
PNI

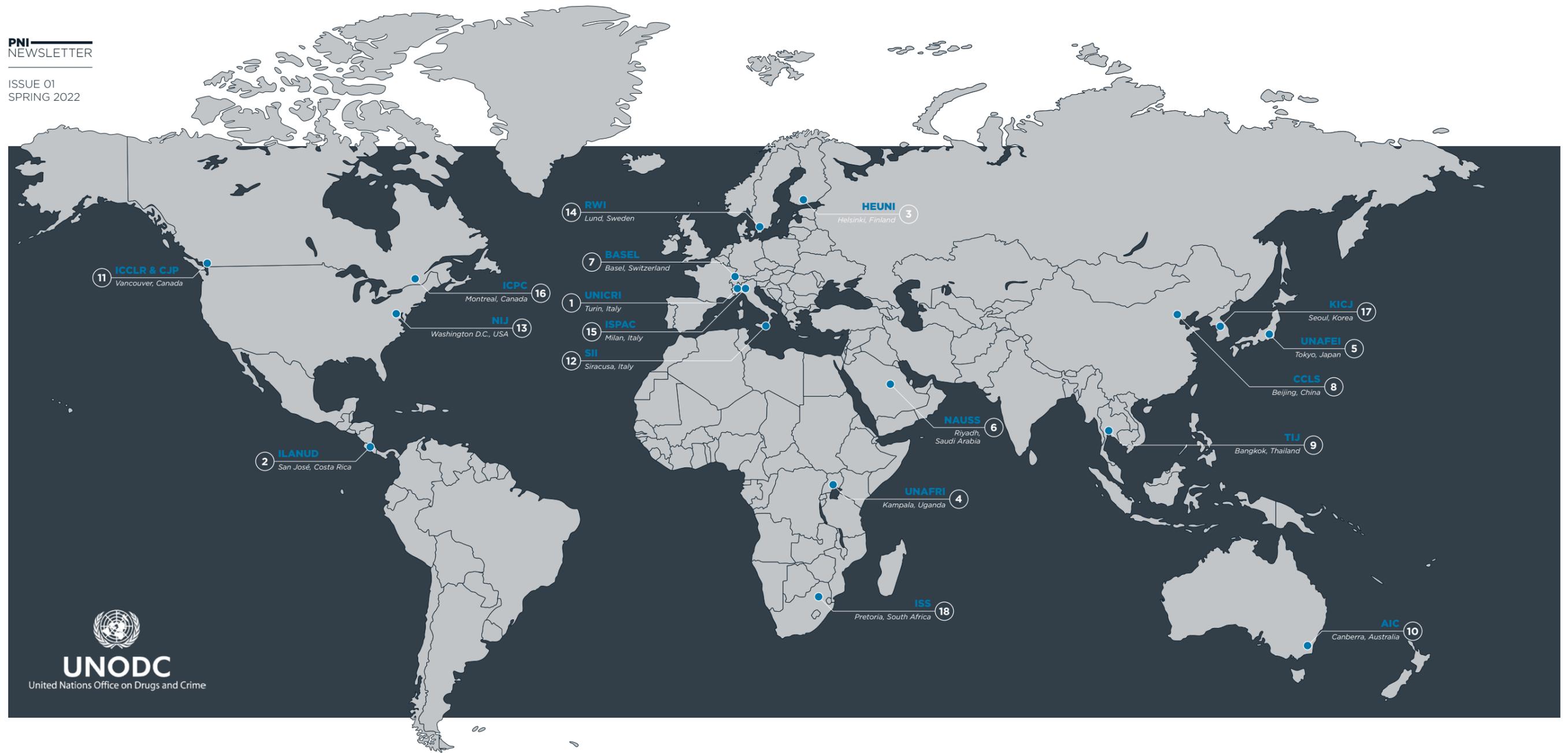
NEWSLETTER

THE UNITED NATIONS CRIME PREVENTION
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMME
NETWORK OF INSTITUTES (PNI)

UPDATES ON PNI ACTIVITIES
ARTICLES
PUBLICATIONS ON CYBERCRIME
EXECUTIVE INTERVIEW
WITH AIC AND UNAFRI

ISSUE 01
SPRING
2022





INTERREGIONAL & REGIONAL INSTITUTES



1 UNICRI
United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute; *Turin, Italy*



2 ILANUD
Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders; *San José, Costa Rica*



3 HEUNI
European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations; *Helsinki, Finland*



4 UNAFRI
African regional Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders; *Kampala, Uganda*



5 UNAFEI
Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders; *Tokyo, Japan*



6 NAUSS
Naif Arab University for Security Sciences; *Riyadh, Saudi Arabia*

NATIONAL INSTITUTES



7 BASEL
The Basel Institute on Governance - (International Centre for Asset Recovery)



8 CCLS
College for Criminal Law Science (CCLS); *Beijing, China*



9 TIJ
Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ); *Bangkok, Thailand*



10 AIC
Australian Institute of Criminology; *Canberra, Australia*



11 ICCLR & CJP
International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy; *Vancouver, Canada*



12 SII
The Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights; *Siracusa, Italy*



13 NIJ
National Institute of Justice; *Washington D.C., USA*



14 RWI
Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law; *Lund, Sweden*



15 ISPAC
ISPAC - International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme



16 ICPC
International Centre for the Prevention of Crime; *Montreal, Canada*



17 KICJ
Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice; *Seoul, Korea*



18 ISS
Institute for Security Studies; *Pretoria, South Africa*

ABOUT THE PNI NEWSLETTER

The United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network (PNI) consists of *the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and 18 institutes and entities around the world.*



