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Crime prevention and criminal justice

United Nations 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 [75/197](#). It describes the efforts undertaken by the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders to advance the regional crime prevention and criminal justice framework and promote the rule of law and human rights in the administration of justice. The report makes explicit linkages between the work of the Institute and the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, examines the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the operations of the Institute, and describes the efforts undertaken by the Institute to mobilize resources.

* [A/77/50](#)



I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution [75/197](#), in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its seventy-seventh session, a report on the implementation of the resolution, including recommendations on further strengthening the capacity of the Institute. In the same resolution, the Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to enhance cooperation, mobilize financial resources and mobilize entities to provide support, and requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to work closely with the Institute.

2. The report contains a summary of the activities undertaken by the Institute since mid-2020 and an analysis of crime and its detrimental effects on the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa. It also links the Institute's activities to selected themes of the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹ which calls for a comprehensive and multilateral approach in preventing and combating crime. The report describes the efforts undertaken by the Institute to promote international guidelines and initiatives on preventing and responding to crime among African countries, including proposals for strengthening human rights aspects.

3. The report focuses on the period from June 2020 to June 2022, dominated by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which has had a strong impact on States' efforts in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice. The report makes reference to the unique challenges that COVID-19-related emergencies have posed to addressing the crime problem in Africa and examines the collateral effect of the pandemic on domestic relations, institutional operations and criminal justice systems. The report has been prepared against a backdrop of rising levels of violence, unemployment and radicalization, partly a result of the pandemic and related lockdown and other restrictive measures. The report contains proposals by the Institute for a multisectoral approach to providing technical support and expert-guided interventions. It highlights the difficulties of creating a balance between the functioning of law enforcement and the requirements of COVID-19-related safety measures and calls for a fundamental shift in the strategies for law enforcement interventions, underscoring the need for financial, logistical and human resources to meet the identified needs. Lastly, the report describes measures for resource mobilization using multiple strategies.

4. The crime problem in Africa has been aggravated by the COVID-19 crisis. Since March 2020, when the global pandemic was declared, mitigation strategies have continued to define policies, with wide-ranging effects on society, the economy and human rights. Lockdown measures, in combination with pre-existing factors, such as poverty, unemployment and social inequality, have caused a reduction in some types of crime and an increase in others. For instance, there was a decrease in theft in the early stages of the pandemic, due to diminished access to public spaces, and there have been increases in cybercrime and in the risk of domestic violence.² With regard to organized crime, in several countries around the world, including in the African region, organized criminal groups were seen attempting to strengthen their reputation as "bona fide" protectors during the first weeks of lockdown by delivering aid packages to underprivileged families.³ Regarding wildlife crime, in areas where conservation is largely funded by tourism, for example, conservancies and national

¹ General Assembly resolution [76/181](#), annex.

² United Nations, Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, *How COVID-19 is Changing the World: A Statistical Perspective*, vol. III, p. 60; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), "Research brief: effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions on homicide and property crime" (Vienna, 2020); UNODC, "Research brief: what crime and helpline data say about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on reported violence against women and girls" (Vienna, 2020).

³ UNODC, "Research brief: the impact of COVID-19 on organized crime" (Vienna, 2020).

parks, the dramatic decline in tourism revenue experienced during the pandemic jeopardized the availability of funding and the regularity of anti-poaching patrols, thus potentially creating a security vacuum that may have led to increases in poaching.⁴

5. There is a need for extraordinary interventions in order to address the challenges faced by the many countries still heavily impacted by the pandemic. The Institute offers capacity-building for the development of skills at the national level, including through peer-to-peer learning and the sharing of national experience. The Institute has also made efforts to involve the private sector, which, owing to its technical capacity for innovation, technology and manufacturing, has an important role to play in addressing crime. Increased investments by the private sector would help the justice sector to acquire technologies, including digital equipment, that are prerequisites for sustaining operations during a pandemic.

