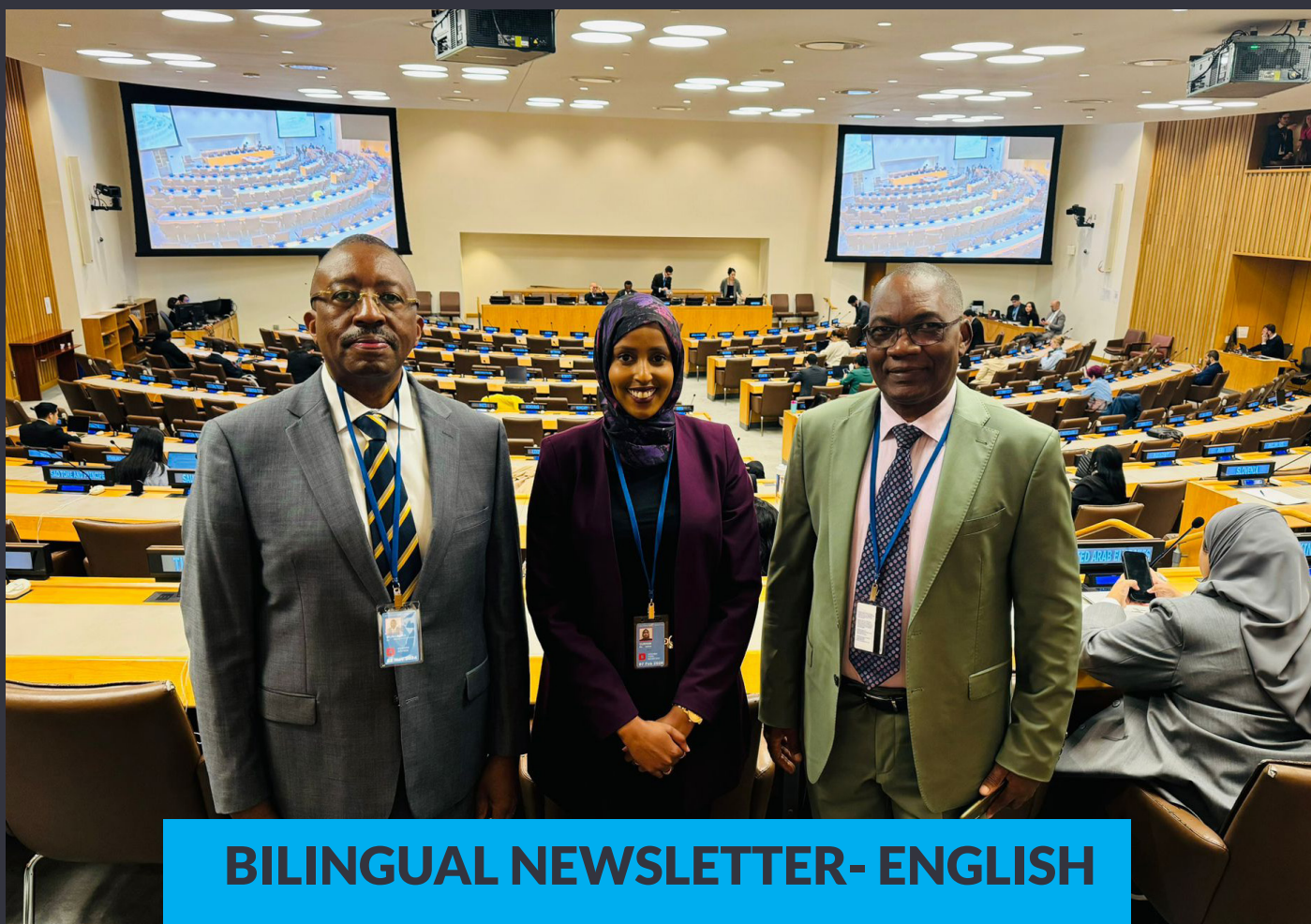


UNAFRI



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

- Training and Programmes
- Research and Documentation
- Advisory Services to Governments
- Joint Activities and Strategies



BILINGUAL NEWSLETTER- ENGLISH

**UNAFRI AS THE MAIN FOCUS OF AFRICA GROUP AT
THE 3RD COMMITTEE OF THE 79TH SESSION OF THE
UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2024

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UNAFRI



NEWSLETTER OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2024

**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”.

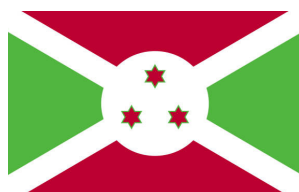
«Fortalecer la capacidad de los Estados africanos en materia de prevención del delito y justicia penal para el desarrollo sostenible»

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Member States



Burkina Faso



Burundi



Cameroon



Congo Brazzaville



DR Congo



Equatorial Guinea



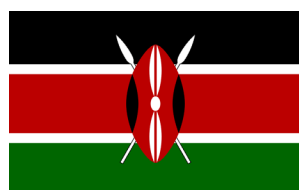
Gambia



Ghana



Guinea



Kenya



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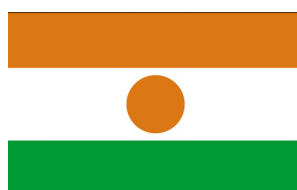
Malawi



Morocco



Mozambique



Niger



Nigeria



Rwanda



Senegal



Seychelles



Sierra Leone



Somalia



Sudan



Tanzania



Togo



Tunisia



Uganda



Zambia



Zimbabwe



UNAFRI DELEGATION VISITING THE UNITED NATIONS FOR CRUCIAL DISCUSSION ABOUT THE DRAFT RESOLUTION AND PRESENTATION OF THE BIENNIAL REPORT ON UNAFRI BY THE UNODC REPRESENTATIVE TO THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HELD BETWEEN 1ST OCTOBER TO 13TH OCTOBER 2024.

INTRODUCTION

The background to UNAFRI's travel was the upcoming discussion by the 3rd Committee of the UN General Assembly on the draft biennial report that UNAFRI had prepared for 2022-2024. The main issue was about the draft resolution on UNAFRI, extracted from the Secretary General's report, which was part of Uganda's biennial coordination efforts on behalf of the African Group under the crime prevention agenda item in the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

The report was scheduled to be presented by a representative from United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on October 7, 2024, and its discussion was paramount to UNAFRI's future operations. Furthermore, the discussion with the 3rd Committee included, as well, the

issue of the increment of UNAFRI's grant to cover the salaries of all five professional staff members.

In its 77th session in 2022, the General Assembly adopted a resolution urging UNAFRI member states to address outstanding arrears and called upon Member States, non-governmental organizations, and the international community to enhance support for the Institute's capacity-building initiatives.

Despite these efforts, UNAFRI continues to face significant challenges, particularly in securing the necessary funding to sustain its operations and fulfil its mandate. These ongoing challenges should be a cause for concern and a call to action for all stakeholders. The same session had requested the Secretary-General to intensify efforts to mobilize the financial resources needed to maintain core professional staff at

UNAFRI. The Assembly also recommended that the Institute submit concrete recommendations, particularly concerning crucial core professional staff positions, such as Deputy Director General, Director of Training and Programmes, and Director of Research and Documentation, for the subsequent biennial Secretary General's Report.

