



**CCPCJ THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS ON THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE KYOTO DECLARATION  
AUTUMN 2021  
10-12 NOVEMBER 2021**

**BACKGROUND PAPER**



**UNODC**  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime  
Secretariat to the Governing Bodies

## INTRODUCTION

On 7 March 2021, the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice adopted by consensus the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". In the Kyoto Declaration, Member States expressed the endeavour to take actions to advance crime prevention (pillar I, para. 21-30), advance the criminal justice system (pillar II, para. 31-47), promote the rule of law (pillar III, para. 48-59) and promote international cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime (pillar IV, para. 60-95). In para. 96, they called upon the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to adopt the appropriate policy and operational measures for the follow-up to the Declaration and to identify innovative ways to make use of information on progress made in the implementation of the Declaration, and invited the Commission to engage with other relevant stakeholders, including the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, in order to strengthen global partnership in advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

During its thirtieth regular session in May 2021, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice adopted by consensus a resolution entitled "Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice", through which the Commission approved the Kyoto Declaration and recommended, through the Economic and Social Council,<sup>1</sup> its endorsement by the General Assembly. Member States requested, inter alia, in para. 11 of the resolution that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, hold intersessional thematic discussions, working in close consultation with Member States on a workplan, to effectively follow up on the Kyoto Declaration through the sharing of information, good practices and lessons learned, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

On 23 July 2021, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice adopted by silence procedure a multi-year workplan for the mentioned thematic discussions. The workplan follows the four pillars of the Kyoto Declaration.

The first thematic discussion will be held on 10-12 November 2021 in a hybrid format, to ensure also the participation of experts who are not in a position to join the meeting in person. It will focus on pillar I of the Kyoto Declaration, "Advancing Crime Prevention", and, as proposed in the organizational arrangements for the thematic discussion circulated on 23 August 2021, be clustered in three meeting days:

### Day 1: 10 November 2021

- Addressing the causes, including the root causes, of crime
- Evidence-based crime prevention
- Tailor-made crime prevention strategies

### Day 2: 11 November 2021

- Addressing the economic dimension of crime

### Day 3: 12 November 2021

- Mainstreaming a gender perspective into crime prevention
- Children and youth in crime prevention
- Youth empowerment for crime prevention

The Secretariat has prepared this note aiming to provide background information with a view to facilitate a dialogue during the Commission's thematic sessions. The note reflects findings relating to Pillar I, "Advancing Crime Prevention", as contained in relevant UNODC research publications and the documentation of the Fourteenth Crime Congress and, contributions provided by the UNODC substantive Branches and Sections, as well as some discussion questions (not a comprehensive list).

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<sup>1</sup> E/RES/2021/20.

# **10 NOVEMBER 2021 – THEMATIC SESSION 1: ADDRESSING THE CAUSES, INCLUDING THE ROOT CAUSES OF CRIME; ENHANCING EVIDENCE-BASED CRIME PREVENTION AND PROMOTING TAILOR-MADE CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGIES**

## **IN THE KYOTO DECLARATION, MEMBER STATES ENDEAVOURED TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS TO ADVANCE CRIME PREVENTION:**

### **Addressing the causes, including the root causes, of crime**

21. Develop, implement and evaluate crime prevention strategies, including their effectiveness, that address the causes, including the root causes, and risk factors that make different segments of society more vulnerable to crime, and share best practices to strengthen our capacity;

### **Evidence-based crime prevention**

22. Enhance 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 evaluate the effectiveness of such strategies;

23. Improve the quality and availability of data on crime trends, considering the development of statistical indicators, and share such data, on a voluntary basis, to strengthen our capacity to better understand global crime trends and improve the effectiveness of strategies to prevent and combat crime;

### **Tailor-made crime prevention strategies**

26. Promote tailor-made crime prevention strategies that take into account local con-texts, including by fostering among the general public a culture of lawfulness, cognizant of cultural diversity, based on respect for the rule of law, in order to, inter alia, advance cooperation among stakeholders and the police, promote positive conflict resolution, as well as community-oriented policing in accordance with national legislation, and prevent gang-related and urban crime and all forms of organized crime.

