

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)

Introduction

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) reconvened the second part of its 23rd session on 4-5 December 2014.¹ In this meeting the Member States focused on topics such as strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions; a follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; and the provisional agenda for the twenty-fourth session of the Commission.² A report was adopted which summarizes the outcome of deliberations. The report was subsequently presented to, and adopted by, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).³ In addition to this, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) organized the open-ended intergovernmental expert group meeting on gender-related killing of women and girls on 11-13 November 2014.⁴ The expert group presented its findings to Member States, who then discussed and identified measures to be taken to prevent gender-based violence and to prosecute perpetrators of gender-based killings.

This update will review the outcomes of the most recent sessions of the Commission and its expert groups. It will also provide a synopsis of the challenges that lie ahead and what Member States will address in the forthcoming months, most notably at the upcoming Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which will take place in Doha, Qatar, from 12-19 April 2015.⁵

Recent Developments

Strategic management, budgetary and administrative topics account for a major part of the issues discussed recently. Between 12 February and 1 October 2014, the open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the UNODC reconvened four times.⁶ This working group was established by ECOSOC decision 2009/251.⁷ Its duties are dealing with the consolidated budget of UNODC as well as evaluating and overseeing the “progress made by UNODC in implementing its regional and thematic programs.”⁸

At the meeting held on 5 September 2014, HIV/AIDS and financial matters were the two key topics for discussion.⁹ One of the main outcomes of the meeting was a review of findings from the mid-term evaluation of the “UNODC Global Programme on HIV/AIDS.”¹⁰ Delegates were informed that all recommendations of the Programme had been accepted and that UNODC took appropriate follow-up measures.¹¹ Moreover, delegates stressed the importance of cooperation with civil society in sharing knowledge, lessons learned, and expressed their appreciation for the Global Programme, especially the cooperation with other groups involved in HIV/AIDS activities and the sharing of knowledge in regard to those activities.¹² Regarding the methods of financing and structure, delegates examined the issues of program support costs, transparent usage of general-purpose funds, and were calling for established

¹ UN CCPCJ, *Documentation*, 2015.

² UN CCPCJ, *Annotated provisional agenda*, (E/CN.15/2014/1/Add.1), 2014.

³ UN CCPCJ, *Documentation*, 2015.

⁴ UN CCPCJ, *Outcome of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group on gender-related killing of women and girls: Report of the Secretary-General*, (E/CN.15/2015/16), 2015, p.1.

⁵ UNODC, *Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*, 2015.

⁶ UN CCPCJ, *Work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Note by the Secretariat*, (E/CN.15/2014/8/Add.1), 2014, p. 2.

⁷ UN ECOSOC, *Frequency and duration of the reconvened sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*, 2009.

⁸ UNODC, *Standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, 2015.

⁹ UN CCPCJ, *Work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Note by the Secretariat*, (E/CN.15/2014/8/Add.1), 2014, pp. 3-4.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

guidelines.¹³ UNODC in turn presented an annual appeal or pledging conference as a possible funding mechanism, and announced a special funding event to be held in 2015.¹⁴ This topic was addressed again at the meeting held on 1 October, where delegations reiterated the existing disproportion between general-purpose and special-purpose funds. Additionally, some delegates stressed the need for unified accountability and results-based reporting.¹⁵ The co-chairs of the working group reiterated the four thematic clusters for delegates to focus on in the upcoming months: 1) continuing to strengthen the financial situation of UNODC; 2) promoting an integrated program approach; 3) implementing an evaluation process within UNODC that takes place at all stages of a program; and 4) empowering human resources staff in order to improve gender and geographical representation.¹⁶

Recent Policy Outcomes

In addition to rather technical and administrative matters, there was a critical substantive issue discussed by several United Nations' entities: gender-related killing of women and girls. With the adoption of resolution 68/191 (2013), the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to convene an open-ended intergovernmental expert group meeting on gender-related killing of women and girls.¹⁷ The group is tasked to “discuss ways and means to more effectively prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish gender-related killing of women, in order to make practical recommendations”.¹⁸ The background paper was prepared for the members of the working group who gathered for the first meeting in Bangkok from 11-13 November 2014.¹⁹ In order to effectively prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish gender-related killing, delegates reviewed practical measures, such as enhancing international cooperation by ratifying and implementing already existing documents such as the United Nations Conventions against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the Protocols thereto or the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* and its Optional Protocol.²⁰ Additionally, delegates proposed new ideas, including: regional approaches with the *Latin American Model Protocol for the Investigation of Gender-related Killing of Women* as a blueprint; changing the language in national laws to prevent perpetrators from denying their responsibility by relying on “violent emotion” or “honor” as a motive for their criminal actions; fostering the institutional environment to promote an efficient criminal justice system and governance that adheres to it; and continuous evaluation in order to draw lessons learned and being able to constantly improve measures and actions taken.²¹ Moreover, the participants of this meeting agreed that a holistic approach to this matter is needed and that prevention is a cost-effective way to protect women and girls from gender-related violence.²² The third major topic on the agenda is the preparation of the next Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. General Assembly resolution 67/184 of 20 December 2012 indicated the main theme of the Congress as “integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the [...] agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law [...], and public participation”.²³ In the first half of 2014 four regional preparatory meetings took place.²⁴ The outcome of these meetings set ground for the governmental expert meeting that took place in Doha, Qatar, from 27-29 September 2014. This meeting convened to facilitate discussion on the

¹³ UN CCPCJ, *Work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Note by the Secretariat*, (E/CN.15/2014/8/Add.1), 2014, p. 4.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

¹⁶ UN CCPCJ, *Standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Statement by the co-chairs*, (E/CN.15/2014/CRP.8), 2014, pp. 2-4.

¹⁷ UN General Assembly, *Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls*, (A/RES/68/191), 2013.

¹⁸ UNODC, *Gender-related killing of women and girls: promising practices, challenges and practical recommendations. Background paper prepared by the Secretariat*, (UNODC/CCPCJ/EG.8/2014/2), 2014, p. 1.

¹⁹ UN CCPCJ, *Outcome of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group on gender-related killing of women and girls: Report of the Secretary-General*, (E/CN.15/2015/16), 2015, p. 1.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

²¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 3-4; UN CCPCJ, *National measures taken to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish gender-related killings of women and girls*, (E/CN.15/2014/CRP.4), 2014.

²² UN CCPCJ, *Outcome of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group on gender-related killing of women and girls: Report of the Secretary-General*, (E/CN.15/2015/16), 2015, p. 5.

²³ UN General Assembly, *Follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*, (A/RES/67/184), 2012.

