

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION DURING THE 2025 JUNE
MANAGEMENT SEGMENT**

**UNITY IN ACTION: ACCELERATING SDG IMPLEMENTATION AND
BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL**

Wednesday, 11 June 2025 10:00 am – 13:00 pm NY time, ECOSOC Chamber

DRAFT SPEAKING NOTES FOR THE CHAIR

H.E. Ambassador Mr. José Antonio Zabalgoitia (Mexico)

**1. Question 1: What key actions has the CCPCJ undertaken to promote
the 2030 Agenda?**

Thank you, Chair.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my honour to **address you**, as Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at this roundtable on accelerating SDG implementation, which I am deeply committed to.

In reply to your question, Chair, the CCPCJ promotes the 2030 Agenda, within its mandated areas of work, by acting as a **key platform for exchange and policymaking** on crime prevention and justice matters, and by **providing mandated tasks to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**, for which it acts as one of the two governing bodies, to support Member States with translating policy commitments into tangible action.

There are **three key elements which I would highlight**:

- **First:** the Commission's **standard-setting function**, which remains intact. During its most recent session in May, the CCPCJ unanimously recommended for adoption by the GA the newly developed United Nations Kyoto Model Strategies on Reducing Reoffending as a landmark normative achievement. The Model Strategies pursue the prevention of reoffending by investing in the rehabilitation and social reintegration prospects of offenders throughout the criminal justice process. The Commission also adopted 6 other resolutions by consensus on the topics of crimes that affect the environment, crime prevention, prison reform, the smuggling of migrants, the smuggling of commercial goods, and on preparations for the 15th UN Crime Congress. These resolutions provide guidance and operational mandates to advance the rule of law.

Second: the Commission has **been looking for ways to highlight the 2030 Agenda**. In 2024, for instance, the Commission invited Member States and other stakeholders to share proposals on SDG16 acceleration and developed an analysis report available online. For several years now, the 2030 Agenda is a standing item in the agenda of the Commission's regular sessions, and yearly thematic discussions on crime prevention and criminal justice shed light on latest trends and good practices worldwide. Needless to say, the Commission contributes to the work of ECOSOC, including the High-level Political Forum, and collaborates with sister functional commissions – such as the Commission on the Status of Women, the Statistical Commission, and the Commission for Social Development - including via their participation in CCPCJ meetings, and by holding joint side events.

Third: The Commission, as the **preparatory body for the UN Crime Congresses**, is in a unique position to advance the rule of law and set global priorities. The UN Crime Congress, which convenes every 5 years, is the largest and most diverse gathering of crime prevention and criminal justice policymakers and practitioners. The 15th Crime Congress will be held in

April next year in Abu Dhabi, UAE, under the theme: “*Accelerating crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: Protecting people and planet and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the digital age*”.

With this contemporary and ambitious overall theme, the 15th Congress presents an important opportunity to collectively reflect on progress made in meeting international commitments and to forge a collaborative path forward.

Question 2: What role do crime prevention and justice play in fostering inclusive development, particularly in relation to SDGs 5, 14, and 17 under review this year?

With regards to your question, Chair, let me first emphasize that there can be no sustainable development without the rule of law. **SDG16**, which most directly addresses crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law, remains one of the key enablers for the entire 2030 Agenda by protecting rights, ensuring accountability and promoting fairness.

➤ ***How do crime prevention and justice relate to SDG 5 on gender equality?***

- **First, by preventing and addressing gender-based violence (GBV):** Effective justice systems are essential for preventing and prosecuting GBV, including domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking in persons, and harmful practices like child marriage.
- **Second, by ensuring equal access to justice:** Women and girls often face systemic barriers to accessing justice. We need inclusive, gender-responsive legal reforms and victim-support services.

- **Third, via legal empowerment and increased representation:** Empowering women through education about their rights and ensuring their participation in justice processes strengthens social and economic inclusion. Also, increasing the representation of women in the law enforcement and justice sectors is another key element of inclusive and effective justice systems.

According to the 2023 SDG Report, at the current pace of change it is estimated that it will take 286 years to close gender gaps in legal protection and to remove discriminatory laws. The CCPCJ is committed to, within its mandates, support Member States towards turning this bleak picture into a brighter one.

➤ ***On SDG 14: Life Below Water, crime prevention and justice promote sustainable development in various ways, for example:***

- **By combatting crimes that affect the environment:** Illegal fishing, marine pollution, and trafficking of protected marine species are crimes that undermine ocean sustainability.
- **By enforcing maritime law:** Justice institutions must ensure that maritime laws are upheld, holding polluters and illegal operators accountable.
- **And by protecting small-scale fishers:** Strengthening justice helps protect the rights and livelihoods of coastal and indigenous communities dependent on marine ecosystems.

➤ ***On SDG 17 on partnerships, crime prevention and justice promote inclusive development:***

- **First, by strengthening the rule of law and strong institutions:** Partnerships thrive in environments where the rule of law is respected, corruption is curtailed, and accountability mechanisms are in place.
- **Second, by promoting international cooperation on countering crime and promoting justice:** Transnational crimes like cybercrime, illegal trafficking, and crimes that affect the environment require global partnerships for effective prevention and prosecution.
- **Lastly, by working for better data and capacity-building:** Justice systems benefit from global partnerships that provide training, resources, and shared data for better crime prevention strategies.

In the midst of today's acute and multiple crisis, we must stay united and promote dialogue and multilateralism.

I thank you.