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Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Background Guide 2025

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2025 National Model United Nations New York Conference (NMUN•NY)! We are pleased to introduce to you our committee, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ). Your committee's work is facilitated by volunteer staffers. This year's committee staff are: Director Ashley Rutenbeck and Assistant Director Hanzade Aslan (Conference A), and Director Theresa McMackin and Assistant Director Hat Alzahrani (Conference B). Ashley is the Vice President of a nonprofit for veterans, she holds a Bachelor's in Public Policy and Administration with certifications in Advancing Sustainable Development and Green Fiscal Policy. Ashley has a background in management, marketing, and public policy, her passion for tackling societal challenges drives her advocacy for sustainable program implementation. Hanzade Aslan studies biomedical engineering at Wright State University and has a background in industrial and systems engineering. Theresa McMackin is currently a student at Keene State College, where she is earning a graduate certificate in applied genocide prevention. She holds a BA in Historical Studies and an MA in Holocaust and Genocide Studies from Stockton University. Hat Alzahrani studies Masters Terrorism and Homeland Security at American University with a background in International Law and cybercrime. The preparation of these materials was supported by Under-Secretaries-General Gamaliel Perez (Conference A) and Courtney Indart (Conference B) with contributions by Under-Secretaries-General for Conference Management Joshua Andersen (Conference A) and Kenny Nguyen (Conference B).

The topics on the agenda for this committee are:

1. International Cooperation in Combating Transnational Organized Crime and Corruption
2. Improving the Coordination of Efforts against Trafficking in Persons

This Background Guide serves as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We encourage you to explore your Member State's policies in depth and use the bibliography to further your knowledge on these topics. In preparation for the conference, each delegation should submit a Position Paper by 11:59 p.m. ET on 1 March 2025 in accordance with the guidelines in the [Position Paper Guide](#) and the [NMUN•NY Position Papers website](#).

Two resources, available to download from the NMUN website, serve as essential instruments in preparing for the Conference and as a reference during committee sessions:

- The [NMUN Delegate Preparation Guide](#), which explains each step in the delegate process, from pre-conference research to the committee debate and resolution drafting processes. Please take note of the information on plagiarism, and the prohibition on pre-written working papers and resolutions.
- The [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#), which includes the long and short form of the rules, as well as an explanatory narrative and example script of the flow of procedure.

In addition, please review the mandatory [NMUN Conduct Expectations](#) on the NMUN website. They include the conference dress code and other expectations of all attendees. We want to emphasize that any instances of sexual harassment or discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or disability will not be tolerated. If you have any questions concerning your preparation for this committee, please contact the Deputy Secretaries-General at dsg.ny@nmun.org.

We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

Ashley Rutenbeck, Director
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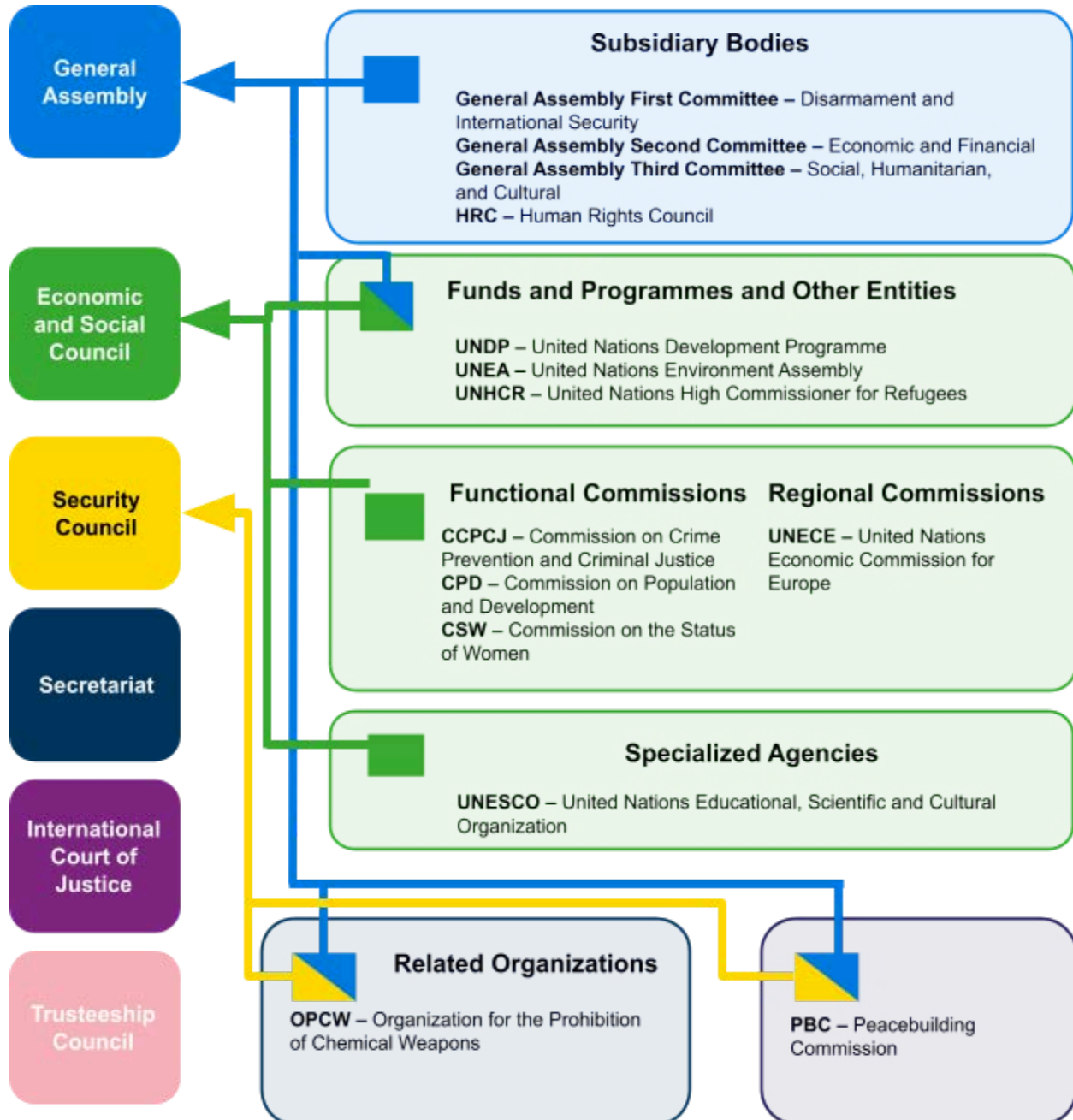
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United Nations System at NMUN·NY

This diagram illustrates the United Nations system simulated at NMUN·NY. It shows where each committee “sits” within the system to demonstrate the reportage and relationships between entities. Examine the diagram alongside the Committee Overview to gain a clear picture of the committee’s position, purpose, and powers within the United Nations system.





Committee Overview

Introduction

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) addresses issues related to crime and justice systems and is the main forum for Member States of the United Nations to debate standards and norms in this area.¹ As a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), CCPCJ collaborates with other United Nations bodies working in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and is a significant actor in the efforts to achieve the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015) and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).² While SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions) is central to the work of CCPCJ, other SDGs, such as SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), SDG 14 (life below water), SDG 15 (life on land), and SDG 17 (partnership for the goals), are also relevant.³ With the rise in transnational crime, CCPCJ has a central role in the discussion on the measures to improve international coordination to combat national and transnational crime, and to strengthen criminal justice administration systems.⁴

Mandate, Function, and Powers

In 1992, ECOSOC created CCPCJ under its resolution 1992/1 on the “Establishment of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,” and defined its mandate in resolution 1992/22 on the “Implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/152 concerning operational activities and coordination in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.”⁵ CCPCJ is the principal policy making body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.⁶ Its role is to consider and make recommendations on crime prevention and criminal justice to ECOSOC through a deliberative process.⁷ In 2006, the General Assembly further expanded the mandate of CCPCJ in its resolution 61/252 on “Questions relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2006–2007” to serve as one of the governing bodies of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and approve the budget of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund (UNPCJF).⁸

Whilst the following list is not exhaustive, CCPCJ's mandate can be summarized as:

- **CCPCJ will generally:** offer policy guidance on crime prevention and criminal justice; enable and coordinate assistance by United Nations bodies, in particular UNODC, for the prevention of crime and treatment of offenders; address issues of national and

¹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *CCPCJ: Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*. N.d.

² United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *CCPCJ: Mandate and Functions*. N.d.

³ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*. N.d.

⁴ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *CCPCJ: Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*. N.d.

⁵ *ibid.*; United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Establishment of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/RES/1992/1)*. 1992; United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/152 concerning operational activities and coordination in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice (E/RES/1992/22)*. 1992.

⁶ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *CCPCJ: Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*. N.d.

⁷ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*. N.d.