²⁴ UNODC, *2014 Regional Preparatory Meetings*, 2015.

contribution that the Congress could make to the post-2015 development agenda.²⁵ For example, common and shared responsibility in the broader area of crime prevention and criminal justice along with technical assistance and capacity-building is crucial.²⁶ Additionally, academia and practitioners should highlight the links between crime prevention and criminal justice, the rule of law, human rights protection and sustainable development.²⁷ It was agreed that early crime prevention is key and can be reached through methods such as improved primary education for all children.²⁸ Interestingly, delegates decided not to create a list of crimes in the upcoming draft declaration, in order to provide space for general policy matters.²⁹

Conclusion

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice plays an instrumental role in creating a just and fair criminal justice system that is based on the rule of law at both the national and international levels. In the last several months the Commission adopted reports which outline its action plan for the upcoming year, thus preparing an agenda that will include many challenges and important topics such as gender-related killing of women and the Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which only takes place every five years. Moreover, crime prevention and criminal justice as well as adherence to the rule of law will play an important role in the post-2015 development agenda. As these three are vital topics CCPCJ deals with, the commission will be pivotal when it comes to this matter in the course of deliberations regarding the sustainable development goals.

²⁵ UN General Assembly, *Letter dated 2 October 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/69/424)*, 2014 p. 2.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

²⁹ *Ibid.*

Annotated Bibliography

United Nations, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. (2014). *National measures taken to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish gender-related killings of women and girls (E/CN.15/2014/CRP.4)*. Retrieved 7 January 2015 from:

https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_23/E-CN15-2014-CRP4_E.pdf

The General Assembly invited Member States to provide UNODC with national measures that can be used as a blueprint. These measures should entail prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of gender-related killings. This document compiles and synthesizes the response of Member States. It is a useful source to start thinking about practical measures to be implemented in another region or on the international level. Delegates should familiarize themselves with such initiatives and consider alternative ones.

United Nations, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. (2014). *Work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Note by the Secretariat (E/CN.15/2014/8/Add.1)*. Retrieved 4 January 2015 from:

<http://undocs.org/E/CN.15/2014/8/Add.1>

This document outlines the work of the group that has taken place throughout 2014. It is a concise yet informative summary that examines the main topics the Commission has dealt with. After reading this note, the gaps within current action that still need to be addressed can be identified. Consequently, delegates get an impression of the missing pieces in the managerial and technical realm of the Commission. E.g. full cost recovery, which needs a more structured approach to be dealt with according to Member States.

United Nations, General Assembly. (2013). *Discussion Guide (A/CONF.222/PM.1)*. Retrieved 7 January 2015 from:

<http://undocs.org/A/CONF.222/PM.1>

This discussion guide is the main preparatory document for delegates attending the Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Doha, Qatar in April 2015. It includes the agenda and basic information about the topics to be discussed. Delegates should read this discussion guide in order to be aware of the most important topics the Member States will deal with while attending this Congress. It informs about substantive agenda items such as International cooperation, including at the regional level, to combat transnational organized crime as well as about workshops that will take place during the conference. Moreover, it contains questions that should be discussed during the conference, e.g. assessing the best ways to address the challenges posed by social media and communications technologies when used to incite violence, discrimination and crime

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *Letter dated 2 October 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/69/424)*. Retrieved 7 January 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/69/424>

The Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addresses the Secretary-General who presents the outcome of the governmental expert meeting on the preparations of the Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. In this meeting delegates prepared the Congress substantively. Delegates reading this document are able to identify the key topics and focus of the upcoming Congress. These topics include strengthening the role of youth in crime prevention or strengthening regional and sub regional cooperation in order to tackle terrorism, crime or extremism.

United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. (2014). *Gender-related killing of women and girls: promising practices, challenges and practical recommendations. Background paper prepared by the Secretariat.*

(UNODC/CCPCJ/EG.8/2014/2). Retrieved 5 January 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/UNODC/CCPCJ/EG.8/2014/2>

The background paper serves as a starting point in dealing with the issue of gender-related killing. It includes a definition, the main challenges, and possible solutions. Delegates who read this paper will have a profound knowledge about the matter, which they will be able to build upon by further researching the matter. The paper provides a definition of gender-related killing,

informs about the relevant international normative and political frameworks, and hints at challenges and promising practices that lay ahead.

Bibliography

- United Nations, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. (2014). *Annotated provisional agenda (E/CN.15/2014/1/Add.1)*. Retrieved 4 January 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/E/CN.15/2014/1/Add.1>
- United Nations, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. (2014). *Standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Statement by the co-chairs (E/CN.15/2014/CRP.8)*. Retrieved 5 January 2015 from: https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_23Recovered/ECN72014_CRP16_ECN152014_CRP8eV1408164.pdf
- United Nations, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. (2014). *Work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Note by the Secretariat (E/CN.15/2014/8/Add.1)*. Retrieved 4 January 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/E/CN.15/2014/8/Add.1>
- United Nations, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. (2014). *National measures taken to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish gender-related killings of women and girls (E/CN.15/2014/CRP.4)*. Retrieved 7 January 2015 from: https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_23/E-CN15-2014-CRP4_E.pdf
- United Nations, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. (2015). *Documentation* [Website]. Retrieved 4 January 2015 from: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/session/index.html>
- United Nations, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. (2015). *Outcome of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group on gender-related killing of women and girls. Report of the Secretary-General, (E/CN.15/2015/16)*. Retrieved 4 January 2015 from: http://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/IEGM_GRK_BKK/Report_IEGM_GRK_-_advance_copy.pdf
- United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2009). *Frequency and duration of the reconvened sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice* [Decision]. Retrieved 4 January 2015 from: http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/FINGOV/ECOSOC_Decision-2009-251_E.pdf
- United Nations, General Assembly. Sixty-seventh session. (2012). *Follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (A/RES/67/184)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 7 January 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/67/184>
- United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013). *Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls (A/RES/68/188)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 6 January 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/68/191>
- United Nations, General Assembly. (2013). *Discussion Guide (A/CONF.222/PM.1)*. Retrieved 7 January 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/CONF.222/PM.1>
- United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *Letter dated 2 October 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/69/424)*. Retrieved 7 January 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/69/424>
- United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. (2014). *Gender-related killing of women and girls: promising practices, challenges and practical recommendations. Background paper prepared by the Secretariat. (UNODC/CCPCJ/EG.8/2014/2)*. Retrieved 5 January 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/UNODC/CCPCJ/EG.8/2014/2>



United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. (2015). *Standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime* [Website]. Retrieved 4 January 2015 from: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/FINGOV/FINGOV-index.html>

United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. (2015). *Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice* [Website]. Retrieved 4 January 2015 from: <http://www.unodc.org/congress/>

United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. (2015). *2014 Regional Preparatory Meetings* [Website]. Retrieved 7 January 2015 from: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crime-congress-preparatory-meetings/RPM2014-index.html>

I. Strengthening Criminal Justice Systems to Better Address Gender-Based Violence

“Both men and women should feel free to be strong.... It is time that we all perceive gender on a spectrum instead of two opposing sets of ideals. If we stop defining each other by what we are not and start defining ourselves by what we just are - we can all be freer, and this is what HeForShe is about. It’s about freedom.”³⁰

Introduction

Issues pertinent to the CCPCJ such as the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) have recently been addressed by UN bodies like the General Assembly (GA), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the Economic and Social Council. The General Assembly Third Committee issued a report on “Advancement of Women” (A/69/481) in December 2014, which addressed issues such as eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, preventing the trafficking of women and girls, and eradicating the practice of female genital mutilation.³¹ This update will review the outcomes of this report and the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting on gender-related killing of women and girls, which was held in November 2014. Furthermore, this update will examine the recent cases of sexual violence and GBV in areas of conflict such as Iraq and Syria.