6. Adjusting traditional crime prevention practices to unforeseen policy developments in the midst of the pandemic has brought about new challenges for professionals in all disciplines and has considerably increased pressure on the criminal justice sector. This has included the need to maintain essential judicial services, despite restrictions on movement and other restrictive measures to mitigate the spread of infections, and to secure the continuity of law enforcement operations, with due regard to the observance of human rights. It has also entailed managing the tensions between the unprecedented need for the delivery of emergency services and traditional practices based on existing policies, especially in situations where previously untried law enforcement practices have been used at short notice and in extraordinary situations. The Institute's programmes were drawn upon to address these challenges.

II. Governance and management

7. The secretariat of the Institute maintained close contact with the Chair and the States members of the Governing Board of the Institute, especially those with resident missions in Kampala, with a view to receiving guidance on governance issues and the mobilization of support. The visit of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Kampala contributed to the secretariat's efforts to mobilize enhanced support, especially with regard to issues pending with the Governing Board, which included the mobilization of support from Member States, the recruitment of the Director and the implementation of programme activities that had not yet been undertaken. The secretariat intensified its resource mobilization efforts through the nomination of focal points, who have enhanced interactions and relations with the relevant ministries. In a number of these instances, there were indications that the national obligations to support the Institute would be fulfilled.

8. The Chair visited the secretariat in April 2022. The visit allowed her to assess the challenges related to resource mobilization and their impact on the fulfilment of the Institute's goals. The Chair acknowledged the significance of the Institute's programmes for the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa and expressed her commitment to strengthening resource mobilization for the Institute by raising awareness among Member States. She made reference to the meeting involving African Member States in Kinshasa in June 2022, organized and convened by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and other upcoming meetings, which were expected to provide a platform for further appeals for support to the Institute. The Chair reaffirmed her approval for the secretariat to recruit its Director in accordance with the regulations and gave the Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Uganda delegated authority to follow up and attend to all the developments at the secretariat that would require her intervention.

⁴ UNODC, "Preventing future pandemics of zoonotic origin by combating wildlife crime: protecting global health, security and economy" (n.d.).

9. The absence of a director and professional staff since 2010 makes their recruitment a priority matter, with a view to attaining the strategic goals of the Institute. The process of recruitment has reached the stage of shortlisting the possible candidates for the post of Director. The recruitment of the Director will be followed by the recruitment of other professionals to fill the posts of Training and Capacity Development Expert, Research and Policy Development Expert and Information and Documentation Expert.

10. The Chair has appointed a focal point to facilitate the flow of information between the secretariat and her office, as well as with the relevant authorities in the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This has helped the Institute to open up new opportunities for communication and interaction with the authorities, including mechanisms for following up on requests sent by the secretariat to authorities in their area of jurisdiction. The focal point has helped the secretariat to engage informally with the relevant authorities in Kinshasa on substantive matters, in particular during the lockdown period.

11. The Chair also approved the Institute's programme of work, affirming that the programme had been tailored to assist Africa in addressing the crime problem and was a strong mechanism to provide Member States with the technical support they needed in formulating their development plans. The programme of work is focused on three pillars: (a) strengthening the capacity of Member States to address the crime problem; (b) coordinating multisectoral efforts to prevent and address crime, with a focus on the skills and resources of a network of agencies; and (c) mobilizing support and strengthening the human resources of the Institute.

III. Substantive programme and activities

A. Overview

12. The challenges faced by the existing criminal justice infrastructure in African jurisdictions, including in carrying out effective operations and meeting human rights standards, were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictive measures. While COVID-19 mitigation measures had an adverse impact on the criminal justice sector globally, in Africa, they had disproportionately negative consequences. Concerns were also raised about the unintended consequences of the measures, in particular on the most vulnerable populations. The economic consequences of the pandemic have resulted in major cuts in public expenditure, including for legal aid services, which has had a serious impact on the right of citizens to fair and equal access to justice. Moreover, large portions of the population that live in poverty suffered the consequences of the informal economy being on hold. The enforcement of lockdown measures has, in a number of cases, triggered human rights concerns.⁵ Police and other security services have been required to adjust priorities and redistribute resources in order to carry out quarantine checks, enforce social distancing and enact border controls. Conventional practices in the justice sector have been reviewed and adapted to the new challenges, pointing to a shift towards pragmatic and often digital alternatives in the administration of justice, law enforcement and correctional services. Managing these adjustments and related tensions between urgent operational needs and traditional policies can be challenging. Owing to resource limitations in Africa, it is questionable whether in future all judicial courts will be able to adapt to working methods that rely on digital technology.

