

**THE DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT DURING THE JUST CONCLUDED
REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING, HELD IN NAIROBI, KENYA**



The Director/Head of Mission delivering his presentation during the African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 12th United Nations Congress on Prevention of Crime and Criminal Justice, held in Nairobi Kenya, from 8-10 September, 2009.

The eight (8) substantive items on the agenda of the 12th Congress need to be substantiated by the data from our region. We are of the opinion that specialised government bodies and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in our different countries may have useful information (written or not) related to each or some of the items of the Congress. This forum constitutes an appropriate avenue, whereby experiences in our respective countries would be shared, and a common position taken. The way each item is featured: background information, substantive focus, and questions for discussion, helps to collect useful information on each of them.

The information then gathered helps to account for the needs of the African region, and then focus on what may be the common position for the region. For the effective implementation of the related instruments, a number of Resolutions spells out the mandate of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI). The time restriction does not allow us to examine all the 8 substantive items of the agenda. From the mandate given to UNAFRI, let us select one of them.

1. UNAFRI'S MANDATE:

UNAFRI's mandate is spelled out in a number of Resolutions for an effective implementation by Member States of the instruments thereof. Let us briefly look at two of them: the ECOSOC Resolutions 2002/13 and 2007/24.

1.1 THE ECOSOC RESOLUTION 2002/13:

Substantive item 3 of the agenda: Making the United Nations guidelines on crime prevention work, leads us to the ECOSOC Resolution 2002/13 on “action to promote effective crime prevention”, especially to its paragraph 32 (Prioritizing crime prevention) of its annex: “Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime”, that stipulates:

“The Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat, **the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network of affiliated and associated institutes** and other relevant United Nations entities should include in their priorities crime prevention as set out in these Guidelines, set up a coordination mechanism and establish a roster of experts to undertake needs assessment and to provide technical advice”.

UNAFRI features under “**the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network of affiliated and associated institutes**”; and the mandate is specified:

- 1. Include in its priorities crime prevention as set out in the Guidelines;**
- 2. Set out a coordination mechanism;**
- 3. Establish a roster of experts:**
 - **to undertake needs assessment, and**
 - **to provide technical advice**

1.1.1 CRIME PREVENTION: A PRIORITY

UNAFRI's programmes of activities aim mainly at crime prevention. The end result of activities under its different sub-programmes: Research, Training and Information/ Documentation is crime prevention. We would like to state that Research produces the knowledge and Know-how (good practices); Training, Information/Documentation, Consultative Missions to Member States on their request, and Conferences and Expert Meetings are means of dissemination of the knowledge and know-how gathered from Member States, and tailoring them to the needs of each country in accordance with the realities of each of them.

1.1.2 COORDINATION MECHANISM

The same programmes of activities constitute a coordination mechanism of practices in our different countries. The successful implementation of the programmes of activities, as adopted by the Governing Board of the Institute, leads to the harmonisation

of practices meant to effectively combat crime in the region and globally, since crime does not have borders.

1.1.3 ROSTER OF EXPERTS:

Jointly with the Statistics and Surveys Section of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs of UNODC, UNAFRI has since 2007 started an enhanced mechanism of developing a roster of experts in the region. To date, we have a total number of 47 from across the continent. This is an on-going exercise.

A. Needs Assessment

For the time being, the focus is mainly on data collection. We are of the opinion that this is a step that may lead to needs assessment in the region. I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to Member States for an increased rate in response to the questionnaires sent to them in this respect. Current returns to the questionnaires are very low.

B Provision of Technical Advice:

The practice is that whenever there is a consultative mission or any activity to be organised in a given Member State, these Experts are consulted and some of them are involved in the implementation of the activity. This has been done in Mali (Workshop on the implementation of the Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and the Protocol Thereto, 2003); Nigeria (Study on Trafficking in persons, 2007); Uganda (Workshop on Sciences of criminalistics, 2007); and others (joint activity with UNODC on Data for Africa, 2006). An Evaluative Research on Community Service Orders is being done in Kenya and in Tanzania contacts are being made for a project on Exam Malpractices. As already indicated above, all these activities may be, on request, extended to other Member States.

