

*Work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention*

*Report of the Executive Director*

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its seventh session the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice agreed to reduce documentation and strive for a more focused discussion and outcome of deliberations. Accordingly, this is the first report providing the Commission with an integrated overview of the work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention and its future directions. The report covers the period between the two sessions of the Commission from May 1998 to March 1999. It integrates several reporting obligations of the Secretariat in connection with the eighth session of the Commission.

## II. OVERVIEW

### A. The changing work context

2. During the reporting period, crime prevention and criminal justice concerns continued to evolve throughout the world against the background of the end of the Cold War and the globalization of information and markets. Organized crime has shown a great capacity to exploit different opportunities and has grown internationally through new alliances and activities. Illicit trafficking in drugs, firearms and other weapons, stolen cars, art and antiques is expanding in most parts of the world. As many as four million illegal immigrants are trafficked each year across borders by criminal groups earning an estimated US \$ 7 billion. Ever more efficient money laundering schemes recycle hundreds of billion of US dollars undermining legal economies and democratic institutions.

3. At times of widespread change and instability, corruption - a key tool of organized crime - affects negatively the healthy development of many nations. A corrupt country is likely to achieve aggregate investment levels several percents lower than those of relatively uncorrupt ones and to lose considerably in gross domestic product growth per year ( World Development Report 1997, The State in a Changing World, World Bank, 1997).

4. The diffusion of computers and connected information systems has prompted criminals to both exploit and target such systems. From hacking and extortion to the distribution of child

pornography, new technologies have been used for criminal purposes. In many countries piracy rates exceed 80 percent of the software on the market with revenue losses to the software industry worldwide estimated at US\$ 11.4 billion in 1997.

5. Local conflicts proliferate along ethnic and religious rather than ideological lines. As the accountability of state authorities and the military is obfuscated, civilian populations, prisoners of war and even international peacekeepers have been victims of increasingly vicious and arbitrary forms of violence. The illicit trade in firearms and their seepage throughout societies in conflict contributed to the escalation of local violence and disproportionate use of force. The rule of law suffered greatly.

6. In many parts of the world the administration of justice continued to fall below those standards of timeliness, equity and respect for human rights that all citizens should expect. At the same time, a lively debate flourished in several countries on reforms of the justice system and efforts were launched to revamp the administration of justice, criminal codes and criminal justice procedures. Provisions were introduced to tackle such phenomena as corruption and money laundering. Measures were also taken to curb the misuse of new technologies and turn them to the advantage of a modern and effective crime prevention.

7. Of particular relevance from a United Nations perspective has been the growing recognition of the fact that no country by itself can cope successfully with the growth of international crime. Issues that were traditionally considered as the exclusive preserve of national governments are increasingly being addressed in multilateral settings where joint strategies and activities are agreed upon. The historic adoption of the statute of the International Criminal Court in Rome in June 1998 is a major example of this trend. On such issues as international cooperation in criminal matters, money laundering and firearm regulations, initiatives proliferate in regional and multilateral fora. Non-governmental organizations, the private sector and religious authorities are increasingly active and bring cogently in the debate the voices and expectations of civil society.

8. It is against this background that the Centre for International Crime Prevention,

strengthened through the Organization's reform efforts, has been playing a pivotal role in key areas of international concern. In pursuit of its mandate, the Centre has acted as a global advocate, forum for policy-making and provider of technical support to Member States individually and collectively.

### B. The work direction

9. As reported to the Commission at its last session, the Centre has been undergoing a major review of its work methods and structure. The process, guided by the reforms of the Secretary-General and the changing requirements of the international community, has now been completed. Three organizational clusters have been established dealing with legal affairs and the servicing of the intergovernmental machinery, crime reduction and analysis, and technical cooperation. For the first time, the Centre has established a direct presence in the field by opening offices or creating staff positions in countries. The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) has become the research arm in support of the crime control agenda of the Centre. Relations with other institutes of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network have been reoriented in pursuit of a more productive, concrete cooperation. At the same time, contacts are being strengthened with additional academic and research institutions and with entities within and outside the United Nations system. Close synergy has been established with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) under the umbrella of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP).

10. The Centre has made a determined effort to support the trend towards a more streamlined and action-oriented work process of the intergovernmental bodies. Reports and other information conveyed to these bodies and Member States are reviewed to ensure that they facilitate a more productive consideration of crime prevention and criminal justice issues. The preparatory process for the United Nations Tenth Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders is being supported in a similar spirit.

