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Crime prevention and criminal justice**African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the
Treatment of Offenders****Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 58/139 of 22 December 2003 and contains proposals to strengthen the programmes and activities of the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. It focuses on the major activities of the Institute: (a) general direction and management; (b) research and policy development; (c) training and human resource development; (d) information and documentation; (e) advisory services to Governments; and (f) international cooperation and joint activities. The report also covers initiatives aimed at ensuring more stable and sustainable funding for the Institute and activities aimed at making its member States aware of the need to adhere to existing international crime prevention and criminal justice instruments.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 58/139 of 22 December 2003. It focuses on the activities, operations and funding of the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and includes the Institute's activities to raise awareness and promote adherence of member States to relevant international conventions, following an assessment of individual countries' needs and incorporation of appropriate measures into national action plans for crime prevention and criminal justice.

2. The rampant spread of crime across national borders and its increasingly sophisticated nature are making enhanced cooperation between States and their law enforcement agencies, under various international and regional initiatives, more essential now than ever before. Crime constitutes a major preoccupation of Governments, as it poses serious threats not only to the security and sovereignty of States but also to the quality of life through disruption of and wanton interference in the sustainable provision of social services, the emergence of institutions of good governance and the promotion of democracy and a culture of the rule of law. Effective law enforcement and the equitable administration of criminal justice are generally compromised owing to lack of capacity of institutions and their vulnerability to manipulation by criminal elements. Africa is suffering from the growing problem of crime, including criminal activities related to transnational organized crime. The ongoing efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in particular through its global programmes against trafficking in human beings and corruption and in relation to the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I), as well as other multilateral agreements and arrangements, have contributed to the establishment of legal frameworks for the maintenance of the rule of law, a prerequisite for stability and development.

3. The general consensus that has been generated in the combat against crime, including terrorism, has created an international pattern of networks working together to prevent crime. The emergence of a culture of the rule of law and the application and adoption of common strategies in the development of capacity-building for law enforcement and judicial cooperation among nations is a necessary prerequisite in the search to establish new and to consolidate existing partnerships premised on regional cooperation in pursuit of sustained remedial action against transnational organized crime.

4. The problem of crime in Africa is complicated by several characteristics unique to the region, including high levels of illiteracy, civil conflicts, natural disasters, poverty, poor communication links, lack of social infrastructure, traditional attitudes and activities, including gender bias, weak civil and public sectors vulnerable to corruption, poor and archaic legislation and low levels of technological operation. The consequence of all this is an inadequate ability to detect, investigate and prosecute crime, a poor standard of correctional capacity and facilities for offenders, including juveniles, and finally the emergence of criminal groups. The incidence of crime in Africa is further complicated by the fact that Africa is a vast virgin area open to the activities of organized criminal groups. Africa is affected in many ways by organized crime: it is both a region where

transnational organized crime operates and a source of organized criminal groups, as well as a victim of transnational organized crime.

5. The phenomenon of global cooperation and the parallel development of tele-technology has brought with it challenges created by the opportunistic permeation of criminal activity and its exploitation of the global systems themselves. The limits of the reach of criminal gangs are no longer even transnational: their activities transcend continents and civilizations and their operations are growing more subtle and sophisticated. In view of the ever-increasing incidence of cross-border criminal activity, improved collaboration in crime prevention and criminal justice is urgently needed at the regional and subregional levels. Regional cooperation has become an effective tool of problem-solving and has taken precedence over all other initiatives in that respect. The African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, as a member of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network in the Africa region, can become a tool for addressing the specific crime prevention and criminal justice needs of the region and for promoting effective and active cooperation between African Governments in that respect.

6. During the period under review, the Institute continued to receive political support from its member States, its Governing Board, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union, the General Assembly and other interested parties, including the private and civil sectors. The support and assistance received, including partnerships with donor Governments and agencies, have enabled the Institute to implement and participate in a number of crucial activities. The Institute continues its efforts to consolidate cooperation with member States in order to develop joint programmes of action based on individual national requirements in the area of crime prevention, using the international legal instruments as an effective means to address the crime problem.

