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United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI)

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BILINGUAL NEWSLETTER- ENGLISH

**UNAFRI AND AFRO-ARAB YOUTH COUNCIL FORGE
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

NEWSLETTER

APRIL TO JUNE 2026

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NEWSLETTER APRIL TO JUNE 2026

UNITED NATIONS AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS (UNAFRI)

“Empowering African States for crime prevention and criminal justice to ensure sustainable development”.

“Renforcer la capacité des États africains dans la prévention du crime et la justice pénale pour assurer un développement durable”.

«Fortalecer la capacidad de los Estados africanos en materia de prevención del delito y justicia penal para el desarrollo sostenible»

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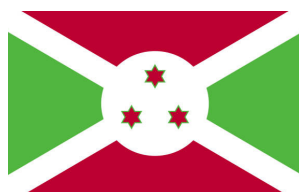
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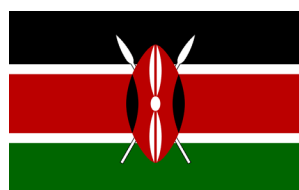
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Zimbabwe

UNAFRI AND AFRO-ARAB YOUTH COUNCIL FORGE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP



UNAFRI Acting Director General signs MOU With AAYC

On 8th April 2026, the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders hosted the Afro-Arab Youth Council at its Secretariat in Naguru for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), ushering in a new phase of institutional cooperation between the two institutions.

The MoU sets out a framework for joint action in key priority areas, including crime prevention, youth empowerment, research, and international cooperation across Africa and the Arab region. The partnership is expected to strengthen collaboration in addressing shared challenges while leveraging the strengths of both institutions.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr Munanura Andrew Karokora, UNAFRI Acting Director General emphasized the Institute's unique role as Africa's only United Nations body dedicated to crime prevention and criminal justice. He highlighted

the importance of strategic partnerships in tackling emerging threats such as cybercrime and in enhancing the capacity of justice systems across the continent.

The AAYC delegation was led by H.E. Abdulhadi Lahweej, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Libyan Government and President of AAYC. He was accompanied by Hon. Dr. Abbas Agaba, Secretary General and Amina Hilmi Deputy Secretary





General AAYC.

In their remarks, AAYC leadership underscored the critical role of youth in preventing crime and promoting peace. They noted that the partnership offers a valuable platform for advancing joint initiatives in research, training, and youth engagement across regions.

Discussions during the meeting also highlighted the urgency of collaborative responses to evolving challenges such as cybercrime, human trafficking, violent extremism, and the heightened vulnerability of youth in conflict and displacement settings.

Both organisations reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring that the MoU translates into practical, results-driven initiatives through joint programmes, research, and capacity-building efforts.

The ceremony concluded with an exchange of tokens of appreciation, symbolizing a shared vision and mutual commitment to impactful and sustained collaboration.

UNAFRI JOINS RWANDA COMMUNITY TO COMMEMORATE THE 32ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE GENOCIDE AGAINST THE TUTSI



The United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) participated in the 32nd commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda on 10 April 2026. The Acting Director General attended the solemn event held at the Ggolo Genocide Memorial Site, which brought together members of the Rwandan community, diplomats, government officials, and friends of Rwanda to honor the victims and reflect on the enduring lessons of the 1994 tragedy.

The commemoration featured a wreath-laying ceremony, moments of silence, and heartfelt speeches centered on remembrance, unity, and the prevention of future atrocities. Participants paid tribute to the lives lost while reaffirming a shared commitment to building a more peaceful and inclusive future.

The Guest of Honour, Hon. Alice Kaboyo, Minister of State for Luwero Triangle and Rwenzori, represented the Government of Uganda and underscored Uganda's continued support for Rwanda's journey of healing and reconciliation. In her remarks, she highlighted the importance of solidarity and regional cooperation in fostering lasting peace.

His Excellency Joseph Rutabana, the High Commissioner of Rwanda, delivered a powerful address emphasizing unity, dignity, and collective responsibility. He spoke passionately about the need to confront genocide ideology and denial, stressing that preventing such atrocities requires sustained global commitment. He reaffirmed Rwanda's pledge to uphold the principle of "Never Again" and called for strengthened international cooperation to protect human rights and prevent future genocides.

Echoing the words of Rwanda's leadership, the High Commissioner reminded attendees that remembering the victims is both a moral duty and a universal responsibility. He emphasized that honoring their memory serves as a guiding force toward a future grounded in respect, tolerance, and human dignity.

