



Contribution by the Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

2020 Theme: “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”

I. Introduction

This contribution is submitted by **H.E. Jose Antonio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil), the Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its 29th session**, in response to a letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council of 5 February 2020, inviting the Commission to provide an input to the 2020 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which will meet under the auspices of ECOSOC at the UN headquarters in New York from 7 to 16 July 2020, on the theme “**Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development**”. The input aims to highlight how best to accelerate action and achieve transformative pathways so as to realize the decade of action and delivery for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, focusing on the Commission’s area of work, reflecting the interrelations with other SDGs and targets, and highlighting how it is contributing to accelerating SDG progress.

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice works on a large portfolio of issues. The ones addressed in this contribution do not reflect the work of the Commission in a comprehensive manner, but represent examples related to the 2020 theme.

II. Key policies and measures to ensure “accelerated action and transformative pathways” for realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development

As the **principal policymaking body** of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and the **preparatory body** for the United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

(CCPCJ) supports Member States' efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, touching upon several specific goals and targets. The work of the CCPCJ is intertwined with a vast array of social and economic issues as increasingly being recognized by the international community. The CCPCJ works to strengthen the capacity of Member States to detect, prevent, prosecute and combat all types of transnational crime, to provide access to justice for all and to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. It also plays a major role in strengthening international cooperation in addressing global challenges and threats.

The Commission facilitates, at its *regular sessions*, an interactive exchange of views among Member States and other relevant stakeholders on the ways to best contribute, within the Commission's mandate, to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, to ensure a follow-up to the 2030 Agenda and to support the review of its implementation, during consideration of a dedicated agenda item entitled "*Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolution 72/305, including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*".

Implementation of General Assembly resolution 73/183

While the Commission strives to contribute, through its policy work, to the implementation of all Sustainable Development Goals, it is worth mentioning that Goal 16 on "*Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels*" is of particular relevance to the work of the CCPCJ. The Commission adopted in this regard in 2018 a resolution on "*Enhancing the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*" (adopted by the General Assembly (GA) as A/RES/73/183) referencing the importance of Goal 16 to the work of the CCPCJ and outlining efforts to support its implementation by Member States.

Specifically, resolution 73/183 encouraged Member States to consider including information on the implementation of Goal 16, also in relation to the work of the Commission, in their voluntary national reviews for consideration by the high-level political forum on sustainable development, and sharing relevant information contained in those voluntary national reviews with the Commission during its twenty-eighth session. The resolution also invited Member States and relevant United Nations entities, international and regional organizations, the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network and other relevant stakeholders to provide to the Commission for consideration during its

twenty-eighth session, views on how the Commission can contribute to the review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 16.¹

In implementation of GA resolution 73/193, the Commission had before it, at its twenty-eighth session in May 2019, a conference room paper² containing (i) information on the voluntary national reviews, including the main messages relevant to Goal 16, and (ii) a compilation of the main messages of the voluntary national reviews of 2016, 2017 and 2018 which are publicly available and contain a reference to the implementation of Goal 16. In addition, another conference room paper³ was issued, containing contributions received from Member States and United Nations entities. The latter conference room paper included (i) an overview of suggestions made on how the Commission can contribute to advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and (ii) an overview of the action taken towards meeting the targets of Goal 16.

Furthermore, a series of *brown-bag lunches* were organized prior to the twenty-eighth session of the CCPCJ in 2019 with a view to facilitating a multi-stakeholder discussion on the individual targets and indicators of Goal 16 that are relevant to the work of the CCPCJ, in particular targets 16.1 (“*Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere*”), 16.2 (“*End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children*”), 16.3 (“*Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all*”), 16.4 (“*By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime*”), 16.5 (“*Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms*”) and 16.A (“*Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime*”). Topics of the discussion included: crime prevention; violence against women and girls; victims of homicide; human trafficking; violence against children; rule of law; access to justice; organized crime; arms trafficking; corruption; and terrorism. In the framework of the brown-bag lunch series, participants had the opportunity to receive information on the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, for which the Commission acts as one of the two governing bodies, in respective areas and to discuss ways in which this work supported the implementation of Goal 16.⁴

United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The interrelated and mutually reinforcing nature of the sustainable development and the rule of law is acknowledged in the outcome document of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress

¹ See General Assembly resolution A/RES/73/183.