## **BACKGROUND**

Three of the Sustainable Development Goals make the case for effective crime prevention strategies, namely Goal 5, on eliminating discrimination and violence against women and girls; Goal 11, on making human settlements safe and inclusive; and Goal 16, on reducing crime and violence. Crime is often considered a major impediment to economic growth and development, and lack of economic growth in connection with high economic and social inequality tends to increase levels of crime and violence. During the proceedings of the 14<sup>th</sup> United Nations Congress, many speakers noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had increased economic challenges and inequalities, while creating opportunities for crime, including organized crime. Moreover, it was mentioned that the pandemic had brought issues of social injustice and systemic racism to the fore.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> A/CONF.234/16, para. 65.

In the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime,<sup>3</sup> the international community agreed that policies and programmes needed to be based on a broad multidisciplinary foundation of knowledge, together with evidence regarding specific crime problems, their causes, and proven practices. Other United Nations standards and norms on crime prevention also support the importance of a solid knowledge base, such as the United Nations Guidelines for Cooperation and Technical Assistance in the Field of Urban Crime Prevention,<sup>4</sup> the Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines)<sup>5</sup> and the Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements.<sup>6</sup>

Prevention is key to bring down crime rates and lower costs associated with the criminal justice system. In line with the aforementioned standards, efforts therefore need to focus on balancing traditional criminal justice responses with policies and programmes that 1) promote the well-being of people and communities through social, economic and educational measures; 2) change conditions in neighbourhoods that influence offending; and 3) support the social reintegration of offenders.

Different types of data form the basis of quantitative and qualitative knowledge that policy-makers can survey to identify effective interventions and measure their impact. Among them are data on detected and reported crime, data generated through crime victimization surveys, data generated through tools that quantify crimes that are not reported to authorities, geospatial information systems and citizen-driven data collection systems as well as social scientific evaluations to understand what works to prevent crime.

COVID-19 has brought challenges in maintaining coverage and continuity of national crime statistical systems, as well as other statistical systems, but it has also brought the opportunity to modernize.<sup>7</sup> National systems for criminal justice statistics can be strengthened through the use of common statistical frameworks, such as the *International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes*. Also, there are a number of recognized methodologies and tools that can help, such as the UNDESA Manual for the Development of a System of Criminal Justice Statistics,<sup>8</sup> the UNODC/UNECE Manual on Victimization Surveys,<sup>9</sup> the UNODC/UNICEF Manual for the Measurement of Juvenile Justice Indicators<sup>10</sup>, the UNODC/UNDP Manual on Corruption Surveys,<sup>11</sup> and methods to implement local safety audits.<sup>12</sup> In addition, online tools and databases provide information on the effectiveness of crime prevention programmes and initiatives.<sup>13</sup>

Further analytical tools such as regional organized crime threat assessments as well as crime prevention and criminal justice assessments can support policymakers in developing effective crime prevention policies and strategies. They are complemented by innovative analytical tools that allow understanding those aspects of crime that are difficult to capture, such as the hidden part of crime or illicit financial flows. Cost-benefit analyses and impact studies are key in determining whether programmes warrant implementation and investment. Adequately implemented evaluations provide insight not only with regard to what works, but also why it works and how a policy can be successfully implemented in various contexts.<sup>14</sup> The UNODC Organized Crime Strategy Toolkit for Developing High-Impact Strategies<sup>15</sup> offers

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<sup>3</sup> ECOSOC resolution 2002/13, annex.

<sup>4</sup> Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/9, annex.

<sup>5</sup> General Assembly resolution 45/112, annex.

<sup>6</sup> [https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/03/un\\_systemwide\\_guidelines\\_on\\_safer\\_cities\\_and\\_human\\_settlements.pdf](https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/03/un_systemwide_guidelines_on_safer_cities_and_human_settlements.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> A/CONF.234/15, para. 29.