13. Although in many instances there have been efforts to align routine practices of law enforcement authorities and the judiciary with international conventions that define universally accepted conduct, there still remain areas of deficiency that call for upskilling. The focus of the Institute is to build a strong set of interventions within its programmes, in conjunction with a coalition of experts, to disseminate internationally

⁵ See, for example, [CCPR/C/128/2](#).

accepted best practices that will be adjusted and adopted by various jurisdictions within the region.

B. Activities of the Institute

14. Despite the restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Institute was able to undertake a series of activities that centred largely on: (a) ensuring business continuity and supporting national measures to mitigate the spread of infections; (b) preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Kyoto, Japan, in March 2021; and (c) fulfilling the directives of the seventh extraordinary meeting of the Governing Board, held in Addis Ababa in February 2020.

15. With a view to ensuring business continuity and supporting national measures to mitigate the spread of infections, the Institute disseminated, upon the request of the Government of Uganda, awareness-raising messages among the Institute's staff, their households and the public in immediate proximity to the secretariat. This included active outreach to staff and visitors in order to support national authorities in managing the crisis through observance of national health guidelines and to counter misinformation with respect to the application of available vaccines. The Institute engaged in discussions with local health authorities on specific precautionary measures in order to continue with its programmes, and updated guidance received from authorities in the health sector. In addition, the Institute promoted among its staff alternative work arrangements such as remote working and adapted its working methods by holding its meetings through digital platforms. In the training course entitled "Advanced course in international human rights law and pretrial detention" (see para. 21 below), the adherence to the rule of law in the context of measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 infection was also addressed.

16. The Fourteenth Crime Congress provided an opportunity for the Institute to consolidate its cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network to discuss modalities of joint programming. In the thematic discussion on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration held in November 2021, UNODC reaffirmed its support for the programme network and for the cooperation and mutual support provided by the network, with particular emphasis on curbing radicalization among youth. The participation in the Fourteenth Crime Congress and other events opened up opportunities to strengthen the global partnership in advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law, which materialized, for example, in the support the Institute received from the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, UNODC, CEGA Services and individual experts from Kenya and Malawi during the organization of the training course on international human rights law and pretrial detention.

17. Fulfilling the directives of the seventh extraordinary meeting of the Governing Board on personnel matters, research and policy development, information and documentation was at the centre of the Institute's activities. At that meeting, the Governing Board adopted a resolution on the salient issues discussed and the decisions taken during the meeting. The Board also adopted the secretariat's status report, which detailed the implementation of the road map of programme activities of the Institute, as recommended by external reviewers. The Governing Board identified a lack of resources and a lack of diversity of funding sources as the biggest challenges to the sustainability of the Institute's operations, and called on Member States to assume a more proactive role in all efforts aimed at maintaining the Institute, including through the provision of funding support. In addition, the Board mandated a Technical Advisory Committee to work on enhancing the governance structure of the Institute and to oversee the Institute's development of programmes tailored to the emerging needs of African countries. In addition, the Institute has established a regional forum composed of representatives of institutes from across Africa to discuss issues regarding its operations, governance and sustainability. The key activities

undertaken by the Institute to fulfil the directives of the Governing Board are outlined in the remaining part of the present section, in chronological order.

18. The secretariat continued to hold consultations with and provide briefings to authorities of the host Government, as well as representatives of Member States resident in Kampala, on governance, including follow-up on the status of responses to appeals for support, as well as dissemination of information about available vacancies at the Institute and modalities for appointments to fill available posts. Strategies for making investments in capital development on the land available for the Institute's infrastructural needs were discussed. This was seen as one of the measures enabling the Institute to maximize resources.