11. Without renouncing traditional areas of involvement in crime prevention and criminal justice, the Centre is acquiring an increasingly high profile in the fight against organized crime,

trafficking in human beings and corruption. This vision was pursued through a multi-pronged approach ranging from advocacy and the promotion of international legal instruments to technical cooperation. A highlight of the reporting year was the work on the elaboration of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the three additional international legal instruments against illegal trafficking and transport of migrants, trafficking in women and children, and illicit manufacturing of, and trafficking in, firearms, their parts and components and ammunition. Strong political commitment and technical know-how were evident in the process and progress was most encouraging. The Convention will be a key enabling instrument for Member States and multilateral organizations alike. Among the initiatives to support further efforts against organized crime, the Centre has proposed to Member States a project to assess transnational organized crime groups, their dangerousness and trends.

12. In technical cooperation, the Centre is focussing on issues and work methods where the United Nations offers a comparative advantage. Projects are identified in close consultations with recipient and donor countries. Geographically priority is given to countries which are most affected by crime including countries emerging from conflicts and countries with economies in transition. Whenever condition permits, the Centre follows a subregional approach to technical cooperation. Close synergy with UNDCP and other multilateral and bilateral assistance providers allows for a more comprehensive approach to such issues as money laundering and drug control. To facilitate the new CIGP priorities for technical cooperation, two global programmes were launched in March 1999 against trafficking of human beings and corruption respectively.

13. The Centre will continue to consolidate the new work methods, develop appropriate initiatives and thus pursue vigorously its mandates in the areas of priority concern to Member States. A series of recommendations emanating from the examination of the Programme from various angles by Office of Internal Oversight Services provide guidance in this endeavour.

### III. SUPPORTING A GLOBAL FORUM ON CRIMINAL POLICY

14. The value and role of the Programme as a global forum on criminal policy has become increasingly pertinent with the growing realization that no country by itself can cope successfully

with the threat of crime. Efforts were continued to support this function, enhanced through the strategic management of the Programme by the Commission and through secretariat activities.

A. Strategic management of the Programme by the Commission on  
Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

15. Between its seventh and eighth sessions, the Commission continued its inter-sessional activities in support of its strategic management of the Programme. The bureau of the Commission met on 15 June and 29 September 1998 and on 15 January 1999 and was scheduled to meet again on 26 March 1999. Inter-sessional consultation meetings for permanent missions at Vienna were organized on 28 September 1998 and 15 January 1999 and another meeting was scheduled to be held on 26 March 1999. The inter-sessional meetings have been attended by a greater number of delegations than in the past. They considered the follow-up to the seventh session of the Commission by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1998 and by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session; the preparations for the eighth session of the Commission, including provisions regarding the submission of draft proposals for consideration by the Commission at that session; preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders; the elaboration of a draft Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and related international legal instruments; technical cooperation activities of the Centre; and implementation of Commission resolution 7/1 on strategic management.

B. Secretariat activities

16. The Centre continued to provide substantive and secretariat services to the global forum and its intergovernmental processes, while at the same time streamlining its related work so as to deploy resources for implementing other mandates in pressing priority areas. Results of this streamlining effort are evident in the documentation prepared for the eighth session of the Commission.

17. Main elements of the Centre's work in this regard consisted of servicing the seventh

session of the Commission and undertaking the required follow-up; preparing for the eighth session of the Commission; providing substantive support to the 1998 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council and the fifty-third session of the General Assembly; servicing the preparatory process and the two sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and related meetings (for details, see report on the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, document E/CN.15/1999/--); and advancing preparations for the Tenth Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders, including the holding of four regional preparatory meetings (for details, see report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the Tenth Congress, document E/CN.15/1999/--).

#### IV. ADDRESSING ORGANIZED CRIME

##### A. Elaborating a Convention against transnational organized crime

18. As a central element of the implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action against Organized Transnational Crime, the intergovernmental process has been launched for elaborating a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and three additional international legal instruments. The Ad Hoc Committee established by the General Assembly for that purpose held its first two sessions in Vienna from 19 to 29 January and from 8 to 12 March 1999.

19. The first session of the Ad Hoc Committee was attended by 91 States and the second by B States. The work of the Ad Hoc Committee was marked by broad support for the Convention, strong political commitment and the presence of sound technical expertise. The Ad Hoc Committee has made significant progress in its work and, having completed the first official reading of the draft text of the Convention at its first session, has commenced negotiations on specific articles. It has also advanced work on the additional international legal instruments against illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition; against illegal transport and trafficking in migrants; and against trafficking in women and children.

