

Note on the contribution of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its 26th session to the 2017 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development on “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”

I. INTRODUCTION

This contribution is submitted on behalf of H.E. Mr Mitsuru Kitano (Japan), Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its 26th session, and has been prepared in close coordination with the Extended Bureau of the Commission, in response to a letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council inviting the Commission to provide substantive inputs to the 2017 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which will convene under the auspices of ECOSOC at UN Headquarters in New York from 10 to 19 July 2017 on the theme “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”.¹

An addendum to this contribution will be submitted to the 2017 High-level Political Forum at a later stage, with the view to reflecting the action taken by the Commission at its twenty-sixth session (22 to 26 May 2017).

1.1. Contributions by the Commission of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Commission has, since its establishment, been contributing to the commitments and policy developments of successive international development agendas. Its work has become increasingly relevant, following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, giving Member States an effective, proven, consensus-based forum to engage in discussions on gaps and lessons learned, thus providing a platform to improve the coherence of policy and to ensure that policy is based on the rule of law and integrity which positively influences outcomes across the development agenda. The 2030 Agenda also represents an opportunity for further cooperation and dialogue within the United Nations system in the areas that are within the remit of the Commission.

In its resolution 70/174, the General Assembly endorsed the *Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation*, as adopted at the high-level segment of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, for which the Commission served as the preparatory body and which was held in Doha from 12 to 19 April 2015. In the *Doha Declaration*, Member States *inter alia* acknowledged that sustainable development and the rule of law were strongly interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and that crime prevention and criminal justice should be integrated into the wider UN system.

In line with that resolution, and in fulfillment of its role within the review framework of the SDGs, the Commission has undertaken a review of the implementation of the *Doha Declaration* under a standing item of its agenda by supporting the operational, legislative and policy-related work required by Member States to make progress towards, and successfully achieve, the crime prevention and criminal justice goals and targets contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Commission counts on the support of Member States in translating the *Doha Declaration* into action and draws on the Declaration in its work to address crime in a broader development agenda.

¹ See also the input provided by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to the 2016 High-level Political Forum on the theme “Ensuring that no one is left behind”.

The Commission has, in numerous resolutions, guidelines and its preparatory work leading to the adoption of major policy documents, such as the *Doha Declaration*, highlighted the need for Member States to uphold human dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, in particular for those affected by crime and those who may be in contact with the criminal justice system, including vulnerable members of society, regardless of their status, who may be subject to multiple and aggravated forms of discrimination, and to prevent and counter crime motivated by intolerance or discrimination of any kind. The Commission devotes particular attention to the specific needs of these vulnerable members of society in the context of corruption-free and inclusive societies for sustainable development, with a focus on a people-centred approach that provides access to justice for all and builds effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Access to justice for all is a focus area in UNODC's work in supporting Member States in the establishment of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems.

Furthermore, the Commission has added to its agenda a standing item, entitled "*Contributions by the Commission to the work of Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolution 68/1, including follow-up, review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*", under which the Commission discusses contributions to the work of the Council, as well as contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Additional information can be found on the following website:

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/commissions-2030.html>.

The Commission acts as the governing body of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Through the implementation of the United Nations Programme on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, UNODC supports Member States at the operational level by providing technical services designed to improve the development and implementation of crime prevention policies, national strategies and action plans, as well as by implementing sector-specific projects, including on preventing youth crime and victimization, violence against women and children, providing access to justice or social reintegration of offenders and combating corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism. UNODC also gathers and analyses comparable and reliable information on international crime trends and responses to crime with a view to supporting Member States develop evidence-based policies and to overcome the differences and complexities inherent in different legal frameworks and domestic approaches to crime statistics and data collection as well as to efficiently allocate national resources. In this context, UNODC provides technical advice to Member States and within the UN system on indicators and metrics in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice also as they are reflected in national implementation plans of the 2030 Agenda. The Commission also provides Member States with a platform to discuss valuable lessons learned, policy innovations and options to improve implementation. In these deliberations, efforts are informed by the Commission's well-established analytical and research tools.

Upon the recommendation of the Commission and the Statistical Commission, in 2015, the Economic and Social Council adopted a resolution² approving the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS), a tool that can considerably improve the collection and analysis of data on many of the SDG 16 indicators. As its custodian agency, UNODC is developing manuals and implementing technical assistance projects to support the ICCS implementation by Member States. Also, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Statistical Commission have agreed on a roadmap to strengthen the collection and quality of criminal justice statistics. The work of the Commission and UNODC, in providing inputs to the Secretary-General's report on the progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, is informed by data systematically provided by Member States and reported on in parliamentary documentation prepared by the Secretariat and submitted for consideration by the Commission.

² See Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/24, entitled "Improving the quality and availability of statistics on crime and criminal justice for policy development", operative paragraph 2.

Every year, the Commission takes stock of the latest global trends on crime and criminal justice system using the mandated data collection managed by UNODC (Crime Trend Survey). Through this mechanism, the Commission regularly reviews progress made and setbacks on various themes covered by the Sustainable Development Goals in relation to violence against women (target 5.2), urban security (target 11.7), wildlife trafficking (target 15.7), violent crime (target 16.1), trafficking in persons (targets 5.2, 8.7 and 16.2), access to justice and rule of law (target 16.3), illicit financial flows, trafficking of firearms and organized crime (target 16.4), and corruption (target 16.5). Many of the indicators collected through the Commission's data collection system (CTS) are used to monitor the SDGs globally by the Statistical Commission.

In Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda, States are called upon to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Target 16.4 of that Goal seeks in particular to “by 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime”. Achieving this target will have a direct impact on sustainable economic development by protecting domestic resources and making them available for development, as well as by protecting equity, growth and employment prospects through the prevention of corruption, economic crime, and money laundering. In addition, it will improve prospects for the well-being and safety perception of populations, by removing the proceeds of crime from transnational organized crime and terrorists. The Commission's work on Goal 16, supported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, contributes to building the foundation for social and economic development, which requires a socially safe and economically dynamic environment, where the importance of the rule of law is recognized.

1.2. Working in partnership – SDG 17

Addressing crime in all its forms demands a comprehensive approach, and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice highly values the contributions of all relevant stakeholders, including UN entities and specialized agencies, regional organizations, academia and civil society, thereby supporting SDG 17. The Commission, for example, closely works with the institutes of the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network (PNI). The network was established to assist the international community in strengthening co-operation in the crucial area of crime prevention and criminal justice.

In the *Doha Declaration*, prepared by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Member States underlined the importance of supporting the development and implementation of consultative and participatory processes in crime prevention and criminal justice in order to engage all members of society, including those at risk of crime and victimization, to make prevention efforts more effective and to galvanize public trust and confidence in criminal justice systems.³ It was further recognized that, to enhance the effectiveness and fairness of such strategies, measures should be taken to ensure the contribution of civil society, the private sector and academia, including the network of institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, as well as the media and all other relevant stakeholders, in the development and implementation of crime prevention policies.⁴

In addition, the Commission collaborates with other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, in particular the Statistical Commission, with a view to improving statistics on crime

³ See General Assembly resolution 70/174, entitled “Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”, Annex, “Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation”, operative paragraph 10.