The United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network (PNI) consists of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and 18 institutes and entities around the world. The mission of the PNI is to assist the international community in strengthening cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice on the global, regional and sub-regional levels, within the framework of the United Nations Crime Programme. In January 2022, the members of the PNI decided to publish a “PNI Newsletter” as a way of sharing information on the contributions of the Network, in a way that could benefit a wide range of international and regional stakeholders as well as the general public. The Newsletter also serves to promote cooperation within the Network as well as with UN entities and with national and international stakeholders, through the dissemination of information and the sharing of knowledge. The Newsletter will be published twice a year, in the spring and the autumn.

This first issue features two articles on the UN Crime Programme and the PNI, by Dr. Matti Joutsen, Special Advisor of the Thailand Institute of Justice and former Director of European Institute of Crime Prevention and Control (HEUNI), as well as an overview of PNI publications related to cybercrime, which is the theme of the 31st session of the UN Crime Commission. This issue also focuses on the PNI contribution to the UN Crime Programme and includes updates on activities undertaken during 2021 and early 2022 by the Network as well as by individual members of the PNI in the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration. In order to provide a closer look at individual institutes, each issue of the Newsletter will include interviews with PNI Directors.

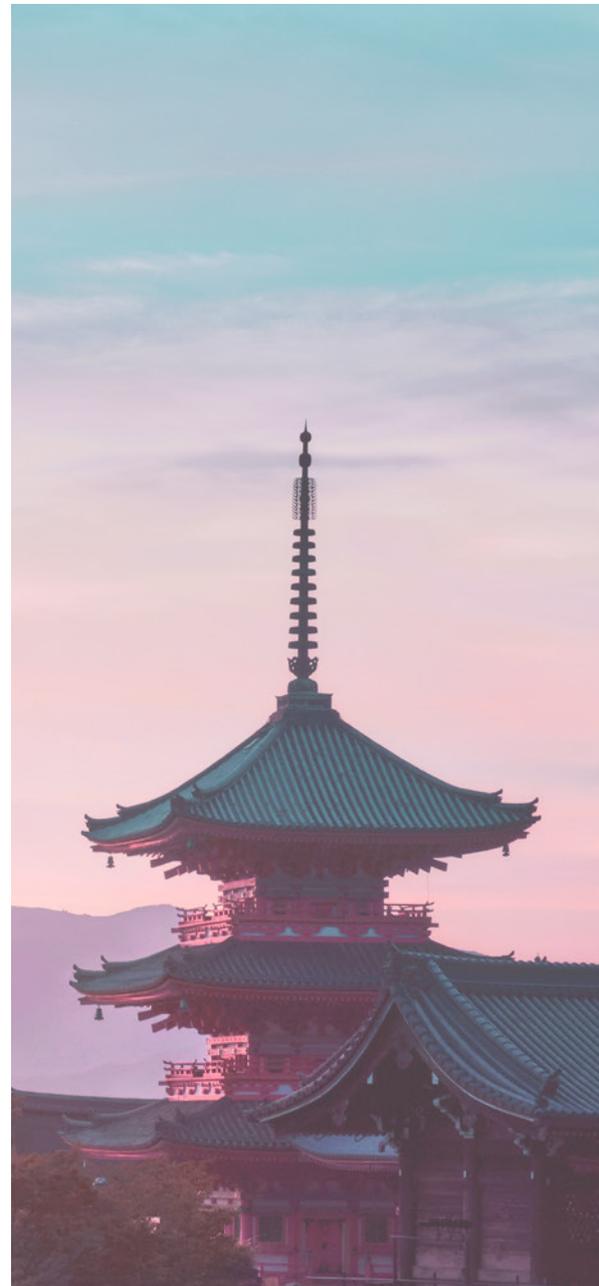
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PNI ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE KYOTO DECLARATION

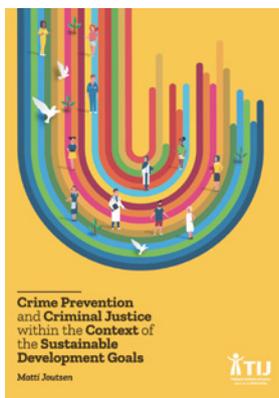
UPDATES ON
PNI ACTIVITIES

The Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted at the 14th United Nations Crime Congress, held in Kyoto on 7-12 March 2021. The Kyoto Declaration sets out priorities of the international agenda to enhance crime prevention and criminal justice. The following provides a snapshot of some of the key contributions from the PNI to the implementation of the Declaration around the globe during 2021 and early 2022. The presentation of the activities is structured in accordance with the **four pillars** of the Declaration: I. Advancing crime prevention; II. Advancing the criminal justice system; III. Promoting the rule of law; and IV. Promoting international cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime



ADVANCING CRIME PREVENTION

In the Kyoto Declaration, Member States agree on a set of key elements to advance crime prevention. The elements in the Declaration include: addressing the causes of crime; evidence-based crime prevention; tailor-made crime prevention strategies; addressing the economic dimension of crime; mainstreaming a gender perspective; children and youth in crime prevention; and youth empowerment.