Given the paramount importance of the above discussions and the presentation of the UNAFRI report by the UNODC representative, the Uganda UN Permanent Mission strongly recommended that UNAFRI be present in New York during the dialogue. This active and committed participation of UNAFRI in the discussions was crucial, ensuring that the Institute's needs and strategic priorities were effectively communicated and considered. The Director General and his Deputy represented UNAFRI.

FIRST MEETING WITH PARTNERS

On the 4th of October 2024, the 1st draft resolution of UNAFRI was presented to the partners, including the European Union, Russia, Japan, the UK, Mexico, the US and others who made their input and comments about the resolution. Uganda and Djibouti presided over the meeting with partners. UNAFRI actively participated in the meeting, taking note of the questions and queries raised by the partners. The meeting adjourned after about two hours and was to reconvene on 11th October 2024 at 3 pm.

STATEMENT BY THE AFRICA GROUP STATEMENT – UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY 3RD COMMITTEE: INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH UNODC

The proceedings on the 7th of October commenced with a statement from the UNODC. A statement from the African Group followed thereafter. The statement from the group, read by the Chadian permanent representative to the UN,

Ambassador, was not just a strong endorsement of UNAFRI but a resounding vote of confidence. It called upon the 3rd committee to support UNAFRI and praised the excellent work of the Institute. The statement further recommended the Institute for spearheading the fight against crime on the continent and supported the Institute's call for more resources to recruit professional staff. This unwavering support from the African Group should encourage all stakeholders and instil confidence and optimism about UNAFRI's future.

COUNTRY STATEMENTS

Responding to the African Group statement, Nigeria supported the excellent work UNAFRI is doing in Africa in the field of prevention of crimes for sustainable development. The country representative mentioned the issues of drugs and the predisposing factors like poverty, unemployment, peer pressure, and firearms trafficking. He recalled that the World Drug Report was alarming and hailed the country's law enforcement agencies for their efforts in curbing the rise in drug use.

Highlighting the transnational nature of the illicit drug trade, Nigeria's representative noted his Government's efforts to partner with other countries and agencies that are actively countering the spread of drug trafficking globally. UNAFRI is one of those potential agencies. He added that Abuja's cooperation with UNODC and drug control agencies has led to several high-level arrests and seizures in the country. His statement was followed by South Africa's statement, which also supported the African group's statement.

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs in charge of International Cooperation in Sierra Leone specifically hailed UNAFRI's strategic plan 2024-2028 and efforts to curb transnational crime. She talked about the technology hub in

Sierra Leone to help skill the youth and reduce their involvement in crime. She praised the commitment of the country's law enforcement agencies to curb and reduce crime. On the other occasion, Egypt also praised the African group's statement.

THE EUROPEAN UNION STATEMENT

The EU strongly supported UNODC's comprehensive mandate, which is closely linked to respecting, promoting, and fulfilling human rights. The EU deeply valued UNODC's proven expertise in preventing and countering transnational organised crime, corruption, drug trafficking, drug use, and terrorism, as well as reinforcing criminal justice systems and strengthening the rule of law.

Most importantly the EU recommended strengthening the United Nation's work in addressing transnational organized crime and supporting the rule of law that requires different UN entities to come together. The UN Interagency Task Force on Policing, established by the Secretary-General, was recommended as a welcome initiative for greater coherence and more efficient resource use.

INVOLVEMENT IN NEGOCIATIONS

The UNAFRI delegation spent the rest of the days negotiating with partners like Japan, which had requested time to consult with their capital back in Tokyo. The Director General had to write to the Japan's UN mission, thanking them for their support of UNAFRI activities and requesting their support in the next meetings of the partners. The mission also consulted with the representatives of Uganda and Djibouti to streamline comments from partners as they came in daily.

SECOND MEETING WITH PARTNERS

On the 11th of October 2024, the African group representatives met with the partners again. This time, many more partners attended and were aggressive on the programme budget implications (PBIs) of the increment of UNAFRI's grant. At one point, the Director General was called in to explain what would happen to the arrears owed by UNAFRI member states if the UN grant was to be increased. The DG explained the Governing Board's efforts to help recover arrears and his efforts to visit every member state country to sensitize them on paying up. He also described the voluntary nature of the assessed contribution and the fact that there were no penalties for the non-payment of the arrears as the most significant contributing factors to non-payment by the member states.

The DG informed partners that UNAFRI's approach to crime prevention remains guided by the Kyoto Declaration themes prioritized by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2019-2023), member state demands, research and activities as detailed in UNAFRI's strategic plan 2024-2028.

ACTION POINTS:-

Alongside the discussions and negotiations, the African Group member states highlighted the following areas as of paramount importance to the Institute's activities:-

1. Drugs: the problem of consumption and trafficking of controlled substances has escalated on the African Continent. The growing use of drugs, particularly among men and young people, was identified as a top priority by member-state countries.
2. Transnational Organized Crime: Member states lamented the increased and

transformed nature of crime and its extension across borders.

3. Cyber Crime: Cybercrime was highlighted as a serious issue that required the Institute's intervention.
4. Human Trafficking: Human trafficking, especially of children and women, remains a serious problem for which the Institute should prioritise.
5. International and Regional Cooperation: Member states encouraged UNAFRI to continue promoting regional and international cooperation based on the principle of common and shared responsibility. The Institute was recommended for its proactive exchange of technical expertise with fellow UN programme Institutes such as UNAFEI,

ILANUD, UNICRI, TIJ, etc.

6. Increment of the grant: The Institute continued to fight and defend for the increment of the grant and, on October 17th, 2024, managed to trigger a reasonable sum of PBI, which was due for discussion before the 5th Committee.

CONCLUSION

UNAFRI greatly appreciates the role played by the African group in this round of negotiations. The role played by Uganda and Djibouti is particularly recommended. UNAFRI remains a vital partner in crime prevention and criminal justice that needs essential support from its member states, the United Nations, and financial partners to function properly and meticulously.



The UNAFRI delegation: Director General Dr. Édouard Kitio (Right) and Deputy Director General Mr Andrew Munanura (Left) posing with Ms Amina Gurhan, Diplomat at Permanent Mission of Uganda to the United Nations - NewYork.

9TH DECEMBER 2024



United Nations
Office on Drugs and Crime



UNODC
Civil Society Unit

9 DECEMBER 2024

INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY 2024

#UnitedAgainst Corruption

INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) joins the rest of the world in commemoration of International Anti-Corruption Day on the 9th day of December 2024. UNAFRI is mandated under Article II of its Statute to inter alia assist member states in the promotion of innovative approaches to crime prevention and criminal justice reforms in accordance with the United Nations norms and guidelines and the exchange and transfer of knowledge, expertise and dissemination of information to governments, scholars, practitioners, researchers and organizations involved in crime prevention.