7. The Institute continued to operate against a background of financial difficulties arising from the lack of effective response to their financial obligations by member States. However, the growing awareness of the activities of the Institute among member States and other interested parties has improved perceptions of the Institute, which has in turn been reflected in the improved level of response to the Institute's call to countries to join in the implementation of programmes of mutual concern in the area of crime prevention. It is hoped that the strategy of engaging the Institute's constituents individually in specific programmes and activities will ultimately translate into financial support and boost the capacity of the Institute to provide the mandated services.

II. Programme activities

A. Governing Board

8. The ninth session of the Governing Board of the Institute was held in Kampala on 21 and 22 June 2004. The Board expressed its appreciation to the General Assembly for its continued support to the Institute, in particular for the United Nations grant, which is vital for sustaining the Institute. The Board expressed satisfaction with the Institute's proposals for a sustained drive to gain crucial

support from member States and others concerned and called for enhanced cooperation between member States and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in that respect.

9. The Governing Board urged member States to meet their financial responsibility to the Institute and called on those countries which had not yet acceded to the statute of the Institute to become members. The Board advised the Institute to explore means of mobilizing further support for its programmes from non-traditional sources.

B. General direction and management

10. The programme of activities aimed at improving further the current perception of the Institute by member States and other concerned parties continued during the period under review. Proposals for joint execution of bilateral projects with such parties were processed and implemented. The Institute also worked to develop its network of partnerships in the region and provided advisory services on emerging international crime-related issues and in support of law enforcement systems, which are often inadequate to cope with the current levels and sophistication of crime.

11. On the initiative of the Governing Board, substantial efforts have been made to visit various capitals and approach African delegations to regional and international meetings in order to mobilize resources and also to assess the needs of the countries concerned as regards promotion of stable and viable criminal justice systems and enhancing their ability to combat the growing threat of transnational organized crime through strengthened regional cooperation. This growing concern has been internalized in the operational structure of the Institute and in that respect contacts with the African and other diplomatic missions in Kampala and Addis Ababa have been enhanced through visits for coordination, cooperation and consultation purposes with a view to enhancing prospects for strengthened support.

12. As a result of this move, the Institute has received, inter alia, a delegation from Zambia, headed by the Commissioner of the Zambian Prisons Service, Jethro K. Mumbuwa, on 20 March 2003; the High Commissioner of India on 18 November 2003; a delegation from Lesotho, headed by Justice Monapathi, of the High Court of Lesotho, on 25 May 2004; and most recently a delegation from the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda on 2 July 2004. The feasibility of joint activities in the areas such as prisons and community service was discussed with the institutions and countries represented.

13. The task of developing capacity and improving the ability of the Institute to offer the required services to its member States has been highlighted as a major means of reaching out to interested partners. A staff competence analysis exercise has been launched and is expected to upgrade the skills of staff as the Institute responds to requests for services from its members and improves its image as a source of expertise, in particular in the area of new crime trends. The unique and constantly changing environment in the region, torn between civil anarchy and outright criminal vandalism, has made it necessary to develop tailor-made and pragmatic crime prevention and criminal justice programmes in accordance with the emerging needs of various sectors in the region. Currently the Institute has project proposals awaiting funding on a variety of themes, including terrorism, trafficking

in women and children and combating and eliminating kidnapping. The project proposals were developed as a result of a study undertaken by the Institute to assess the needs of its member States in crime prevention.

14. The Government of Uganda continued to offer valuable assistance, guidance and political support to the Institute, as also to honour its commitment to provide facilities in accordance with the host agreement. The Institute has benefited considerably from the continued political and material support provided by the host Government.