⁸ United Nations, General Assembly. *Questions relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2006–2007 (A/RES/61/252)*. 2006. p. 8.



transnational crime; establish and convene thematic working groups; and promote the implementation of criminal law and all forms of crime prevention matters.⁹

- CCPCJ **will not generally**: formulate binding decisions on crime prevention and criminal justice for Member States; implement programmes or directly provide technical assistance to Member States in crime prevention and criminal justice reform.¹⁰

Furthermore, CCPCJ is the preparatory and follow-up body for the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (UN Crime Congress), the largest multistakeholder forum on crime prevention and criminal justice.¹¹ The UN Crime Congress is held every five years and influences national and international crime prevention and criminal justice practices through the sharing of information, the formulation of policy recommendations, and by mobilizing public opinion for crime and justice reforms.¹²

Governance, Funding, and Structure

CCPCJ consists of 40 Member States, elected by ECOSOC, each serving a three-year term.¹³ Members are chosen according to equitable geographical allocation and are composed of 12 African states, nine Asian-Pacific states, four Eastern European states, eight Latin American and Caribbean states, and seven Western European and other states.¹⁴ As the Secretariat of CCPCJ, UNODC hosts CCPCJ's annual sessions in the first half of each year.¹⁵ In addition to the annual session, CCPCJ also meets at the end of each year for a reconvened session to discuss and decide on administrative and budgetary issues.¹⁶ There are also inter-sessional meetings to finalize the provisional agenda, address formal and substantive matters, hold thematic discussions, and to offer policy guidance to UNODC.¹⁷

The Bureau and Extended Bureau of the Commission assist CCPCJ in organizing and preparing its work in advance of the various sessions, including identifying priority issues for CCPCJ's thematic discussions.¹⁸ The Bureau's Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons, and Rapporteur rotate amongst Member States after each session, and the Extended Bureau consists of the chairpersons of the five regional groups, the European Union, and the Group of 77 and China.¹⁹

Since CCPCJ is largely a policymaking body, the majority of its funding is directed towards facilitating meetings and sessions, stemming entirely from the regular budget of the United Nations.²⁰ By contrast, the funding for the UNPCJF, which CCPCJ approves each year, consists solely of voluntary

⁹ United Nations, General Assembly. *Creation of an Effective United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme (A/RES/46/152)*. 1991; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *CCPCJ: Mandate and Functions*. N.d.; United Nations, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. *Report on the thirty-third session (8 December 2023 and 13–17 May 2024)*. 2024. p. 29; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *CCPCJ: Crime-related Resolutions and Decisions 2020 to 2029*. N.d.

¹⁰ Van Dijk. *Internationales Handbuch der Kriminologie 2. Criminological Research in the Framework of the United Nations*. 2009. p. 228; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Reform*. N.d.

¹¹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *CCPCJ: Mandate and Functions*. N.d.

¹² United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Preparations for the Fifteenth Crime Congress*. N.d.

¹³ United Nations, General Assembly. *Creation of an Effective United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme (A/RES/46/152)*. 1991.

¹⁴ New Zealand, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. *United Nations Handbook 2024-25*. 2024. pp. 168-170.

¹⁵ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *CCPCJ: Events*. N.d.

¹⁶ *ibid.*

¹⁷ *ibid.*

¹⁸ *ibid.*; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *CCPCJ: Membership and Bureau*. N.d.

¹⁹ *ibid.*

²⁰ United Nations, General Assembly. *Proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/662)*. 2023. p. 70.



contributions.²¹ The fund allows UNODC and other relevant United Nations entities to provide technical assistance in crime prevention and criminal justice to Member States and other stakeholders.²²

²¹ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Consolidated budget for the biennium 2024–2025 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2023/13) - Report of the Executive Director*. 2023. p. 71.

²² United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*. N.d.



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https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/Resolutions_Decisions/resolutions_2020-2029.html

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United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Preparations for the Fifteenth Crime Congress*. N.d. Retrieved 27 October 2024 from: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/15th-crime-congress.html>

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*. N.d. Retrieved 27 October 2024 from: https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/19-10645_CCPCJ.pdf

Van Dijk. *Internationales Handbuch der Kriminologie 2. Criminological Research in the Framework of the United Nations*. 2009. Retrieved 27 October 2024 from: https://pure.uvt.nl/ws/portalfiles/portal/1196455/Dijck_van_Criminological_research_in_the_framework_of_the_United_Nations_100226.pdf



1. International Cooperation in Combating Transnational Organized Crime and Corruption

Introduction

Transnational organized crime undermines peace and security in all Member States, leading to increased crime and destabilization globally.²³ In 2001, the General Assembly defined organized crime in resolution 55/25, titled the *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* (UNTOC), as being attributed to structured groups aiming to commit serious crimes or offenses to obtain financial or other material gains.²⁴ UNTOC further outlines that for a crime to be “transnational,” it must be committed in more than one state, or it must be committed in one state but involve groups that engage in criminal activity in more than one state.²⁵ Transnational organized crime can be categorized into eight sectors, including but not limited to cybercrime, human trafficking, the smuggling of migrants, illicit trading in firearms, and illegal wildlife trading.²⁶ The *Global Organized Crime Index 2023* underscores the impact international cooperation has on preventing organized crime.²⁷ The 2023 Index concluded that there is a need for greater capacity building amongst national, regional, and international entities, with resilience mechanisms as the critical component to building a robust deterrence to organized crime.²⁸ Member States participating in the 33rd session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), in May 2024, cited existing challenges hindering international collaboration, including, but not limited to, the lack of financial resources available to address crime, a lack of standardized laws amongst Member States, and jurisdictional conflicts that prevent collaboration between Member States.²⁹ Corruption impedes international collaboration between Member States by straining resources and undermining the integrity of law enforcement.³⁰

Wildlife crime, sometimes considered a low-risk and high-profit enterprise by organized crime groups, has a severe impact on the environment.³¹ The 2024 *World Wildlife Crime Report* defines wildlife crime as any illegal actions against national and international laws and regulations that are intended to protect wildlife, such as selling, buying, or possessing live species, taking species from their natural habitats, and importing or exporting that wildlife illegally.³² An example of wildlife crime is poaching, which entails the illegal hunting and killing of wildlife for sport or animal by-products, such as furs and ivory.³³ In Tanzania,

²³ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *UNODC Strategy: 2021-2025*. 2021. p. 8.

²⁴ United Nations, General Assembly. *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (A/RES/55/25)*. 2000. p. 5.

²⁵ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Definition in the Organized Crime Convention*. 2018.

²⁶ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Transnational organized crime: the globalized illegal economy*. 2024.

²⁷ Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime. *The Global Organized Crime Index 2023*. 2023. p. 66.

²⁸ *ibid.* p. 183.

²⁹ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: Report on the thirty-third session (8 December 2023 and 13–17 May 2024) (E/2024/30)*. 2024. p. 29.

³⁰ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Infiltration of Organized Crime in Business and Government*. 2018.

³¹ Zain. World Wildlife Fund. *Corrupting trade: An overview of corruption issues in illicit wildlife trade*. 2020.

³² United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *World Wildlife Crime Report*. 2024. p. 55.

³³ International Criminal Police Commission. *Illegal wildlife trade has become one of the ‘world’s largest criminal activities’*. 2023.



elephant ivory poaching has led to a 90% decrease in the elephant population over forty years in one of the country's largest protected areas.³⁴ Wildlife crime also encompasses illegal actions on plant life, for example, the illicit trafficking of timber from Southeast Asia to the European Union (EU) amounts to a value of nearly 3.5 billion USD annually.³⁵ Corruption further exacerbates wildlife crime by enabling the black market networks to sustain it, working to undermine the rule of law within Member States through bribery of officials at all levels of government.³⁶

Global losses due to money laundering annually are estimated to be between 800 billion to 2 trillion USD, with a significant portion linked to terrorism financing.³⁷ The United Nations has not adopted a universally agreed-upon definition of terrorism; however, the consensus is defined in Security Council resolution 1566 on "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts" as criminal acts intended to cause death or serious bodily injury to civilians or non-combatants to intimidate a population, compelling a government or an international organization to do or abstain from doing any act.³⁸ Money laundering involves processing illicit funds through complex networks to obscure their origins and integrate them into the legitimate financial system.³⁹ This process typically occurs in three stages: placement, where illegal money enters the economic system; layering, which involves moving the funds through a series of transactions to disguise their source; and integration, where the now "cleaned" money is reintroduced into the economy as legitimate assets.⁴⁰ Terrorism financing and money laundering exploit the international financial system, necessitating the implementation of regulations to combat these unlawful activities, which jeopardize global security and economic stability.⁴¹ According to the Institute for Economics and Peace's *Global Terrorism Index (2024)*, terrorism financing is a significant concern, with global expenditures related to terrorism estimated in the billions of dollars, but specific figures on total global financing are often not clearly disaggregated due to the clandestine nature of such activities.⁴²

International and Regional Framework

The international system has recognized the pervasiveness of transnational organized crime by adopting key international legal frameworks.⁴³ Adopted in 2001, UNTOC provides a comprehensive legal framework for Member States to cooperate in investigating, prosecuting, and extraditing criminals involved in various forms of organized crime.⁴⁴ UNTOC establishes protocols for addressing the trafficking

³⁴ World Wildlife Fund. *Rampant Poaching Threatens Former Elephant Stronghold in Tanzania*. 2016.