Recent Policy Outcomes and Initiatives

The issue of strengthening criminal justice systems to prevent GBV was addressed in the above-mentioned report by the GA Third Committee, “Advancement of Women” (A/69/481), which encompassed five draft resolutions under consideration, including efforts to end female genital mutilation, the prevention of trafficking in women and girls and actions to end all forms of violence against women and girls.³² The draft resolution on “Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls” addressed the necessity of strengthening criminal justice systems by increasing training and education of police and criminal justice professionals, adopting national and regional action plans and coordination mechanisms, and establishing awareness raising campaigns.³³ The draft resolution on “Intensification of efforts to end obstetric fistula” affirmed that poverty, lack of education, and lack of access to proper health care are leading factors in obstetric fistula.³⁴ Furthermore, the draft resolution on “Trafficking in women and girls” supports UN-Women’s efforts to empower women and girls and end GBV.³⁵ The need to institute advocacy and awareness raising programs and prohibit the practice of female genital mutilation was streamlined in the draft resolution on “Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations”.³⁶ Each of these draft resolutions were passed, and further recommendations were made to implement the outcomes of the Fourth World Conference, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.³⁷ These recommendations fell under the draft resolution on “Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly” which states that all Member States have the obligation to ensure that their criminal justice systems will protect victims, investigate crimes, and prosecute those responsible.

The UNODC also reaffirmed its commitment to this topic when it co-hosted the Intergovernmental Expert Group meeting on gender-related killing of women and girls in Bangkok in November 2014.³⁸ The meeting focused on strengthening criminal justice systems and its attendees called for Member States to “investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and to provide protection to the victims.”³⁹ The attendees of this meeting also highlighted the need for a more comprehensive, systematic, and sustained approach to

³⁰ Watson, *UN Women, HeForShe*, 20 September 2014.

³¹ UN General Assembly, *Advancement of Women Report of Third Committee (A/69/481)*, 2014, pp. 3-11.

³² *Ibid.*, pp. 3-11.

³³ *Ibid.*, p. 2

³⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 3

³⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 4

³⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 5

³⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 1.

³⁸ UNODC, *Statement by Rashida Manjoo United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences Intergovernmental Expert Group meeting on gender-related killing of women and girls*, 2014, p. 1.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

improving criminal justice capacities and improving women's access to civil and criminal justice institutions so that GBV can be prevented.⁴⁰

In September 2014 the *HeForShe* campaign was launched by UN-Women to raise awareness and involve men and boys with gender equality issues.⁴¹ The campaign calls for men to take a more active role in supporting women's equal rights for the benefit of all humanity.⁴²

Recent Developments

The World Health Organization (WHO) asserts that women and girls are especially vulnerable to sexual violence and GBV in areas of conflict because of the breakdown of the community and the disintegration of the criminal justice system.⁴³ This has become a severe problem in the conflict areas of Iraq and Syria, where the armed group, ISIS, is targeting minority women and children for rape, sexual violence, and sexual slavery.⁴⁴ The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence (SRSG) estimated that ISIS has forced some 1,500 Iraqi women and children into sexual slavery.⁴⁵ The report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic along with an Amnesty International report published in December 2014 similarly found that ISIS used brutal acts of rape, sexual violence, human trafficking, forced marriage, and sexual slavery against women and girls to assert its control over the minority groups in Syria.⁴⁶

The UN has made progress in strengthening criminal justice systems in areas of conflict. The WHO and UN Action have been working to raise awareness and collect evidence of the instances of GBV within Syria and Iraq in order to shed light on these human rights abuses and determine how criminal justice systems can be further strengthened to prevent this type of abuse.⁴⁷ In his report (S/2014/693) on "Women and Peace and Security", the Secretary-General called for Member States to give women access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services including "the safe termination of pregnancies for survivors of conflict-related rape."⁴⁸ The UNODC's 2014 report on "Strengthening Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses to Violence against Women" condemned the use of violence against women in conflict situations, stressed the need for ratification of international and regional criminal justice instruments, and called for cooperation with the International Criminal Court in the investigation and prosecution of perpetrators of violence against women during times of conflict.⁴⁹

Another recent international initiative was spearheaded by the United Kingdom. In November 2014 the United Kingdom unveiled the outcome of a conference held under their Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI). The outcome aims to change the culture that leads to sexual violence, increases criminal justice measures for prosecuting criminals, and creates better support mechanisms for survivors of sexual violence during conflict.⁵⁰

Conclusion

Recent progress has been made with regard to strengthening criminal justice systems in order to prevent GBV; however work remains. Important issues include the way in which criminal justice measures could be strengthened in order to prevent sexual and GBV within conflict areas and by non-State actors. The CCPCJ and UNODC work with Member States to assist in the implementation of legal frameworks and training of criminal justice officials to prevent future cases of GBV.⁵¹

⁴⁰ UNODC, *Statement by Rashida Manjoo Meeting on gender-related killing of women and girls*, 2014, p. 4.

⁴¹ HeForShe, *A Solidarity Movement for Gender Equality*, 2014.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ World Health Organization, *Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 2015.

⁴⁴ UN DPI, *'Barbaric' sexual violence perpetrated by Islamic State militants in Iraq*, 2014.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ United Nations, *Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic*, 2014, p. 10; Amnesty International, *Escape From Hell: Torture and Sexual Slavery in Islamic State Captivity in Iraq*, 2014.

⁴⁷ World Health Organization, *Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 2015.

⁴⁸ UN Security Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security*, 2014, p. 27.

⁴⁹ UNODC, *Strengthening Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses to Violence against Women*, 2014, p. 25.

⁵⁰ United Kingdom, *Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict*, 2014.

⁵¹ UNODC, *National measures taken to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish gender-related killings of women and girls* (UNODC/CCPCJ/EG.8/2014/CRP.1), 2014, pp. 7-14.

Annotated Bibliography

Amnesty International. (2014). *Escape From Hell: Torture and Sexual Slavery in Islamic State Captivity in Iraq*. Retrieved 31 December 2014 from: http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/escape_from_hell_-_torture_and_sexual_slavery_in_islamic_state_captivity_in_iraq_mde_140212014_.pdf

This report from Amnesty International investigates the cases of sexual violence and rape as a weapon of war used by ISIS in Syria and Iraq. The researchers performed interviews with 42 women and girls who have escaped from ISIS and are now telling their stories. This report was completed in December, and all of the victims were in ISIS captivity as recent as September 2014. This report is important for delegates to read because it gives a very recent account of the horrible acts of war taken by ISIS against women and girls in Iraq and Syria.

