



**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”

To be uploaded here:

[Inputs to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development \(HLPF\) in 2024 \(office.com\)](#)

I. Introduction

This contribution is submitted by **H.E Ambassador Ivo Šrámek, the Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) at its thirty-third session**, in response to a letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council of 10 November 2023, inviting the Commission to provide an input to the 2024 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The 2024 HLPF will be organized under the auspices of ECOSOC at the UN headquarters in New York from 8 to 17 July 2024, on the 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”**.

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is the **principal policymaking body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice**, acts as the **preparatory body for the United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice** and, together with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), acts as the **governing body of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**. The CCPCJ works on a large portfolio of issues; the ones addressed in this contribution do not reflect the work of the Commission in a comprehensive manner, but represent **examples related to the 2024 HLPF theme and the selected SDGs, namely SDGs 1 on no poverty,**

2 on zero hanger, 13 on climate action, 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions and 17 on partnerships for the Goals.

The contribution covers the period **March 2023-to February 2024.**

The 32nd session of CCPCJ, chaired by H.E. Mary MUGWANJA (Kenya), held its regular session from 23 to 27 May 2023 and gathered over 1,800 participants from 136 Member States, 18 intergovernmental organizations, a number of United Nations entities and 69 non-governmental organizations. At the margins of the 32nd session, 110 side events were organized, covering a broad range of crime prevention and criminal justice topics. The Commission held a thematic discussion on **“Enhancing the functioning of the criminal justice system to ensure access to justice and to realize a safe and secure society”**.

At the **Fourteenth United Nations Crime Congress**, held from 7-12 March 2021 in Kyoto/Japan, Member States adopted the **“Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”** (General Assembly Resolution 76/181, negotiated in the CCPCJ). As requested in the Kyoto Declaration, the Commission in consultation with Member States adopted a **multiyear workplan of thematic discussions on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration**, which follows the four pillars of the declaration, namely Pillar I on Advancing crime prevention; Pillar II on Advancing the criminal justice system; Pillar III on Promoting the rule of law; and Pillar IV on Promoting international cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime. The **third set of thematic discussions was held from 21 to 22 September 2023 and focused on pillar III of the Declaration on “Promoting the Rule of Law”**.

The main topic of the 33rd session of the Commission, to be held from 13 to 17 May 2024, is **“Promoting international cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address organized crime, corruption, terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and other forms of crime, including in the areas of extradition, mutual legal assistance and asset recovery”**.

II. Impacts of multiple crises on the implementation of SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16 and 17 from the vantage point of your intergovernmental / expert body

Crime is an **impediment to human rights and socioeconomic development**, and crises have a negative impact on the implementation of evidence-based crime prevention strategies (**Kyoto Declaration**, para. 1, 22-26) and measures to promote the rule of law (**Kyoto Declaration**, para. 48-59), which contribute to ending poverty and hunger (**targets 1.1, 1.2 and 2.1**).

A holistic approach to addressing **climate change** requires the active involvement of crime prevention and criminal justice institutions. In its [Resolution 31/1](#), the Commission emphasized that the protection of wildlife must be part of a comprehensive approach to achieving poverty eradication, food security, sustainable development, including the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, economic growth, social well-being and sustainable livelihoods (**target 13.2**).

According to the “**Global progress report on Sustainable Development Goal 16 indicators: A wake-up call for action on peace, justice and inclusion**” (OHCHR, UNDP and UNODC), progress against SDG 16 in general is worryingly slow, human rights commitments are not being met, violence is increasing, inequality is hindering inclusive decision-making and corruption is eroding the social contract.¹ Challenges posed and aggravated by multiple crises indicate the need to strengthen the **resilience of law enforcement and other criminal justice institutions** (**Kyoto Declaration** para. 15). Lessons learnt from, for example, the COVID-19 pandemic can be applied to make criminal justice systems more effective, accountable, transparent, inclusive, responsive and better prepared for similar future challenges ([A/RES/76/184](#)).