The publication on "Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice within the Context of the SDGs" by the TIJ

In order to focus attention on the importance of addressing the root causes of crime in enhancing crime prevention and criminal justice, the **TIJ** published a study on "Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the Context of the SDGs". The **ISS**, through a Violence Prevention Forum, is seeking to advance crime prevention in South Africa through innovative strategies.

In addressing the economic dimension of crime, **UNICRI**, in cooperation with the European Union Intellectual Property Office, continued to conduct in-depth analyses of case studies on the infringement of intellectual property rights. To tackle the illicit financial flow and to promote asset recovery, the **Basel Institute** continued to provide training and technical assistance through the Institute's International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR). ICAR's financial investigation and asset recovery experts worked closely with authorities around the globe to break down barriers in international cooperation and implement traditional and new methods to recover illicit assets, notably non-conviction-based forfeiture. Insights from ICAR's hands-on case assistance contributed to several new publications.



A hybrid training workshop for officers by the Basel Institute's International Centre for Asset Recovery in 2021.



A three-day workshop on non-conviction based forfeiture laws for anti-corruption investigators and prosecutors from Kenya, Sierra Leone and Zambia.

UNICRI produced reports on illicit financial flows and asset recovery in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Tunisia and Ukraine. The reports provided policymakers and other key stakeholders with specific recommendations to streamline the tracing, freezing, seizure and confiscation of assets linked to income-generating crime. The **CCLS** held the 5th Conference on Anti-Corruption Fugitive Repatriation and Asset Recovery in November 2021. The conference was attended by Chinese and international scholars, experts, lawyers and judicial officials to discuss, among others, anti-corruption fugitive repatriation and asset recovery, taking into consideration recent technological development. In Zimbabwe, the **RWI** contributed to the development of links and cooperation between the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission and the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission. To prevent and to detect corporate crime, **ISPAC** launched a research volume on "Corporate Compliance on a Global Scale: Legitimacy and Effectiveness".

To help promote the gender dimension in crime prevention, and in particular to address gender-based violence, **HEUNI** launched an EU-funded project, "Safe, Aware, Resilient, Able and Heard (SARAH): Protecting and supporting migrant women victims of gender-based violence". In Armenia, the **RWI** cooperated with the Ministry of Justice to elaborate a study on the prohibition of child corporal punishment, with a focus on educational and preventive measures.

In its ongoing work to help in preventing domestic violence, the **AIC** published the results of its second survey of the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on intimate partner violence. Another published **AIC** study examined the role of coercive control in domestic violence and the links between juvenile and adult domestic and family violence.

To help address online child exploitation, the **AIC** is conducting research that covers a range of topics, including the livestreaming of child sexual abuse, language used by perpetrators in online grooming cases, effective cyber-strategies to combat child sexual abuse material (CSAM), reoffending among child sexual abuse offenders, a systematic review of criminal justice measures to combat CSAM, and the development of a crime script to describe the offending processes of child sexual abuse perpetrators on the darknet.

To promote youth engagement, **UNAFEI** organized the first Youth International Training Course from 2 to 6 August 2021, at which twelve students from Japan and eleven international students from seven countries participated online and discussed measures to prevent drug use and related issues. Along the same lines, the **TIJ** proposed to organize a youth forum in connection with the 3rd ASEAN Conference on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to take place in August 2022



TIJ's Youth Forum in connection with the ASEAN Conference on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

ADVANCING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

II

Key elements to advance the criminal justice system underlined by the Kyoto Declaration include: safeguarding victims' rights and protecting witnesses and reporting persons; improving prison conditions; reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration; mainstreaming a gender perspective into criminal justice systems; addressing the vulnerabilities of children and youth in contact with the criminal justice system; and improving criminal investigation processes.

To support victim access to justice, in particular in gender violence cases, **HEUNI** launched its "Toolkit for Enhancing Counselling for Victims of Gender-Based Violence". The **TIJ** organized a webinar on "The Rise of Chatbots Against Gender-Based Violence," in collaboration with the World Bank's Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development (GFLJD), aiming to explore innovative solutions and models in developing chatbots to support access to justice, as well as other potential technological applications to help in the handling of gender-based violence cases. **UNAFEI** supplemented its four multilateral courses with a new training course on building inclusive societies, which focuses on the protection of victims as well as preventing reoffending. The first session of the new training course was conducted online focusing on the protection of the rights of crime victims, including children, such as protective measures for crime victims and forensic interviewing techniques.

