

Governing Board Chairman calls for more support to UNAFRI



L-R: The Chairman, UNAFRI Governing Board and Minister for Justice, National Cohesion & Constitutional Affairs, Kenya, Hon Kilonzo, EGH, MP a Representative of the Executive Director UNODC, during African Regional Meeting for the 12th United Nations Congress on Prevention of Crime and Criminal Justice, held in Nairobi, Kenya from 8-10 September 2009.

The Minister of Justice, National Cohesion and Constitutional Affairs, of the Republic of Kenya, Hon. Mutula Kilonzo, has justified the establishment of UNAFRI; which is to prevent the problem of crime and delinquency from subverting development and gains of development to the countries of Africa.

He was speaking during the recently concluded 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.

He said the establishment of the Institute was long overdue, in comparison to its sister Institutes in Asia and Far East, Latin America and European countries, which came far into existence before UNAFRI came on board.

Hon. Kilonzo, who also doubles as the Chairman of the Governing Board of UNAFRI, further said the establishment of UNAFRI with specified statutory objectives arose out of the recognized urgent need to start servicing, on continuous basis the increasing crime

prevention and control problem in the African region.

The Governing Board Chairman maintained that UNAFRI is a useful mechanism in the African region for promoting the active cooperation of Governments, academic institutions and experts in the field, in addition to assisting the countries in mobilizing their human and administrative potential, and deploying efforts for harmonious growth with a view to promoting self reliance and sustained development.

He identified some objectives of the Institute, namely: promoting the rule of law and strengthening of the criminal justice system; undertaking policy-oriented surveys, studies, research and assisting in the creation of a database on crime, crime prevention and criminal justice; and assisting governments in the promotion of innovative approaches in formulating policies and programmes for the prevention of crime and treatment of offenders including child offenders.

Hon. Kilonzo encouraged Member States and non- Member States to recognize and effectively utilize the expertise available in the Institute; at their search for crime prevention and criminal justice systems that are relevant, reliable, affordable and sustainable to the crime prevention partners including the local communities, law enforcement personnel and judicial authorities.

He made an appeal to the African countries that had not yet acceded to the Statute of membership of the Institute to do so; and become effective members and contribute the necessary resources in order to ensure that the Institute is well supported morally, financially and politically.