C. Crime prevention and criminal justice activities

15. The main focus of the activities of the Institute has been on the individual needs of member States and the growing awareness that new trends in crime are elusive, making effective crime prevention strategies essential as a necessary planning component in the process of sustainable socio-economic development. Within its available means, the Institute has reached out to member States by conducting advisory missions with a view to identifying, studying and developing appropriate remedial action to address the crime problem. Such missions were organized to Bamako in April 2003; to Ouagadougou in April 2003; to Cairo in August 2003; to Addis Ababa in August 2003; to Abuja in August 2003; and to Dar es Salaam in May 2004. Subsequently, workshops were organized in Burkina Faso and Mali in the period following the advisory missions in order to train trainers in areas of concern for each country in relation to the prevalence of transnational criminality and the need for concerted action at the regional and subregional levels, using the United Nations conventions and their protocols as effective means to combat crime. It is anticipated that such national workshops will eventually lead to the holding of subregional and regional workshops aimed at encouraging adherence to and implementation of the international instruments in the African region, in particular the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto as well as the United Nations Convention against Corruption (General Assembly resolution 58/4, annex).

1. Extradition and mutual legal assistance conventions

16. The Institute has continued to pursue its efforts to complete the final and crucial stages of the extradition and mutual legal assistance projects, supported by the United States Government through its Departments of State and Justice. Efforts are under way to arrange an expert/ministerial meeting to discuss the draft conventions on extradition and mutual legal assistance for subsequent consideration by the Council of Ministers and Summit of African Leaders of the African Union. The Institute is at decisive stages of discussion with the relevant authorities of the Union regarding the final approval of the two regional instruments.

2. Trafficking in firearms and ammunition in Africa

17. This project has also been implemented jointly by the Institute with the support of the United States Government through its Departments of State and Justice. The need for a firearms control centre in the African region was emphasized in the preliminary recommendations made by experts and delegates of member

States at workshops as a viable means to coordinate regional efforts to combat the growing problem of arms proliferation and the attendant risk of instability. The proposal for the development of the firearms control centre is now ready for discussion with prospective donors and interested partners, including civil society, the public sector and multilateral agencies.

18. The Institute has also continued to participate in the regional and international discussions regarding viable solutions to the escalating problem of firearms. However, the lawlessness that is spreading in the region has had a very negative impact on the search for a lasting solution with respect to establishing a reliable mechanism to restore the rule of law and security. However, efforts are being made in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Economic Community of West African States to promote ratification of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (General Assembly resolution 55/255 (annex)).

D. Other activities

1. Effective cooperation between the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and its partners

19. Since the Institute launched its study to identify a sustainable flow of resources to support and boost its capacity to implement programmes of mutual concern with its partners, a number of contacts have been formalized with the academic, civil, private and human rights organizations. The Institute implementing the recommendations made by various entities concerning the creation of a database for national and local focal points, which will benefit from maintaining a constant dialogue, while the Institute can make use of the relevant information in the database. A number of countries and organizations have called for an increased flow of information and services from the Institute to their capitals and the development of partnerships at the local and regional levels will significantly address that request. The report of the study is in press.

2. United Nations survey on kidnapping

20. As part of the United Nations study on the effects of kidnapping in Africa, the Institute sent questionnaires to several African countries, in fulfilment of its role as a component of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network and in order to foster closer cooperation and provision of technical support among members of the network. Although communication and logistic difficulties in the Africa region have delayed receipt of the responses to the survey, alternative avenues are being worked out to overcome the difficulties encountered.

3. Survey of the research interests of member States

21. The survey of the research interests of member States revealed the concern of African countries as regards the threat of transnational organized crime and terrorism. The Institute continues to raise the awareness of countries of the region

and to receive requests on how to combat transnational organized crime and terrorism, including provision of technical assistance by the Institute in incorporating the international instruments into national legislation and enhanced cooperation at various levels among the organs of state security. Mali has benefited from such assistance and it is expected that it will be extended to Benin, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda later in 2004.

