based violence, economic inequality, and social exclusion, that increase women's and girls' vulnerability to TOC. To achieve this, regular training sessions can be provided to States, focusing on integrating a gender perspective into their policies.

Additionally, Colombia emphasizes the importance of collecting and analysing gender-disaggregated data to gain deeper insights into crime trends and justice needs, ultimately fostering more effective and inclusive approaches to crime prevention and criminal justice.

Finally, Colombia has expressed in different international scenarios that Peace and Social and Environmental Justice are the fundamental basis for achieving true Sustainable Development. These should be considered as the SDG 0, which serves as a basis to ensure the full and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

## E. Côte d'Ivoire

### **How can the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda?**

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice can contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda by helping States to:

- Improve their governance by establishing and sustaining strong institutions capable of effectively combating corruption, organized crime, money-laundering and trafficking in persons (Economic and Financial Crime Division; Agency for the Recovery of Criminal Assets)
- Reduce poverty by drawing States' attention to the close link between the commission of offences and poverty, and by inviting them to improve their economic governance and reduce disparities
- Promote and protect human rights by inviting States to promote a culture of lawfulness based on human rights, and by encouraging States to respect human rights
- Cooperate in judicial matters by helping States to establish mechanisms for strengthening their cooperation
- Raise awareness among and educate the general public by encouraging States to conduct campaigns to raise young people's awareness of the risks associated with such scourges as drug trafficking and organized crime
- Promote gender mainstreaming and gender equality by inviting States to protect women more effectively against discrimination, including trafficking and sexual exploitation

### **How can the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice contribute to the accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions)?**

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice can contribute to the accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 by inviting States to:

- Guarantee the right of every citizen to access to justice by adopting legislative and institutional measures
- Contribute to the protection of vulnerable persons by combating gender-based violence
- Contribute to the effectiveness of institutions in reducing crime by providing prosecutorial and law enforcement bodies with the necessary (human, material and technical) resources

## **F. Ecuador**

### **(i) Ministry of Interior**

#### **Recommendations for the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda - Goal 16 :**

The United Nations has different mechanisms aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In the area of security, and in accordance with the main objective that corresponds to the Ministry of Interior of Ecuador based on the SDG: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, target 16.a “Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, to build capacity at all levels, particularly in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime”, I would like to make the following planning:

It is essential to promote mechanisms for effective and emergent cooperation, given that a preventive vision allows us to achieve results that materialize in the medium and long term, but that attack the structural causes of crime and violence. Therefore, it is recommended that these actions be focused through the creation of a thematic fund/table within the commission, which prioritizes cooperation for the prevention of crime and violence in countries with high rates of crime and violence. It is also suggested that the commission increase and prioritize crime and violence prevention with an emphasis on children and youth, since the new dynamics for the commission of crimes point to the recruitment of this age group (between 12 and 17 years), thus violating the provisions of international human rights instruments, which prioritize the best interests of the child.

The Ministry of the Interior of Ecuador urges the members of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to promote the active participation of countries that maintain high rates of violence, in order to motivate resolutions and decisions that allow the improvement of international action to combat national and transnational crime, through a preventive vision that prioritizes comprehensive actions towards children and youth.

### **(ii) Council of the Judiciary**

#### **National Directorate for Access to Justice**

#### **Proposals concerning assistance for victims of trafficking in persons in connection with abuse, exploitation and all forms of violence against and torture of children and adolescents, and for ensuring equal access to justice for all**

The thematic areas corresponding to the remit of the National Directorate for Access to Justice are the following:

16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

Accordingly, and in conformity with the Process Management Regulations of the Council of the Judiciary, the objective of the National Directorate for Access to Justice

is “to formulate proposals and initiatives aimed at optimizing citizens’ access to justice services”.

With the aim of putting forward issues for consideration by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the National Directorate recommends the following:

In order to provide assistance to victims of trafficking in persons in connection with abuse, exploitation and all forms of violence against and torture of children and adolescents, and to ensure equal access to justice for all, it is important to:

- Introduce human rights-based guidance materials on assisting and protecting victims and on providing care for and supporting children and adolescents
- Create training materials on appropriate victim support based on a human rights approach
- Coordinate with State authorities to identify critical issues, problems and needs so as to eradicate offences involving trafficking in persons, including children and adolescents, and ensure equal access to justice
- Apply comprehensive measures ensuring special assistance for children and adolescents who are victims of trafficking in persons
- Developing guidelines that enable the formulation of comprehensive public policies for ensuring the rights of children and adolescents who are victims of trafficking in persons

#### **National Directorate for Transparency in Administration**

The targets under Goal 16 that correspond to the remit of the National Directorate for Transparency in Administration are the following:

16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

In accordance with the above, the National Directorate, on the basis of its functions and responsibilities and with the aim of contributing input with regard to areas that the Commission for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice can promote, recommends the following activities:

- The establishment of regulations governing the investigation of reports of presumed acts of corruption within the judiciary, ensuring that the identity of reporting persons is kept confidential
- Corruption prevention campaigns aimed at judges and other judicial officials
- Preparation of a draft instrument on good practices in the management of public procurement processes of the Council of the Judiciary
- Formulation, implementation and evaluation of the judiciary’s second Open Justice Plan
- Promotion of the implementation of a tool enabling access at all levels to recorded and published information with respect to the Organic Act on Transparency and Access to Public Information

## **G. France**

### **How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda?**

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), as an ECOSOC subsidiary body, is the principal policymaking body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. Together with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), it functions as one of the two governing bodies of the United Nations

Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which acts as the focal point for measuring and monitoring progress across many of the indicators of SDG16.

Besides SDG16, the Commission is highly relevant on the implementation of the Agenda 2030 as a whole and provides regularly substantial contributions to the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The General Assembly resolution 78/225 entitled “Strengthening the contributions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, prepared by the Commission and adopted by the Assembly at its 78th session on 19 December 2023, recalled the commitment of the international community and underlined the important role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in actively contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in 2026 in the United Arab Emirates, will include the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in its core, since its theme will be « Accelerating crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: protecting people and planet and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the digital age », in line with the General Assembly resolution [78/223](#).

France highly supports the Commission and the UNODC’s engagement towards the achievement of Agenda 2030. France hosted an event on its national Pavilion during COP28, focusing on the importance of addressing the interdependent impacts of climate change on crime prevention and criminal justice, building upon the overarching theme of the Fifteenth Congress with its focus, inter alia, on the protection of people and the planet. France also participated in a special event held in New York in November 2023 on the substantive preparations for the Fifteenth Crime Congress.

With this focus on the 2030 Agenda, the Fifteenth Crime Congress will tackle environment crime as one of its main issues, which is a French priority. The Commission has already contributed to SDG6 and SDG7 through its commitment on addressing crimes that affect the environment (GA 76/185 in 2021). The Commission and the Crime Congress are the ideal bodies to further enhance the fight against environmental crime, together with all relevant bodies and international partners.

### **How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16: peace, justice and strong institutions ?**

As one of the two governing bodies of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice highly contributes to SDG16. The work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as most of the Goal’s targets, are directly linked to issues within the CCPCJ’s remit.

More specifically, France supports the Commission’s key contribution to indicators 16.2 « End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children », 16.3 « Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all », 16.4 « By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime » and 16.A « Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime ».

In order to contribute further to the accelerated implementation of SDG16, the Commission could encourage Member States to consider including, within their voluntary national reviews, information on the implementation of Agenda 2030 linked to the Commission’s work, including on the implementation of SDG 16, and to share this relevant information with the Commission.



## H. Jordan

### How can the Committee accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda?

Taking appropriate and decisive measures is one of the most important factors that will accelerate the implementation of the Agenda. The following must be done:

I. Awareness must be raised and the 17 goals of the Agenda reinvigorated locally through workshops, lectures and meetings between institutions of the State and civil society to identify the major achievements of the ten years since the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Office of the Public Prosecutor has done the following:

1. Designate a juvenile prosecutor in public prosecution departments to handle complaints and cases involving juveniles
2. Assign public prosecutors to courts throughout the Kingdom to facilitate citizens' access to public prosecutors for decisions on complaints submitted by them, as well as complaints submitted by the competent judicial officers
3. Continue working to create a specialized unit to handle seized and confiscated assets and funds and deal with money-laundering cases at the office of the Deputy Public Prosecutor for Amman
4. Designate five prosecutors at the Integrity and Anti-Corruption Commission to pursue corruption cases, in addition to designating judicial bodies to deal with this type of case.
5. Form a committee to review the Act on economic crimes and propose amendments

II. The goals of the 2030 Agenda must be integrated into all strategic plans in the justice sector – including the Ministry of Justice, the Judicial Council, the Office of the Public Prosecutor and the Judicial Institute – so that those strategic plans are explicitly linked to the Sustainable Development Goals.

III. An international conference should be held to highlight progress on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and what remains to be done.

### How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (peace, justice and individual institutions)?

Goal 16 focuses on the importance of justice in achieving peace in societies and the connection between its realization and sustainable development. In its capacity as the representative of the public in criminal cases, the Office of the Public Prosecutor has a major role in protecting rights and preserving freedoms, which has an impact on the overall protection of society. The following are challenges that must be overcome to have an impact on realizing justice:

1. Form a committee of judges and prosecutors to integrate goal 16 into the strategic plans of the Office of the Public Prosecutor and the Judicial Council
2. Prepare high-quality specialized training programmes for deputies and prosecutors on the topics of human rights, children's rights, women's rights and cybercrime
3. Provide institutional and logistical support to the public prosecution departments responsible for dealing with cases of human trafficking, corruption, money-laundering, economic crime and cross-border crime; and international cooperation to provide state-of-the-art computerized systems, electronic connectivity among the relevant authorities, and the most up-to-date computers
4. Provide public prosecution departments with specialists and researchers to compile evidence, studies and periodic reports on the crime situation and monitor public opinion

A framework is being adopted to address human trafficking crimes, including abuse, exploitation and violence of any kind perpetrated against children. In the wake of new provisions in the amended Anti-Human Trafficking Act, No. 1 (2021), the Judicial Council assigned 75 judges and prosecutors to handle crimes that violate that Act's provisions. They have been given specialized training courses to empower them and develop their capacities.

The Judicial Council has formed a committee to follow up all matters related to human trafficking. It has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Jordanian Bar Association to provide legal assistance to victims of human trafficking in order to ensure preservation of their rights and raise awareness about them.

An electronic platform for labour complaints has been operationalized. Human trafficking indicators have been integrated. Victims may file complaints around the clock. Regulation No. 6 (2023) on a fund for victims of human trafficking was issued to ensure assistance to victims. There is ongoing coordination and cooperation with international and local anti-human-trafficking organizations.

With regard to combating money-laundering and all forms of organized crime, Jordan has taken a number of measures aimed at proactive investigation and monitoring of these types of crime, including the following:

In 2021, a new law was adopted that strengthened the role of the Office of the Public Prosecutor in investigating, tracking and seizing proceeds. A unit to handle seized and confiscated assets and funds and process money-laundering cases was set up in the office of the Deputy Public Prosecutor for Amman. The principle of specialization in investigating such crimes was adopted by the Office of the Public Prosecutor, which has designated a number of prosecutors to handle such crimes. They have undergone training courses to develop and build their capacities.

The amended Act also provided for international cooperation on money-laundering offences to investigate and prosecute perpetrators and track, freeze and seize proceeds of money-laundering and related offences, in line with international conventions in force in the Kingdom or on the basis of reciprocity and international comity.

There are provisions recognizing the importance of parallel financial investigations in money-laundering crimes to track and seize the proceeds of crimes and deprive perpetrators of the proceeds.

Jordanian legislation has adopted the principle of restorative justice for certain types of crime to help protect the rights of victims and reintegrate offenders into society. Jordanian legislation guarantees basic freedoms in accordance with international agreements ratified by the Government of Jordan. Community punishments are being used increasingly, and awareness is being raised of the importance of reintegrating offenders into society.

A number of measures have been taken to protect the environment. Amendments have been made to environmental protection legislation to ensure effective protection of wildlife, biodiversity and water sources. They provide for compensation for environmental damage as a civic obligation that the court imposes automatically when damage is proven. Several judges and prosecutors have been assigned to investigate, prosecute and try perpetrators of this type of crime. Several training courses have been held for participating judicial officers to develop and build capacities.

## **I. Morocco**

### **a) National Financial Intelligence Authority**

To strengthen the contribution of the CCPCJ in accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the following measures are suggested:

- Improve partnerships:

Promote collaboration and share best practices, resources and expertise.

- Collect and report data:

Develop improved data collection and reporting systems based on relevant indicators.

- Capacity building:

Strengthen the capacities of Member States, especially those with specific needs, to improve the implementation of crime prevention and criminal justice policies.

- Awareness and mobilization:

Conduct awareness actions to understand better crime prevention, criminal justice and the Sustainable Development Goals.

- Innovation and technology:

Explore and apply new technologies and innovative approaches to improve the effectiveness of crime prevention and criminal justice systems. This can include using artificial intelligence, data analytics and other tools to improve management and prevention.

## **b) National Authority for Probity, Prevention and Fight against Corruption**

### **The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) contribution to accelerating implementation of the 2023-program**

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreement is distinguished by the consensus of all the UN Member States regarding a far-reaching vision for the collective future of humanity.

Whether the SDGs seek to establish a new methodology for understanding and a comprehensive implementation of development, they are no longer than a mechanism for the measurement of individuals income or the increase of their life expectancy. Yet, they take into consideration the well-being of the communities and their possession of the new information and communication technology.

Therefore, the CCPCJ is invited to contribute to accelerating the implementation of the 2030-program through supporting the State parties in:

- Making of the SDGs a key component in enhancing their future programs with a focus on a good quality of life for future generations;
- Institutionalizing the implementation of SDG17 mainly for States who have not yet done;
- Changing the stereotypes on women empowerment and youth involvement in decision making in some regions;
- Investing in renewable energies and climate change;
- Promoting integrity among the components of the judiciary through the adoption of specific measures to prevent and fight against corruption;
- Enhancing the criminal legal system relating to the transparency of the public life through improving the legislation and benefiting from the use of innovative instruments and new technology;
- Creating an enabling environment for the efficiency of prevention and fight against corruption in order to regulate process, detect and sanction the relevant practices and strengthen the repressive dimension to deter the criminal acts and fight against impunity;
- Enhancing transparency and prevention by deterrence through informing the public of corruption cases and the measures taken to sanction offenders in accordance with applicable legal and regulatory texts;
- Working on the development of awareness-raising, education and training on values of integrity, good governance, as well as the mechanisms of correlation between responsibility and accountability;

- Exchanging experiences and information between the authorities and institutions involved in the prevention and fight against corruption at the regional, continental and international levels, and enhance the exchange expertise in data collection,. Analysis and management, and develop policies for the prevention of corruption.

## **J. Myanmar**

### **How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda?**

- CCPCJ responded that, in order to reduce cybercrime, including financial fraud, and online gambling, which is currently occurring using the communication network, there should be a comprehensive program to connect member countries and provide training programs on prevention techniques.”
- The sustainable development goals of the United Nations and the rule of law are inherently linked, with crime acting as a barrier to development. The success of development efforts significantly contributes to the prevention and suppression of crime by member countries. As outlined in Article (3) of the Kyoto Declaration, member countries commit to actively participating in the implementation of development programs.
- Since the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) is considered to be the policy-making body of the United Nations under Article (11) of the Kyoto Declaration, the commission to act as the leading organization according to Article (12) of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
- Respond to the international challenges effectively, recognizing the fundamental role of effective international cooperation in the prevention and suppression of crime.
- Strengthen collaboration among Commissions, pertinent government organizations, and Forums responsible for tasks operating within the framework of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), falling under the purview of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Commission (CCPCJ).
- Implement the 2030 Agenda, including the sequel to the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit.
- Member countries, relevant UN organizations, institutions and stakeholders of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Program to participate in the 33rd Session of CCPCJ

### **In particular, how can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16?(Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)**

- Peace in a country is important; just as law and order cannot be implemented without peace; structural integrity is also an important factor. Only when the structure is strong will it be possible to manage well from all levels of the governance system and increase the benefit of the public. Considering that the 16 goals agreed upon by all member states of the United Nations is a very important role, peace processes are being established and implemented in Myanmar under the leadership of the State Administration Council. CCPCJ, the Commission for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, responds that according to the peace process of the Sustainable Development Goal No.16, member countries should speed up and cooperate in peace operations.
- The achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals necessitates a concerted effort to diminish youth crime, enhance the well-being of young

people through sports, and eradicate youth engagement in criminal activities, thereby promoting the rule of law.

- Efforts should be directed towards shielding society from criminal re-offending, facilitating the successful reintegration of both victims and perpetrators into society, and organizing rehabilitation programs for children and young individuals involved in criminal activities. Collaboration among government entities, volunteers, and civil society organizations is crucial to effectively reintegrate individuals into society and prevent recidivism.
- In the rehabilitation and reintegration program, it is essential to execute bilateral or multilateral agreements, ensuring that individuals serve their sentences in their respective countries, all while upholding the rights of the defendants.
- Enhance the role of women in law enforcement and develop policies and programs for gender equality.
- Ensure that women and girls do not experience further harm during criminal prosecutions, emphasizing the promotion of gender equality for both perpetrators and victims in the realm of law enforcement.
- Control the spread of the disease among the prisoners during the outbreak of COVID- 19.
- The member countries should jointly implement the arrangements to repatriate illegal migrant workers to their home countries.

## K. Qatar

Sustainable development and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice(CCPCJ) are strongly interrelated and mutually reinforcing. The CCPCJ actively contributes to the implementation of the [2030 agenda for Sustainable Development](#) , in particular Goal 16, to ensure that all people can live in dignity, prosperity, and peace.

Unfortunately, multiple crises including COVID-19, climate change, and current geopolitical tensions, disproportionately impacted the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and even reversed development gains. The developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, were the most affected.

Since the International Community approaching the last five years of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a new dynamic is needed to overcome the negative shocks and to show global solidarity and multilateral cooperation. The international community must address the challenges and needs faced by developing countries, especially countries in special situations, in particular, African countries and least-developed countries.

International cooperation, technical assistance, and capacity-building should be given the highest priority to transform policies into actions to compensate for the lost years and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Crime Prevention Commission (CCPCJ) play an essential role in accelerating the role of international cooperation and technical assistance for greater solidarity to implement the 2030 Agenda.

UNGA Resolution 78/225 emphasized the fundamental role played by effective international cooperation in preventing and combating crime. It also emphasized the important role played by the CCPCJ in actively contributing to accelerating the implementation of the sustainable development agenda, especially through international cooperation and providing technical and material assistance and training to member states.

UNGA Resolution 78/229 underlines the urgent need to strengthen international cooperation and technical assistance, and reaffirms the importance of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice program in promoting effective action to strengthen international cooperation, including providing to Member States, upon request and as a matter of high priority, technical cooperation, advisory services and other forms of assistance. UNODC, adopted an integrated approach to programming and to technical assistance delivery, by its Strategy 2021–2025. Member States are encouraged to reaffirm their full support to the UNODC to intensify its efforts to provide technical assistance to Member States.

As for the CCPCJ, its role could be accelerated by including to its agenda an item or a sub-item on international cooperation and technical assistance to mobilize international solidarity and reinvigorate global partnerships and innovative tools and instruments to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda goals.

The State of Qatar experience in international cooperation, shows that support for the projects of the UNODC made difference in developing countries. The Doha Declaration Global Program, (2016-2021), focused on four inter-related pillars: “Education for Justice” (E4J) initiative; strengthening judicial integrity and preventing corruption in the justice system; fostering prisoner rehabilitation and social reintegration; and preventing youth crime through sports. More than 2.5 million people from over 190 countries were impacted. The E4J reached over 110,000 people directly from more than 180 countries through 600+ activities. E4J was recognized by Secretary-General António Guterres and awarded the 2020 Secretary-General Award in the category ‘Innovation’.

The UNODC Regional Centre for Combating Cybercrime in Doha established last year is another example. The centre’s activity covers the Middle East and North Africa region, as well as capacity-building at the global level.

Furthermore, the State of Qatar offered to finance the 2024-2025 UNODC Program Office in the Kyrgyz Republic to Support Drug Control in Kyrgyzstan.

## **L. Republic of Moldova**

### **(i) State Chancellery**

The 2030 Agenda represents a global framework designed to promote sustainable development worldwide by the year 2030. This agenda is built upon 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are interconnected and cover a wide range of development-related aspects, including poverty, inequality, climate change, education, health, peace, and justice.