⁴ Ibid.

and criminal justice, and it looks forward to further enhancing its working relationship with the other functional commissions.

Together with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, a special event was organized in November 2016, at the occasion of the visit of H.E. Mr. Thomson, the President of the General Assembly at its 71st session, during which participants discussed the contributions that can be made by the Vienna-based functional commissions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Additional information can be found on the following website:
<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/commissions-2030.html>.

II. RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONS CONTAINED IN THE LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL:

II.1. An assessment of the situation regarding the principle of “ensuring that no one is left behind” at the global level

Ensuring that no one is left behind is a basic objective of just societies, as well as a cross-cutting commitment of the 2030 Agenda. The new sustainable development agenda includes measures that will build the rule of law, security and justice capability, and it explicitly acknowledges the link between peace, security and development. The achievement of the 2030 Agenda is premised on addressing all forms of crime and on supporting Member States in promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels, securing justice for their peoples, and ensuring the integrity of their institutions, notably criminal justice institutions at the national level.

The Commission has continuously worked to ***protect the most vulnerable individuals and improve development prospects across societies***. Through the gathering of expertise and its ability for consensus-building on the basis of data and evidence, the Commission has strengthened the international normative framework to protect victims, address the impact of crime and violence on women and children and to counter the destabilising effects of *inter alia* organized crime, corruption, violence, smuggling of migrants, trafficking of persons, illicit drugs and firearms, money laundering and illicit financial flows, cybercrime, wildlife crime, terrorism and piracy. This speaks to the universality of the Commission’s work in contributing to giving every person the access to the safety and justice necessary to contribute to the growth, employment, health, education, institutional strengthening and integrity goals of their own societies – and, thus, ultimately ensuring the centrality of justice and the rule of law.

In addressing the ***specific needs of children***, the General Assembly adopted in 2014, upon the recommendation of the CCPCJ, resolution 69/194, entitled “*United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*”, emphasizing that children in contact with the justice system as victims, witnesses or alleged or recognized offenders must be treated in a child-sensitive manner and with respect for their rights, dignity and needs⁵. In addressing the specific needs of juveniles, Member States adopted, upon the recommendation of the CCPCJ, the “*United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (Riyadh Rules)*”⁶. In the Doha Declaration, Member States committed to integrate child- and youth-related issues into our criminal justice reform efforts, recognizing the importance of protecting children from all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse.⁷ UNODC supports Member States in addressing the specific needs of children, for example through joint programmes such as the UNODC-UNICEF Global Programme on Violence against Children to ensure that children are better served and protected by justice systems, and that measures are put in

⁵ See General Assembly resolution 69/194, preambular paragraph 9.

⁶ See General Assembly resolution 45/112, entitled “United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (The Riyadh Guidelines)”.

⁷ See General Assembly resolution 70/174, Annex, operative paragraph 5(e).

place to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children, thereby supporting the achievement of Targets 16.2 and 16.3.⁸

The need to address the *specific needs of women* in crime prevention and criminal justice, being victims of gender-based violence or in prison settings, has been highlighted in a number of resolutions⁹ as well as in the 2015 Doha Declaration, which underlines the endeavour of Member States to mainstream a gender perspective into criminal justice systems by developing and implementing national strategies and plans, in order to promote the full protection of women and girls from all acts of violence, including gender-related killing of women and girls.¹⁰ At its 24th session in 2015, the Commission approved a resolution on “*Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls*”, which was adopted by the General Assembly in December 2015 (GA Resolution 70/176) encouraging Member States to promote integrated and comprehensive strategies to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls, including gender-related killing of women and girls. These include early and continuous educational programmes, community mobilization and awareness-raising, in order to counter attitudes and social factors that foster, justify or tolerate any violence against women and girls.¹¹ UNODC, through the implementation of the United Nations Programme on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, supports Member States at the operational level by providing advisory services for the development and implementation of crime prevention national strategies and action plans, as well as by implementing sector-specific projects, including for women victims of gender-based violence or women offenders, and in prison settings. Another important contribution by the Commission to the fulfilment of the principle of “ensuring that no one is left behind” has been the recognition of the *specific needs and realities of women offenders and prisoners*, which led to the adoption by the General Assembly, upon the Commission’s recommendation, of the *United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules)*.¹²

Another important element of access to justice and the rule of law is the *treatment of prisoners* – pretrial (non-sentenced) detainees as well as sentenced persons. On the recommendation of the Commission, the General Assembly adopted in 2015 with resolution 70/175 the “United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules)“, with Member States committing to ensure that there shall be no discrimination on grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, highlighting the need to take account of the individual needs of prisoners, in particular the most vulnerable categories in prison settings, and to protect and promote the rights of prisoners.¹³

The Commission also devotes considerable attention to the *situation and needs of migrants and trafficked persons*, with a direct impact on the implementation of *inter alia* Goal 8 of the 2030 Agenda, which calls on States to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. Targets 8.7. and 8.8. of that Goal require that States “take 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 “protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment”. As noted in General Assembly resolution 67/185, entitled “Promoting efforts to eliminate violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families”, adopted upon the recommendation of the Commission, migrants often experience impediments to accessing livelihoods, schooling, as well as other services,

⁸ See UNODC Publication, entitled “UNODC and the Sustainable Development Goals”, page 11.

⁹ See Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice decision 17/1, entitled “Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women and girls” (contained in document E/2008/30), *Economic and Social Council* resolution 2006/29, entitled “Crime prevention and criminal justice response to violence against women and girls”.

¹⁰ See General Assembly resolution 70/174, Annex, operative paragraph 5(f).

¹¹ See General Assembly resolution 70/176, operative paragraph 6.

¹² See General Assembly resolution 65/229, annex.

¹³ See General Assembly resolution 70/175, Annex, Rule (1), (2).

which, in turn, contributes to their vulnerability to crime and violence. Upon the recommendation of the Commission, in 2014, the Economic and Social Council adopted the resolution 2014/23, entitled “Strengthening international cooperation in addressing the smuggling of migrants”, in which Member States highlighted the need to promote or strengthen, as appropriate, development programmes and cooperation at the national, regional and international levels, taking into account the socioeconomic realities of migration and paying special attention to economically and socially depressed areas, in order to combat the root socioeconomic causes of the smuggling of migrants, especially those related to poverty. In addition, at its twenty-first session, the Commission held a thematic discussion to violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families. In this regard, UNODC assists Member States in expanding their capacity to prevent the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and to promote cooperation among Member States.