A range of initiatives have been conducted by the PNI to promote better treatment for offenders and rehabilitation programmes for social reintegration. **UNAFEI** has conducted a variety of online training programmes such as a multilateral training course which focused on gender-responsive treatment of women offenders; a training programme on effective offender assessment and rehabilitation targeting participants from the Philippines; an online training programme on prison reform for correctional officers in Timor-Leste; and online training in collaboration with the UNODC. The **RWI** provided a range of trainings for correctional services in Armenia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, including basic,

management-level, research methodology and audit trainings for prison and probation officers on the Nelson Mandela Rules, the Tokyo Rules and the Bangkok Rules. RWI also cooperated with the General Prosecutors Academy in Uzbekistan to deliver training on Fair Trial Rights and develop a new course on Right to Liberty and Security of Person.



In 2021, RWI organized prison officer training in Zimbabwe on the Nelson Mandela Rules, the Tokyo Rules and the Bangkok Rules.

With the aim of substantively and sustainably improving the treatment of women prisoners, the **TIJ** continues to provide training on the Management of Women Prisoners for Senior Correctional Staff, or “Bangkok Rules Training”, targeting senior correctional officers in the Southeast Asia region. In assessing prison conditions, **ILANUD** launched a report on “Prison Overcrowding in Latin America”. In addressing specific needs in prison, **ICCLR** helps develop tool kits for autism in the correctional setting and for family-focused defence strategies for criminal defendants.

To build effective rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for violent extremist offenders, in 2021 **UNICRI** held two training workshops in the Central African Republic for prison personnel aiming to improve

the prison system by using a classification tool. In addition, UNICRI and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre of the Office of Counter-Terrorism jointly launched the first phase of a project on the establishment of a system for the generation and collection of data on violent extremist prisoners.

As a continued effort to reduce reoffending, **UNAFEI** conducted an online seminar for senior criminal justice practitioners on preventing reoffending through a multi-stakeholder approach. Another training course on preventing reoffending will be held in early 2023. In order to promote the social reintegration of offenders, the **TIJ** has joined hands with the private sector and academia to create the “Hygiene Street Food Programme,” offering an opportunity for former prisoners to receive training that will enhance their hygienic cooking skills and their essential understanding of the street food industry. On completion they receive a small grant to start a business.



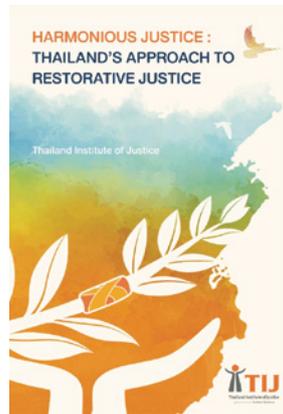
TIJ's Hygiene Street Food Programme

Along the lines of article 42 of the Kyoto Declaration, in promoting the use of restorative justice, the **TIJ**, in collaboration with **ICCLR**, published a report, “Harmonious Justice: Thailand’s Approach to Restorative Justice”. **ILANUD**, in collaboration with the Restorative Juvenile Justice Group of the Iberoamerican Association of Public Prosecutors, organized the Second Interinstitutional Dialogue 2021 on “Restorative Juvenile Justice in Iberoamerica: Statistics and Indicators on Victims Satisfaction”. **ILANUD** also prepared and presented the action plan for public policy on juvenile restorative justice for the period 2022-2025 to the Supreme Court of Justice of Costa Rica.

In enhancing child sensitive criminal justice, the **TIJ**, in collaboration with the Office of the Attorney General of Thailand, launched the Thai translated version of the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence Against Children in the

Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. In Costa Rica, **ILANUD** organized the Forum on Juvenile Justice, an event for reflection, dialogue and exchange of good practices at the regional level on juvenile criminal justice issues in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

To improve the investigation process, the **TIJ** continues to work with the Department of Special Investigation of Thailand, the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights and the Norwegian Police University College to evolve criminal investigative methods, centring on human rights and the search for truth. The ISS is an implementing partner of the South African National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and works strategically with them to advance improved prosecutions and public trust in the criminal justice system.



Collaboration between the TIJ and the ICCLR resulted in the publication, "Harmonious Justice: Thailand's Approach to Restorative Justice".

PROMOTING THE RULE OF LAW

Key elements include: access to justice and equal treatment before the law; access to legal aid; national sentencing policies; effective, accountable, impartial and inclusive institutions; effective anti-corruption efforts; and social, educational and other measures

In enhancing access to justice, particularly targeting indigenous persons, **ICCLR** is working in partnership with an all-Indigenous project team and Advisory Board to enhance access to justice for Indigenous persons by increasing access to justice and the use of Gladue services, which are rights extended in Canadian criminal procedure to anyone who self-identifies as First

Nations, Metis or Inuit. **ICCLR** is also hosting podcasts to amplify the voices of marginalized groups in the criminal justice system. The **AIC** launched a new Indigenous Justice Research Programme in collaboration with the National Indigenous Australians Agency. This will fund academic research to explore ways in which the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the criminal justice system can be reduced.