As for Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16) of Agenda 2030, it aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, facilitate access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels. Its primary objective is to reduce violence and conflicts in all their forms, including prevention, and strengthen institutions that promote peace and security. Additionally, SDG 16 seeks to ensure fair access to efficient and independent justice systems for all citizens. This involves guaranteeing individual rights, combating corruption, and promoting a transparent and accessible justice system.

According to the National Progress Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda prepared in 2023, the Republic of Moldova has made some progress in achieving SDG 16. According to the conclusions, the number of intentional homicide victims has decreased in recent years in the Republic of Moldova, a favourable development linked to the success of measures and policies implemented to reduce violence and crime. However, for a complete assessment, we need data on deaths caused by conflicts and the proportion of the population affected by physical and sexual violence.

The government has implemented strategies and programs to reduce the crime rate and violence, such as the Internal Affairs Development Strategy for 2022-2030, with the objective of reducing the number of intentional homicide victims by 30%, and the Crime Prevention and Control Program for 2022-2025. Efforts to reduce the number of intentional homicide victims and violent crimes must be strengthened and continued, with constant monitoring of the situation and identification of past success factors to develop more effective strategies. It is crucial to improve the collection and reporting of data on other aspects of violence to understand the causes and develop appropriate prevention measures in the future. Establishing reporting and monitoring mechanisms, as well as improving collaboration between institutions and organizations, are crucial.

More data are needed to assess the situation of children subjected to physical or psychological violence. At present, we do not have enough information to assess progress or trends in this regard, especially for children left without care in the Republic of Moldova by their parents working abroad. Human trafficking remains a problem and requires an integrated and sustained long-term approach to be effectively combated.

In terms of reducing corruption and bribery, the lack of data for the last 3-4 years limits the assessment of recent progress. However, historical data show a significant decrease in the percentage of individuals and entrepreneurs involved in bribery by 2018. These structural improvements suggest progress in reducing corruption. However, it is crucial to continue data collection and reporting to ensure a comprehensive assessment of anti-corruption efforts and to consolidate this progress.

The proportion of individuals in pre-trial detention has steadily decreased between 2018 and 2022, from 6.8% to 5.4%, reflecting efforts to improve the management of preventive measures. However, the proportion of people in detention remains high, requiring continuous monitoring and analysis to improve conditions in penitentiary institutions. Access to legal counsel has shown an increasing trend, but fluctuations indicate the need for constant monitoring to ensure accessibility and equality in the judicial system.

Regarding the acceleration of the implementation of 2030 Agenda as well as Sustainable Development Goal 16, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) can provide technical assistance and expertise to the government and other relevant stakeholders in the Republic of Moldova in developing and implementing policies and measures for crime prevention and strengthening criminal justice. This may include providing consultancy in legislation drafting, institutional capacity building, improving data availability and integrating data into public policies, implementing effective practices. Similarly, it can support efforts to promote good governance, the rule of law, and human rights respect in the Republic of Moldova. By providing assistance in strengthening accountable and transparent institutions, the Commission can contribute to enhancing the efficiency and integrity of the criminal justice system.

By organizing meetings, conferences, and seminars, as well as promoting partnerships between authorities in the Republic of Moldova and other states, the Commission can facilitate the exchange of best practices and experiences between the Republic of Moldova and other UN member states in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. Moreover, the Commission can assist the Republic of Moldova in monitoring progress in implementing 2030 Agenda, particularly concerning Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16). By collecting and analysing relevant data, it can help identify progress made and areas requiring further action. The Commission can promote awareness and civil society involvement in efforts to prevent crime and strengthen criminal justice in the Republic of Moldova. By organizing awareness campaigns, training programs, and other initiatives, CCPCJ can contribute to increasing citizen involvement in these processes.

Therefore, through these activities and close collaboration with the government and other stakeholders in the Republic of Moldova, CCPCJ can play an essential role in

accelerating the implementation of 2030 Agenda in the country, contributing to the promotion of peace, justice, and effective and transparent institutions.

**(ii) Ministry of Internal Affairs**

**How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda?**

In this regard, we wish to underline the importance of promoting international cooperation. The Commission can facilitate the exchange of best practices and expertise among member states to accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals. This can include organizing sharing sessions and developing collaborative networks between countries and other stakeholders. Through workshops and regional meetings, the Commission can facilitate the transfer of knowledge among member states and assist in adapting and implementing effective strategies at the national level.

Another essential aspect is the development and facilitation of foreign assistance. Thus, the Commission can play a key role in providing assistance in identifying partners for common projects for Ministries of Interior in the field of crime prevention and improving criminal justice systems. This could involve developing guidelines, providing resources, and supporting institutional capacity to implement effective crime-fighting measures (train and equip), which are of paramount importance within the activities in the field of Home Affairs. We propose the creation of an online portal or platform where member states can access resources, guidelines, and communicate with each other to learn and share best practices. A persistent need at the moment is providing experts to assist in the development and implementation of specific crime-fighting policies, in line with the EU recommendations.

In order to promote and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Republic of Moldova, it is crucial to enhance national negotiation capacities and establish partnerships with international actors for fundraising dedicated to sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. By strengthening these capacities, we will be able to access financial resources and external expertise necessary for our sustainable development projects and initiatives.

Besides that, we propose launching assistance programs across all areas of activity within the Home Affairs sector to expedite the integration of the principles and objectives of the 2030 Agenda into our current practices. These programs of support will provide tools needed to actively contribute to achieving sustainable development goals, including in the areas of security, justice, and human rights.

Additionally, we endorse the commitments made by the Republic of Moldova at the international level and proactively engage in the European context. Through cooperation and collaboration with our European partners, we will be able to share best practices, experience, and resources to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and contribute to achieving sustainable development goals globally.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs proposes to establish a comprehensive strategic vision that not only addresses future intervention areas but also ensures personal safety and enhances trust in its subdivisions. This vision entails outlining primary directions of public policies for the upcoming years, which will be further refined into sectoral programs within each domain of the Ministry's competence. Moreover, there is a focus on creating a coherent reporting framework to facilitate the dynamic progress towards the full implementation of the Strategy for the Development of the Internal Affairs Sector spanning from 2022 to 2030.

These integrated proposals reflect our firm commitment to promoting sustainable development and achieving the objectives of the 2030 Agenda in the Republic of Moldova.



**In particular, how can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions)?**

Regarding the Commission's contribution to accelerating the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16, it is necessary to support efforts to strengthen the institutional capacity and human resources of national authorities to ensure public safety and order. This may include assistance through projects for police forces to respond more effectively to threats to community safety.

Promoting transparency and accountability within law enforcement institutions and the judiciary is also essential. Through training and supervision programs for employees, as well as the implementation of mechanisms for monitoring and reporting abuses and corruption, trust in these institutions can be strengthened. Thus, we suggest establishing a regional or international system for reporting abuses and corruption, allowing citizens and NGOs to report incidents and request transparent investigations.

Active involvement in efforts to prevent radicalization and violent extremism is another priority. Through international cooperation and information exchange between law enforcement agencies from different countries, these phenomena can be combated and a safer and more cohesive society can be promoted.

Furthermore, it is crucial to launch training programs in combating corruption and bribery to develop the efficiency and transparency of institutions. Ensuring a responsive, inclusive, and participatory decision-making process, as well as organizing sessions on collecting and analysing data correctly based on best practices of states, is essential for implementing indicators and measures to increase the visibility of the involved institutions.

Additionally, support is needed to optimize and operationalize a strategic planning system adapted to national and external financial resources, aligned with the Medium-Term Budget Framework, especially those relevant to European integration and the 2030 Agenda.

Changing the coordination and policy harmonization at different levels is also a priority to significantly improve the coherence and effectiveness of national sustainable development policies.

Developing mechanisms to encourage the business community to invest in research and innovation is essential to stimulate progress and competitiveness.

Ensuring public access to information and protecting fundamental freedoms are imperative in accordance with national legislation and international agreements to which the Republic of Moldova is a party.

Moreover, it is crucial to provide support in identifying opportunities for continued interinstitutional collaboration to facilitate the social reintegration of convicted individuals.

Additionally, it is necessary to identify solutions and develop integrated development programs and projects, optimizing decisions on setting priorities and allocating resources rationally based on national needs and sustainability.

Besides that, launching awareness programs on reducing illicit financial flows and armament, strengthening the recovery and return of stolen goods, and combating all forms of organized crime are essential for maintaining security and stability.

Furthermore, we note the lack of statistical data associated with the objectives and monitoring indicators of Sustainable Development Goal 16. Thus, immediate action is needed to remedy this situation and ensure the proper assessment of progress in this vital area.

Therefore, we propose establishing thematic sessions aimed at collecting and analysing data correctly based on best practices from other states in implementing

specific indicators of SDG 16. These sessions would provide an opportunity to identify and share the most effective strategies and methods for data collection and analysis, thereby enhancing the visibility and effectiveness of the institutions involved in implementing the goal.

Moreover, we suggest the possibility of organizing a working visit to the Ministry of Internal Affairs (and possibly the Ministry of Justice) to analyse and evaluate the institutions' capacities to generate statistical data and reports related to the implementation of SDGs, with a particular focus on SDG 16. This visit could benefit from the involvement of foreign experts with consolidated expertise in data collection and analysis to provide concrete recommendations and strengthen internal reporting and evaluation capacity.

Through these initiatives, we aim to contribute to accelerating the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 and ensure that progress is properly monitored and evaluated. We look forward to discussing and collaborating on this vital direction for the sustainable development of our country.

## **M. Romania**

### **How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda?**

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) can significantly contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda by:

- Integrated approaches: CCPCJ can advocate for integrated approaches addressing crime's root causes, fostering collaboration among law enforcement, judicial bodies, civil society, and stakeholders to ensure comprehensive responses promoting social inclusion, equity, and justice;
- Capacity building and technical assistance: CCPCJ can enhance the Member States' capacity in crime prevention and criminal justice strategies aligned with the 2030 Agenda. This includes providing technical assistance, sharing best practices, and promoting knowledge exchange in crime analysis, victim support, and rehabilitation programs;
- Strengthening international cooperation: CCPCJ can facilitate international cooperation and coordination in combating transnational organized crime, corruption, and illicit financial flows. By promoting relevant international conventions' ratification and implementation, CCPCJ contributes to a more secure and stable global environment supportive of sustainable development;
- Promoting data collection and analysis: CCPCJ can support efforts to enhance data collection, analysis, and reporting on crime trends. Improving data quality informs evidence-based policymaking and resource allocation for more effective crime prevention strategies and targeted interventions;
- Advocacy and awareness-raising: CCPCJ can raise awareness about the importance of crime prevention and criminal justice action for achieving sustainable development goals. Through advocacy campaigns, public outreach, and knowledge dissemination, CCPCJ can mobilize support and political momentum for prioritizing crime prevention within the broader development agenda.

### **In particular, how can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions)?**

In particular, the Commission can contribute to the accelerated implementation of SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions) by:

- Facilitating regional projects for mutual assistance in cybercrime (cooperation among member states, exchange of expertise and technical resources), including

the development of digital tools to enhance the identification and removal of harmful online materials, as well as the prosecution of offenders;

- Hosting dialogues on restorative justice: organize forums to advocate for integrating restorative justice practices into traditional criminal justice systems. These dialogues should aim at fostering empathy and efficiency in conflict resolution and the successful reintegration of convicted individuals into society;
- Facilitating multidisciplinary training: provide comprehensive training programs for professionals in victim protection. Enhancing their understanding of trauma, psychological support, legal advocacy, and victims' rights ensures holistic support for crime victims;
- Assisting in awareness-raising campaigns: collaborate on developing campaigns to raise awareness about corruption, with a focus on engaging citizens as part of the solution. This type of action can effectively support state entities in promoting a culture of integrity and civic responsibility, encouraging active citizen participation in preventing and combating this phenomenon;
- Collaborating with UNODC: partner with UNODC to develop international training programs for law enforcement personnel. Prioritize training in firearms identification and combatting illegal arms trafficking to bolster global security efforts.

## N. Senegal

As the thirty-third session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (13–17 May 2024) approaches, Senegal stands ready to guide the Commission in improving the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with a particular focus on Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16). Aware of the crucial importance of promoting peace, justice and strong institutions in order to achieve the global Sustainable Development Goals, Senegal will share its views and the initiatives it has undertaken to strengthen criminal justice systems, combat corruption and promote transparent and accountable institutions. By promoting dialogue and international cooperation, Senegal aspires to make a significant contribution to the achievement of SDG 16 and to encourage other States members to work together for a world that is more just, inclusive and respectful of fundamental rights.

### **How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda?**

The UNODC Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice can accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Senegal in several ways. It can strengthen legal institutions and criminal justice by offering technical and financial support for training and the improvement of judicial procedures, and can also provide institutional support with a view to mobilizing the country's internal resources more effectively. The Commission can also contribute to crime prevention by supporting the initiatives and programmes implemented by Senegal to combat trafficking in persons, illegal emigration, terrorism, cybercrime, sexual assault and prison overcrowding.

In addition, the Commission can support the fight against drug trafficking, transnational crime and money-laundering by building the capacity of law enforcement agencies, facilitating information-sharing and encouraging regional cooperation. Promotion of the rule of law and of human rights is a further dimension to be taken into consideration.

The Commission can also play a role in improving capacity to collect and analyse data on crime and criminal justice in Senegal. Reliable data are crucial for the formulation of effective policies and the measurement of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Furthermore, in order to ensure the effective implementation of SDG 17 on partnerships, the Commission can facilitate negotiations between the Government of Senegal and other States members, thus promoting fair and mutually beneficial trade agreements. It can also help to strengthen the business environment in Senegal by working to prevent and combat illicit trade, thereby helping to reinvest the financial flows from such transactions in the national economy. Similarly, the Commission could advocate for reduction of the cost of international transfers by combating unofficial money transfer systems so as to encourage Senegalese nationals living outside the country to invest in the domestic economy.

By working closely with the Government, civil society and other partners, the Commission can make a significant contribution to implementing the SDGs in Senegal. Lastly, it should be noted that the effectiveness of development aid is emerging as a crucial factor in achieving the 2030 Agenda, and in that regard the Commission can play a key role in coordinating initiatives, building national capacities and overcoming potential obstacles.

**In particular, how can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions)?**

The UNODC Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice can play a significant role in the accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16) in Senegal, which seeks to promote peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

Firstly, the Commission can help to strengthen legal institutions. By providing technical and financial assistance, it can support the training of judicial officials, the improvement of judicial procedures and the promotion of equitable access to justice for all citizens. Such institutional strengthening is essential in order to ensure effective application of the rule of law, given that the shortage of judges and prosecutors in Senegal has led to long periods of detention.

Indeed, promotion of the rule of law is a central pillar of the Commission's work. By working with the Government of Senegal, the Commission can put in place mechanisms to ensure the rule of law. Awareness-raising programmes on the rights and duties of citizens, as well as initiatives aimed at boosting confidence in the judicial system, could be implemented.

The prevention of crime and violence is another critical dimension. By formulating and implementing crime prevention strategies, the Commission can help to reduce crime in Senegal, including through awareness-raising programmes, educational campaigns and initiatives aimed at tackling the root causes of crime, such as poverty and inequality. As part of its efforts to prevent recidivism and promote the social reintegration of prisoners, Senegal, having already introduced sentence adjustment measures since 2000, passed two laws in 2020 to introduce the use of electronic bracelets as an alternative to incarceration.

In addition, action against corruption, a key component of SDG 16, could benefit from the Commission's support. In 2021, Senegal adopted a national strategy for combating corruption, covering the period 2020–2024; the Commission can support that initiative and help to establish mechanisms for transparency, accountability and corruption prevention in public and private institutions.

The Commission can also play a crucial role in strengthening civic engagement. By supporting initiatives that promote dialogue between the Government, civil society and the private sector, it can encourage the active participation of the population, thus contributing to inclusive decision-making and the consolidation of social peace.

Lastly, regional and international cooperation is an important tool for the Commission. By facilitating collaboration between Senegal and other nations, the Commission can build the country's capacity to combat transnational crime, drug trafficking and other forms of crime that transcend national borders.

By consolidating these actions, the Commission can help to create an enabling environment for the achievement of SDG 16 in Senegal. Close collaboration with stakeholders is essential in order to ensure a participatory and inclusive approach to the promotion of just and peaceful societies.

## O. Serbia

Dear Sir/Madam,

Regarding the document referenced above, which includes a request from UNODC inviting participating countries to submit contributions on the topic “Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Eradicating Poverty in Times of Multiple Crises” in the context of the preparations for the 33<sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) and the meeting of the High-level Political Forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), concerning Goal 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions, including the eradication of violence against children) and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the goals) we inform you as follows:

The promotion, exercise and protection of the rights of the child are one of the priorities in the work of the Ministry of the Interior. In carrying out work in this area, special attention is paid to the development of intersectoral cooperation and a multidisciplinary approach, both at the level of prevention and in terms of rapid and effective protection of children and young people who are potential or actual victims of all forms of violence.

At the strategic level, the Ministry of the Interior actively participates in the work of advisory bodies of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and inter-ministerial working groups aimed at improving the intersectoral and multidisciplinary approach in promoting and improving the exercise and protection of the rights of the child, as well as in the implementation of activities from the Action Plan for Chapter 23 and the Action plan for Chapter 24 in the part related to the rights of the child. In view of the above, the Ministry of the Interior participated in the development, promotion and implementation of strategies and projects of strategic importance.

At the legislative level, amendments to the Criminal Code were adopted in 2019, introducing stricter penalties for repeat offenders of criminal offences involving violence, drugs, weapons and sexual violence. In 2022, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted a new General Protocol on the Protection of Children from Violence while the Ministry of the Interior, within its competence, adopted internal acts regulating the areas of trafficking in human beings, minors and the victims’ protection and support.

At the preventive level, there are many information and education activities aimed at developing a culture of safety among children and adolescents through various projects and criminal-operational actions aimed at suppressing the criminal offence of exploiting children for pornographic purposes. Members of the Ministry of the Interior took part in the development of the National Platform for the Prevention of Violence Involving Children and continuously contributed to its promotion and further development through the educational component and direct engagement in the electronic system for receiving applications from citizens and representatives of competent authorities and institutions. In 2023, an e-platform was also launched, enabling urgent notification in case of a missing minor.

At the operational level, in police directorates and stations in the Republic of Serbia, there are approximately 2,800 police officers trained in the rights of the child and in juvenile criminal law who are available 24 hours a day. Until May 2023, about 350 police officers, so-called “school police officers”, have been annually deployed in about 660 primary and secondary schools to improve the protection of students and schools in the territory of the Republic of Serbia. After the tragic event at the Belgrade

primary school in May 2023, around 2,500 police officers have been daily deployed to protect students, staff and school facilities.

Given the above, we believe that the contribution of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is reflected in various aspects, including:

- Provision of resources and professional support to improve existing and develop and implement new projects aimed at promoting and improving the exercise and protection of the rights of the child;
- Provision of technical assistance for the development and implementation of effective policies, programmes and procedures for the protection of the rights of the child;
- Provision of support for the organization and delivery of specialized training to employees of the Ministry of the Interior;
- Provision of support in sharing information, resources and best practices in the field of protection of the rights of the child between the Ministry of the Interior and other state and international authorities, all in compliance with the strategic and current priorities of the Ministry of the Interior and the Republic of Serbia.

Yours faithfully,

ADVISOR TO THE MINISTER

HEAD OF THE CABINET

## **P. Syrian Arab Republic**

Regarding the question of **how the Committee can contribute to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda**, the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Committee has an effective role in accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, through coordination and intensifying efforts in combating crime at the international level and enhancing cooperation between countries through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime which provides support and assistance to countries (especially developing countries) to enable them to effectively confront the growing criminal patterns, most notably organized crime in all its forms, in addition to crimes of misuse of information technology for criminal purposes, and to reduce illicit financial flows, money laundering and drug trafficking, so the committee can support these countries by providing all forms of technical and material assistance, training and qualification, and obtaining technology for developing countries or those facing crises and wars, in addition to enhancing cooperation and coordination in the field of combating terrorist criminal activities and terrorist financing. The Committee can have a role in assisting countries that are subject to unilateral coercive measures, whether by seeking to lift these measures or filling the gap which the measures has created by supplying those countries with the requirements for control and combat in a way that contributes to reducing crime, as these coercive measures have a major role in limiting the ability of countries to combat crime and prevent them from achieving sustainable development in it.