UNAFRI's participation in the commemoration demonstrated its solidarity with the people of Rwanda and reaffirmed its commitment to promoting peace, justice, and the prevention of crimes against humanity. The Institute continues to support initiatives that advance reconciliation, strengthen institutions, and foster a culture of respect for human rights across Africa and beyond.

TANZANIA'S HIGH COMMISSIONER VISITS UNAFRI TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION



From left to right; Mr. Munanura Andrew Karokora, Acting Director General, Major General Paul Simuli, High Commissioner of the United Republic of Tanzania

On 21 April 2026, the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) had the honour of hosting Major General Paul Simuli, High Commissioner of the United Republic of Tanzania to Uganda, during a courtesy visit aimed at deepening institutional cooperation.

Welcoming the High Commissioner, Mr. Munanura Andrew Karokora, Acting Director General expressed appreciation for Tanzania's longstanding partnership with UNAFRI. He commended the country's consistent support, including timely payment of assessed contributions and the active participation of

Tanzanian nationals in the Institute's work over the years.

The discussions highlighted the strong ties between Tanzania and UNAFRI, with a shared interest in expanding collaboration in crime prevention and criminal justice. Mr. Munanura also underscored the Institute's global reach through its role in the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network (PNI), which enables countries to quickly access specialized expertise such as training in forensic evidence, cybercrime for judicial officers and prosecutors among others.



He further showcased UNAFRI's advisory work, including recent research on trafficking of cultural property in Africa. The findings, presented at an international workshop in Milan, identified Morocco as a leading example in legislation and best practices insights that can guide reforms across the continent.

In a light moment, the Acting Director General described UNAFRI as "a peaceful and beautiful environment," while acknowledging the generous support of the Government of Uganda, which hosts the Institute and provides facilities for its operations and international staff.

In his remarks, High Commissioner Simuli expressed gratitude for the invitation, noting that he had long looked forward to visiting the Institute. He reaffirmed Tanzania's commitment to engaging with United Nations institutions, emphasizing that international cooperation remains key to national and regional development.

He commended UNAFRI's impactful work and expressed optimism about identifying practical areas of collaboration moving forward.

The visit concluded with a guided tour of the Institute and a commemorative photo session, marking another step forward in strengthening ties between Tanzania and UNAFRI.

UNAFRI HIGHLIGHTS EMERGING CRIME TRENDS IN A LECTURE TO MAKERERE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW STUDENTS



Students of Makerere University school of Law, participated in a thought-provoking lecture delivered by Andrew Munanura Karokora, Acting Director General (UNAFRI),

On 28th April 2026, students of Makerere University school of Law, participated in a thought-provoking lecture delivered by Andrew Munanura Karokora, Acting Director General of United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI), who shared insights into the evolving landscape of crime prevention and criminal justice in Africa and globally.

In his presentation, Mr. Karokora introduced UNAFRI as the only United Nations institute hosted in Uganda, established in 1989 following years of advocacy by African states for a continental institution dedicated to crime prevention and the treatment of offenders. He explained that UNAFRI is part of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network of Institutes (PNIs), alongside similar institutes serving Asia, Europe, and Latin America.

Understanding UNAFRI's Role

Mr. Karokora explained that UNAFRI serves mainly

as an advisory, research and training institution for African countries. Its core mandate includes:

- Advising member states on best practices in criminal justice;
- Conducting training for judges, prosecutors, lawyers, investigators, students, and criminal justice practitioners;
- Promoting international cooperation in combating crime;
- Supporting research on the root causes





of crime and evidence-based crime prevention strategies;

- Encouraging rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders.

He emphasized that the institution promotes collaboration among African states in areas such as extradition, mutual legal assistance, witness protection, juvenile justice, and access to justice.

The United Nations and Global Crime Policy

The lecture also explored how crime prevention policies are shaped within the United Nations system. Mr. Karokora highlighted the role of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and its Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which works closely with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

He further explained the significance of the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held every five years, where global leaders, ministers, academicians, and criminal justice experts determine the international agenda on crime prevention. The current global framework guiding crime prevention efforts is the Kyoto Declaration, adopted in 2021.