19. In the period from April to June 2021, the Institute launched its digital communication system, through which it held an inaugural session focusing on consultations with Member States, selected members of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, individual experts and relevant organizations in preparation for the inaugural meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee, the training course on human rights law and pre-trial detention and other engagements with the programme network, sister agencies and individual experts.

20. The Institute organized the inaugural meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee, held in an online format on 3 May 2021, to discuss the issues of governance, financial support and the recruitment of the Director, as well as other experts for programme implementation. The Committee approved the programme of activities of the Institute, which translates the programme of work into action, pledged to contact the relevant authorities to urge them to fulfil their financial obligations and affirmed support for the recruitment of experts to fill vacant posts at the Institute.

21. The Institute organized a training course entitled "Advanced course in international human rights law and pretrial detention", a pilot capacity-building programme for legal officers, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, correctional (prison) officers, members of civil society and human rights activists, at the its secretariat building from 1 to 18 June 2021. With technical input from the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, UNODC, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, CEGA Services and individual experts from Kenya and Malawi, the course helped to improve participants' understanding of the significance of human rights in the administration of justice, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis and the related challenges it has imposed on the maintenance of law and order. Participants provided positive feedback on the facilitators' insights regarding the compliance of local legislation with regional and international conventions and protocols, in particular United Nations instruments related to human rights in the criminal justice system.

22. The course also enabled the Technical Programmes Implementation Committee of the Institute to strengthen its engagement with criminal justice authorities. For the development of the training modules, the Committee analysed contemporary crime prevention and criminal justice issues, such as increased levels of domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violations of individual rights, which had placed considerable pressure on law enforcement agencies during the lockdown period.

23. Arbitrary and prolonged periods of pretrial detention are indicative of a diminished observance of human rights. Participants in the course observed that justice systems in several African States were characterized by unwarranted heavy reliance on punitive measures, including police custody and pretrial detention in closed institutions. Participants also observed that non-custodial options in sentencing and counselling were relegated to very few instances, noting that that denied many suspects the chance to reform their character, and called for a review of relevant policies. As pointed out during the discussions, the process of reforming pretrial detention practices should involve different groups from within the continent – those that understand and are impacted by Africa's challenges, limitations and realities.

24. The Institute started implementing a technical assistance programme to build capacity relating to practical, home-grown initiatives to make pretrial efforts in Africa more humane, in accordance with regional and international guidelines and instruments. In this regard, the Institute is developing strategies for joint action within the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network to tap into available resources for technical support to facilitate programme implementation for the benefit of African countries.

25. In promoting the rule of law and human rights, the Institute continued to work with the justice sector and law enforcement authorities in Africa with a view to building capacity in international human rights law and pretrial detention, targeting criminal justice personnel in Africa. The above-mentioned training course on international human rights law and pretrial detention is planned to be replicated in all regions of Africa, and the next course, for the South African Development Community region, is scheduled to be held in Seychelles in August 2022. Representatives of the Institute made a pre-workshop visit in June 2022 to discuss the organizational modalities with the host country.

26. The Institute held a regional workshop on judicial cooperation in the prosecution of terrorism and related offences in Kampala from 11 to 15 July 2022 for senior and middle-level criminal justice personnel, including judges and magistrates, prosecutors, investigation officers, law enforcement officers and security personnel, from countries in Eastern Africa, namely, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Seychelles, Sudan, Tanzania (United Republic of), Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. At the workshop, participants presented proposals for interventions that would inform the debate on a continental strategy for the promotion of peace, stability and security in Africa. It is anticipated that increased collaboration among entities that have specialized functions, mandates and capacities and share institutional goals will support the implementation of effective strategies to counter terrorism and will also foster the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa.