20. The Ad Hoc Committee is scheduled to hold four more sessions in 1999: third session from 28 April to 3 May (during the eighth session of the Commission); fourth session from 28 June to 2 July; fifth session from 4 to 15 October; and sixth session from 6 to 10 December. The sixth session is still tentative subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funds. In addition, the Secretariat is exploring the organization of further sessions in 1999. Three more sessions and a conference of plenipotentiaries are foreseen to be held in 2000. The Ad Hoc Committee is expected to complete the work on the Convention and the additional legal instruments for submission to and approval by the Millennium General Assembly in year 2000.

21. The progress report of the Ad Hoc Committee on its work is before the Commission (E/CN.15/1999/\_\_\_).

#### B. Assessing the threat of organized crime

22. Organized crime groups currently pose a global threat and concrete danger to the international community. They have established international networks to better carry out their activities in licit and illicit markets. They employ sophisticated strategies and diverse modus operandi, which enable them to infiltrate the financial, economic and political systems of countries all over the world. Whereas the national or sub-national knowledge base is growing on the organized crime groups and their operations, there is an acute dearth of a comprehensive global overview of organized crime, a requisite for effective international action to counteract this global menace.

23. In response to this need, the Centre has established a central repository on organized crime, accessible on the Web. It has also formulated a project proposal entitled "Assessing Transnational Organized Crime Groups: Dangerousness and Trends". The project's main objective is to assess the major and emerging transnational organized crime groups according to their level of dangerousness. The degree of dangerousness will be assessed through a multi-dimensional approach based on different conceptual areas and related indicators which characterize organized crime groups, such as financial strength, use of violence, capacity to infiltrate public institutions, legal environment in which they operate, etc.

24. This research work will be undertaken using information and data provided by specialized national and international agencies and relevant research persons and statistical institutes. The project will not focus on the identity of criminals but on the analysis of strategies, trends, dynamics and structures of the major transnational syndicates. This special focus will eliminate overlap with the work carried out by police-related organizations. At the same time, the project will benefit from close cooperation with institutions dealing with the subject and will compliment and broaden the spectrum of information on the topic.

25. This project will be accompanied by another project entitled “World Organized Crime Report”, undertaken by UNICRI. The latter project aims at publishing in every alternative year a world organized crime report, which will provide qualitative and quantitative information on trends in organized crime activities and structures of groups operating at the international level; types and distribution of illicit markets; major international initiatives; and developments in national legislation against organized crime. Both projects would lead to the establishment of a data bank on organized crime.

### C. Preventing the trafficking in human beings

26. The smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings have increased throughout the world in recent years, owing to a spectrum of factors, in particular the globalization process. The problem is exacerbated both in size and seriousness by the growing involvement of organized crime groups. The smuggling of migrants by organized groups disrupts established immigration policies of the destination countries and often involves severe human rights abuses. The exploitative nature of the treatment of the victims of trafficking often amounts to new forms of slavery.

27. To enable Governments and the international community to respond better to these transnational problems, the Centre, jointly with UNICRI, has prepared a global programme against trafficking in human beings. The programme aims at enabling countries of origin, transit and destination to develop joint strategies and practical action against this criminal undertaking and to empower donor and recipient countries to address a shared problem to their mutual benefit, in a manner that transcends a purely bilateral approach. It will bring to the foreground the involvement of organized crime groups in human smuggling and trafficking and promote the development of effective criminal justice-related responses.

28. In its first phase, data from selected countries will be collected on different routes used for human smuggling and the structures and modalities used for transporting and subsequently exploiting them. The analysis of data will make it possible to identify the extent and nature of the phenomena and the role played by criminal organizations in the regions. Parallel to this analysis, an inventory will be made of best practices used worldwide in addressing organized crime involvement in smuggling and trafficking, including special legislation and institutional arrangements.

29. In the second phase, a series of demonstration projects will be launched in a selection of interested countries and evaluated upon completion, thus initiating the pilot testing of technical cooperation activities. These projects will seek to implement the best practices. They will assist Governments in: (a) counteracting groups involved in smuggling and trafficking; (b)

strengthening crime prevention strategies against the smuggling of migrants and trafficking; and (c) improving victim-witness protection and victim assistance. They will seek to establish mechanisms for collaboration among officials of law enforcement, immigration and the judiciary of different countries. As relevant, the projects will build upon existing initiatives in concerned countries and will be supported by national and international entities and non-governmental organizations.

30. In the final phase, a global strategy against smuggling and trafficking in human beings will be formulated in close consultation with relevant national and international organizations and presented for adoption by the international community, possibly at a high-level forum.