The General Assembly designated the 9th of December every year as the International Anti-Corruption Day to raise awareness of the dangers of corruption and the role of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in combating

and preventing it. As a member of the United Nations Crime Prevention mechanism, UNAFRI offers technical assistance to Member States to implement the convention by, among others, domesticating it into national legal and policy frameworks and developing proactive strategies for its prevention. Building on the successes registered in this regard, UNAFRI embraces this year's commemoration to highlight the power of advocacy in mobilizing enhanced political will, sustaining the momentum and providing resources to address the corruption challenges.

DEFINITION OF CORRUPTION

Whereas there is no comprehensive or universally accepted definition of the term/word corruption, the UN convention has listed specific acts that constitute corruption. The African Union adopted a similar approach in which corruption is defined as acts and practices, including related offences prescribed in the convention. Transparency

International (TI) defines corruption as misusing entrusted power for private gain. This includes both public and private sector corruption at petty and grand levels.

Corruption in Africa and many parts of the world remains a complex social, political and economic phenomenon that affects and undermines democratic institutions, slows economic development and contributes to government instability.

ACTS OF CORRUPTION

Article 4 of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption details acts that constitute corruption and related offences as:

- a. The solicitation or acceptance, directly or indirectly, by a public official or any other person, of any goods of monetary value or other benefit in exchange for any act or omission in the performance of their public functions;
- b. The offering or granting, directly or indirectly, to a public official or any other person, of any goods of monetary value or other benefit, such as a gift, favour, promise or advantage for themselves, in exchange for any act or omission in the performance of their public functions;
- c. Any act or omission in the discharge of their duties by a public official or any other person for the purpose of illicitly obtaining benefits for themselves or a third party;
- d. The diversion by a public official or any person of resources for purposes unrelated to those for which they were intended, for their benefit or that of a third party, of any property belonging to the state or its agencies, to an independent agency, or to an individual that such official has received by their position;

- e. The offering or giving, promising, solicitation or acceptance, directly or indirectly, of any undue advantage to or by any person who directs or works for, in any capacity, a private sector entity, for themselves or anyone else, for them to act, or refrain from acting, in breach of their duties;
- f. Illicit enrichment
- g. The offering, giving, solicitation or acceptance directly or indirectly or promising of any undue advantage to or by any person who asserts or confirms that they can exert any improper influence over the decision-making of any person performing functions in the public or private sector in consideration thereof, whether the undue advantage is for themselves or anyone else as well as the request, receipt or the acceptance of the offer or the promise of such an advantage, in consideration of that influence, whether or not the influence is exerted or whether or not the supposed influence leads to the intended result.
- h. The use or concealment of proceeds derived from any of the above acts;
- i. Participation as a principal, co-principal, agent, instigator, accomplice or accessory after the fact or in any other manner in the commission or attempted commission of, in any collaboration or conspiracy to commit, any of the acts referred to above.

FORMS OF CORRUPTION

Grand Corruption: this is corruption that pervades the highest levels of a national Government, leading to a broad erosion of confidence in good governance, the rule of law and economic stability.

Petty corruption can involve the exchange of very small amounts of money, granting minor favours by those seeking preferential treatment or the

employment of friends and relatives in minor positions.

Bribery: Under Article 15 of the UNCAC, Corruption can take the form of Bribery. Bribery is the bestowing of a benefit to unduly influence an action or decision. It can be initiated by a person who seeks or solicits bribes or by a person who offers and then pays bribes. Bribery is probably the most common form of corruption. Bribery can be any inducement, such as money and valuables, company shares, inside information, sexual or other favours, entertainment, employment, or the mere promise of incentives.

Embezzlement, Theft and Fraud: in the context of corruption, embezzlement, theft and fraud all involve the taking or conversion of money, property or valuable items by an individual who is not entitled to them but, by their position or employment, has access to them. Fraud involves using false or misleading information to induce the property owner to relinquish it voluntarily.

Extortion is another form of corruption but relies on coercion, such as the threat of violence or the exposure of damaging information, to induce cooperation.

Abuse of Discretion: corruption can involve the abuse of discretion vested in an individual for personal gain.

Favouritism, Nepotism and Clientelism: this form of corruption is not governed by the self-interest of an official but by the interests of someone linked to them through membership in a family, political party, tribe, religion or other group.

EFFECTS OF CORRUPTION

Corruption has been identified as one of the major challenges to socio-economic transformation, peace, security and development. According to the UN Secretary-General, 'Corruption is criminal, immoral and the ultimate betrayal of public trust. Corruption undermines accountability and transparency in the management of public

affairs and socio-economic development among member State countries. It also has the following other effects:-

- (i) Undermines democracy and the electoral process,
- (ii) Perverts the rule of law;
- (iii) Leads to violations of human rights;
- (iv) Distorts markets;
- (v) Erodes the quality of life;
- (vi) Facilitates organized crime, terrorism and other threats to human security;
- (vii) Creates bureaucracy to seek bribes,
- (viii) Subverts Economic development
- (ix) Undermines Foreign direct investment,
- (x) Cripples the development of Small businesses within member states countries, making it hard to overcome start-up costs.

Due to its adversity in achieving sustainable development at global, regional and national levels, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and UNAFRI have programme activities to champion the fight against corruption. Through these activities, several remedial interventions have been devised based on the significance of international and regional instruments to strengthen the fight against corruption at such levels. For purposes of awareness and advocacy, we briefly highlight the international legal framework in the arsenal to fight corruption.

International Legal Instruments and Regional Instruments Against Corruption

United Nations Instruments

- (a) The United Nations Convention against Corruption
- (b) The United Nations Convention against

Transnational Organized Crime

(c) The United Nations International Code of Conduct for Public Officials

(d) The United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions

African Union Instruments and Documents

(i) African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption

(ii) The Constitutive Act of the African Union

(iii) The African Union Declaration of the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa/ Durban Declaration 2002.

(iv) The African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights.

(v) The NEPAD(The New Partnership for Africa's Development) Framework document/ The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)

(vi) SADC Protocol Against Corruption

(vii) The East African Community (EAC) (Draft protocol on corruption)

THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION

Under Article 1 of the UNCAC, The purpose of the convention is to promote and strengthen measures to prevent and combat corruption; facilitate and support international cooperation and technical assistance in the prevention of and fight against corruption, including in asset recovery; and promote integrity, accountability and proper management of public affairs and public property.

The Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (COSP)

It was established under Article 63 of the

Convention to improve the capacity of states to implement the Convention, to enhance cooperation among states in achieving the Convention's objectives, and to promote and review the Convention's implementation. The conference is the main policy-making body of the Convention, supporting state parties and signatories in their implementation of the Convention and giving policy guidance to develop and implement anti-corruption activities.

AFRICAN UNION CONVENTION ON PREVENTING AND COMBATING CORRUPTION

This Convention was adopted on the 11th of July 2003 and came into force on the 5th of August 2006. The African Union takes a comprehensive approach to preventing and combating corruption through its Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption. The Convention contains mandatory provisions regarding private-to-private corruption and transparency in political party funding. It also has mandatory requirements for the declaration of assets by designated public officials and restrictions on immunity for public officials. Article 22(5g) provides for collaboration between the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights and the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption in the fight against corruption.

THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES RIGHTS

The African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights was established in 1987 under the Charter. Article 13 of the Charter provides for everyone's political right to participate in choosing their government. The Charter also provides everyone with equal access to public services. This right is aimed at preventing corruption.

THE NEPAD FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT; AGENDA 2063, THE AFRICA WE WANT

NEPAD is a technical body of the AU and the institutional arm for implementing the AU

development agenda. In its agenda 2063, “The Africa We Want”, Aspiration No. 3, An Africa of good governance, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law, links poverty reduction to governance issues such as democracy, human rights and corruption.

THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY TREATY

The East African draft protocol on preventing and combating corruption aims to promote and strengthen the development of mechanisms to prevent and combat corruption and promote and regulate cooperation.

SADC PROTOCOL

This protocol came into force in 2003, and we applaud the regional efforts by the member states and the courage to take on this monster of corruption. It is the first sub-regional treaty to fight corruption in Africa.

UGANDA'S ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS

We acknowledge the efforts Uganda has made to develop a robust legislative framework to tackle the scourge of corruption that includes The Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act of 2003, which was enacted to address transparency and corruption issues in procurement processes; The Leadership Code Act 2002 criminalizes attempted corruption, active and passive bribery, extortion, abuse of office etc.;

The Anti-Corruption Act 2009 covers private sector bribery; Whistleblowers Protection Act 2010 seeks to protect whistleblowers and to provide monetary rewards in return for reporting; The Inspectorate of Government Act; the Public Finance Management Act establishes a single treasury account to make public expenditures more transparent and reduce graft; and The Access to Information Act 2005. Uganda also has an elaborate institutional framework tasked with investigating and prosecuting corruption-related vices. These include the Inspectorate of

Government, the State House anti-corruption unit and several others. We commend this practice for adoption by all African countries and encourage the concerned agencies to put more effort into implementing and enforcing such elaborate laws.

ANTI-CORRUPTION AGENCIES IN EAST AFRICA

We applaud the efforts of the anti-corruption agencies in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda (Inspectorate of Government (IG); the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC); and The Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB), respectively. While all the East African countries are signatories to the UNCAC and have sound and robust legal regimes for fighting corruption, corruption remains a serious challenge. We call upon member states to strengthen the enforcement of their respective laws.

STRATEGIES TO FIGHT CORRUPTION

The development and implementation of an effective anti-corruption strategy requires the coordination and integration of many disparate factors. Elements must be integrated internally to form a unified, coherent anti-corruption strategy and externally with broader national efforts to bring about the greater reference and application of the rule of law, sustainable development, political or constitutional reforms, and major economic and criminal justice reforms. In some cases, they must also be coordinated with the efforts of the development partners, international organizations or other countries. At the local level, through strategic whistleblowing mechanisms, efforts ought to be made to create sensitivity within communities to unethical conduct, suspect exchange of resources and inappropriate behaviour of officials and service providers for projects meant for the public good. Government, private sector, judicial authorities and civil society

organization's should synchronize their strategies and messages in the fight against corruption so that the required confidence is built upon which everybody's involvement is perceived as crucial.

Networking for information sharing on corruption-related matters between anti-corruption bodies and the public is equally essential, hence the need to expedite existing opportunities presented by information and communications technology. Online reporting systems and applications should be developed and publicized so that the public can use them to report corruption. Notably, the severity of actions taken against corruption will work as a motivator for public participation.

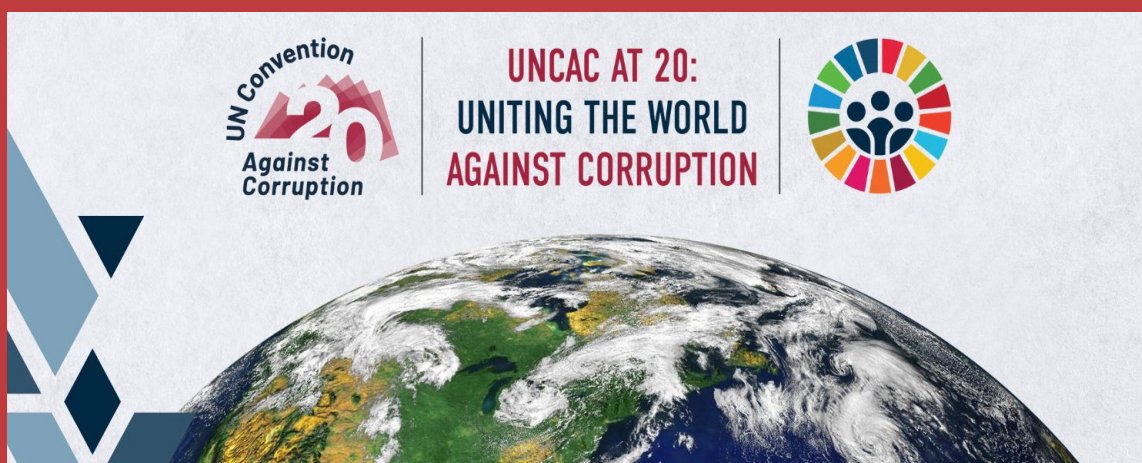
CONCLUSION

There is a need to address the root causes of corruption by formulating and pursuing a standard penal policy to protect society against the adverse effects of corruption, including adopting appropriate legislative and preventive measures. We encourage building partnerships that bring on board governments, civil society, media, youth, the elderly, women and the private sector to fight the scourge of corruption.

Africa suffers a unique vulnerability arising from the burden of corruption. It is relatively less endowed with control mechanisms for the detection and prosecution of 'highly organized' crimes related to grand corruption due to its highly organized form. Consequently, the ill-gotten

proceeds from corruption are prone to be utilized in national activities with devastating consequences, highlighting the relationship between corruption and development.

The efforts of the UN and other organization's will manifest more meaningfully in the fight against corruption and related crimes when African countries are pulled along and well-integrated in all remedial initiatives, leaving no room for the continent to constitute a safe haven for the vice. Consequently, within their mandates, UNAFRI will be teaming up with other stakeholders in the criminal justice sector to hold a series of activities, focusing on a Continental Think Tank Initiative to be held in due course to produce policy-oriented resolutions in the fight against corruption on the continent, putting effective corruption mitigation measures in place with a better recovery plan for illicit wealth proceeds.



FINGERPRINTING THE GUNS TO CURB AND CONTROL FIREARMS CRIMINALITY BY THE UGANDAN POLICE FORCE



(Photo courtesy: The Independent Newspaper, Uganda)

The Ugandan Ministry of Internal Affairs has recently unveiled to the public the report on the development and achievement of Ugandan Police Force in curbing firearms criminality and enhancing public safety. The statements presented by the respective internal affairs Minister and internal state affairs Minister have inter alia proclaimed the full implementation of the Presidential Order given by His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni during his parliamentary address to the nation back in 2018.