27. At the workshop, the following topics were discussed: terrorism financing; issues of jurisdiction (offences committed in one country and prosecuted in another); crime scene management; handling of intelligence in court; the complexity of terrorism offences; investigation and prosecution tools in the prosecution of terrorism cases; witness protection and hostile witnesses; the security of files and of staff involved; human rights issues related to detention powers, including the holding of suspects incommunicado; denial of bail; disclosure of evidence; disruption of terrorist activities through freezing and confiscation of terrorist property; intelligence-gathering and the importance and types of intelligence; source protection; the need-to-know principle; rules governing third parties; the use of intelligence to disrupt terrorist activities; intelligence as part of the investigative process; and how all the aforementioned aspects can be linked to advance the cause of a successful prosecution of terrorism. The training provided capacity-building to participants on the identified topics and on strengthening collaboration among them. The Institute has approached the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law, the United States Department of Justice, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions of Kenya and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions of Uganda, as well as individual experts in the United Republic of Tanzania, regarding collaboration on the training.

28. Similarly, the Institute is developing a partnership with the Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States aimed at mutual cooperation and programmes for the effective control of illicit firearms and regulation of the use of small arms and light weapons in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region. A memorandum of understanding on the modalities of the cooperation is being developed. This concerted effort is aimed at addressing the causes of insecurity and unlocking the potential for growth and socioeconomic development in the region by involving a number of stakeholders. The partners have initiated discussions on the establishment of an African centre on firearms.

29. A training session for the Economic Community of West African States region on gender mainstreaming in preventing and countering crime is to be held in Senegal in September 2022.

30. One of the Institute's plans for future action is the development of a centre of excellence for imparting skills and competencies in crime prevention and criminal justice. To this end, *inter alia*, and preceded by preparations that started in July 2021, the Institute held discussions with the Chair of the Governing Board on 21 October 2021 that led to the appointment of a focal point for the Institute in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (see para. 10 above). This provided an opportunity to discuss financial support from the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, begin discussions on the convening of the twelfth ordinary session of the Governing Board and explore measures for the recovery of outstanding arrears from Member States that would support the establishment of the centre of excellence.

C. Dissemination of information and collaboration

31. The Institute has strengthened its unit for information processing, documentation, storage, security and dissemination to ensure effective information management. The use of digital resources, in particular during the COVID-19 pandemic, has transformed the nature and processes of reaching out to partners. As a crucial component of management, the information and communication techniques used have considerably improved the connectivity of the Institute, enabling it to provide timely responses to outstanding requests and to service the information needs of a variety of partner agencies.

32. Through the use of social media, the Institute has diversified its channels of communication and improved its capacity to disseminate information online in real time.

33. The website of the Institute (www.unafri.or.ug) has been updated and restructured as a flagship tool to reflect the developments at the Institute. It has also helped to launch a new effort to improve the structure and working methods of and information flow within the Institute, raise awareness about the Institute among existing and new partners, highlight the schedule of planned activities and increase the potential for networking, including for resource mobilization and other forms of support. The recent call for applications from prospective candidates for the post of Director of the Institute was facilitated through digital platforms.

34. Similarly, the quarterly editions of the Institute's newsletter have been digitized to make them available on modern telecommunications platforms. Regular mandatory maintenance of electronic communication systems is carried out to ensure sustainability and security against invasive malware attacks.

35. The Institute is working on digitalizing its library to make its resources available online. Similarly, the Institute has developed a powerful tool for the live-streaming of media. Events such as the official visit of the Chair of the Governing Board, the thematic discussion on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration by the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, and other routine engagements within the programme network, including the launch of the programme network's PNI Newsletter (see para. 36 below), were facilitated online and live-streamed. The Institute aims to also avail itself of this service on its website, to enable its partners to attend all events online in real time. This new information management system, which handles the Institute's entire online database, is expected to help the Institute manage content at a minimal cost.

36. The Institute is a member of the Editorial Board of the PNI Newsletter, a bulletin of all the institutes of the programme network. The newsletter serves as a common platform for general and technical information on accomplishments made in implementing United Nations programmes on crime prevention and criminal justice. In May 2022, the Institute participated in the launch of the PNI Newsletter at a side

event held on the margins of the thirty-first session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The event was attended by officials from, inter alia, UNODC, the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the Thailand Institute of Justice, the Australian Institute of Criminology, the Institute and the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy. The newsletter consolidates the programme network members' shared commitment to fight crime in all its forms and provides a tool to raise visibility of the work of the institutes of the network and strengthen partnerships within the United Nations system. Since October 2021, the Institute has also published its own newsletter.⁶

IV. International cooperation and partnerships

37. The current global interconnectedness makes cooperation among States in matters of crime prevention and criminal justice a necessity. The transnational dimension of crime requires that jurisdictions in Africa utilize available regional and global networks in order to benefit from cooperation and the sharing of identified good practices. One of the Institute's focus areas is to promote the rule of law and the observance of internationally accepted minimum standards of operation in law enforcement, correctional processes and the discharge of judicial responsibilities.