According to Mr. Karokora, the Congress continues to focus on major areas such as:

- Cybercrime;
- Terrorism;
- Organized crime;
- Juvenile justice;
- Gender mainstreaming in criminal justice;
- Access to justice;
- International cooperation;
- Emerging and evolving forms of crime.

Emerging Crimes and New Threats

A major highlight of the lecture was the discussion on how crime has evolved beyond conventional offences such as theft and robbery. Mr. Karokora urged students to “think beyond the penal code” and examine newer and more sophisticated forms of criminal activity.

Among the emerging crimes discussed were:

1. Cybercrime and Organized Fraud

Mr. Karokora explained that cybercrime has become increasingly sophisticated and transnational. Criminal groups now exploit artificial intelligence,

cryptocurrencies, digital marketplaces, and social engineering techniques to commit fraud and evade detection.

He cited examples of coordinated cyberattacks targeting banks, often carried out during periods when institutions are less active, such as weekends. According to him, organized fraud networks now operate like professional enterprises, with criminals even offering “crime as a service” to others.

2. Environmental Crime

The Acting Director General stressed that crimes affecting the environment are now considered a serious global concern because of their impact on governance, public health, national security, and the rule of law.

He referenced ongoing conflicts linked to environmental pressures such as water scarcity and climate-related challenges, particularly in parts of Africa, noting that environmental crime is increasingly becoming a security issue.

3. Trafficking in Cultural Property

Mr. Karokora also highlighted the growing international concern over trafficking in cultural artifacts and heritage items. He referenced African artifacts, particularly from the Kingdom of Benin in

Nigeria, which were taken to museums in Europe and remain worth billions of dollars today.

He explained that cultural property trafficking is no longer viewed simply as theft of artifacts, but as a crime connected to organized criminal networks, money laundering, and financing of other illegal activities.

Challenges in Criminal Justice Systems

The lecture further addressed challenges facing criminal justice institutions in Africa. Mr. Karokora pointed to weaknesses in criminal investigations, inadequate preparation of case files, lack of technological capacity, and limited training among investigators.

He questioned whether current approaches such as “prosecution-led investigations” are effectively improving the justice system and stressed the need for technology-driven investigations, forensic capacity building, and stronger coordination between investigative agencies and prosecutors.

The issue of sentencing disparities was also discussed, with Mr. Karokora emphasizing the importance of sentencing guidelines while acknowledging the practical and emotional challenges judges face in applying them uniformly.



Access to Justice and International Cooperation

Mr. Karokora identified access to justice as one of the most pressing challenges in Africa. He noted that many communities, particularly in remote areas, still struggle to access legal services due to poverty, distance, language barriers, and social inequalities affecting women and vulnerable groups.

He further emphasized the importance of international cooperation in addressing transnational organized crime, terrorism, extradition, and mutual legal assistance among African countries.

Call for Research and Innovation

In closing remarks, Mr. Karokora encouraged students to develop a broader and more analytical understanding of crime and criminal justice. He urged future legal professionals and researchers to explore emerging areas such as cybercrime, environmental crime, cultural property trafficking, and organized fraud, describing them as critical fields for future legal and policy research.

The lecture served as a reminder that crime prevention in the modern era requires innovation, international collaboration, technological adaptation, and evidence-based strategies to respond effectively to rapidly evolving criminal threats.

UNAFRI MEETS THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR TO STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION ON GOVERNANCE AND JUSTICE PRIORITIES



UNAFRI Acting Director General, Mr. Munanura Andrew Karokora (left) shakes hands with Mr. Leonard Zulu, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Uganda (right).

A delegation from United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI), led by Acting Director General Mr. Andrew Munanura Karokora, paid a courtesy visit to the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Uganda on 8 May 2026. The meeting, hosted by H.E. Leonard Zulu, focused on strengthening institutional collaboration, discussing emerging legal and policy developments in Uganda, and identifying opportunities for enhanced technical cooperation within the wider United Nations system.



A major area of discussion centered on the proposed Protection of the Sovereignty Bill/Act and its possible implications for international organizations operating in Uganda. Participants reflected on concerns related to the operational environment of the United Nations in Uganda, including issues surrounding privileges and immunities, institutional assets, partnerships, and compliance with international legal instruments governing UN operations. The meeting noted that the full details of the proposed legislation were not yet publicly available, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive legal and institutional review once the draft becomes accessible.

