



Contribution by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to the Integration Segment on the theme “Innovative communities: leveraging technology and innovation to build sustainable and resilient societies” (1- 3 May 2018)

This contribution is submitted by H.E. Ambassador Lotfi Bouchaara (Morocco), the Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) at its 27th session, and has been prepared in response to a letter from the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council inviting the Commission to provide substantive inputs in preparation for the Integration Segment on “**Innovative communities: leveraging technology and innovation to build sustainable and resilient societies**”, which will convene under the auspices of ECOSOC at UN Headquarters in New York from 1 to 3 May 2018.

As the principal policymaking body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, the Commission supports the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, touching upon several specific goals and targets. From promoting the rule of law and strengthening criminal justice institutions to the prevention of corruption or violence against women, the work of the CCPCJ is intertwined with a vast array of social and economic issues. The importance of this interaction is increasingly being recognized by the international community.

The outcome document of the Thirteenth Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Doha, Qatar, in April 2015, the Doha Declarationⁱ, highlights these important linkages and acknowledges that sustainable development and the rule of law are strongly interrelated and mutually reinforcing.

The overarching theme adopted for the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Japan in 2020 and for which the Commission as preparatory body has started already the work is “Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda” which again underlines the important role that the mandates of the Commission play in successfully achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

A dedicated website has been created to showcase the contributions the CCPCJ is making to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions-/commissions-2030.html>.

ⁱ A/RES/70/174

Building sustainable and resilient societies

In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States committed to take steps to “**shift the world on to a sustainable and resilient path**”, pledging that “**no one will be left behind**”ⁱⁱ.

The work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice enhances **resilience and inclusion** as the key enablers to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The work of the Commission supports in particular the achievement of all targets under Sustainable Development **Goal 16** on the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, the provision of access to justice for all and to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

As laid out in the concept note for the Integration Segment 2018, the term ‘resilience’ describes “the ability to recover from or adjust easily to calamity or change”. The severity of the impact of disruptive events on society and the environment depend on the level of preparedness across multiple areas, including urban planning and infrastructure, economic structures, and the way public institutions are designed. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice works in support of Member States strengthening their **public institutions** (target 16.6), to prepare them for disruptive events caused by internal or external factors, to make them more resilient and to mitigate vulnerabilities.

In this regard, the Commission is **engaged in the fight against corruption** and works towards strengthening the capacity and cooperation against corruption and bribery in all their forms (target 16.5), for example by preventing the transfer of the proceeds of corruption and facilitating asset recovery in accordance with the United Nations Convention Against Corruptionⁱⁱⁱ.

The CCPCJ also works towards the preparedness for and prevention of exogenous shocks, building resilience for example through “Technical assistance for implementing the international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism” as recommended for adoption by ECOSOC in 2017^{iv}.

The Commission has taken the lead in the development of a significant body of United Nations standards and norms^v, developing and promoting universal principles in crime prevention and criminal justice, covering a wide range of issues including access to justice, treatment of offenders, justice for children, victim protection, and violence against women. Those who are in contact with the criminal justice system are among the most vulnerable members of society and addressing their needs is key to **reduce inequalities within society** in support of **SDGs 10 and 1**.

As an example, the CCPCJ developed the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), that the General Assembly adopted in resolution 70/175 in 2015, and a resolution on the promotion of their practical application for the adoption by ECOSOC in 2017^{vi}, in support of SDGs 3, 5 and 16.

Another example is the “Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice services” (A/RES/65/228 as submitted by the CCPCJ), which exemplify the extensive work that the Commission undertakes to promote access to justice for women and girls in support of **SDG5** to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls^{vii}. In 2017, the Commission adopted a resolution on

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

ⁱⁱⁱ A/RES/69/199 (as submitted for adoption by the CCPCJ).

^{iv} E/RES/2017/17

^v See CCPCJ website <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/ccpcj-standards-and-norms.html>

^{vi} E/RES/2017/16

^{vii} See GA resolutions 71/206, 70/175, 70/176, 70/174, 69/194, 65/228, 68/191, 68/192, 67/186, 67/188, 65/195, 65/288, 65/229, as well as ECOSOC resolutions 2015/23, and 2014/21.