³⁵ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *How Wildlife and Forest Crime Undermines Development and Ravages Global Biodiversity*. 2014.

³⁶ Wildlife Justice Commission. *Dirty Money: The Role of Corruption in Enabling Wildlife Crime*. 2023. p. 33.

³⁷ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Global Programme Against Money Laundering*. N.d.

³⁸ United Nations, Security Council. *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts (S/RES/1566 (2004))*. 2004.

³⁹ Financing Action Task Force. *Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Vulnerabilities of Legal Professionals*. 2013.

⁴⁰ *ibid.*

⁴¹ International Monetary Fund. *The IMF and the Fight against Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing*. N.d.

⁴² Institute for Economics and Peace. *Global Terrorism Index 2024*. 2024.

⁴³ United Nations, General Assembly. *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (A/RES/55/25)*. 2000; United Nations, General Assembly. *United Nations Convention against Corruption (A/RES/58/4)*. 2003

⁴⁴ United Nations, General Assembly. *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (A/RES/55/25)*. 2000; United Nations, General Assembly. *Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and*



of persons, migrant smuggling, and firearms trafficking.⁴⁵ Three supplementary protocols were adopted along with UNTOC, including the *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons* (2001), which aids in international prosecution efforts by being the first legally binding international document to define human trafficking.⁴⁶ Additionally, the *Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air* (2000) established a definition for smuggling, which establishes grounds for dealing with smugglers and reducing the profit they obtain.⁴⁷ Finally the *Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition* (2000) outlines measures to control the manufacturing and trade of firearms on a national level.⁴⁸

In 2003, the General Assembly adopted the *United Nations Convention against Corruption* (UNCAC) which aims to encourage more effective strategies for preventing and combating corruption.⁴⁹ UNCAC has yielded significant results, such as the creation of international guidelines for anti-corruption initiatives, rules for the retrieval of stolen property, and systems for cross-border collaboration and reciprocal legal support in instances of corruption.⁵⁰ By defining criteria for honesty, transparency, and accountability in the public and commercial sectors, UNCAC encourages international efforts to prevent and eliminate corruption.⁵¹ Article 43 of the UNCAC underscores international cooperation and requires state parties to collaborate in the investigation and prosecution of corruption charges through extradition agreements and mutual legal assistance.⁵² Chapter V deals with asset recovery and calls on states to cooperate to trace, freeze, return and confiscate assets that have been obtained illegally.⁵³

Effective global collaboration, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), strengthens legal frameworks and mechanisms, which helps to dismantle criminal networks and reduce corruption.⁵⁴ In 2015, the General Assembly adopted resolution 70/1, on “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” which set forth concrete goals to address a wide range of global issues.⁵⁵ SDG 15 (life on land), in particular sub-target 15.7, emphasizes the need for immediate action to stop the poaching and trafficking of protected animals, as these activities frequently provide funding for organized crime.⁵⁶ SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions), particularly sub-target 16.4, focuses on reducing illicit money flows and arms trafficking, and sub-target 16.5, which focuses on how eliminating all forms of corruption and bribery is essential for ensuring that illegal activities do not undermine efforts for

Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (A/RES/55/255). 2001.

⁴⁵ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Addressing global challenges through international cooperation on crime prevention and justice*. 2022.

⁴⁶ United Nations, General Assembly. *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (A/RES/55/25)*. 2000.

⁴⁷ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Protocol against the smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime*. 2000.

⁴⁸ United Nations, General Assembly. *Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (A/RES/55/255)*. 2000.

⁴⁹ United Nations, General Assembly. *United Nations Convention against Corruption (A/RES/58/4)*. 2003.

⁵⁰ *ibid.*

⁵¹ *ibid.*

⁵² *ibid.* p. 22.

⁵³ *ibid.* p. 32-37.

⁵⁴ United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015.

⁵⁵ *ibid.*

⁵⁶ *ibid.* p. 24-25.



sustainable development.⁵⁷ SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals) highlights the need for worldwide collaboration to accomplish these goals, stressing the need for international cooperation to fortify the means of execution.⁵⁸

The *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora* (CITES) (1973) regulates trade in over 37,000 species to prevent exploitation by requiring Member States to implement permit systems for the export, import, and re-export of listed species, as outlined in articles III, IV, and V.⁵⁹ These articles specify guidelines to ensure that trade is legal, sustainable, and does not endanger the species' survival, and have been implemented by Member States through national legislation and enforcement measures which resulted in no species, listed under CITES, going extinct in the last 30 years.⁶⁰ To further address organized crime related to wildlife, recent resolutions include CCPCJ resolution 31/1 on "Strengthening the international legal framework for international cooperation to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife" and General Assembly resolution 76/185 on "Preventing and combating crimes that affect the environment", both aiming to strengthen measures against illicit trafficking and environmental crimes.⁶¹ On a regional level, the African Union adopted the *African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources*, a legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources across Africa.⁶² It aims to preserve biodiversity, protect endangered species, and regulate the use of natural resources to ensure their sustainability.⁶³

International efforts to combat terrorism have been significantly bolstered by legal frameworks that criminalize terrorist financing and promote global cooperation.⁶⁴ United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) on "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts" requires Member States to combat terrorist financing, enhance counter-terrorism cooperation, and calls for the establishment of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC).⁶⁵ Furthermore, the *International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism* (1999) criminalizes terrorist financing and strengthens international cooperation in devising and adopting effective measures for the prevention of terrorism financing as well as for its suppression through the prosecution and punishment of perpetrators.⁶⁶ Regional frameworks play a pivotal role in combating money laundering and terrorist financing with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa finding that illicit flows from Africa could be up to 50

⁵⁷ *ibid.* p. 25-26.

⁵⁸ *ibid.* p. 26.

⁵⁹ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*. 1973.

⁶⁰ *ibid.*

⁶¹ United Nations Economic and Social Council. *Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: Report on the thirty-first session (10 December 2021 and 16–20 May 2022) (E/2022/30)*. 2022. p. 13; United Nations, General Assembly. *Preventing and combating crimes that affect the environment (A/RES/76/185)*. 2022.

⁶² African Union. *African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources*. 2003.

⁶³ *ibid.*

⁶⁴ United Nations, Security Council. *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts (S/RES/1373(2001))*. 2001; United Nations, General Assembly. *International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (A/RES/54/109)*. 1999.

⁶⁵ United Nations, Security Council. *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts (S/RES/1373(2001))*. 2001.

⁶⁶ United Nations, General Assembly. *International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (A/RES/54/109)*. 1999.



billion USD annually.⁶⁷ To combat such statistics, the African Union's *Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption* (2003) provides a framework for African countries to strengthen their legal and institutional measures against money laundering and terrorism financing.⁶⁸ The Anti-Money Laundering (AML) Regulations of the EU, such as Regulation 2024/1624, have significantly improved measures against money laundering and terrorist financing within EU Member States.⁶⁹ The AML Regulations have broadened the scope of businesses required to comply with regulations, tightened controls on cryptocurrencies and anonymous prepaid cards, and strengthened cooperation for investigations and prosecutions among Member States.⁷⁰

Role of the International System

CCPCJ acts as the governing body of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the entity that focuses on international cooperation to fight organized crime and corruption.⁷¹ At its 33rd session, CCPCJ called for the coordination of transnational alliances to support the prevention of organized crime.⁷² In cooperation with CCPCJ, UNODC supports the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network Institutes (PNI), a collection of institutions within Member States that act as advisors to CCPCJ.⁷³ One participant, the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme (ISPAC), promotes institutions and non-governmental organizations from the global south to join in efforts to combat organized crime.⁷⁴ In 2024, the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), through connections with PNI, partnered with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC) to enhance information sharing to better respond to transnational organized crime in Africa.⁷⁵ This has resulted in ISS and PNI providing technical support to regional police chief secretariats and justice departments on how to combat organized crime in Africa.⁷⁶

UNODC provides support to Member States by acting as an advisor in developing and implementing crime prevention strategies and action plans, as well as collecting data from Member States and partners on crime trends and responses.⁷⁷ Initiatives such as UNODC's Abu Dhabi Declaration Programme

⁶⁷ United Nations Economic Commission for Africa et al. *Illicit Financial Flows: Report of the High Level Panel on illicit Financial Flows from Africa*. 2015.