<sup>8</sup> [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/SeriesF/SeriesF\\_89E.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/SeriesF/SeriesF_89E.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Crime-statistics/Manual\\_on\\_Victimization\\_surveys\\_2009\\_web.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Crime-statistics/Manual_on_Victimization_surveys_2009_web.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/pdf/criminal\\_justice/Manual\\_for\\_the\\_Measurement\\_of\\_Juvenile\\_Justice\\_Indicators.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/pdf/criminal_justice/Manual_for_the_Measurement_of_Juvenile_Justice_Indicators.pdf).

<sup>11</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Crime-statistics/CorruptionManual\\_2018\\_web.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Crime-statistics/CorruptionManual_2018_web.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> EFUS, ICPC, Guidance on Local Safety Audits. A Compendium of International Practice (EFUS, 2007).

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/cpcj-crime-prevention-resources.html>

<sup>14</sup> A/CONF.234/8, 62 i) and 42-49.

<sup>15</sup> To be published later in 2021.

a set of objectives and measures, including on prevention, that States are advised to consider in the formulation of integrated strategies against organized crime, in line with the Organized Crime Convention.

In recent years there has been a greater awareness of the need to tailor and adapt prevention strategies to the context of individual countries and regions, taking into account their economic and social circumstances, level of development, as well as their political history. Increasing attention has been paid to local interventions and the prevention of urban crime, recognizing the impact of social exclusion and marginalization has on crime and violence in specific neighbourhoods.

With regard to the areas addressed in this section, UNODC supports Member States, inter alia, by:

- Assisting States in strengthening their data collection, research, and forensics for evidence-based prevention
- Helping States step up their monitoring and independent evaluation capacities to measure their interventions, including in crime prevention
- Promoting interventions based on knowledge gained through the collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data on crime and victimization
- Supporting the development of knowledge-based policies and programmes at the local level, inter alia, through participatory safety audits and the assessment of community-based crime prevention efforts
- Supporting countries in implementing police reform programmes that aim to promote human-rights based problem- and community-oriented policing practices
- Developing holistic, integrated strategies and interventions to reduce crime and violence at the city level, based on the commitments made by Member States in the New Urban Agenda to engage local communities in developing urban strategies and initiatives
- Assisting States in development of high-impact strategies to prevent and combat organized crime
- Promoting non-traditional interventions at the community level, for example through sport or arts, and leading people-centered interventions to strengthen community resilience to crime and build safer spaces that promote dialogue on topics such as domestic violence, non-violent communication as well as conflict resolution and a culture of lawfulness.
- Facilitating partnerships with non-governmental stakeholders such as Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), academics and the private sector to find holistic solutions to crimes that affect communities.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Possible questions for discussion include:

- Which efforts has your country made to develop, implement and evaluate prevention strategies that address the causes, including the root causes, and risk factors that make different segments of society more vulnerable to crime? Can your country share best practices in this regard?
- Which impact did the COVID-19 pandemic have on crime and its causes in your country?
- Has your country been successful in enhancing evidence-based crime prevention strategies through the collection and analysis of data?
- Which standards and tools has your country used to improve the quality and availability of data on crime trends? For example, is your country producing data on crime and the operations of the criminal justice system according to the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS)?

Is your country conducting victimisation surveys to assess the extent of crime (including unreported and/or undetected criminal offences) and collect information on victims and perpetrators of crime to better understand root causes of crime and identify different segments of society more vulnerable to crime? Has your country developed statistical indicators? Has your country shared such data?