38. Recent engagements with the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network have helped the Institute to utilize available human resources to facilitate programme-related activities such as training events, meetings, conferences and consultations on identified goals and shared values. For instance, the inaugural meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee, held online, led to the identification of new focal points within Member States and facilitated the flow of communication between Member States and the secretariat. The training course on international human rights law and pretrial detention provided a platform for establishing new contacts with different organizations, as well as opportunities for developing new partnerships and strengthening existing networks. In relation to the workshop on judicial cooperation in the prosecution of terrorism, held in Kampala in July 2022, international cooperation in the framework of the programme network has provided opportunities to invite experts from the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT) and the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law, as well as the academic community in the United Republic of Tanzania. These partnerships are useful in providing technical assistance to meet Member States' needs in relation to crime prevention and criminal justice.

V. Funding and support

39. The total income of the Institute for the biennium 2020–2021 was \$2,514,458. That amount comprised the following funding sources: member States' annual assessed financial contributions (\$2,011,622); the United Nations grant to the Institute (\$316,732); and other income (ground rent and other rental income) (\$186,104).

40. Table 1 shows a total income of \$2,514,458 received in the biennium 2020–2021, compared with an income of \$2,107,596 in the biennium 2018–2019.

⁶ Available at www.unafri.or.ug/newsletter.

Table 1
Summary of income received in the biennium 2020–2021, compared with the biennium 2018–2019

(United States dollars)

<i>Source</i>	<i>2020–2021</i>		<i>2018–2019</i>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Percentage of total income</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Percentage of total income</i>
Member States' annual assessed financial contributions	2 011 622	80	1 687 569	80
Grant from the United Nations	316 732	13	338 191	16
Other income	186 104	7	81 836	4
Total income	2 514 458		2 107 596	

41. Table 2 shows the total income of the Institute for the period January–May 2022, compared with the same period in 2021.

Table 2
Summary of income received, January–May 2022

(United States dollars)

<i>Source</i>	<i>January–May 2022</i>		<i>January–May 2021</i>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Percentage of total income</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Percentage of total income</i>
Member States' annual assessed financial contributions	490 846	82	1 146 813	92
Grant from the United Nations	71 250	12	67 000	5
Other income	39 531	6	31 478	3
Total income	601 627		1 245 291	

A. Annual assessed financial contributions from member States

42. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in lockdowns worldwide, making normal business operations almost impossible, the Institute received \$2,011,549 from member States as annual assessed financial contributions. Of the 29 member States, 5 (Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania (United Republic of) and Uganda) paid both their annual assessed contributions and arrears during the biennium 2020–2021 and 3 (Morocco, Mozambique and Senegal) made partial payment of their arrears.

Table 3
Breakdown of contributions received in the biennium 2020–2021

(United States dollars)

<i>Country</i>	<i>Annual assessed contribution for 2020–2021</i>	<i>Arrears paid in 2020–2021</i>	<i>Prepayments</i>	<i>Total amount paid in 2020–2021</i>
Kenya	30 161.00	160 930.25	–	191 019.25
Malawi	23 676.95	50 115.50	–	73 792.45
Morocco	–	452 384.00	–	452 384.00
Nigeria	226 205.00	677 029.99	–	903 234.99
Mozambique	–	11 524.00	–	11 524.00
Senegal	–	25 877.36	–	25 877.36
Seychelles	25 033.00	–	–	25 033.00
Tanzania (United Republic of)	25 033.00	209 595.79	–	234 628.79

<i>Country</i>	<i>Annual assessed contribution for 2020–2021</i>	<i>Arrears paid in 2020–2021</i>	<i>Prepayments</i>	<i>Total amount paid in 2020–2021</i>
Uganda	60 322.00	9 272.89	24 460.80	94 055.69
Total	390 430.95	1 596 729.78	24 460.80	2 011 549.53

43. As at 31 May 2022, the total annual assessed financial contributions expected from the member States stood at \$23.5 million for the period 1989–2022; \$8 million had been received, leaving an outstanding balance of \$15.5 million.