In this context,

- in its [resolution 32/1](#), the Commission urged Member States to prevent and combat trafficking in persons in business operations and supply chains for goods and services and encouraged them, when considering the awarding of government procurement contracts, to be guided by relevant due diligence practices (**target 16.2**).
- in resolution [A/RES/78/227](#), negotiated by the Commission as its **first-ever resolution on access to justice**, the Assembly encouraged Member States to explore cross-sectoral, multidisciplinary, multi-stakeholder, holistic and integrated partnerships, strategies and approaches at the national level when developing measures to reduce inequities in the criminal justice system (**target 16.3**)

¹ [Global Progress Report on Sustainable Development Goal 16 Indicators: A Wake-Up Call for Action on Peace, Justice and Inclusion | United Nations Development Programme \(undp.org\)](#)

- during the **third Thematic Discussions on the Implementation of the Kyoto Declaration**, held on 21-22 September 2023, a number of speakers underlined that access to justice was an enabler to achieving the entire 2030 Agenda, and urged all States to implement the Kyoto Declaration, a document that connected law, development, and human rights² (**target 16.3**)
- during the same event, a number of speakers referred to available data showing the insufficient achievement at the targets on corruption and bribery and called for the full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (**targets 16.4 and 16.5**).

The **Kyoto Declaration** promotes multi-stakeholder partnerships and cooperation on a variety of crime prevention and criminal justice issues. The CPPCJ works in close cooperation with the ECOSOC system on criminal justice in times of multiple crises. For example, the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women addressed the Commission in the opening session of the Thematic Discussions on the Implementation of the Kyoto Declaration, and the Chair of the CCPCJ at its 32nd session participated in an interactive dialogue organized by the CSW on “**Achieving gender equality in a context of overlapping emergencies**” (Goal 17).

III. Three key areas where sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions for achieving the SDGs are being effectively delivered, especially related to the cluster of SDGs under review in 2024, considering the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the Goals and targets

[Area 1: The growing role of digital technologies in criminal activities as well as their use in criminal justice \(SDG 13, SDG 16, SDG 17\)](#)

In the **Kyoto Declaration**, Member States committed to enhancing coordination and international cooperation to effectively prevent and combat **cybercrime** (para. 93 and 95). During the thematic discussion at its 31st session (2022), a number of speakers shared information on national approaches to identifying, extracting, preserving, analysing and using electronic evidence while ensuring its authenticity and admissibility in criminal proceedings. Cybercrime is also addressed in **resolutions 74/173³ and 74/174⁴** (negotiated within the Commission), and in the context of other areas, such as illegal trade in wildlife (**[resolution 31/1](#)**).

Reference can also be made to the **Ad-Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communication technologies for Criminal**

² E/CN.15/2024/CRP.2

³ [A/RES/74/173](#)

⁴ [A/RES/74/174](#)

Purposes, which held nine sessions (2021-2024) and is expected to conclude its work in the course of 2024 ([A/RES/74/247](#)⁵ and [75/282](#)⁶).

Greater, responsible, **use of digital technologies by law enforcement and other criminal justice actors** can be of particular importance in times of crises. The **Kyoto Declaration** promotes the appropriate utilization of technology by law enforcement and other criminal justice institutions (para. 94), and in its resolution [76/184](#)⁷ (negotiated by the Commission), the General Assembly recognized the need to adapt to epidemics and pandemics, including through promoting the use of technology in criminal justice.

These topics are also at the heart of the agenda of the **15th United Nations Crime Congress to be held in 2026 in Abu Dhabi**, under the overarching theme “**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**”.