- Which impact did the COVID-19 pandemic have on gathering evidence and developing and implementing and prevention strategies in your country?
- Have you gathered helpful insights for successful prevention strategies by evaluating the effectiveness of crime prevention strategies?
- Does your country have experience with tailor-made prevention strategies, and if yes, how have you ensured that local contexts, cultural diversity and respect for the rule of law be taken into account? What have been your experiences with scaling-up small-scale evidence-based prevention programmes? Is your country conducting community safety audits?
- How have you ensured cooperation among stakeholders and the police and have you promoted positive conflict resolution? What have been the experiences in your country with implementing problem- and community-oriented policing in the context of crime prevention?
- Which strategic principles does your country apply in strategies to prevent and combat organized crime? What are the effective components in effective prevention of organized crime in your country? Can you share examples of strategies or programmes that have successfully prevented gang-related and urban crime?

## 11 NOVEMBER 2021 – THEMATIC SESSION 2: ADDRESSING THE ECONOMIC DIMENSION OF CRIME

### **IN THE KYOTO DECLARATION, MEMBER STATES ENDEAVOURED TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS TO ADVANCE CRIME PREVENTION**

#### **Addressing the economic dimension of crime**

24. Develop and implement effective measures to address the economic dimension of crime and deprive criminals and criminal organizations of any illicit gains through, inter alia, identifying, tracing, seizing, confiscating, recovering and returning proceeds of crime, as well as establishing robust domestic frameworks for financial investigations, and to develop strategies to prevent and combat money-laundering and illicit financial flows;

25. Consider, review and implement efficient measures to regulate the management of seized and confiscated proceeds of crime, bearing in mind the study prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on effective management and disposal of seized and confiscated assets,<sup>16</sup> with a view to efficiently preserving and managing such proceeds of crime.

### **BACKGROUND**

Depriving criminals and criminal organizations of their illicit gains, denying safe havens and ensuring that crime does not pay belong to the key goals of the international framework on crime prevention and organized crime.

The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988) contains detailed international obligations on the identification, tracing, freezing, seizure and confiscation of proceeds of drug-related crime; international cooperation for the purposes of seizure and confiscation and the final disposal of confiscated assets.<sup>17</sup> The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000) contains nearly identical provisions,<sup>18</sup> with a notable addition of a provision that obliges States parties to give priority consideration to returning the confiscated proceeds of crime or property to the requesting State party so that it can give compensation to the victims of the crime or return such proceeds of crime or property to their legitimate owners. Three years later, the United Nations Convention against Corruption (2003) contained mostly identical provisions and complemented them with the new chapter V of the Convention on asset recovery.<sup>19</sup> These instruments are complemented by a number of regional conventions (such as the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and the Inter-American Convention against Corruption) and the work of the Financial Action Task Force.

A number of challenges, good practices and success factors have been identified regarding the prevention of money-laundering, financial investigations, identification and tracing of assets, seizure and freezing, confiscation or forfeiture,<sup>20</sup> and the final disposal of assets.<sup>21</sup> International cooperation plays a major role in this regard, both informal information-sharing and formal mutual legal assistance.

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<sup>16</sup> Effective Management and Disposal of Seized and Confiscated Assets (Vienna, 2017).

<sup>17</sup> Art. 5 and 7.

<sup>18</sup> Art. 12-14.

<sup>19</sup> Art. 31, 51-59.

<sup>20</sup> On terminology see art. 1 (e) 1988 Convention and the Commentary to the Convention, para 1.9.

<sup>21</sup> See UNODC, Manual on International Cooperation for the Purposes of Confiscation of Proceeds of Crime, 2012; Kevin Stephenson et al., Barriers to Asset Recovery, An Analysis of the Key Barriers and Recommendations for Action, StAR Initiative, 2011. See also preliminary findings of a study conducted by the StAR Initiative on the recovery of proceeds of corruption, reported in document CAC/COSP/WG.2/2020/4.

