

CCPCJ Thematic Discussion on Implementation of the Kyoto Declaration

Day 1 – 10 November 2021, time TBD

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

In line with the work plan adopted by the Commission in July 2021, the first thematic discussion will focus on pillar I of the Kyoto Declaration, **“Advancing Crime Prevention”**

Excellences,
Distinguished participants,
Dear colleagues,

- It is a pleasure to address you today in my capacity as OSCE Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats and to provide you with a brief overview of the OSCE current efforts in the area of crime prevention.
- It is internationally recognized that in order to sustainably combat transnational security threats, we need to treat the causes, and not just the symptoms, of criminal activities.
- Bearing this in mind, and in line with its mandate, the OSCE advocates for a comprehensive approach that combines preventive and repressive efforts to sustainably tackle all types of crime.
- The added value that the OSCE brings in this area lies in its cross-dimensional and comprehensive approach to security: Its police-related activities pertain not only to enforcing the rule of law and to promoting

effective and accountable criminal justice systems, that address the security concerns of the communities they serve. But also to economic issues as tackling corruption and money-laundering. And to ensuring respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, also fostering education as an integral part of conflict and crime prevention. Only through this comprehensive approach root causes of crime can be addressed, prevented and lasting security and stability be achieved and sustained.

- Besides its comprehensive approach to security, the OSCE's added value in crime prevention lies in its extensive field presence across the OSCE region. The OSCE's field presences have developed an expertise and a network of government and civil-society partners to customize crime prevention programmes in consultation with all relevant stakeholders. This multi-disciplinary and partnership-based approach between state institutions and other stakeholders, such as academia, civil society organization and the private sector is essential to foster local commitment ownership and sustainability of crime prevention efforts.
- I would like to use this opportunity to share some insights of our work in the prevention of transnational organized crime.
- OSCE assessments have repeatedly reiterated that organized crime comes into being for the sole purpose of acquiring financial gains. To this end, the OSCE's preventive approach against organized crime focuses on targeting criminal assets across its region. The promotion of asset recovery has a preventive and deterring effect, as it undermines the root cause and motivation of organized crime: financial profit.
- Depriving criminal groups from their assets removes the incentive of financial gain from criminal activities and thus undermines the fundamental purpose and root cause as to why organized criminal organizations come into being.
- Besides asset recovery, the OSCE also strongly promotes the social re-use of confiscated assets. Giving back to communities what has been illegally taken away from them implies a strong deterrence message that crime does not pay. Moreover, this contributes to restoring communities' confidence in the rule of law and promotes their involvement in the fight against organized crime.

- Together with the Albanian Agency for Seized and Confiscated Assets and the civil society organization ENGIM, the OSCE assisted in returning to the community in Elbasan what taken away from criminals. The OSCE supported Joscelyn Foundation in the social re-use of a confiscated building in Elbasan, converting a bar previously used for criminal activity into a craftsmanship production laboratory for traditional fabrics and carpets, offering employment opportunities to eight socio-economically disadvantaged women. This sends a strong deterrence message that crime does not pay, while also strengthening social entrepreneurship, economic development and female economic empowerment.
- Complementary to criminal justice efforts, a key pillar of the OSCE's strategy is youth crime prevention. As proven empirically, education forms a strong and sustainable tool to prevent youth crime and youth joining criminal groups and engaging in illicit activities. To this end, we focus on enhancing youth education and awareness on the threats of organized crime, fostering a culture of lawfulness and promoting resilience and leadership among future generations.
- Through a new across-OSCE youth crime prevention initiative in partnership with UNODC we will fill an important gap in the overall debate on how to prevent organized crime, corruption and drug use and increase the effectiveness of our response: the participation of youth, a better understanding of the phenomena and active engagement of civil society organizations. This gap is due to the lack of public/open opportunities for a deeper discussion on the topic, particularly among youth, and to the general tendency to consider the fight against organized crime a subject to be dealt mainly by security actors, including law enforcement agencies, judiciary, and prison administrations.
- The OSCE strongly promotes that efforts to prevent organized crime and other crimes are not only the responsibility of security actors, but also schools, universities, civil society organizations and the private sector.
- Excellences, Distinguished participants, Dear colleagues,
- Effective crime prevention requires shared commitment and ownership by the police and the public in the form of trustworthy police-public partnerships.

- To this end, in the framework of its mandate and its evidence-based prevention approach, the OSCE assists its participating States in increasing communities' trust in police and in establishing public-police partnerships, increasing the level of community participation in enhancing safety and social cohesion within communities.
- Through such community-oriented policing practices, the entire police organization, relevant government agencies and communities actively cooperate in solving problems. This concept is promoted across the OSCE region to establish strong and accountable criminal justice institutions that are well rooted in communities.
- To date, empirical evidence on the effectiveness of community-oriented policing practices in crime reduction and prevention remains scarce. This is due to the lack of international standardization in the collection of criminal data. Yet, over the past years, our field operations have observed that communities are more secure and less susceptible to crime, whenever community-oriented policing is applied and well rooted into the respective communities.
- Best case practices across the OSCE region have highlighted the effectiveness of police-public partnerships in enhancing the cohesiveness of local communities in protecting women and children from domestic violence and in preventing other criminal phenomena as drug use, human trafficking and violent extremisms and radicalization that lead to terrorism.
- On community policing, the OSCE is co-operating with UNODC on updating the OSCE Community-Policing Guidebook. This is an evidence-based guidebook that consolidates best-practices on the establishment and strengthening of police-public partnerships and trust, representing a strategic priority for police reform processes.
- We look forward to continue our collaboration with UNODC to promote community-oriented policing and evidence-based and root-causes-tailored crime prevention practices across the OSCE region. Only through this approach can we guarantee sustainability and effectiveness of our efforts.
- Thank you!