² [E/CN.15/2019/CRP.4](#).

³ [E/CN.15/2019/CRP.1](#).

⁴ See CCPCJ website https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/session/28_Session_2019/brown-bag-lunches.html

on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Crime Congress)⁵, held in Doha, Qatar, which had been negotiated within the CCPCJ – 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”*. The Commission has drawn on this Declaration in its work to address crime in a broader development context, ensuring that no one is left behind.

The Fourteenth Crime Congress is scheduled to take place in April 2020 - five years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. The Fourteenth Crime Congress, being the first forum of its kind to take place after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, presents an opportunity to evaluate the progress in implementing the sustainable development goals related crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law, but also to define the role of the Congress in shaping their implementation. The Fourteenth Congress is expected to pave the way for concrete action towards realising the 2030 Agenda, thereby empowering societies to directly contribute to the fulfilment of the Agenda.

In accordance with its overall theme - *“Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda”* – the Congress will strive to deliver recommendations on how to channel the international community’s efforts towards ensuring transformative pathways to realize the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development. These will be critical building blocks in the international community’s crime prevention and criminal justice roadmap in the five years to come. The outcome of the Fourteenth Congress, as was the case with all previous congresses, will feed into the intergovernmental work and deliberations taking place at the Crime Commission.

III. Critical gaps in implementing the 2030 Agenda within the area of responsibility of the intergovernmental body, and priority measures to accelerate action, and ensure transformative pathways to realize the decade of action for achieving the 2030 Agenda

In the Political declaration of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly, *“Gearing up for a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development: political declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit”*⁶, Member States reiterated their determination to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and called for action, highlighting a number of key commitments.

⁵ See A/RES/70/174, Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

⁶ See General Assembly resolution A/RES/74/4.

The work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice relates to a number of the commitments made in the Political Declaration of the General Assembly:

Leaving no one behind

In the 2030 Agenda, Member States recognized that combating inequality within and among countries and fostering social inclusion are crucial to sustainable development⁷. Within the context of crime prevention and criminal justice, the principle of “leaving no one behind” translates into addressing the nexus between social vulnerabilities and crime. These social vulnerabilities are defined by strong gender, age and income-specific patterns in certain types of crimes and offences.

In the outcome of the Thirteenth Crime Congress, Member States acknowledged the importance of promoting 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. Member States also stressed the fundamental role of youth participation in crime prevention efforts as well as the need to foster social inclusion and employment opportunities to address (urban) crime.⁸

Recognizing that in order to overcome the threats posed by crime, comprehensive strategies are needed, including crime prevention and criminal justice responses, the Commission highlighted, in its resolution 28/1 entitled “*Strengthening the engagement of all members of society in crime prevention*”, that it is crucial to engage all members of society in crime prevention, placing particular emphasis on communities, families, children and youth in order to effectively address the conditions in which crime and violence can emerge. Member States were also encouraged to mainstream a gender perspective into their crime prevention strategies, policies and programmes, taking into account the needs and perspectives of women and girls.

The Commission further addressed the specific needs of children and youth during criminal proceedings in resolution 27/6, calling upon Member States to protect the rights of children in contact with the criminal justice system. In the same resolution, Member States are invited to consider issues such as access to justice and social reintegration of offenders, reducing recidivism, and access to health and education services for offenders.