31. Several technical assistance pilot projects that form part of the programme are currently being initiated by the Centre and are at various stages of preparation. These include a pilot project in the Philippines on inter-agency cooperation, and an assessment and project formulation mission to Albania which entails the issue of trafficking in human beings, to be undertaken jointly with UNDCP. Venues are also being explored for joint initiatives with the European Commission.

## V. PROMOTING STANDARDS AND NORMS

### A. Assisting to apply standards and norms

32. A broad catalogue of international standards, guidelines and model treaties in crime prevention and criminal justice has been developed, covering such areas as the treatment of prisoners, conduct of law enforcement officials and public officials, use of force and firearms by law enforcement officials, the treatment of victims of crime, the independence of judiciary, juvenile justice, corruption and bribery. With the increasing recognition of the importance of good governance, they provide a foundation for promoting and maintaining the rule of law, a basic requisite for sustainable socio-economic development; furnish a basis for governments to assess their systems, formulate legislation and develop effective tools for controlling national and transnational forms of crime; and provide a framework for technical assistance, which in turn

serves as a catalyst for their implementation.

33. Before the Commission are a report on standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice (E/CN.15/1999/\_\_\_), which ....., and a report on crime prevention (E/CN.15/1999/-), which .....

34. The Centre has continued to support Member States in their efforts to create more efficient and fair justice systems, particularly by providing technical assistance for bringing national regulations and practice in line with the standards and norms.

35. Many projects addressed a spectrum of issues and aspects of criminal justice systems in order to respond to the requesting country's manifold needs. In 1998, the Centre successfully completed two projects for strengthening the criminal justice systems in the two component entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina - the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Sprska. A framework for follow-up activities in the country is being drawn up under a project funded by UNDP, to be implemented jointly with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). It will focus on organized crime matters, but will also address law reform and juvenile justice.

36. Three activities were undertaken in Albania. First, a plan of action for the justice system in Albania was finalized. The plan focuses on the development of the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Justice, courts and related agencies. Second, jointly with UNICEF and UNDP, consultations on establishing a juvenile justice system were carried out with Government institutions in Albania. Third, work was started on a sub-programme on crime within the framework of ODCCP country programme for Albania (1999-2003). The sub-programme will focus on smuggling of migrants.

37. An agreement was signed by the Executive Director of ODCCP and the Vice-President of Guatemala regarding the formulation of a broad assistance programme in support of the criminal justice system in that country. The programme would cover numerous issues, such as organized crime, drug control, money laundering, corruption, juvenile justice and criminal justice

reform. A consultant engaged by the Centre initiated programme activities in the country in March 1999.

38. The Centre held three training seminars on modern management for senior police officers in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in cooperation with United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP), and with the assistance of the International Police Task Force (IPTF) in Bosnia and the United States International Criminal Investigations Training Assistance Programme (ICITAP).

39. A project to strengthen the legislative and institutional capacities for juvenile justice in Lebanon is under implementation. As part of the project, training seminars on juvenile delinquency were organized jointly by UNICEF and the Centre.

40. A multi-disciplinary project proposal on the reform of the administration of juvenile justice in Bangladesh was developed in cooperation with UNICEF. A related project formulation mission was undertaken in pursuance of a recommendation by the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the discussions at the first meeting of the Coordination Panel on technical advice and assistance in juvenile justice.

41. As part of developing additional technical assistance tools, the Centre prepared modules for model legislation on juvenile justice which would facilitate the application of standards and norms in national legislation. These were used in relevant consultations with Governments.

42. A mission was undertaken to the Caribbean to support the improvement of prison conditions, following which, a joint Centre-UNDCP prison reform project for the Caribbean region has been developed in pursuance of the Barbados Plan of Action, which will be implemented with the support of the European Union.

43. An assessment and advisory mission was undertaken to Kazakhstan in response to a request from the Government to support a programme of reform of its correctional system and a training seminar was conducted for senior prison officers.

44. A needs assessment mission was undertaken to Botswana and Namibia to identify strategies to enhance crime prevention, both nationally and regionally. In South Africa, a US\$ 6.000.000 project to counteract violence against women and children was started in 1998.

### B. Fighting corruption

45. As mentioned in the introduction, to counteract this phenomenon, the international community has elaborated several instruments, both under the auspices of the United Nations and outside, such as the International Code of Conduct for Public Officials, the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions and the conventions adopted by the Organization of American States, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Council of Europe.

46. The Centre, jointly with UNICRI, has elaborated a global programme against corruption. The programme consists of two main elements: a research component and a technical cooperation component.

