



**UNITED NATIONS
COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**Contribution to the
2015 United Nations Economic and Social Council
(ECOSOC)
Integration Segment**

Note on the contribution of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to the ECOSOC Integration Segment on “Achieving sustainable development through employment creation and decent work for all”

I. Introduction

The present note has been prepared at the request of the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council, which invited the subsidiary bodies of the Council to provide inputs to the Integration Segment of the Council on issues relating to achieving sustainable development through employment creation, to be held from 30 March to 1 April 2015.

II. Achieving sustainable development through employment creation and crime prevention and criminal justice activities

There is a growing recognition, including within the context of the post-2015 development agenda, of the mutually reinforcing relationship between the rule of law and sustainable development and, therefore, that insecurity, injustice and a weak and ineffectively applied rule of law can have a significant impact on development progress and vice versa.

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice has been underlining the links between **preventing and addressing crime and achieving sustainable development**, namely:

In the *Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World*, adopted in 2010 at the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,¹ which served as the preparatory body for the Congress, Member States recognized the centrality of crime prevention and the criminal justice system to the rule of law. They also emphasized that long-term sustainable economic and social development and the establishment of a functioning, efficient, effective and human criminal justice system had a positive influence on each other.

In its resolution 68/188, entitled “*The rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015*”, the General Assembly – at the recommendation of the Crime Commission at its 22nd session - stressed the need for a comprehensive approach and further involvement of the States members of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the discussion leading to the formation of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda, in close coordination with the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations bodies and entities, fully taking into account the focus areas of the Millennium Development Goals and reiterated

¹ A/RES/65/230 (adopted upon the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its 19th session)

that transnational crime must be addressed, *inter alia*, as part of a comprehensive response to promote durable solutions through the promotion of human rights and more equitable socioeconomic conditions and, in that regard, stressed again the importance of encouraging Member States to develop, as appropriate, comprehensive crime prevention policies based on an understanding of the multiple factors that contribute to crime and to address such factors in a holistic manner, while emphasizing that crime prevention should be an integral element of strategies to foster social and economic development in all States.

Furthermore, in its resolution 69/195 entitled “*The rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015*”, which also originated at the Commission at its 23rd session, the General Assembly noted its strong determination to reinvigorate political will and to raise the level of the international community’s commitment to moving the sustainable development agenda forward, through the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In that resolution, the Assembly also acknowledged the centrality of crime prevention and the criminal justice system to the rule of law, and that long-term sustainable economic and social development and the establishment of a functioning, efficient, effective and humane criminal justice system have a positive influence on each other.

By the same token, in the preparatory work undertaken by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, leading up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to be held in Doha, Qatar from 12 to 19 April 2015, the inclusion in the broader development is at center stage, in view of its main theme as set out in General Assembly resolution 67/184 of 20 December 2012, namely “*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*”. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/22 entitled “*Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the post-2015 development agenda*”, recommended by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its 23rd session in May 2014, Member States, international organizations and all relevant stakeholders were invited to provide to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) their views regarding the contribution that the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, considering its main theme, could make to the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, and the Office was requested to report to the Congress on that matter. In their contributions, compiled in the report by the Executive Director of UNODC,² Member States stressed that the rule of law at the national and international levels 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. 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

² A/CONF.222/5

promoting and reinforcing the rule of law in all societies. It was also stressed that fostering adequate decent employment opportunities employment for new entrants to the jobs market are fundamental to development in all societies and that programmes to engage young people in society could better bridge the gap between Government and civil society organizations.

