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**Commission on Crime Prevention
and Criminal Justice****Thirty-second session**

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Item 10 of the provisional agenda*

**Contributions by the Commission to the work of the
Economic and Social Council, in line with General
Assembly resolutions 75/290 A and 75/290 B,
including follow-up to and review and
implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
Development****Contributions by the Commission on Crime Prevention and
Criminal Justice to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda
for Sustainable Development, in particular in the lead up to
the SDG Summit 2023******1. Introduction**

The 2023 SDG Summit will be convened in September 2023, during the United Nations General Assembly high-level week. The Summit marks the midpoint of the implementation of the 2030 agenda. Heads of State and Government will carry out a comprehensive review of the state of the SDGs, respond to the impact of multiple and interlocking crises facing the world, and provide high-level political guidance on transformative and accelerated actions leading up to the target year of 2030 for achieving the SDGs.¹

The Secretary-General, in his report on “Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Towards a Rescue Plan for People and Planet”,² states that at the midpoint of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the world is not on track to meet most of the Goals by 2030. He especially underlined that ongoing and new violent conflicts around the world were derailing a global path to peace and achievement of SDG 16. One-quarter of humanity lived in conflict-affected areas and as of mid-2022, more than 100 million people had been forcibly displaced worldwide – more than double the number a decade ago. The Secretary-General further stressed that citizens faced challenges accessing justice, basic services and legal guarantees and were generally underrepresented due to ineffective institutions. Moreover, structural injustices, inequalities and emerging human rights challenges were putting peaceful and inclusive societies further out of reach. The Secretary-General highlighted that to

* E/CN.15/2023/1.

** This document has not been edited.

¹ www.un.org/en/conferences/SDGSummit2023.

² Forthcoming.



meet SDG 16 by 2030, action was needed to restore trust and to strengthen the capacity of institutions to secure justice for all and facilitate transitions to drive sustainable development.

UNODC, in its “Data matters” series, stated that “more than five years into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the progress made by Member States shows mixed results for different targets under Goal 16, pertaining to violence, trafficking, criminal justice, and corruption. While there is some global progress in reducing criminal violence, the current pace is not sufficient to achieve the target by 2030, and while some regions are progressing, others are experiencing setbacks. There is no detectable global progress in improving perceptions of safety among the population and improving access to justice, with the share of prisoners that are held without a trial remaining constant at around 30 per cent of the global prison population over the last two decades.”³

2. The contribution by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

As the achievement of SDG 16 seems so challenging, the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) is of key importance. As the principal policymaking body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, the Commission is in a unique position to support the implementation of Goal 16. The *Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, adopted by the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in March 2023 and prepared by the Commission, covers all contemporary issues of Member States on crime prevention and criminal justice and spells out specific commitments on important aspects of SDG 16 implementation. The Commission holds annual intersessional thematic discussions to follow-up on the implementation of these commitments, the outcome of which are brought to the attention of the Commission during its regular sessions.⁴

When assessing the situation regarding Goal 16 at the midpoint of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in its written contribution to the High-level Political Forum 2023, the Commission also underlined that the pandemic had posed cross-cutting, multifaceted challenges to the criminal justice system and requires comprehensive, integrated, multisectoral and coordinated responses, including through cooperation between the justice and health sectors. The General Assembly in its Resolution A/RES/76/184 (“Strengthening criminal justice systems during and after the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”), negotiated within the Commission, recommended that Member States take into account lessons learned and best practices applied during the COVID-19 pandemic. It encouraged Member States, in implementing holistic and comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice policies, to promote alternatives to imprisonment and to take appropriate measures to ensure that sentencing for criminal offences was proportionate to the gravity of the offence. The General Assembly also recommended that Member States mainstreamed a gender perspective into their criminal justice systems, promoted the application of the relevant United Nations standards and norms for improving the detention conditions and promoted a rehabilitative environment in correctional facilities.

Achieving SDG 16 is a complex and challenging endeavour, even more so as Goal 16 is a **cross-cutting enabler for all goals on the 2030 Agenda**. The Commission has regularly documented its work for the achievement of all Goals in its yearly contributions to the HLPF (2016–2023). The following list is a brief illustration of the broad range of work undertaken by the Commission in support of the SDGs in addition to SDG 16. The details can be consulted in the Commission’s contributions to the HLPF 2016–2023.⁵

³ www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/DataMatters_4_2022.pdf.

⁴ E/CN.15/2022/CRP.1; E/CN.15/2023/CRP.1.