To provide support for fighting against corruption, **ICCLR** launched the Vancouver Anti-Corruption Institute (VACI). The Advisory Committee for VACI includes a former Prime Minister of Canada, a former judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, a former Vice-President of Integrity at the World Bank, and leaders in anti-corruption from the private sector. Due to the location of Vancouver on Canada's Pacific coast, the focus of the new Institute will be on Asia and the Americas. The institute aims to engage in additional project work, conferencing, workshops, training, research, and writing. **UNAFEI** held the 23rd UNAFEI UNCAC Training Programme, which addressed the use of digital evidence in corruption cases. The **Basel Institute on Governance** published a study, "Illicit Enrichment: A Guide to Laws Targeting Unexplained Wealth"



The open-access book (available online) on "Illicit Enrichment: A Guide to Laws Targeting Unexplained Wealth" by the Basel Institute on Governance.



The 10th Public Edition of the Basel AML Index, which includes a dashboard with data on money laundering for 203 countries, is available online to all public-sector, non-profit and academic organizations.



E-Learning course on open-source intelligence developed by the Basel Institute's Green Corruption and Asset Recovery experts in 2021.

The Basel AML Index ranks money-laundering risks around the world and highlights four areas of anti-money-laundering policy that urgently require attention: virtual assets, preventive measures, beneficial ownership transparency, and supervision of non-financial sectors. The Basel Institute also launched its Green Corruption programme with a focus on providing financial investigations support in environmental crime cases, targeting countries in East Africa as well as Peru and Bolivia.



In 2021, the Basel Institute partnered with the OECD to host seven high-profile webinars on "Corrupting the Environment".

In promoting the rule of law and human rights, **UNAFRI** continues to work with the justice sector and with law enforcement sector authorities with a view to developing training in international human rights law and pre-trial detention targeting criminal justice personnel in Africa with a pilot training programme in Uganda. **ILANUD** published a study on "The human right to respect for sexual orientation and gender identity in the Caribbean and Latin America; current situation and prospects". In Armenia, the **RWI** cooperated with the Ministry of Justice to develop guidelines on legal definitions of torture for use in the

training of justice sector officials as well as to elaborate a study on legal protection for human rights defenders. RWI also produced a study on conditions of detention in Sweden with reference to international and regional standards for the European Fundamental Rights Agency.



Prison and Probation Officer Workshop organized by RWI in Armenia, 2021

The **SII** held the 20th Specialization Course in International Criminal Law for Young Penalists on "Human Rights, Criminal Justice and International Law". This online event was attended by participants from around the globe, with a keynote address by the President of the International Criminal Court, Piotr Hofmański. The SII also held the First Online Doctoral Seminar on "International Criminal Law, International Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law," which was attended by international PhD candidates and experts. To celebrate the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists (IDEI), the SII held a roundtable discussion on "Justice and Freedom of the Press: How to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists". The SII also organized a five-day international training course for prosecutors on

“Investigating and Prosecuting Crimes against Journalists and the Protection of Freedom of Expression,” in collaboration with the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Prosecutors from twelve countries in Africa, the Arab region, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America participated in the training.

PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO PREVENT AND ADDRESS ALL FORMS OF CRIME

IV

The fourth pillar of the Declaration deals with international cooperation, including through capacity-building and technical assistance; international cooperation to deprive criminals of the proceeds of crime; terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; and new, emerging and evolving forms of crime.

In strengthening regional collaboration, the **TIJ** continues to promote the rule of law and enhance crime prevention across the Southeast Asia region under the auspices of the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN). Key activities include an initiative to enhance gender-responsive treatment for women offenders and women prisoners, in collaboration with the UNDP and the initiatives to implement the ASEAN work plan on sport 2021-2025, focusing on the use of sport to prevent crime and build resilience in societies. The TIJ continues to work with ASEAN member states and the ASEAN Secretariat in preparing for the 3rd ASEAN

Conference on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (ACCPCJ), which will take place in August 2022 under the theme, “Responding to Crime and Justice Challenges amidst ASEAN Recovery from the Covid-19 Crisis”.



ASEAN Conference on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (ACCPCJ)

UNAFEI held the Fourteenth (March 2021) and Fifteenth (December 2021) Regional Seminars on Good Governance for Southeast Asian Countries, known as the “GG Seminar”. The GG Seminar promotes the implementation of UNCAC, enhances the capacity of anti-corruption practitioners in Southeast Asia and facilitates international cooperation by establishing a personal network among practitioners. The 14th GG Seminar addressed the theme of “Integrity and Independence of Judges, Prosecutors and Law Enforcement Officials”, and the 15th GG Seminar addressed “Effective International Cooperation for Combating Corruption”, focusing on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.



The “GG Seminar” (Good Governance for Southeast Asian Countries) held in 2021 was a continuation of the series of regional seminars conducted by UNAFEI.

The **RWI** is working regionally in East Africa to provide common training approaches for correctional officers, including through development of a model training curriculum for community corrections officers. The RWI is also, together with the African Civil Policing Oversight Forum and the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization, working on the further development of East African Community Common Standards for Policing.