Trafficking in persons is a crime which disproportionately affects poor countries and vulnerable members of society. In the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, published in 2016 by UNODC, it is highlighted that, as a general pattern, victims are trafficked from areas of lower economic activity to wealthier regions, from rural to urban areas, from poorer suburbs to economically more attractive parts. This broad pattern holds for both domestic and cross-border trafficking.¹⁴ Moreover, the share of foreigners among victims of trafficking is higher in more affluent countries, lower in developing countries, and very limited in least developed countries where domestic trafficking is more prevalent.¹⁵ The report also found that people escaping from war and persecution are particularly vulnerable to becoming victims of trafficking.¹⁶ In the Doha Declaration, adopted in 2015, Member States committed to take appropriate measures to prevent and counter trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, while protecting the victims and those who have been the object of such crimes, through all necessary legal and administrative steps, in accordance with the respective protocols, as appropriate, and strengthening interagency cooperation and coordination at the national level, as well as closer bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation.¹⁷ In the same year, upon the recommendation of the Commission, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2015/23, entitled “Implementation of the United Nations Global Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons”, reiterating strong condemnation by Member States of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which constitutes an offence and a serious threat to human dignity and physical integrity, human rights and development, highlighting the importance of the full implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/293 in 2010. UNODC supports Member States in drafting laws and creating comprehensive national anti-trafficking strategies and in developing local capacity and expertise to implement these, including by providing practical tools to encourage cross-border cooperation in investigations and prosecutions.

The threats posed by **illicit arms trafficking and other serious crimes** have been repeatedly addressed by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and supported by several United Nations bodies. In the Doha Declaration, prepared by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Member States resolved to develop and adopt, as appropriate, effective measures to prevent and combat the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts, components and ammunition, as well as explosives, including through awareness-raising campaigns designed to eliminate the illicit use of firearms and the illicit manufacture of explosives, to encourage States parties to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, to strengthen implementation of the Protocol by, *inter alia*, considering the use of available tools, including marking and record-keeping technologies, to facilitate the tracing of firearms and, where possible, their parts and components and ammunition, in order to enhance criminal

¹⁴ See UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, published 2016, page 115.

¹⁵ See UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, published 2016, page 42.

¹⁶ See UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, published 2016, page 10.

¹⁷ See General Assembly resolution 70/174, Annex, operative paragraph 8(i).

investigations of illicit trafficking in firearms, to support the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and to note the contributions of existing instruments on this issue and on related matters at the regional and international levels.¹⁸ The General Assembly, when adopting the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, has already expressed concern about the growing links between transnational organized crime and serious crimes, and its negative economic and social implications.¹⁹ With due consideration for Target 16.4, the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, at its eighth session, requested UNODC “to continue to assist States parties, upon request, in their efforts to strengthen their firearms control regime, consistent with the Firearms Protocol, in particular in the areas of legislative development; firearms identification, seizure, confiscation and disposal; technical support for marking, record-keeping, and tracing; and training and capacity-building in the investigation and prosecution of related crimes, with a view to preventing, combatting and eradicating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition.” In this context, and to enhance States’ capacities to address the phenomena of illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, UNODC, through its Global Firearms Programme, regularly delivers targeted and specialized trainings on, among others, investigating and prosecuting illicit firearms trafficking and other related offences, drafting of firearms legislation, and marking and registration of firearms. In this connection, UNODC also developed a project to strengthen the States’ national capacity for the collection and analysis of data on illicit firearms trafficking, thus contributing to supporting national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals.

Terrorism is another challenge the Commission pays particular attention to. Terrorism hinders economic and social development of all countries, making no distinction between developed and developing countries. The General Assembly adopted, upon the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, resolution 70/177, entitled “Technical assistance for implementing the international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism”, urging Member States to continue to strengthen international coordination and cooperation in order to prevent and counter terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, to effectively implement relevant international instruments and United Nations resolutions that address the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, to counter the financing of terrorism, including through hostage-taking and kidnapping for ransom, to enter, when appropriate, into bilateral, regional and multilateral treaties on extradition and mutual legal assistance, and to ensure adequate training of all relevant personnel in executing international cooperation activities.²⁰ UNODC works to *inter alia* support efforts of all Member States to more effectively address terrorism from the criminal justice perspective, including its emerging threats and manifestations. While some countries have made significant progress in the ratification and legal implementation of the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism, many Member States have yet to join to these instruments and bring their legal systems in compliance with the international standards and the rule of law. UNODC works to support Member States, including developing countries, and their criminal justice and law enforcement institutions to prevent and counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as financing of terrorism, thus contributing to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 16.a. General Assembly resolution 70/177 *inter alia* requested UNODC to provide technical assistance, upon request, to Member States to that end, including by continuing and enhancing its assistance related to international legal cooperation pertaining to countering terrorism and fostering the development of strong and effective central authorities for international cooperation in criminal matters.²¹ Within the framework of its Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism, UNODC promotes the ratification and implementation of the 19 international conventions and protocols related to terrorism and relevant

¹⁸ See General Assembly resolution 70/174, Annex, operative paragraph 8 (k).

¹⁹ See General Assembly resolution 55/25, Annex.

²⁰ See General Assembly resolution 70/177, operative paragraph 2.

²¹ See General Assembly resolution 70/177, operative paragraph 2.

United Nations resolutions, provides legislative assistance with incorporation of their provisions into national legislation, strengthens national counter-terrorism capacity and cooperation among Member States, especially to facilitate mutual legal assistance and extradition requests.

Moreover, in fulfilment of the principle of “ensuring that no-one is left behind”, the CCPCJ is also assisting States in strengthening criminal justice systems to respond to the threat posed by *maritime crimes*,²² including by ensuring that legal policies are in place for prosecutions and supporting fair trials within a human rights framework. The focus is on normative work and capacity building for national officials from maritime law enforcement, prosecution and judiciary. Another priority area is the creation of secure and humane prison conditions for those detained and prosecuted for maritime crimes, including a focus on preventing violent extremism in prisons. This conveys the important message that there is no impunity to piracy and other forms of crime occurring at sea. In its resolution 21/2 on countering maritime piracy, the Commission *inter alia* stressed the importance of strengthening the capacity of affected States to investigate, prosecute, incarcerate and, as appropriate, repatriate and transfer offenders, in accordance with applicable domestic and international law; and called upon Member States to criminalize maritime piracy and armed robbery at sea under their domestic law.²³ Further, UNODC is supporting piracy hostages upon release, ensuring that they can get in contact with relatives, gain access to medical support, and safe repatriation home. To address this issue, two expert groups meetings have been conducted, with the assistance of UNODC, on transnational organized crime committed at sea.

Additionally, in its efforts to ensure that no one is left behind, the Commission addresses *wildlife crime*, targeting selected wildlife species most affected by illicit trafficking. In resolutions negotiated in the framework of the Commission, Member States were urged to adopt legislative or other measures necessary for establishing illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora as a criminal offence in their domestic legislation; to cooperate with UNODC with a view to preventing, combating and eradicating trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora; to promote international cooperation in preventing and combating illicit international trafficking in forest and wildlife resources; and to consider making illicit trafficking in endangered species of wild fauna and flora a “serious crime”.²⁴ The importance of addressing the serious problem of crimes that have an impact on the environment, such as trafficking in wildlife, timber and timber products and hazardous waste, as well as poaching, and the commitment to adopted effective measures to prevent and those crimes, was also highlighted in the Doha Declaration.²⁵ The fight against *trafficking in wild fauna and flora* has been a priority for the Commission and also features prominently in the 2030 Agenda. Analysis of world wildlife seizure data shows that wildlife crime is a truly global problem and without concerted action, wildlife populations are at significant risk, which, in turn, has negative ramifications for local communities, national development, and national and regional security.