1.2 THE ECOSOC RESOLUTION 2007/24:

Reference is made to this resolution to indicate that sometimes UNAFRI is namely cited and the mandate clearly defined. Operative paragraph (5) requests:

“... the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources and **in cooperation with the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders**, to assist African States, upon request, in their efforts to apply the Lilongwe Declaration on Accessing Legal Aid in the Criminal Justice System in Africa;”

UNAFRI has been given the mandate to assist African States, upon request, in their efforts to apply the Lilongwe Declaration. In this regard, as a way of fulfilling its

mandate, the Declaration is one of the international instruments discussed in depth in a number of lectures of the course UNAFRI has lunched for correctional officers. The same course is meant, *mutatis mutandis*, for the personnel of the other agencies of the Criminal Justice System (CJS) and others related thereto.

2. CALL UPON MEMBER STATES:

I would like to take this opportunity to call upon Member States to help the Institute fulfil its mandate and give it more visibility in associating it, at national level, in the implementation of the instruments and involving it in countries' programmes; the reports of which programmes are delivered at the Commission on Crime Prevention and at the 3rd Committee of the General Assembly during its session on crime. The mandate described above implies and calls for increased support from Member States, and specifies the engagement of the Institute in identified activities.

We are happy to report that a number of countries have requested UNAFRI, through their specialised agencies, to contribute to some of their national programmes: Trafficking in persons (Nigeria); Social rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners (Uganda); Evaluation of Community Service Orders (Kenya); Probation and Community based Corrections (Kenya, Sudan, Uganda and Zambia). Contacts with the following countries in different areas: Democratic Republic of Congo (Prisons); Rwanda (Evaluation of Gacaca System); and Tanzania (Exam Malpractices) have also been made. UNAFRI is ready, on request, to extend all these activities, or offer any specific needed technical assistance to its Member States. The Secretariat calls upon Member State, among others, to:

1. Consider the devastating impact of crime on the national economies of African States and of the fact that crime is a major obstacle to harmonious and sustainable socio-economic development of the region (Preamble paragraph 5 of General Assembly Resolution 63/196);
2. Consider their Institute as a regional mechanism that has been created at their request for any technical assistance they may need in the field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;
3. Put to task their Institute by engaging it in their national programmes of crime prevention and criminal Justice, in accordance with related Resolutions; and
4. Highlight the role the Institute will have contributed in the implementation of the Resolution/Instrument in their countries, and include this in their reporting obligation at various regional and international fora, including the Commission on Crime Prevention and the United Nations General Assembly 3rd Committee's Session on Crime;

5. Continue to make every possible effort to meet their obligations to the Institute (Operative paragraph 6 of the General Assembly Resolution 63/196).

3. RESOLUTION OF THE 4TH EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF UNAFRI

The Board, in support of Operative paragraph 6 of the General Assembly Resolution on UNAFRI, has resolved (Operative paragraph 3) to request:

“... Member States to increase their support to the Institute, including direct donations, and review their assessed financial contribution”;

The board has agreed, in its operative paragraph 6, that:

“... Member States will be approached by designated Members of the Board to mobilise support for the Institute in their region”;

The Board discussed measures for enhancing the collection of arrears and proposed a regional initiative (Paragraph 69 of the 4th Extraordinary meeting of the Board) spearheaded by specific Member States for the mobilisation drive in this matter as follows:

1. **Kenya** was asked to mobilise the East African countries;
2. **Sudan:** the North African;
3. **Nigeria:** the West African;
4. **Cameroon:** The Central African; and
5. **Malawi:** the Southern African countries

I would like to appeal to you Honourable Delegates, to kindly give due attention to this matter when approached at various fora such as this one and others. Allow me Honourable delegates to end my statement by indicating to you the Members of the Governing Board of UNAFRI. This may help some of you to know that your country is a Member of the Board and for the others to enhance your awareness on the status of the countries which are Members of the Board. These are:

1. **North Africa Sub-regional Development Centre: Sudan and Tunisia;**
2. **Central Africa Sub-regional Development Centre: Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea;**
3. **West Africa Sub-regional Development Centre: Nigeria and Senegal ;**
4. **South Africa Sub-regional Development Centre: Malawi and Zambia**
5. **East Africa Sub-regional Development Centre: Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Kenya; and**
6. **Uganda** by virtue of being host country, remains a permanent Member of the Board

