



Side Event Draft Concept Note

Title: "CRIME AS AN IMPEDIMENT TO SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA"

Sponsor/Co-Sponsor: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Peace Institute (IPI) (UNODC and IPI are already confirmed sponsors, and we will also ask the AU to join as a third sponsor).

Date: 22 September 2008

Time: 8:00-9:45am

Venue: IPI

Potential Moderator/Chair, Panelists/Resource persons: Chairs: UN Under-Secretary General *Antonio Maria Costa*, Executive Director of UNODC and *Terje Rød-Larsen*, President of IPI

Panelists and/or Discussants: (to be confirmed) *Senior Member of the AU*; *Two Permanent Representatives*; *Nuhu Ribadu*, former Executive Chairman of Nigeria's Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), the government commission tasked with countering corruption and fraud, and recipient of the World Bank's 2008 Jit Gill Memorial Award for Outstanding Public Service; *Margaret Vogt*; and a *Senior Member of the OOSA*

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Context

Side Event Theme 8(a): "Poverty reduction and economic growth in Africa: Development, peace and security". The side event would be in the context of "Crime as an Impediment to Security and Development in Africa", providing the links between Development and the Rule of Law, and sharing best practices from the region: "We will not enjoy development without security, and we will not enjoy security without development." - The U.N. Secretary General's "In Larger Freedom" Report.

Main issues and challenges

In Africa, investment levels are lower than they should be, which is attributed to the perception that the rule of law does not prevail. Organized Crime, corruption, war crimes, and conventional crimes, destroys social and human capital and damages, especially through corruption, the relationship between the State and its citizens. Total private inflows to sub-Saharan Africa as a percentage of GDP are lower than for all other developing regions. But this low level investor confidence was not always the case. In the mid-70s Africa was better off in this respect than Asia and Latin America. And although there is fear of investing in Africa, the rates of return on Foreign Direct Investment have generally been much higher in sub-Saharan Africa than in other regions.

Economic renaissance in Africa depends on: 1) realization of the hardware needed to create jobs and infrastructure; and, 2) improvement of the software upon which development is based: rule of law, integrity of governance, and security (crime prevention must be included in development planning).

Under-development in Africa is both the cause and consequence of violence, crime, corruption and poor governance. Whether measured by its severity, the suffering it imposes on victims, or the impact it has on the continent's political, economic and social systems, crime is a dramatic problem. Yet there is also evidence of positive change. First and foremost, the Continent has recognized the existence and severity of its crime problem, which is a first step on the road to improvement.

Encouraging signals are emerging across Africa: Anti-corruption campaigns are forcing corrupt officials out of government, reform is gaining ground, arrests are becoming more frequent, and efforts are underway to recover assets stolen or looted in past years. There is a push for integration and recovery by regional economic communities and the African Union. These organizations are creating many of the normative premises and the organizational structures needed to prevent and repress crime. But long term progress requires the support of the international community as well.

The challenge may not rest in attacking what might appear to be the immediate causes of crime, but in disrupting the reciprocal relationships between poverty and crime, and between crime and underdevelopment. The relationship between these forces is perverse—mass poverty and large-scale unemployment creates vulnerability to crime and corruption, which in turn perpetuates underdevelopment. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's (UNODC) Report on "Crime and Development in Africa", shows that debt cancellation and greater ODA are urgently needed in Africa. It also demonstrates that such initiatives, per se, will not succeed, unless they are teamed with efforts to ensure good governance and effective judicial systems.

Now is the moment to invest in Africa: this is the basic message of the side event which coincides with and seeks to highlight the efforts of many African countries to support

good governance, the development of justice and the rule of law. The side event will be an invitation to the international community, institutional donors, and development banks to focus, not just on the delivery of aid designed to provide infrastructure to Africa, i.e., hospitals, schools, factories, roads, dams, and the like, but also on support for undertakings that aim to eliminate crime and corruption across the continent. The people of Africa are calling for justice, for good government and honest leaders, and the panel will highlight the best responses to such call.

Possible Questions to guide an interactive discussion

-With total private inflows to sub-Saharan Africa as a percentage of GDP lower than for all other developing regions, how do we get the word out that the rates of return on Foreign Direct Investment have generally been much higher in sub-Saharan Africa than in other regions.

-How to encourage the international community, institutional donors, and development banks to focus, not just on the delivery of aid designed to provide infrastructure to Africa, i.e., hospitals, schools, factories, roads dams, and the like, but also on support for undertakings that aim to eliminate crime and corruption across the continent.

-What have been some of the more successful efforts of African countries to support good governance, the development of justice and the rule of law, and what can we learn from those examples of good practices.

Expected Results

[To be finalized]