The Kyoto Declaration makes particular reference to the UNODC study on effective management and disposal of seized and confiscated assets, which presents the experience of 64 countries on the management and disposal of seized and confiscated assets. It captures experience from all geographical regions, different legal systems and countries of different levels of development. Among the trends emerged during the study, the following areas were identified that would lend themselves to further discussion on good practices:

With regard to the administration of assets prior to a final confiscation judgment:

- The possibility of non-judicial authorities issuing urgent freezing orders
- Flexible legislation offering a choice between freezing and seizure orders and providing wide discretion to tailor appropriate orders to a specific case
- Dedicating sufficient capacity to pre-seizure planning, particularly to evaluate the costs and risks of restraining assets
- Freezing orders that leave the asset under control of the owner and pose restrictions on its use
- Pre-confiscation (or anticipated) sale with the consent of the owner and that of the agency responsible for enforcing the seizure order
- Pre-confiscation (or anticipated) sale without the consent of the owner in defined circumstances
- Mechanisms for the protection of third parties during the interim order.<sup>22</sup>

With regard to the enforcement of confiscation orders and the disposal of confiscated assets:

- Especially in value-based confiscation, legislation that provides for realization measures that go beyond civil collection
- For object-based confiscation, legislation or guidelines that establish criteria to use to decide whether to retain or sell an asset
- Articulation in the legislation expressing the fundamental policy choice for the disposal of confiscated assets: allocating them to the national revenue fund or to specific programmes or a special fund
- If proceeds of confiscation orders are to be paid into a special fund: adoption of specific rules for its use, infrastructure, management, oversight, transparency and auditing requirements
- If confiscated proceeds are used for law enforcement projects: adoption of tight controls and clear policies to avoid direct links between seized assets and rewards provided to law enforcement, to avoid negative incentives
- If confiscated proceeds are applied for social reuse in affected communities: establishment of infrastructure to support, monitor and account for such projects
- Priorities for the use of confiscated assets include funding the asset recovery office, compensating victims and social reuse.

The following areas were identified in the study for further discussion:

- The use of private sector players (court-appointed asset managers or subcontractors)
- Systems that allow asset recovery offices and asset management offices to achieve self-funded status
- Electronic databases to improve information management on restrained and confiscated property.

With regard to the areas addressed in this section, UNODC supports Member States, inter alia, by

- Assisting them in the full implementation of the relevant international framework contained in the 1988 Convention, UNTOC and UNCAC and the relevant international standards on money-laundering, as well as by supporting the participation of States Parties in the respective Implementation Review Mechanisms

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<sup>22</sup> No common trend emerged on the pre-confiscation (or interim) use of an asset.



- Providing legal, policy, institutional and operational assistance for effective financial investigations, and for the development of strategies to prevent and combat money-laundering and illicit financial flows
- Assisting in the development of the legal and institutional framework for efficient management of seized and confiscated assets. In particular, based on the request of the Conference of States Parties to UNCAC in its resolution 7/1, UNODC has developed the Draft non-binding guidelines on the management of frozen, seized and confiscated assets that build on the UNODC study on effective management and disposal of seized and confiscated assets and incorporates additional comments received from the States Parties to UNCAC.<sup>23</sup>
- Supporting and cooperating with informal asset confiscation networks, including those following the model of the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network (CARIN) (ARIN-AP, ARIN-CARIB, ARIN-EA, ARIN-SA, ARIN-WA, ARIN-WCA and RRAG)
- Offering fact-based analysis and proposals on the strategy and methods to recover assets; assisting countries in developing the legal framework, institutional expertise, and skills necessary to recover stolen assets; and offering practical advice on the strategy and management of asset recovery cases, all through the joint UNODC/World Bank Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Possible questions for discussion include:

- Which are the main challenges for your country when addressing the economic dimension of crime and deprive criminals and criminal organizations of any illicit gains through inter alia, identifying, tracing, seizing, confiscating, recovering and returning proceeds of crime?
- Has your country taken steps towards a more robust domestic framework for financial investigations?
- Has your country developed strategies to prevent and combat money-laundering and illicit financial flows?
- What have been successful legislative and practical tools to regulate and improve the efficient and effective management of seized and confiscated proceeds of crime?
- Can you share further experience in any of the areas that were identified for a discussion on good practices in the study prepared by UNODC entitled “Effective Management and Disposal of Seized and Confiscated Assets” (Vienna, 2017)?
- Are you familiar with the Draft non-binding guidelines on the management of frozen, seized and confiscated assets, developed by UNODC?
- Which impact did the COVID-19 pandemic have on addressing the economic dimension of crime?
- Has your country successfully relied on informal asset confiscation networks and other regional and international cooperation mechanisms?