The Resident Coordinator H.E. Leonard Zulu highlighted the importance of a coordinated United Nations system-wide response to the evolving legal environment. Discussions included proposals to establish a joint legal and technical review mechanism involving UN agencies in Uganda, engagement of legal experts from UN headquarters, and convening follow-up consultations among heads of agencies to guide future actions.

The engagement also reaffirmed the importance of rebuilding and strengthening collaboration between UNAFRI, the United Nations Country Team, and the Resident Coordinator's Office. Among the proposals discussed were the regular participation of UNAFRI in United Nations Country Team meetings and annual retreats, improved integration into joint planning and programming processes, and enhanced inter-agency collaboration on shared development priorities.

During the discussions, UNAFRI provided a brief overview of its long-standing partnership with the United Nations system. The Institute recalled its historical collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). UNAFRI also highlighted its membership in the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network of Institutes, a global platform of research and policy institutions working on crime prevention and criminal justice issues.

The meeting identified several priority areas for future collaboration, including crime prevention and criminal justice reform, implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, combating illicit financial flows and corruption, and strengthening



evidence-based policy dialogue platforms.

Several key action points were agreed upon, including the participation of UNAFRI legal experts in the national UN legal assessment process, enhanced engagement in governance and illicit financial flow dialogues, strengthened cooperation with regional and global technical partners, and exploration of joint training and capacity-building initiatives.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, marking an important step toward re-establishing structured collaboration between UNAFRI and the broader United Nations system in Uganda. Participants emphasized the importance of continued partnership in advancing sustainable development, peace, justice, governance, and institutional strengthening. UNAFRI reaffirmed its commitment to working closely with UN partners to ensure its expertise contributes meaningfully to national and regional development priorities.



UNAFRI PARTICIPATES IN THE 35TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN VIENNA



UNAFRI Acting Director General Mr. Munanura Andrew Karokora representing the Institute at the 35th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna, Austria.

The United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) participated in the 35th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ35), held at the Vienna International Centre in Austria from 1st to 5th June 2026.

UNAFRI was represented by its Acting Director General (ADG), Mr. Munanura Andrew Karokora, who joined Uganda's delegation alongside representatives of key justice sector institutions and law enforcement agencies.

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is the United Nations' principal policymaking body in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. Its annual session provides a platform for Member States, United Nations entities and other stakeholders to examine emerging crime trends, exchange experiences and strengthen international

cooperation in addressing crime and justice challenges. Discussions during the 35th Session covered a wide range of issues, including transnational organised



crime, cybercrime, corruption, access to justice, the use of technology in criminal justice and international cooperation. UNAFRI's participation provided an important opportunity to contribute an African institutional perspective to these discussions while engaging partners on approaches to strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice systems across the continent.



ADVANCING THE RULE OF LAW THROUGH FORENSIC SCIENCE

35TH SESSION
OF THE COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

SIDE EVENT

THEME Advancing Rule of Law Through Science:

Uganda's Contribution to Strengthening Forensic and DNA-Based Criminal Investigations in Africa and Beyond

SPEAKERS



MR. ASIMWE JOHN BAPTIST

Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions (Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions)



DR. JAMES T. OCAYA

Deputy Inspector General of Police (Uganda Police Force)



MS. ELENA RIGACCI HAY

Chief of Section for Africa and the Middle East (UNODC)



MS. RACHEL ODOI-MUSOKE

Senior Technical Advisor, Ministry of Justice, and Constitutional Affairs (JLOS Secretariat)



ACP ANDREW KIZIMULA MUBIRU

Ag. Director, Forensic Services (Uganda Police Force)



DR. SYLVIA NAMUBIRU

Executive Director, Legal Aid Service Providers Network (LASNET)

This event is organised by the Republic of Uganda with the support of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Kenya and the UNODC Office in Uganda.



United Nations
Office on Drugs and Crime



Wednesday, 3rd June 2026
16:30 (CET) / 17:30 (EAT)



**Vienna International Centre,
Room M2 (Vienna, Austria)**



A major highlight of Uganda's participation was a high level side event held on 3rd June 2026 under the theme, "Advancing the Rule of Law Through Science: Uganda's Contribution to Strengthening Forensic and DNA-Based Criminal Investigations in Africa and Beyond."

The event was organised by the Government of Uganda through the Justice, Law and Order Sector, with support from the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Kenya and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Office in Uganda.