“Mainstreaming a gender perspective into crime prevention and criminal justice policies and programmes and into efforts to prevent and combat transnational organized crime”^{viii}

Furthermore, linkages exist between creating sustainable and resilient societies and the work of the Commission and **SDG 8** on promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, in particular as reflected in mandates pertaining to crime prevention, employment prospects and sustainable development^{ix}. Notably, the Commission recommended to ECOSOC resolution 2014/21 on "Strengthening social policies as a tool for crime prevention", which recognized the importance of integrating crime prevention issues into all relevant social and economic policies and programmes, and invited Member States, when developing crime prevention programs, to examine issues such as social inclusion, strengthening the social fabric, access to justice, the social reintegration of the offender and access to health and education services.

One of the ways of enhancing opportunities and addressing challenges in creating sustainable and resilient societies is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality **education** and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all in support of **SDG 4**. The CCPCJ has a broad body of work on **youth crime prevention**^x, which includes education for justice and through sports. “Education and youth engagement as key to making societies resilient to crime” will be the topic of a working group at the next Crime Congress.

The creation of safe, inclusive and resilient **cities** in support of **Goal 11** is closely connected to the reduction of crime and violence. Seventy-five per cent of the world’s cities have higher levels of income inequalities than two decades ago, and research shows that urban violence is generally more prevalent in areas of strong disadvantage, social exclusion, and poverty. Improving coordinated national and local government crime prevention and urban safety policies and practices focused on addressing crime and violence as a multi-causal phenomenon and building reliable and transparent delivery of services -- while at the same time bolstering local institutions -- is key. The development of **United Nations System-wide Guidelines on Safer Cities** is an important and timely initiative, with a view to ensuring that these Guidelines will complement existing international standards and norms on crime prevention, including the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime^{xi} and the Guidelines for Cooperation and Technical Assistance in the Field of Urban Crime Prevention^{xii}.

Leveraging technology and innovation

The above-mentioned Doha Declaration calls on States to explore the potential for the **use of traditional and new information and communication technologies** to strengthen crime prevention and criminal justice, including for identifying public safety issues, and fostering public participation. The Declaration also stresses the need to promote the use of new technologies to facilitate cooperation and partnerships between the police and the communities they serve.

Context-sensitive technological advances and inclusive innovation to this end are supported by the work of the Commission. The **goAML system**, a standard software system available for financial intelligence units was developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, responding to requests by the Commission in its efforts to counter money laundering, the proceeds of crime and the financing of terrorism (CCPCJ resolution 23/3).

New technologies can also play a decisive role in **data collection and analysis**. In the Commission’s area of work, Member States are supported by the UNODC through the collection of data on crime and the operation of criminal justice systems with a view to making policy-

^{viii} CCPCJ resolution 26/3 as contained in report E/2017/30 - E/CN.15/2017/13.

^{ix} See, for example, GA resolution 65/229 and ECOSOC resolutions 2002/13 and 2014/21.

^x See, for example, E/RES/2016/18

^{xi} See E/RES/1995/9, annex.

^{xii} See E/RES/2002/13, annex.

relevant information and analysis available in a timely manner to the international community, as well as to enhancing the cross-national comparability of data through the development of key indicators and data reporting tools. UNODC regularly updates statistical series on crime, criminal justice, submitted including through the annual United Nations Survey on Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS).

In the context of technological progress, risk management in the digital realm becomes increasingly important. As cities across the globe are building a smart infrastructure, using networked solutions to increase the effectiveness of their transportation systems, water management and electricity networks, the protection of these infrastructures depends on **innovative solutions to build ‘cyber-resilience’**. The CCPCJ works on strengthening international cooperation to combat **cybercrime** (CCPCJ resolution 26/4) and established an intergovernmental expert group on cybercrime, which held its third meeting in April 2017 and has scheduled its fourth meeting to be held in April 2018. Cybercrime will also be at the centre of the 27th session of the CCPCJ in May 2018, during which the Commission will hold a thematic debate on “Criminal justice responses to prevent and counter cybercrime in all its forms, including through the strengthening of cooperation at the national and international levels”. A Chair’s summary of the deliberations held during the thematic discussion will be included in the report of the session, which will be made available for consideration by the Economic and Social Council in July 2018.

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