II.2. Gaps, areas requiring urgent attention, risks and challenges, valuable lessons learned on ‘ensuring that no one is left behind’, and emerging issues likely to affect the realization of this principle

The equal application of the 2030 Agenda in all countries and regions, without taking into consideration different starting points and socio-economic situations, may hinder the effective implementation of the development agenda and deepen the inequality between Member States. In

²² See Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 20/5, entitled “Combating the problem of transnational organized crime committed at sea”; resolution 21/2, entitled “Countering maritime piracy, especially off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Guinea”; and resolution 22/6, entitled “Promoting international cooperation and strengthening capacity to combat the problem of transnational organized crime committed at sea”.

²³ See Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 21/2, entitled “Countering maritime piracy, especially off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Guinea”, operative paragraphs 3,6.

²⁴ See, for example, Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/40, entitled “Crime prevention and criminal justice responses to illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora”.

²⁵ See General Assembly resolution 70/174, Annex, operative paragraph 9 (e).

order to bridge existing gaps, the goals and indicators, as well as the implementation strategies, should be realistic and tailored to national needs, priorities and capacity.

Violence against women and girls, in addition to being a pervasive violation of the human rights of women, generates significant economic costs for women, their families, as well as for societies as a whole. In particular, violence against women and girls generates widespread and high costs in the areas of justice, health, social services, education, business and employment as it results in lost employment and productivity and diverts resources from the healthcare and justice systems as well as social services. Such violence undermines poverty reduction efforts as it adversely affects a country's human, social and economic development.²⁶ Furthermore, it should be emphasized that, while women and girls are half of the human capital available to reduce poverty and achieve development, gender-based violence hinders the capacity of women and girls to contribute to the obtainment of such an objective.²⁷ At the same time, it should be recognized that women's poverty and lack of empowerment, as well as their marginalization resulting from their exclusion from social and economic policies from the benefits education and sustainable development, can place women at increased risks of violence.²⁸

Another important element of implementing sustainable and effective efforts to eradicate poverty is how justice systems address the **specific needs and realities of women in conflict with the law**. Many women experience multiple layers of discrimination and deprivation, which may lead them to become offenders and be imprisoned as a result. Offences committed by women are often related to their social and economic empowerment, lack of access to resources, or experiences of violence. In many countries, female offenders are often young, unemployed, have low levels of education and have dependent children.²⁹ They often commit property crimes, such as theft and fraud. Other women commit low-level drug-related offences, often as a result of manipulation, coercion and poverty. Furthermore, vulnerable and economically disadvantaged women are likely to be detained before trial, due to their inability to afford bail or the services of a lawyer, and in many countries the proportion of women held in pre-trial detention is equivalent to, or larger than, that of convicted female prisoners.³⁰ Finally, upon release, many women are further stigmatized, victimized or abandoned by their families. These considerations require urgent attention, considering that the number of women in conflict with the law is rising in all regions of the world, often at faster rates than that of men, with an estimated number of 700,000 women and girls imprisoned globally in 2015.

As mentioned above, an important element of the work of the Commission is the **treatment of prisoners**, including addressing the concern of **prison overcrowding**, which remains a challenge and would require significant public investment in infrastructure and services, as well as a strong commitment to effectively implement reforms allowing to reduce inmates in prisons (i.e. reduce pre-trial detention levels, enforce due process-related standards, introduce alternative measures to imprisonment, review of national legislation) and reinforce effective work/measures against corruption (i.e. legislation, protocols, preventive measures, awareness campaigns, specialized studies). In the *Doha Declaration*, Member States committed to intensify their efforts to address the challenge of prison overcrowding through appropriate criminal justice reforms, which should include, where

²⁶ See remarks entitled "The economic costs of violence against women", by Lakshmi Puri, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, at high-level discussion on the "Economic cost of violence against women" held on 21 September 2016, available at

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/9/speech-by-lakshmi-puri-on-economic-costs-of-violence-against-women> and section on "consequences and costs of violence against women and girls", UN Women Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women, <http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/301-consequences-and-costs-.html>.

²⁷ See section on "Consequences and costs of violence against women and girls", UN Women Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women, available at <http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/301-consequences-and-costs-.html>.

²⁸ See "Agreed Conclusions on the Elimination and Prevention of all forms of Violence against Women and Girls" (E/2013/27 – E/CN.6/2013/11), paragraph 21.

²⁹ See UNODC Information note for criminal justice practitioners on non-custodial measures for women offenders, page 2. https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/Information_note_BKK_Rules.pdf

³⁰ See UNODC Handbook for Prison Managers and Policymakers on Women and Imprisonment (2008), page 3.

appropriate, a review of penal policies and practical measures to reduce pretrial detention, to enhance the use of non-custodial sanctions and to improve access to legal aid to the extent possible.³¹

The lack of development, including unemployment and poverty, leads to instability and insecurity, and vice versa. Extreme poverty and hunger, unequal distribution of resources, limited access to health and education, and social and political marginalization are conditions that can be effectively exploited by terrorists in order to attract more supporters, radicalize and recruit. Violence and social, political and economic instability create a fertile ground for the *spread of violent extremist ideas and terrorist messages*, particularly among the youth who see no opportunities for self-realization and self-expression. Addressing the social and economic challenges makes a positive impact on enhancing security and *preventing terrorism*. In the Doha Declaration, Member States committed to counter violent extremism and radicalization to violence, which can be conducive to terrorism, to enhance efforts to implement de-radicalization programmes, and to ensure that any person who participates in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or in the supporting of terrorist acts is brought to justice, in compliance with obligations under international law, as well as applicable domestic law.³² The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy recognizes the lack of the rule of law and good governance, violations of human rights and lack of development, including poverty and unemployment, as some of the conditions conducive to terrorism. To combat the terrorism threat, Member States need effectively functioning legal regimes, criminal justice systems and frameworks to counter money laundering and the financing of terrorism, which properly implement international counter-terrorism legal standards with respect for human rights and in compliance with the rule of law. There is the urgency for the universal adherence and implementation of international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols and the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions.³³ Furthermore, the increasing cross-border terrorism activity represents a major challenge to practitioners and requires more efficient and faster law enforcement, intelligence and judicial cooperation. These include expedited exchanges of information on individual terrorists and terrorist organizations, including foreign terrorist fighters, terrorist financing and effective legislation and treaties for enabling extradition and mutual legal assistance, to name a few.

Prior to the elaboration of the 2030 Agenda, the Commission consistently drew attention to the deleterious impact of *illicit financial flows, money laundering, the financing of terrorism, corruption and economic crimes* on sustainable development and peace. The impact of these activities on development and peace and equity have also inspired Member States to elaborate new normative instruments, such as the UN Convention against Corruption and the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime – to prevent and combat these crimes. The Commission has fully embraced 2030Agenda as it draws a clear link between ability of Member States to reliably raise and retain their domestic resources for vital development needs, including the provision of security for their citizenry, and sustainable development. The resolutions of the Commission are consistent with this focus and reflect a new urgency in addressing these activities as key elements of national development and security policy.