It brought together experts from Uganda's justice sector and regional and international partners to exchange experiences, challenges and opportunities relating to the growing role of forensic science in criminal investigations and prosecutions.

The discussions highlighted how scientific evidence and technologies such as DNA profiling, digital forensics, ballistics analysis and improved crime scene manage-



ment can strengthen the detection and investigation of crime, support effective prosecutions and promote greater accountability within criminal justice systems.

Speakers included Mr. John Baptist Asiimwe, Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions; Mr. James Ocaya, Deputy Inspector General of Police; Ms. Elena Rigacci, Chief of the Africa and Middle East Section at UNODC; Ms. Rachel Odoi-Musoke, Senior Technical Adviser at the Justice, Law and Order Sector Secretariat; ACP Andrew Kizimula Mubiru, Acting Director of Forensic Services at the Uganda Police Force; and Dr. Sylvia Namubiru, Executive Director of the Legal Aid Service Providers Network.

The side event demonstrated Uganda's progress in incorporating science and technology into criminal investigations. It also underscored the importance of continued investment in forensic infrastructure, professional training, quality assurance and regional cooperation to ensure that forensic



evidence is collected, analysed and applied effectively throughout the criminal justice process.

For UNAFRI, the discussion was particularly relevant to the Institute's mandate of supporting African

Member States through research, training, technical assistance and the promotion of evidence-based approaches to crime prevention and criminal justice.



UNAFRI Acting Director General Mr. Munanura Andrew Karokora with members of Uganda's delegation during the 35th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna, Austria.



The United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) participated in the 2026 Spring Coordination Meeting of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network (PNI), held on 3 June 2026 at the Vienna International Centre, Austria. The meeting, which was conducted in a hybrid format, brought together representatives of the PNI institutes to exchange updates on their recent activities and discuss preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

During the meeting, UNAFRI presented an overview of its key activities and partnerships since the previous PNI coordination meeting held in May 2025. The Institute highlighted its continued efforts to promote crime prevention, criminal justice reform, capacity-building, research and international cooperation across Africa.

Among the activities highlighted was an Anglophone virtual conference on reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration, which drew on regional experiences from Eastern and Southern Africa. The conference brought together experts

and institutions, including fellow PNI member UNAFEI, to exchange experiences and explore effective approaches to offender rehabilitation and successful reintegration into society.

In June 2025, UNAFRI convened a Francophone virtual conference focusing on the role of national anti-corruption institutions in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. The conference brought together perspectives from Central, Northern and West Africa and explored the contribution of anti-corruption institutions to sustainable development and accountable governance.

UNAFRI also reported on its collaboration with the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD) in preparation for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. In July 2025, the two institutes launched consultations that culminated in a Zoom conference during which representatives from nine African countries across East, Central, Southern and West Africa presented their national perspectives on challenges and gaps in ensuring equal access to justice for all.

The Institute further highlighted its contribution

LAUNCH OF NATIONAL FINANCIAL INVESTIGATIONS TRAINING MANUAL AT UGANDA POLICE HEADQUARTERS.



KAMPALA – NAGURU The United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) participated in the launch of a comprehensive Financial Investigations Training Manual and Tools on 11th June, 2026, marking a major milestone in strengthening national and regional efforts to combat financial and economic crimes.

The high-level launch event took place at the Uganda Police Force Headquarters in Naguru, Kampala, bringing together key partner institutions including, the Uganda Police Force (UPF) Financial Intelligence Authority (FIA), the Inspectorate of Government (IGG Uganda), Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), and Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), with development support from SecFin Africa.

The United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) was actively represented at the ceremony by a delegation led by the Acting Director General, Mr. Munanura Andrew Karokora, alongside legal officers John Vianny Ayebare and Alyce Namale. UNAFRI's participation in this landmark initiative highlights the

Institute's ongoing mandate to promote inter-agency cooperation, enhance operational capabilities, and support standardized crime prevention mechanisms across African member states.

The newly unveiled training manual serves as a practical, tactical playbook designed for financial crime investigators across all participating law enforcement and oversight agencies. Beyond abstract theoretical concepts, the tool provides standardized procedures, modern forensic techniques, and detailed checklists aimed at uncovering obscured paper trails, tackling corruption, combating money laundering, financing terrorism, and facilitating the tracing and recovery of stolen public assets.