As far as **crime prevention** more specifically is concerned, it is worth noting, as referenced in the *United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime*³ and other relevant United Nations standards and norms, that it is a broad concept grounded in the notion that there are risk factors at individual, family, community and wider society levels that can place individuals at higher risk for crime, violence and victimization. The *Guidelines* outline several approaches to prevention, including the promotion of well-being of people through social, economic, health and educational measures; changing conditions in neighbourhoods that influence offending; reducing opportunities, increasing risks of being apprehended; and preventing recidivism by assisting in the social reintegration of offenders. There is 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

Last year, at the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2014/21, entitled “*Strengthening social policies as a tool for crime prevention*”, encouraged Member States to develop and implement comprehensive policies and programmes which, by fostering social development, are aimed at the prevention of crime and violence and address the multiple factors that contribute to crime and victimization.

In line with mandates emanating from the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, UNODC has been addressing crime prevention by developing technical tools; facilitating crime diagnosis through victimization surveys and local safety audits; supporting states to develop holistic crime prevention policies and strategies at national or local levels; and implementing social prevention projects with a particular focus on youth at risk. Furthermore, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/37 on “*Improving the quality and availability of statistics on crime and criminal justice for policy development*”, which originated in the Commission, efforts have been made to improve the collection of relevant statistical data and other evidence on crime prevention policies, which might, in turn, yield information of relevance on employment policies and their impact on crime levels.

Special attention is to be given to the situation and needs of **women**. In this regard, reference is made to Assembly resolution 65/228, entitled “*Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women*”, to which the *Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice* were annexed. In that resolution, Member States emphasized that women’s poverty and lack of

³ Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/13, Annex (initially a resolution recommended by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its 13th session)

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, including the Millennium Development Goals.⁴

Lack of employment creation and decent work for all are strongly connected to trafficking in persons domestically, regionally and transnationally. The challenges faced by victims of trafficking in persons, including those who are trafficked for the purpose of forced labour, are outlined in the 2014 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, whose publication by UNODC was mandated by the General Assembly resolution 64/293, entitled “United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons”. Among the findings contained in that report is the fact that the detection of trafficking for forced labour - a broad category which includes, for example, manufacturing, cleaning, construction, catering, restaurants, domestic work and textile production – has increased steadily in recent years. Some 40 per cent of the victims detected between 2010 and 2012 were trafficked for forced labour

Similarly, the situation and needs of **migrants** should be considered as well. 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 at its 21st session, migrants often experience impediments to accessing livelihoods, schooling, as well as other services, which, in turn, contributes to their vulnerability to crime and violence.

III. Possible action-oriented recommendations

- Member States are encouraged to strengthen crime prevention efforts by developing effective social-economic policies, including employment creation, that target groups at risk, in particular women, youth and indigenous people;
- Member States are encouraged to share knowledge on the use and evaluation of targeted employment policies with a view to prevent crime;
- Member States are encouraged to evaluate the risks for increased crimes when there are shifts in the labor markets (such as a large or forecast increase in new entrants) and to mitigate these risks through effective socio-economic strategy fully mainstreamed into the national development agenda.
- Member States are encouraged to strengthen the production and analysis of statistical data and other evidence to assess the impact of employment and recruitment policies on crime and vice versa.
- Member States are encouraged to build capacity to identify trafficking for forced labour and investigate and prosecute employers, recruitment agencies, and others involved in trafficking in persons and exploitative labour practices;

⁴ General Assembly resolution 65/228 (adopted upon the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its 19th session)

- Member States are encouraged to build or strengthen national capacities to gather research and/or data on trafficking in persons for forced labour.
- Member States are encouraged, in conformity with national legislation and applicable international legal instruments to which they are party, to:
 - Establish or strengthen mechanisms which allow migrants to report potential cases of abuse by relevant authorities and employers without fear of reprisals, and that allow for such complaints to be addressed fairly;
 - Enforce labour law effectively, including by addressing violations of such law, with regard to migrant workers' labour relations and working conditions, inter alia, those related to their remuneration and conditions of health, safety at work.
 - Develop international migration policies and programmes that include a gender perspective, in order to adopt the necessary measures to better protect women and girls against dangers and abuse during migration;
 - Protect the human rights of migrant children, given their vulnerability, particularly unaccompanied migrant children, ensuring that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration.