Considering the then surrounding crime situations in the country characterized by kidnaps and brutal gun killings involving the high-profile murders, the President had ordered that “...all guns must be fingerprinted by firing each gun in controlled conditions to capture the fingerprints of all of them...” (Monitor newspaper, June 20, 2018). The presidential directive had conceivably required all security agencies within the country to fast-track the registration of all firearms to make them easier to track and identify during the incidences of crime.

According to the statement by the internal affairs Minister, Maj. Gen. Kahinda Otafiire, the Police department had in the first place registered over 90% of all legally issued firearms. These included guns held by the Police Force, Prisons Services, Private Security Companies and Individuals upon which the vital forensic intelligence had been gathered by means of integrated ballistics information system. In specific, the Minister highlighted that the fingerprinting process has been featured in collecting and analysing the pattern of unique markings (like human fingerprints) on the gun’s cartridge cases and bullet surfaces (New Vision newspaper, December 4, 2024).

During his statement, the internal affairs state Minister, Gen. David Muhoozi pinpointed that such fingerprinting initiative must be applied in criminal investigations and that “[t]he Government has also implemented measures to improve the regulation of firearms including establishment of a national firearms registry.” Furthermore, Gen. Muhoozi hailed

the Police partnership with other national security agencies in dealing with the country's threat of terrorism and gun crime. (New Vision newspaper, December 4, 2024)

The ballistic fingerprinting of weaponry is commonly aimed at reducing the unlawful use and supply of firearms to criminals in efforts to deter and control violent crimes. Conventionally, human fingerprints have been used in forensic investigations as a superscale type of DNA evidence to identify the perpetrators of crime. It involves scientific comparison of the human skin impression ridges which miraculously tend to vary from one person to another i.e. forming a unique set to each human being. The guns fingerprinting is however a viable crime investigation tool through the collection and analysis of critical evidence in firearms violence crimes. Firearms violence crimes constitute the wider problem of uncontrolled proliferation and illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons.

The guns fingerprinting serves twofold purposes in the realm of criminal justice investigations: first, as ballistic forensic evidence in linking the weapons to exterior surfaces after the shootings, and secondly, as latent forensic evidence enabling the retrieval of unique pattern of markings from the interior components of a firearm in question. Latent fingerprinting mechanism is rarely conducted, though crucially potential in scenarios of retrieving crime evidence from either the unfired ammunition or fired cartridge cases.

According to some forensic experts, the interior components of a gun silencer can, for instance, be the ideal location of latent fingerprint crime evidence especially for the unfired ammunition. Latent fingerprinting method can be more effective in controlling the illegal guns possessions that play a role in predominating firearms violent crimes. Most of these guns are in the first place legally licensed, but eventually become either stolen or lost and fall into the hands of criminals.

UNAFRI commends the Ugandan government for this profound crime prevention approach which sets the best practice to other African member states in efforts to combat and control the firearms crime across the region. The approach encourages adaptation to new and scientifically proven criminal investigations and improvement of forensic data that the law enforcement organs rely on, towards the efficient tackling of critical crime evidence cases.

Nevertheless, the Institute appeals to its member states to set up or strengthen the legal frameworks for its effective implementation in national, regional and global levels by regulating and promoting the firearms fingerprinting technology. This forensic technology represents a state-of-the-art prevention mechanism to address the growing problem of illicit trafficking and management of firearms across the African states.



Member of staff of the Ministry of Internal Affairs listening to the Minister's Statement on gun fingerprinting to curb crime. (Photo credit : Isaac Nuwagaba, Newvision)

STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION BETWEEN UNAFRI AND THE JUDICIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE (JTI)



Director General Dr. Édouard Kitio handing the UNAFRI strategic plan to the Executive Director of Judicial Training Institute, Hon. Lady Justice Damalie N Lwanga.

On October 17, 2024, a significant meeting was held between the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) and the Judicial Training Institute (JTI) in Uganda. The purpose of the meeting was to explore potential areas of collaboration aimed at enhancing Uganda's judicial system through research, training, and legal reforms.

The discussions, which took place at the JTI in Kampala, brought together key representatives from both institutions, with an emphasis on aligning their efforts to address current and emerging challenges within the judicial system. Lady Justice Damalie Lwanga, the Executive Director of JTI, officially opened the session, welcoming the UNAFRI team and expressing gratitude for their commitment despite the challenges posed by last-minute scheduling changes. She acknowledged that the meeting was a continuation of previous discussions initiated by the JTI's Registrar, HW Prossy Katushabe, regarding potential cooperation.

Dr. Kitio Édouard, the Director General of UNAFRI, provided an overview of the institute's mandate, which focuses on building capacity through

training, conducting research on crime trends, and promoting international cooperation. He emphasized UNAFRI's commitment to enhancing the judicial process by supporting law enforcement, judicial officers, and other stakeholders within the criminal justice system. Dr. Kitio also highlighted the importance of upholding human rights and ensuring respect for the rule of law.

In his remarks, the Deputy Director General of UNAFRI, Mr. Andrew Munanura Karokora, underscored the need for collaboration, particularly in the areas of research and training. He mentioned the growing importance of partnerships with academic institutions and shared an example of an MoU recently signed with a university to explore research on drug use among students. The meeting focused on several potential areas for cooperation between UNAFRI and JTI, including:

Cybercrime: As digital crimes continue to rise globally, both institutions recognized the need for specialized training for judicial officers to handle cybercrime cases effectively. This includes understanding the complexities of digital evidence and the legal tools required to adjudicate such cases.

Bail: The role of bail in ensuring judicial efficiency.

cy and fairness was another important topic. The meeting highlighted the need for targeted training to help judicial officers better navigate bail decisions, balancing the rights of the accused with the safety and interests of society.

Artificial Intelligence (AI): With AI emerging as a transformative technology, both institutions acknowledged the need to equip judges and judicial officers with the skills to handle cases involving AI, ensuring informed and effective decision-making.

E-Justice: The transition to digital platforms within the judicial system was discussed, with a focus on how e-justice could improve efficiency and accessibility in the administration of justice. The meeting concluded with a commitment to formalize the collaboration between UNAFRI and JTI. Both institutions agreed to begin by identifying specific training topics and research areas that align with their mutual goals.

Additionally, JTI expressed interest in creating tools to support judicial decision-making,

including research frameworks and judgment guidelines. These initiatives aim to improve the consistency and transparency of judicial outcomes across Uganda's courts.

CONCLUSION

The meeting between UNAFRI and the Judicial Training Institute marked a significant step towards enhancing Uganda's judicial capacity through training and research. The collaboration is expected to have a lasting impact on the country's legal system, providing judicial officers with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate complex issues such as cybercrime, AI, and judicial efficiency. Both institutions committed to strengthening their partnership in the months ahead, with a shared goal of fostering a more effective and fair judicial system in Uganda.



The Executive Director of Judicial Training Institute, Hon, Lady Justice Damalie N Lwanga welcoming the UNAFRI delegation.

