

**Thematic Discussions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration**

Vienna, 10-12 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

**Statement by Dr. Gabriella Vukovich,
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First of all, I would like to thank the chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for the invitation extended to the UN Statistical Commission to participate in the CCPCJ debate.

The Statistical Commission is the primary body for the coordination of the global statistical programmes and of the United Nations statistical and data-related system.

The Statistical Commission supports national and international statistical systems and UN policy organs through the adoption of international statistical standards and the frameworks for monitoring societal, economic and environmental progress.

In the field of crime and criminal justice statistics, the UNSC helps to promote statistical evidence that can shed light not only on the actual trends and patterns of crime, but also on its drivers, its root causes and on the monitoring of state response to it.

The UNSC has a periodic discussion on the topic of crime statistics as defined by the Commission programme of work

In 2013, we examined and approved the 'Roadmap to improve the quality and availability of crime statistics at the national and international level', presented by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and INEGI, the national statistical office of Mexico, which identified specific priorities to improve statistics on crime and criminal justice and activities to address them. Among them, the development of a standard classification of crime was identified as a priority to improve quality, comparability, and consistency of data on crime both nationally and internationally.

In 2015, the Commission examined and endorsed the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS), developed under UNODC leadership through a comprehensive and expert-based consultation process.

The ICCS is more than a simple statistical classification. It is an analytical tool that describes criminal activities through many parameters to allow to capture and produce data on the several manifestations of crime and – when fully implemented by all institutions of the criminal justice system - it can provide insights on crime victims and offenders, on drivers of crime and type of state response to crime. The UN Statistical Commission has considered the ICCS as part of the International Family of Classifications, the series of international nomenclatures that is at the core of official statistical production in policy domains.

In 2019, we had another important discussion on crime statistics, and we were pleased to welcome new standards such as the [Manual on Corruption Surveys](#) – jointly developed by UNODC and UNDP - and other methodological tools to support the production of SDG indicators in the area of violence, illicit trafficking, access to justice, and corruption.

With its approval also by the CCPCJ, the ICCS has become the common tool that we have among our two commissions to improve statistical evidence on crime and criminal justice. It is inspiring to hear that the implementation of the ICCS has also been encouraged through the Kyoto declaration, the latest landmark international agreement developed by the CCPCJ. I can transmit to you the full Commitment of the UNSC to mobilize the statistical community to recognize and apply this tool as the authoritative standard in the field of crime statistics.

In March 2022 we will have at the UNSC a session dedicated to crime and criminal justice statistics and we will review, among other things, the implementation status of the ICCS at country level and a series of new methodological tools (conceptual framework to measure Illicit Financial Flows, standard statistical survey to produce data for SDG indicators under Goal 16 and statistical framework to measure gender-related killings of women and girls).

As the UN Statistical Commission, we are pleased to continue and further strengthen our partnership with the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. We will be glad to consider activities that can facilitate a regular and expert-based exchange of information between the two Commissions. Statistics are useful only if they are actually used. We need to ensure that what we produce is fully relevant to the needs of policy makers, while based on the principles of professional independence of official statistics.

For this reason, the production and dissemination of high-quality statistics should be at the heart of policy making and we – as Statistical Commission of the United Nations – have engaged repeatedly on the type of contribution that statistical systems can give, both at the national and the global level to the development of better prevention policies on crime.

As you can appreciate, official statistics is increasingly involved in the production and promotion of statistics on crime and criminal justice. A living testimony of this is also the establishment of two Centres of Excellence on crime and criminal justice statistics in partnership by UNODC and two national statistical offices:

- In 2011, INEGI (the National Statistical Office of Mexico) and UNODC established the [Centre of Excellence on Statistical information on government, crime, victimization and justice](#) in Mexico City
- In 2019, KOSTAT (the national statistical office of the Republic of Korea) and UNODC established the [Centre of Excellence on Crime and Criminal Justice statistics for Asia and the Pacific](#).

These two centres have become fundamental actors at regional and global level to promote methodological guidance and support national authorities in the production and use of better statistics on crime and criminal justice. Through the years, these centres provided training to thousands of officials, supported national authorities in the conduct of dozens of surveys on victimization and corruption, and facilitated the implementation of the ICCS in tens of countries.

Despite of all this work, we are aware that several challenges remain. In too many countries, especially in Africa and other developing countries, the production or dissemination of even basic statistics on crime and justice is still very poor in quality and availability. In the era of big data and artificial intelligence it can be very disappointing to see that in too many countries we are not yet able to know how many people fall victim of intentional homicide, how many women are killed as victims of femicide, how often is bribery affecting our societies or how many people are held in prison. Furthermore, we do not know who the victims of these crimes are, which circumstances trigger these crimes or why certain persons – especially young men – end up being involved in gangs or criminal organized groups.

We know that statistics on crime and criminal justice require the coordination among several stakeholders and we - as representatives of national agencies mandated with the production of official statistics – stand ready to provide our technical expertise and leadership in such process to harmonize and produce national data on crime.

At Global level, as UN Statistical Commission, we would be very pleased to continue and further strengthen our partnership with the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. We will be glad to consider other forms to facilitate a regular and expert-based exchange of information between the two Commissions. Statistics are useful if they are used and we need to ensure that what we produce is fully relevant to the needs of policy makers, while based on the principles of professional independence of official statistics.