

*Contribution by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to the Integration Segment on the theme “Making eradication of poverty an integral objective of all policies: what will it take?” (8-10 May 2017)*

Submission by H.E. Ambassador Kitano, Chair of the Commission at its 26<sup>th</sup> session

### **Introduction**

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) supports the efforts undertaken to improve engagement between the Council and its subsidiary bodies, in line with General Assembly resolution 68/1, entitled “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council”. The CCPCJ continues to be regularly informed by the Secretariat about the implementation of that resolution and has endeavored to respond to requests for written contributions from the Council, including to its Integration Segment and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, as appropriate.

A dedicated website on the contributions by CCPCJ to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda has been established: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/commissions-2030.html>

### **Contribution of CCPCJ to 2030 Agenda towards the eradication of poverty**

*-Link between sustainable development and the rule of law*

The **CCPCJ** has since its establishment been contributing to the commitments, focus and policy developments of successive international development agendas. Its work has become even more relevant with the 2030 Agenda, giving Member States an **effective, proven, consensus-based forum to engage in discussions on gaps and lessons learned**, providing thereby a platform to **ensure that international policy is based on the rule of law and integrity which positively influences outcomes across the agenda, and which is essential to the eradication of poverty**.

A basic tenant underlying the cross cutting sustainable development commitments of the 2030 Agenda is that the **eradication of poverty can only be predicated on the rule of law, an effective criminal justice system, protection of victims of crime, and prevention of transnational organised crime and corruption**.

There is also clear evidence that **well-planned crime prevention strategies** not only prevent crime and victimization, but also promote community safety and may contribute to sustainable development and the eradication of poverty. The *United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime*<sup>1</sup>, which were negotiated within the CCPCJ, outline several approaches to crime prevention, including the promotion of well-being of people through social, economic, health and

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<sup>1</sup> See Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/13, Annex (initially a resolution recommended by the CCPCJ at its 13<sup>th</sup> session).

educational measures. One of the ways of expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, thereby contributing to the *implementation of SDG 4* and promoting productive employment and decent work for all, thereby contributing also to *the implementation of SDG 8<sup>ii</sup> and SDG 10<sup>iii</sup>*.

- *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 link between crime prevention and criminal justice and sustainable development and the eradication of poverty was **at the centre of the 13th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Doha in April 2015**, for which the CCPCJ acted as the preparatory body. In their contributions to the Congress<sup>iv</sup>, Member States stressed that the rule of law had helped to build trust between the State and its citizens, enabling investment, improved fiscal performance and inclusive growth, while promoting transparency, accountability and stability, and the fight against corruption in all its forms and at all levels. By the same token, actions in areas such as poverty eradication, improving child and maternal health, developing inclusive education, empowering women and girls, creating jobs and decent work, and safe urban environments played an invaluable role in promoting and reinforcing the rule of law in all societies. In the **Doha Declaration**<sup>v</sup>, negotiated in Vienna and adopted at the high-level segment of the Congress, Member States 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**.

- *People-centered approach*

In developing normative frameworks which prevent and mitigate corruption, transnational organised crime, the trafficking in persons, as well as protect victims, and address the impact of crime and violence on women and children – the Commission has **worked to protect the most vulnerable individuals and improve development prospects across societies**.

Particular attention in the Commission’s work is devoted to the **specific needs of those affected by crime and those who may be in contact with the criminal justice system**, 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**, thereby contributing towards the *achievement of SDG 16, which is key to the eradication of poverty*.

In addressing the **specific needs of children**, the General Assembly adopted in 2014 the “*United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*”<sup>vi</sup>, 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 need<sup>vii</sup>. In

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<sup>ii</sup> See, for example, GA resolution 65/229 and ECOSOC resolutions 2002/13 and 2014/21.

<sup>iii</sup> SDG 10, in particular target 10.3, highlights the need to ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of income, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.

<sup>iv</sup> See A/CONF.222/5.

<sup>v</sup> 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”.

<sup>vi</sup> See General Assembly resolution 69/194.

<sup>vii</sup> See General Assembly resolution 65/228 “Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women” (adopted upon the recommendation of the CCPCJ at its 19<sup>th</sup> session).

addressing the **specific needs of juveniles**, Member States adopted the “*United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (Riyadh Rules)*”<sup>viii</sup>.

Special attention is also given to the situation and needs of **women**. In this regard, reference is made to Assembly resolution 65/228<sup>ix</sup>, adopting the “*Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*“. In that resolution, Member States emphasized that women’s poverty and lack of empowerment, as well as their marginalization resulting from exclusion from social policies and from the benefits of sustained development, could place them at increased risk of violence, thereby impeding the social and economic development of communities and States, as well as the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals. **SDG 5** is closely linked to the work and mandates of the Commission on eliminating violence against women and girls; trafficking in persons and empowering women and girls.<sup>x</sup> The Commission has taken action to address this issue, including *inter alia* by adopting a number of relevant resolutions.<sup>xi</sup>

Another important element of access to justice and the rule of law is the **treatment of prisoners**. The Assembly adopted in 2015 the “*United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules)*”<sup>xii</sup> highlighting the need to take account the individual needs of prisoners, in particular the most vulnerable categories in prison settings and to protect and promote the rights of prisoners. The “*United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules)*”, invite Member States to take into consideration the **specific needs and realities of women as prisoners**<sup>xiii</sup>.

- *Data collection*

The work of the CCPCJ and UNODC is **informed by data**. UNODC gathers and analyses **comparable and reliable information on international crime trends and responses to crime** and provides technical advice on indicators and metrics in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice also in view of the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda. ECOSOC resolution adopted upon the recommendation of the Commission in 2015, “*Improving the quality and availability of statistics on crime and criminal justice for policy development*”<sup>xiv</sup>, thereby confirming UNODC as the custodian of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS). Also, both the CCPCJ and the UN Statistical Commission have agreed on a road map to strengthen the collection and quality of criminal justice statistics, thereby showcasing how **functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council in collaborating are even better equipped to making sustainable development and the eradication of poverty an integral objective in all policies**.

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<sup>viii</sup> See General Assembly resolution 45/112.

<sup>ix</sup> Ibid.

<sup>x</sup> See GA resolutions 71/206, 70/175, 70/176, 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.

<sup>xi</sup> See, for example, GA resolutions 69/194 and 68/188 and ECOSOC resolution 2014/21.

<sup>xii</sup> See General Assembly resolution 70/175 (adopted upon the recommendation of the CCPCJ).

<sup>xiii</sup> See General Assembly resolution 65/229.

<sup>xiv</sup> See Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/24.