The Commission has also taken the lead in the development of a significant body of United Nations Standards and Norms⁹, covering a wide range of issues including access to justice including through legal aid, treatment of offenders, justice for children, victim protection, and violence against women, to the benefit of the most vulnerable members of society. As an

⁷ See A/RES/70/1, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

⁸ See A/RES/70/174, Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

⁹ See CCPCJ website <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/ccpcj-standards-and-norms.html>.

example, the CCPCJ developed the above-mentioned Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), which the General Assembly adopted in resolution 70/175 in 2015.

Mobilizing adequate and well-directed financing.

In the outcome document of the Thirteenth Crime Congress, Member States reaffirmed the importance of adequate, long-term, sustainable and effective technical assistance in order to uphold the rule of law and ensure effective, fair, humane and accountable crime prevention and criminal justice systems. Member States therefore strived to continue to provide sufficient, stable and predictable funding in support of the design and implementation of effective programmes to prevent and counter crime in all its forms and manifestations.¹⁰ The Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration is among the major contributions.

The importance of technical assistance and capacity-building to strengthen national institutions was also highlighted by the Commission most recently during its twenty-eighth session in 2019, whereby the CCPCJ adopted two resolutions on “*Promoting technical assistance and capacity-building to strengthen national measures and international cooperation to combat cybercrime including information sharing*”¹¹ and on “*Technical assistance provided by UNODC related to counter-terrorism*”.¹²

Strengthening institutions for more integrated solutions

Corruption and lack of access to independent and efficient judicial justice have a major negative impact on economic growth, as both are essential for the prevalence of the rule of law. Corruption does not only undermine democratic institutions, but also slows economic development and contributes to governmental instability. To address this, the Commission negotiated, at its twenty-eighth session, resolution on “*Enhancing transparency in the judicial process*”¹³. Furthermore, in its resolution 27/5 entitled “*International cooperation against trafficking in cultural property*”, the Commission stressed that the development and maintenance of fair and effective criminal justice systems should be a part of any strategy to counter terrorism and transnational organized crime.

Enhancing national implementation and bolstering local action to accelerate implementation

Empowering and supporting cities, local authorities and communities is vital for effective crime prevention and criminal justice policy responses and the implementation of the

¹⁰ See A/RES/70/174, Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

¹¹ Adopted by the GA as [A/RES/74/173](#).

¹² Adopted by the GA as [A/RES/74/175](#).

¹³ Adopted by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as E/RES/2019/22.

international commitments on the ground touching upon all different aspects of the world drug problem.

In the outcome of the Thirteenth Crime Congress, Member States expressed support for the development and implementation of consultative and participatory processes in crime prevention and criminal justice in order to engage all members of society to make prevention efforts more effective and to galvanize public trust and confidence in criminal justice systems. Importance of strengthening public-private partnerships for preventing and countering crime in all its forms and manifestations was also highlighted in that regard.¹⁴

The need to foster partnerships with the private sector and to engagement with civil society in crime prevention as well as in programmes to assist victims of crime and reduce recidivism was also underscored in CCPCJ resolution 28/1 entitled “*Strengthening the engagement of all members of society in crime prevention*”, which also encouraged Member States to endeavour to strengthen coordination and cooperation among the national institutions involved in preventing and combating urban crime.

Solving challenges through international cooperation and enhancing the global partnership

Addressing crime in all its forms demands a comprehensive approach, and the CCPCJ 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)¹⁵. The network was established to assist the international community in strengthening co-operation in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice.

The importance of strengthened international cooperation, based on the principles of shared responsibility and in accordance with international law, has been repeatedly highlighted in the context of the work of the Commission. In the outcome of the Thirteenth Crime Congress in 2015, negotiated within the CCPCJ, Member States endeavoured to strengthen international cooperation as a cornerstone of the efforts to enhance crime prevention and ensure that the criminal justice systems are effective, fair, humane and accountable, and ultimately to prevent and counter all crimes.¹⁶

The Commission has also adopted and negotiated a number of resolutions in recent years, highlighting the vital role that international cooperation plays in developing and

¹⁴ See A/RES/70/174, Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

¹⁵ See CCPCJ website <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/PNI/institutes.html>.