47. The research component of the programme will establish and provide the knowledge base for formulating and implementing technical cooperation measures and will consist of a global study of the phenomenon of corruption and the types and efficacy of anti-corruption measures. It will deal with three main types of corruption: (a) corruption in public administration ; (b) business corruption, namely corruption in the milieu of medium-sized and international business; and (c) top-level corruption in the political, administrative and financial areas. The study will develop a “corruption monitoring protocol”, a set of indicators on corruption trends and anti-corruption measures, to be used for the periodic review of the prevalence of corruption and the efficacy of counter measures. Applied at the national level, the protocol will also enable comparative analysis. Importantly, the study will examine the corruption-organized crime nexus. A database containing the information gathered through the study will be established, to be accessible worldwide electronically.

48. The technical cooperation component will assist Member States to build and/or strengthen

their institutional capacity for preventing, detecting and fighting corruption nationally and internationally. At the national level, it will provide assistance in assessing measures against corruption, drafting or revising legislation, establishing or strengthening anti-corruption bodies, developing preventive measures and training policy-makers and officials. At the international level, it would seek to create a pool of high level experts; establish mechanisms for the transparency of public sector contracts and for international anti-corruption accountability through assessments by international experts; promote international legal instruments; and establish an international forum on corruption and bribery.

49. The global programme envisages that, while the research component will cover all regions of the world, pilot technical co-operation activities will initially be implemented in a country each in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

50. The global programme has been developed taking fully into account already existing international activities, both to avoid duplication and to strengthen cooperation. Thus, input has been sought for elaborating the programme from organizations active in the field, such as the World Bank, the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the International Monetary Fund, the European Union, the Council of Europe, the International Chamber of Commerce and Transparency International.

51. The Centre continued to provide technical assistance to requesting Member States in support of their efforts to fight corruption. It continued the implementation of three projects in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in Lebanon, and Romania. These projects aim at creating and strengthening the legislative and institutional capacity of these countries to prevent and control corruption, particularly through drafting new or revising existing legislation, establishing special anti-corruption bodies, training criminal justice personnel and organizing public awareness campaigns.

52. Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/16 mandated the convening of an open-ended meeting of governmental experts for exploring means of ensuring the effectiveness of recent multilateral initiatives against corruption and for formulating an appropriate international

strategy against corruption and its proceeds, in cooperation with other intergovernmental organizations active in this area. In pursuance of this mandate, the Centre was taking measures, at the time of writing this report, to organize a meeting in Paris, from 30 March to 1 April 1999, with the financial support of the French Government, to be attended by experts from the Member States of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and representatives of relevant international organizations.

53. As mandated, the Centre is currently preparing the revised and expanded version of the Manual on Practical Measures against Corruption, scheduled to be ready in the second half of 1999.

## VI. COLLECTING AND DISSEMINATING INFORMATION

54. The Centre has continued its efforts to reinforce its capacity and performance in the collection, analysis and dissemination of pertinent data and information on crime trends and the operations of criminal justice systems so as to better inform policy development and programme implementation. In close concert with UNICRI, the Centre promotes research and produces publications on new and emerging forms of crime. It continues to assist in upgrading national capacities for the collection, analysis and use of criminal justice data through the application of modern information technologies. It also maintains the internet-based United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network (UNCJIN).

55. The Advisory Steering Group on Data Collection and Analysis, established pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolutions 1996/11 and 1997/27, advises the Centre in formulating and implementing strategies for data collection and dissemination. With the support of the Governments of Argentina and the Netherlands, the Group has so far met twice, in March 1997 and March 1998. Guided by the Group, the Centre has pursued three specific initiatives:

(i) streamlining the Sixth United Nations Survey on Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems. The quinquennial Surveys on Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal

Justice Systems are the Centre's primary vehicle for the collection of national level statistics on crime trends and criminal justice. To date, over 100 countries have provided official data on police, prosecution, courts, prisons, and resource allocation. Presently, the Sixth Survey is being administered to Governments. Data from that survey is expected to be available in the second half of 1999;

(ii) refining a *Guide on the Development and Analysis of Criminal Justice Statistics*. The Centre is cooperating with the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat and the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics in preparing this Guide, which will assist developing countries in the collection, maintenance and analysis of crime and criminal justice data and information, and in computerizing criminal justice systems;

(iii) elaborating a methodology for collecting data and information on organized transnational crime. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolutions 1996/27 and 1997/22 and the priority assigned to fighting organized transnational crime, steps are being taken to expand the Centre's repository on organized transnational crime. The Advisory Steering Group has drafted a survey instrument on organized crime, which was tested on a pilot basis. It will be modified on the basis of feedback, prior to being used as an information template in the project on "Assessing Transnational Organized Crime Groups: Dangerousness and Trends", mentioned above under chapter IV, section B.