The **ISS** carried out activities aimed at preventing and combating terrorism and violent extremism, including a study on the possibility of dialogue with violent extremist groups and providing technical support to, among others, le Conseil de l'Entente and Togo's inter-ministerial Committee for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, and providing a training programme on gender and violent extremism in partnership with the West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy. The **SII**, under the framework of the new partnership with the EU AML/CFT Global Facility, aimed at strengthening international judicial cooperation between judges and prosecutors and reinforcing their capacities and specialized knowledge on matters related to anti-money-laundering practices and combating the financing of terrorism. A webinar on "Strengthening Judicial Cooperation in the MENA Region: Judges and Prosecutors at the Forefront of the Fight against Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing" was organized jointly and attended by 170 judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officers from the Middle East and North African (MENA) region. As a follow up to the webinar, in March 2022 the SII and the EU Global Facility on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (EUAML/CFT GF) organized a Regional Conference on "Strengthening Judicial Cooperation in the MENA Region: Judges and Prosecutors at the forefront of the Fight against Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing," in Manama, Bahrain. Recognizing the critical role played by communities in combating violent extremism, **UNICRI** continued to support and implement programmes aimed at preventing and countering radicalization, terrorist recruitment and violent extremism. The programmes include research on the linkages between preventing and countering violent extremism and the access to natural resources. On the front of new technology, UNICRI launched its report entitled "Science, technology and innovation: understanding advancements from the perspective of countering weapons of mass destruction terrorism". In addition, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of Counter-Terrorism, UNICRI organized a series of workshops focused on the human rights aspects in the use of artificial intelligence.

To address the issue of human trafficking, **HEUNI** commenced a new EU-funded project to enhance the identification and investigation of trafficking in persons, with a focus on Estonia, Finland and Latvia: "Enhanced Law Enforcement Cooperation and Training on Trafficking in Human Beings (ELECT THB)". The **ICPC**, in partnership with the UNODC, Fundación Pasos Libres, and IBM Corporate Social Responsibility, held the 2021 DataJam Against Exploitation, a technological innovation competition, aimed at raising public awareness of human trafficking and improving collaboration between different sectors of intervention, particularly among youth as well as Indigenous and LGBTQI+ communities. As part of the Institute's research on human trafficking and modern slavery, the **AIC** commenced an evaluation of the new National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery and published a study on the attrition of human trafficking cases through the criminal justice system.

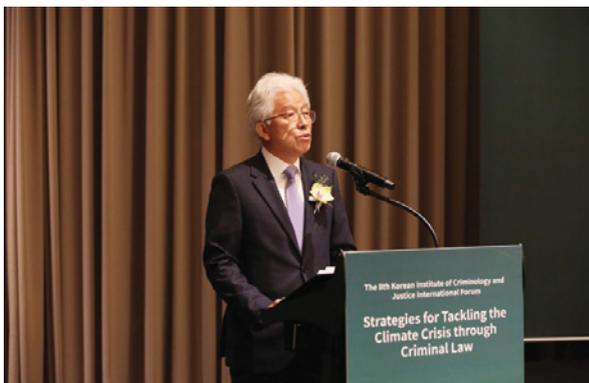
The **ISS** is working to help enhance Africa's response to organized crime through a range of activities, including promoting knowledge and action in partnership with Interpol and the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime. The ISS also provided technical assistance to the Namibian Interagency Taskforce on arms control, management and disarmament, the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization, and the Central African Police Chiefs' Committee. Furthermore, the institute provided technical support to operationalize the 2019 joint agreement between Central African and East African states.



The ISS organized technical support initiatives for Central African and East African states in 2019

The **CCLS** held the 10th International Forum on Contemporary Criminal Law with a focus on legislative reform on promoting enterprise compliance and combating organized crime.

In addressing emerging forms of crime, PNI contribute to addressing environmental crime and climate change. The **ISS** conducted research on climate change and human security. In particular, the ISS researched gold mining in Western Mali and Senegal, showing links to environmental degradation, organized crime and conflict. The ISS also supported the revision of the East African Protocol on Cattle Rustling (the Mifugo Protocol) and its implementation. The **KICJ** held the 8th KICJ International Forum under the theme of "Strategy for Tackling the Climate Crisis through Criminal Law". The forum was attended by scholars and practitioners, and they discussed the role of criminal law in the response to the climate crisis and ecocide. In response to threats to cultural heritage, **ISPAC** in collaboration with the Milan Catholic University organized a conference on "Criminal law protection of cultural heritage in Italy and ongoing reform proposals". The conference highlighted increasing trends in cultural property trafficking and other related offences as well as their transnational nature.



The 8th KICJ International Forum on "Strategy for Tackling the Climate Crisis through Criminal Law", 2021.

THE UN CRIME PROGRAMME MEETING CALENDAR

ARTICLES



UN Crime Programme meetings take many forms, ranging from small expert meetings and training sessions, to the mammoth UN Crime Congresses, which bring together thousands of participants.