44. Since 2019, there have been variations in the amount of annual assessed financial contributions received from member States, as exhibited in the following figures: in 2019, \$1.29 million was received; in 2020, \$403,000 was received; in 2021, \$1.6 million was received; and in the period January–May 2022, \$490,846 was received.

B. United Nations grant

45. During the biennium 2018–2019, the United Nations grant to the Institute amounted to \$338,191, notwithstanding the Institute's numerous appeals to the General Assembly to consider increasing the grant to levels sufficient to accommodate the Institute's requirements for core Professional-level staff to fulfil its mandate.

46. During the biennium 2020–2021, the Institute received \$316,732, representing a decrease from the grant received in the bienniums 2016–2017 (\$365,300) and 2018–2019 (\$338,191). The reduced amount of the grant meant that no recruitment of Professional-level core staff could be undertaken. The grant was used to cover the post of Administrative/Finance Officer (serving as the Acting Director) and the consultants hired in the absence of Professional-level staff to conduct certain activities. When operating at full capacity, the Institute would require six staff members at the Professional level, as shown in table 5 below.

47. As a result of the improved collection from Member States of annual assessed financial contributions, and assuming it will be sustained, the Institute has implemented the directive of the Governing Board to embark on the recruitment of Professional-level staff in phases, starting with the Director, a process which is in the advanced stages.

48. Table 4 sets out the expenditure on staff costs of the Institute paid for from the United Nations grant during the biennium 2020–2021; table 5 sets out the proposed expenditure for the biennium 2022–2023.

Table 4

Actual staff costs paid during the biennium 2020–2021

(United States dollars)

<i>Established post</i>	<i>Salary level/step</i>	<i>Paid in 2020</i>	<i>Paid in 2021</i>	<i>Total paid during the biennium 2020–2021</i>
Deputy Director (separation costs)	–	–	26 396	26 396
Administrative/Finance Officer	P-3/X	98 032	131 732	229 764
Consultants		14 600	8 300	22 900
General administrative expenses		4 528	32 541	37 069
Total		117 160	198 969	316 129

Table 5
Proposed staff costs for staff in the Professional-level and higher categories for the biennium 2022–2023

(United States dollars)

<i>Established post</i>	<i>Salary level/step</i>	<i>Proposed salary for the 2022–2023 biennium</i>
Director	D-1/VI	260 000
Deputy Director	P-5/VI	221 760
Training Adviser	P-4/VI	186 480
Research Adviser	P-4/VI	186 480
Information/Documentation Adviser	P-3/VI	156 240
Administrative/Finance Officer	P-3/X	170 352
Total		1 181 312

C. Other income

49. As reported in the previous biennium (2018–2019), the Institute no longer receives income from interest and premium, owing to a lack of funds to invest as fixed income and a lack of additional land to lease. As in the previous biennium, other income was only received from ground rent (for already leased land) and rentals (from residences normally reserved for Professional-level staff, who had not yet been recruited) and amounted to \$186,104, compared with \$81,836 in the biennium 2018–2019.

VI. Future of the Institute

50. The future of the Institute should be considered in the context of the aspirations of Africa for sustainable development and in the context of recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. In order to fast-track the attainment of socioeconomic development, as envisaged in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Africa has put significant emphasis on addressing the factors that are disruptive to the achievement of peace, stability and security across the continent. While restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic remain, some of the new initiatives will continue to rely on digital resources to deliver crucial services.