⁶⁸ African Union. *Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption*. 2003.

⁶⁹ European Parliament et al. *Regulation (EU) 2024/1624 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 May 2024 on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purposes of money laundering or terrorist financing*. 2024.

⁷⁰ *ibid.*

⁷¹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *UNODC: Who we Are and What we Do*. N.d.

⁷² United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Thematic discussion on promoting international cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address organized crime, corruption, terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and other forms of crime, including in the areas of extradition, mutual legal assistance and asset recovery (E.CN.15/2024/L.1/Add.2)*. 2024.

⁷³ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Institutes of the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network (PNI)*. 2024.

⁷⁴ United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme (ISPAC)*. 2024.

⁷⁵ United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *PNI Newsletter: Issue 5*. 2024. p. 10.

⁷⁶ *ibid.*

⁷⁷ United Nations, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. *Note on the contribution of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to the 2016 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development on "Ensuring that no one is left behind."* 2016. p. 2.



provides support to national and regional public auditing programs in Member States, creating a foundation for good governance through the monitoring of the public sector to promote anti-corruption practices.⁷⁸ In 2021, UNODC launched the Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE) Secure Communications Platform to provide law enforcement authorities a space to share information securely amongst participating parties.⁷⁹ As of 2024, the GlobE Network had 118 Member States and 215 law enforcement authorities participating, with partnerships amongst Member States forming as a result of the information sharing.⁸⁰ INTERPOL works with UNODC to provide Member States with information exchange, investigative assistance and support, and capacity building for law enforcement groups.⁸¹ In 2016, UNODC and INTERPOL recommitted to joint action against transnational organized crime, such as wildlife crime and money laundering.⁸² UNODC and INTERPOL jointly launched CRIMJUST in 2016, a program focused on building technical capacities to combat illegal trafficking.⁸³ Initially focused on dismantling drug trafficking routes, the program now focuses on promoting information sharing that benefits post-seizure investigations on goods funneled through transnational networks.⁸⁴

In 2016, the General Assembly adopted resolution 70/301 on “Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife,” which reaffirmed Member State’s commitments to combat wildlife and environmental destruction as a result of illicit trading and trafficking.⁸⁵ The General Assembly recommitted to the resolution as recently as 2023, with Member States being encouraged to establish sustainable anti-crime approaches to better ecosystems and to combat the obtaining of permits and documentation by criminal groups allowing them to obtain rights to protected species and areas.⁸⁶ The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the agency focused on environmental and biodiversity protection and is governed by the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA).⁸⁷ In 2014, UNEA produced a brief on *Illegal trade in wildlife: the environmental, social and economic consequences for sustainable development*, stressing the importance of stemming wildlife crime due to its negative effects on the environment and the implementations of the SDGs.⁸⁸

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is a money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog that advocates for political action from Member States.⁸⁹ FATF recommends that Member States identify their risks for organized crime financial flows and develop responses such as criminal prosecution and sanctions for proven terrorism financing.⁹⁰ FATF has 39 members, and publishes periodic reviews of 215

⁷⁸ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Enhancing Collaboration between Supreme Audit Institutions and Anti-Corruption Bodies in Preventing and Fighting Corruption*. 2023. p. 7.

⁷⁹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *GlobE Network*. N.d.

⁸⁰ United Nations, Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities. *Members and Auxiliary Members*. 2024.

⁸¹ International Criminal Police Organization. *Cooperation with United Nations Entities*. 2024.

⁸² United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *UNODC-INTERPOL Agreement Creates Partnership to Tackle Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism Challenges*. N.d.

⁸³ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *CRIM JUST*. N.d.

⁸⁴ *ibid*.

⁸⁵ United Nations, General Assembly. *Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife (A/RES/70/301)*. 2016.

⁸⁶ United Nations, General Assembly. *Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife (A/77/L.99)*. 2023. p.3.

⁸⁷ United Nations Environment Programme. *About the United Nations Environment Programme*. 2024.

⁸⁸ United Nations, Environment Programme. *Illegal trade in wildlife: the environmental, social and economic consequences for sustainable development (UNEP/EA.1/INF/19)*. 2014.

⁸⁹ Financial Action Task Force. *Who we Are*. 2024.

⁹⁰ Financial Action Task Force. *International Standards on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation*. 2023.



Member States and their responses and legislation related to funding criminal activities.⁹¹ In May 2024, the heads of FATF, INTERPOL, and UNODC met during the 33rd CCPCJ session, calling for a renewed commitment to targeting the financing of criminal enterprises, which have been shown to lead to regional violence and societal instability.⁹²

GI-TOC is a non-governmental organization (NGO) that compiles qualitative and quantitative evidence to measure various forms of organized crime.⁹³ GI-TOC is an active participant in CCPCJ's sessions and regularly shares its data with UNODC.⁹⁴ The Global Organized Crime Index is a tool maintained by GI-TOC that analyzes the levels of criminal activity and resilience in 193 countries and has helped Member States interact with UNODC and civil society.⁹⁵ The Index's primary purpose is to provide proven and trusted information for policymakers and regional and global bodies to establish better laws and policies to combat organized crime.⁹⁶ In July 2024, GI-TOC published the report *Measuring Organized Crime*, which highlights aspects of global organized crime, including wildlife crime and money laundering.⁹⁷ The report notes that, related to financial crimes, sanctions on Member States where financial crimes are rampant often lead to state actors becoming complicit in these crimes to obtain economic stability.⁹⁸

Combating Organized Crime Related to Wildlife and the Environment

Illegal wildlife trade is linked with the criminal activity of organized crime groups, including activities such as exporting, importing, brokering, storing, and breeding various wildlife species.⁹⁹ CCPCJ addressed the links between organized crime and wildlife crime as recently as May 2024.¹⁰⁰ UNODC reports that wildlife crime is directly related to corruption and is the most significant enabling factor behind illegal wildlife trading, with document fraud being the most common avenue for criminals to access wildlife goods.¹⁰¹ Corruption in the context of wildlife crime ranges from criminals giving bribes to rangers in exchange for access to animal reserves and national parks to government officials facilitating the illegal trafficking of goods by overlooking criminal activity.¹⁰² Transnational organized crime groups are also known to bribe officials for access to contraband seized by law enforcement and to buy confiscated goods from customs officials.¹⁰³

⁹¹ Financial Action Task Force. *Countries*. 2024.

⁹² Financial Action Task Force. *Urgent action needed to fight money laundering and terrorist financing, say heads of FATF, INTERPOL, and UNODC*. 2024.

⁹³ Global Initiative Against International Organized Crime. *The Global Organized Crime Index 2023*. 2023.

⁹⁴ Tennant. Global Initiative Against International Organized Crime. *CCPCJ makes some progress despite underlying challenges*. 2022.

⁹⁵ Global Initiative Against International Organized Crime. *The Global Organized Crime Index 2023*. 2023.

⁹⁶ *ibid.*

⁹⁷ Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime. *Measuring Organized Crime*. 2024.

⁹⁸ *ibid.* p. 23.

⁹⁹ International Criminal Police Commission. *Illegal wildlife trade has become one of the 'world's largest criminal activities'*. 2023.

¹⁰⁰ United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice thirty-third session: Strengthening the international legal framework for international cooperation to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife (E/CN.15/2024/14)*. 2024.

¹⁰¹ World Wildlife Fund. *Corrupting trade: An overview of corruption issues in illicit wildlife trade*. 2020. p.1

¹⁰² Wildlife Justice Commission. *Dirty Money: The Role of Corruption in Enabling Wildlife Crime*. 2023. p. 19.

¹⁰³ *ibid.* p. 23.