HeForShe. (2014). A Solidarity Movement for Gender Equality [Website]. Retrieved 30 December 2014 from: <http://www.heforshe.org/#take-action>

This website is for UN-Women's HeForShe Campaign, which was launched in September 2014. This initiative is meant to engage men and boys in the fight for gender equality for the benefit of all humanity. The initiative was launched at the UN Headquarters in New York City, and UN-Women's Goodwill Ambassador, Emma Watson, gave a speech introducing the initiative. This is an important source for delegates because it is an example of a very recent UN initiative which is pertinent to this topic.

United Nations, General Assembly. Advancement of Women: Report of Third Committee (A/69/481). Retrieved 29 December 2014 from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/481

This report was completed by the General Assembly in December 2014. It is especially important because it displays recent UN efforts to address a wide range of important issues such as preventing female genital mutilation, eradicating trafficking of women and girls, and stopping GBV toward women and girls. It also includes remarks from the Secretary-General regarding violence and women and girls.

United Nations. (2014). Security Council Adopts Resolution 2170 (2014) Condemning Gross, Widespread Abuse of Human Rights by Extremist Groups in Iraq, Syria [Website]. Retrieved 31 December 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/sc11520.doc.htm>

This website discusses a recent 2014 resolution by the Security Council aimed at the militant group ISIS in Iraq and Syria. This document is important because it shows recent UN action toward preventing future human rights abuses by ISIS. It accounts several types of action taken by the Security Council which include the freezing of assets and prevention of the flow of foreign fighters inside Syria and Iraq.

United Nations, Security Council. (2014). Report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security (S/2014/693). Retrieved 31 December 2014 from: <http://undocs.org/S/2014/693>

This report was issued by the Secretary-General in September 2014 on the issue of women in peace and security. This report is integral to delegates because it is a recent statement which gives the current situation and highlights gaps and challenges facing women with regard to peace and security. The Secretary-General also addresses the issue of sexual violence being used in Iraq and Syria and encourages Member States to give reproductive health care measures to women that have been victims of these crimes.

Bibliography

Amnesty International. (2014). *Escape From Hell: Torture and Sexual Slavery in Islamic State Captivity in Iraq*. Retrieved 31 December 2014 from: http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/escape_from_hell_-_torture_and_sexual_slavery_in_islamic_state_captivity_in_iraq_mde_140212014_.pdf

HeForShe. (2014). *A Solidarity Movement for Gender Equality* [Website]. Retrieved 30 December 2014 from: <http://www.heforshe.org/#take-action>

United Kingdom. (2014). *Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict* [Website]. Retrieved 7 January 2015 from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/preventing-sexual-violence-in-conflict>

United Nations. (2014). *Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic*. Retrieved 31 December 2014 from: http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/CoISyria/HRC_CRP_ISIS_14Nov2014.pdf

United Nations Department of Public Information. (2014). *Security Council Adopts Resolution 2170 (2014) Condemning Gross, Widespread Abuse of Human Rights by Extremist Groups in Iraq, Syria* [Article]. Retrieved 31 December 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/sc11520.doc.htm>

United Nations Department of Public Information. (2014). *Barbaric' sexual violence perpetrated by Islamic State militants in Iraq* [Article]. Retrieved 31 December 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48477#.VKQttScVTow>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2014). *Annotated provisional agenda (E/CN.15/2014/1/Add.1)*. Retrieved 29 December 2014 from: https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_23Reconvened/ECN152014_1_ADD1_e_V1406434.pdf

United Nations, General Assembly. *Advancement of Women: Report of Third Committee (A/69/481)*. Retrieved 29 December 2014 from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/481

United Nations, Security Council. (2014). *Report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security (S/2014/693)*. Retrieved 31 December 2014 from: <http://undocs.org/S/2014/693>

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2014). *CCPCJ: Reconvened 23rd Session* [Website]. Retrieved 29 December 2014 from: https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/session/23Reconvened_Session_2014/CCPCJ-23Reconvened-Session.html

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2014). *National measures taken to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish gender-related killings of women and girls* [Report]. Retrieved on 26 January 2015 from: https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/IEGM_GRK_BKK/UNODC.CCPCJ.EG.8.2014.CRP.1.pdf

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2014). *Strengthening Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses to Violence against Women* [Report]. Retrieved on 26 January 2015 from: http://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/Strengthening_Crime_Prevention_and_Criminal_Justice_Responses_to_Violence_against_Women.pdf

Watson, E. (2014). *HeForShe*. Retrieved 29 December 2014 from: <http://www.heforshe.org/EmmaWatsonSpeech.pdf>

World Health Organization. (2014). *Sexual and Reproductive Health* [Website]. Retrieved 31 December 2014 from: http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/violence/sexual_violence/en/

II. Prevention, Protection, and International Cooperation against the Use of New Information Technologies to Abuse and Exploit Children

Introduction

The recent developments concerning the topic of new information technologies (ITs) to prevent, protect, and cooperate against the abuse and exploitation of children have concentrated on strengthening different mechanisms to promote the protection and welfare of children in a world where the utilization of communications and information technology has become prevalent and imperative. This update explores the events and documents on this topic in past months; it also highlights data recently released by different United Nations (UN) institutions, such as the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

Recent Developments

The International Status and Rights of Children

In September of 2014, UNICEF published a report entitled “Hidden in plain sight: A statistical analysis of violence against children.”⁵² The report focuses on UNICEF data from 190 countries on physical, emotional, and sexual violence against children.⁵³ It shows that one-fifth of homicide victims globally are children and adolescents under the age of 20, amounting to about 95,000 deaths in 2012.⁵⁴ It also indicates that about two-thirds of children worldwide between ages 2 and 14 are subjected to violence-related punishment.⁵⁵ In addition, the report found that more than one in three students between ages 13 and 15 worldwide have become victims of bullying in school.⁵⁶

Another important development in children’s rights also occurred this month; the Committee on the Rights of the Child hosted a forum of a group of independent experts.⁵⁷ The forum administered a dialogue with young people in 14 countries through Google+ Hangout, with the dialogue aimed at directly involving children in shaping policies that will affect children’s rights, which is vital in promoting the protection of children in the era of information and communications technologies (ICTs).⁵⁸

In November of 2014, UNODC released the *2014 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, which showed that one in three known victims of human trafficking are children subjected to “modern slavery,” which means forced labor in the manufacturing and construction industries, as well as in domestic work and textile production.⁵⁹ In Africa and the Middle East, children constitute 62% of the victims of human trafficking.⁶⁰ Pointing out six principal strategies to empower all stakeholders in society, the document aims to assist all relevant parties in society, including families and governments, to prevent and reduce violence against children.⁶¹ These strategies include providing assistance to parents and children in relation to life skills that aid in these circumstances; strengthening judicial systems; and promoting awareness of the detrimental results of violence to children.⁶² The UNODC report also emphasizes the need for all Member States to adopt the *UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* and to pursue the full implementation of its provisions.⁶³ The report argues that human trafficking occurs in countries where laws are not in compliance with the established international standards to provide full protection to all people, citing the

⁵² UNICEF, *Hidden in plain sight: A statistical analysis of violence against children*, 2014.