4. Workshop on effective and sustainable strategies in crime prevention

22. The workshop on effective and sustainable strategies in crime prevention was the first in a series of activities to assist the Secretary-General in encouraging member States in Africa to utilize and implement the United Nations instruments on crime prevention and criminal justice. The workshop stressed the need for advisory meetings to be held at various levels to raise the awareness and interest of countries, as well as to give them an opportunity to ensure that their concerns are ultimately reflected in the implementation of the international instruments. The Institute offers technical assistance in the incorporation of the provisions of the international instruments into local legislation and national action plans. This strategy was designed by the Institute to reach every member State, either individually or as a group at the subregional level in order to develop a culture of uniform application of international legal provisions to meet specific local and regional challenges. Following the workshop, held at the headquarters of the Institute for various partners involved in crime prevention in Uganda, arrangements are being made to organize a similar seminar in Addis Ababa, to be held during 2004, and in other countries of the region in 2005.

5. Trafficking in women and children

23. The project on trafficking in women and children was another activity intended to assist member States of the Institute in implementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and, in particular, its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex II). The problem of trafficking in women and children is one of the most vicious forms of crime, controlled by a rapidly growing and highly organized criminal network that is already operating in several countries of the region with near impunity. The Institute provided technical assistance in efforts to translate the Convention into national action plans and such advisory services will be replicated in other countries. In cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Institute is exploring the possibility of carrying out a study in the region, the findings of which would be disseminated throughout the region by means of seminars or workshops. A request for technical assistance from the Democratic Republic of Congo will be responded to as soon as possible.

6. Social work in prisons

24. In cooperation with the Uganda Prison Service, the Institute developed and organized a six-week induction course for welfare and rehabilitation officers from 21 May to 1 July 2004. The contribution of the Institute concerned social work in prisons. A certificate of attendance was awarded to candidates who achieved satisfactory results on a test. This was the first in a series of specialized courses the

Institute intends to offer to its member States. Courses are being designed and discussions are under way to determine whether, funds permitting, the courses should be organized in the Institute following the renovation of the available facilities, or be held in the different countries. The latter will probably be the case for the course to be held in October 2004 for staff of the Department of Prisons of the United Republic of Tanzania, following its request for technical assistance in the area of data collection, analysis and reporting.

E. International cooperation and partnership

25. The Institute has maintained close cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. As a member of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, it has continued to participate in the activities of the network. It also participated in the preparatory seminar for the *World Crime and Justice Report 2004-2005*, held in Turin, Italy, on 27 and 28 June 2003. Preparations are being made for the forthcoming meeting in Riyadh.

26. At the thirteenth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Vienna from 11 to 20 May 2004, the Institute was represented and participated in all the workshops. At the Workshop on the Rule of Law and Development, organized by the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, the representative of the Institute delivered a paper on crime and development in Africa.

27. The Institute was represented at the African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Addis Ababa from 1 to 3 March 2004. The Director addressed the meeting on issues pertaining to the Institute. Useful recommendations were made by delegates on opportunities available for bilateral, subregional and regional cooperation with the Institute on issues of crime prevention.

28. The Institute continued its participation in various meetings, including, in addition to those already mentioned, the following seminars and conferences at the subregional, regional and international levels: the fourth session of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Negotiation of a Convention against Corruption (Vienna, 13-21 January 2003); the session on social affairs and labour of the African Union (Mauritius, 10-15 April 2003); and the International Conference on Sustainable Safety: Municipalities at the Crossroad (Ethekwini, South Africa, 25-28 November 2003). An attendant benefit afforded by these meetings was the opportunity to explore new contacts and to consolidate existing partnerships in pursuit of joint cooperation with possible donors, including the private and civil sectors.

III. Funding and support

29. The total resources of the Institute for the biennium 2002-2003 amounted to \$1,026,215.63, consisting of: (a) assessed contributions of member States (\$578,123.55); (b) the United Nations grant for the biennium 2002-2003 (\$380,300); and (c) other income received from rental of Institute premises and interest on deposits (\$68,092.08).