Regarding the second question about **the role of the Committee in accelerating the achievement of Goal 16**: In any country, the spread of the crime, the weakness of the rule of law, and the worsening conditions of armed conflict, prevent the achievement of sustainable development, and hinder the establishment of peaceful societies and access to justice. Therefore, coordination and cooperation in confronting all Types of crimes, including armed terrorist activities, impose on the Committee several challenges that must be overcome to accelerate the implementation of Goal 16, through:

- Assisting and supporting countries with the technical and artistic means necessary to confront crime and achieve criminal justice, leading to societies free of conflict and crime.
- Adopting national, regional, and international initiatives that seek to develop preventive and awareness-raising policies to reduce crime, provide everyone with access to justice, and build effective and inclusive institutions.
- Strengthening the capabilities of crime-fighting authorities, law enforcement agencies, and criminal justice institutions in the States Parties by providing all aspects of technical assistance, training, and rehabilitation in a way that contributes to reducing crime and achieving sustainable development.
- Promoting the building of strong partnerships in various fields of combating crime and focusing on building the capabilities of countries (especially developing countries), to enhance their ability to face contemporary challenges.

## Q. Thailand

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) is the principal policy-making body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. The CCPCJ has also played a crucial role in advancing the implementation of the 2023 Agenda, particularly Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, in various ways. These include providing a valuable platform for practitioners, policy-makers and experts around the world to exchange expertise, experiences and information, promoting international cooperation as well as advocating specific areas that could help accelerate the implementation of SDG 16. While there are a variety of ways that the CCPCJ could promote the achievement of SDG 16, the CCPCJ could facilitate the use of digital technology and innovation in crime prevention and the criminal justice system as this thematic area would substantially attribute to the implementation of SDG 16 which focuses on the promotion of peace, justice and strong institutions.

First, with regard to “**peace**”, application of technology and innovation could improve effectiveness of crime control and crime prevention measures by enhancing law enforcement capacities to fight crimes and elevating public safety. For example, camera-based technologies such as CCTV surveillance can serve as an effective deterrent against potential offenders, enable law enforcement agencies to monitor and identify crimes in progress as well as provide evidence of criminal activity. In addition, another example of technology and innovation, that has been increasingly adopted worldwide as a tool for preventing crimes and promoting public safety, is crime prevention mobile applications. A wide range of mobile apps have been developed and serve as an online platform providing users with up-to-date information and notification regarding emergency situations and necessary information as well as allowing users to report crimes online. In Thailand, regarding the adoption of technological innovation in crime prevention, the Office of Justice Affairs under the Ministry of Justice has created an advanced technology platform known as “safe point” application. This new mobile app could predict potential crime hotspots and alert users accordingly. They can also report crimes and receive crucial information such as near-by police stations. Thus, the app enables users to be better informed about the safety landscape in each area, so that they can make informed decision and take necessary precaution to ensure their safety wherever they go.

Second, regarding “**justice**”, digital technology and innovation provide an immense potential in expanding access to justice for all and strengthen the rule of law since they help make legal services more accessible and inform people with their legal choices and information through various online platforms and digital services. In Thailand, the government has developed a number of online platforms and digital services to promote equal access to justice. This can be seen in the case of Thailand’s Digital Court or D-Court provided by the Office of the Judiciary which enables people to access to criminal justice systems in a more rapid and efficient manner.

Additionally, the Office of Justice Fund under the Ministry of Justice also developed “Justice Care” application, a digital mobile platform that provides 24 hours access to justice. Through this digital platform, people throughout the country will be able to access to legal aid and services more quickly and conveniently.

Third, regarding “**strong institutions**”, digital technology and innovation could serve as a powerful tool in enhancing transparency and accountability in the administration of justice. The issues of corruption and lack of transparency in governance have been challenges that constantly erode trust in public institutions, undermine the rule of law and hinder development progress in many countries. Digital technology and innovation could improve transparency and accountability in administering justice and foster trust between the government and their citizens. This is because digital and technological tools can facilitate citizens’ access to information concerning government processes and actions that impact their lives and also hold individuals and institutions more accountable, ensuring fair and transparent practices. An example of technological innovation that law enforcement officers could employ to enhance transparency is body-worn cameras. These can serve as a deterrent against misconduct and abuse of power by the officers during police investigation. Furthermore, these tools also offer objective recoding of incidents which enables impartial third parties, such as the public, to review and evaluate the conduct of all parties involved, ensuring impartial treatment of all individuals. In Thailand, there have been great efforts in engaging technology and innovation to increase transparency in the administration of justice. This can be seen, for example, in the enactment of the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance Act B.E. 2022. Section 22 of the act requires responsible state officers to record by video and audio all stages of the arrest, detention and interrogation processes, so the use of body-worn cameras technology could assist the officers to comply with the section and improve transparency in their operations, thus safeguarding not only the arrestees but also the officers themselves in the case of misconduct allegations.

The path to attaining the 2030 Agenda, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 16, necessitates the innovative approach. The CCPCJ can play a vital role in accelerating the implementation of SDG 16 by promoting the adoption of digital technology and innovation in crime prevention and the criminal justice system as an invaluable tool to enhance crime prevention measures, expand equal access to justice for all and increase transparency in public institutions, moving closer towards peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

## **R. Türkiye**

### **How can the Commissions contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda?**

The 12th provision in the document titled “Enhancing the Contributions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to the Accelerated Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” under A/C.3/78/L.4 outlines the following steps “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”

Here are some steps to promote such multi-stakeholder collaboration and coordination:

- **Establishing Partnerships and Defining Common Goals:** Law enforcement, criminal justice agencies, and other government sectors can come together with stakeholders from the private sector, civil society, academia, the scientific community, and other relevant parties to define common goals. For example, a



shared goal could be reducing crime rates or combating specific types of crime. A platform can be established for collaboration among these stakeholders.

- **Resource Sharing and Collaboration:** Sharing resources and collaborating among different stakeholders is crucial. This includes sharing financial resources, human resources, technology, expertise, and experience. For instance, the technology and innovation capacity of the private sector can be combined with the field experience of law enforcement.
- **Sharing Information and Best Practices:** Sharing information and best practices among different stakeholders is key to effective crime prevention and combat. Law enforcement and other criminal justice agencies can develop more effective strategies by utilizing knowledge and experience from stakeholders in the private sector, civil society, academia, and the scientific community.
- **Education and Capacity Building:** Joint training programs and capacity-building initiatives among various stakeholders can help achieve common goals. This facilitates learning and dissemination of best practices in crime prevention.
- **Promoting Participation in Policy and Lawmaking Processes:** Encouraging participation of various stakeholders in the development of crime prevention policies and laws is important. This can contribute to the creation of more comprehensive and effective policies and laws.
- **Community Participation and Awareness Building:** Involving the community in the multi-stakeholder approach to crime prevention is crucial. This ensures that the community is aware of its role and responsibilities in crime prevention efforts. These steps can promote effective collaboration and coordination among law enforcement, criminal justice agencies, and other government sectors, as well as other stakeholders, in preventing crime and combating crime. This approach aims to achieve more comprehensive, sustainable, and effective results in crime prevention.

## S. United States of America

### **How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda?**

- The Commission can encourage signatories to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to assess implementation of the Convention and to close any national legislative gaps. Successful implementation of the Convention directly supports Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, while serving as a foundation for others.
- The Commission can prepare a CCPCJ report, subject to available existing resources, highlighting country (or global) progress to achieve the SDGs to present at the CCPCJ. A report could help countries identify global and domestic areas where more improvement needs to be made to reach the 2030 indicator targets.

### **In particular, how can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions)?**

- The Commission could recommend that the Crime Congress set SDG16 as a theme for a future CCPCJ. This would promote and foster discussion on efforts to achieve SDG16, including successes and ongoing challenges. This thematic focus would signal Vienna's critical role in advancing implementation of the broader Sustainable Development Agenda, and ensure continued focus on SDG 16 in particular.

- The Commission can request that Ministries of Justice review and update actions to advance SDG 16, including related to data collection and policy and practice reforms, as well as related financial commitments. This would allow countries to deeply evaluate their own progress against SDG 16 and could spur renewed and more targeted action.
- The Commission can request and recommend that Ministries of Justice consult with domestic civil society organizations and subnational government entities to review possible actions to advance SDG 16. This proposed action would build out and inform the coalition of stakeholders working proactively on the SDGs, which would strengthen the effectiveness of actions to meet relevant targets

## T. Uzbekistan

### **Proposals concerning the contribution of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16**

It is proposed that the Commission:

1. Compile information on countries' experiences (challenges faced) in measuring SDG 16 indicators, as assessed through a survey or comprehensively, and, on the basis of that work, present positive experiences and recommendations aimed at improving countries' capacity to measure and monitor indicators.

Indicator 16.4.1, the methodology for which is underdeveloped or complex, particularly with respect to the measurement of illicit financial flows derived from crime, is of particular interest.

2. Compile information on countries' experiences (challenges faced) in achieving the SDG 16 targets in accordance with the related indicators and, on the basis of that work, present positive experiences and recommendations aimed at building countries' capacity.

In doing so, the Commission can cover not only the targets comprising SDG 16 but, more broadly, in line with the "SDG 16+" approach, such targets as target 5.2.

3. Support countries in assessing the conformity of State and national programmes with SDG 16 targets.

4. One of the factors negatively affecting the implementation of the SDGs is staff turnover in national bodies responsible for SDG targets and indicators. In that regard, the Commission can assist in the development and broad implementation of awareness-raising courses on each of the SDG 16 targets related to crime prevention and criminal justice.

5. Support and promote training programmes for national secretariats (or other bodies that are responsible for coordinating the implementation and achievement of SDG 16 at the national level). This will make it possible to coordinate measures at the national level more effectively and to propose solutions with respect to the implementation of the SDG and improvement of the effectiveness of crime prevention and criminal justice programmes.

Involve national secretariats in Commission meetings on the implementation of SDG 16.

Support the establishment of national SDG 16 centres of excellence, equipping them with the necessary best practices and tools.

6. Organize a platform for the regular sharing of experience in the implementation of SDG 16 among representatives of academia within the framework of the Commission's meetings.

## **II. Submissions by Intergovernmental Organizations, United Nations, and Institutes**

### **A. Asian Forest Cooperation Organization**

I would like to express our full support for the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice's (CCPCJ) dedicated efforts in preventing and combating the illicit trafficking and trade of wildlife. The consequences of overexploitation of wild biological resources are alarming, not only undermining ecosystem health, biodiversity, and stability but also posing significant threats to environmental integrity, other species, human communities, and economic structures. Such cascading consequences demand immediate and effective interventions.

Aligned with the insights shared in the report E/CN.15/2023/CRP.12 on "Strengthening the international legal framework for international cooperation to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife," we echo the need to reinforce the international legal structure. We believe that enhancing collective actions across borders is fundamental to tackling this transnational challenge efficiently.

The intricate connection between illegal logging and wildlife trafficking warrants our attention, with the former significantly contributing to habitat destruction and, consequently, amplifying the vulnerability of wildlife to poaching activities. Despite increasing awareness on these issues, enforcement mechanisms are still lagging, and national policies often fall short of a cohesive strategy to address both illegal logging and wildlife trafficking effectively.

Considering these challenges, AFoCO envisions the establishment of coordinated strategies that encompass research, knowledge exchange, adequate funding, and collaborative initiatives spanning different sectors and regions. Such comprehensive approaches are pivotal in combating the illegal wildlife trade and forest crimes in view of the crucial role of forests in combating climate change. We are keenly looking forward to exploring opportunities for collaboration on innovative and sustainable solutions to mitigate this pressing global issue.

Thank you for your dedication in addressing these concerns. We anticipate engaging with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other stakeholders to collectively and effectively respond to forest crimes, illegal wildlife trafficking and trade.

### **B. College for Criminal Law Science of Beijing Normal University (CCLS)**

It is widely acknowledged that academia has an increasingly important role to play in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) carried out by the United Nations. The role of higher education in achieving these goals cannot be underestimated.

The College for Criminal Law Science of Beijing Normal University (CCLS) is an academic and cooperative member of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice network. It is also an academic partner of the executive bureau of the security council's counter-terrorism committee as well as a member of the international coalition of the International Anti-Corruption Academy. As a higher education institution, CCLS plays a crucial role in the pursuit of the SDGs by providing the knowledge, skills and mindsets essential for solving the world's sustainable development challenges. CCLS incorporates elements of education for the SDGs into most existing formal and informal learning and teaching activities. For instance, CCLS actively participated in the Education for Justice (E4J) initiative, which was created by the UNODC and developed a series of peer-reviewed university modules and other tools with academics to assist them in teaching on some of today's most crucial threats.

Recent years, Professor Xiumei Wang sponsored by CCLS launched “the Counter Terrorism modules in Chinese” at Beijing Normal University. Officials from the UNODC, together with hundred professors and students from universities participated in this lecture, sharing “Education for Justice, Module of Counter-terrorism”. Making Comments on the “Draft of Corruption and Investment Arbitration”, “Integrity in International Investment Projects – good practices, new perspectives”, and “Towards Building a Road of Integrity: Perspectives of Business Integrity and Compliance”, Jointed the discussion on Education for Justice (E4J) initiative regarding “Modules on Counter terrorism”, “Modules on organized crimes”, “Modules on Integrity and Ethics”, “Modules on anti-corruption” and “Integrity and Ethics Modules” from 2018 to 2023. The above Modules are still be taught in Beijing Normal University.

In addition, CCLS has incorporated SDGs into lectures by designing crime prevention, international cooperation, peace and justice related courses for both domestic and international students. CCLS invited distinguished guest lecturers around the world to share their expertise in a variety of issues, with a focus on the subject areas of crime prevention and criminal justice, anti-corruption, organized crime, cybercrime, wildlife crime, counter-terrorism as well as integrity. These lectures not only provide cutting-edge academic knowledge in both research and teaching, but also contribute to tackling the most pressing global challenges posed by crimes and helping to achieve SDG 16, more just, peaceful and inclusive societies.

CCLS has constructively engaged in China’s criminal legislation and the formulation of the judicial interpretation of China’s highest judicial organs, making significant contributions to the creation and revision of China’s criminal law as well as relevant judicial interpretations. In recent years, for example, CCLS proactively participated in the 11th and the 12th amendments to the Criminal Law Code of the PRC (draft), providing recommendations for environmental crime, wild animal protection crime as well as private corporate corruption crimes. In addition to contributions on domestic legislative proposals, experts from CCLS are also invited to provide opinions and comments on important international instruments.

Academic researchers of CCLS have participated in multiple research projects domestically and abroad. Specifically, at present, some of CCLS’s research focus on measures against corrupt fugitives, such as extradition, persuasion of illegal immigrants and off-site prosecution, as well as asset recovery from overseas. Considering the transnational nature of corruption, the research, to a larger extent, cannot do without understanding international (good) practices.

Thus, professor Xiumei Wang took the lead in translating some important anti-corruption handbooks (from English to Chinese), such as Asset Recovery Handbook A Guide for Practitioners, Second Edition, Going for Broke: Insolvency Tools to Support Cross-Border Asset Recovery in Corruption Cases published by StAR, and Regulating Corporate Bribery in International Business Anti-Corruption in the UK and Germany authored by Nicholas Lord. CCLS provides us a good platform to incorporate its scholars’ knowledge with that of others and learn from international experiences. More importantly, based on CCLS’ research, intellectual support is provided for international cooperation regarding specific corruption related cases. For instance, experts of CCLS have provided expert opinions for the asset recovery case of Mr. Li Huabo between China and Singapore, and the extradition case of Mr. Huang Haiyong between China and Peru.

CCLS has participated in, and hosted various seminars and conferences on criminal justice topics, signed cooperation and exchange agreements with other academic institutions, and established contact with government legal departments and research institutions. On the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Kyoto, Japan in 2021, CCLS organised the symposium “Confiscation of Criminal Proceeds and Asset Recovery: Comparative Studies”, during which experts of CCLS discussed the latest Chinese laws, practices, disputed issues and potential effective legal measures in fighting corruption and bribery from a comparative perspective, focusing on confiscation and asset recovery, corporate

bribery, criminal compliance, etc.. Moreover, on behalf of CCLS, Professor Xiumei Wang has been invited to attend series of workshops and conferences sponsored by UNODC. In 2020, she participated in the workshop “falsified medical products: the role of education in tackling this parallel pandemic”, which is part of the Education for Justice Global Series. On the thirty-second session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2023, which addresses the theme of access to justice to realize a safe and secure society, she delivered a speech regarding “Legislation and Practice of Whistle-blower Protection in the Field of Anti-corruption in China”. In the same year, she was invited to participate in the 14th Session of the Implementation Review Group of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

### **C. Council of Europe**

The Council of Europe actively contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, by assisting and facilitating member States in their contribution to the implementation of the SDGs. A large number of our activities contribute to ensuring that member states respect the commitments made in this respect, notably by strengthening the implementation of international standards and taking further measures, to build systems of justice and the rule of law that are more responsive, fair, effective and firmly grounded in human rights. Many of our reports, including the 2023 Report of the Secretary General on the State of Democracy, Human Rights and the Rule of Law, and the upcoming one of 2024, highlight the progress achieved but also the areas where implementation remains weak or insufficient in Council of Europe member states.

Let me assure you that the Council of Europe stands ready to contribute to the 2024 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the Summit of the Future and/or to any thematic events which would raise the relevance of the crime prevention and criminal justice action, thereby paving the way for a renewed commitment to the 2030 Agenda, and in particular the Rule of Law and SDG 16.

### **D. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)**

**How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda?**

**- ECLAC work program.**

Under the framework of the United Nations, ECLAC is responsible for fostering the economic, social and environmentally sustainable development of Latin America and the Caribbean through international cooperation, by undertaking applied research and evidenced-based comparative analysis of development processes, as well as by providing normative and operational capacity-building, technical cooperation and advisory services in support of regional development efforts.

The Commission supports the development pillar of the United Nations, promoting economic integration at subregional and regional levels, supporting Member States in implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as the implementation of international agreements derived from the main intergovernmental summits and conferences on development, and facilitates sustainable development by helping to build economic and social bridges and environmental, within and between the countries of the region, as well as with other regions of the world.

**- Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.**

The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, through Resolution 700 (XXXVI) approved in May 2016 within the framework of the Thirty-sixth Session of the

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) , created the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as a regional mechanism for the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SDGs, their targets and means of implementation, as well as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development.

Since 2017, the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development is convened annually under the auspices of ECLAC. This Forum is led by the States of Latin America and the Caribbean and open to representatives of the associate members of ECLAC, civil society, academia and the private sector. It also involves the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC, development banks, regional and subregional organizations, other United Nations entities, United Nations Regional Coordinators, and other regional actors. The Forum provides peer learning opportunities, the exchange of good practices, and the discussion of common goals and seeks to encourage cooperation with regional and subregional organizations to guide an inclusive regional process towards sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

- **Regional Collaborative Platform**

The RCP is co-chaired by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Regional Director of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

At the regional level, the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean (RCP LAC) unites all UN entities working on sustainable development to enhance transparency and results-based management at the regional level, including through annual reporting on United Nations system-wide results at the regional level in support of the 2030 Agenda. Thus, ensuring full collaboration and coordination of UN assets in addressing key SDG challenges that transcend country borders, and providing policy support and access to expertise at the service of the specific needs and priorities of the region and in support of the work of Resident Coordinators and UN country teams at the country level.

**In particular, how can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions)?**

Under the framework of ECLAC's work programme, the institution has written the seventh report on the regional progress and challenges of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which examines the evolution and projection of the goals of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This document analyses SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), as well as SDGs: 1 (End of poverty), 2 (Zero hunger), 13 (Climate action), and 17 (Partnerships to achieve the Objectives), as well as the projection of their fulfilment towards 2030.

The seventh report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean will be presented by the Executive Secretary of ECLAC on April 16, 2024: "The challenge of accelerating the 2030 Agenda in America Latin America and the Caribbean: transitions towards sustainability" (<https://foroalc2030.cepal.org/2024/en/programme>).

Within the framework of the Forum, Panel 4: Goal 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions will be held on April 18. This will feature presentations by regional authorities and experts, as well as the participation of national delegations.

Likewise, on April 16, a parallel event will be held: "Insecurity, a central economic problem for the development of Latin America and the Caribbean. Dialogue in search of keys to understand and offer alternatives to change the current trend of SDG 16 of the 2030 Agenda." In the event where regional experts, United Nations agencies and civil society, among others, will participate, ECLAC will present a working document for discussion.

The objective of the meeting is to discuss the effects on the economic development of Latin America and the Caribbean of crime, violence and fear associated with both, as well as the institutional weakness of the triad of justice, police and prison.