56. Data collected by the Centre through the surveys and other means are used and presented in publications. Thus, extensive data obtained from the previous surveys has been analyzed and presented in the *Global Report on Crime and Justice*, published by the Oxford University Press in 1999, which offers a comprehensive review of the state of crime in the world and addresses topics as diverse as punishment, policing strategies, crime prevention, firearm regulation, drug control, and organized crime.

57. The Centre has joined forces with UNDCP to produce two publication series:

(i) monographs entitled *ODCCP Studies on Drugs and Crime*; and

(ii) the *"United Nations Journal on Drugs and Crime"*, the first issue of which was published in December 1998, entitled *"Financial Havens, Banking Secrecy and Money-Laundering."*

58. The Centre continues to pursue vigorously the dissemination of information, especially electronically by maintaining and expanding the Internet-based United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network (UNCJIN) (accessible at <http://www.ifs.univie.ac.at/~uncjin/uncjin.html>), a substantial database on crime statistics, publications and links to relevant United Nations entities, research organizations and universities. The results of the Centre's research and information gathering activities are entered into this database. Its content has been further expanded during the past year. For example, it now includes Secretary-General's reports to several recent sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in English, French and Spanish. Also available are the documents of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Draft Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime; data and information gathered by the *United Nations International Survey on Firearm Regulation*; and a *Global Bibliography of Prisons Systems (GBOPS)*.

## VII. MANAGING THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

59. The Centre has continued its efforts to focus and streamline its technical cooperation work. In 1998, it was able to fund, through the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, and/or act in a cooperating agency capacity, projects whose total budget amounts to more than \$ 4 million. These projects, substantive information on which are contained in the various relevant sections of this report, are listed below in table I.

Table I. Technical Cooperation Projects of the Centre, February 1999

Country	Project	Total Budget	CICP Role
Albania	Plan of Action for the Justice System in Albania	127,050	Cooperating agency
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Strengthening the Administration Of Justice in the Federation	380,000	Cooperating agency
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Strengthening the Administration Of Justice in the Republika Srpska	390,000	Cooperating agency
Lebanon	National Anti-Corruption Plan	273,460	Funding and executing agency
Lebanon	Strengthening the Legislative and Institutional Capacity for Juvenile Justice	840,000	Funding and executing agency
Kyrgyzstan	Enhancing the Capacity to Fight Organized Crime	180,000	Cooperating agency
Romania	Institution Building and Strengthening of Corruption Control Capacity	325,000	Funding and cooperating agency
South Africa	Mechanisms to Counteract Domestic Violence	660,000	Funding and associate agency
South Africa	Preparatory Assistance: Support for National Crime Prevention Strategy	558,500	Cooperating agency
South Africa	Measures to Counteract Organized Crime	400,000	Funding and cooperating agency
The FYR Macedonia	Assistance to Anti-Corruption Law Reform	29,500	Funding and cooperating agency
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4,163,510</b>	
	<b>CICP funded</b>	<b>2,527,960</b>	

60. In pursuing the fight against corruption, the Centre assisted the Governments of Lebanon, Romania and TFY Macedonia in the drafting of new law legislation to be presented to the respective parliaments, and in training on anti-corruption strategies and measures.

61. A Plan of Action for the reform of the justice system in Albania was finalized in 1998. This Plan provides the basis for the preparation of an ODCCP Country Programme, under which two sub-programme, one on crime and the other on drugs, are being developed.

62. In 1998, the Centre, completed the implementation of two projects to Strengthen the Criminal Justice System in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the Republika Srpska.

63. In South Africa, the implementation of the project on measures to counteract organized crime and commercial crime started. It provides assistance to the Government to establish and implement mechanisms to combat these types of criminality in accordance with priorities determined by the National Crime Prevention Strategy launched by the Government in May 1996.

64. A project aimed at strengthening the institutional and legislative capacities for juvenile justice in Lebanon started also in 1998, including training programmes for the judicial and educational fields, the creation of a specialized unit in the Ministry of Justices and development of policies to prevent juvenile delinquency.