Despite national and international efforts to prevent and reduce wildlife-related crime and trafficking, UNODC's 2024 *World Wildlife Crime Report* concluded that there is no significant evidence of these crimes being reduced over the past two decades.¹⁰⁴ In the report *Strengthening the International Legal Framework for International Cooperation to Prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife*, CCPCJ reported that Member States found that gaps existed in the global system's ability to address wildlife crime.¹⁰⁵ The report further found that international instruments focused on the criminalization of the illegal trafficking of wildlife are non-existent, leading to a gap in regulations related to wildlife classifications.¹⁰⁶ End Wildlife Crime estimates that wildlife crime is estimated to be worth USD 199 billion USD annually, with up to 12 billion USD in revenues being deprived of legal governments annually.¹⁰⁷ The Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) program documents the number of elephant carcasses found at various sites across the African and Asian continents.¹⁰⁸ In the Congo, one site alone reported that the crime was still present but had been reduced from 71 carcasses in 2017 to 60 carcasses in 2019.¹⁰⁹ Member States have reported to ECOSOC that continuing challenges to reducing wildlife crime include the lack of existing legal framework and the inability to execute that framework, lack of training opportunities for law enforcement and stakeholders, and difficulties dealing with crime trends, such as cybercrime related to environmental crimes, among other concerns.¹¹⁰

NGOs are crucial in addressing wildlife crime.¹¹¹ Established in 1961, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) is an international organization that works on conservation efforts, with a particular focus on Member States in Africa and Asia.¹¹² WWF supports the Trade in Wildlife Information Exchange (TWIX), a platform that shares information among countries to share information between governments and law enforcement agencies to combat wildlife crime.¹¹³ With the help of the TWIX systems, 2,300 law enforcement and wildlife management agencies and officials are connected across Europe, Africa, and Asia.¹¹⁴ Organizations such as Born Free align with UNODC in criminalizing and combating illegal wildlife trade.¹¹⁵ The 2023 report *Are Ivory Sellers Lying Through Their Teeth*, published by Born Free, addressed the scope of the ivory trade in the United Kingdom and led to Born Free collaborating with eBay to take down ivory product listings on the site.¹¹⁶

¹⁰⁴ United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *World Wildlife Crime Report*. 2024. p. 11

¹⁰⁵ United Nations Economic and Social Council. *Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice thirty-third session: Strengthening the international legal framework for international cooperation to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife (E/CN.15/2024/14)*. 2024. p. 3.

¹⁰⁶ *ibid.*

¹⁰⁷ End Wildlife Crime. *Addressing Serious Gaps in International Law*. 2024.

¹⁰⁸ The Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants Initiative. *Analysis: Elephant Mortality Data*. N.d.

¹⁰⁹ *ibid.*

¹¹⁰ United Nations Economic and Social Council. *Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice thirty-third session: Strengthening the international legal framework for international cooperation to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife (E/CN.15/2024/14)*. 2024. p.5.

¹¹¹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Tackling Wildlife Crime through International Agreement*. 2022.

¹¹² World Wildlife Fund. *About Us: History*. 2024.

¹¹³ Traffic. *EU-, Africa-, SADC- and Eastern Africa-TWIX: Trade in Wildlife Information eXchange*. N.d.

¹¹⁴ *ibid.*

¹¹⁵ Born Free. *Our Work*. N.d.

¹¹⁶ Born Free. *Are Ivory Sellers Lying Through Their Teeth: An Investigation into the UK's Overt and Covert Online Ivory Trade*. 2022.



Terrorism Financing and Money Laundering

Financial crimes, including money laundering, are among the most widespread of criminal activities globally, exceeding synthetic drug and human trafficking markets on every continent except the Americas.¹¹⁷ CCPCJ addresses money laundering by promoting global measures to prevent and combat corruption and encourages international cooperation in tracing and recovering assets through capacity building and information exchange.¹¹⁸ Money laundering is closely linked to terrorism financing, as illicit funds are often funneled through legitimate financial systems to support terrorist activities.¹¹⁹ Data from UNODC consistently highlights that a significant proportion of laundered funds globally are linked to drug trafficking, which continues to impede progress toward achieving SDG target 3.5, which aims to strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse.¹²⁰ Similarly, UNTOC tackles money laundering and terrorist financing through international cooperation and legislative measures, including protocols such as those targeting the financial underpinnings of organized crime, such as financial flows related to the trafficking of persons and the smuggling of migrants and firearms.¹²¹

Challenges in countering financial crimes include enhancing data analysis techniques, bolstering international cooperation, and ensuring that regulatory frameworks keep pace with technological advancements.¹²² Despite recent progress, financial crimes continue to pose a complex challenge because of the quickening pace of technological advancement, especially with the emergence of and proliferation of virtual currencies like cryptocurrencies.¹²³ As a result, international organizations like UNODC and FATF constantly modify their approaches through established global standards for AML and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT).¹²⁴ FATF's 40 Recommendations encompass facets such as risk assessment, customer due diligence, record-keeping, and reporting suspicious transactions.¹²⁵ By updating its recommendations frequently, FATF has assisted Member States to better address the particular difficulties presented by cryptocurrencies and other developing technologies.¹²⁶ For example, the EU passed the Fifth Anti-Money Laundering Directive (5AMLD) in 2020, which extended AML regulations to virtual asset service providers (VASPs) requiring VASPs to implement customer due diligence measures and report suspicious transactions, aligning with FATF's push to address the risks posed by digital currencies.¹²⁷

¹¹⁷ Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime. *The Global Organized Crime Index 2023*. 2023. p. 51.

¹¹⁸ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Urgent Action Needed to Fight Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing, Say Heads of FATF, INTERPOL and UNODC*. 2024

¹¹⁹ Financial Action Task Force. *Annual Report 2022-2023*. 2023

¹²⁰ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *World Drug Report*. 2019.

¹²¹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Addressing global challenges through international cooperation on crime prevention and justice*. 2022.

¹²² Financial Action Task Force. *Guidance for a Risk-Based Approach: Virtual Assets and Virtual Asset Service Providers*. 2020.

¹²³ Financial Action Task Force. *International Standards on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism & Proliferation*. 2012.

¹²⁴ *ibid.*

¹²⁵ *ibid.*

¹²⁶ Financial Action Task Force. *Updated Guidance for a Risk-Based Approach to Virtual Assets and Virtual Asset Service Providers*. 2021.

¹²⁷ European Union. *Directive (EU) 2018/843*. 2018.



One of the critical difficulties in cooperation lies in the varying levels of regulatory maturity and technological capabilities among Member States, which can hinder coordinated efforts in combating financial crimes.¹²⁸ Corrupt practices also continue to be a significant barrier to tackling financial crimes since they undermine the integrity of institutions and enforcement protocols.¹²⁹ To ensure that worldwide efforts to combat AML and CFT are not undermined by corruption, the FATF and other international organizations, such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Working Group on Bribery and the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, are addressing the issue by advocating for better anti-corruption measures, transparency, and accountability within regulatory frameworks.¹³⁰

Conclusion

Addressing the complexities of transnational organized crime and corruption, including terrorism financing, money laundering, and wildlife crime, requires international cooperation and robust regulatory measures.¹³¹ Despite some progress through conventions such as UNCAC and UNTOC, as well as significant contributions from organizations such as the FATF and INTERPOL, challenges persist in effectively addressing these crimes.¹³² Wildlife crime continues to devastate species and ecosystems, estimated to be worth 10 billion USD annually, while financial crimes exploit global economic systems, complicating enforcement and regulation.¹³³ The evolving nature of financial crimes, especially with the rise of cryptocurrencies, underscores the need for continual innovation and coordination among Member States to safeguard both the environment and economic integrity.¹³⁴ In addition, CCPCJ stresses that it is vital for national governments to adopt and enforce comprehensive policies to mitigate these crimes effectively and strengthen global security and economic stability.¹³⁵

Further Research

As delegates conduct further research and consider how to address this topic, they should consider: To what has international cooperation, facilitated by the CCPCJ and the wider United Nations bodies, been effective in disrupting and dismantling transnational organized crime networks? What are the primary challenges and limitations hindering effective international cooperation in addressing transnational organized crime and corruption? What impact will emerging technologies such as cryptocurrencies have on financial crimes? How can frameworks, such as UNCAC and UNTOC and surrounding protocols, be strengthened to enhance international cooperation?

¹²⁸ Financial Action Task Force. *Updated Guidance for a Risk-Based Approach to Virtual Assets and Virtual Asset Service Providers*. 2021.

¹²⁹ Financial Action Task Force. *Corruption*. 2024.

¹³⁰ *ibid.*

¹³¹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *UNODC Strategy: 2021-2025*. 2021. p. 8.

¹³² *ibid.*

¹³³ United Nations Environment Programme et al. *The Environmental Crime Crisis Threats to Sustainable Development from Illegal Exploitation and Trade in Wildlife and Forest Resources*. 2014. p. 4.

¹³⁴ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Global Programme Against Money Laundering*. N.d.

¹³⁵ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *UNODC Strategy: 2021-2025*. 2021. p. 8.