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<sup>23</sup> The last version of the Draft non-binding guidelines is available at [https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/COSP/session8/CAC\\_COSP\\_2019\\_16\\_E.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/COSP/session8/CAC_COSP_2019_16_E.pdf)

## **12 NOVEMBER 2021 – THEMATIC SESSION 3: MAINSTREAMING A GENDER PERSPECTIVE INTO CRIME PREVENTION; ADDRESSING THE NEEDS AND PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN CRIME PREVENTION; AND EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR CRIME PREVENTION**

### **IN THE KYOTO DECLARATION, MEMBER STATES ENDEAVOURED TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS TO ADVANCE CRIME PREVENTION:**

#### **Mainstreaming a gender perspective into crime prevention**

27. Mainstream a gender perspective into crime prevention policies, programmes, legislation and other actions to, inter alia, prevent all forms of gender-related violence, crime and victimization, including gender-related killings, by undertaking an analysis of gender-related specific needs and circumstances, as well as by soliciting contributions from impacted groups;

28. Prevent and counter domestic violence, and to that end, take effective measures within our domestic legislation, such as ensuring appropriate handling of cases, coordinating the role of welfare and criminal justice institutions and providing a safe environment for victims;

#### **Children and youth in crime prevention**

29. Address the needs and protect the rights of children and youth, with due consideration to their vulnerabilities, to ensure their protection from all forms of crime, violence, abuse and exploitation both online and offline, such as sexual abuse and exploitation of children and trafficking in persons, noting the particular vulnerabilities of children in the context of smuggling of migrants, as well as recruitment by organized criminal groups including gangs, as well as by terrorist groups;

#### **Youth empowerment for crime prevention**

30. Empower youth to become active agents of positive change in their communities to support crime prevention efforts, including by organizing social, educational, cultural, recreational, sports-related youth programmes and youth forums, as well as by using social media platforms and applications and other digital tools to amplify their voice.

### **BACKGROUND**

Violence against women and girls is an alarmingly widespread crime throughout the world, occurring regardless of development context. Studies show that one in three women worldwide has experienced physical or sexual violence – mostly from an intimate partner.<sup>24</sup> Violence against women is a particularly insidious crime as, despite its ubiquitous occurrence, it is often unreported, undocumented, unprosecuted and, worst of it all, still condoned in many societies. Risk factors related to violence against women at the community level include inter alia harmful gender norms that uphold male privilege and limit women's autonomy, as well as high levels of poverty and unemployment and the availability of drugs, alcohol and weapons.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> World Health Organization, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and South African Medical Research Council, Global and Regional Estimates of Violence against Women: Prevalence and Health Effects of Intimate Partner Violence and Non-partner Sexual Violence (Geneva, 2013).

<sup>25</sup> A/CONF.234/5, para. 7 and 45.

In order to ensure effective action, women, especially young women, should be fully involved in discussions on the development and implementation of crime prevention policies and programmes. Moreover, the training of law enforcement personnel and staff of various public services on gender-related topics in their area of responsibility is key for prevention efforts.<sup>26</sup>

In line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>27</sup> and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,<sup>28</sup> UNODC, together with UN-Women and the World Health Organization, has developed the framework entitled “RESPECT Women: Preventing violence against women”. The framework guides policymakers and practitioners in designing, planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating relevant interventions, comprising seven strategies: relationship skills strengthened; empowerment of women; services ensured; poverty reduced; environments made safe; child and adolescent abuse prevented; and transformed attitudes, beliefs and norms.<sup>29</sup>