Speaking at the launch, the Deputy Inspector General of Police, James Ocaya, emphasized that the Uganda Police Force is prioritizing internal institutional transformation with a focus on improving the quality and outcome of financial crime investigations. He highlighted that effective financial investigations depend on the ability of investigators to accurately trace the origin, ownership, movement, and final destination of funds linked to criminal activity.

The Executive Director of the Financial Intelligence

Authority, Samuel Were Wandera, noted that the training tools are specifically intended to build uniform capacity across all stakeholder bodies, ensuring that officers are equipped with the specialized knowledge required to address increasingly complex and technology-driven economic crimes. He underscored that the manual provides clear methodologies and rigorous procedural standards essential for building strong, evidence-backed cases capable of withstanding prosecution.

Representatives from the Inspectorate of Government and other partner agencies emphasized that the manual represents a unified commitment to move beyond individual organizational mandates toward collective action. By standardizing training, encour-

aging intelligence-led investigations, and establishing seamless cross-agency collaboration, the initiative is set to significantly improve Uganda's capability to detect, investigate, and prosecute financial crimes while safeguarding the stability and integrity of the country's financial system.

UNAFRI commends the Uganda Police Force, and all partner organizations on the successful development and launch of this vital training manual. The Institute remains committed to supporting technical capacity building and fostering cross-border crime prevention strategies across the region.

UNAFRI LAUNCHES THE AFRICAN YOUTHS CRIME PREVENTION PLATFORM X SPACES



On Friday, June 12, 2026, the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) officially launched 'The African Youths Crime Prevention Platform,' a weekly digital conversation hosted on X Spaces hosted on the official X handle @ UNAFRI21. The English version is held every Friday from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM East African Time while the French version is every fortnight from 9:00 PM to 10:30 PM East African Time.

This groundbreaking initiative addresses key thematic crime prevention and criminal justice issues across the continent. Grounded in Paragraph 30 of the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, which highlights the critical role of empowering youth as active civic agents through social media and digital tools, the platform leverages accessible digital infrastructure to connect young voices, justice sector stakeholders, and legal experts across Africa.

Despite Africa's demographic reality being overwhelmingly youthful, there remains a critical operational gap between traditional justice actors and young people. Historically, justice

and crime prevention strategies have treated youth as passive recipients of policy rather than essential civic stakeholders. Consequently, many young Africans do not feel personally obligated to actively report crimes, prevent delinquency, or resist illicit avenues of livelihood. At the same time, youth face rapidly evolving socioeconomic pressures, digital vulnerabilities, and other associated risks. While traditional physical workshops provide valuable engagement, geographical and financial constraints leave millions excluded. Therefore, there was an urgent need for an accessible, borderless continental forum capable of deconstructing complex legal and social challenges into relatable dialogues



to foster a proactive mindset toward crime prevention.

The primary objective of The African Youths Crime Prevention Platform is to cultivate a proactive, youth-led culture of crime prevention and treatment of offenders across Africa through continuous digital engagement. Specifically, the platform facilitates cross-border knowledge exchange, identifies critical policy and legal gaps within national and regional justice frameworks from a youth perspective, examines best practices to guide member states, and builds a sustainable continental movement of young



leaders dedicated to safety and justice. The weekly interactions address a wide spectrum of pertinent thematic areas, including youth migration, financial and cyber crimes, drug abuse, alcoholism, juvenile delinquency, unemployment, poverty, and youth in conflict zones.

To maximize outreach and ensure that discussions yield practical institutional impact, the initiative targets university students, youth leaders, and continental networks, while partnering with development organizations, civil society groups, university administrations, legal fraternities, and law enforcement agencies. Demonstrating a strong commitment to maximizing public reach, the launch was conducted in partnership with Next Media, one of the leading broadcasting institutions in Uganda. This collaboration ensured that such a critical dialogue extend



beyond digital audiences to reach broader public spheres via mainstream media channels.

The inaugural session of the platform took place on Friday, June 12, 2026, tackling the timely and highly relevant topic, 'Sex at Universities: Crime or Pleasure?' This inaugural debate offered young people, university administrators, and legal practitioners an open forum to examine the complex methods, forums, and underlying challenges associated with reporting, investigating, and prosecuting sexual offenses within higher institutions of learning across Africa.

By deconstructing such sensitive yet widespread issues, UNAFRI reinforces its commitment to adopting modern, highly accessible tools that transcend geographical boundaries, empowering African youth to actively shape policies for safer communities.