Another issue that requires attention is *wildlife crime* - communities are frequently left out of the response to this crime and even marginalized by enforcement efforts. Too often the impact on the livelihoods of vulnerable rural groups, such as local communities relying on natural resources and ecosystem services, is overlooked. A reduction in wildlife crime would contribute to creating a platform for sustainable economic growth. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2013/40, recognised the impact on local communities and so there is a clear need for responses to engage with communities and to incorporate a livelihoods approach.

³¹ See General Assembly resolution 70/174, Annex, operative paragraph 5 (k).

³² See General Assembly resolution 70/174, Annex, operative paragraph 8 (d).

³³ See, for example, Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 2178 (2014), 2195 (2015), 2253 (2015) and 2322 (2016).

II.3 Valuable lessons learned on eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity

Governments should provide security, political stability and an effective and accessible criminal justice system based on the rule of law, ensuring that the whole society, including private business, civil society and academia, are engaged in the efforts towards socio-economic development. The requirements to the state actors, such as respect for the rule of law and human rights and fundamental freedoms, should apply to all stakeholders (incl. private business, civil society and academia), that should be also accountable and responsible for the impact of their activity on the society and development.

II.4 Emerging issues likely to affect the realization of poverty eradication and achieving prosperity

Some of the issues that may affect the realization of poverty eradication include the negative impact of climate change and soil degradation on agricultural development, the continued activities of criminal groups, which hinder access to public goods by the most vulnerable, also in urban contexts, and the proliferation of new forms of illicit trafficking and crime. These pose a significant risk especially for the disenfranchised and vulnerable groups, such as youth and single mothers, who may choose to follow opportunities for income generation linked to crime and subsequently be imprisoned for minor and non-violent crimes.

Radicalization and violent extremism that lead to terrorism are growing problems throughout the world. When the majority of a country lives below the poverty line and the government has no resources for social welfare programmes, terrorist and violent extremist groups take full advantage of this situation in order to spread their violent messages, radicalize, fundraise and recruit. As mentioned above, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, within its mandates, supports Member States in countering violent extremism and radicalization to violence and in enhancing efforts to implement de-radicalization programmes.³⁴ The Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism provides timely, much needed policy-level guidance to Member States, as well as to the UN and other entities working in related fields. The Plan also highlights the importance of preventing the radicalization of the youth, including children, and their recruitment by violent extremist groups, including terrorist groups. Furthermore, violations of human rights are also one of the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and violent extremism, posing obstacles for sustainable development and economic growth. UNODC stands ready to assist Member States to ensure the criminalization of incitement to terrorism, glorification of terrorism, recruitment, and terrorist propaganda, as well as to set up the necessary legal and administrative measures in this regard with the rule of law and human rights serving as the fundamental bases for preventing and countering terrorism.

II.5. Areas where political guidance by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development is required

The High-level Political Forum could be very effective in advocating for the strengthening of the mechanisms for data collection and analysis and programme development within the ECOSOC system. In doing so, the Forum could provide an opportunity to showcase the value and relevance of the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the support that UNODC can provide to Member States in that regard, in close cooperation with all other relevant stakeholders.

The High-level Political Forum could recognize the inter-linkages between violence, crime, access to criminal justice and rule of law and the three pillars of development. Security, rule of law, and integrity are pre-requisites to making development programmes effective and are ultimately fundamental to the achievement of full development. Therefore, the Forum could recognize the Commission's role as the

³⁴ See General Assembly resolution 70/174, Annex, operative paragraph 8 (d).

central policymaking body in the United Nations system in addressing the elements of the SDGs related to crime-related violence, access to justice, rule of law, corruption, organized crime, trafficking in persons, illicit financial flows and trafficking of firearms. These elements are specifically embedded in SDG 16, but are to be considered as cross-cutting elements for the achievement of all other goals.

II.6. Policy recommendations on ways to accelerate progress for those at risk of being left behind

The work of the Commission is currently *inter alia* focused on the follow-up to the implementation of the commitments made in the *Doha Declaration* and on preparations for the Fourteenth UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in 2020 in Japan.

In accordance with the provisions of the *Doha Declaration*, Member States are encouraged:

- To develop and implement consultative and participatory processes in crime prevention and criminal justice in order to engage all members of society, including those at risk of crime and victimization, to make prevention efforts more effective, and to galvanize public trust and confidence in criminal justice systems;³⁵
- To partner with and support community initiatives as well as foster the active participation of citizens in ensuring access to justice for all, including awareness of their rights, as well as their involvement in the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders;³⁶
- To promote peaceful, corruption-free and inclusive societies for sustainable development, with a focus on a people-centred approach that provides access to justice for all and builds effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels;³⁷
- To promote integrated and comprehensive strategies to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls;³⁸
- To implement the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and to make efforts to prevent and counter corruption, and to implement measures aimed at enhancing transparency in public administration and promoting the integrity and accountability of criminal justice systems³⁹;

Furthermore, Member States may wish to consider taking the following action:

- To ratify or accede to and to fully implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the three international drug control conventions and the international conventions and protocols related to countering terrorism⁴⁰;
- To make full use of the opportunities and expertise offered by the UN, in particular by UNODC, in countering violence, crime and terrorism;
- To promote or strengthen, as appropriate, development programmes and cooperation at the national, regional and international levels, taking into account the socioeconomic realities of migration and paying special attention to economically and socially depressed areas, in order to combat the root socioeconomic causes of the smuggling of migrants, especially those related to

³⁵ See General Assembly resolution 70/174, Annex, operative paragraph 10.

³⁶ Ibid, operative paragraph 10 (k).

³⁷ Ibid, operative paragraph 4.

³⁸ Ibid, operative paragraph 5 (f).

³⁹ Ibid, operative paragraph 5(d).

⁴⁰ Ibid, operative paragraph 8.

poverty;⁴¹

- To ensure the full implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons;⁴²
- To foster progress and development, and counter crime and terrorism, by strengthening their national capacity as well as the legal regime by *inter alia* utilizing the technical assistance and capacity building services provided by UNODC;
- To implement the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules),⁴³ the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules),⁴⁴ and other relevant international instruments;
- To remove any barriers that prevent women from being full participants in the economy, including by protecting them against violence and discrimination and abuse, particularly in the workplace;⁴⁵
- To recognize that gender equality and the empowerment of women, their full integration into the formal economy as well as their full and equal participation in public and political life, are essential for addressing the structural and underlying causes of violence against women and girls;⁴⁶
- To recognize that the prevention and responses to violence against women and girls require an holistic and comprehensive approach that takes into consideration the linkages between violence against women and girls and other key issues including education, poverty eradication and food security;⁴⁷
- To promote gender-specific measures as an integral part of national policies on the treatment of offenders, including the rehabilitation and reintegration of women offenders into society;
- To mainstream a gender perspective into their national criminal justice systems by developing and implementing national strategies and plans to promote the full protection of women and girls from all acts of violence, including gender-related killing of women and girls, in accordance with the obligations of parties under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁴⁸ and the Optional Protocol thereto,⁴⁹ and taking into account the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice⁵⁰ and the General Assembly resolutions on the gender-related killing of women and girls;⁵¹
- To ensure adequate support for the implementation of robust and effective risk-based frameworks

⁴¹ See Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/23, entitled “Strengthening international cooperation in addressing the smuggling of migrants”, preambular paragraph 1.