⁵ www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/SDG/high-level-political-forum.html.

- **Goal 1 (No poverty):** The Commission has on several occasions addressed the relationship between poverty rates and crime prevention and criminal justice indicators, such as, the rate of unsentenced detainees and crimes such as corruption, homicide, robbery and trafficking in persons.
- **Goal 2 (Zero hunger):** In its contribution to HLPF 2021, the Commission underlined that prison settings had been hit particularly hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, and that challenges in prison management and overcrowding showed the interlinkages between target 16.3 and, among others, SDG 2 (zero hunger).
- **Goal 3 (Good health and well-being):** This goal has been addressed through the Commission's work on access to healthcare for prisoners and measures against corruption in the health sector.
- **Goal 4 (Quality education):** The Commission has extensively contributed to Goal 4 through its work on youth crime prevention and the role of youth participation in crime prevention efforts, the integration of sport in youth crime prevention and criminal justice strategies, education for justice as well as juvenile justice and the rights of children in contact with the criminal justice system.
- **Goal 5 (Gender equality):** One of the core areas of work undertaken by the Commission relates to violence against women and girls and, as a related area, the gender dimensions of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. Further, the Commission has addressed measures to ensure access to justice and access to legal aid for women and girls, and efforts to mainstream a gender perspective into crime prevention and criminal justice policies and programmes, and to end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls in the criminal justice system, whether they are victims of crime, survivors of violence, witnesses, alleged offenders, or prisoners. Further, the Commission has addressed women's full and effective participation in all efforts related to countering the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons.
- **Goal 6 (Clean water and sanitation):** Regarding target 6.3 (to improve water by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping, and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials), the Commission has pointed to its work on trafficking in hazardous wastes. Further, the Commission has addressed the problem of clean water and sanitation from the angle of prison infrastructure.
- **Goal 7 (Affordable and clean energy):** The Commission has on repeated occasions addressed crimes that affect the environment in its resolutions and held expert discussions in this field in February 2022.
- **Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth):** The Commission has specifically made reference to targets 8.7 and 8.8 ("immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour", and "labour rights and safe and secure working environments for all workers"), which has been addressed through the work of the Commission on trafficking in persons and on work in prisons.
- **Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure):** The work on prison conditions, in particular infrastructural challenges in prisons, overcrowding, and coordination between the justice and health sectors, has contributed to the discussions on Goal 9. Regarding innovation, the Commission has at various occasions highlighted the appropriate utilization of technology by law enforcement and other criminal justice institutions, as well as the adaptation of legislation, regulations and policies to continuous technological developments.
- **Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities):** When Goal 10 was reviewed, the Commission made reference on its work regarding the orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, in particular its work on trafficking in persons

and the smuggling of migrants. Also, it has addressed the topic of inequalities in its work on prison management and the treatment of prisoners.

- **Goal 11 (Sustainable cities and communities):** The Commission has worked extensively on urban safety and on tailor-made crime prevention strategies that take into account local contexts, including the prevention of gang-related and urban crime. This has included the creation of a rehabilitative environment in the community to facilitate the social reintegration of offenders with the active involvement of local communities and community-based support measures for youth to address risk factors of crime and violence, including through the provision of sport and recreational facilities and programmes.
- **Regarding Goal 12 (Responsible consumption and production),** the Commission has addressed the manufacturing of and trafficking in falsified medical products as well as the smuggling in commercial goods.
- The Commission has contributed to the discussions on **Goal 13 (Climate Action), Goal 14 (Life below Water) and Goal 15 (Life on Land)** through its work on preventing and combating crimes that affect the environment and on international cooperation to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife.
- **Goal 17 (Partnership for the Goals):** The Commission has generally made reference to its work with the Institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network (PNI) and with other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, in particular the Statistical Commission, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Social Development. The Commission also referenced its exchange and cooperation with a broad range of United Nations entities as well as intergovernmental and regional organizations.
- Regarding the **principle of “Leaving no-one behind”**, the Commission has addressed, inter alia, the situation of victims of crime, including the victims of trafficking in persons and the victims of violence against children; the specific needs of women in the criminal justice system; the situation and needs of migrant workers; and the treatment of prisoners, including the specific needs and realities of women offenders and prisoners. It has also highlighted the threats posed by arms trafficking, terrorism, maritime crime, and wildlife crime. It has also repeatedly underlined that sustainable development and the rule of law are strongly interrelated and mutually reinforcing.