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2. Improving the Coordination of Efforts against Trafficking in Persons

Introduction

Trafficking jeopardizes national security, benefits perpetrators and extremist groups, violates our fundamental values, and destabilizes economies by generating billions of dollars in illicit profits annually.¹³⁶ Since the nineteenth century, the international community has been working to confront issues of forced labor, slavery, and human trafficking, which, despite overlapping in practice, have separate classifications under international law.¹³⁷ The United Nations General Assembly defines trafficking in persons as the recruitment, movement, transfer, housing, or receipt of individuals by means of threats, coercion, kidnapping, misuse of power, or exploiting vulnerability for the purpose of exploitation.¹³⁸ The Inter Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) defines exploitation as the forced labor or forced service to conduct slavery practices, organ removal, or servitude.¹³⁹ The International Labour Organization (ILO) adopted the *Forced Labour Convention No.29* (1930) which defines forced labor as all service demanded from any individual under threat, and without persons consent.¹⁴⁰ Despite recent developments in international frameworks within the last two decades, much work remains to address these violations of human rights and dignity.¹⁴¹ Ongoing global efforts are focused on improving the coordination of efforts by various stakeholders including sharing knowledge, fostering innovation, and building support for more effective action against trafficking in persons.¹⁴² General Assembly resolution 78/228 (2023) on "Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons," emphasizes the urgent need for enhanced collaboration in addressing human trafficking on the international level.¹⁴³ The resolution also calls for collaborative approaches amongst Member States, the private sector, and international organizations to strengthen political commitments and enhance existing frameworks.¹⁴⁴

General Assembly resolution 77/194 (2022) on "Trafficking in Women and Girls" condemns trafficking as a severe violation of human rights for all, and urges for increased comprehensive measures for victim protection, trafficking prevention, prosecution of traffickers, and transnational partnerships to tackle the root causes of human trafficking.¹⁴⁵ The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reported that women and girls accounted for 94% of the identified victims of sexual exploitation globally in 2022.¹⁴⁶ According to UNODC in the latest *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* (2023), there was a 27% drop in global convictions for trafficking crimes compared to the previous year.¹⁴⁷ Despite the drop in known

¹³⁶ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons*. 2021.

¹³⁷ Inter-Agency Standing Committee. *Trafficking in Persons for the Purpose of Forced Labour*. 2020. p. 1.

¹³⁸ United Nations, General Assembly. *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (A/RES/55/25)*. 2001. p. 32.

¹³⁹ Inter-Agency Standing Committee. *Trafficking in Persons for the Purpose of Forced Labour*. 2020. p. 1.

¹⁴⁰ *ibid.*

¹⁴¹ *ibid.*

¹⁴² *ibid.* pp. 6-7.

¹⁴³ United Nations, General Assembly. *Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons (A/RES/78/228)*. 2023.

¹⁴⁴ *ibid.*

¹⁴⁵ United Nations, General Assembly. *Trafficking in Women and Girls (A/RES/77/194)*. 2022. p. 1.

¹⁴⁶ United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons: Crises Shift Trafficking Patterns and Hinder Victim Identification*. 2023.

¹⁴⁷ United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*. 2022. p. 7.



victims, the report notes the threat of trafficking has grown due to increased conflicts, pushing for stronger responses and global cooperation to combat trafficking in persons.¹⁴⁸ The 7th edition of *The Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* also showed a decrease in trafficking victims for the first time in 20 years due to pandemic-related restrictions, but highlights that trafficking risks may have increased as the crime moved to more hidden spaces.¹⁴⁹ Adopted by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) resolution 27/3 (2018) on “Improving the Protection of Children Against Trafficking in Persons, Including by Addressing the Criminal Misuse of Information and Communications Technologies” highlights the collective support of Member States for leveraging technology as a critical tool in combating human trafficking.¹⁵⁰ CCPCJ resolution 27/3 also urges Member States to utilize technology to detect and report trafficking activities, implement victim protection and support services, and increase international collaboration and capacity building efforts.¹⁵¹

International and Regional Framework

The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948) established the first international framework to universally protect human rights, and enabled global recognition and objective protection of these rights.¹⁵² Despite global efforts, trafficking and forced labor still affects 28 million people worldwide from all economic circles and 63% of forced labor happens in private industries.¹⁵³ Under articles 1 and 2 of the *Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others* (1949) Member States agree to prosecute anyone who coerces persons into trafficking and exploitation of prostitution of persons, to deter those who benefit from trafficking, and to protect those that are affected by exploitation.¹⁵⁴ *The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (1966) (ICCPR), adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 2200A, states that every free individual who is a citizen of any Member State that is a party to ICCPR should enjoy civil and political freedoms, without fear, and all Member States should work to achieve a safe political climate.¹⁵⁵ *The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (1979) was adopted by General Assembly resolution 34/180 , creating a comprehensive agenda for Member States to implement to promote women’s rights and highlight situations where women are exploited and denied equality with men.¹⁵⁶ *The Convention on the Rights of the Child* (1989), adopted by General Assembly resolution 44/25 , defines children’s rights and the responsibilities of governments to protect these rights, including taking measures to prevent the sale of children, child pornography, and child prostitution.¹⁵⁷ *The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children* (Palermo Protocol), supplementing the *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* (UNCTOA) which was adopted in General

¹⁴⁸ *ibid.*.

¹⁴⁹ *ibid.*

¹⁵⁰ United Nations, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. *Improving the Protection of Children Against Trafficking in Persons, Including by Addressing the Criminal Misuse of Information and Communications Technologies (Resolution 27/3)*. 2019. pp. 2-3.

¹⁵¹ *ibid.*

¹⁵² United Nations, General Assembly. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A (III))*. 1948.

¹⁵³ International Labour Organization. *Forced labour, modern slavery and trafficking in persons*. 2024.

¹⁵⁴ United Nations, General Assembly. *Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (A/RES/317)*. 1949.

¹⁵⁵ United Nations, General Assembly. *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (A/RES/2200 (XXI))*. 1966.

¹⁵⁶ United Nations, General Assembly. *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (A/RES/34/1980)*. 1979.

¹⁵⁷ United Nations, General Assembly. *Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/RES/44/25)*. 1989.



Assembly resolution 55/25 (2000) to address the contributing factors of trafficking in persons including socio-economic vulnerabilities and encouraged prevention through public awareness and cooperation between Member States, emphasizing the importance of legal assistance and protection for trafficking victims.¹⁵⁸

Victims of all forms of human trafficking are equally entitled to the full range of human rights, and for decades, Member States have been collaborating to break down the stigma around trafficking survivors, ensuring their rights are upheld.¹⁵⁹ The *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda)* (2015) adopted by the General Assembly aims to achieve peace and prosperity for all.¹⁶⁰ The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) identify specific goals and targets such as SDG 5 (gender equality) and target 5.2 to eliminate forms of violence committed against women and girls including those subject to sexual exploitation and trafficking.¹⁶¹ SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth) and target 8.7 to take effective measures to abolish forced labor including child labor, and SDG 16 (Peace Justice and Strong Institutions) and target 16.2 to end child abuse and exploitation including trafficking and to provide access to justice for all.¹⁶² The United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (GPCTP) was adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 64/293 (2010) to create a universal standard to prevent and combat trafficking in persons.¹⁶³ This standard promotes an anti-discriminatory approach of supporting victims of human trafficking by having age, gender, socio-economic background appropriate rehabilitation programs to help them rejoin society and resolve their trauma.¹⁶⁴ This plan also involves assisting Member States in upholding the set standard in legal and political commitments to fight and prevent human trafficking, as well as raise awareness of the human trafficking issue worldwide.¹⁶⁵ The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) is a regional security organization that provides an international forum under the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons for organizations to collaborate in the fight against trafficking.¹⁶⁶ The 2013 Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan outlines steps states should take to strengthen the fight against trafficking through improvements in national legislation, enhancing victim protection, and raising awareness.¹⁶⁷

Role of the International System

CCPCJ, in collaboration with United Nations bodies, plays a crucial role in combating trafficking of vulnerable populations, such as displaced persons, by enacting their own policies aimed at preventing human trafficking.¹⁶⁸ As stated in General Assembly resolution 78/228 (2023), women and children

¹⁵⁸ United Nations, General Assembly. *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (A/RES/55/25)*. 2001. p. 2.

¹⁵⁹ United Nations, General Assembly. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A (III))*. 1948.

¹⁶⁰ United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015.

¹⁶¹ *ibid.* p. 14.

¹⁶² *ibid.* pp. 19, 25-26.

¹⁶³ *ibid.* pp. 4-9.

¹⁶⁴ *ibid.* pp. 4-9.

¹⁶⁵ United Nations, General Assembly. *United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (A/RES/64/293)*. 2010. pp. 4-9.

¹⁶⁶ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). *Who We Are*. N.d.

¹⁶⁷ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). *Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: One Decade Later*. 2013.