51. As elucidated in section III of this report, criminal justice systems have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and there is a need to rebuild them and ensure access to justice for all, as well as to solve the immediate problems of clearing case backlogs that have arisen as a result of lockdowns, address the consequences of lockdowns and deliver justice and crime prevention practices in an era of social distancing, and prepare for the future, including to respond to emerging forms of crime and to other unanticipated developments, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

52. Considering the anticipated recruitment of the Director and thematic experts, it is expected that the Institute will strengthen its capacity to deliver support to Member States in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice. The capacity of the Institute will also be strengthened through corporate alliances and the sharing of good practices with like-minded actors. It is imperative for the Institute to consolidate the growing partnership among the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, professional institutions such as ICCT, the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law and the United States Department of Justice, and individual experts. These partnerships will benefit from enlisting further support from other entities to inform the processes on policy development and operational reforms.

53. Major changes have been initiated in policy and practice, including the implementation of technologies to enable working from home and other developments

to sustain crime prevention work during the pandemic. While some of these changes have been spontaneous, facilitated by casual collaborative approaches across agencies during the crisis, the Institute plans to formalize some of the new arrangements and turn them into sustainable initiatives and partnerships.

54. There have been reforms in systems of governance and changes in the administration of justice on the continent aimed at the promotion of good governance, democracy and the rule of law. While justice administration in Africa remains challenging, owing to its fragile nature, it remains significant for the promotion of democracy, as its effectiveness has become a barometer of democratic practices.

55. The Institute has the mandate and obligation to undertake programmes with relevant partners, and, in cooperation with UNODC, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union, to respond to the needs of African countries relating to crime prevention and criminal justice. The Governing Board of the Institute is committed to enhancing its functioning, with sustainable capacity for assistance in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction and development, with a special focus on respect for human rights.

VII. Conclusions and recommendations

56. A strong and effective crime prevention and criminal justice system is a reflection of the management of public affairs and integral to the development of harmonized systems of governance. There is a need for reforms in criminal justice systems in Africa to improve the quality and speed of service delivery, and to build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic through agile and innovative adaptations and partnerships.

57. The pandemic has highlighted the need for collaboration among different stakeholders to better respond to the challenges faced by crime prevention and criminal justice systems, and to share good, innovative practices, including in responding to unanticipated crises such as the pandemic. Through its programmes, the Institute will continue to promote the development of strategies in crime prevention and criminal justice, strengthen capacities and share good practices so that Member States in the region can better deliver on their commitments relating to crime prevention and criminal justice. With a view to transitioning to a post-pandemic era, this will require a phased implementation of programmes until a broader strategy for strengthening justice delivery and addressing case backlogs is attained. There is a need to adopt expert-led multisectoral initiatives of legal, academic and professional institutions to guide the functional capacity and strategic interventions of each jurisdiction.

58. The role of the private sector in crime prevention and criminal justice, which has received increased attention during the pandemic, for example, as a result of the contribution by the private sector of logistical equipment to maintain business continuity in the criminal justice sector, should be further strengthened. This could include cooperation in the production of awareness-raising material, in the creation of a safe urban environment or in the development of comprehensive joint proposals for overall crime prevention.

59. Africa requires its own centre of expertise to address the region's unique challenges in terms of crime prevention and criminal justice, as confirmed by the resolutions of the General Assembly, the directives of the Governing Board and the support of Member States. The anticipated improvement in funding support will improve the capacity of the Institute to transform itself into an effective entity with an ambitious agenda of criminal justice reform for Africa. Particular focus would be placed on prosecutions, investigations, sentencing and corrections, where perceived weaknesses have caused vulnerabilities in the face of emerging crime trends.

60. The General Assembly may wish to consider the Institute's appeal to increase the grant from the United Nations to a level necessary to maintain the Institute with

all the core Professional-level staff indicated in table 5 above, in order to sustain the implementation of its activities while avoiding the high turnover of Professional-level staff due to financial unpredictability.

61. The efforts of the Member States that have made full or partial remittance of their accumulated arrears are appreciated. The General Assembly may wish to call upon the Member States with outstanding arrears to settle those arrears in order to enable the Institute to execute its mandated functions.