¹⁶ See A/RES/70/174, Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

implementing effective crime prevention and criminal justice responses, for example most recently: resolution A/RES/74/173 on “*Promoting technical assistance and capacity building to strengthen national measures and international cooperation to combat cybercrime, including information-sharing*”, resolution 28/3 on “*Strengthening regional and international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice responses to illicit trafficking in wildlife*” and resolution 27/5 on “*International cooperation against trafficking in cultural property*”.

Harnessing science, technology and innovation with a greater focus on digital transformation for sustainable development

In the outcome document of the Thirteenth Crime Congress, Member States endeavoured to explore the potential for the use of traditional and new information and communication technologies in the development of policies and programmes to strengthen crime prevention and criminal justice, including for identifying public safety issues, and fostering public participation. They also highlighted the importance of promoting the use of new technologies to facilitate cooperation and partnerships between the police and the communities they serve, as well as of sharing good practices and exchange information on community policing.¹⁷

At the same time, the Commission recognizes that while modern information and communication technologies offer innovative tools in addressing crime, they also create additional threats. One challenge that hinders the development of peaceful and prosperous societies is cybercrime. The complex nature of the crime which takes place in the borderless realm of cyberspace is compounded by the increasing involvement of organized crime groups. Perpetrators of cybercrime and their victims can be located in different regions, and its effects can ripple through societies around the world, highlighting the need to mount an urgent, dynamic and global response. Recognizing the increasing threat posed by cybercrime, the Commission has been addressing the issue. Following ECOSOC decision 2016/241, the prominent theme for the twenty-eighth session of the Commission was “*Criminal justice responses to prevent and counter cybercrime in all its forms, including through the strengthening of cooperation at the national and international levels*”.

The Commission also negotiated targeted resolutions at its twenty-eighth session in 2019, namely General Assembly resolution A/RES/74/173 entitled “*Promoting technical assistance and capacity-building to strengthen national measures and international cooperation to combat cybercrime, including information sharing*” and General Assembly resolution A/RES/74/174 entitled “*Countering child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse online*”. In resolution A/RES/74/173 on “*Promoting technical assistance and capacity-building to*

¹⁷ See A/RES/70/174, Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

strengthen national measures and international cooperation to combat cybercrime, including information sharing”, the Commission recognized the open-ended intergovernmental Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime as an important platform for exchange of information on national legislation, best practices, technical assistance and international cooperation.

In the resolution A/RES/74/174 on “*Countering child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse online*”, the Commission acknowledged that advances in information and communications technologies have provided significant economic and social advantages to countries, communities and children, fuelling economic development and encouraging interconnectedness through the sharing of ideas and experiences, but that such advances also present unprecedented opportunities for child sex offenders to access, produce and distribute child sexual abuse material that violates the integrity and rights of children and enable harmful online contact with children, irrespective of their physical location or nationality. To address the issue, the CCPCJ encouraged Member States to involve relevant government institutions and the private sector in their efforts to facilitate the reporting and tracing of suspicious financial transactions, with the aim of detecting, deterring and combating child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse online.

In addition, CCPCJ resolution 28/1 on “*Strengthening the engagement of all members of society in crime prevention*” invited Member States to engage the academic and research communities in evaluation the impact of crime prevention policies, strategies and programmes on preventing crime, while taking into account the input and contributions of all stakeholders involved.

Investing in data and statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals

In-depth research and data collection are essential to understand why and how the crime occurs. This understanding is necessary to inform policy responses in order to reduce crime and its negative consequences in the future. Crime prevention is thus at heart of criminological endeavour, although it is often treated as a specialized subject.¹⁸ The General Assembly, in its resolution 74/177 entitled “*Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity*”, recommended that Member States adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach to crime prevention and criminal justice reform, based on baseline assessments, regular data collection and analysis. Member States were further invited to strengthen national statistical systems of criminal justice.