Also at the meeting, experiences, personal practices and/or known through professional practice will be analysed, aimed at the search for Peace and/or reduction of violence, crimes and fears associated with both to guide possible solutions to the security crisis in the region.

In a complementary manner, under the framework of the RCP LAC, ECLAC and other RCP Members collaborate on the Issue Based Coalition of Governance for Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.

Finally, in 2024, part of the SDG16 indicators, referring to the city, will be considered in a publication by the Human Settlements Unit of the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division.

## **E. International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)**

### **How can the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda?**

By championing effective strategies to combat transnational crime, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice holds a pivotal role in advancing the execution of the 2030 Agenda.

From the perspective of INTERPOL, the Commission could employ the following three approaches to contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

#### **- Highlighting Interconnectedness and Impact**

The CCPCJ could play a valuable role in underscoring the intricate impact of transnational crime on Sustainable Development as a whole. By expanding its purview to the interconnectedness between SDG 16 and all relevant SDGs, the Commission could shed light on the deep ramifications of criminal activities on various societal facets.

For instance, illegal mining not only devastates ecosystems (SDG 3 and 15) but also perpetuates poverty (SDG 1 and 2), denies access to quality education (SDG 4), and undermines decent work and economic growth (SDG 8). Criminal enterprises often subject communities to coercion, child labour, and violence, further exacerbating social and gender inequities (SDG 10 and 5).

By highlighting these interconnected dynamics, the Commission can play an important role in raising awareness on the impact of transnational crime on all facets of societal functioning; and therefore, help galvanize international awareness and support for bolstering criminal justice systems to safeguard communities and preserve shared resources.

#### **- Enhanced Cooperation with Intergovernmental Bodies: Maximizing Impact through Complementarities, Preventing Duplications**

Enhanced collaboration with intergovernmental entities beyond the UN system which possess relevant mandates for the work of the Commission and the achievement of the Agenda 2030 can significantly increase the Commission's efficacy.

The CCPCJ can use its conveying power to help foster synergies, align mandates as well as maximize complementarity and added value among the different actors who make the global security architecture. Further, the CCPCJ also plays an important role in preventing the duplication of efforts and initiatives as a way to enhance the effectiveness of existing channels, tools and programmes for international cooperation.

This would help ensure that the international community adopts a comprehensive, coordinated and holistic approach to addressing transnational crime while directing increasingly scarce resources towards the areas where it is most needed.

Promoting and maximizing the utilization of existing mechanisms for international cooperation, such as through INTERPOL's channels (see question 2), can help optimize resource efficiency and amplify impact. By promoting proven and trusted avenues of cooperation, the Commission can facilitate robust cooperation at both political and operational levels to combat crime effectively.

- **Promoting Specific Thematic Areas**

The Commission may advocate for specific thematic areas, aligning with emerging trends identified by organizations such as INTERPOL, in particular:

- The convergence of crime markets, or polycriminality, presents a pressing challenge that demands concerted attention.
- Cybercrime and financial crime as enablers of transnational criminal activities underscores the need for holistic approaches which can encompass different types of actors and expertise.

By championing initiatives focused on these thematics, the Commission can spearhead proactive measures to counter emerging trends and evolving criminal phenomena with a view to safeguard global security more proactively.

**In particular, how can the Commission contribute to the Accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions)?**

In line with Resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991, which established “an Effective UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme”, the CCPCJ is to enlist support from all UN entities, regional commissions, specialized agencies, and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to fulfil its mandate and tasks.

As such and to effectively address the specific objectives of SDG 16, INTERPOL encourages the CCPCJ to continue to integrate the expertise and perspectives from all relevant stakeholders, including intergovernmental bodies outside the UN system to inform its work.

In particular, strengthening the relationship between the Commission and INTERPOL is essential to ensure that global law enforcement perspective is integrated into international discussions on international security. It shall help the Commission in shaping comprehensive strategies and policies which effectively combat the complex challenges posed by transnational crime.

This can be achieved by consistently inviting INTERPOL to provide insights during intersessional and thematic discussions held within the framework of the CCPCJ. Additionally, the Commission may continue to use its wide outreach to Member States to prevent duplication of efforts while encouraging them to support and leverage existing mechanisms and resources, including those offered by INTERPOL, such as its global communication system, databases, and capacity-building programs, which can all significantly enhance the effectiveness of international efforts in combating transnational crime. This is aligned with UN General Assembly resolution 77/20 (2022), which encourages increased collaboration between the UN and INTERPOL in this regard.

Lastly, INTERPOL suggests that the Conference Room Paper currently under development as part of this consultation process explicitly acknowledges INTERPOL's mandate (fostering international law enforcement cooperation and data exchange) and highlights the availability of its tools and channels to UN Member



States which are also part of INTERPOL<sup>1</sup>. This will remind Member States of the resources at their disposal to fulfil their obligations and commitments in addressing transnational crime and further continue to enhance their cooperation in this regard.

By adopting these recommendations and actively involving global law enforcement perspectives, INTERPOL is confident that the CCPCJ can make substantial contributions to the accelerated implementation of SDG 16, thereby fostering peace, promoting justice, and strengthening institutions worldwide.

## **F. International Development Law Organization (IDLO)**

The International Development Law Organization (IDLO) is pleased to provide its input to the thirty-third session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ).

As the only global intergovernmental organization working to promote the rule of law to advance peace and sustainable development, IDLO strongly believes that rule of law, featured most prominently in Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16), but incorporated throughout the 2030 Agenda is key to addressing global crises and accelerating progress on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Consistent with the UN approach, IDLO understands the rule of law as a principle of governance in which all people and institutions, including the State and private actors, are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced, and independently adjudicated. The rule of law incorporates the substantive element of justice, which emphasizes equality, fairness, and non-discrimination, and includes a commitment to democratic principles and good governance. The rule of law protects important substantive rights through an independent and impartial judiciary and through laws consistent with international human rights standards. It operationalizes human rights through constitutional and legal protections, institutions for effective implementation and accountability, judicial and administrative remedies, and the legal empowerment of people to access justice and claim their rights.

Effective, fair and humane criminal justice systems play an important role in sustaining peace and promoting post-conflict recovery by tackling impunity and incentivizing peaceful collaboration. By fairly resolving disputes and reducing crime and violence, justice systems can help break the cycle of violence that holds back the development potential of countries and individuals. Supporting effective, accountable and accessible criminal justice institutions in such contexts, is therefore critical to the achievement of the SDGs.

IDLO works with partners to strengthen the criminal justice chain to promote accountability in investigation, prosecution, adjudication, and post-trial responses. We support greater respect for victims' rights, the reintegration and rehabilitation of prisoners, including through innovative restorative justice approaches, and the incorporation of gender equality in the criminal justice system.

The following sections illustrate how the Commission can contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and, particularly, SDG 16.

### **How the Commission can contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda**

Promoting the rule of law was at the centre of the Commission's third Thematic Discussions on the implementation of the 2021 Kyoto Declaration. Drawing from these discussions, IDLO proposes that the Commission can contribute to the

<sup>1</sup> INTERPOL has 196 Member countries which all have access to INTERPOL's channels and tools. The list is available [here](#).

accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda by advancing Pillar III of the Kyoto Declaration on ‘Promoting the rule of law’, particularly through:

- **Cross-border, coordinated & cross-cutting approaches to combatting transnational organized crime**

Transnational organized crime (TOC) erodes the rule of law and destabilizes law enforcement structures across countries, thereby undermining the authority and effectiveness of State institutions. It can lead to weakened governance, corruption and lawlessness, posing a substantial threat to a country’s safety and security and derailing sustainable development efforts.

Rule of law-based cross-border, coordinated and cross-cutting approaches, focused on improving governance, strengthening policy and legal frameworks and enhancing the capacities and collaboration of legal and justice actors, are essential in promoting more effective investigations, prosecutions, and adjudications of various forms of TOC, including trafficking in persons.

The Commission can organize regular platforms such as technical working groups where local, national, regional, and international criminal justice actors can share cross-cutting experiences, challenges, and lessons learned from regional and international cooperation in addressing TOC. The Commission can also emphasize emerging and effective approaches towards strengthening cross-border cooperation among criminal justice actors.

- **Promoting diverse pathways to people-centred justice**

Many root causes and drivers of conflict and instability, such as impunity, corruption, human rights violations, and lack of accountability, are linked to an absence of justice systems and the rule of law. Notably, over 5 billion people globally lack meaningful access to justice. Closing the justice gap will require transitioning to people-centred approaches that emphasize better use of data and evidence, innovating service delivery, and utilizing diverse pathways to justice with a focus on improved outcomes for the end users.

Oriented toward consensus-building and restorative outcomes, and rooted in local contexts, Customary and Informal Justice (CIJ) systems are people-centred solutions that are more accessible, cost effective, and garner greater trust for a significant portion of the global population.

The Commission can promote CIJ systems which can enhance community problem-solving and cohesion in ways that are crime preventative; they can also contribute meaningfully and in culturally resonant ways to addressing challenges around reintegration of formerly incarcerated people and reduction of recidivism. Strengthening the inclusiveness, responsiveness, and accountability of CIJ systems can expand access to civil justice and relieve pressure on overburdened formal criminal justice systems.

- **Equitable and inclusive use of digital innovation**

Harnessing the potential of new technologies is essential to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Digital innovation can significantly contribute to closing the justice gap, while improving the cost- effectiveness, efficiency, transparency, and accountability of criminal justice systems. Digital innovation can strengthen criminal justice systems, empower justice seekers, support good governance, and transform institutions to make them work for people.

The Commission can develop and evaluate model strategies and practical measures on the equitable and inclusive use of digital innovation in crime prevention and criminal justice, ensuring they are backed by clear frameworks that respect human rights and protect against discrimination.

## **How the Commission can contribute to the accelerated implementation of SDG 16**

SDG 16 is both a standalone goal and an enabler and accelerator of all other SDGs. It is at the heart of what makes the 2030 Agenda transformative, and it can play a vital role in addressing multiple global crises including conflict, lack of trust in public institutions and climate change. The causes and effects of these crises – and the actions needed to address them – are interconnected and deeply rooted in issues of human rights, justice, equity, inclusion, accountability, and good governance.

IDLO proposes that the Commission can contribute to the accelerated implementation of SDG 16, particularly through:

### **- Enhancing states' capacities to combat all forms of corruption**

Corruption, with its inherently corrosive effect on societies, poses a significant challenge to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the commitment to “leave no one behind”. Its profound negative impact on the rule of law, good governance, and human rights threatens peace and security, undermines trust in public institutions, hampers the provision of public services, and thwarts inclusive economic development.

The rule of law can enhance the ability of the entire criminal justice chain to prevent, investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate corruption and related offences. It can bolster states' capacity to prevent corruption and safeguard the independence of justice systems at a time when they are under increasing threat around the world.

The Commission can host experts who utilize data and evidence to assist Member States in enhancing their capacity to combat corruption, while promoting greater transparency, accountability, and integrity in the public sector. Such experts can also support in the deployment and utilization of digital solutions to reduce corruption risks. Moreover, the Commission can facilitate international cooperation to combat corruption, detect, track and prevent illicit financial flows, as well as recover stolen assets.

### **- Incorporating gender equality in crime prevention and criminal justice**

The justice gap is widest for women and girls, as they face not only restrictive norms and practices and discriminatory laws, but also a lack of resources and legal awareness. Women and girls must overcome steep hurdles in seeking to obtain effective remedies including, for example, falling victim to gender-based violence.

Gender equality, including the ability of women and girls to enjoy the full range of their human rights and meaningfully participate in all aspects of society is a necessary condition for progress towards SDG 16 and the entire 2030 Agenda.

The Commission can adopt model strategies and other practical measures on how to incorporate gender equality in crime prevention and criminal justice. This can include measures to increase women's legal empowerment to access justice and claim their rights, gender-responsive legal and policy frameworks to reduce all forms of violence against women and girls, eliminate discriminatory laws and practices in criminal justice systems, and strengthen the coordination and capacities of criminal justice actors on gender-related issues. It can also include measures to empower women professionals in the criminal justice sector.

IDLO remains committed to work in partnership with member states, the UN system, and other partners towards the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration, as part of our shared commitment to realise the 2030 Agenda.

## **G. The International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IIJ)**

### **How can the Commission (CCPCJ) contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda?**

#### **Response to Question 1: Enhancing Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Mechanisms**

The International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IIJ) acknowledges the importance of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) mechanisms in advancing the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Through its extensive experience and engagement with Criminal Justice Practitioners, the IIJ observed the pivotal role that effective data collection and analysis play in shaping evidence-based policies as well as the design of its interventions aimed at terrorism prevention, transnational crime prevention and criminal justice reform.

At the same time, based on our work, we have learned of significant challenges stemming from the lack of robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) frameworks in regions with limited resources and technical capacity, such as Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and Southeast Asia. This scarcity impedes the accurate assessment of the impact of anti-terrorism and transnational crime prevention strategies and initiatives, hindering progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In our experience, canvassing feedback through both short and longer-term assessments enables us to assess the impact of the IIJ activities on effecting the desired change. These assessments allow us to gauge the applicability of knowledge and skills in daily practice, observe the emergence of professional communities forging a common agenda and approach, and facilitate the translation of international community best practices into real world applications.

Furthermore, we recognize that successful M&E efforts require not only technical expertise but also institutional commitment and support. Therefore, our approach emphasizes fostering partnerships and collaboration among government agencies, international organizations, and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that M&E serves the sustainability and effectiveness of joint initiatives over the long term.

The IIJ was engaged in 2023 with like-minded partners through participation in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Working Group on Resource Mobilization and Monitoring and Evaluation (RMME WG) and in the GCTF M&E Working Group.

By strengthening data collection and M&E mechanisms, the CCPCJ and its partners (like the IIJ) could contribute significantly to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda. By promoting the adoption of standardized methodologies and indicators for measuring progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16) targets, the CCPCJ can facilitate comparability and information-sharing across countries and regions.

Additionally, investing in capacity-building initiatives focused on enhancing M&E skills and knowledge among practitioners and policymakers can empower them to make informed decisions and policy formulation, allocate resources effectively, and tailor interventions to address emerging challenges and trends in transnational crime prevention and criminal justice.

In conclusion, IIJ stands ready to collaborate with the CCPCJ and other stakeholders to strengthen M&E capacities and promote evidence-based approaches to crime prevention and criminal justice reform. By harnessing the power of data and analysis, we can accelerate progress towards achieving SDG 16 and building more resilient and inclusive societies.

**In particular, how can the Commission (CCPCJ) contribute to the accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions)?**

**Response to Question 2: Addressing Cybercrime and Leveraging Data and Technology**

Cybercrime has emerged as a significant threat to peace, security, and sustainable development worldwide. At the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IIJ), we witness through our work with practitioners the interconnected nature of cyber threats and their devastating impact on peace, security, and sustainable development.

Moreover, through our extensive capacity-building efforts, we have invested significant resources in equipping law enforcement officials and criminal justice practitioners with the knowledge and skills needed to address transnational crime and terrorism in north Africa, west Africa, Middle East, Latin America and Southeast Asia.

In addition, our engagement with law enforcement practitioners and policymakers has highlighted the critical role that data and technology play in addressing terrorism, transnational crimes, cyber threats, while also bolstering institutional resilience, with cybercrime and digital investigations consistently identified among the top issues by criminal justice practitioners.

Furthermore, practitioners have provided constant feedback highlighting the challenges they encounter in addressing emerging cyber threats, especially those related to artificial intelligence (AI) and cybercrimes. They emphasize the importance of incorporating digital investigations and cybercrime prevention strategies in our future initiatives. The convergence of cybercrime, the exploitation of the internet for terrorist activities, and the proliferation of AI technologies present significant challenges for practitioners.

Many struggle to understand and effectively utilize AI-driven technologies in their efforts to combat transnational crime, cyber threats as well as terrorism.

Additionally, the IIJ remains vigilant in addressing the growing nexus between cybercrime and terrorism, as well as the use of the internet for terrorist purposes. Through our capacity-building initiatives, we equip practitioners with the tools and techniques needed to address these multifaceted challenges comprehensively.

Recognizing the challenges practitioners face in understanding and effectively utilizing AI-driven technologies, the IIJ is committed to exploring comprehensive training programs aimed at equipping individuals with the necessary skills to navigate technology, conduct digital investigations, and handle related tasks proficiently.

By strengthening their understanding of cyber threats associated with terrorism financing, money laundering and providing them with specialized training on cybercrime prevention and investigation, we enable them to effectively disrupt terrorist networks and safeguard national security.

In conclusion, the IIJ remains committed to supporting the efforts of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) in addressing cybercrime and leveraging data and technology to advance Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16). By integrating our expertise into collaborative initiatives with the CCPCJ and other stakeholders, we can enhance global efforts to combat cyber threats and uphold the rule of law in the digital age.

We are keen to extend our engagement and remain at your disposal for any inquiries or clarifications.

## H. International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

### How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda?

From ITU's perspective, the UNODC has a pivotal role to play in accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by harnessing its expertise and resources in crime prevention and criminal justice including through collaboration with relevant UN agencies such as the ITU and leveraging its position to:

- **Enhance global cooperation:** the UNODC's Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) can lead efforts to foster international collaboration. This involves advocating for the development and implementation of global guidelines, standard and frameworks to address issues such as transnational crime, cybercrime and illicit trafficking which are all essential for achieving the SDGs. essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Strengthen legal frameworks and capacity building:** the UNODC should advocate for the establishment and reinforcement of robust legal, policy, and regulatory instruments at both national and international levels.
- **Promotion of technology and innovation:** by promoting the use of innovative technologies in crime prevention and criminal justice processes, the UNODC can significantly contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Collaborating with relevant UN agencies such as the ITU, the UNODC can assist countries in integrating technology-based solutions to combat cyber and other crimes, ultimately enhancing public safety both online and offline.
- **Data-driven decision making:** encouraging the utilization of data and analytics for informed policymaking and justice reforms is crucial. The UNODC can assist countries in developing mechanisms for better data collection, analysis, and sharing to address the root causes of international crime, including cybercrime.
- **Public Engagement and Awareness:** increasing public awareness and engagement in crime prevention through targeted educational programs is essential to foster a culture of lawfulness and contribute to reducing online crime and violence, including gender-based violence, aligning with the SDGs.
- **Research and innovation support:** encouraging research and innovation in the development of technologies and tools for crime prevention, including online crimes is vital. UNODC can support research projects, fund innovation hubs, and facilitate partnerships between UN agencies.
- **High-level advocacy:** UNODC should advocate for greater political commitment and resource allocation to address transnational crime and cybercrime issues to elevate the importance of these issues at the national, regional, and international levels.

### In particular, how can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)?

*Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.*

From ITU's perspective, UNODC can contribute to the accelerated implementation of UN Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) by collaborating with relevant UN agencies, such as the ITU and leveraging its expertise in crime prevention, criminal justice, and the rule of law. This would support the

accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 and contribute to building peaceful, just, and inclusive societies:

- **Capacity building in cybersecurity:** UNODC can work with ITU to provide capacity building and technical assistance to countries in enhancing cybersecurity measures. Strengthening cybersecurity is essential for ensuring the security and integrity of digital systems, which are critical for maintaining strong institutions and promoting peace.
- **Combatting cybercrime:** UNODC and ITU can collaborate to develop strategies and initiatives aimed at combating cybercrime. This includes raising awareness about cyber threats, fostering international cooperation in investigating and prosecuting cybercriminal activities, and supporting the development of legal frameworks to address cybercrime.
- **Promoting digital inclusion and access to justice:** ITU and UNODC can work together to promote digital inclusion and ensure that marginalized communities have access to justice through digital technologies. This can involve initiatives such as providing training on using technology for legal empowerment, developing digital platforms for accessing legal information and services, and promoting the use of digital tools for alternative dispute resolution mechanism.
- **Data sharing and analysis:** UNODC and ITU can collaborate on collecting, analysing, and sharing data related to crime and justice issues, including data on cybercrime and the effectiveness of legal institutions. This data-driven approach can help identify trends, evaluate the impact of interventions, and inform evidence-based policymaking in support of Goal 16.
- **Promoting ethical and responsible use of technology:** ITU and UNODC can work together to promote the ethical and responsible use of technology in the context of law enforcement and criminal justice. This includes addressing issues such as the use of artificial intelligence in predictive policing, ensuring respect for human rights in the use of surveillance technologies, and promoting transparency and accountability in the use of digital evidence.

## I. League of Arab States

### How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda?

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) plays a crucial role in contributing to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Goal 16 which focuses on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, access to justice, and accountable institutions.