The Commission has throughout the years **highlighted the following areas that required urgent attention:** Violence against women and girls; the specific needs of women in conflict with the law; prison overcrowding and prison infrastructure; the impact of illicit financial flows, money laundering, the financing of terrorism, corruption, and economic crimes; crimes that affect the environment and wildlife crime; and the situation and needs of migrants and victims of trafficking persons:

3. Activities in the lead-up to the 2023 SDG Summit

Based on its mandates and its substantive contributions to the discussion on the full range of SDGs, the Commission carried out a number of activities that contribute to the preparations of the 2023 SDG Summit.

(a) Coordination Segment, 1–2 February 2023

On 1–2 February 2023, the ECOSOC held the **Coordination Segment**. The objectives of the Coordination Segment are to take up coordination matters arising from subsidiary bodies, principal organs and specialized agencies in the economic, social, environmental and related fields; to steer the ECOSOC system towards an efficient and integrated workflow throughout the Council cycle leading up to the HLPF; and to provide forward-looking policy guidance to ensure coherence and direction in the policies and normative work of subsidiary bodies and specialized agencies relating to the 2030 Agenda as well as to other aspects of the work of the Council.

In preparation of the Coordination Segment, the Commission prepared an infographic on its recent work⁶ and contributed to a document identifying transformative policies and initiatives. In this regard, General Assembly resolution 76/185, on “Preventing and combating crimes that affect the environment”, negotiated by CCPCJ, was identified as a transformative initiative in the context of achievement of Goals 13, 14, 15, and 16.⁷ In this resolution, the General Assembly recognized that crimes that affect the environment may also have a negative impact on economies, public health, human safety, food security, livelihoods, and habitats. It urged Member States to adopt effective measures to prevent and combat crimes that affect the environment and to use relevant international instruments and strengthen legislation, international cooperation, capacity-building and criminal justice responses. In addition, it called on Member States to make crimes that affect the environment serious crimes as defined in the Organized Crime Convention, and to provide effective assistance to and protection for witnesses of such crimes. Pursuant to resolution 76/185, CCPCJ held intersessional expert discussions on preventing and combating crimes that affect the environment in February 2022 in Vienna, in a hybrid format. Statements and presentations made during the expert discussions, as well as the procedural report, were published on the Commission’s dedicated website.⁸ The Commission considered the Chair’s summary at its 31st regular session and adopted Resolution 31/1, on “Strengthening the international legal framework for international cooperation to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife” (E/2022/30, chap. I, sect. C).

During the Coordination Segment, the Chair of the CCPCJ participated via pre-recorded video in a session on reflections on the work of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies, held in the ECOSOC Chamber on 2 February 2023 and chaired by H.E. Mr. Arrmanatha Christiawan Nasir (Indonesia), Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council. In this message, she highlighted that the Commission contributes to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, especially Goal 16 on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, also in the lead-up to the SDG Summit in 2023. She also underlined that COVID-19 created new opportunities for crime and weakened criminal justice institutions and stated that mindful of the need to accelerate recovery from the pandemic, the CCPCJ held annual thematic discussions to implement the commitments laid out in the Kyoto Declaration and to ensure access to justice for all. She reminded participants that the Kyoto Declaration was adopted by the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in March 2021 and the Commission was leading international efforts to operationalize the commitments made in the Declaration.

(b) Written Contribution to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

As every year since 2016, the Commission provided a written contribution to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) held in 2023, in response to a letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council on 10 November 2022.

In 2023, the SDGs under review were SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11, 17. The Commission reported on its work addressing crimes that affect the environment, which includes trafficking in hazardous wastes, dumping and wildlife crime; on improving prison infrastructure and the treatment of prisoners; the increased use of technology and innovation by law enforcement and other criminal justice institutions; tailor-made urban safety and local crime prevention strategies; the role of sports in youth crime prevention; and the cooperation with the Institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal

⁶ www.un.org/en/content/ecosoc-coordination/2023/assets/pdf/Booklet%20Infographics%202023.pdf.

⁷ www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/documents/2023/annex-transformative-policies-and-initiatives.pdf.

⁸ www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/session/31_Session_2022/ccpcj-thematic-discussions_crimes-that-affect-environment.html.