¹⁶⁸ United Nations, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. *Strengthening international cooperation in addressing the smuggling of migrants (E/2021/30)*. 2021. p. 3.



without proper documentation are especially vulnerable to trafficking and other exploitative conditions.¹⁶⁹ CCPCJ resolution 30/1 on “Strengthening international cooperation in addressing the smuggling of migrants” emphasizes that the rights of trafficked persons should be protected irrespective of their migration status to alleviate the groups vulnerability and urges Member States to use mutual legal assistance to ensure the rights of victims.¹⁷⁰ The Palermo Protocol bridges the gap in protecting women and children from exploitation and facilitates international cooperation.¹⁷¹ In 2010, the General Assembly established the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons (UNVTF) to provide better assistance to trafficking victims in means of food, medical care, access to justice and more and the fund today has more than 190 ongoing projects in more than 60 countries.¹⁷² ICAT is a policy forum established by the General Assembly in resolution 61/180 (2007) on “Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons” in order to improve collaboration between United Nations agencies and other international organizations to prevent and combat trafficking in persons.¹⁷³ Today, ICAT brings together the International Organization for Migration (IOM), ILO, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and many more organizations to further collaborations in the fight against trafficking.¹⁷⁴

Human trafficking in all its forms is an issue that affects millions of people every year worldwide and needs increased awareness to combat it more effectively.¹⁷⁵ To achieve this, Member States established July 30th as the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons by adopting General Assembly resolution 68/192 (2013) on “Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons”.¹⁷⁶ Due to misconceptions associated with human trafficking victims, those who are affected by trafficking are often ostracized by society and subject to violence as noted in General Assembly resolution 78/228 (2023) on “Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons.”¹⁷⁷ General Assembly resolution 76/186 (2022) on “Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons” highlights that human trafficking is fueled by the demand and the large profits involved in the exploitation of persons primarily women and children.¹⁷⁸ CCPCJ urges Member States to combat trafficking of persons in business operations in accordance with their obligations under international law while reevaluating them

¹⁶⁹ United Nations, General Assembly. *Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons (A/RES/78/228)*. 2023. pp. 4, 10-11.

¹⁷⁰ United Nations, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. *Strengthening international cooperation in addressing the smuggling of migrants (E/2021/30)*. 2021. p. 3.

¹⁷¹ United Nations, General Assembly. *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (A/RES/55/25)*. 2001. p. 2.

¹⁷² United Nations, General Assembly. *United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (A/RES/64/293)*. 2010. p. 5.; United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *United Nations Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking*. 2024.

¹⁷³ United Nations, General Assembly. *Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons (A/RES/61/180)*. 2007. p. 3.

¹⁷⁴ United Nations, Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons. *What is ICAT?*. N.d.

¹⁷⁵ United Nations, General Assembly. *Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons (A/RES/68/192)*. 2013. p. 6.

¹⁷⁶ *ibid.*

¹⁷⁷ United Nations, General Assembly. *Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons (A/RES/78/228)*. 2023. pp. 4, 10-11.

¹⁷⁸ United Nations, General Assembly. *Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons (A/RES/76/186)*. 2022. p. 5.



annually as stated in resolution 32/1 (2023).¹⁷⁹ General Assembly resolution 68/192 (2013) established a four-year plan to reevaluate existing sources in place for counter trafficking and to aid all Member States to uphold their obligation of investigating and preventing human trafficking.¹⁸⁰ Furthermore, the *Forced Labour Convention (No. 29)* (1930) declared forced labor a punishable crime worldwide, recognizing that factors such as lack of social protection, poverty, and discrimination create the conditions for its existence.¹⁸¹ *The Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (No. 105)* (1957), takes measures to prevent states from using forced labor as a punishment method for crimes classified under opposing political views to gain political or economic power.¹⁸²

While technological advances alleviate daily responsibilities and increasingly integrate our lives, fostering a global culture of cybersecurity is increasingly essential to ensure these advances don't become another tool that increases a person's vulnerability against various crime schemes.¹⁸³ To utilize these technological advances in favor of humanity, UNODC resolution 10/3 (2020) outlines methods to better detect and fight trafficking in persons such as Member States regularly exchanging experiences on new methods used by traffickers and best practices they have developed.¹⁸⁴ The information gathered by Member States on human trafficking methods is extremely valuable when used to create awareness campaigns in regard to new methods of trafficking to protect potential victims.¹⁸⁵

Leveraging and Countering Advanced Technology in the Fight Against Trafficking

Traffickers leverage advanced technology for the recruitment and exploitation of victims, employing methods that complicate detection and intervention.¹⁸⁶ Traffickers exploit the anonymity of information and communication technologies (ICT), including the dark web and cryptocurrencies, to conceal their identities and launder money, making it extremely difficult for law enforcement to track their financial transactions.¹⁸⁷ According to UNODC, cryptocurrencies are linked to crime due to their unregulated nature which facilitates anonymous transactions, and potential misuse for funding illicit activities.¹⁸⁸ Online interactions have become a critical tool for traffickers, allowing them to effectively target potential victims, access personal data, and arrange logistics and transportation.¹⁸⁹ CCPCJ resolution 27/2 (2018) titled

¹⁷⁹ United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. *Taking action against trafficking in persons in business operations, public procurement and supply chains for goods and services (E/2023/30)*. 2023. p. 4.

¹⁸⁰ United Nations, General Assembly. *Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons (A/RES/68/192)*. 2013. pp. 2, 6.

¹⁸¹ International Labour Organization. *Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)*. 1930.

¹⁸² International Labour Organization. *Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)*. 1957.

¹⁸³ United Nations, General Assembly. *Creation of global culture of cybersecurity and taking stock of national efforts to protect critical information infrastructures (A/RES/64/211)*. 2010. p. 2.

¹⁸⁴ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Effective implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (A/RES/10/3)*. 2020. p. 5.

¹⁸⁵ *ibid.*

¹⁸⁶ United Nations, Inter-agency Coordination Group Against Trafficking in Persons. *Human Trafficking and Technology: Trends, Challenges and Opportunities*. 2019. pp. 2-3.

¹⁸⁷ United Nations, General Assembly. *Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (A/RES/64/293)*. 2010. p. 10.

¹⁸⁸ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Connecting the Dots: Misuse of New Payment Methods, Virtual Assets, and Social Media in Money Laundering and Financing Terrorism*. 2023.

¹⁸⁹ United Nations, Inter-agency Coordination Group Against Trafficking in Persons. *Human Trafficking and Technology: Trends, Challenges and Opportunities*. 2019. p. 2.



“Preventing and combating trafficking in persons facilitated by the criminal misuse of information and communications technologies” was adopted to strengthen prevention efforts against trafficking in persons enabled by the misuse of information and technology, while also leveraging technological tools to combat it.¹⁹⁰ CCPCJ resolution 27/2 calls on UNODC to continue offering technical assistance and training, as part of its existing mandate, to help Member States, especially those in developing countries to strengthen their ability to prevent and combat human trafficking.¹⁹¹ CCPCJ resolution 27/2 aligns with the WeProtect Global Alliance's efforts and partnership between public and private sectors, dedicated to fighting child sexual exploitation and abuse online.¹⁹² The WeProtect Global Alliance is a non-governmental organization (NGO) that brings together experts, governments, law enforcement, and private organizations to develop solutions for a safer digital environment for children, with a focus on combating online sexual exploitation and trafficking by tackling the misuse of digital platforms for harmful purposes.¹⁹³ UNODC resolution 10/3 (2022) “Effective implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UNCTOA further supports these efforts by encouraging Member States to exchange information and best practices on combating trafficking, including illicit ICT practices.¹⁹⁴ UNODC resolution 10/3 further highlights the need to address emerging trafficking methods, particularly those that utilize advanced technology, by developing countermeasures against trafficking in persons.¹⁹⁵

While advanced technologies are frequently misused by traffickers, Member States can turn them into valuable assets in the fight against human trafficking by implementing targeted training and capacity building initiatives.¹⁹⁶ NGOs, international organizations, and private sector companies have access to a variety of technological tools to support anti-trafficking efforts.¹⁹⁷ A group effort exemplified by Tech Against Trafficking, the OSCE, IOM, and other stakeholders have identified over 260 technology tools that assist in anti-trafficking efforts.¹⁹⁸ Some examples of these technology tools include utilizing mobile apps that alert vulnerable communities about the danger of labor exploitation, to more advanced technologies like satellite imagery and geospatial mapping that detect high-risk areas potentially involved in illegal activities and seek further investigation.¹⁹⁹ In 2009, UNODC launched the Blue Heart Campaign to raise global awareness of human trafficking's societal impact, encouraging civil society, governments, and other stakeholders to take action.²⁰⁰ The Blue Heart symbolizes solidarity with victims, and proceeds from the purchase of Blue Heart Campaign pins support the UNVTF.²⁰¹ UNVTF aids and protects trafficking victims through a worldwide coalition of NGOs providing humanitarian aid, monetary assistance, and juridical

¹⁹⁰United Nations, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. *Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Persons Facilitated by the Criminal Misuse of Information and Communications Technologies (Resolution 27/2)*. 2018. pp. 2-4.

¹⁹¹ *ibid.*

¹⁹² United Nations, Inter-agency Coordination Group Against Trafficking in Persons. *Human Trafficking and Technology: Trends, Challenges and Opportunities*. 2019. p. 4.

¹⁹³ WeProtect Global Alliance. *Who we are*. 2024.

¹⁹⁴ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Effective implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (A/RES/10/3)*. 2020.

¹⁹⁵ *ibid.*

¹⁹⁶ United Nations, Inter-agency Coordination Group Against Trafficking in Persons. *Human Trafficking and Technology: Trends, Challenges and Opportunities*. 2019. pp. 2-3.