⁴² See Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/23, entitled “Implementation of the United Nations Global Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons”, preambular paragraph 1.

⁴³ See General Assembly resolution 70/175, entitled “United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules)”.

⁴⁴ See General Assembly resolution 65/229, entitled “United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules)”.

⁴⁵ See General Assembly resolution 71/241, operative paragraph 38.

⁴⁶ See “Agreed Conclusions on the Elimination and Prevention of all forms of Violence against Women and Girls”, document E/2013/27 – E/CN.6/2013/11, paragraph 19.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, paragraph 20.

⁴⁸ See United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 2131, No. 20378.

⁵⁰ See General Assembly resolution 65/228, Annex.

⁵¹ See General Assembly resolutions 68/191 and 70/191.

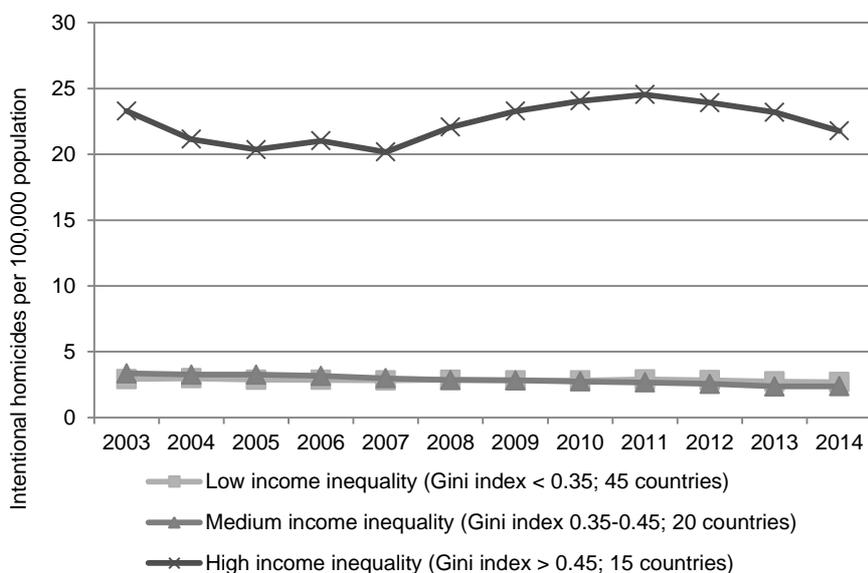
to counter money laundering and financing of terrorism, which are capable of combatting illicit financial flows and preventing proceeds from generating crimes, including corruption, which deprive States of valuable domestic resources.

III. LINKAGES BETWEEN THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION AND SPECIFIC SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS UNDER IN-DEPTH REVIEW

III. 1. Sustainable Development Goal 1 – End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Violence is strongly linked to income inequality, so eradicating poverty requires efforts to prevent and address violence. In line with information considered by the Commission in 2016,⁵² the group of countries with greatest income inequality displays intentional homicide rates that are between 6 and 9 times greater than the intentional homicide rates in the groups of countries with either medium or low levels of income inequality, an indication that distribution of income within a country, rather than the average national income, may have an impact on intentional homicide rates.

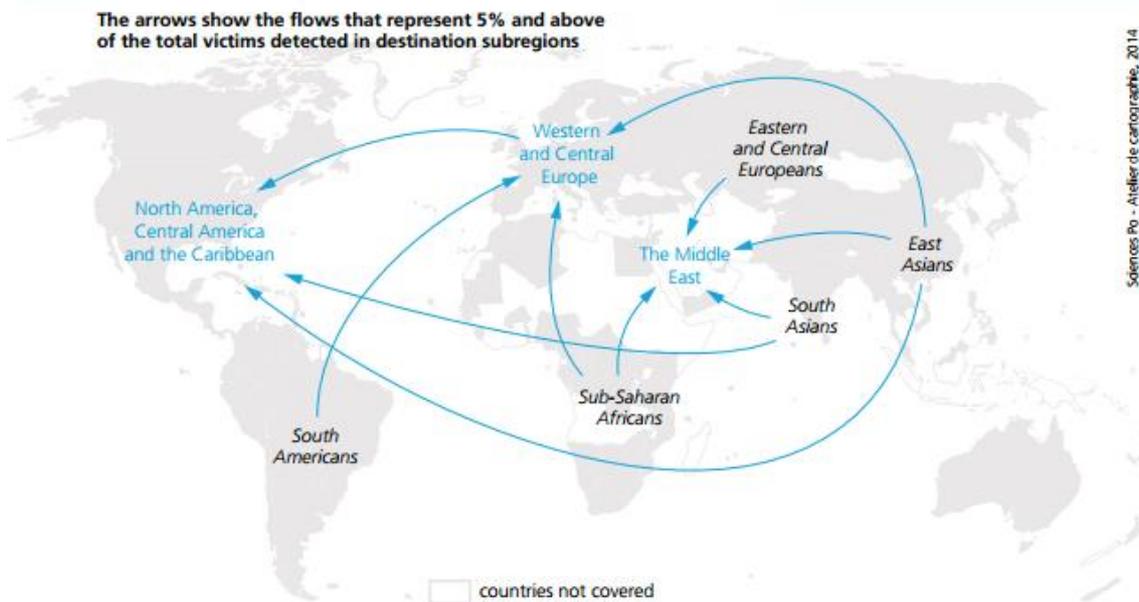
Intentional homicides per 100,000 population, by level of income inequality, 2003-2014



There is also a consistent relationship between trafficking in persons and poverty, particularly when considering transregional trafficking flows. Richer countries in Europe, North America and the Middle East, broadly speaking, detect many victims from poorer countries.

⁵² See E/CN.15/2016/10.