Preventing and responding to violence against children is another significant challenge faced by national criminal justice systems. Certain forms of violence, such as trafficking in persons, affect both women and children alike. Violence affects millions of children all over the world; it is a major threat to sustainable development, and the crucial role of children in the construction of peace, justice and robust institutions, and thus in global development, is emphasized in the 2030 Agenda. The COVID-19 health crisis and lockdown measures have exacerbated the vulnerability of many children, creating the need for a child rights-compliant and multisectoral response to COVID-19, involving Governments, the international community, civil society, the private sector, workers’ organizations and leaders in every sector.<sup>30</sup> One form of violence against children that has received specific attention from the international community in recent years is the recruitment and exploitation of children by terrorist and violent extremist groups.<sup>31</sup>

Another form of violence of increasing concern is online child sexual exploitation and child trafficking with the use of information and communications technology. The COVID-19 pandemic has acted as a catalyst in that regard due to the increased use of the Internet and in particular social networks by children, who have become exposed to risks of recruitment and exploitation in trafficking cases, for example, through online video gaming sites.<sup>32</sup> Furthermore, school-age children are being proactively targeted by online sex offenders. This includes offenders seeking to groom and sextort individual children, through to broader infiltration in online classes.<sup>33</sup>

The Global Partnership to End Violence against Children comprises United Nations agencies, Member States, civil society and the private sector. Under its umbrella, WHO, UNICEF, UNODC and other members produced the “INSPIRE Technical Package” which comprises, inter alia, the Seven Strategies for Ending Violence against Children: implementation and enforcement of laws; norms and values; safe environments; parent and caregiver support; income and economic strengthening; response and support services; and education and life skills.<sup>34</sup>

Young people are more likely than people in other age groups to be involved in criminal activities, either as perpetrators or victims, which is why effective crime prevention can benefit from the engagement of youth. On the other hand, they are also increasingly interested in promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels, particularly in their communities.<sup>35</sup> Policymakers and practitioners should meaningfully engage youth in the design and implementation of specific crime prevention and criminal justice policies and programmes. The involvement of young people in policy and programme

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<sup>26</sup> A/CONF.234/4, para. 45.

<sup>27</sup> General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

<sup>28</sup> General Assembly resolution 48/104.

<sup>29</sup> RESPECT women: Preventing violence against women. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2019 (WHO/RHR/18.19).

<sup>30</sup> A/CONF.234/15, para. 38-40.

<sup>31</sup> UNODC Handbook on Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups: The Role of the Justice System and related training manuals, and Roadmap on the treatment of children associated with terrorist and violent extremist groups.

<sup>32</sup> UNODC, Background paper for the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons on “Successful strategies for addressing the use of technology to facilitate trafficking in persons and to prevent and investigate trafficking in persons”, CTOC/COP/WG.4/2021/2, 23 July 2021,

<sup>33</sup> UNODC (2020), Cybercrime and Covid: Risks and responses.

<sup>34</sup> INSPIRE Handbook: action for implementing the seven strategies. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2018.

<sup>35</sup> A/CONF.234/10, para. 14.

development is not only a right as included in the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>36</sup> it is also addressed in international legal instruments on organized crime and corruption.<sup>37</sup> Also the Security Council has addressed it as a means to prevent violence.<sup>38</sup> In the Declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, Member States committed to meaningfully engage youth.<sup>39</sup> The Secretary-General's Report on "Our Common Agenda" also calls for extensive efforts to be made in creating inclusive governance in all areas.<sup>40</sup>

In the recommendations brought to the attention of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Kyoto Congress) by the Kyoto Youth Forum, held in Kyoto, Japan, on 27-28 February 2021, young people from around the world stated: "We recommend that youth shall act as the catalyst for change and be the starting engine of this process, encouraging teachers and other notable individuals to change negative behaviours, acquire knowledge and to become better-informed citizens."<sup>41</sup>

With a view to translating the Kyoto Declaration into action, the CCPCJ, at its 30th session, adopted a resolution entitled "Integrating sport into youth crime prevention and criminal justice strategies", recommended by the Economic and Social Council<sup>42</sup> for adoption by the General Assembly.