[Area 2: Fostering shared commitment to addressing new, emerging and evolving forms of crime \(SDGs 1, 16, 17\)](#)

Crime is constantly adapting to global developments, including by taking advantage of crises and conflicts. The Commission has expressed its commitment in addressing new, emerging and evolving forms of crime (**para. 79-95 Kyoto Declaration**), and repeatedly dealt with such forms of crime, for example:

- Trafficking in persons (resolutions [A/RES/78/228](#), [A/RES/77/236](#), [32/1](#))
- Smuggling of migrants (resolution [30/1](#))
- Violence against children, child sexual exploitation and abuse ([A/RES/77/233](#))
- Crimes that affect the environment ([A/RES/76/185](#)⁸)
- Trafficking in cultural property (resolution [27/5](#))
- Smuggling of commercial goods (resolution [28/2](#))

The thematic discussions on implementation of the Kyoto Declaration held by the Commission since 2021 contribute to a better understanding of contemporary crime issues. In the second half of 2024, the thematic discussions devoted to the 4th Pillar of the Kyoto Declaration will cover, inter alia, “new, emerging and evolving forms of crime” (para. 79-95).

[Area 3: Developing global standards for reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration \(SDGs 1, 16, 17\)](#)

⁵ [A/RES/74/247](#)

⁶ [A/RES/75/282](#)

⁷ [A/RES/76/184](#)

⁸ [A/RES/76/185](#)

Member States committed in the **Kyoto Declaration** to **promoting rehabilitative environments to reduce reoffending** (para. 37-42).

The General Assembly in resolutions [A/RES/78/224](#), [77/232](#) and [A/RES/76/182](#) (negotiated by the Commission) requested the convening of an expert group meeting with a view to **developing model strategies on reducing reoffending**. The open-ended intergovernmental expert group will hold its next meeting on 25-28 March 2024.

IV. Three examples of specific actions, policies and measures that are most urgently needed to effectively deliver sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions to eradicate poverty and reinforce the 2030 Agenda, building on interlinkages and transformative pathways for achieving the SDGs

[Example 1: Reinforcing collection of data and evidence \(SDG 1, 2, 2, 13, 16, 17\)](#)

Especially in times of multiple crises and **fast evolving crime trends**, data collection (including gender sensitive indicators) remains one of the main challenges for the Commission.

Members States committed in para. 22 and 23 of the **Kyoto Declaration** to enhancing evidence-based crime prevention strategies through the collection and analysis of data using systematic and coherent criteria, bearing in mind the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes, and improving the quality and availability of data on crime trends.

Challenges in this regard include **lack of statistical indicators and capacity** to develop improved data-collection, both for general crime statistics and **in specific fields** such as tracing illicit arms and illicit financial flows or crimes that effect the environment.⁹

[Example 2: Addressing remaining challenges in ensuring equal access to justice for all \(SDG 1, 16, 17\)](#)

Despite the increase in the number of prisoners over the past two decades, the **share of unsentenced prisoners** has remained stable, at around 30%. Since 2019, the share of **unsentenced female detainees** increased from 31% in 2019 to 35% in 2021, while the share of unsentenced male detainees remained relatively stable¹⁰ (**target 16.3**).

⁹ [Global Progress Report on Sustainable Development Goal 16 Indicators: A Wake-Up Call for Action on Peace, Justice and Inclusion | United Nations Development Programme \(undp.org\)](#)

¹⁰ See above

Para 48 of the **Kyoto Declaration** stresses the commitment by Member States to ensure equal access to justice and application of the law to all, including vulnerable members of society, and para. 44 stresses the need to mainstream a gender perspective into criminal justice systems. In **resolution [A/RES/77/227](#)**, the General Assembly encouraged Member States to ensure equal access to justice and application of the law to all, including by taking effective measures that are informed by relevant data, and encouraged Member States to explore **cross-sectoral, multidisciplinary, multi-stakeholder, holistic and integrated partnerships, strategies and approaches**.

[Example 3: Need to strengthen effective international cooperation in criminal matters \(SDG 1, 2, 13, 16, 17\)](#)

Even though international cooperation has been enshrined in multiple resolutions adopted by the CCPCJ, additional efforts are still required, particularly in terms of law enforcement cooperation, mutual legal assistance, extradition, transfer of proceedings or transfer of prisoners. The **Kyoto Declaration** addresses such cooperation in para. 60-67, and put particular emphasis on international cooperation to deprive criminals of their **proceeds of crime** and promote the return and final disposal of confiscated property (para. 68-72) which can serve the purpose of compensation and reparation of victims (para 31) . The Commission has also addressed international cooperation in criminal matters in resolutions **[A/RES/78/227](#)**, **[78/226](#)**, **[30/1](#)** and others.