TERRORISM AND ARMS TRAFFICKING IN AFRICA



By Dr. Kenneth Wyne Mutuma

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INTRODUCTION

The United Nations describes terrorism as criminal acts, such as the use of violence or the taking of hostages, with the intent to cause fear or intimidate a population or government. Firearms trafficking as defined by the United Nations Firearms Protocol is the import, export, acquisition, sale, delivery, movement or transfer of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition from or across the territory of one State Party to that of another State Party if any one of the States Parties concerned does not authorize it. Terrorism and Arms trafficking are a growing menace in the world and particularly in Africa. According to the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, there has been a 237% rise in terrorism related deaths between 2012 and 2020.

Terrorism activities in Africa has accelerated quite rapidly over the past years. The Sahel Region particularly parts of West Africa like Benin, Côté d'Ivoire, Togo and Ghana are slowly becoming the epicenter for terrorism. As of 2022, 4 out of 10 most impacted countries by terrorism were in the Sahel region. A range of

diverse terrorist groups operate in the different corners of Africa causing great terror to the people. These include: The Al-Shabaab in East Africa tied to the Al-Qaeda group, the Boko Haram and ISWAP in Southern Nigeria, Chad, Niger and Cameroon, the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) in Central Africa and ISIS affiliate groups in Southern Africa such as Mozambique and parts of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. Firearms on the other hand are easily trafficked through the existing porous borders with little border control from France and Turkey to Nigeria.

IMPACT OF TERRORISM AND ARMS TRAFFICKING

Terrorism is of no doubt a menace with great negative impact to countries. This includes: the loss of human life from the attacks, bombings and raids. An example is the death of 143 students from the Al-Shabbab attack in Garissa University in Kenya. Additionally, terrorism causes a myriad of humanitarian crisis including the displacement of people from their homes, sexual and gender-based violence against girls and women, poverty, hunger, unemployment and

limited access to necessary commodities such as food, water, shelter, education and health-care services. In regions affected by terrorism and arms trafficking, other forms of organized crime often emerge and thrive such as human trafficking, drug trafficking, kidnapping for ransom, money laundering and illicit trade in natural resources as has been seen from the Boko Haram in Nigeria, Chad and Cameroon.

Terrorist attacks have a severe impact on the economy, leading to a decline in both domestic and foreign investments. Instability resulting from such attacks disrupts trade, with reduced exports, imports, and consumer purchases. Tourism suffers significantly, both locally and internationally, resulting in a diminished flow of income. In some cases, tourist destinations may be directly targeted and destroyed during attacks, causing long-term financial losses from these attractions. Additionally, governments are forced to redirect public resources toward counterterrorism efforts, diverting funds from other critical sectors. The destruction of infrastructure essential for business operations impacts the economy negatively.

The environmental consequences of increased terrorism activities significantly affect biodiversity and ecosystems. Bombings, particularly those involving nuclear weapons, cause extensive destruction of flora and fauna, leading to the loss of vital habitats. Displacement of populations contributes to environmental degradation, as individuals often clear forests and vegetation to create temporary shelters. The destruction of infrastructure and industries generates harmful waste, contaminating the surrounding environment.

Moreover, the violence disrupts wildlife populations, either through direct killing or displacement from their natural habitats. Pollution of air and water resources from attacks contributes to the degradation of aquatic ecosystems and raising concerns about respiratory diseases for human populations. Furthermore, the increased hunting of wildlife for food during and after conflicts further depletes already threatened species.

CHALLENGES IN COMBATING TERRORISM AND ARMS TRAFFICKING

Terrorist activities are heightened by rampant corruption and bribery, enabling the passage of illicit arms through security checkpoints. This undermines state control and exposes citizens to increased terrorism risks. Corruption also leads to weak governance structures creating a leeway for radicalization and easy recruitment into terrorist groups. Furthermore, there is inadequate legal framework to combat terrorism contributing to the weak governance structures.

Whereas most of the countries have legislated laws against terrorism and arms trafficking, their implementation is poor and the laws are a bit outdated as they do not capture the changing landscape of terrorism. In addition, the lack of harmonization of anti-terrorism laws across borders hinders effective cross-border cooperation against terrorism which is a transnational crime.

Insufficient resources for law enforcement and border control agencies hinder the effective prosecution of terrorism and arms trafficking cases. Combatting terrorism requires substantial financial investment, yet countries facing frequent terrorist attacks often suffer extensive damage to human lives, the environment, and the economy, leaving limited resources available for counterterrorism efforts.

Weak border controls and poor management further enable the illicit flow of arms and movement of terrorists. This is evident in the spread of groups like Al-Shabaab, which has established a presence in neighboring countries such as Uganda, Kenya, and other parts of East Africa. Political instability, lack of regional cooperation, and inadequate resources for effective border management are key factors driving this cross-border terrorism.

Radicalization and violent extremism has led to the recruitment of many young people into terrorist groups. This action is fuelled by the range of socio-economic challenges facing dif-

ferent countries including poverty, lack of access to education, high unemployment rates, political instability and corruption. Recruits joining these groups are easily misinformed and their desperate situations make it easy to engage in terrorist activities. False ideologies that seem to offer a way out are easily spread through the internet and peer groups. Addressing these underlying issues is vital in preventing terrorism activities.

LOOKING FORWARD

Counterterrorism efforts demand a unified approach. This involves establishing robust legal frameworks to hold corrupt officials accountable and encompass the changing landscape of terrorism in the globe and Africa. Countries and the International community needs to allocate sufficient resources in the fight against terrorism. Proactive measures, such as prevention strategies, are essential rather than solely reacting to attacks.

Extreme Ideologies and radicalization are a major cause of recruitment of young people into terrorist groups. Taking Pro-active measures in addressing the root issues of radicalization and extremism such as unemployment, poverty and economic inequality will contribute greatly in fighting terrorism. This can be done through providing education, creating jobs for the young people and improving the economy and living standards of citizens. Countries should invest highly in building its capacity to combat terrorism before it happens.

Ratifying and adhering to existing international anti-terrorism laws and instruments is crucial. International Conventions and Protocols against terrorism and any of its forms on land, air and maritime are existent and open for ratification and implementation by states. Increased investment in training, technology, infrastructure, and resources is necessary to bolster law enforcement capabilities. For instance, employing advanced surveillance drones, automated communication systems and real-time monitoring platforms can enhance border monitoring, detecting any cross-border terrorist movement or arms trafficking. Technology can also be used to detect online recruitment and propaganda used by terrorists for

violent extremism. Artificial Intelligence driven algorithms and cyber-security tools can be used to combat cyber-attacks and disrupt online terrorist networks. Strategic communication on online integrity providing counter-narratives addressing any form of misinformation and extremist ideologies by governments, civil society and international organizations will help prevent terrorism.