1. Policy Development and Guidance
  - The CCPCJ can contribute to the development of comprehensive policies that include crime prevention, criminal justice, and the rule of law. This involves collaboration with Member States, legal experts, and stakeholders to develop effective frameworks.
  - CCPCJ can promote policies prioritizing rehabilitation and reintegration over punitive measures, including support for education and vocational training in prisons and alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenses.
  - Promoting victim-centred policies includes protecting the rights of victims, ensuring legal protection, and providing support services. CCPCJ can create an environment where victims feel empowered and an integral part of the criminal justice process.
2. Capacity Building

- The implementation of capacity-building programs, including training, workshops, and information sharing initiatives, allows the CCPCJ to build strong criminal justice systems globally by improving the capacity of law enforcement officials, lawyers, and policymakers.
3. International Cooperation and partnerships
    - Promoting the rule of law involves supporting initiatives that strengthen legal institutions, promote the independence of the judiciary system, and ensure fair, transparent, and accessible legal frameworks.
    - Encouraging cooperation between member states involves facilitating information sharing, joint operations, and the development of international legal frameworks to combat human trafficking, drug trafficking, and corruption.
    - Promoting community-based crime prevention initiatives involves the active participation of local communities. CCPCJ can facilitate dialogue, support community policing models, and foster partnerships between law enforcement and community organizations.
  4. Data Collection and Analysis
    - The CCPCJ can facilitate the creation of reliable crime databases and analysis tools, crucial for evidence-based decision-making and effective resource allocation to address crime and develop targeted interventions.
    - Keeping pace with new challenges requires active monitoring and analysis of new forms of crime. This may involve collaboration with cybersecurity experts, counterterrorism units, and specialized entities to develop effective strategies against emerging threats.
    - Addressing the root causes of crime contributes to conflict prevention. CCPCJ can support initiatives promoting social cohesion, economic development, and good governance to reduce the likelihood of conflict leading to crime and violence.

**In particular, how can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)?**

Concerning the acceleration of implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16, which focuses on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice, and building effective institutions, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) aims to work on four major elements:

1. Capacity Building
  - Encourage Member States to include information on the implementation of Goal 16 in their VNRs.
  - Collaborate with Member States to enhance legal frameworks, judicial independence, and access to justice and promote transparency, accountability, and the rule of law.
  - Foster collaboration between law enforcement agencies and local communities.
  - Establish legal aid clinics in underserved areas. Provide free or low-cost legal assistance to vulnerable populations.
  - Assist countries in building strong institutions and improving governance.
  - Strengthen anti-corruption institutions and mechanisms and promote transparency in public administration and financial transactions.
  - Partner with educational institutions to integrate crime prevention and conflict resolution education into curricula, and raise awareness about rights, responsibilities, and the rule of law.



- Invest in research on effective crime prevention strategies, rehabilitation programs, and institutional reforms.
2. NGOs
    - Strengthen partnerships with other UN agencies, governments, and civil society organizations.
    - Support efforts to combat corruption and ensure effective criminal justice systems and support initiatives for disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration.
    - Support local peacebuilding efforts, including dialogue, reconciliation, and community-led initiatives.
    - Promote restorative justice practices that prioritize victims' needs and facilitate dialogue between victims and offenders.
  3. Academia
    - Develop policies that address gender-based violence, discrimination, and access to justice for women and girls.
    - Collaborate with relevant bodies to prevent conflicts and promote peace and address root causes of violence and instability.
    - Facilitate data sharing among criminal justice agencies, social services, and health providers.
  4. Outreach
    - Address the intersection of health and justice and collaborate with health professionals to address substance abuse, mental health, and rehabilitation.
    - Promote women's participation in decision-making processes and leadership roles and engage young people in governance and peacebuilding activities.

## **J. Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children (OSRSG VAC)**

### **How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 16**

The large portfolio of the CCPCJ encompasses the prevention of and responses to crimes, including violence against children (VAC), and plays a significant role in supporting States in accelerated implementation of Agenda 2030 and its Goal 16 that calls for the promotion of peaceful, just and inclusive societies, access to justice for all and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Goal 16 underpins all SDGs and its achievement includes ensuring that all children have equal access to justice without discrimination, and that justice in its broadest sense, embracing not only criminal and civil, but also social justice meets the rights of children, as enshrined in international human rights standards. Ensuring children's rights, including protection from violence and crimes, requires a comprehensive approach that addresses the underlying factors spanning across the entire Agenda 2030. This necessitates addressing drivers that make children vulnerable to violence and crimes and enhancing protective factors, that prevent their contact with the criminal justice.

Commission's efforts to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular SDG 16 should therefore focus on consistently enhancing visibility and prioritization of children's rights, child protection and empowerment in the domain of crime prevention and criminal justice. This requires promoting the preventive role of justice in ensuring that children's rights are protected, and their development supported.

The exclusion and marginalization of people, especially children and young people, denies their human rights and undermines their wellbeing, leading to more vulnerability in society and impeding sustainable development.<sup>2</sup>

Moreover, violence at home, poverty, structural violence, and risky survival activities propels children into the criminal justice system, while punitive responses further exacerbate the problem.

Globally many children are in contact with the justice system for behaviours that should not be regarded as crimes including status offences or survival behaviours in case of children living in street situations.

The overwhelming majority of children in detention are first time offenders or are there for minor and status offences.<sup>3</sup> Moreover, in many places the use of deprivation of liberty is not only of concern but growing, with children being deprived of liberty in the context of migration<sup>4</sup>, armed conflict or on the grounds of national security. Detention practices often violate due process rights and subject children to inhuman, or/ and degrading treatment, with little or no independent oversight.

Depriving children of liberty impacts on their wellbeing and continues into adulthood. The negative consequences contribute to poor physical and mental health, lack of access to education, a high rate of recidivism, family breakdown and unemployment. These result in higher costs for society and State in the long term, posing impediment to sustainable development.

The Commission through providing guidance and support to Member States, could further reinforce the preventive role of justice, promoting shift from punitive responses towards more child rights-based approaches and enhanced cooperation with child protection, social welfare, health and education systems.

This requires ensuring that advances in knowledge about child and adolescent development, as well as evidence of effective crime prevention practices and the harmful impacts of deprivation of liberty on children are adequately reflected in national legislation, policy and practices in Member States.

This includes consistent advocacy for raising the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility to at least 14 years, abolishing status offences and ensuring the use of detention as a measure of last resort, in exceptional circumstances and for the shortest possible period, giving priority to diversion, restorative justice, rehabilitation and reintegration approaches.

Moreover, the Commission work should continue supporting Member States in building child friendly, specialized justice systems ensuring that serious forms of VAC, including those facilitated by technology, are criminalized, properly detected, investigated and prosecuted, while victims are provided with easily accessible complaints and redress mechanisms, specialized and age-appropriate legal advice and representation and are supported towards their rehabilitation. This requires investing in the capacity of skills of justice and legal professionals to work with children and tackling impunity and corruption.

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<sup>2</sup> Children who come from poor and socially excluded communities, belonging to minorities, children with disabilities, in street situations, children on the move, especially if unaccompanied or separated or stateless among others are the most affected. These groups often face inadequate living conditions and lack access to essential services, including birth registration, social protection, education, health, and justice and some even denied a legal identity.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, 2019, A/74/136

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Task Force on Children Deprived of Liberty. Advocacy Brief: End Child Immigration Detention. 2024. [End Immigration Detention of Children | UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children](#)

These objectives could be achieved by:

- dedicating focused attention to regularly assessing the progress and gaps in realizing SDG 16 and other related targets concerning crimes and violence against children under the purview of the CCPCJ.
- providing additional guidance for accelerated action encouraging states to incorporate child-specific and age-disaggregated data into their Voluntary National Reviews.
- exploring avenues for meaningful participation of children to ensure Commission's initiatives are informed by the experiences and perspectives of children themselves.
- forging partnerships with organizations and alliances in the field, such as Path Finders for Peace, Just and Inclusive Societies, in the national, regional and the global level.

Furthermore, the Commission, both as a body and through its Member States, could consider providing insights during the preparatory stages of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), notably through the Expert Group Meeting<sup>5</sup> and the international conference on SDG 16<sup>6</sup>. This input could:

- highlight the interconnectedness of the SDGs, emphasizing the imperative of prioritizing the rights, well-being, and empowerment of children.
- advocate for increased investments in and non-discriminatory access to integrated and cross-sectoral violence prevention and protection systems, including justice, aimed at shielding children from exposure to and involvement in violence and crimes.
- emphasize the need for accelerated action for building child-friendly and gender-responsive justice systems, that are accountable to all children.

## **K. United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI)**

The 2030 agenda aims broadly at eradicating poverty and hunger, realizing human rights and gender equality, empowering women and girls, and fostering peaceful, just, and inclusive societies that are free from fear and violence.

UNAFRI proposes as follows:

1. The Commission should provide a budget and funds for its *foot soldiers*, the PNIs, to conduct tailor-made trainings to law enforcement agencies, correctional services and other state actors to address the issues of human rights abuses, empower women and girls and realize more peaceful communities.
2. The Commission should assist its member states in reforming their laws or enacting new laws to secure victims' rights, provide witness protection, and provide legal aid for indigent persons. This will ensure more peaceful and just communities, especially in Africa.
3. The Commission should encourage and support regional groupings like EAC, AU, SADC, and ECOWAS to work closely with their regional institutions, such as UNAFRI, to establish a regional crime prevention and criminal justice database. This support can be in the form of financial or technical expertise.
4. The Commission should support International mediation mechanisms to address conflicts like those in Sudan, Libya, Ukraine, DRC, etc. The support can be in the form of technical experts, resources, etc.

<sup>5</sup> organized by UN DESA and UNODC on 7 May 2024

<sup>6</sup> organized by IDLO on 6 May

5. Encourage member states to digitize public services to curb corruption and embezzlement of public funds to reduce poverty.
6. The Commission should work on de-politicizing the concept of human rights and consider every country's cultures, values and traditions, especially in Africa, on views such as LGBTQ.
7. The Commission should coordinate the actions of UNODC and the Regional Institutions of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to avoid competition and foster complementarity and efficiency of interventions.
8. The Commission should also invest in early warning mechanisms to detect and prevent violence and other issues that breed violence and conflict, especially in Africa.
9. Boost the capacity of the PNI with the necessary resources to work as regional centres of mediation to implement international mechanisms for peaceful resolution of conflicts in their regions. The PNIs have the advantage of a sustained presence in their areas of jurisdiction and would be able to make follow-up efforts at comparatively moderate costs to address conflicts. They can also develop tailored initiatives that address the realities of the origin and emerging causes of instability.
10. The Commission should utilize its advantaged position to engage the political authorities in Africa to support an upward review of budgetary allocations and prioritisation of the justice, law and order sector to meet calls for the promotion of inclusive and sustainable growth.
11. The Commission should continue its practice of convening expert sessions to explore pragmatic programmes that focus on investments in people, including health, nutrition, and education, complementing this with investments in infrastructure and universal access to essential services.

#### **L. The United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI)**

The SDGs Progress Report; Special Edition indicates that progress on more than 50 per cent of targets of the SDGs is weak and insufficient, and on 30 per cent of targets has stalled or gone into reverse. The report also shows the progress of each Sustainable Development Goal including the Goal 16.

In order to accelerate implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16, the Commission should consider, either at regular session or reconvened session, to include specific thematic area focusing on the progress of the Goal 16. Then during such session the Commission should discuss with Member States about; 1) what measures have been taken since 2015 to implement the Goal 16; 2) which targets should be prioritized until 2030 to accelerate the implementation of the Goal 16; 3) what approaches or measures should/can be taken to implement the prioritized targets until 2030.

The discussion on the progress of the Goal 16 will give an opportunity for Member States to review current status and challenges of its own country and consider measures which should be taken on the implementation of the Goal 16. Further, if the Secretariat of the Commission were to make a report of the discussion, it will be useful for other stakeholders including UN entities, NGOs and PNIs, to recognize current status of each country and consider which country needs technical assistance, which targets should be prioritized to provide technical assistance, and what approaches or measures should be considered to support the country's implementation of the Goal 16.

While Sustainable Development Goal 16 is aimed at promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institution at all levels, the Goal 16 is closely interrelated to other Goals, including the Goal 4 on education, the Goal 5 on gender, the Goal 17 on global

partnership. Thus, it can be said that considering the Goal 16 means considering other relevant goals as well.

## **M. United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD)**

### **How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda?**

The region of Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the most violent regions in the world, with high rates of homicide, organized crime and drug trafficking. The high homicide rates and exacerbated violence in the region have a significant impact on the progress made in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 16. As long as countries and the region face the impacts of such violence and crime on human development, progress on other SDGs cannot be achieved. The resurgence of heavy-handed approaches, states of exception and the militarization of security have serious repercussions on the quality of democracy, social cohesion, the rule of law, the legitimacy of public institutions and governance in the region, those repercussions in turn hindering progress in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Latin America and the Caribbean accounted for one third of all deaths globally in 2021, despite the fact that the region is home to only 8 per cent of the world's population. Of the 10 countries with the highest homicide rates, 8 were in the Latin American and Caribbean region (UNODC, 2023). Although the global intentional homicide rate fell to 5.8 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2021, the region consistently had the highest intentional homicide rates and the highest proportion of homicides related to organized crime in that year (UNODC, 2023). Homicide has become a widespread problem in the region, the Caribbean experiencing the most dramatic increase in violent crime – a trend driven primarily by competition among gangs for control over the drug markets (Alvarado and Muggah, 2018). Central America ranks highest globally in terms of the extent of extortion and blackmail linked to the protection of organized crime, a situation that is leading to population displacement and vulnerability to other criminal activities, such as trafficking in persons (Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, 2023). The fact that there are multiple illegal markets in Latin America is closely linked to the trends described, including conflicts between criminal groups, changes in the dynamics of illegal markets, and government policies (Dammert, Croci and Frey, 2024).

In order to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Commission should foster, promote and strengthen the cooperation provided by those intergovernmental organizations that form part of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network and that have a regional mandate, given the urgent need for exhaustive analyses based on a comprehensive short-, medium- and long-term approach. At the Commission's global meetings, it is crucial – in order to achieve commitments and responses tailored to the realities and complex challenges to achievement of the 2030 Agenda that global averages may hide – that there be ample opportunity to present the regional perspective of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the perspectives of other regions, so as to achieve a high-level impact and bolster the position of the United Nations that violence and crime should be tackled through prevention, the rule of law, human development, the human rights approach and the generation of solid evidence for decision-making.

### **In particular, how can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions)?**

One of the ways in which the Commission can contribute to raising the “profile” or “relevance” of crime prevention and criminal justice action is by spotlighting issues that are of concern to the Latin American and Caribbean region and that have a bearing

on the accelerated implementation of SDG 16 at the global level, and of the rest of the 2030 Agenda, highlighting the negative effects of repressive security policies on the actions needed in order to prevent crime and tackle its root causes.

In Latin America, where there is persistent and widespread poverty that affects on average 40 per cent of the population and even 60 per cent in many countries (Inter-American Development Bank, 2017), combined with deep inequality compared to the rest of the world, the increase in violence and insecurity is rooted in highly segregated and impoverished societies. The Inter-American Development Bank estimates that the impact of crime costs the region 3.5 per cent of its annual GDP, and drains resources intended for meeting urgent needs, such as education and health. The cost of crime in the Latin American and Caribbean region is equivalent to annual spending on infrastructure, which is also approximately equal to the share of income that reaches the poorest 30 per cent of the population (Alvarado and Muggah, 2018).

While violence and insecurity are in themselves an obstacle to the consolidation of democratic governance in the region and are a determinant for human, economic and social development, to a greater or lesser extent in Latin America and the Caribbean, penal populism is gaining notoriety in public security responses, and surveys show that many citizens are willing to see their civil rights restricted in the belief that this will mean a drastic and immediate decrease in crime rates (Latin American Public Opinion Project, 2015), and even believe that such restrictions are justified if they are imposed at the expense of funding for social programmes, such as those aimed at fighting poverty (Cafferata and Scartascini, 2021).

As a result of increased insecurity – coupled with a sense of impunity – in the region, authoritarian discourse has taken a tighter hold, despite the need to develop effective prevention approaches. In Latin America, control policies continue to constitute the most common response, which, known as *mano dura* (“firm hand”), consists in conferring greater powers on the police, increasing penalties, lowering the age of criminal responsibility for adolescents, favouring pretrial detention, increasing prison capacity, building prisons and, more recently, involving the armed forces in crime prevention and control, together with the use of states of exception (Dammert and Bailey, 2007). These responses, which are aimed at increasing incarceration, are exacerbating long-standing situations arising from the prolonged and excessive use of pretrial detention and high levels of overcrowding and inhumane conditions in prisons, not only creating a crisis of insecurity and crime but also exacerbating the prison crisis in the region.

## **N. United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)**

### **How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda?**

The mandate of CCPCJ focuses on the international action to combat economic crime and money laundering. The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), established by the United Nations General Assembly by resolution 2205 (XXI) of 17 December 1966, has a mandate to further the progressive harmonization and modernization of the law of international trade by preparing and promoting the use and adoption of legislative and non-legislative instruments in several key areas of commercial law.

The International Trade Law Division (ITLD) of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs provides the secretariat for UNCITRAL and is based in Vienna. There is a long-standing cooperation between UNODC and UNCITRAL, both at intergovernmental level and at secretariat level, on issues of common interest.

On the issue of commercial fraud and the criminal misuse and falsification of identity, the two secretariats worked closely between 2004 to 2013. UNCITRAL requested its secretariat to conduct extensive research and meetings with experts, that resulted in

the publication of *Recognizing and Preventing Commercial Fraud: Indicators of Commercial Fraud* in 2013.<sup>7</sup> Meanwhile, the UNCITRAL secretariat has participated in UNODC's core group of experts on identity-related crime, which was formed to bring together on a regular basis representatives from Governments, private sector entities, international and regional organizations and academia to pool experience, develop strategies, facilitate further research and agree on practical action against identity-related crime. In the relevant Resolution, the Economic and Social Council referred to plans to develop under the auspices of the core group of experts a model legislation on identity-related crime and requested in that context that UNODC coordinate with ITLD on the development of such model legislation.<sup>8</sup>

In this context, the CCPJ may wish to take note of the recently adopted UNCITRAL Model Law on the Use and Cross-border Recognition of Identity Management and Trust Services (2022).<sup>9</sup> Digital trade calls for trust in the identity of commercial partners and the quality of data that underpins electronic exchanges, such as its origin and integrity. Identity management services provide assurance as to the proper online identification of physical and legal persons, while trust services certify the quality of data. These services are typically provided by specialised third parties. The Model Law provides a set of model legislative provisions that legally enable the use of identity management services for online identification of physical and legal persons as well as the use of trust services to provide assurances as to the quality of data in electronic form, together with cross-border recognition mechanisms.

**In particular, how can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions)**

SDG 16 is central to the work of UNCITRAL. In the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,<sup>10</sup> States endorsed the efforts and initiatives of UNCITRAL, “as the core legal body within the United Nations system in the field of international trade law, aimed [...] at promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels in this field.”

As per SDG target 16.4, crime prevention and criminal justice tools have informed the work of UNCITRAL Working Group V (Insolvency Law) in the context of its current work on civil asset tracing and recovery in insolvency proceedings (‘ATR’). Since its inception, the project has received valuable input in the fields of anti-corruption, asset recovery and international cooperation and assistance in connection with the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), suggesting ways for an insolvency representative appointed in an insolvency proceeding to handle ATR using also tools available in criminal proceedings and across borders. During ATR’s exploratory phase, partnerships with UNODC related to giving guidance to asset recovery practitioners and policy makers were also found useful.

Accordingly, encouraging awareness-raising technical assistance activities and trainings regarding cybercrime and digital asset recovery, especially at the regional level and for developing countries, may be an important way forward. UNCITRAL has acknowledged that, while focusing on insolvency, the results of ATR work might turn out to be helpful in other areas of law where civil asset tracing and recovery were relevant.<sup>11</sup>

Concerning SDG 16.5, UNCITRAL adopted in 2011 a Model Law on Public Procurement and in 2019 a set of Model Legislative Provisions and a Legislative

<sup>7</sup> [https://uncitral.un.org/en/texts/payments/explanatorytexts/commercial\\_fraud](https://uncitral.un.org/en/texts/payments/explanatorytexts/commercial_fraud).

<sup>8</sup> Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2013, Supplement No. 10 and corrigendum (E/2013/30 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. B, draft resolution III, para. 7.

<sup>9</sup> Available at <https://uncitral.un.org/en/mlit>.