⁵³ UN DPI, *Evidence on rampant violence against children ‘compels us to act’ – UNICEF report*, 2014.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

⁵⁷ UN DPI, *UN experts urge real dialogue with children about their rights, decisions that affect them*, 2014.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

⁵⁹ UN DPI, *Trafficking in children on the rise*, 2014.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

⁶¹ *Ibid.*

⁶² *Ibid.*

⁶³ UNODC, *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto*, 2004.

Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons as an essential example of such standards to follow.⁶⁴

Also in November 2014, the international community commemorated the 25th anniversary of the *Convention of the Rights of the Child*.⁶⁵ As part of these commemorations, UNICEF launched the “Imagine” project that aims to highlight challenges in pursuing the realization of children’s rights.⁶⁶ In addition, UNICEF released the *State of the World’s Children 2015* report.⁶⁷ The report acknowledges the importance of innovations such as creating interconnected systems through scaling local solutions to solve global challenges and adapting these systems in new contexts.⁶⁸ It also aims to create solutions together with communities and to establish new networks of problem-solving stakeholders that cross sectors, generations and geographies through shaping new markets and spurring the private sector to design for development.⁶⁹ Inclusive action is a recurring theme in the report.⁷⁰

UN General Assembly (GA) President Sam Kutesa has also recently emphasized the importance of the *Convention of the Rights of the Child* as a collective commitment of all Member States to continually promote the rights of children as part of the post-2015 development agenda.⁷¹ He stressed that it was imperative to ensure the mobilization of resources in order to pursue a “truly transformative” development agenda that prioritizes the welfare of the international community and especially children.⁷²

The Role of Information and Communication Technologies in Preventing Crimes Against Children

In order to effectively address the current challenges of the international community with regard to the prevention, protection and international cooperation against the use of ITs to abuse and exploit children, ITU, UNICEF and the Child Online Initiative have released the updated *Guidelines for Industry on Child Online Protection*.⁷³ The guidelines are intended to serve as provisional standards on how the ICT industry can create an atmosphere where children will be safe from online abuses and exploitations, thus advancing children’s rights and promoting responsible digital citizenship.⁷⁴ The guidelines were originally released in 2008 and are sub-divided into four categories, addressing children, guardians, parents and educators/policy-makers.⁷⁵ The recently released new guidelines focus on providing information to companies that develop ICTs on how to promote the protection of children when exposed to the Internet and other related technologies.⁷⁶

At the recently held 9th Annual Meeting of the UN-backed Internet Governance Forum (IGF), which occurred in Istanbul, Turkey, in September 2014, different stakeholders from civil society, the technological community, the private sector, the media, and academia and government institutions exchanged ideas.⁷⁷ Deliberations were held on socio-political issues such as human rights, privacy, surveillance, freedom of expression, enhancing digital trust, online freedoms, access to information and the emerging challenges in online child protection.⁷⁸ The forum also pointed out that by the end of 2014, there would be nearly 3 billion Internet users, two-thirds of which are coming from developing countries.⁷⁹

⁶⁴ UN DPI, *Evidence on rampant violence against children ‘compels us to act’ – UNICEF report*, 2014; UN General Assembly, *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (A/RES/55/25)*, 2000.

⁶⁵ UN DPI, *UN champions children as ‘fundamental building blocks,’ marking 25th anniversary of historic treaty*, 2014.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ UNICEF, *The State of the World’s Children 2015: Reimagining the future*, 2014.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ UN DPI, *UN champions children as ‘fundamental building blocks,’ marking 25th anniversary of historic treaty*, 2014.

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ ITU, UNICEF, *Guideline for Industry on Child Online Protection. 2014 Edition*, 2014.

⁷⁴ UN DPI, *UN releases new guidelines for child online protection*, 2014.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

Conclusion

While the international community recently commemorated the 25th anniversary of the *Convention of the Rights of the Child*, the world still faces many challenges in realizing the goals of the Convention. In the past several months, significant efforts have been exerted by different stakeholders, such as civil society, UN institutions, and others, in order to promote the welfare and protection of children against abuse through information technologies. However, there is still need for full cooperation and compliance of all Member States to established international standards and mechanisms in order to successfully reduce and eradicate the abuse and exploitation of children.

Annotated Bibliography

United Nations Children's Fund. (2014). *Hidden in plain sight: A statistical analysis of violence against children, 2014*. Retrieved 10 February 2015 from: http://www.unicef.org/publications/index_74865.html

This recent UNICEF report focuses on physical, emotional and sexual violence against children. Moreover, it emphasizes the alarming increase in the number of children and adolescents who are victims of homicide. The report is relevant to the research by the delegates, as the data was sourced from 190 countries and therefore gives a comprehensive overview on the topic and its implications for the global civil society.

United Nations Children's Fund. (2014). *The State of the World's Children 2015: Reimagine the future*. Retrieved 26 January 2015 from: <http://sowc2015.unicef.org/report/part-1/>

To mark the 25th anniversary of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, UNICEF has released a report on the State of the World's Children. The report explores the current status of children in the international community; acknowledging recent accomplishments and areas in which children need continued protection of rights. The report will be vital to the delegates' research in the protection of children's rights especially in the era of a continuously evolving technological landscape.

United Nations Department of Public Information. (2014, September 5). *UN releases new guidelines for child online protection* [Article]. Retrieved 26 January 2015 from:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48645#.VMoPfdKUdDs>

In September 2014, relevant UN agencies, in partnership with the Child Online Protective Initiative, released new guidelines for online protections. The guidelines promote the safety of children in using the Internet or devices that can connect to it and aim to respond to substantial advances in technology to assess and respond to children's needs in the online world. The new guidelines are intended for those companies that develop information and communications technologies. As it also informs on how to advance children's rights and ensure responsible digital citizenship, this source will be of interest to delegates.

United Nations Department of Public Information. (2014, September 23). *UN experts urge real dialogue with children about their rights, decisions that affect them* [Article]. Retrieved 26 January 2015 from:

http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48798#.VMWsrkeUe_G

This article focuses on the forum spearheaded by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, a group of experts. The forum provided an opportunity for direct dialogue with young people via Google+ Hangout. Ms. Kirsten Sandberg, the chair of the Committee, argued that it is important to involve directly and engage children in exploring solutions to international issues, especially those that directly affect them. This will be relevant to delegates' research on the online protection of children, as it offers a concrete example of how to engage with potential victims in order to raise their awareness and give them a say in shaping policies.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2014). *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*. Retrieved 10 February 2015 from: http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/GLOTIP_2014_full_report.pdf

This report is a document from the UNODC on the status of human trafficking throughout the global community. It provides helpful information in understanding trafficking, and highlights particularly how human trafficking is increasingly impacting children. The UNODC report is important in further understanding the search for an effective framework to protect children against all forms of violence, and reiterates the significance of protecting the rights of children.