Justice Programme Network (PNI) and with other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Further the Commission provided an analysis of the situation at the midpoint of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly regarding SDG 16, and provided key messages for inclusion into the Political Declaration, as follows (quotation):

- *“We express grave concern about the ongoing challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic for effective crime prevention and criminal justice, and we reiterate our resolve to intensify concerted global efforts to prevent and combat crime by promoting evidence-informed crime prevention measures and by making criminal justice systems more effective, accountable, transparent, inclusive and responsive as well as by facilitating and strengthening international cooperation in criminal matters;*
- *We encourage States to mainstream crime prevention and criminal justice into their COVID-19 Recovery Plans with a view to accelerate recovery and ensure that no one is left behind, thereby retaining effective measures set up or strengthened during the pandemic, such as the use of new technologies to ensure the continuity of crime prevention and support services, and remote access to justice;*
- *We call on all Member States to allocate sufficient funding in national post-COVID-19 recovery budgets to strengthen crime prevention and criminal justice systems and make them better prepared for future challenges; and*
- *We recall our commitment to implement the Kyoto Declaration on ‘Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’ adopted at the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2021, and encourage all Member States and all other interested stakeholders to invest in international dialogue, exchange of good practices and lessons learnt and to actively participate in the thematic discussions on the Kyoto Declaration follow-up held under the auspices of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.”*

(c) **Inputs to the negotiation of the outcome document of the SDG Summit**

The outcome of the Summit will be a negotiated political declaration. Based on the input provided to the Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2022 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2023 HLPF, convened under the auspices of the Council, on the theme “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, the Chair of the Commission provided input to the elements paper shared by the co-facilitators on 28 February 2023.

Further opportunities to provide input to the outcome document will be used as appropriate.

4. Outlook – What to expect during the 32nd session of the CCPCJ and beyond

The regular 32nd session provides a **unique opportunity for exchange and cooperation regarding topics of key importance for the achievement of SDG 16**, both during the general debate and the discussion of the specific agenda items. The **participation of the President of the General Assembly at its 77th session, H.E. Mr. Csaba KÖRÖSI**, in the opening session showcases the relevance of the work of the Commission for the implementation of the sustainable development agenda. The following aspects lend themselves particularly for a consideration of the achievement of SDG 16:

- The theme of the **Thematic Discussion** to be held during the 32nd regular session is **“Enhancing the functioning of the criminal justice system to**

ensure access to justice and to realize a safe and secure society". The **Secretariat** has published a discussion guide, which provides an overview of international standards, challenges, and promising practices in enhancing the functioning of the criminal justice system with the aim of ensuring access to justice and realizing a safe and secure society. The Guide highlights current developments and emerging issues for Member States' attention and proposes questions to guide the thematic discussion of the CCPCJ.

- The **United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network (PNI)** will hold a **workshop** on the same topic as the **thematic discussion**, covering a broad range of issues such as the identification and empowerment of victims, access to justice through cultural and linguistic barriers, the role of university-based law clinics, the empowerment and protection of victims of large-scale crimes, whistle-blower protection and restorative justice.
- A **Chair's special event** will be held on the first day of the 32nd session, in honour of the participation of H.E. Mr. Csaba KÖRÖSI, President of the **General Assembly** at its 77th session, aiming to call upon Governments to strengthen their efforts for the achievement of SDG 16, and to identify synergies for the way forward. In a panel discussion, speakers will present their experience in reviewing progress against SDG 16 indicators and innovative initiatives in support of the achievement of SDG 16.
- The Commission has before it for consideration six **resolutions** that address topics of key relevance for the implementation of SDG 16, including a draft resolution focusing on "Enhancing the contributions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", as well as resolutions focusing on other relevant topics including reducing reoffending and achieving equal access to justice for all through – and in – criminal justice systems.

Further opportunities to highlight the work of the Commission will arise in the lead-up to the SDG Summit:

- The Chair of the Commission has been invited to make a **substantive contribution** to the **High-Level Debate organized by the President of the General Assembly** on the theme "Equal Access to Justice for All: Advancing Reforms for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies", which will be held on 15 June 2023.
- The Chairs of CCPCJ and CND are planning to hold a **side event at the margins of the 2023 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development** in July 2023 focusing on "Leaving no-one behind in health care and justice – The work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice".

The Commission will hold **its third round of intersessional thematic discussions on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration** in September 2023. The 2023 intersessional thematic discussions will be devoted to pillar III of the Kyoto Declaration, entitled "Promoting the rule of law". This pillar contains commitments relating to access to justice and equal treatment before the law, access to legal aid, national sentencing policies, effective, accountable, impartial, and inclusive institutions, effective anti-corruption efforts and social, educational and other measures, and will yet again provide a momentum to discuss progress made towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda, in particular SDG 16.