The Commission will invest in this need during its 33rd session in a focused manner: In May 2024, the Commission will hold a thematic discussion on “Promoting international cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address organized crime, corruption, terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and other forms of crime, including in the areas of **extradition, mutual legal assistance and asset recovery**”, and in the second half of 2024, the Commission will hold thematic discussions on the implementation of Pillar 4 of the Kyoto Declaration, covering, inter alia, the promotion of international cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address **all forms of crime**.

V. Follow-up actions and measures being undertaken by your intergovernmental / expert body to support implementation of the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit

In the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit, Member States reaffirmed the need to build **peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights** (including the right to development), on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions. They also recommitted to preventing

and combating **illicit financial flows** and strengthening international cooperation and good practices on **assets return and recovery**.

The Commission has - at several occasions during its 32nd session - placed emphasis on **access to justice**, as described above. During the thematic discussions on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration, held in September 2023, Member States exchanged experience and expertise on their **anti-corruption efforts**, including their measures to **effectively disrupt the existing links between organized criminal groups and corruption** and to **combat illicit financial flows**.¹¹ The thematic discussion during the regular 33rd session and the thematic discussion on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration in 2024 will focus on **international cooperation, including asset recovery** (see above).

The Commission is currently implementing a number of initiatives pursuant to **resolution [E/RES/2023/25](#)** (negotiated by the Commission), in which the General Assembly, inter alia, encouraged Member States to consider including **information on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda related to the work of the Commission, including on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16, in their voluntary national reviews (VNR)** for consideration by the HLPF, and to share relevant information contained in these VNRs with the Commission during its 33rd session, including in the context of the general debate. The Commission has encouraged all Member States that conducted VNRs to share their relevant experience during its 33rd regular session in May.

Further, the Assembly invited Member States and other relevant stakeholders to provide to the Commission **views on how the Commission can contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda**. These views are being made available to the Commission in the form of a Conference Room Paper. The Commission will transmit these views expressed by Member States and stakeholders on how the Commission can contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda to the HLPF in a separate contribution.

VI. Recommendations and key messages for inclusion into the Ministerial Declaration of the 2024 HLPF

The following key messages may be included into the Ministerial Declaration of the 2024 HLPF:

- We **express grave concern about the impact of multiple crises on crime prevention and criminal justice**, and we reiterate our resolve to intensify concerted global efforts to prevent and combat crime by making criminal justice systems more effective, accountable, transparent, inclusive, responsive and aligned with human rights and by facilitating and strengthening international cooperation in criminal matters;

¹¹ Chair's summary contained in E/CN.15/2024/CRP.2

- We acknowledge the important **role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice** as the principal policymaking body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, in the implementation of SDG 1 on no poverty, SDG 2 on zero hunger, SDG 13 on climate action, SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions and SDG 17 on partnerships for the Goals.
- We encourage Member States to **further implement resilient, innovative and sustainable solutions** that are based on the respect for human rights and include the provision of equal access to justice, to address the challenges related to crime prevention and criminal justice matters;
- We call on all Member States to allocate **sufficient funding in national budgets, within their means**, to strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice systems and making them better prepared for future crises;
- We recall our commitment to implementing the **Kyoto Declaration** on “Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” adopted at the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2021;
- We encourage Member States to consider the **impact of crime in the enjoyment of the human rights of victims** when formulating measures to prevent, investigate, and prosecute criminal activities, and highlight the importance of the **return and final disposal of confiscated proceeds** as a mean to deter crime and to provide compensation and reparation to the victims;
- We resolve to **use the 15th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as an opportunity to** strengthen our crime prevention and criminal justice efforts and to make them more resilient in a world impacted by multiple crises.