Bibliography

International Telecommunication Union, United Nations Children's Fund. (2014). *Guideline for Industry on Child Online Protection. 2014 Edition*. Retrieved 10 February 2015 from:

http://www.unicef.org/csr/css/COP_Guidelines_Industry.PDF

United Nations Children’s Fund. (2014). *Hidden in plain sight: A statistical analysis of violence against children*. Retrieved 10 February 2015 from: http://www.unicef.org/publications/index_74865.html

United Nations Children’s Fund. (2014). *The State of the World’s Children 2015: Reimagine the future*. Retrieved 26 January 2015 from: <http://sowc2015.unicef.org/report/part-1/>

United Nations, General Assembly. (2000, November 15). *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (A/RES/55/25)*. Retrieved 10 February 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/55/25>

United Nations Department of Public Information. (2014, September 4). *Evidence on rampant violence against children ‘compels us to act’ – UNICEF report* [Article]. Retrieved 26 January 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48639#.VMR1CldDFdh>

United Nations Department of Public Information. (2014, November 24). *Trafficking in children on the rise, says new UN report* [Article]. Retrieved 26 January 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49423#.VMSg5FdDFdh>

United Nations Department of Public Information. (2014, September). *UN-backed forum tackles privacy, boosting Internet access, protecting children online* [Article]. Retrieved 26 January 2015 from: http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48652#.VMWsBEeUe_G

United Nations Department of Public Information. (2014, November 20). *UN champions children as ‘fundamental building blocks,’ marking 25th anniversary of historic treaty* [Article]. Retrieved 26 January 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49398#.VMSRxFdDFdh>

United Nations Department of Public Information. (2014, September 23). *UN experts urge real dialogue with children about their rights, decisions that affect them* [Article]. Retrieved 26 January 2015 from: http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48798#.VMWsrkeUe_G

United Nations Department of Public Information. (2014, September 5). *UN releases new guidelines for child online protection* [Article]. Retrieved 26 January 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48645#.VMoPfdKUdDs>

United Nations Department of Public Information. (2014, December 2). *On Day to Abolish Slavery, UN urges end to modern-day scourge trapping 21 million* [Article]. Retrieved 29 January 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49484#.VMoSRdKUdDu>

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2014). *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*. Retrieved 10 February 2015 from: http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/GLOTIP_2014_full_report.pdf

III. The Rule of Law in the Fight against Transnational Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking

Introduction

In recent months, the international community has discussed many issues in relation to the rule of law and varying forms of transnational organized crime and drug trafficking. As the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) has previously stated in resolution 68/188 (2013), assistance to Member States emerging from conflict is an issue of highest priority in connection with the rule of law and crime prevention.⁸⁰ For example, this is vital to the current process of transition from international to full national responsibility within Afghanistan.⁸¹ This GA resolution also draws attention to other cases of limited statehood or weak state governance where rule of law as a vital factor for good governance is missing or deficient, thus contributing to transnational organized crime and drug trafficking.⁸²

In light of this, the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime held its 11th Colloquium, entitled Crime Prevention in a Mobile World, in Palermo, Italy, in November 2014.⁸³ This event highlighted the nexus between globalization, increased mobility, the development of innovative technologies and new forms of crime.⁸⁴ In December, during a meeting of representatives from the Asian and Pacific region in the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok, experts from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) analyzed the “Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material” (CPPNM) (2005) and the *International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism* (ICSANT) (2005) and informed upon the benefits and challenges associated with adhering to and implementing these documents.⁸⁵ UNODC provides a technical legal assistance program and capacity-building activities related to the CPPNM and ICSANT.⁸⁶

Recent Developments

Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism

In the context of the spreading violence in Iraq and Syria, it is relevant to look at links between transnational organized crime and terrorism whilst being aware of their different characteristics; the *UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* defines that “‘Organized criminal group’ shall mean a structured group of three or more persons, existing for a period of time and acting in concert with the aim of committing one or more serious crimes or offences established in accordance with this Convention, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit.”⁸⁷ Defining terrorism is less easy, but this phenomenon is less directly linked to material benefit and more to achieving other motives such as the creation of fear for political ends through violence.⁸⁸ If, however, terrorist groups have no financial backing by a state actor, they are reliant on acquisition activities.⁸⁹ Both phenomena have profitable synergies in generating new sources of revenues.⁹⁰ In June 2014, the GA expressed concern in resolution 68/276 (2014) about the link between terrorism and transnational organized crime, and called for enhanced cooperation to combat this phenomenon on all policy levels.⁹¹ This has become recently evident in relation to the self-styled Islamic State (IS).⁹² In December 2014, the Security Council stressed that those joint activities may undermine affected Member States, and stressed public-private partnerships as one

⁸⁰ UN General Assembly, *The rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 (A/RES/68/188)*, 2013, p. 1.

⁸¹ UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, *Mandate*.

⁸² Thoumi, Manaut, Sain, & Jâcome, *The Impact of Organized Crime on Democratic Governance in Latin America*, 2010.

⁸³ ICPC, *ICPC's 11th Colloquium: Crime Prevention in a Mobile World*, 2015.

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ UNODC, *UNODC/TPB Promotes the International Legal Framework against Nuclear Terrorism in Asia and the Pacific*, 2015.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ UN General Assembly, *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (A/RES/55/25)*, 2000.

⁸⁸ Albrecht, *Concepts of Terrorism and Organized Crime*; UN General Assembly, *The United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy Review (A/RES/68/276)*, 2014, p. 2.

⁸⁹ Albrecht, *Concepts of Terrorism and Organized Crime*.

⁹⁰ Security Council Report, *Countering Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime*, 2014.

⁹¹ UN General Assembly, *The United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy Review (A/RES/68/276)*, 2014, pp. 2, 6.

⁹² Security Council Report, *Countering Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime*, 2014; UN Security Council, *Resolution 2170 (2014)*, 2014.

possible counter-mechanism.⁹³ Another important counter-measure is capacity-building, as the strength of terrorism and organized crime weakens statehood, good governance, the rule of law and other stabilizing factors, resulting in a mutually reinforcing process that is also witnessed in Afghanistan.⁹⁴

During the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime held in October 2014, concern was expressed about the links between terrorism and transnational organized crime and the implications this has for stability, social and sustainable development.⁹⁵ The conference was attended by most Member States and many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other international entities.⁹⁶ Participants drew attention to the financing of terrorism through crimes such as trafficking in organs, fraudulent medicine, illegal mining, environmental crime, and trafficking in cultural property.⁹⁷ The conference also focused on improved implementation of the *Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* and its Protocols.⁹⁸

Upcoming events pertinent to the topic at hand include the 24th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) in May 2015, which will consider, among other items, a Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in combating transnational organized crime and corruption.⁹⁹ Furthermore, for CCPCJ and all of UNODC, it will be of considerable importance to consider how the post-2015 development agenda will be designed – the formulation of measurable targets that can show the concrete success or deficits of the implementation of the rule of law when combatting crime and promoting justice is an example in this respect.¹⁰⁰ The upcoming Thirteenth UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Qatar in April 2015 will also relate the rule of law and social and economic challenges to transnational organized crime and drug trafficking.¹⁰¹