Regional integration, facilitated by joint task forces, information sharing, and collaborative operations, should be prioritized. In Africa organizations such as the African Union (AU), East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) can harmonize their approach in fighting terrorism. Additionally, cooperation with international organizations like the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund and Interpol can offer financial support, technical assistance, and humanitarian aid contributing to counterterrorism efforts.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, a zero-tolerance approach to any form or act of terrorism is essential for effectively combating terrorism both in Africa and globally. Reacting only after the occurrence of terrorist acts often amplifies the threat, as it allows extremist ideologies to take root and spread. It is now crucial for nations to adopt proactive measures to protect their citizens and safeguard the future from the devastating consequences of terrorism. Promoting peace, security, and prosperity stands as the most powerful response to the ideologies that fuel terrorism and extremism. Addressing these challenges requires not only military and security solutions but also tackling the underlying conditions that lead to instability and violence. The tragic loss of civilian life in recent years underscores the urgency of strengthening resilience and ensuring that our societies are better prepared to withstand and respond to the evolving threat of terrorism. We can build a more secure and peaceful future for all through fostering cooperation, enhancing intelligence sharing, and investing in long-term peace building efforts.

UNAFRI AND UGANDA BANKERS' ASSOCIATION UNITE TO TACKLE CYBERCRIME IN UGANDA'S FINANCIAL SECTOR



From right: the Deputy Director General Mr Andrew Munanura, Mr Ronald Mugisha Project Manager - the Cyber Security Operation Centre, Director General Dr Édouard Kitio, Mr Wilbrod Owor - Executive Director of Uganda Bankers Association and Dr Ahmed Linga - Director of Training & Programmes.

In a move to strengthen cybersecurity within Uganda's banking sector, the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) and the Uganda Bankers' Association (UBA) have forged an important partnership. The two organizations convened at UNAFRI's Secretariat on October 28, 2024, to discuss strategies for addressing the growing threat of cybercrime and safeguarding the nation's financial infrastructure.

As online and mobile banking continue to expand across Africa, the financial sector is increasingly vulnerable to cyber threats. Opening the discussions, Dr. KITIO Édouard, Director General of UNAFRI, welcomed the UBA delegation and emphasized the need for urgent action to tackle these challenges. He noted that UNAFRI's membership in the global network of crime prevention and criminal justice institutes (PNI Network) positions it as a key player in supporting Uganda's efforts to combat digital security threats. Mr. Andrew Munanura, Deputy Director General of UNAFRI, further explained the

purpose of the meeting, highlighting the rise in cyber fraud, particularly over the weekends, and the need for urgent and coordinated solutions with financial system partners.

He stressed that collaboration between the two organizations could lead to valuable outcomes, including specialized training and research to address the unique cybersecurity needs of Uganda's banks.

Mr. Wilbrod Owor, CEO of UBA, spoke candidly about the challenges the banking sector faces in combating cybercrime, particularly identity theft. Drawing from his extensive experience in the industry, Owor noted that both internal and external actors exploit cyber vulnerabilities, often making it difficult for banks to disclose fraud incidents without risking customer trust. A major concern raised during the meeting was the limited availability of human, financial, and material resources to conduct proper investigations and ensure effective prosecution of cybercriminals. Hence, the need to strengthen the ca-

capacities of investigators, prosecutors, and judges in this area. Owor emphasized that improving security frameworks and raising public awareness about cybersecurity are crucial steps to protect both consumers and financial institutions.

The partnership between UNAFRI and UBA will receive strong support from UBA's international partners, including major financial networks such as MasterCard and Visa, which back efforts to strengthen measures against cyber threats. Mr. Owor committed to engaging UBA's executive committee, comprising 32 financial institutions, as well as key regulatory bodies, including the Central Bank and the Financial In-

telligence Authority, to advance this initiative.

The meeting concluded with an agreement between the two organizations to prepare and sign a Memorandum of Understanding on the strategy to combat cybercrime in Uganda's financial sector. Follow-up meetings with CEOs from UBA's member institutions will focus on refining the strategies discussed, ensuring a cohesive and proactive response to cybercrime. By working together, UNAFRI and UBA are committed to creating a more secure financial landscape that benefits both consumers and financial institutions, while reinforcing trust in Uganda's banking system.

CAMEROON'S EXPERIENCE IN REINTEGRATION OF FORMER COMBATANTS FROM TERRORIST AND VIOLENT EXTREMIST GROUPS



Faced with the rise of violent extremism stemming from secessionist and separatist groups in the South-West and North-West regions, as well as the terrorist activities of Boko Haram in northern Cameroon, the country implemented an innovative initiative in 2018. It established Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) centers in affected regions to persuade young individuals involved in terrorist and violent extremist activities to lay down their arms, learn a trade, and reintegrate into their communities.

On December 18, 2024, the National Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Committee (NDDRC) launched a series of significant activities as part of its mission. These events coincided with the sixth anniversary of its establishment. According to NDDRC reports a total of 708 former Boko Haram combatants were reintegrated into society after receiving vocational training at the DDR Center in Maroua. The graduation ceremony, presided over by Mr. Fai Yengo Francis, National Coordinator of the DDR, was held in Mora, Mayo-Sava Department, in the Far

North region of Cameroon. Based on the reports, among those reintegrated into the community were 103 men, 176 women, and 429 children.

The vocational training provided at the regional DDR Center equipped former combatants with skills for various income-generating activities, helping them escape poverty and resist re-engagement with criminal groups. To this end, each former combatant received a professional toolkit from the National Coordinator to facilitate the practice of their newly acquired trade. The DDR National Center's Monitoring

and Evaluation Unit is tasked with overseeing the social reintegration of these ex-combatants.

As of November 30, 2024, 4,075 Boko Haram combatants had abandoned terrorist activities to join DDR centers established in three regions of the country: Buea (South-West), Bamenda (North-West), and Mora (Far North). Among these, the Mora Center accommodates the largest number of combatants, with 2,967, followed by Buea with 589 and Bamenda with 519.

STRENGTHENING CRIME ANALYSIS: NCO AND UNAFRI JOIN FORCES



Participants at the National Crime Observatory of Morocco (NCO) symposium

The National Crime Observatory of Morocco (NCO) has solidified its role in advancing crime analysis and prevention through a dynamic partnership with the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI). The two institutions recently hosted an International Symposium on November 15-16, 2024, in Rabat, under the theme: “The Role of Scientific Research in Measuring Crime and Analysing Criminal Phenomena.”

A MILESTONE EVENT UNDER HIGH PATRONAGE

The symposium, held under the high patronage of the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Higher Education of the Kingdom of Morocco, brought together over 100 experts from

Morocco and around the globe. This landmark event highlighted the creation of the NCO as a pivotal step toward modernizing Morocco's judicial and criminal justice system. It also paved the way for critical bilateral agreements, including the signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and partnership conventions between the Ministry of Justice, the NCO, universities, and research centres.

In their opening remarks, Abdellatif Ouahbi, Minister of Justice, and Azzedine El Midaoui, Minister of Higher Education, commended the symposium participants for their dedication to bridging academia and the justice system. They emphasized the importance of scientific research in understanding and tackling criminal phe-

nomena. Special recognition was given to Dr. Édouard Kitio, Director General of UNAFRI, for his presence as the guest of honor. The Ministers underscored the need for a robust Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Justice and UNAFRI to better coordinate efforts in crime prevention and criminal justice across Africa.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SYMPOSIUM

The symposium featured five thematic panels over two days:

Day 1

- Panel 1: Statistical Approaches to Measuring and Analyzing Crime Trends.
- Panel 2: Understanding Crime: Qualitative Approaches to Analyzing Criminal Phenomena.