65. In formulating new projects, the Centre pursues five main policy directions:

(i) a systematic effort to translate into concrete measures at the field level the priorities of the Centre;

(ii) establishment of precise criteria for the provision of technical assistance to countries in need. Priority is being given to countries with economies in transition and countries which are undertaking an in-depth revamping of their justice system. The Centre will encourage a sub-regional rather than a national approach wherever conditions permit;

(iii) synergy with UNDCP. While keeping their distinct profiles, UNDCP and the Centre have developed close cooperation at the operational level. This is evidenced in the increased number of joint missions and in the design of new programmes for Albania, Guatemala, Tajikistan, the Russian Federation and the Southern African region. This will allow a more comprehensive approach in dealing with issues like organized crime, money laundering, drug control and support to the criminal justice system;

(iv) reinforced inter-agency cooperation. In its technical cooperation activities, the Centre has sought to reinforce close cooperation with other relevant Secretariat entities and United Nations agencies. A concrete example is the Coordination Panel that the Centre has established with the High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNICEF for providing a coordinated response to requests for assistance in the field of juvenile justice.

(v) the need to act increasingly as both funding and executing agency. This will allow the Centre to retain substantive control over the projects and, at the same time, raise its visibility in the international arena.

66. Within the above context, work has begun on new initiatives in Albania, Bosnia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Philippines, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Tajikistan, the Caucasus region, the Caribbean and the Southern African region. These initiatives are currently at different stages of preparation.

67. The call by the Economic and Social Council to enhance the Centre's capacity to deliver technical assistance is also being pursued through achieving the presence of the Centre's staff at the country and sub-regional level. In 1998, the Centre maintained its presence both in the Republika Srpska and in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and established a field project office in Romania and a liaison office in Lebanon. An ODCCP Regional Office for Southern Africa is established in Pretoria as a joint undertaking of UNDCP and CICP. Steps have been taken to establish a position of a crime prevention and criminal justice expert at the UNDCP Office in Uzbekistan.

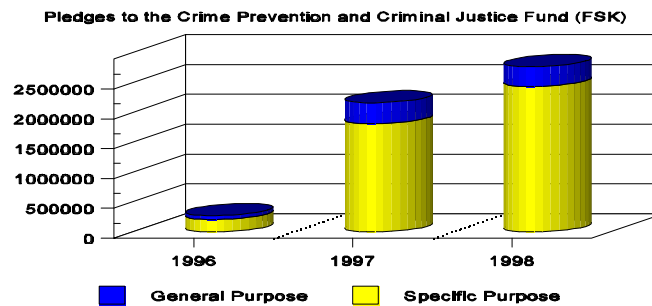
## VIII. MOBILIZING RESOURCES

68. The contributions provided to the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund in the past three years are shown in table II below.

Table II. Contributions to the CPCJ Fund, 1996-1998 (in US \$)

1996	1997	1998
US\$ 274,715	US\$ 2,166,326	US\$ 2,733,014

69. The total amount provided to the Centre through the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund over the past three years is US\$ 5,174,055, of which US\$ 4,470,070 (86%) was earmarked for specific projects or activities. The trend in contributions shows a substantial increase between 1996 and 1998, albeit on an extremely modest baseline. The figures below demonstrate this increase and the distribution of contributions between general and specific purposes.



70. Contributions received to the Fund during 1998 are listed in table III below.

Table III. Contributions to the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund in 1998 (US\$)

	General Purpose	Special Purpose	Total
Austria	78,740 <sup>b</sup>	660,000 <sup>b</sup>	738,740
Brazil	15,000 <sup>a</sup>	-	15,000
Canada	-	6,944 <sup>b</sup>	6,944
Iceland	4,898 <sup>b</sup>	-	4,898
India	3,000 <sup>a</sup>	-	3,000
Italy	137,928 <sup>b</sup>	458,800	596,728
Morocco	2,000 <sup>a</sup>	-	2,000
The Netherlands	-	106,641 <sup>c</sup>	106,641
Philippines	1,000 <sup>a</sup>	-	1,000
Republic of Korea	11,250 <sup>b</sup>	-	11,250
Slovenia	609 <sup>b</sup>	-	609
Switzerland	-	709,220 <sup>c</sup>	709,220
Thailand	3,000 <sup>a</sup>	-	3,000
Tunisia	1,400 <sup>a</sup>	-	1,400
Turkey	25,000 <sup>a</sup>	25,000 <sup>a</sup>	50,000
United States of America	43,500 <sup>a</sup>	467,500 <sup>a</sup>	511,000
Venezuela	4,084 <sup>b</sup>	-	4,084
Public donation (Others)	-	7,500 <sup>b</sup>	7,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>331,409</b>	<b>2,441,605</b>	<b>2,773,014</b>

a - pledged

b - paid

c - partially paid

71. There has been a general recognition of the marked discrepancy between mandates and resources of the Centre. The increase in funding, while significant in percentage and encouraging, is far too small to overcome this discrepancy. In this context, it is pertinent to recall that the Office of Internal Oversight Services had suggested that a solution be found by acting on a two-tier direction: streamlining the programme and improving the funding. The Centre has acted on the first tier and is pursuing a more focussed programme of work. It is for the Member States to act on the second tier by improving the funding.