¹⁸ https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/crime/ccpj/World_crime_trends_emerging_issues_E.pdf.

The need to build and maintain capacities for the study of criminology, as well as forensic and correctional sciences, and to draw on contemporary scientific expertise in the design and implementation of relevant policies, programmes and projects was also highlighted in the outcome of the Thirteenth Crime Congress, for which the CCPCJ acted as a preparatory body.¹⁹

IV. Contribution of the intergovernmental body to accelerated action and transformative pathways and realizing the decade of action and delivery for achieving the 2030 Agenda within its area of responsibility including its cooperation with ECOSOC and other intergovernmental bodies

The Commission values the cooperation with other intergovernmental bodies, including the brother and sister functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. While each of the Commissions has a specific mandate, there are many cross-cutting elements they share. It is therefore important to step up joint efforts to enhance cooperation and collaboration thereby advancing the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals while avoiding duplication of our efforts.

In 2019, the CCPCJ continued its efforts to enhance horizontal cooperation with other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, including the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

The CCPCJ also strongly encourages the participation of various United Nations Secretariat entities and specialized agencies that can contribute to its work on crime prevention and criminal justice. During its twenty-eighth session, the CCPCJ had the pleasure to welcome the Assistant Director General for Education of UNESCO, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers and the Director a.i. of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute.

The Commission also contributed, through a video message, to the High-level debate on the role of regional organizations in strengthening and implementing crime prevention and criminal justice responses held under the auspices of the General Assembly in June 2019, thereby reiterating Commission's endeavour to continue strengthening international and regional cooperation in addressing global challenges and threats.

At the occasion of the Integration Segment of the Economic and Social Council in July 2019, a side event was organized on advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of

¹⁹ See A/RES/70/174, Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

law towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The event, organized by UNODC and the government of Japan as host of the Fourteenth Crime Congress, provided a platform for subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC, including CCPCJ, CND, CSW, to contribute to the preparations for the 2020 Congress, discussing how their respective bodies' work contributes to advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law.

A joint event was organized by the Vienna-based Commissions, CCPCJ and CND, at the occasion of the visit of the President of the seventy-third session of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés in August 2019. The event, hosted by the Chairs of the Commissions, highlighted contributions of the Vienna-based Commissions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In support of the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, a high-level event is envisaged to be hosted jointly by the CCPCJ and CND, at the twenty-ninth session of the CCPCJ in May 2020, to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. The high-level event aims to raise awareness for the commitments made in 1995 in Beijing, in particular in relation to the work of the Commissions in Vienna and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, highlighting joint contributions to realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls is a goal central to the work of the Vienna-based Commissions, which have in recent years considerably increased the attention devoted to the issue of gender equality through the adoption of a number of targeted resolutions and policy commitments. In addition to a dedicated website on contributions to SDG 5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”, the Commissions have devoted special attention to the issue of gender mainstreaming, joining efforts to promote the use of gender-inclusive communication, including through the informal “Let’s Talk Gender” meetings.

V. Recommendations for accelerating progress and moving on transformative pathways for realizing the decade of action, for possible use in drafting the HLPF declaration.

The following recommendations may be considered for the HLPF declaration:

- Reiterate that the rule of law and development are strongly interrelated and mutually reinforcing and that the advancement of the rule of law at the national and international levels, including through crime prevention and criminal justice mechanisms, is essential for sustained and inclusive economic growth and sustainable development;

- Reiterate the importance of promoting 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;
- Stress the importance of strengthened international cooperation, based on the principle of shared responsibility and in accordance with international law, to effectively dismantle illicit networks and counter transnational organized crime;
- Invest in effective responses to prevent and counter crime in all its forms and manifestations, supporting the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and UNODC, in close cooperation with relevant United Nations entities, international and regional organizations, and other relevant stakeholders, within their mandates, to ensure an inclusive dialogue on all aspects of crime prevention and criminal justice and to provide technical assistance and capacity building for requesting Member States.