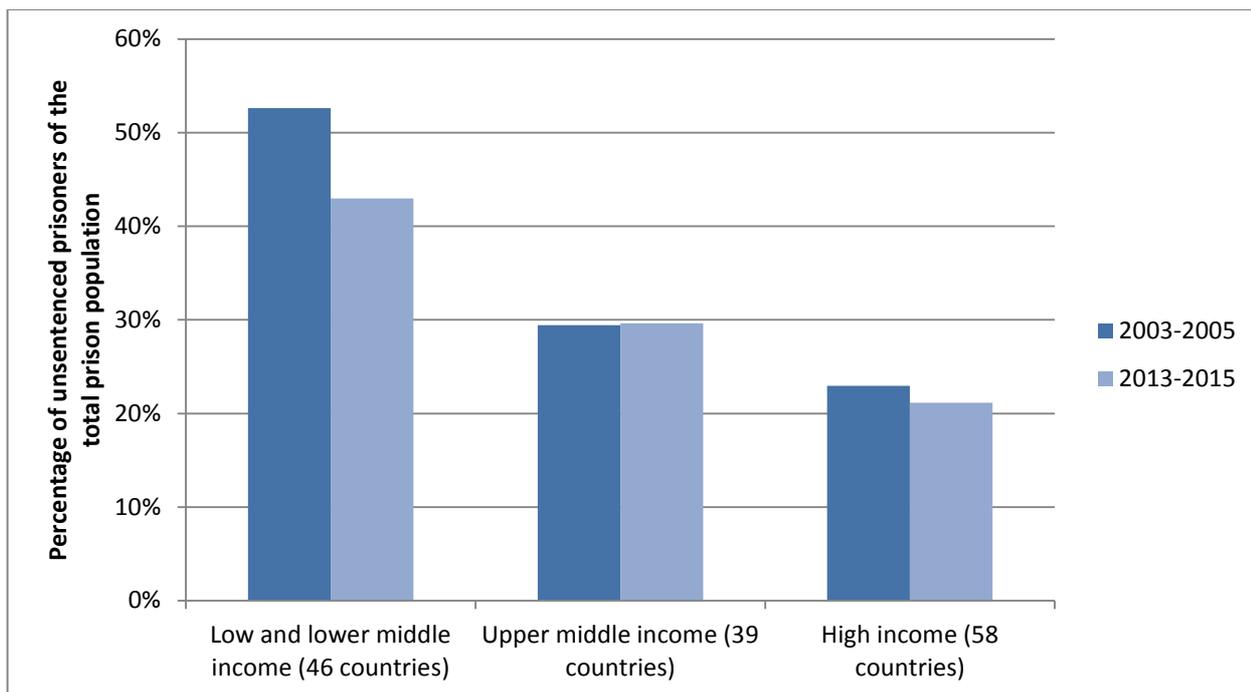
MAP 6: Main destination areas of transregional trafficking flows (in blue) and their significant origins, 2010-2012



Intraregional trafficking – the most commonly detected type – often sees victims from relatively poorer countries within a given geographical area being exploited in relatively richer ones. Similarly, domestic trafficking often involves victims from relatively poorer areas of the given country trafficked for exploitation into more affluent areas; often the capital, another large city, or a tourist destination.

Poverty status also affects the efficiency and accessibility of criminal justice institutions as it can be seen in the SDG indicators related to target 16.3. Data collected through the Commission data collection system (CTS) suggest that, while the percentage of unsentenced detainees has dropped globally from 53% of the total prison population to 43%, the percentage of unsentenced detainees remains considerably higher in countries with lower level of income and higher income inequality.

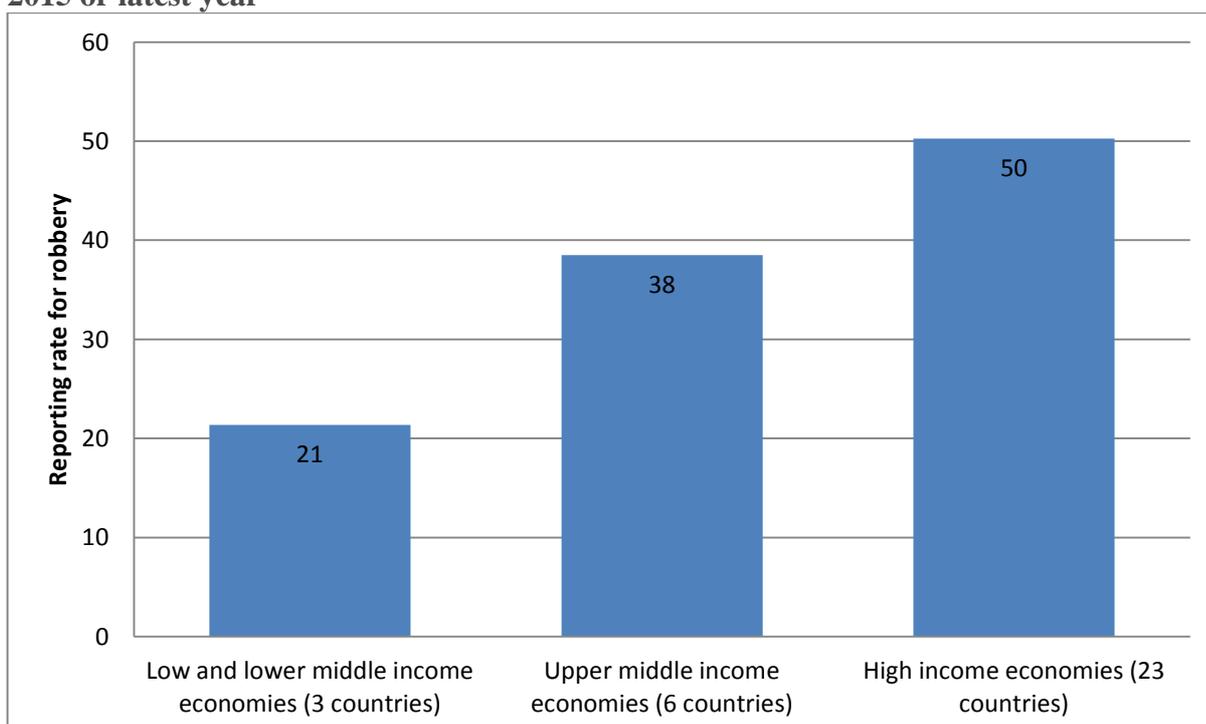
Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population by income economy, 2003-2005 and 2013-2015



Source: UN-CTS

Public trust in, and accessibility of, criminal justice institutions, as measured by crime reporting rates of victims of crime and violence, also are stronger in high-income countries. Violent crime reporting rates tend to be lower in countries that have a higher prevalence of crime, thus resulting in less trust in and access to criminal justice authorities exactly where there is more need of it.

Reporting rates for robbery by income level of countries, 2015 or latest year



Source: UN-CTS

In the *Doha Declaration*, Member States *inter alia* committed themselves to holistic and comprehensive approaches to countering crime, violence, corruption and terrorism in all their forms and manifestations, and to ensuring that those responses are implemented in a coordinated and coherent way, along with broader programmes or ***measures for social and economic development, poverty eradication***, respect for cultural diversity, social peace and social inclusion;⁵³ to integrating crime prevention and criminal justice strategies into all relevant social and economic policies and programmes, in particular those affecting youth, with a special emphasis on programmes focused on ***increasing educational and employment opportunities*** for youth and young adults;⁵⁴ to conducting further research in order to address through innovative approaches the impact of urban crime and gang-related violence on specific populations and places, fostering social inclusion and ***employment opportunities*** and aiming at facilitating social reintegration of adolescents and young adults;⁵⁵ and to encouraging the active participation of the private sector in crime prevention, as well as in ***social inclusion programmes and employability schemes*** for vulnerable members of society, including victims and those released from prison.⁵⁶