<sup>10</sup> A/RES/69/313.

<sup>11</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/76/17)*, para. 217.

Guide on Public-Private Partnerships<sup>12</sup> that both implement the procurement-related requirements found in article 9 of UNCAC.

Consequently, the UNCITRAL secretariat was involved in the preparation of the UNODC publication “*Guidebook on anti-corruption in public procurement and the management of public finances.*” More recently, in 2022, the UNCITRAL secretariat provided inputs to the draft document “*A Guide to Addressing Corruption and Fraud in International Infrastructure Projects*”(upcoming) prepared by UNODC. The secretariat of UNCITRAL stands ready to cooperate more closely with UNODC on this important topic.

As relevant to SDG 16.6, the UNCITRAL secretariat brings to the attention of the Commission the UNCITRAL Transparency Standards, consisting of the UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration (“Rules on Transparency”, effective as of 1 April 2014) and the United Nations Convention on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration (the “Mauritius Convention on Transparency”, adopted by the General Assembly in 2014).

In adopting the Mauritius Convention on Transparency, the General Assembly emphasized that “the Rules on Transparency [...] increase transparency and accountability and promote good governance”<sup>13</sup>. Considering the role played by UNCITRAL Transparency Standards in combating economic crime (including corruption) related to foreign investment, the UNCITRAL Transparency Standards could be jointly promoted by UNCITRAL and the Commission as part of its work on SDG 16.

### III. Submissions by Nongovernmental Organizations

#### A. Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

##### **How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda?**

Goal 16 is of the most relevance to the Commission. The Alliance contributed to a SDG16Now report chapter on implementation of SDG goal 16.4. This report found that there are serious challenges with progress on this target.<sup>14</sup> The indicators are inadequate and official data is scarce. There is some progress on monitoring illicit financial flows (IFFs) and the establishment of beneficial ownership registries. The pervasiveness and widespread nature of all types of illicit economies show that the overall aim of combatting all forms of organised crime remains out of reach. More than three quarters of the global population live in countries with high levels of criminality.

Across Goal 16, the report found that:

- Violence and fragility has peaked in recent years while the number of homicides jumped in 2021
- Certain forms of violence against children – including domestic violence, child marriage, female genital mutilation and child labour – have also increased or are likely to increase
- Data from civil society organisations shows worsening situations across the world on the rule of law, access to justice and legal aid. Furthermore, financial, logistical, and security constraints impede the work of grassroots justice defenders and legal aid actors, particularly given the challenging context of increasing authoritarianism and the closure of civic space.

<sup>12</sup> <https://uncitral.un.org/en/texts/procurement>.

<sup>13</sup> A/RES/69/116.

<sup>14</sup> <https://sdg16now.org/report/target16-4/>



- While nearly every country in the world has signed international agreements to fight corruption, there has been little progress in reducing corruption and bribery globally.
- Clean Elections, Effective Parliament, Impartial Administration and Civil Society Participation – are stagnant or have registered little progress globally, while ‘Civil Liberties’, which enable citizens to participate freely in public life, have declined since 2015.
- There are a high number of attacks on journalists and human rights defenders with serious gaps in reporting, while data from CSOs shows an increase in attacks on journalists, HRDs and trade unionists. At the same time, civic space has been substantially reduced in many countries.

The UNODC, UNDP, and OHCHR came to similar conclusions on their recent report into Goal 16.<sup>15</sup>

Despite the serious and global nature of the challenges contained in Goal 16, international efforts on efforts to counter organized crime remain largely fragmented, reactive, inadequate and unevaluated. On the criminal justice side, serious challenges remain in implementing agreed goals and standards on the treatment of prisoners and reducing crime including gender-based violence.

The challenges faced in tackling this widespread phenomena through the UN include strategic and programming shortcomings. The Commission, therefore, has a key role to play in seeking to make the UN responses more coherent and coordinated.

**In particular, how can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions)?**

One of the main things that the Commission can do is to ensure a full and meaningful participation of civil society in its meetings and subsidiary bodies, in line with the UN’s policies, the UNODC’s strategy, in line with the history and practices of the CCPCJ and the Crime Congress, and in the spirit of the fundamental goal of SDG16 of ensuring peace justice and strong institutions.

The accountability and transparency needed for just and strong institutions requires an open and free civil society, able to contribute and support states in the implementation of their policies.

In more substantive terms, the Commission can contribute to the implementation of the following recommendations from the SDG16Now report recommended by civil society, including:

- Capacity strengthening at the local level is essential to record and report “intentional homicides” where viable criminal justice systems and statistics do not exist.
- Develop and implement **national action plans and strategies** to end violence against children that are fully costed and funded and include timebound and measurable targets to end all forms of violence against children, including marginalised groups.
- Increase sustainable and flexible funding for grassroots actors on the frontlines of justice challenges, including civil society groups engaging in legal aid and legal empowerment efforts.
- Governments should create an enabling environment for civil society activists and journalists to operate freely without fear of harassment, intimidation, attacks, or reprisals

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.undp.org/publications/global-progress-report-sustainable-development-goal-16-indicators-wake-call-action-peace-justice-and-inclusion>

- Promote learning and data sharing among governments, multilateral actors, civil society, and affected communities around critical justice challenges and people-centred approaches to resolving them.
- Break down silos between corruption and organized crime: seek more interlinkages between the UNCAC and the UNTOC, and their implementing bodies.
- Support community resilience: scale up support for local actors; mainstream resilience to organized crime into peacebuilding and initiatives to create safer communities; engage the private sector and civil society more actively to enhance community resilience.
- Extend crime prevention and crime-fighting networks beyond the current multilateral system to include a wide range of actors, including local activists, mayors, academics, law enforcement and the private sector. Ensure that civil society – and particularly those most affected by organized crime – have opportunities for effective participation.
- The UN should pressure states to repeal or substantially amend restrictive legislation which is not in accordance with international law and standards in protecting freedoms of association, peaceful assembly and expression.

## **B. Asabe Shehu Yar’Adua Foundation (ASYARFS)**

Goal 16 aligns with the broader human rights framework by promoting societies that respect and uphold individual rights, as well as the right to privacy, freedom of expression, and access to information. Peace is a fundamental precondition for social and economic development.

Goal 16 is about promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. People everywhere should be free of fear from all forms of violence and feel safe as they go about their lives whatever their ethnicity, faith or sexual orientation.

However, ongoing and new violent conflicts around the world are derailing the global path to peace and achievement of Goal 16. Alarming, the year 2022 witnessed a more than 50 per cent increase in conflict-related civilian deaths – the first since the adoption of Agenda 2030 – largely due to the war in Ukraine.

High levels of armed violence and insecurity have a destructive impact on a country’s development, while sexual violence, crime, exploitation and torture are prevalent where there is conflict or no rule of law, and countries must take measures to protect those who are most at risk.

Governments, civil society and communities need to work together to find lasting solutions to conflict and insecurity. Strengthening the rule of law and promoting human rights is key to this process, as is reducing the flow of illicit arms, combating corruption, and ensuring inclusive participation at all times.

### **Why should I care?**

High levels of armed violence and insecurity have a destructive impact on a country’s development. Sexual violence, crime, exploitation and torture are prevalent where there is conflict or no rule of law.

Governments, civil society and communities need to work together to find lasting solutions to conflict and insecurity. Strengthening the rule of law and promoting human rights is key to this process, as is reducing the flow of illicit arms, combating corruption, and ensuring inclusive participation at all times.

**How does this apply to where I live?**

Goal 16 aligns with the broader human rights framework by promoting societies that respect and uphold individual rights, as well as the right to privacy, freedom of expression, and access to information.

Peace is a fundamental precondition for social and economic development. Without peace, societies are often plagued by conflict, violence, and instability, which can hinder progress and result in the loss of lives and resources.

Equal access to justice is essential for protecting the rights of individuals, resolving disputes, and ensuring that vulnerable populations are not marginalized or mistreated.

Crimes threatening peaceful societies, including homicides, trafficking and other organized crimes, as well as discriminatory laws or practices, affect all countries.

**What if we don't take action?**

Armed violence and insecurity have a destructive impact on a country's development, affecting economic growth and often resulting in long-standing grievances among communities.

Violence also affects children's health, development and well-being, and their ability to thrive. It causes trauma and weakens social inclusion.

Lack of access to justice means that conflicts remain unresolved and people cannot obtain protection and redress. Institutions that do not function according to legitimate laws are prone to arbitrariness and abuse of power, and less capable of delivering public service to everyone.

To exclude and to discriminate not only violates human rights, but also causes resentment and animosity, and could give rise to violence.

**What can we do?**

Exercise your rights to hold your elected officials to account, to freedom of information and share your opinion with your elected representatives. Promote inclusion and respect towards people of different ethnic origins, religions, gender, sexual orientations or different opinions.

**C. Born Free Foundation**

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) can play a critical role in expediting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We particularly encourage the Commission, its members and all Member States to focus their attention on the issue of wildlife trafficking – a crime form that not only threatens biodiversity and entire ecosystems (including the many services they provide), but also undermines the rule of law and achieving sustainable development. Preventing and combating wildlife trafficking will safeguard biodiversity (SDGs 14 and 15), contribute to achieving SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), as well as contribute towards achieving SDG 3 (Good health and well-being) and SDG 13 (Climate action)

Wildlife trafficking, including illegal fishing and logging, is one of the largest, most lucrative criminal activities in the world. Its value has been [estimated](#) at between \$69–199 billion per year, but according to the [World Bank](#) this number rises to \$1–2 trillion, when one includes the economic impact of the lost ecosystem services – such as carbon storage, biodiversity conservation and water filtration. The Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime has drawn attention to the [nexus between wildlife trafficking and climate change](#), including at [side events](#) it participated in with Angola, the United

Arab Emirates, Emirates NDB, and others at the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Other recent reports clearly describe the severe consequences of wildlife trafficking for our biodiversity, climate and ecosystems, as well as for human and animal health. In 2019, the IPBES [estimated](#) that around 1 million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction, with overexploitation, including through wildlife trafficking, being one of the main drivers. In 2020, the IPBES also [warned](#) that an estimated 1.7 million currently undiscovered viruses are thought to exist in mammal and avian hosts – half of which could have the ability to infect humans. This is concerning, because wildlife trafficking is known to bring humans into unmonitored contact with wildlife, increasing the risk of potentially zoonotic disease emergence.

Wildlife trafficking also strongly intersects with SDG 16 by undermining the rule of law, fostering [corruption](#), weakening governance, and fuelling organised crime.

We particularly urge the CCPCJ to identify, analyse and address the serious gaps in the current international legal framework to prevent and combat wildlife trafficking. Notwithstanding the destructive and high-risk nature of this crime form there is still no global agreement on wildlife trafficking, as there is, for example, on human trafficking and trafficking in firearms. In the absence of a dedicated international instrument to tackle wildlife trafficking, relevant stakeholders sometimes refer to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) as providing some form of legal framework. However, CITES is not an instrument to tackle organised crime and it only applies to a fraction (approximately 0,4%) of the world's 8.7 million species of wild plants and animals. As a result, the vast majority of wild animals and plants in global trade, both legal and illegal, are not subject to the Convention's trade controls. According to the [2016](#) and [2020](#) Wildlife Crime Reports of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), between 6,000- 7,000 CITES-listed species are found in illegal trade and “millions of species that are not listed by CITES may be illegally harvested and traded internationally”.

By strengthening the international legal framework to prevent and combat wildlife trafficking, the CCPCJ can contribute to a safer, healthier, and more sustainable world for present and future generations.

## D. Campus Watch

Campus Watch is concerned about what appears to be a rise in violence in schools, as well as on the streets. This sentiment arises from the number of reports received by our teams and from incidents reported in the press.

Campus Watch is convinced of the interdependence of categories of violence. It is easy to draw a link between school violence and sports violence, between school violence and urban violence. Everything is interconnected.

Therefore, to address these issues, Campus Watch has enlisted the expertise of two individuals. One, Salim El Jihad, is an expert in urban climates, and the other is an expert in judicial climates, Rhizlane Ikhlef.

After consultation and a series of interviews with these two individuals, we have formulated the following responses. The separate responses from the two experts are available in the appendix.

### **How can the commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 agenda?**

Crime prevention and criminal justice are essential elements in achieving the sustainable development goals of the 2030 agenda. It is crucial to recognize early signs of delinquent behaviour in youth to intervene early and guide them towards appropriate solutions. This requires close collaboration between judicial, educational, and medical institutions to ensure regular therapeutic follow-up and appropriate

management of behavioural disorders. By strengthening therapeutic control and promoting the rehabilitation of young offenders, the Commission can contribute to promoting peace and justice in our societies.

The Commission could also play a crucial role in raising public awareness of the issues of crime prevention and criminal justice. Organizing awareness campaigns and educational events could mobilize civil society around these issues and encourage citizen engagement in the fight against crime.

Priority neighbourhoods around the world are often characterized by socio-economic inequalities and high crime rates. To accelerate the implementation of the 2030 agenda, it is essential to define a common denomination for these specific geographical areas to facilitate understanding and work on the subject. Moreover, it is necessary to involve governments and international organizations in implementing innovative projects aimed at solving problems in these neighbourhoods. Finally, increased international collaboration can help improve education and reduce crime in these areas, which is essential for achieving sustainable development goals.

To achieve these objectives, the Commission could encourage the creation of public-private partnerships to mobilize additional financial and technical resources to support local initiatives in priority neighbourhoods. By involving the private sector in the development of disadvantaged communities, the Commission could stimulate innovation and create economic opportunities for local populations.

The Commission can contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 agenda by focusing on crime prevention, criminal justice, and the rehabilitation of young offenders. It is also important to involve governments, international organizations, and local communities in addressing issues in priority neighbourhoods worldwide. By promoting international collaboration and implementing innovative projects, the Commission can play a crucial role in promoting peace, justice, and sustainable development.

**In particular, how can the commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of sustainable development goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions)?**

To strengthen Sustainable Development Goal 16, the Commission must focus on the rehabilitation of young offenders and collaboration between judicial, educational, and medical institutions. By identifying and addressing behavioural disorders in youth early, it is possible to promote their reintegration into society and prevent recidivism. By strengthening therapeutic control and promoting rehabilitation, the Commission can contribute to promoting peace, justice, and strong institutions in our societies.

To complement these efforts, the Commission could promote the establishment of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of policies and programs for offender rehabilitation. By collecting empirical data on the outcomes of interventions, it will be possible to identify the most effective approaches and continuously improve practices in this area.

To accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16, it is necessary to identify best practices and evaluate the effectiveness of policies and programs implemented in different countries. Increased international collaboration can also help identify common challenges faced by priority neighbourhoods in different geographical contexts. By sharing data, analyses, and best practices, the Commission can foster the development of international collaborations and knowledge sharing to improve living conditions in priority neighbourhoods worldwide.

To strengthen this collaboration, the Commission could organize international forums and conferences bringing together policymakers, urban development experts, and representatives of civil society. These platforms would enable sharing experiences and lessons learned, strengthening collaboration networks, and identifying new partnership opportunities.

To contribute to the accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16, the Commission must focus on the rehabilitation of young offenders, identifying best practices, and strengthening international collaboration. By promoting the sharing of knowledge and experiences, the Commission can play a crucial role in promoting peace, justice, and strong institutions worldwide.

## **E. Diplomatic Council**

### **How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda?**

Peace, justice and strong institutions form the basis for all the goals of the 2030 Agenda. However, the Commission must strictly ensure that these foundations are shaped in accordance with democratic principles and the rule of law. The Commission could draw up a paper that emphasizes the particular importance of democracy, an independent judiciary and strict control of the executive by parliaments with representatives freely elected by the people in relation to the 2030 Agenda. This paper should set out clear criteria by which countries are measured in a kind of “justice index”. There is no better institution in the world than this Commission to set up such an index.

### **In particular, how can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions)?**

The Commission should focus on the use of modern technology to support Goal 16. Technology can be used to better and more objectively inform people, strengthen democratic developments and promote justice. At the same time, the Commission must strictly ensure that these technologies are not used to the detriment of humanity. In particular, in the context of big data and artificial intelligence, all permanent surveillance measures that turn ordinary citizens into potential suspects simply through surveillance must be rejected. The Commission could develop a global population surveillance index based on objective criteria and apply it to all UN member states.

## **F. Fundación para la Democracia Internacional**

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) plays a crucial role in implementing the 2030 Agenda. While Goal 16 aligns closely with its mandate under ECOSOC, the interconnectedness of the Goals empowers CCPCJ to address Goals 4, 5, 11, 14, 15, and 17 as well. The 2030 Agenda emphasizes the inseparable link between sustainable development and peace. CCPCJ’s structure fosters conducive conditions for achieving the Agenda, serving as a platform for Member States, intergovernmental organizations, and civil society to discuss progress. As the primary policymaking body on crime prevention and justice, CCPCJ holds significant sway over stakeholders involved in realizing the 2030 Agenda, including UN Member States and the General Assembly.

However, in order to maximize its potential as a crucial actor in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Commission should put forward a number of changes.

Firstly, the Commission ought to do everything in its power to promote and foster inclusive and multi stakeholder cooperation and partnerships among states themselves, but also between states, the CCPCJ and other relevant stakeholders (such as NGOs or other UN agencies, for instance). This idea was first put forward by the *Kyoto Declaration* in 2021, repeated by the General Assembly in resolutions *A/RES/77/227* and *A/RES/78/225* in 2023, and stated by the Chair of the CCPCJ itself in its “*Input to the High-level Political Forum On Sustainable Development (HLPF)*”. Not only would it enable progress on the 2030 Agenda, but it would also directly tackle Goal 17.

Secondly, the CCPCJ should make some changes in the organization of its sessions.

The Commission should make its sessions more inclusive for developing states, whose voices and interests often tend to be underrepresented, whereas SDGs are meant to improve the quality of life of all humans. The 2030 Agenda can only be implemented if the reality of every state is taken into account, as stated in targets 16.7<sup>16</sup> and 16.8<sup>17</sup>.

Moreover, the CCPCJ should give enough importance, time and space to civil society, as it is the best representant of local needs and realities, and provides “an alternative view to government reporting”<sup>18</sup>, which is crucial when dealing with subjects like human rights or corruption as it “brings distance and objectivity to these often very politically- sensitive areas of assessment, which states inevitably struggle with”<sup>18</sup>.

In addition, the CCPCJ has been plagued with geopolitics and political matters, thus preventing progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Therefore, the CCPCJ ought to go back to its “expert roots”<sup>19</sup> to take efficient measures. The Commission should find a way to make states accountable for their engagements related to it, as it would reinforce the effectively of the actions taken. This could be achieved through more transparency and publicity from the CCPCJ, like with a website listing states’ commitments<sup>6</sup>

Finally, the CCPCJ could use its influence as the “principal policy making body on crime prevention and criminal justice” to put forward a number of thematic areas related to the 2030 agenda where immediate action is needed, such as trafficking in person<sup>20</sup> and equal access to justice<sup>21</sup>. The CCPCJ has the power to promote the adoption and implementation of international and national laws and policies.

Nevertheless, the CCPCJ should devote a particular attention to Goal 16, because it is “an important cross-cutting enabler for all goals on the 2030 Agenda”, as stated CCPCJ Chair H.E. Mary MUGWANJA. Indeed, “SDGs cannot be achieved if the rule of law does not prevail,” noted the President of the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly, H.E. Csaba KÖRÖSI.

Goal 16 is behind in comparison to the other Goals of the 2030 Agenda. There is a lack of data and monitoring about Goal 16<sup>22</sup>, and a funding problem of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

<sup>16</sup> “Target 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels” – **UN Sustainable Development Goals** – “Goal 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies”. Available at <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/peace-justice/#tab-e030c43e0900c3690b>. Consulted on 26/03/2024

<sup>17</sup> “Target 16.8: The voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making, norm-setting and global economic governance need to be broadened and strengthened.” UN Sustainable Development Goals – “Goal 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies”. Available at <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/peace-justice/#tab-e030c43e0900c3690b>. Consulted on 26/03/2024

<sup>18</sup> TAP NETWORK, David Banisar – “HALFWAY TO 2030 REPORT ON SDG 16 +”. Available at <https://j09.cf4.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Halfway-to-2030-Report-Digital.pdf>. Consulted on 26/03/2024.

<sup>19</sup> TAP NETWORK, David Banisar – “HALFWAY TO 2030 REPORT ON SDG 16 +”. Available at <https://j09.cf4.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Halfway-to-2030-Report-Digital.pdf>. Consulted on 26/03/2024.

