



# Economic and Social Council

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## Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 25 July 2013

*[on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention  
and Criminal Justice (E/2013/30 and Corr.1)]*

### **2013/38. Combating transnational organized crime and its possible links to illicit trafficking in precious metals**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Concerned* at the growing involvement of organized criminal groups, as well as the substantial increase in the volume, rate of transnational occurrence and range of criminal offences related to illicit trafficking in precious metals<sup>1</sup> in some parts of the world,

*Alarmed* at the potential use of illicit trafficking in precious metals as a source for funding organized crime,

*Noting* that illicit trafficking in precious metals may represent a significant revenue base for organized criminal groups and thus has the potential to expand criminal enterprises, facilitate corruption and undermine the rule of law through the corruption of law enforcement and judicial officials,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 66/181 of 19 December 2011, entitled “Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity”, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the importance of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,<sup>2</sup>

*Stressing* the need to promote universal adherence to and full implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto and relevant international instruments, as well as the importance of additional cooperation between Member States and private sector entities, as appropriate, to counter transnational organized crime, as identified in various reports of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

*Underlining* the need to develop comprehensive, multifaceted and coherent strategies and measures, including both reactive and preventive measures, to counter illicit trafficking in precious metals,

<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of the present resolution, without prejudice to other accepted definitions or work in this area, precious metals include gold, silver, platinum, iridium, palladium, rhodium, ruthenium and osmium.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.



*Emphasizing* that all States have a shared responsibility to take steps to counter transnational organized crime, including through international cooperation and in cooperation with relevant entities such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

*Convinced* of the importance of partnerships and synergies between Member States, civil society and the private sector, in particular in developing their respective strategies and measures,

*Recalling* the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in crime prevention and criminal justice responses to transnational organized crime and, in particular, illicit trafficking in precious metals, as well as the role of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute,

*Recalling also* its resolution 2012/19 of 26 July 2012, entitled “Strengthening international cooperation in combating transnational organized crime in all its forms and manifestations”, and Commission resolution 19/1 of 21 May 2010, entitled “Strengthening public-private partnerships to counter crime in all its forms and manifestations”,<sup>3</sup> in which the importance of further developing public-private partnerships was stressed, and taking into account the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World,<sup>4</sup> in which Member States recognized the importance of strengthening public-private partnerships in preventing and countering crime in all its forms and manifestations,

*Mindful* of the need for further research into the links that may exist, in some cases, between illicit trafficking in precious metals and transnational organized crime, as well as ways and means of cooperation to address the issue,

1. *Encourages* Member States to take appropriate measures to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in precious metals by organized criminal groups, including, where appropriate, the adoption and effective implementation of the necessary legislation for the prevention, investigation and prosecution of illicit trafficking in precious metals;

2. *Invites* Member States to consider utilizing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime<sup>5</sup> in combating transnational organized crime and its possible links to illicit trafficking in precious metals;

3. *Calls upon* Member States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Convention;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to invite Member States and interested international organizations, including regional organizations, to share their experiences with other Member States and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the possible gaps and vulnerabilities faced in tackling transnational organized crime and its possible links to illicit trafficking in precious metals;

5. *Invites* the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to conduct a comprehensive study on the possible links between transnational organized crime, other criminal activities and illicit trafficking in precious metals;

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<sup>3</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 10 (E/2010/30)*, chap. I, sect. D.

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution 65/230, annex.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

6. *Invites* Member States and relevant institutions to provide the Institute with examples of relevant national, regional and international laws, regulatory standards, best practices, case studies and other materials consistent with the study, such as on money-laundering and import and export controls, for its consideration;

7. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*47th plenary meeting  
25 July 2013*

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