



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION
ON CRIME PREVENTION AND
CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

MANDATES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) was established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), in its resolution 1992/1, as one of its functional commissions, upon the request of General Assembly resolution 46/152. The Commission acts as the **principal policymaking body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice**. ECOSOC provided for CCPCJ mandates and priorities in resolution 1992/22, which includes the following:

- International action to combat national and transnational crime, such as organized crime, economic crime and money-laundering
- Promoting the role of criminal law in protecting the environment
- Crime prevention in urban areas, including juvenile crime and violence
- Improving the efficiency and fairness of criminal justice administration systems

CCPCJ also offers Member States a forum for exchanging expertise, experience and information in order to develop national and international strategies, and to identify priorities for combating crime.

It also acts as preparatory body and as implementing body for the quinquennial **United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**.

In 2006, the General Assembly adopted resolution 61/252, which further expanded the mandates of CCPCJ to enable it to function as a **governing body of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**, and to approve the budget of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, which provides resources for technical assistance in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice worldwide.

In addition to its **annual regular meeting**, CCPCJ convenes **intersessional meetings**. Towards the end of each year, CCPCJ meets at a **reconvened session** to consider budgetary and administrative matters, and other matters as required, as the governing body of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme.

CCPCJ may, in consultation with the Secretariat acting on behalf of the Secretary-General, set up **committees or working groups** composed of members of the Commission as are deemed necessary and refer to them any questions on the agenda for study and report.

The Commission maintains close links with the research institutes belonging to the **United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network (PNI)**. The network has been developed to assist the international community in strengthening cooperation in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice. Its members provide a variety of services, including exchange of information, research, training and public education.

MEMBERSHIP AND BUREAU OF THE COMMISSION

CCPCJ is composed of **40 Member States** elected by ECOSOC for a period of three years. The distribution of seats among the regional groups is as follows: 12 for African States, 9 for Asian States, 8 for Latin American and Caribbean States, 4 for Eastern European States and 7 for Western European and other States.

The **Bureau** of the Commission is composed of the Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and one Rapporteur. The **Extended Bureau** also includes the Chairpersons of the five regional groups, the Chair of the Group of 77 and China, and the representative of the State holding the presidency of the European Union.

THE COMMISSION WITHIN THE BROADER UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

The Commission coordinates with other United Nations bodies that have specific mandates in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice. CCPCJ actively contributes to the implementation of the 2030 **Sustainable Development Agenda**, as sustainable development and the rule of law are strongly interrelated and mutually reinforcing,

Sustainable Development Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) is of particular relevance to its work, as most targets of the Goal are directly linked to topics under the purview of CCPCJ, from addressing violence against women and children, to the rule of law and justice for all, the reduction of illicit financial and arms flows derived from criminal activity, fighting corruption and terrorism as well as supporting good governance. **Other Goals** are relevant as well including, but not limited to, Goal 4 on quality education, Goal 5 on gender equality, Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities, Goal 14 on life below water, Goal 15 on life on land and Goal 17 on partnerships for the goals.

CCPCJ is one of nine functional commissions of ECOSOC. The reports of the Commission, adopted at the end of its sessions, are considered by ECOSOC. The reports include resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission, some of which may be for adoption by ECOSOC or for recommendation by ECOSOC for adoption by the General Assembly.

The thematic areas covered by CCPCJ are also dealt with by the **General Assembly**, in particular its Third Committee, which deals with Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs. For consideration by the General Assembly, a number of pre-session documents are prepared, including the annual “Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the mandates of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, with particular reference to the technical cooperation activities of UNODC”. The General Assembly also considers specific resolutions and decisions that, upon the request of CCPCJ, were recommended by ECOSOC for adoption by the General Assembly.

UNITED NATIONS CONGRESSES ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Since 1955 the United Nations congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice have been held **every five years** in different parts of the world and have contributed to shaping international and domestic policies.

As mentioned above, CCPCJ acts as the **preparatory and implementing body to the quinquennial United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**. The United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as **advisory body to CCPCJ**, have made a considerable impact in the field of international crime prevention and criminal justice, and have influenced national policies and professional practices. As a **global forum**, the United Nations Crime Congresses enable **the exchange of information and best practices**, as they bring together policymakers and practitioners, as well as parliamentarians, individual experts from academia and representatives from civil society. Their goal is **to promote more effective crime prevention policies and criminal justice measures** all over the world.

Since 2005, **each Crime Congress** has included a **high-level segment** in which States are represented at the highest possible level and **each Crime Congress** adopts a **single declaration** submitted for approval to CCPCJ, and subsequently transmitted by CCPCJ through ECOSOC for endorsement by the General Assembly. **CCPCJ implements the outcome of the Congress** through decisions and resolutions, several of which are recommended for approval by ECOSOC or, through ECOSOC, for adoption by the General Assembly.

More information on the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice can be obtained from the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies.

Further information is available at:

ccpcj.unodc.org

unodc.org/hlr

crimecongress.org



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