¹⁹⁷ *ibid.* p. 5.

¹⁹⁸ *ibid.* pp. 3, 5.

¹⁹⁹ *ibid.* p. 3.

²⁰⁰ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *The Blue Heart Campaign*. N.d.

²⁰¹ *ibid.*



support.²⁰² Since its establishment in 2010, UNVTF has assisted more than 80,000 individuals, providing essential services such as housing and job training.²⁰³

Addressing Gender Disparities and Vulnerabilities Impacting Women and Girls in Human Trafficking

Gender inequality and disparities in education significantly increase the vulnerability of women and girls to trafficking.²⁰⁴ General Assembly resolution 77/292 (2022) “Trafficking in Women and Girls: Crises as a Risk Multiplier,” notes that women make up roughly 67% of trafficking victims worldwide.²⁰⁵ Limited access to education reduces opportunities for safe employment, especially in low-income contexts, forcing families to seek income through exploitative means like trafficking.²⁰⁶ As an estimated 130 million girls aged 6-17 are not in school globally, they are often targeted by traffickers due to their limited opportunities and lack of awareness to protect themselves.²⁰⁷ According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the Gender Snapshot of 2023, the number of women and girls in conflict-affected contexts has risen by 50% globally, with 20% of households in displaced settings being managed by girls and young women under 18.²⁰⁸ In many conflict-affected areas, young women and girls are often kept out of education to take on homemaking responsibilities, further limiting their opportunities and contributing to their vulnerability.²⁰⁹ In 2022, 32.1% of women globally between the ages of 15 to 24 were not employed, or in education, compared to 15.4% of young men, leaving women and girls more vulnerable to exploitation.²¹⁰ Demonstrating that the disparity in education and employment opportunities is a major factor contributing to the higher rates of trafficking among women and girls.²¹¹

Sexual exploitation is the most common form of trafficking, noted by the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* (2021) by UNODC.²¹² The vulnerability of women and young girls to trafficking for sexual exploitation is exacerbated by unequal social and economic structures perpetuating gender inequality.²¹³ The Global Report emphasized that out of every ten victims of trafficking two were girls and five were women, and more than half of the identified trafficking victims were exploited for sexual purposes.²¹⁴ The GPCTP reports that as human trafficking persists, these statistics reveal how structural disadvantages and economic need can increase vulnerability to trafficking, as traffickers target marginalized groups, like girls, women, and migrant workers who tend to face restricted opportunities and are in difficult financial

²⁰² United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *United Nations Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking*. N.d.

²⁰³ *ibid.*

²⁰⁴ United Nations, General Assembly. *Report of the Secretary-General: Trafficking in women and girls, crises as a risk multiplier (A/77/292)*. 2022. pp. 3, 5.

²⁰⁵ *ibid.* p. 2.

²⁰⁶ *ibid.* p. 3, 5.

²⁰⁷ *ibid.* p. 3, 5.

²⁰⁸ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2023*. 2023. p. 23.

²⁰⁹ *ibid.* pp. 13, 24, 25.

²¹⁰ *ibid.* p. 11.

²¹¹ *ibid.* p. 11.

²¹² United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*. 2022. p. 111.

²¹³ United Nations, General Assembly. *Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (A/RES/64/293)*. 2010. p. 7.

²¹⁴ United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*. 2022. pp. 21,25.



situations.²¹⁵ The root causes of trafficking can vary between Member States, influenced by socio-economic, cultural, and political factors, including poverty, lack of opportunities, and human rights violations.²¹⁶ Restricted access to education and vocational training, along with the devaluation of women and insufficient political will, can drive individuals to migrate, increasing vulnerability to trafficking as they escape from their current conditions.²¹⁷ The UNCTOA aims to combat trafficking through increased comprehensive international cooperations, with a stronger focus on women and children, given their increased vulnerability to trafficking.²¹⁸ To tackle these critical challenges, CCPCJ resolution 26/3 (2017) on "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into crime prevention and criminal justice policies and programmes and into efforts to prevent and combat transnational organized crime," highlighted that the disproportionate number of women and girls being trafficked is largely driven by the high demand for their exploitation, especially within the sex trade.²¹⁹ In resolution 26/3, the CCPCJ urged Member States to adopt gender-sensitive practices within their criminal justice systems, which includes enhancing women's leadership roles, ensuring the protection of victims, and holding offenders accountable.²²⁰ CCPCJ resolution 27/4 (2018) "Strengthening measures against trafficking in persons," condemned trafficking, particularly of women and children and recognized trafficking as a serious crime that undermines human rights and dignity.²²¹ General Assembly resolution 78/228 (2023) "Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons," builds upon the groundwork established by CCPCJ resolution 27/4 emphasizing the critical need for strengthening partnerships across various sectors to enhance the global fight against human trafficking.²²² CCPCJ resolution 27/4 called for collaboration at both domestic and international levels to prevent trafficking and prosecute offenders.²²³ The resolution emphasized the connection to the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly targets 5.2 on eliminating all forms of violence, 8.7 on eliminating forms of child labour, and 16.2 on ending violence on children, which reinforce the obligation of Member States to adopt prompt and effective actions to eliminate trafficking in persons.²²⁴

Conclusion

Human trafficking is a multi billion dollar illegal industry threatening the rights and freedom of millions.²²⁵ Member States have set the GPCTP, which gets appraised every 4 years to celebrate achievements and

²¹⁵ United Nations, General Assembly. *Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (A/RES/64/293)*. 2010. pp. 1, 7.

²¹⁶ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons*. 2008. p. 454.

²¹⁷ *ibid.*

²¹⁸ United Nations, General Assembly. *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (A/RES/55/25)*. 2001. p. 2.

²¹⁹ United Nations, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. *Mainstreaming a gender perspective into crime prevention and criminal justice policies and programmes and into efforts to prevent and combat transnational organized crime (Resolution 26/3)*. 2017.

²²⁰ *ibid.*

²²¹ United Nations, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. *Strengthening measures against trafficking in persons (Resolution 27/4)*. 2018. p. 1.

²²² United Nations, General Assembly. *Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons (A/RES/78/228)*. 2023.

²²³ United Nations, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. *Strengthening measures against trafficking in persons (Resolution 27/4)*. 2018. pp. 1-2.

²²⁴ *ibid.*

²²⁵ International Labour Organization. *Forced labour, modern slavery and trafficking in persons*. 2024.



to bridge gaps in fight against trafficking in many regions.²²⁶ UNODC provides global assistance to implement legislation against trafficking and to share technological resources to alleviate the challenges in fighting against this crime.²²⁷ There are many programmes and organizations working towards eliminating human trafficking worldwide such as IOM, ILO, UNHCR, and UNESCO who all collaborate under the policy forum ICAT mandated by the General Assembly.²²⁸ Furthermore, the UNVTF works to alleviate food scarcity, inadequate medical care, and lack of access to justice faced by victims.²²⁹ As oftentimes migrant smuggling and human trafficking are interlinked crimes, CCPCJ supports international cooperation on protecting victim's rights irrespective of their migration status.²³⁰ The Palermo Protocol works to bridge gender disparity in human trafficking cases.²³¹ CCPCJ works to advance collaboration among Member States in line with the Sustainable Development Goals through targets 5.2, 8.7, and 16.2 by evaluating the impact of transnational crime through the analysis of sanctions imposed on corrupt actors participating in trafficking in persons.²³²

Further Research

Moving forward, delegates should consider the following questions when conducting their research: What role can the private sector play in addressing and preventing forced labor as a form of human trafficking? How can CCPCJ strengthen its initiatives to support Member States in combating human trafficking and ensuring compliance with international anti-trafficking standards? As electronic surveillance becomes an important tool in the fight against human trafficking, how can Member States better use technological tools without negatively impacting the human right to privacy? How can Member States better collaborate to protect minorities, more specifically women and children, from falling victim to human trafficking?

²²⁶ United Nations, General Assembly. *Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (A/RES/64/293)*. 2010. p. 2.

²²⁷ United Nations, Security Council. *Maintenance of international peace and security (S/RES/2388)*. 2017. pp. 4-6.

²²⁸ United Nations, Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons. *What is ICAT?*. N.d.

²²⁹ United Nations, General Assembly. *United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (A/RES/64/293)*. 2010. p. 5.

²³⁰ United Nations, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. *Strengthening international cooperation in addressing the smuggling of migrants (E/2021/30)*. 2021. p. 3.

²³¹ United Nations, General Assembly. *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (A/RES/55/25)*. 2001. p. 2.

²³² United Nations, Commission on Prevention and Criminal Justice, Thirty-third session. *How can the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Contribute to the Accelerated Implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular Goal 16? (E/CN.15/2024/CRP.5)*. 2024. p.8.



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