



Briefing by the Acting Director of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

To the United Nations Economic and Social Council

Management Segement

Item 21: United Nations Research and Training Institutes

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Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to address you here today on behalf of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI).

I would like to begin by expressing my gratitude to the Chair – His Excellency, Ambassador Lok Bahadur Thapa – for welcoming UNICRI to deliver its second oral briefing to the Council.

I am also deeply grateful to Italy, which has hosted UNICRI for almost 60 years, enabling the Institute on many levels to carry out its action-oriented research and evidence-based programming in furtherance of the shared goals enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Pact for the Future.

Indeed, almost sixty years ago – on 30 July 1965 – this Council adopted resolution 1086 B (XXXIX), which called for strengthening the United Nations' capacity to address crime prevention and criminal justice. Sixty years later, the issues that prompted this resolution have not disappeared. They persist – in an evolved form. Organized crime is no longer local. Illicit networks spread faster and further than justice. And fragile institutions – often at the forefront of the fight – are contending with threats that are global, virtual, and often invisible. Traditional boundaries have blurred: crime, terrorism, corruption, child exploitation, and cyber threats are all converging in ways that challenge how we think, respond, and cooperate.

Our mandate is more important now, than ever before.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you know, UNICRI is research and training institute, but we are more than that which we are labelled. We are a bridge between knowledge and action. We are a hub of evidence-based programming. Because at UNICRI, we do not just study problems: we try to find ways to solve them, and we strive to test those ideas and learn from them. Our strength lies in combining rigorous policy-oriented research with practical technical assistance and capacity building. This unique and integrated approach defines our role within the UN system.

In the two years that have passed since our last oral briefing, we have expanded our global reach, delivering specialized training and support – in particular across Africa, the Americas, and Asia.

UNICRI has published more than 30 reports, addressing critical issues such as the trafficking of critical minerals, green prisons, lone actor attacks, far-right and -left violent extremism online, AI-generated child exploitation, and video gaming and online harms. These publications help inform discourse, policy and practice in rapidly evolving threat landscapes.

During the same period, we delivered 112 capacity-building activities, training almost 6,000 practitioners across the globe. From counter-terrorism and asset recovery to cybersecurity and security planning, these efforts reflect our commitment to turning knowledge into impact.

And through our expanding Master of Laws programmes, we have continued to invest in the next generation of justice leaders. This year, our Masters in Transnational Crime and Justice concluded its 18th edition and our recently launched new Masters in Cybercrime, Cybersecurity, and International Law concluded its second edition.

UNICRI's model is simple – to connect research to practice, and policy to action, ensuring that Member States have the knowledge, information and means necessary to address complex criminal justice challenges.

As an exclusively voluntary funded entity, all our results are made possible by the support of our host country, donors, and partners, to whom we are deeply grateful. You enable our work to ensure that global justice architecture is not only fit for purpose – but fit for the future.

I thank you for your attention and look forward to our continued cooperation.