Day 2

- Panel 3: Criminogenic Factors and Crime Analysis.
- Panel 4: International Best Practices in Developing Scientific Laboratories and Forums on Criminal Phenomena.
- Panel 5: National Best Practices for Developing Scientific Laboratories and Forums on Criminal Phenomena.

Expert contributions covered a wide range of topics, including Morocco's experience with the NCO, France's approach to data collection and analysis, and methodologies for measuring crime trends through international frameworks such as the SPACE initiative and the European Sourcebook. The panels also explored emerging disciplines like sociocriminology, psychocriminology, and neurocriminology.

On the second day, discussions centered on criminogenic factors, including psychological and environmental drivers of violent crime, socioeconomic determinants of criminal behavior, and strategies to address unreported crime through victimization studies. International experiences from Saudi Arabia, Denmark, and France, as well as the normative work of the Council of Europe, were presented as benchmarks for Morocco's ongoing efforts.

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The symposium concluded with vibrant discussions and practical recommendations to address the challenges faced by the NCO. Notably, the need for sustainable funding was highlighted to ensure the Observatory's long-term success. In a symbolic gesture, Hicham Melati, Director of Criminal Affairs, Pardons, and Crime Observation, presented Dr. Kitio with a beautifully crafted judicial map of Morocco. This act underscored the strong bonds forged between NCO and UNAFRI during the symposium. The partnership promises to yield innovative projects aimed at advancing crime prevention and justice in Africa, formalized in the memorandum of understanding set to be signed soon.

LOOKING AHEAD

The collaboration between the NCO and UNAFRI marks a new chapter in leveraging scientific research for impactful crime prevention and justice reforms. This partnership not only strengthens Morocco's judicial modernization efforts but also positions the NCO as a key player in addressing criminal phenomena on a continental scale.



UNAFRI AND KENYA NATIONAL CRIME RESEARCH CENTRE FORGE PARTNERSHIP FOR CRIME PREVENTION AND RESEARCH



In a promising development for crime prevention and research in Africa, the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) held a productive virtual meeting with the Kenya National Crime Research Centre. This meeting was convened at the request of the Kenyan delegation, whose members were eager to explore potential collaboration with UNAFRI in addressing shared challenges related to crime and security across the continent.

Introducing the Kenya National Research Centre The CEO of the Kenya National Crime Research Centre introduced his organization, highlighting its unique role in Kenya and across Africa. Established by an Act of Parliament in 1997 and operational since 2013, the Centre is the only state agency in Kenya and one of the few in Africa dedicated exclusively to research on the causes and prevention of crime. The Centre plays a pivotal role in advising Kenya's criminal justice system and government on crime-related issues, thereby helping to shape policies that address emerging crime trends and national security challenges.

The Centre's Governing Council includes high-ranking officials from Kenya's justice sector, such as the Attorney General, Chief Justice, Inspector General of Police, Commissioner General of Prisons, and Director of Public Prosecutions, as well as representatives from the children's

department, social services, and academia. This multidisciplinary governance structure reflects the Centre's commitment to an integrated approach to crime prevention, informed by contributions from various sectors.

The Centre's core functions include conducting targeted research, building capacity within the criminal justice system, informing policy decisions, and consolidating data on crime across Kenya. Through strategic collaborations with international organizations, including UNODC, UNDP, and other UN agencies, the Centre supports evidence-based policy development and national crime management efforts.

UNAFRI AND THE VISION FOR COLLABORATION

UNAFRI's mission to promote effective crime prevention and justice systems across Africa aligns closely with the objectives of the Kenya National Crime Research Centre. During the meeting, UNAFRI shared an overview of its own programs, which focus on advancing research, providing training, and building policy-relevant knowledge across African countries in matters related to crime prevention and criminal justice.

Recognizing the synergies between the two institutions, the CEO of the Kenya National Research Centre emphasized the value of a partnership with UNAFRI. He proposed col-

laborative efforts in conducting comparative research and sharing best practices to strengthen crime prevention efforts and policy impact. Additionally, the Centre expressed interest in participating in UNAFRI's training and research programs, with the goal of expanding the skills and expertise of its researchers.

Mr. Opio from the Centre highlighted several potential areas of collaboration, including studies on border security issues in Kenya's Karamoja region, an area of shared interest. The Centre's focus on addressing emerging threats and national security priorities offers fertile ground for joint research with UNAFRI, allowing both institutions to contribute to a safer and more secure Africa.

NEXT STEPS AND A SHARED PATH FORWARD

Both UNAFRI and the Kenya National Crime Research Centre agreed on the importance of formalizing their collaboration through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This framework will establish guidelines for joint research projects, capacity-building programs, and data-sharing initiatives, enhancing both institutions' abilities to address pressing crime and security issues.

UNAFRI is thrilled to embark on this journey with the Kenya National Crime Research Centre, building a partnership that reflects a shared commitment to a safer, more resilient Africa.

JOINT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ERSUMA-UNAFRI "Cross-Border Economic Crime: Strategies for Exiting the Crisis"



The United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) in partnership with the Higher Regional School of Magistracy (ERSUMA) of the Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa (OHADA), organized an International Conference on 5th December 2024.

OBJECTIVES:

The conference had the following objectives:

1. To enhance understanding of the scope and scale of economic crimes that transcend national borders within West and central Africa, including their impact on economic development, governance, and security.

2. Encourage stakeholders to recognize the economic and social consequences of such crimes and emphasize the need for regional coordination in addressing them.

3. To facilitate the exchange of successful strategies, policies, and practices from within and outside the region aimed at preventing and combating cross-border economic crimes.

4. To discuss the importance of cross-border cooperation between West and central African nations, regional organizations (such as ECOWAS), and international partners in tackling economic crimes.

5. To assess current legal and regulatory frameworks within West and central Africa and iden-

tify gaps in combating cross-border economic crimes.

MODERATOR:

Dr. Édouard KITIO, Doctor of Private Law, Senior Magistrate, Director General of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI)

SUB- THEMES:

AXIS 1:

The faces of cross-border economic crime and its impact on the development of the African continent;

by Ms. Uguette PÉTILLION, Doctor of Law, Lawyer at the La Rochelle Bar, Partner MGBP Avocats France

AXIS 2:

International, regional and national legal instruments to combat cross-border economic crime; by Magatte DIOP, Magistrate, President of Chamber at the Court of Appeal of Dakar- Senegal;

AXIS 3:

The State response mechanism to cross-border economic crime;

by Prof. Adamou RABANI, Associate Professor of Law, Senior Lecturer at the University of Tahoua Niger;

AXIS 4:

International police and judicial cooperation in the fight against cross-border economic crime; by ACAKPO Mahuna Franck Ghislain, Police Commissioner of 1era class, Deputy Head of the Economic and Financial Brigade - Benin.