What UN Crime Programme meetings are held?

Over the years, the meeting calendar in Vienna organized by the UNODC has become crowded. Until the 1980s, the predecessor of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice – the United Nations Committee on Crime Prevention and Control – generally held a leisurely two-week session every second year, and the UN Crime Congress was held every fifth year.

When the **UN Crime Commission** was established in 1991, it started holding annual sessions each spring (generally in May), and then added annual “reconvened” sessions towards the end of the year (generally in early December).

The implementation of each of the two UN crime conventions is overseen by the respective **Conference of States Parties**, which hold one-week sessions in alternate years. Each of the two Conferences of States Parties has set up subgroups. The Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime has set up five working groups, each of which meet annually for two or three days, generally during the spring:

- the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons (next meeting: 29 – 30 June 2022);
- the Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants (next meeting: 27 – 28 June 2022);
- the Working Group on Firearms (next meeting: 4-5 May 2022);
- the Working Group on International Cooperation (next meeting: 23 – 27 May 2022); and
- the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance (next meeting: 23 – 27 May 2022).

The Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption has set up four working groups:

- the Implementation Review Group (next meeting: 13-17 June 2022; generally one annual, and one or two resumed meetings each year);
- the Working Group on Prevention (next meeting: 13-17 June 2022);
- the Working Group on Asset Recovery (generally a two-three day meeting each year); and
- the Expert Group on International Cooperation (generally a two-three day meeting each year).

Both Conferences of States Parties have adopted mechanisms for the review of implementation of the two respective UN crime conventions. The mechanism for the review of implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption involves a heavy programme of “in-country visits” in the majority of the 189 State parties to the convention. During these in-country visits, experts from two reviewing countries meet with their colleagues and other stakeholders in the state party under review. (These meetings are at times also arranged in Vienna.)

Review of the implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in individual states parties, in turn, has not begun until the end of 2020, and will not involve such an ambitious programme of in-country visits.

A large number of other meetings are also held in Vienna, such as **briefings** and “**Fingov**” meetings. A Fingov meeting is a meeting of the Standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The working group was established in 2009. It meets several times a year, generally for a few hours or at most a day.

Finally, various bodies (such as the Conferences of States Parties, the General Assembly, ECOSOC and the UN Crime Commission itself) can set up **ad hoc bodies** for specific purposes, and generally for a limited time. A typical example would be expert groups set up to prepare documentation to be submitted to the UN Crime Commission.

Beyond UN headquarters in Vienna, the UNODC has an extensive network of **regional and national offices**. The various technical assistance programmes organized through these offices involve many advisory missions each year, as well as planning, research and training meetings.

In addition, the **PNI** – the eighteen institutes and entities that cooperate with the UNODC within the framework of the UN Crime Programme – have very active research and training programmes, with a large number of expert meetings and training events throughout the year. To take just one example, by the end of 2021 UNAFEI, the regional institute for Asia and the Far East, has organized a total of 175 several weeks long international courses and seminars, in addition to dozens of bilateral and regional seminars, many public lectures, and a large number of training courses.

Who participate in UN Crime Programme meetings?

The participants at UN Crime Programme meetings generally fall into five categories: members of governmental delegations, representatives of specialized UN agencies (including institutes in the UN Crime Programme Network), representatives of intergovernmental organizations, representatives of nongovernmental organizations and civil society, and individual experts. During recent years, also representatives of the private sector have been brought in for discussions on such specific issues as economic crime and cybercrime, as well as the use of technology in crime prevention and in criminal justice. Different types of UN Crime Programme meetings will have different constellations of participants, often acting in different roles.

Given that the United Nations is an intergovernmental organization, and that the United Nations Crime Commission consists of 40 Member States, **governmental delegations** have come to dominate the discussions at many UN Crime Programme meetings organized by the UNODC. Governmental delegations attend the sessions of the UN Crime Commission, the various bodies set up for review of implementation of the two UN crime conventions, the Fingov meetings, and the UN Crime Congresses.

A number of **specialized UN agencies** (such as ILO, UNESCO and WHO) may have an interest in the topics on the agenda of the various UN Crime Programme meetings, and their representatives often participate as observers. Strictly speaking, a specialized UN agency is an autonomous organization that works with the UN (and other agencies) under the coordination of ECOSOC. However, at times various units of the UN Secretariat itself (such as the United Nations Development Programme) will send representatives to UN Crime Programme meetings and be listed as a “specialized UN agency.” With the establishment in 1962 of the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

(UNAFEI), a new subcategory was created, the PNI, which are generally grouped under “specialized UN agencies”, although at times they have been listed separately.

An **intergovernmental organization** (IGO) is one in which the members are national governments. (The United Nations itself is the best-known example.) Examples of IGOs that have been active in the United Nations Crime Programme are the Council of Europe, the Organization of American States, the African Union and the European Union.