#### IX. COORDINATING THE NETWORK AND PROMOTING PARTNERSHIPS

72. An essential component of the Centre's work direction in the past year has been an effort to realign, reinforce and expand a result-oriented work relation with the institutes of the

Programme network, the relevant entities of the Secretariat and the United Nations system, relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other competent institutions. This has proceeded hand in hand with the intense pursuit, described elsewhere in this report, of closest work synergy with the UNDCP, the sister entity of the Centre within the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, thus giving operational effect to the Secretary-General's reform measures in this field. These efforts are guided by the basic objectives of eliminating duplication, making the best use of each other's competencies and achieving coordinated action at all levels of operation.

73. Ongoing effective coordination of undertakings is now being ensured between the Centre and UNICRI, which has now been repositioned to serve as the research arm supporting the Centre's work. A telling example of this new work relationship is the joint ownership of the global programmes against corruption and trafficking in human beings and the project on studying organized crime.

74. Efforts have also been advanced, and will continue, to forge a more productive cooperation with other institutes participating in the Programme network. For example, the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control Affiliated with the United Nations published in 1998 *ACrime and Criminal Justice Systems in Europe and North America: 1990-1994*", containing the results of an innovative analysis of the national responses to the Fifth United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, carried out by the Institute with the support of the Centre. The European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control (HEUNI) and the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI) are working closely with the Centre to coordinate two of the workshops for the Tenth Congress. The UNAFRI and ILANUD help the Centre in holding the respective regional meetings for the Congress. (The Arab Institute..... ISPAC.....)

75. As mandated, the Centre has compiled a report on the work of the institutes comprising the Programme network, which is before the Commission (E./CN.15/1999/-).

76. In the specific context of pursuing its work, ranging from the formulation of new global

programmes to the delivery of technical assistance, the Centre is strengthening its partnership and developing new ones with several entities. Especially, within the Secretariat and the United Nations system, these include the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Department for Disarmament Affairs, the Office for Project Services, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organization, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Among its other major partners are the European Commission, the Council of Europe, the Organization of American States, the International Organization for Migration, the World Tourism Organization, Interpol, the International Sociological Association, the United States National Institute of Justice, the Research and Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Justice of the Netherlands, the American Society of Criminology, the Max Planck Institute in Germany, the Instituto Cattaneo in ----- and the Korean Institute of Criminology.

## X. ADDRESSING FUTURE CHALLENGES

77. The United Nations programme on crime prevention and criminal justice focussed in the past on establishing and promoting the use of standards and norms. These standards and norms now constitute the cornerstones of humane and effective criminal justice systems. In the meantime the changed global environment has necessitated a strategic reorientation of the Centre's activities. Today, on the one hand, with the abating of dictatorial rules, the reestablishment of democracies and the increased global flow of communications, a more conducive milieu for the application of standards and norms prevails. On the other hand, some of these developments have their downsides. The very mechanisms of democratization, technological advances and globalization of markets and communication also provide the opportunity to uncivil elements of society to pose new criminal threats to nations and the entire international community. These new threats, exemplified by illicit trafficking in firearms, smuggling of migrants and trafficking in women and children as well as international corruption, cannot be countered by countries single-handedly. They require the international community to reconsider the nature and objectives of international collaboration in criminal matters. A multilateral approach is often required. The new type of collaboration goes far beyond the ad hoc provision of mutual legal aid in individual cases. Agencies will have to work together on a more permanent basis in both policy-making and

operational activities. More than in the past technical cooperation will directly serve both the interests of recipient and donor countries. The United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme with its various existing mandates and institutional arrangements seems the most efficient springboard for such collaboration.

78. As we map the road ahead, there are two main challenges facing the Centre and Member States which provide its mandate and resources. The first one is to maintain a realistic sense of what is achievable. It is essential for the centre to be efficient in all its activities and to be selective in undertaking new tasks. The second challenge is resources. The international agenda keeps on expanding to such an extent that the means available to the Centre have long become inadequate. Unless a wider and more stable resource basis is secured, a major credibility gap will develop between mandates and requests for action and capacity to deliver. The Centre is sparing no effort to present to Member States a credible, focussed and output-oriented programme of work. It will then partly be the task of Governments to provide the necessary means to sustain and implement their agenda in international crime prevention.