III. 2. Sustainable Development Goal 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

The Commission has undertaken efforts towards ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being for all at all ages, including, for example, among the prison population. The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), which represent an essential update of the original rules adopted at the very first Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Geneva in 1955, state that prisoners should enjoy the same standards of health care that are available in the community, and should have access to necessary health-care services, free of charge without discrimination on the grounds of their legal status, while health-care services should be organized in close relationship to the general public health administration and in a way that ensures continuity of treatment and care, including for HIV, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases, as well as for drug dependence (Rule 24).⁵⁷ In addition, the Rules provide *inter alia* that every prison shall have in place a health-care service tasked with evaluating, promoting, protecting and improving the physical and mental health of prisoners, paying particular attention to prisoners with special health-care needs or with health issues that hamper their rehabilitation (Rule 25), that all prisons shall ensure prompt access to medical attention in urgent cases (Rule 27), that in women’s prisons there shall be special accommodation for all necessary prenatal and postnatal care and treatment (Rule 28), and that where children are allowed to remain in prison with a parent, provision shall be made for child-specific health-care services, including health screenings upon admission and ongoing monitoring of their development by specialists. (Rule 29).

III.3. Sustainable Development Goal 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, including Sustainable Development Goal 5, Member States called for an end to all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere and to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, recognizing that such violence is a barrier to gender equality, women’s empowerment and overall sustainable development. Goal 5 is linked to all the other Sustainable Development Goals, with close connections, in particular, to poverty eradication, health, inequalities, climate action and peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

⁵³ See General Assembly resolution 70/174, Annex, operative paragraph 4

⁵⁴ Ibid., operative paragraph 7(c)

⁵⁵ Ibid., operative paragraph 9(d)

⁵⁶ Ibid., operative paragraph 10 (l)

⁵⁷ See General Assembly resolution 70/175, Annex.

Throughout the years, the need to address the *specific needs of women and girls* in crime prevention and criminal justice has been highlighted by the Commission in several resolutions. At its nineteenth session, the Commission recommended, for subsequent adoption by the General Assembly, the “Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”, which provided a comprehensive framework to assist States in developing and implementing crime prevention and criminal justice policies/actions to eliminate violence against women and to promote equality between men and women within the criminal justice system.⁵⁸ In 2015, the Commission recommended a resolution, for subsequent adoption by the General Assembly, entitled “Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls”,⁵⁹ in which the Assembly encouraged Member States to promote integrated and comprehensive strategies to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls, including gender-related killing of women and girls, through *inter alia* early and continuous educational programmes, community mobilization and awareness-raising, in order to counter attitudes and social factors that foster, justify or tolerate any violence against women and girls. Moreover, with the adoption of the *Doha Declaration*, Member States endeavoured to mainstream a gender perspective into criminal justice systems by developing and implementing national strategies and plans, in order to promote the full protection of women and girls from all acts of violence, including gender-related killing of women and girls.

The Commission has repeatedly addressed the problem of violence against women, particularly in its most extreme form of femicide. According to information considered by the Commission in 2016,⁶⁰ women constitute the majority of victims of homicide perpetrated by intimate partners or family members (60 per cent in a sample of 53 countries worldwide), and they constitute an even higher share of victims of homicide perpetrated by intimate partners.⁶¹

With a view to *achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls*, UNODC, under the guidance of the Commission, supports Member States in *inter alia* promoting access to justice for women and girls; supporting the development of legislation and policies that protect their rights and that prevent, as well as respond to, violence against women and girls. In particular, the work of UNODC contributes to ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere, including in the criminal justice system, where women face many forms of gender-based discrimination, whether they are victims of crime, survivors of violence, witnesses, alleged offenders or prisoners; and to eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres through the development of specific crime prevention and criminal justice responses as a key element of a comprehensive multi-sector response to violence against women and girls.

The *treatment of prisoners, including the specific needs and realities of women offenders and prisoners*, is a key aspect of access to justice and the rule of law and the Commission has deliberated on this issue on numerous occasions. In 2011, upon the Commission’s recommendation, the General Assembly adopted resolution 65/299, entitled “United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules)” and, in 2015, resolution 70/175 entitled “United Nations Standard Minimum Rules of the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules).” In fulfilment of those mandates and with a view to supporting the implementation of SDG 5, UNODC provides assistance to countries in planning, developing and implementing criminal justice policies that promote penal systems that take into consideration the needs of women offenders/prisoners; and ensure gender-equality in the implementation of non-custodial measures (in areas such as early access to legal aid; diversion from prosecution;

⁵⁸ See General Assembly resolution 65/228, Annex.

⁵⁹ See General Assembly resolution 70/176.

⁶⁰ See E/CN.15/2016/10.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, paragraph C (12).

avoidance of pre-trial detention; sentencing and post-sentencing; and addressing special categories of women offenders).

Providing meaningful ***access to legal aid for women*** is an important component of ensuring their equal access to justice. In 2012, the General Assembly, upon recommendation of the Commission, adopted resolution 67/187 entitled “United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems”, in which the Assembly called upon Member States to take appropriate measures to address their special needs, including incorporating a gender perspective into all policies, laws, and procedures, putting in place gender-sensitive education and training mechanisms for legal aid providers, and taking active steps to ensure that, where possible, female lawyers are available to represent female defendants, accused and victims of violence, and to provide legal aid, advice and court support services in all legal proceedings regarding the latter, to avoid secondary victimisation.

The importance of ***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*** has recently been reiterated in Security Council Resolution 2220 (2015). It draws from language, ideas and urgencies addressed in the Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security as well as the first General Assembly resolution 65/60 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Based on these policy frameworks and the call of States parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in resolution 8/3 of 2016 of the Conference of States Parties, to consider the gender dimensions of the root causes of transnational organized crime, including illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, UNODC, through its Global Programme on Firearms, initiated the development of a programme-specific gender mainstreaming and women empowerment strategy. This strategy combines concrete and practical techniques for gender mainstreaming at the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation level with targeted action to generate the interest of an increased number of young girls and women to professionally contribute to the fight against illicit firearms and to empower more women from the criminal justice system and civil society to meaningfully contribute to this fight at all levels. This strategy will contribute to SDG 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls.

Furthermore, the 2030 Agenda underlines the importance of ensuring the ***equal access of women and girls to education and work*** and that men need to be engaged in these undertakings. Through the establishment of its Women’s Network, the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme (CCP) is scaling up efforts to work with host countries to recruit more women to the Port Control Units (PCU) and to ensure their influence and role in the Programme and in their workplace. The Programme’s explicit focus on including women is already producing results. A review conducted in 2016 showed an increase in female PCU officers from circa 11 % in 2015 to 14 %.

III.4 – Sustainable Development Goal 9 – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

The Container Control Programme, managed by the UNODC and the World Customs Organization, contributes to the development of quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all. By strengthening border control capacities of Member States to more effectively and efficiently profile and inspect cargo containers, the Programme not only helps counter transnational organized crime and terrorism, but also facilitates legitimate trade, thus fostering sustainable economic development.
