



**Contribution by the Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and
Criminal Justice to the High-level Political Forum
on Sustainable Development**

2025 Theme:

**Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030
Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving
no one behind”**

Parts II-VI to be uploaded here:

[Inputs to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development \(HLPF\) in 2025 \(office.com\)](https://www.unodc.org/office/2025/hlpf/)

I. Introduction

This contribution is submitted by **Ambassador José Antonio ZABALGOITIA, the Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) at its thirty-fourth session**, in response to a letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council of 18 December 2024, inviting the Commission to provide an input to the 2025 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The 2025 HLPF will be organized under the auspices of ECOSOC at the United Nations headquarters in New York from 14 to 23 July 2025, on the theme **“Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind”**.

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 cover the period March 2024-to February 2025 and do not reflect the work of the Commission in a comprehensive manner, but represent recent **examples related to the 2025 HLPF theme and the selected SDGs: on good health and well-being (SDG 3), on gender-equality (SDG 5), on decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), on life below water (SDG 14) and on partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17)**.

The 33rd CCPCJ, chaired by H.E. Ivo Sramek (Czechia), held its regular session from 13 to 17 May 2024 and gathered over 1,400 participants from 128 Member States, 18 intergovernmental organizations, a number of United Nations entities and 75 non-governmental organizations. At the margins of the 33rd session, 100 side events were organized, covering a broad range of crime prevention and criminal justice topics. The Commission held a thematic discussion on “**Promoting international cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address organized crime, corruption and terrorism in all their forms and manifestations and other forms of crime, including in the areas of extradition, mutual legal assistance and asset recovery**”. Four resolutions were adopted:

- [A/RES/79/188](#), Preventing and countering violence against children by organized criminal groups and terrorist groups in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice
- [A/RES/79/187](#), Reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration
- [A/RES/79/186](#), Follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; and
- [E/RES/2024/12](#), Treatment of children associated with terrorist groups* including children who are recruited and exploited by those groups (* In the context of the present resolution, the term “associated with terrorist groups” has no internationally agreed definition, and therefore national definitions can encompass a range of degrees of association or affiliation with terrorist groups and should be interpreted according to domestic law).

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 **fourth and last set of thematic discussions** was held from **2 to 4 December 2024** and focused on **pillar IV of the Declaration on “Promoting international cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime”**.

As preparatory body for the United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Commission is currently advancing the substantive preparations for the **Fifteenth Crime Congress** to be held in Abu Dhabi from 25 to 30 April 2026, 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”.

The main topic of the 34th session of the Commission, to be held from 19 to 23 May 2025, is **“Addressing new, emerging and evolving forms of crime, including crimes that affect the environment, smuggling of commercial goods and trafficking in cultural property and other crimes targeting cultural property”.**

II. Impacts of multiple and interconnected crises on the implementation of SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17

Security, health, economic and environmental crises create opportunities for criminal activity, exacerbating crime prevention and criminal justice challenges:

- In its [Resolution 33/1](#), the CCPCJ highlighted the need to take measures against trafficking in persons, including women and girls, in the context of rapid technological change (**targets 5.1, 5.2 and 8.7**). The CCPCJ also prepared GA Resolution [79/188](#) and ECOSOC Resolution [2024/12](#), both on children associated with, recruited and exploited by, organized criminal groups and terrorist groups (**target 8.7**).
- In its resolution [76/185](#), prepared by the CCPCJ, the GA recognized that crimes that affect the environment may also have a negative impact on economies, public health, and safety (**target 3.9**). Crimes that affect the environment are also prominent in the **Kyoto Declaration** (para. 87) and in the 2024 Thematic Discussion. Previously, expert discussions on crimes against the environment, recommended measures against marine pollution and crimes on the high seas, crimes in the fisheries sector, and sand trafficking (**targets 14.4, 14.5**).
- When working on reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration ([A/RES/79/187](#)), the CCPCJ valued creating economic opportunities (**target 8.3**) for former offenders, including in times of economic instability. Also, in its [resolution 32/1](#), the CCPCJ urged to combat trafficking in persons in business operations and supply chains, aiming to promote fair labour practices and economic growth (**target 8.7**).
- In its Resolution **28/2**, the CCPCJ acknowledged the consequences of commercial goods smuggling by organized crime and stressed the need for stronger international cooperation, customs and border controls, and legal frameworks to protect economic stability, health and fair trade (targets 8.3 and 17.1).
- Addressing interconnected crises requires robust international cooperation. The **Kyoto Declaration** promotes multi-stakeholder partnerships and cooperation (**target 17.6**).

III. Three key areas where sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for achieving the SDGs and leaving no one behind are being effectively delivered, especially related to the cluster of SDGs under review in 2025, also bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the Goals and targets

Area 1: Reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration (SDG 8)

Members States committed in **the Kyoto Declaration** to promoting a rehabilitative environment in correctional facilities and in communities (para. 37-39). The CCPCJ addressed the issue in preparing resolutions [A/RES/79/187](#), [A/RES/78/224](#), [A/RES/77/232](#), [A/RES/76/182](#), amongst others. Draft “Model Strategies On Reducing Reoffending” will be presented to the CCPCJ at its 34th session in 2025. In June 2024, the CCPCJ Chair participated in the High-Level Debate of the General Assembly on “Crime Prevention and Sustainable Development through sports”, pursuant to resolution [A/RES/78/229](#) (target 8.3).