<sup>20</sup> CCPCJ - Resolution E/CN.15/2019/CRP.1: “Enhancing the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (2019). Available at: [e\\_V1902882.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/ECOSOC/HLPF2024/CCPCJ_CHAIRS_CONTRIBUTION_HL_PF_2024.pdf). Consulted on 26/03/2024.

<sup>21</sup> Chair of the CCPCJ – “Contribution by the Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice To the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2024 Theme: Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions”(2024). Available at [https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/ECOSOC/HLPF2024/CCPCJ\\_CHAIRS\\_CONTRIBUTION\\_HL\\_PF\\_2024.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/ECOSOC/HLPF2024/CCPCJ_CHAIRS_CONTRIBUTION_HL_PF_2024.pdf). Consulted on 26/03/2024.

<sup>22</sup> UNODC, OHCHR, UNDP – “Global progress report on Sustainable Development Goal 16 indicators: A wake-up call for action on peace, justice and inclusion” (2023). Available at:

Firstly, lack of data, monitoring and statistical indicators to measure progress should be tackled. This would enable stakeholders to make “evidence-informed decisions”<sup>22</sup> to address challenges related to Goal 16. It could be achieved by improving the quantity and quality of the data. The CCPCJ can put forward this theme in its next sessions and in the HLPF to raise awareness about the issue, and to encourage states to act on it. Furthermore, the Commission can act on the problem by allocating more funding for the monitoring of the targets, look for innovative international ways to collect data, improve the participation of the civil society, and enhance technical and financial support to states who wish to improve the collection of their national data.

Regarding the UNODC funding problem, it hampers supporting countries financially and technically with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The CCPCJ can make a difference as it “governs the UNODC and defines the budget for technical assistance”<sup>1123</sup> in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice by approving “the budget of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Fund”<sup>1224</sup>. Thus, the budget is the CCPCJ’s responsibility. The CCPCJ must find a way to ensure increased funding, for instance by expanding their partnerships to find new donors, or encouraging states and other stakeholders to increase their contributions to the general-purpose fund.

## G. International Legal Foundation

### How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda?

1. There is ample evidence demonstrating that rule of law and access to justice are necessary preconditions for achieving and sustaining every other Sustainable Development Goal, particularly ending poverty (Goal 1), achieving gender equality (Goal 5), reducing inequality (Goal 10), ensuring health and well-being (Goal 3), and protecting the environment (Goals 13, 14, 15). They are also linked across a variety of SDG16+ targets, including overlapping with Target 5.2 on reducing violence against women and girls, fundamental freedoms (16.10), and reducing corruption (16.5). As the leading body on criminal justice, the Commission is in a unique position to elevate SDG16 as key to advancing the entire 2030 Agenda. To accomplish this, we suggest the Commission:

Use whatever avenues possible to elevate the interlinkages of SDG16 and other SDGs at the HLPF and the Summit of the Future. This might include:

- i. Holding a thematic debate to fully explore the interlinkages
- ii. Producing a report that highlights interlinkages
- iii. Hosting or encouraging others to host events on this topic
- iv. As poverty is a particular focus of HLPF 2024, highlighting the intersections between poverty and unequal access to justice in messages, discussions, and input from the Commission regarding the HLPF.

2. Civil society is an essential partner in ensuring policies and initiatives are responsive to the needs of communities. Meaningful inclusions of civil society, helps ensure diverse input to the work of the Commission, especially from those who are most marginalized and directly impacted by issues of injustice. Additionally, civil society is invaluable in advancing the implementation of key commitments,

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<https://www.undp.org/policy-centre/oslo/publications/global-progress-report-sdg-16>. Consulted on 26/03/2024.

<sup>23</sup> CCPCJ - Resolution E/CN.15/2019/CRP.1 : “*Enhancing the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*” (2019). Available at: [e\\_V1902882.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Mandate-Functions.html). Consulted on 26/03/2024.

<sup>24</sup> UNODC – “*Mandate and Functions*” – Available at [https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ\\_Mandate-Functions.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Mandate-Functions.html). Consulted on 27/03/2024



responsibilities, and initiatives. For the CCPCJ to more meaningfully engage with civil society we suggest:

i. The Commission produce a guide outlining how civil society can effectively contribute to work of the Commission. The CND has [an excellent guide](#) on procedures, timelines, and opportunities for engagement for NGOs. A similar guide for civil society engagement with the CCPCJ would be extremely helpful in supporting navigation of complex and sometimes opaque UN processes. It would also support more meaningful and diverse civil society engagement.

ii. Currently, there is very limited time for civil society input during sessions like thematic debates and discussions. Often, timeslots allotted for civil society are at the end of discussions when many people have left the room, leaving an even more limited audience to hear civil society input. We recognize the very real challenge of ensuring all stakeholders have ample time to speak. The commission might consider adjusting formats to allot more time for civil society input on certain agenda items, where appropriate, making time earlier in agendas for civil society input – particularly on issues about which civil society has deep expertise, and ensuring discussion panels always include civil society panellists.

**In particular, how can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions)?**

1. Legal aid is essential to the implementation of SDG16. Access to legal aid is indispensable to the fair administration of justice and impacts peoples’ perceptions of and trust in justice institutions. The adoption of the UN Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems (Principles and Guidelines) more than ten years ago was a huge victory, but much work is still needed to fulfil its promise. To support advancement of SDG16 we suggest the Commission do the following:

i. Building on last year’s CCPCJ thematic discussion on enhancing the functioning of the criminal justice system to ensure access to justice and to realize a safe and secure society, host a thematic debate at the next session of the CCPCJ specifically focused on legal aid to drill down on reasons for the lack of implementation of the Principles and Guidelines, and encourage the sharing of best practices and opportunities to address barriers to implementation.

ii. Though the Principles and Guidelines call on member states to conduct regular research and collection of data on access to legal representation, reporting on this issue is extremely limited. The commission should encourage member states to regularly report data on legal representation through the [UN Crime Trends Survey](#).

iii. With SDG16 up for review at HLPF in 2024, the Commission should encourage Member States to report on SDG16 in this and future Voluntary National Review processes, and to expand reporting to include comprehensive justice data beyond the official targets, including access to legal representation. Wherever possible, data should be disaggregated.

2. Increase focus on the intersectionality of justice issues and themes with a focus on discrimination in criminal justice systems. Criminal justice intersects deeply with issues of poverty, race, gender and other identities and statuses—and these issues intersect with each other, yet conversations on these topics are often siloed and/or sidelined. To mainstream critical, intersecting issues throughout criminal justice discussions and policymaking we suggest the following:

i. The Equal Access Justice for All resolution adopted by the CCPCJ in May 2023 notes discrimination and inequality as primary barriers to equal access to justice. The Commission should, in whatever ways possible, elevate the importance of this groundbreaking resolution – the first on equal access to justice – and the work it represents at the HLPF and Summit of the Future. This could include calling for a follow-on thematic debate in New York focused on discrimination as a key aspect of

equal access to justice. This would build on the High-level Debate of the General Assembly on Equal Access to Justice for All hosted in June 2023.

ii. For all convenings, events, debates, and discussions, including those related to the HLPF and the Summit of the Future, the Commission should advocate that discussions are intersectional with an aim to break down silos, to highlight the intersecting nature of justice challenges, and to move toward more holistic and people-centred learnings, policies, and practices.

## H. International Organization for Victim Assistance

### How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda?

In 1985, [United Nations General Assembly](#) resolved to reduce crime and victimisation as well as implement [basic principles of justice for victims](#).

[UNODC Homicide report](#) (2023) shows half a million victims of homicide each year, mostly committed by under-privileged males in interpersonal violence, not wars. Rates are higher in Latin America and likely to increase in Africa. Rates of femicide and other gender-based violence (GBV) are likely of epidemic proportions. [WHO](#) estimates 1 billion persons under age 18 are victims of violence.

These statistics provide some idea of the prevalence of harm from violent crime. These are not just data. They reflect pain, physical, psychological and spiritual injuries, trauma and loss of life as recognized by the UNGA in 1985. Unfortunately, the SDG's to stop these and assist the victims require shifting from a system of reaction to one of prevention of harm and respect for the rights of victims and survivors. In high violence countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, these statistics lead to significant loss in development and GDP, rampant violations of rights of women, and renewed violations of human rights of potential offenders.

In the last fifty years, much has been achieved potentially to reduce victimization and implement basic principles of justice for victims of crime, including:

- National surveys of victimisation, including violence against women;
- Platforms that share knowledge of proven ways to reduce victimization before it happens;
- Best practice to inform, assist and protect victims of crime after victimization, including for victims of gender-based violence, human trafficking and cyber-crime;
- Systems of reparation to victims, including health care, compensation from the state, restitution from offenders, civil settlements and restorative justice;
- Ways for victims to be heard and participate in the criminal justice process and seek remedies where rights are not respected;
- Recognition of victims' rights in the International Criminal Court.

Despite this progress, prevention of victimization before it happens is an orphan of national and international criminal justice policy making. Far too many persons are victims of violent crime every year. The epidemic of GBV is not recognised or addressed. Rights for those victimized are respected in some regions of the world, but are lacking elsewhere particularly in high violence countries.

The SDG's provide a vision to achieve measurable progress through transformation to new ways of doing justice. Business as usual focuses on the operations of police, justice involving lawyers, and correctional efforts. Achieving the SDGs means shifting efforts from response after the fact to using evidence-based prevention before the violence happens. They are also about measurable outcomes and organising to get measurable results. To make the transformations, cities, regions and states need to

fund and implement community safety planning, as well as victim-centred and trauma-informed services to reduce the structural vulnerability of survivors.

The benefits to societies in terms of safety, economic development and rule of law are massive.

### **How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions)?**

Each region presents unique challenges in achieving the SDGs, particularly SDGs 16 and 5, which are closely intertwined. The Americas provide a prime example of the diverse challenges that can be concentrated within a single continent. Nineteen of the twenty most dangerous cities in the world are in the Americas, with two in North America, seventeen in Latin America, and nine in Mexico. The UNODC reports on [homicides](#) and [femicides](#) are essential references for understanding the challenges of achieving SDGs 16 and 5.

Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant setbacks in various human development indicators, redirecting government efforts and budgets towards sectors such as health and education. In countries where democracies are emerging, this has resulted in increased poverty, limited access to rights, and reduced state presence in territories. These conditions have created opportunities for criminal groups, leading to a rise in violence and victimization. The post-pandemic era has seen a rise in both victims and social movements aimed at reducing victimization.

Accelerating the implementation of the SDG 16 with limited resources necessarily requires strategic planning, collaboration, and innovative solutions:

**Advocacy and Policy Reform:** Given the global epidemic of gender-based violence, and rates of homicide and femicide, policy reforms and legal frameworks that support victim-centred approaches within existing resource constraints is crucial to breaking the cycles of violence transmission. This may involve advocating for the redistribution of resources from punitive measures to victim support services and efforts to reduce structural vulnerabilities worsened by women's inequality and poverty. It may also entail promoting legislation that enhances victims' rights and improves their access to justice.

**Make justice transparent:** UNODC should promote the adoption and implementation of laws and provisions that enhance access to public information, particularly for vulnerable individuals and groups in each context. This includes promoting transparency in the decisions of justice systems and the sentences of judges, to strengthen judicial independence and promote the principles of open justice, and reduce opportunities for corruption, political intervention, and arbitrariness. Promote the development of open government mechanisms and establish procedures to streamline administrative processes.

**Use Technology and Innovation:** Harness technology and innovation to deliver results more efficiently. Justice must advance in step with technology. This involves promoting the use of technology and innovation to reduce victimization, strengthening crime prevention -particularly against organized crime groups, terrorism, money laundering, arms trafficking -, and modernizing justice systems through digitalization to ensure access for all and reduce bureaucratic processes that hinder victims' access to justice. Alliances with IT companies that have neglected their responsibility to build safer societies with fewer victims.

**Collaborating, Learning, and Adapting:** It aims to enhance countries' capabilities and facilitate Collaborating, Learning, Adapting (CLA) to increase accountability and adaptation across Policy Coordination and Integration. The goal is to promote evidence-based violence prevention programs, evidence-based decision-making, and adaptive strategies to maximize development impact.

## I. Kathak Academy

### How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda?

Kathak Academy of Bangladesh wants to show and present some suggestions means and ways to the commission UNODC under UN charter highlighting on:

- (a) Transforming our world
  - (b) preserving peace and prosperity for people and the planet.
  - (c) property and hunger everywhere.
  - (d) combating inequalities within and among the countries.
  - (e) build peaceful, just and inclusive societies.
  - (f) protecting human rights and promoting gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.
  - (g) ensuring the lasting protection of the planet and the people suffering.
- ECOSOC under the UN charter aims to innovate the 2030 agenda intending to bolster development efforts and policies. the UNODC should provide a comprehensive and well-articulated set of goals and targets. KAB takes the Commission to the path of creation and implementation of policies and actions to reduce poverty, achieve peace and promote equality, justice and strong institutions.

The 2030 Agenda for SDGs by a UN Summit come to light in New York on 25–27 September 2015. It aims at eradication poverty in all its forms. The commission should advocate the 2030 agenda by which the UN envisages “a world of Universal respect for human rights and dignity. The 2030 agenda is a spokesman for establishing the rules of law, justice, equality, discrimination fraternity and brotherhood”. The Global SDGs seek the empowerment of women and girls, ensure the lasting protection of human beings, the natural resources and the planet.

But the Kathak Academy of Bangladesh reminds the commission that the paths of achievement of SDGs are not so smooth and easy. Though the 17 SDGs officially came into force on 1 January 2016, the barriers are Haunting to foil the 2030 agenda.

The Origins and principles of the 2030 Agenda have been incomplete alarmingly by the obstacles it faces. KAB suggests the commission to accelerate the fulfilment of the planet, people, prosperity, peace and partnership. because the poverty, hunger, war between or among the countries [...], data gap inflation of necessary commodities, transporting problems, natural climates and various pollutions, food adulteration, woefully off track world, smuggling, destruction of wildlife and habitats, human trafficking, want of health care , drugs and terrorism, deforestation, middle, absence of democracy, money laundering, illicit arms, malnutrition, gender discrimination, early marriage, mother child deaths, uninpointment problem, fundamentalisms,100 million refugees, [...] etc hinder the paths ways and means of achieving SDGs.

To achieve SDGs goals the commission must focus on three core elements :

economic growth, social inclusion and Environmental protection. They are interconnected and promote the well-being of individuals and societies. Also, The UNODC should mobilize the Hi-level political Parties and Leaders. It should promote the habits of a reducing, reusing, recycling the food consumption. Industry, Innovation and infrastructure development can solve the barriers to achieve SDGs on a legal scale.

The UN, the member countries of the implementation and international organizations, non -government organizations, civil societies must work collectively to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs.

The commission should speak up against all sorts of negative aspects. we should arrange the posters, banners, festoons, play cards meetings, symposiums, slogans

against war, conflict, corruption, biodiversity, natural calamities, climate change all forms of pollution, premature marriage, poverty and hunger, gender discrimination, terrorism, illicit arms, influx of refugees, food adulteration, contaminating, unemployment problems, erosion, rising temperature, rising sea level, melting ice etc to enhance and established the accelerated implementation of the SDGs.

Ensuring democratic practice, the commission and the high level political forum can contribute a lot to attain SDGs. Afforestation is desirable.

Kathak Academy of Bangladesh draws the attention of the UNODC under the UN charter to focus on the ways and the means of SDGs. The commission will strengthen and promote the areas of policy and institutional reformation, data collection and monitoring, access to justice, International cooperation, raising public awareness, capacity building on peace, justice and strong Institutions and so on.

The SDGs(17) and the 167 indicators are closely associated and interlinked. The Commission should promote every SDG and every indicator to accelerated implementation of the SDGs. Now the world is a Global village, separate transformation is impossible. it will come to light that the human beings and the planet are what the commission has made them by its service and love to accelerated implementation of SDGs. If the authorities of Kathak Academy of Bangladesh get proper and sufficient fundings, they will transform the universe to accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Kathak Academy of Bangladesh keeps the Commission in its prayers so that the SDGs can be promoted as the desirable aspects of the people, by the people and for the people.

**In particular, how can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions)?**

Subordinate Statement:

- (a) the importance and necessity of SDG-16.
- (b) the barriers of the implementation of SDG-16.
- (c) the ways to expedite (SDG-16's) it's implementation.
- (d) the roles of Kathak Academy of Bangladesh to the UNODC to achieve the Goal-16.
- (e) the working and helping groups to materialise the implementation of SDG-16.

Here with our impatience of the steps the modern humanity and the planet have been running back from the beginning to the beginning of the world of peacelessness, injustice and scattered institutions. To save this waste land, Kathak Academy of Bangladesh has come forward to regain piece, justice and strong Institutions providing it actions and proposals to the Commission UNODC. The SDG-16 is one of the 17 SDGs established by the UN in 2015, the exact official working is, "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels".

the commission should promote some areas of the organisations of the work. Kathak Academy of Bangladesh proposes to the commission to reduce all forms of terrorism and harassment, put an end to ill treatment, overcoming data gap, exploitation and human trafficking. it is the Prior duty of the commission to exercise the rule of law and ensure equal right to justice. we think that to nurture SDG-16 it's a must reduce the flow of illicit finance and arms, corruption and bribery in all their forms. And then, there lies the importance of SDG-16.

Kathak Academy of Bangladesh emphasizes on some formats to lay before the commission. The outcome targets include to reduce the abuses of drugs and crimes, protect children and women and so on. we opine that the UN member states in the UN

statistical Commission must measure SDG 16 by 12 global targets with 24 associated indicators.

The 191 member states, high level political organisations, UNDP, NITI, Aayog, non-government organisations, civil societies and individuals should work combinedly to extract the essence of SDG 16 for achieving and acceleration implementation a peaceful, habitable world.

we, the Kathak Academy of Bangladesh recommend some tools for SDG 16. They include Sustainable Manufacturing Tools, Life Cycle Assessment Tools, Energy Efficiency Tools Carbon Footprint Tools, Material Management :Toxic Chemicals and Polluting Prevention tools, community development tools, Worker Safety Tools, Workforce Development Tools, Ensuring Quality Education Management tools etc.

The first and foremost information to the UNODC is that our research shows that innovative contributions to accelerated implementation for SDG 16 are being implemented by local authorities and community based initiative in contrast to the denial and inertia of different national government, public administrations and private Enterprises. We, the members of Kathak Academy of Bangladesh can assure and reassure the UNODC boldly with confidence and practical experience that we are aptly able to enhance and implement the accelerated implementation of SDG-16.

Our achieved experiences encourage and inspire us to implement Goal 16 out of SDGs. to make SDG 16 a success be requires combined efforts from governments, civil society, International organisations and other stakeholders. we the authorities of Kathak Academy of Bangladesh are here with some ways to suggest the UNODC how to expedite its implementation:

- Embrace Renewable Energy:

reuse reduce and recycle of wastage of food consumption and energy.

- Support Sustainable Agriculture:

scientific and economical support must be invested on both agriculture and agriculturists at the least developed and developing countries.

- Educate and Raise Awareness:

inclusive people should be brought under the programme.

- Empower Women and Girls:

inactive unprivileged and illiterate women and girls should be empowered to be aware of their rights and duties.

- Promote Sustainable Transportation:

transporting articles and transporting ideas and views to have a radical and positive change are the most crucial elements to accelerated implementation of SDG 16.

- Advocate for Conservation:

positive old norms and values must be conserved.

- Diplomacy and Institutional Reform:

to promote good governance, transparency and accountability governments of the countries should enact and enforce policies between or among them. to uphold the establishment peace, justice and strong institutions, the UNODC can Reform legal frameworks, strengthen institutions and combat corruption.

- Access to Justice:

irrespective of ethnicity, gender, socio commonness status, nationality and other factors the commission can ensure equal justice for all through various policies and activities.

- Data Collection and Monitoring:

this is a key and the Mammoth task to work with data to ensure the Goal 16 and human rights.

- International Cooperation:

There is no alternative of it to achieve Goal 16. [...]. Total about 100 million people are homeless today.

- Gemini:

Kathak Academy of Bangladesh Desire to present some features to accelerated implementation of SDG 16 focusing the context on Bangladesh.

- Fight Corruption:

corruption is reigning everywhere from top to bottom. Anti corruption Commission should punish the criminals with impartiality and transparency. smuggling, drugs crime, terrorism must be punished.

- Judicial Reform:

Reformation of Judiciary systems can ensure the peace and justice . so this institution must be strengthen and independent.