30. For the period from January to June 2004, the total resources of the Institute amounted to \$361,096.38, consisting of: (a) assessed contributions of member States (\$25,379; received between January and June 2004); (b) the 2004 portion of the United Nations grant (\$323,800; allotment received by the Economic Commission for Africa); and (c) other income received from rental of Institute premises and interest on deposits (\$11,917.38).

A. Assessed financial contributions of member States

31. The Governments of Burkina Faso, the Gambia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nigeria, Senegal, Tunisia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania paid their assessed contributions and arrears for the period 2002-2003, which amounted to \$578,124. As at 31 December 2003, out of total assessed contributions of \$3,594,766 for the period 1989-2003, only \$1,011,565.35 had been received, leaving an outstanding balance of \$2,583,200.65. For the period from January to June 2004, only \$25,379 had been received, from the following member States: Gambia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Projected income from this source during the biennium 2004-2005 is \$524,900.

32. During the ninth meeting of the Governing Board of the Institute, held in Kampala on 21 and 22 June 2004, concern was expressed at the high level of indebtedness of most member States. The Board directed the secretariat of the Institute to write to all those member States which had never paid any assessed contributions to ask whether they were still interested in being members of the Institute. The Governing Board requested that an external review of the Institute be undertaken to evaluate its performance in relation to the mandated objectives of its establishment. The review will examine the structure, objectives and operations of the Institute with a view to upgrading its relevance, performance and acceptability to member States.

B. United Nations grant

33. The United Nations grant to the Institute was continued in the biennium 2004-2005, increasing from \$380,300 in the previous biennium (2002-2003) to \$447,900 (after adjustment for inflation). This amount will cover the salaries of the five core Professional staff of the Institute (the Director, Deputy Director, Training and Human Resource Development Adviser, Administrative/Finance Officer and Information/Documentation Adviser).

C. Other sources of income

34. During the period from January 2002 to December 2003, the Institute generated income amounting to \$68,092.08 from rental of its facilities. For the period from January to June 2004, only \$11,917.38 has so far been received. The projected income from this source for the biennium 2004-2005 is \$50,000.

IV. The future of the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

35. The future of the Institute depends for the most part on support from its member States. Such support will definitely encourage the major donors at the United Nations and the donor community in general, which in turn could enable the Institute to design and implement different programmes in the region.

36. While the capacity of the Institute to reach out to its member States is still limited, its future and sustainability depend to a large extent on improved contacts with and greater mobilization of its member States. Consequently, in addition to the traditional means of making the Institute and its work known, by publication of reports of seminars and workshops and participation in regional and international conferences, fact-finding, advisory and assessment missions to African capitals should also continue. In effect, such visits provide opportunities to advocate and embark on the development of specific programmes and cooperation activities with the authorities concerned at the national level. The continued support of the member States of the Institute and its success in involving other entities and agencies both within the United Nations system and outside, in particular the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union, as well as the donor community and other partners, could make a significant contribution to strengthening the position of the Institute and could enhance the commitment of and the links with its partners in the region.

V. Strategies for sustaining the Institute

37. In its resolution 58/139, the General Assembly commended the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders for its efforts to promote and coordinate regional technical cooperation activities related to crime prevention and criminal justice in Africa; commended the Secretary-General for his efforts to mobilize the financial resources necessary to provide the Institute with the core professional staff required to enable it to function effectively in the fulfilment of its mandated obligations; reiterated the need to strengthen further the capacity of the Institute to support national mechanisms for crime prevention and criminal justice in African countries; urged the member States of the Institute to make every possible effort to meet their obligations to the Institute and called upon all member States and non-governmental organizations to adopt concrete practical measures to support the Institute in the development of the requisite capacity to implement its programmes and activities aimed at strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice systems in Africa; and requested the Secretary-General to intensify efforts to mobilize all relevant entities of the United Nations system to provide the necessary financial and technical support to the Institute to enable it to fulfil its mandate.