Reports by UNODC

UNODC recently published reports that are pertinent to the topics of transnational organized crime and drug trafficking.¹⁰² The “2014 Afghanistan Opium Survey,” published by UNODC and Afghan authorities in November 2014, showed that most of the production of opium in Afghanistan occurs in unstable regions in the west and south.¹⁰³ The massive increase in production from 5,500 tons to estimated 6,400 tons also came from those regions in the south.¹⁰⁴ At the presentation of the report, UNODC Executive-Director Yury Fedotov drew attention to the fact that the Afghan production of opiates is a continued threat and a shared global responsibility, as it undermines factors intertwined with the rule of law, such as security, the health system, and development.¹⁰⁵ The lack of the rule of law in turn limits the effectiveness of counter narcotics interventions, such as eradication measures.¹⁰⁶ This is illustrated by a decrease of 63 percent in those eradication measures over the year.¹⁰⁷

⁹³ UN Security Council, *Resolution 2195 (2014)*, 2014, pp. 2-3.

⁹⁴ UN Security Council, *The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and the Al-Nusra Front for the People of the Levant: report and recommendations submitted pursuant to resolution 2170 (2014) (S/2014/815)*, 2014, pp. 20-27; Security Council Report, *Countering Terrorism and Transnational Organised Crime*, 2014.

⁹⁵ Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, *Report of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on its seventh session, held in Vienna from 6 to 10 October 2014: Advanced Unedited Version*, 2014, pp. 25-26.

⁹⁶ Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, *List of Participants*, 2014.

⁹⁷ Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, *Report of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on its seventh session, held in Vienna from 6 to 10 October 2014: Advanced Unedited Version*, 2014, pp. 34-36.

⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 4-21.

⁹⁹ UN CCPCJ, *Twenty-fourth Session*, 2015.

¹⁰⁰ UNODC, *Accounting for Security and Justice in the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, 2013, pp. 27-28.

¹⁰¹ UN General Assembly, *Discussion Guide (A/CONF.222/PM.1)*, 2013.

¹⁰² UN DPI, *Opium poppy cultivation in 'Golden Triangle' hits new high in 2014 – UN report*, 2014; UN DPI, *Opium harvest in Afghanistan hits new high in 2014 – UN*, 2014; UNODC, *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2014*, 2014.

¹⁰³ UNODC and Afghanistan, *Afghanistan Opium Survey: Cultivation and Production*, 2014, p. 6.

¹⁰⁴ UN DPI, *Opium harvest in Afghanistan hits new high in 2014 – UN*, 2014.

¹⁰⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁶ UNODC and Afghanistan, *Afghanistan Opium Survey. Cultivation and Production*, 2014, p. 22.

¹⁰⁷ UN DPI, *Opium harvest in Afghanistan hits new high in 2014 – UN*, 2014.

The “Southeast Asia Opium Survey 2014 – Lao PDR, Myanmar” from December 2014, edited by UNODC and local authorities, shows that opium production has almost tripled since 2006 in this area.¹⁰⁸ Flourishing criminal activities, increased by high demand from the wider Asian region, are a challenge to the region’s stability and the rule of law; combatting the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs draws financial resources from development projects and public services.¹⁰⁹ The envisioned tightening economic integration between the Member States under survey, such as with reducing border controls, will increase criminal mobility; this will be a continuing challenge to the rule of law in the post-2015 development process.¹¹⁰

In November 2014, UNODC published the “Global Report of Trafficking in Persons 2014,” which documented that 49% of all trafficked persons were women, 18% men, 12% boys and 21% girls.¹¹¹ Main reasons for trafficking were forced labor and sexual exploitation, and it remains a low-risk and high-profit criminal activity to engage in.¹¹² The absence of the rule of law has been identified as one the strengthening factors of organized crime, which is benefiting from conflict situations, such as through trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation.¹¹³ Therefore, the higher the prevalence of organized crime in a given country, the more victims originating in this country are detected in the major destinations for trafficking.¹¹⁴

Conclusion

A potent realization of the rule of law is a central factor in the UN’s work and is increasingly seen as being connected to the criminal justice system.¹¹⁵ The rule of law’s relevance is founded on its close connections with durable peace and security, sustainable development and the realization of human rights and democracy.¹¹⁶ The examples presented above illustrate that the rule of law’s links to transnational organized crime and drug trafficking are multifaceted – some of the most challenging issues at this time being new forms of crime that have the ability to undermine affected Member States’ stability. It is thus necessary to review possible factors for a diminished rule of law, as well as those related to an increase in rule of law, to see how CCPCJ can take action in order to address these factors, thus boosting the rule of law’s positive effects.

¹⁰⁸ UNODC, Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision, *Southeast Asia Opium Survey 2014 – Lao PDR, Myanmar*, 2014, p. 13.

¹⁰⁹ UN DPI, *Opium poppy cultivation in ‘Golden Triangle’ hits new high in 2014 – UN report*, 2014; UNODC, Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision, *Southeast Asia Opium Survey 2014 – Lao PDR, Myanmar*, 2014, p. 4.

¹¹⁰ UNODC, Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision, *Southeast Asia Opium Survey 2014 – Lao PDR, Myanmar*, 2014, p. 8.

¹¹¹ UNODC, *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2014*, 2014, p. 5.

¹¹² *Ibid.*, pp. 1, 5.

¹¹³ *Ibid.*, p. 42.

¹¹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 49.

¹¹⁵ UN General Assembly, *Discussion Guide (A/CONF.222/PM.1)*, 2013; UN Rule of Law, *What is the rule of law?*

¹¹⁶ *Ibid.*

Annotated Bibliography

Albrecht, H. (n.d.). *Concepts of Terrorism and Organized Crime*. Retrieved 4 January 2015 from:

http://www.humsec.eu/cms/fileadmin/user_upload/humsec/SAc_08_PPP/PPP_Hans_J_rg_Albrecht.pdf

This presentation by Albrecht, a director at the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law in Freiburg, Germany, gives insight from a scientific international law perspective on the distinction between and the synergies of transnational organized crime and terrorism. It provides useful definitions for both phenomena and also gives historical and institutional backgrounds. This is valuable for an understanding of the genesis of both phenomena, their working mechanisms and consequences for different actors on the global level. Further, there is a discussion of legal answers to the problems that result from the discussed phenomena, which offers a more substantial perspective on how the rule of law can actually be strengthened.

Security Council Report. (2014). *Monthly Forecast – December 2014: Countering Terrorism and Transnational Organised Crime*. Retrieved 5 January 2015 from: <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2014-12/countering-terrorism-and-transnational-organised-crime.php>

Reading this source by Security Council Report, a non-governmental organization which gives regular updates and analysis on the activities of the Council, is informative in understanding the distinction between transnational organized crime and terrorism by seeing what the concrete and pressing examples are for a mixture of both phenomena. The analysis broadens the scope beyond the narrow area of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice's direct mandate and illustrates its location within the UN and the international system. It may encourage delegates to inform themselves further on activities financing or otherwise sustaining violent insurgencies that undermine international stability and rule of law.