With regard to the areas addressed in this section, UNODC supports Member States, inter alia, by:

- Providing advisory services to States seeking to fully implement United Nations standards and norms on preventing gender-based violence and violence against children, including trafficking in women and children, and assisting States in designing, planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating relevant interventions
- Supporting holistic preventive approaches and (early) prevention initiatives for the healthy development of children and young people, working with individuals, families, schools and communities, inter alia, by supporting parenting skills
- Providing Member States with background information, data and integral assistance from detecting to supporting the identification of victims of all forms of online crime, violence, abuse and exploitation of children
- Helping to protect children from violence committed by terrorist and violent extremist groups, including children affected by the foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon
- Supporting young people's access to quality education and skills training, including non-formal education; protecting and promoting the rights of young people; supporting their civic and political engagement; supporting the meaningful engagement of youth in national, regional and international youth fora aimed at discussing crime prevention and criminal justice issues, e.g. the establishment of a permanent Youth Forum on a Culture of Lawfulness to be launched in October 2021 as part of the programmatic follow-up to the Kyoto Declaration; and developing educational material to promote a culture of lawfulness;
- Advocating for the inclusion of children and youth in policy and programme development and implementation in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice;

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<sup>36</sup> See, for example, article 25, paragraph (a), of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

<sup>37</sup> UNTOC, art. 31; UNCAC, art. 13.

<sup>38</sup> S/RES/2250(2015) and S/RES/2419(2018).

<sup>39</sup> A/RES/75/1, para. 17

<sup>40</sup> Our Common Agenda. Report by the Secretary-General, para. 45-47.

<sup>41</sup> A/CONF.234/CRP.10, recommendation 12.

<sup>42</sup> E/RES/2021/22.

- Supporting the involvement of youth in intergovernmental processes in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice;
- Using sport as a tool for strengthening the resilience of at-risk youth.
- Providing capacity building programmes for youth and youth-led Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to address crime.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Possible questions for discussion include:

- Has your country made experience with mainstreaming a gender perspective into crime prevention policies, programmes, legislation and other relevant actions to, inter alia, prevent all forms of gender-related violence, crime and victimization, including gender related killings?
- Can you share experiences with analyses of gender-related specific needs and circumstances and soliciting contributions from impacted groups?
- Has your country had experience in preventing and addressing gender-related violence in cyber space?
- Which measures, including legislative reforms, have proven effective to prevent and counter domestic violence, related to issues such as the appropriate handling of cases, coordinating the role of welfare and criminal justice institutions and providing a safe environment for victims?
- Which impact had the COVID-19 pandemic on gender-related violence and domestic violence?
- Which interventions by the international community could help prevent the various types of crime and violence against women and children?
- How can multi-sectoral partnerships be supported to prevent violence against women and girls, inspired by the SDGs?
- Which strategies have proven successful in protecting the rights of children and youth, with due consideration to their vulnerabilities, to ensure their protection from all forms of crime, violence, abuse and exploitation both online and offline, such as sexual abuse and exploitation of children and trafficking in persons?
- Has your country adopted legislative measures or programmes to prevent and combat online child sexual abuse and exploitation? Are there any legislative steps being taken towards using the concept of “online child sexual abuse and exploitation” instead of “child pornography”?
- What can be done to empower young people to reduce gender-based violence, and how can support be increased for young people who are victims of gender-based violence?
- How can young people be empowered to become agents of positive change in their communities to support crime prevention efforts? How can young people be meaningfully involved in the planning and implementation of crime prevention and criminal justice policies and programmes, in related policy-making processes and in the conceptualization phase of any youth-related work?
- Has your country organized social, educational, cultural, recreational and sports-related youth programmes and youth forums?
- Have you used social media platforms and applications and other digital tools to amplify their voice?