38. Pursuant to resolution 58/139, special efforts have been made to collect assessed contributions from member States. Also, as recommended by the Governing Board at its eighth session, the Chairman of the Board and the Director of the Institute will continue to visit the capitals of the States of the region with a view to discussing specific modalities of cooperation and financial support.

39. The optimal utilization of available resources in conformity with the Institute's medium-term strategy and plan of action by, inter alia, organizing advisory missions to member States upon request should help to obtain the required financial and political support for the execution of agreed activities. This should also help the Institute to promote a continuing dialogue with its partners and thus encourage member States to honour their obligations and pay their assessed financial contributions on a regular basis.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

40. **The concerted efforts of the Governing Board, the Institute's partners and the continued support given to the Institute by the General Assembly in various resolutions, most recently resolutions 57/172 of 2002 and 58/139, have enabled the Institute to adopt a more focused and pragmatic approach to its future development. In order to give form to the vision and mission of the Institute as set forth in its approved medium-term strategy and plan of action for the period 2002-2007, the following specific proposals are made to strengthen the Institute's capacity to fulfil its mandate:**

(a) **The Institute should continue to focus its substantive programme of work on specific projects and activities in areas where it has technical competence and a comparative advantage in the African region. In that connection, the Institute should focus its efforts on continuing to develop its expertise and competence related to the crime issues affecting the African region, in particular, but not exclusively, in the following areas: promotion of the rule of law, prevention and control of transnational organized crime, of corruption and of trafficking in human beings and small arms, combating terrorism, modernization of juvenile justice systems and criminal justice reform;**

(b) **The Institute should continue its endeavours to identify new and emerging threats to peace, security and justice in the region and should conduct awareness-raising campaigns, as required, in order to encourage the development of appropriate crime prevention measures to contribute to sustainable development;**

(c) **The Institute should further develop and sustain its campaign to mobilize political and material support from its member States. To that end, it should provide sufficient information to the Governments concerned, at the highest levels of civil authority, that is, heads of government and ministries of foreign affairs, of justice, of the interior and of health, in order to promote commitment to, support for and further strengthening of the programmes of the Institute;**

(d) **The Institute should continue to develop and implement a vigorous marketing strategy through both the electronic and the print media, to include updating of its web site. Measures designed to inform and involve the relevant public authorities, including the police and other actors in the criminal justice systems of the countries of the region, should be adopted. Efforts should also be devoted to raising awareness of the issues of crime and criminal justice dealt by the Institute through, inter alia, a special alliance with the media and the press;**

(e) Through its advocacy and awareness-raising efforts, the Institute should continue to inform its member States about its technical competence and expertise and its readiness to engage in the provision of technical assistance at the national, subregional and regional levels;

(f) Member States of the Institute should be urged to meet their financial obligations so as to show their support to the Institute and thus attract additional funding from other sources.

(g) The Institute and its Governing Board should consider possible measures vis-à-vis member States of the Institute that consistently fail to meet their financial obligations and, at the same time, should explore new initiatives to deal with the long-standing arrears of assessed contributions. Such measures could include exceptional contributions designed to wipe out long-standing arrears and commitments to regular future contributions at reassessed levels and/or project-specific contributions;

(h) The close cooperation and partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and with the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network should be further strengthened, so that the Institute can work as a partner in the implementation by the Office of technical assistance activities in the region;

(i) The Institute and its Governing Board should consider possible areas of cooperation and synergies with the African Union, as well as with other intergovernmental, international and regional financial institutions engaged in development assistance and/or crime prevention and criminal justice activities in the region, in particular the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank. In addition, efforts to draw further support from bilateral and other donors should be maintained;

(j) The Institute should continue its advocacy efforts to encourage development agencies working in the region to incorporate crime prevention and criminal justice concerns into their development cooperation programmes in view of the threat posed by the forces of “uncivil” society to sustainable development and should explore possibilities for joint activities aimed at effective implementation of development programmes in Africa.