- Improvement of True Democracy:

the electoral bodies should be reformed and strengthened. only democracy can ensure SDG 16. to achieve it we need interfaith dialogue, civil engagement, proper education, effective law enforcement agencies and public awareness.

- Partnership:

Regional and international cooperation and partnership can ensure SDG 16.

In fine, Kathak Academy of Bangladesh believes and things that the commission UNODC can come forward to accelerating implementation SDG 16 by sympathising and taking measures to establish peace justice and strong Institutions for improvement and happiness of unprivileged people of the world.

## J. Mijoro Mandroso

### **How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030?**

To have more concrete and palpable results with a direct impact on the reduction or even control of the proliferation of drugs, in this case of the so-called hard quality such as cocaine, heroin and others, the related prevention of crime and criminal justice meets the existing reality on the ground in the world where the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime at the Vienna International Centre (VIC) could contribute effectively.

However, to do this:

Firstly, there should be a real effort on the application of Resolution ARES78225 at the end of the 78th General Assembly n° A/78/482 of November 24, 2023. If at least the points concerning crime prevention and criminal justice are completed even halfway, the work of the relevant Commission would currently be at the stage of monitoring and evaluation, as well as suggesting other more effective strategies to achieve satisfactory results with a view to protecting human health and that of secure social and societal life, far from acts of delinquency and gangs. However, to date, the impacts of this Resolution on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda have not yet been seen and felt positively on the ground at the national level ;

Secondly, in fact, this Commission needs continuous multifunctional support from the Secretariat to be able to properly honour its attributions and missions in order to help and encourage the multiplication and diversification of events parallel to its sessions access to crime prevention and of criminal justice, being the direct participation of

nationally integrated entities such as ECOSOC NGOs working in this direction to achieve the expected result raised. However, to be able to organize a Side Event, the NGO ECOSOC must have an entry visa to Vienna, Austria. However, obtaining a visa is not systematic from the embassy, even if there is support from the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We are a living example in this because our delegation's request was refused in December 2023 to attend the resumption of the 32nd Session of the UNODC Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. However, we had prepared well for this;

Third, to be able to successfully support the Commission for the Prevention of Crime and criminal justice to achieve its objectives in order to jointly enjoy the positive impacts that result from it, we must not neglect the problem of ensuring entry visas on Viennese soil. If this or that instance is not taken seriously, it would always be a vicious circle. And we never get out of it. In the future, we will be called up on to take part in this or that support for the benefit of the Commission. However, the result would always be the same. So it's time we helped each other.

**In particular, how can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the Development Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions)?**

The UNODC Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is one of the UN bodies capable, competent and essential to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, allowing access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Yes, the Commission's responsibilities consist of preventing drug-related crimes and promoting criminal justice in the human sense of the term so that the society we live in is peaceful. But to achieve this result so long awaited by all the Member States of the UN, especially at the level of all the peoples of the whole world, without the ambitions placed and inadequate to the realities and the daily needs of the fellow citizens of the leaders of whatever qu Whatever they may be, it is very essential to consider and provide a real improvement or a true solution on these few points below, far from a political or theoretical act :

- There should be an allocated fund for crime prevention and criminal justice aimed at ECOSOC NGOs under the supervision of the Commission, given that there are currently more than 6494 Civil Society entities accredited to the ECOSOC of the United Nations, spread throughout the world, being ready to participate together to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in this case SDG 16 on Peace, Justice and effective Institutions. This network is still poorly exploited by the United Nations or ECOSOC to this day. However, this should be an effective force in the hands of all UN authorities. But it remains a dormant power;
- To have effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, whether in the United Nations System, including the UNODC Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice or in national Member States , there should be a strengthening of the evaluation of respect for Human Rights starting at the UN level up to the proper functioning of the Member States because everything stems from Human Rights, if there is no not an injured individual or victim of this or that violation of his or her rights, the existence of institutions could remain only in the context of prevention, but not in sanctioning. For example, our Organization is the victim of discrimination by the NGO Branch in New York which does not respond to our request to organize a Side Event during the ordinary session of ECOSOC NGOs this month. May 2024 to date. Fortunately, to this day too, we are satisfied with our relationship with the Commission. And we are planning to attend the 33rd Session of the UNODC Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice from May 13 to 17, 2024, as we are already invited. However, we are requesting special support from the Commission to have an appointment with the French Embassy in Madagascar in order to submit



our visa application files. This is due to our reluctance to take this approach because we were already refused in December 2023. But at the final, we decided to attend.

## **K. Misère Option Zéro**

### **How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030?**

The Commission can set up with the NGOs a Strategic Planning Committee (CPS) which will carry out a survey to evaluate the 2030 Agenda from its beginning to the present day (group work of Commission representatives and NGO representatives on the SWOT analysis and the results of the investigation)

Specific objectives: identify problems in the execution of the 2030 Agenda with a view to grouping them by axes; find a vision and a mission for the ambitious acceleration of the 2030 Agenda and redefine concrete commitments that aim to promote the ambitious acceleration of the 2030 Agenda in links with the SDGs.

Actions:

- Communicate and disseminate information (inform civil society, governments and relevant stakeholders on the 2030 Agenda acceleration process including how contributions will be taken into account.
- Establish spaces for dialogue: establishment of public spaces and platforms for consultations and co-contribution to facilitate the participation of NGOs with a view to consolidating the acceleration process.
- Prioritize and select strategic contributions for the acceleration of the 2030 Agenda: at the end of the consultations, the Strategic Planning Committee will withdraw into a meeting to select priorities.
- Writing commitments in a 3-day workshop:
  - Each engagement must be relevant and have an impact;
  - Identify the actors (bodies) responsible for impactful commitments and who must regularly report progress to the CPS;
  - Budget commitments: allocate a forecast financial envelope dedicated to each commitment for its proper implementation.
- Provide feedback to the Commission: inform the Commission on the choices that were made and on the final content of the Strategic Plan for Acceleration of the 2030 Agenda in order to encourage the support of Governments in the General Assembly.

### **In particular, how can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the Development Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions)?**

Form two mixed teams (Commission and NGO) to summarize the problems of the delay in the accelerated implementation of Development Goal 16, formulate recommendations, find actions to take to achieve the objectives of the said recommendations, identify the timing, those responsible and the impact of the actions. Each team must work on 2 axes.

Afterwards, each team will report back to the plenary with the inputs and contributions which will lead to the acceleration of SDG 16.

Then, the establishment of a joint evaluation committee which will have to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the recommendations and report annually until 2030.

## **L. World Society of the Subjective Physics Sciences Organization**

### **How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda?**

- The Commission can play a vital role in promoting awareness and understanding of the 2030 Agenda among member states and relevant stakeholders.
- It can facilitate dialogue and cooperation among member states to exchange best practices, lessons learned, and innovative approaches to implementing the 2030 Agenda.
- The Commission can support capacity-building efforts by providing technical assistance, training programs, and knowledge-sharing platforms to help countries effectively implement the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.
- It can advocate for increased funding and resource mobilization to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national, regional, and global levels.
- The Commission can foster partnerships and collaboration between governments, civil society organizations, private sector entities, and other stakeholders to harness collective efforts towards achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda.
- It can monitor and review progress made by member states in implementing the 2030 Agenda, identify challenges and gaps, and provide recommendations for overcoming them.
- The Commission can promote accountability and transparency in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by encouraging member states to regularly report on their progress and share good practices.

### **How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16?**

- The Commission can advocate for the importance of peace, justice, and strong institutions as foundational elements for sustainable development, emphasizing their interlinkages with other goals.
- It can support member states in developing and implementing strategies, policies, and legislation that promote peace, justice, and strong institutions at the national and local levels.
- The Commission can facilitate knowledge-sharing and capacity-building activities on crime prevention, criminal justice, and the rule of law, providing technical assistance and expertise to member states.
- It can promote international cooperation and exchange of best practices in areas such as combating corruption, organized crime, and terrorism, as well as strengthening legal frameworks and institutions.
- The Commission can advocate for inclusive and participatory approaches to justice and the rule of law, ensuring access to justice for all, promoting human rights, and addressing inequalities.
- It can support efforts to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of criminal justice systems, including law enforcement, judicial processes, and prison systems, through training, resource allocation, and institutional reforms.
- The Commission can contribute to the prevention and reduction of violence, crime, and other threats to peace and security, including through early warning mechanisms, conflict resolution, and post-conflict reconstruction.

## M. World Society of Victimology

### How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda?

Crime prevention relies on victims reporting incidents and trusting that the criminal justice system to address their complaints effectively. Victims of crime face an elevated risk of being victimized again, which creates a new cycle of trauma<sup>25 26</sup>. Despite evidence that reporting incidents to the police decreases the risk of revictimization<sup>27</sup>, crime reporting by victims has stagnated, particularly in cases of partner and sexual violence, which are significantly underreported worldwide<sup>28</sup>.

Navigating the legal system can retraumatize victims. Secondary victimization refers to the additional harm inflicted upon victims due to insensitive or dismissive reactions to victims by institutions and individuals<sup>29</sup>. Examples include repetitive questioning, unnecessary exposure to the perpetrator, or encountering individuals lacking sensitivity, all of which exacerbate the trauma experienced by victims.

Despite victims' rights instruments, their role in the criminal justice system remains largely unchanged. Victims are often treated as witnesses to a crime against the State, relying on the goodwill of authorities to respect their rights<sup>30 31</sup>, with few options when their rights are not upheld<sup>32 33</sup>.

Systemic and historical oppressions play a significant role in eroding trust in the criminal justice system, particularly among Black, Indigenous, and people of colour (BIPOC) communities in both Canada<sup>34</sup> and the United States<sup>35 36</sup>. These communities have a long history of systemic racism and police brutality, fostering deep mistrust in a system meant to protect them, which fuels dissatisfaction with the criminal justice process<sup>37 38</sup>. Movements like #MeToo and #BlackLivesMatter highlight this mistrust, exposing the inadequacies of the current system and calling for fundamental change to prioritize victims' well-being and safety throughout the entire process.

In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its objectives related to crime prevention and just criminal justice systems, restoring victims' trust is vital.

<sup>25</sup> Herman, S. (2010). *Parallel Justice for Victims of Crime*, Washington, DC: National Centre for Victims of Crime.

<sup>26</sup> Finkelhor, D., Turner, H., Hamby, S., & Ormrod, R. (2011). *Polyvictimization: Children's exposure to multiple types of victimization*. Washington, DC: US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs.

<sup>27</sup> Ranapurwala, S., Berg, M.T., & Casteel, C. (2016). Reporting Crime Victimization and the Incidence of Future Victimization: A longitudinal study. *PLoS ONE* 11(7): e0160072. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0160072>

<sup>28</sup> World Health Organization. (2021). Devastatingly pervasive: 1 in 3 women globally experience violence. <https://www.who.int/news/item/09-03-2021-devastatingly-pervasive-1-in-3-women-globally-experience-violence>

<sup>29</sup> Symonds M. (2010). The "second injury" to victims of violent acts. 1980. *American journal of psychoanalysis*, 70(1), 34–41. <https://doi.org/10.1057/ajp.2009.381>

<sup>30</sup> Milquet, J. (2019). Strengthening Victims' Rights: From compensation to reparation. *Report to the President of the European Commission – Jean-Claude Juncker*.

<sup>31</sup> Braun, K. (2019). *Victim Participation Rights: Variation Across Criminal Justice Systems*. Palgrave MacMillan.

<sup>32</sup> Milquet, J. (2019).

<sup>33</sup> Manirabona, A. M. (2020). *Introduction au droit des victimes d'actes criminels au Canada*. LexisNexis Canada.

<sup>34</sup> Cotter, A. (2022). Perceptions of and experiences with police and the justice system among the Black and Indigenous populations in Canada. *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

<sup>35</sup> Jones, M. J. (2021). In U.S., Black Confidence in Police Recovers From 2020 Low. *Gallup*. <https://news.gallup.com/poll/352304/black-confidence-police-recovers-2020-low.aspx>

<sup>36</sup> Beichner, D., Craig, M.O. & Bell, C. (2021). Racialized Mass Incarceration in the USA as a form of macrovictimization. In: G. Varona (Ed.), *Macrovictimización, abuso de poder y victimología: Impactos intergeneracionales* (pp. 375- 415). Cizur Mayor, Spain.

<sup>37</sup> Boateng F. (2018). Crime reporting behavior: Do attitudes towards the police matter? *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 33(18): 2891–2916. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260516632356>

<sup>38</sup> Wemmers, J.-A. (2017). *Victimology: A Canadian Perspective*. University of Toronto Press

This requires a multifaceted approach, establishing a supportive and sensitive legal system to reduce secondary victimization and address historical injustices. Ultimately, rebuilding trust through the creation of culturally sensitive and responsive systems.

### **How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions)?**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG 16) aims to establish just, peaceful, and inclusive societies supported by strong institutions. Canada's commitment to this goal includes ensuring equitable access to justice, creating inclusive institutions, and combatting systemic racism and discrimination. However, progress is hindered by underreporting of crimes and the lack of confidence among BIPOC communities in the criminal justice system.

*Reducing secondary victimization:* This involves ensuring respectful and compassionate interactions throughout the legal process, eliminating unnecessary procedures, and prioritizing victim safety and well-being through support services. Victims of crime are at a heightened risk of revictimization, and by helping them heal, we reduce this risk<sup>39 40</sup>.

*Addressing historical injustices and rebuilding trust:* Engaging with communities that have historically faced systemic biases is crucial for understanding their experiences, acknowledging past and ongoing injustices, and co-creating culturally sensitive and responsive systems. Initiatives like the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada<sup>41</sup> and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls<sup>42</sup> underscore this need, urging the legal system to address systemic inequality and better serve Indigenous Peoples.

*Comprehensive Education:* Investing in comprehensive education for all stakeholders, including legal professionals, law enforcement personnel, and victim support providers, is imperative. Trauma-informed law recognizes the impact of trauma on victims' behaviour and memory. Legal professionals must be trained to understand how trauma shapes interactions with the legal system and how to respond appropriately<sup>43</sup>. Initiatives like interdisciplinary legal aid clinics, where students engage directly with victims, offer promising avenues for providing socio-legal support while gaining valuable experience<sup>44</sup>. Investing in trauma-informed legal education that prioritizes the needs of victims can play a significant role in rebuilding trust in the justice system.

*Improving Access to Justice for Victims:* Recognizing that victims are more than witnesses and providing legal consultation for victims to reduce their risk of secondary victimization<sup>45 46</sup>. Unlike the prosecutor who is outcome focused and whose job is to prosecute the accused, the role of the victim's lawyer is to help the victim. This requires a victim-centred approach that tackles the challenges facing victims' in a holistic manner.

<sup>39</sup> Herman, S. (2010).

<sup>40</sup> Wemmers, J. (2011). Aider la victime ou prévenir la criminalité? *Revue internationale de criminologie et de police technique et scientifique*, 64, juillet-septembre, 259–266.

<sup>41</sup> Canada. Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. (2015). *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future*. [https://ehprnh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Executive\\_Summary\\_English\\_Web.pdf](https://ehprnh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Executive_Summary_English_Web.pdf)

<sup>42</sup> Canada. National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. (2019). *Reclaiming Power and Place*. <https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report/>

<sup>43</sup> Ellison, L., & Munro, V. E. (2017). Taking trauma seriously: Critical reflections on the criminal justice process. *The International Journal of Evidence & Proof*, 21(3), 183-208.

<sup>44</sup> See the Justice centre for victims of crime, <https://www.cjvac.ca/>

<sup>45</sup> Carroll, C. (2023) Reinvestigating the Sexual Violence “Justice Gap” in the Swedish Criminal Justice System: Victim Centred Alternatives to the Criminal Trial. *Feminist Criminology*, 18 (1) 45-64.

<sup>46</sup> Wemmers, J. (2008). Victim participation and therapeutic jurisprudence. *Victims & Offenders*, 3(2-3), 165–191. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15564880801938318>

By adopting a comprehensive approach that addresses the social and historical factors contributing to underreporting, we can advance the objectives of SDG 16. This includes promoting crime prevention, ensuring justice for all, and fostering stronger institutions grounded in trust and legitimacy.

## **N. Women’s Federation for World Peace International**

### **How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda?**

Firstly, as representatives of “Women’s Federation for World Peace”, we wish to express our sincere appreciation for the work of the Commission. We value the effort to expand the topics dealing with the various aspects of crime in all its forms, in particular prison reform, such as “Alternatives to Imprisonment - Open ended Working group”. Furthermore, we value the intensifying call on NGOs to present their experiences in various fields.

Our principal focus lies in prevention through analysing the root causes of unfavourable developments eventually leading to criminal activity. While the result must be dealt with, the achievement of long-term success requires that we start at the roots; Nelson Mandela once said: “If you want to change something, you have to start with education.”

Education begins in the family through developing character and instilling values in the home. This is followed by intellectual/academic education at schools and universities. Still, institutes providing education from the primary level through to the tertiary level play a part in forming the character and mindset of our youth.

The topics of Strong Family/ Family First and peer education and the ensuing valuable programs addressed by departments of UNODC are of great interest to us also.

Nevertheless, it is our wish to see the aspect of “Crime Prevention” being attended to more often. It should be given priority if we want to establish a “Crimefree Future”.

Countering Poverty: Frequently, “marginalized/impoverished communities” are mentioned where children cannot attend school because parents cannot afford the fees; they also suffer from poor housing with no or minimum healthcare, etc.

A point of discussion could focus on how governments, together with NGOs and other civil society stakeholders, could contribute to countering poverty and marginalization. A case in point would be providing free education (e.g. Austria and other countries) to enable every child to attend school.

Education also entails job training, learning a handcraft, supporting entrepreneurs, e.g., through microcredits. Thus, governments can help people to help themselves.

Inadequate housing could be resolved by providing government-built homes with reasonable rent, and when necessary, supplementing family incomes.

More exchange on best practice models for overcoming poverty and marginalization is needed; such best practises could clarify how individuals and families have been enabled to manage their life with dignity. Education also means empowering people to find ways to contribute to society through their professions.

### **In particular, how can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions)?**

- The organization of the work of the Commission, the format of its meetings and its cooperation with other intergovernmental bodies; or specific thematic areas that the Commission should promote;

Peace must be worked for: A peaceful society cannot be left to chance. Constant endeavour is required for intercultural, interethnic, and interreligious communication,

based on mutual respect despite differences, and supporting each other in difficult circumstances. Conflicts often arise because of unequal circumstances and poor economic situations with few prospects of a prosperous life; moreover, the principle of living for each other should be followed, instead of living off each other.

The establishment of a “Peace Institute” or “Ministry of Peace” would be a welcomed opportunity to monitor a society and intervene quickly when frictions and tensions are observed; thus, violence could be prevented at its root.

Panel discussions for sharing peacekeeping methods, peacebuilding, and reconciliation experiences would be greatly appreciated. Thus, best practises could be adapted to local cultures and multiplied there. A case in point would be “Non-Violent Communication” training with the vision of one human family regardless of national, ethnic, and religious circumstances; every human being is valuable as is their unique character and potential to contribute to society.

## **O. ZONTA International**

### **How can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda?**

The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions requires strong international cooperation in order to combat the most fatal obstacles to the SDGs.

Progress of SDGs is based on indicators, mostly measured by numbers and data. UNODC provides reports, effective policies, tools and guidelines, developed on the basis of profound research and valid data. They can be modified for tailored measures to combat crime and corruption on all levels and improving the efficiency and fairness of criminal justice administration systems.

There is a need of more of these tools in the context of violence against women and girls, to get more precise data, f.e. Domestic violence against women and girls is underreported and to a great extent invisible. Special guidelines with instructions and indicators for various forms of hidden physical, psychological violence in private environment would be a helpful tool to raise awareness and sensitize police, social welfare practitioners etc. to identify victims in this regard.

### **In particular, how can the Commission contribute to the accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions)?**

Achieving SDG 16 supposes a paradigm shift, that shows not only a change in view, but must be followed by political action.

To significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere SDG 16.1.3 measures the proportion of population subjected to (a) physical violence, (b) psychological violence and (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months. There is a need for special guidelines with instructions and indicators for various forms of hidden physical, psychological violence in the private environment. It would be helpful to raise awareness and sensitize police, social welfare practitioners etc. to identify victims in this regard.

By providing all children with proof of legal identity from day one, their rights can be protected and universal access to justice and social services can be enabled. In 2022 the births of around 1 in 4 children under age 5 worldwide have never been officially recorded.

One important step would be to provide guidelines for implementation of infrastructure for civil registration, especially birth registration in cooperation with WHO and UNFPA to fulfil SGD 16.9.