United Nations, Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. (2014). *Report of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on its seventh session, held in Vienna from 6 to 10 October 2014: Advanced Unedited Version*. Retrieved 6 January 2015 from: http://www.unodc.org/documents/organized-crime/COP_2014/CTOC_COP_2014_13_ADVANCE_UNEDITED.pdf

The report gives a good overview over the deliberations that Member States had during the seventh conference on the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. It can thus give a realistic impression of the issues that are currently dominant when discussing topics related to transnational organized crime. Further, it reports the resolutions adopted by the conference, which centered mostly on improving the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2014). *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2014*. Retrieved 5 January 2015 from: https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/GLOTIP_2014_full_report.pdf

Delegates can get a better feeling of the effect transnational organized crime can have on the lives of people around the globe through this UNODC report. Reading the report is also useful to understand that crime that is typically associated with transnational organized crime has also very local or regional reasons. It therefore helps to sharpen the category “transnational” and the awareness for its links to other levels of global society.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Ministry of Counter Narcotics. (2014). *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2014: Cultivation and Production*. Retrieved 3 January 2015 from: <http://www.unodc.org/documents/crop-monitoring/Afghanistan/Afghan-opium-survey-2014.pdf>

The survey combines all three aspects of this update topic. The situation of opium cultivation has a massive effect on the global trafficking of narcotic drugs. At the same time, it is a large source of income for terrorist groups. These in turn threaten the rule of law in Afghanistan and the wider region, while an increasing consumption of narcotic drugs in the country is also a destabilizing factor for society. Thus, awareness of the topics of the survey helps to grasp the complex interwoven nature of these issues.

Bibliography

- Albrecht, H. (n.d.). *Concepts of Terrorism and Organized Crime*. Retrieved 4 January 2015 from: http://www.humsec.eu/cms/fileadmin/user_upload/humsec/SAc_08_PPP/PPP_Hans_J_rg_Albrecht.pdf
- International Atomic Energy Agency. (2005). *Nuclear Security - Measures to Protect Against Nuclear Terrorism. Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (GOV/INF/2005/10-GC(49)/INF/6)*. Retrieved 5 January 2015 from: <http://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/gc49inf-6.pdf>
- International Centre for the Prevention of Crime. (2015). *ICPC's 11th Colloquium: Crime Prevention in a Mobile World* [Website]. Retrieved 5 January 2015 from: <http://www.crime-prevention-intl.org/en/events/event/article/avos-agendas.html>
- Security Council Report. (2014). *Monthly Forecast – December 2014: Countering Terrorism and Transnational Organised Crime*. Retrieved 5 January 2015 from: http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2014-12/countering_terrorism_and_transnational_organised_crime.php
- Thoumi, F., Manaut, R., Sain, M., & F. Jácome. (2010). *The Impact of Organized Crime on Democratic Governance in Latin America*. Retrieved 13 January 2015 from: <http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/iez/07386.pdf>
- United Nations Assistance Mission for Afghanistan. (n.d.). *Mandate* [Website]. Retrieved 6 January 2015: <http://unama.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=12255>
- United Nations, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. (2015). *Twenty-fourth Session* [Website]. Retrieved 13 January 2015 from: http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/session/24_Session_2014/CCPCJ_24-Index.html
- United Nations, Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. (2014). *List of Participants (CTOC/COP/2014/INF/2/Rev.2)*. Retrieved 14 January 2015 from: https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/organized_crime/COP7/CTOC_COP_2014_INF_2_REV2_Published.pdf
- United Nations, Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. (2014). *Report of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on its seventh session, held in Vienna from 6 to 10 October 2014: Advanced Unedited Version*. Retrieved 6 January 2015 from: http://www.unodc.org/documents/organized_crime/COP_2014/CTOC_COP_2014_13_ADVANCE_UNEDITED.pdf
- United Nations, General Assembly, Fifty-fifth session. (2000). *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (A/RES/55/25)*. Retrieved 3 January 2015 from: <http://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNTOC/Publications/TOC%20Convention/TOCebook-e.pdf>
- United Nations, General Assembly, Fifty-ninth session. (2005). *International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (A/RES/59/290)*. Retrieved 6 January 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/59/290>
- United Nations, General Assembly. (2013). *Discussion Guide (A/CONF.222/PM.1)*. Retrieved 6 January 2015 from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/CONF.222/PM.1
- United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013). *The rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 (A/RES/68/188)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 5 January 2015 from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/188
- United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2014). *The United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy Review (A/RES/68/276)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 5 January 2015 from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/Res/68/276
- United Nations Department of Public Information. (2014, November 12). *Opium harvest in Afghanistan hits new high in 2014 – UN* [Article]. Retrieved 1 January 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49316#.VKqlA1eAA6U>

United Nations Department of Public Information. (2014, December 8). *Opium poppy cultivation in 'Golden Triangle' hits new high in 2014 – UN report* [Article]. Retrieved 5 January 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49540#.VKoXfYeAA6W>

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2013). *Accounting for Security and Justice in the Post-2015 Development Agenda*. Retrieved 14 January 2015 from: http://www.unodc.org/documents/about-unodc/Post-2015-Development-Agenda/UNODC_-_Accounting_for_Security_and_Justice_in_the_Post-2015_Development_Agenda.pdf

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2014). *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2014*. Retrieved 5 January 2015 from: https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/GLOTIP_2014_full_report.pdf

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2015). *UNODC/TPB Promotes the International Legal Framework against Nuclear Terrorism in Asia and the Pacific* [Website]. Retrieved 6 January 2015 from: https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/terrorism/latest-news/issi_thailand_dec-2014.html

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision. (2014). *Southeast Asia Opium Survey 2014 – Lao PDR, Myanmar*. Retrieved 5 January 2015 from: <http://www.unodc.org/documents/crop-monitoring/sea/SE-ASIA-opium-poppy-2014-web.pdf>

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Ministry of Counter Narcotics. (2014). *Afghanistan Opium Survey. Cultivation and Production*. Retrieved 3 January 2015 from: <http://www.unodc.org/documents/crop-monitoring/Afghanistan/Afghan-opium-survey-2014.pdf>

United Nations Rule of Law. (n.d.). *What is the rule of law?* [Website]. Retrieved 6 January 2015 from: http://unrol.org/article.aspx?article_id=3

United Nations, Security Council. (2014). *The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and the Al-Nusra Front for the People of the Levant: report and recommendations submitted pursuant to resolution 2170 (2014) (S/2014/815)*. Retrieved 5 January 2015 from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2014/815

United Nations, Security Council, 7242nd meeting. (2014). *Resolution 2170 (2014)*. Retrieved 6 January 2015 from: [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2170%20\(2014\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2170%20(2014))

United Nations, Security Council, 7351st meeting. (2014). *Resolution 2195 (2014)*. Retrieved 5 January 2015 from: [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2195%20\(2014\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2195%20(2014))