Area 2: Crimes that affect the environment (SDG 14)

The **Kyoto Declaration** recognizes the evolving nature of crimes, including crimes that affect the environment. They were addressed during the **2024 Thematic Discussions**. In its Resolution [A/RES/76/185](#), negotiated by the CCPCJ, the Assembly urged to adopt effective measures to prevent and combat crimes that affect the environment. A thematic discussion on new, emerging and evolving forms of crime will also be held during the 34th session in 2025.

Area 3: Focus on data (SDG 17)

In the Kyoto Declaration, States have committed to enhancing evidence-based crime prevention (para. 22-23). The Commission has underlined the role of collecting data on relevant indicators under the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 16 ([A/RES/78/225](#)) and encouraged to use disaggregated data to ensure that criminal justice policies and programmes are supported by relevant evidence ([A/RES.78/227](#)). The CCPCJ is working closely on this with the Statistical Commission (target 17.19).

IV. Three examples of measures to accelerate progress towards SDGs through well-coordinated actions in key transitions to bring progress to scale (food security, energy access and affordability, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution), building on interlinkages between SDGs to ensure cohesive progress

Measure 1: Advancing gender-sensitive criminal justice systems (SDGs 5, 8)

The CCPCJ, in conformity with its [resolution 26/3](#) advocates for gender-sensitive criminal justice systems (**target 5.1**), which provide support for women victims of violence and trafficking (**target 5.2 and 8.7**). In the **Kyoto Declaration** (para. 44) States have committed to mainstreaming a gender perspective into criminal justice systems. A special event commemorating the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women** was organized jointly in 2024 with the CND.

Measure 2: Access to Justice for all (SDG 5)

According to the UNDP/UNODC/UNOHCHR “Global progress report on Sustainable Development Goal 16 indicators” (2023), gaps in people’s ability to access justice continues to be significant. In resolution [E/RES/2024/11](#), the Council has urged to remove any barrier that children may face in accessing the justice system, including any kind of discrimination, and to take into account their specific needs, in particularly of those in vulnerable situations. The CCPCJ has also prepared [A/RES/78/227](#), in which the General Assembly emphasized the right of equal access to justice for all, including people in vulnerable situations (**targets 5.1, 16.3**)

Measure 3: Addressing proceeds of crime, asset recovery and illicit financial flows (SDG 17)

The **Kyoto Declaration** and follow-up Thematic Discussions placed particular emphasis on international cooperation to deprive criminals of their **proceeds of crime** (para. 24-25, 68-72), the **disruption of illicit financial flows** (para. 55), the recovery and return of assets (para. 68-71) which can contribute to mobilizing additional financial resources for developing countries (**targets 16.4, 17.3**) to support the 2030 Agenda. The Commission has also addressed proceeds of crime under an international cooperation in criminal matters perspective (resolutions [A/RES/76/185](#) and [30/1](#), among others).

V. Follow-up actions and measures being undertaken by your intergovernmental / expert body to support implementation of the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration and the outcomes of the 2024 Summit of the Future, to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

In both the Political Declaration of the 2023 SDG Summit and the 2024 Pact for the Future, Member States reaffirmed the need to build **peaceful, just and inclusive societies** for sustainable development, provide **access to justice for all** and build **effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels** and uphold **human rights and fundamental freedoms**. They also committed once again to combating **transnational organized crime** and related **illicit financial flows**, strengthening international cooperation and good practices on **assets return and recovery**, as well as to pursuing a future free from **terrorism** and to eliminating **all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls**.

The Commission has - at several occasions during its 33rd session - placed emphasis on **international cooperation and technical assistance** to prevent and address organized crime, corruption, terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and other forms of crime. During the thematic discussions on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration, in December 2024, Member States exchanged experience and expertise on how to foster international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice, including financial investigations and their measures to **strengthen capacity-building initiatives for investigative bodies and central authorities** and to **effectively deprive criminals of their proceeds of crime** (Chair's summary contained in E/CN.15/2025/CRP.2).

The Commission also regularly organizes **special events** dealing with issues supporting the implementation of the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration and the outcomes of the 2024 Summit of the Future, namely the special events commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the special event, held in December 2024, to launch the [2024 UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons](#).

VI. Recommendations and key messages for inclusion into the Ministerial Declaration of the 2025 HLPF

- We **express grave concern about the impact of crises on crime and urge to enhance prevention and criminal justice** actions;
- We reiterate our resolve to **intensify global efforts to prevent and address crime** by making criminal justice systems more effective, accountable, transparent, inclusive, responsive and aligned with human rights, including a gender perspective and a victim centred approach, by facilitating and strengthening international cooperation in criminal matters and by ensuring equal access to justice and application of law to all;
- We encourage Member States to **further implement, sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions** to crime prevention and criminal justice matters;
- We call on all Member States to allocate **sufficient funding in national budgets**, 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 Crime Congress ;
- We resolve to **take at the 15th United Nations Crime Congress** the opportunity to strengthen our agreements and coordination on crime prevention and criminal justice efforts and to make them more resilient to confront crises.