The involvement of **nongovernmental organizations** (NGOs) can be traced back to the very first years of the United Nations. The UN Crime Commission operates under ECOSOC rules of procedure, which recognize NGOs as a specific category of participants. The participation of representatives of nongovernmental organizations (and, more widely, civil society organizations) in some of the formal UN Crime Programme meetings organized by the UNODC has become an increasingly contentious issue. This is true in particular of working groups set up under the two UN Crime Conventions.

Also individual **experts** have been involved in the UN Crime Programme since its outset. This was in part due to the fact that the UN Crime Programme was established by transferring the functions of the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission to the United Nations, and the membership of the IPPC had consisted of individual experts.

The UN Crime Congresses are exceptional among UN conferences in that individual experts may participate. Since the Seventh UN Crime Congress (1985), this category has been defined widely as “individual experts in the field of crime prevention and the treatment of offenders.”

While the UNODC, in organizing, for example sessions of the UN Crime Commission as well as meetings related to the two UN crime conventions, follows the respective rules of procedure in inviting national delegations, IGOs and NGOs, the rules of procedure do not apply to expert meetings. The UNODC, acting in accordance with mandates given it by the UN Crime Commission, is relatively free to identify the best experts to discuss the subject at hand, taking into due consideration the need for equitable geographical representation.

The institutes in the UN Crime Programme Network, in turn, have extensive flexibility in deciding on the

participants in their meetings and training activities. The decision will be based on the purpose of the meeting or activity. Institutes may contract with a government on training and technical assistance, in which case the government (or individual government agency) will generally select the participants. Similarly, training may be organized for the private sector or various civil society organizations, and again the target company or organization will generally identify who takes part. Otherwise, the institutes tend to select the participants individually.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic

Among the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic have been the temporary shuttering of places of work, a shift to telecommuting from home, severe restrictions on travel, and restrictions on meetings. As of 16 March 2020, UN staff members at the New York, Geneva and Vienna Headquarters were ordered to telecommute. At about the same time, also the staff of each of the PNI largely shifted to working from home. The UN and PNI buildings became deserted, and the holding of in-person meetings – for many the lifeblood of international relations – was cancelled for the time being. UN and PNI staff members, diplomats and experts learned a new concept: **virtual meetings** (online meetings).

Perhaps surprisingly, given the central role of meetings in the UN Crime Programme, the shift to online meetings was made quite rapidly. The Fourteenth UN Crime Congress was postponed by a year, the 2020 session of the UN Crime Commission was shifted from the spring to the end of the year, and a few smaller meetings were held, but the UNODC and the PNI quickly adopted new protocols for meetings.

In particular the Fourteenth UN Crime Congress, which was ultimately and successfully held in Kyoto on 7 – 12 March 2021 as a so-called hybrid meeting (with some participants on-site, and the large majority participating online), provided a learning experience for all, in how to adapt.

Both in-person meetings and online meetings have their respective costs and benefits. It is likely that, once the pandemic has passed, online meetings will remain in much wider use than before, and relatively fewer solely in-person meetings will be held. At the very least, more UN Crime Programme meetings will become hybrid, with some participants on-site, and others tuning in from around the world.

THE PNI IN A (VERY LARGE) NUTSHELL

ARTICLES



What is the UN Crime Programme Network?

The United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network of Institutes (PNI) has grown over the years to consist of seventeen institutes, the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council (ISPAC) and (formally speaking) the UNODC. These institutes have a variety of different mandates. Nonetheless, they all share a commitment to working together within the framework of the United Nations Crime Programme.

To list the PNI institutes very broadly by their mandate (the years refer to the year of establishment, not of joining the PNI):

- an interregional institute (UNICRI, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, Turin; established 1968);
- five institutes with a primarily regional mandate
 - UNAFEI, the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders; Tokyo (the oldest institute; 1962);

- ILANUD, the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders; San José, 1975;
- HEUNI, the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations; Helsinki, 1981;
- UNAFRI, the African Regional Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Kampala, 1987; and
- NAUSS, the Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, 1972; Riyadh;
- seven specialized institutes / entities, each with an international mandate
 - ICCLR & CJP, the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy; Vancouver, 1991;
 - ISPAC, the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, Milan, 1991;
 - SII, the Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights, Siracusa, 1972;

- RWI, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law; Lund, 1984;
 - ICPC, the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime; Montreal, 1994;
 - ISS, the Institute for Security Studies; Pretoria, 1991; and
 - the Basel Institute on Governance / the International Centre for Asset Recovery, Basel, 2003;
- five national level institutes
- AIC, the Australian Institute of Criminology; Canberra, 1973;
 - KICJ, the Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice, Seoul, 1989;
 - NIJ, the National Institute of Justice; Washington D.C., 1968;
 - TIJ, the Thailand Institute of Justice, Bangkok, 2011; and
 - CCLS, the College for Criminal Law Science, Beijing, 2005.

The interregional institute, the first four regional institutes listed above, and ISPAC were established specifically within the framework of the UN Crime Programme. NAUSS, the seven specialized institutes and the five national level institutes each have their own original mandate, but have agreed (usually through a memorandum of understanding) to cooperate with the UNODC and the UN Crime Programme.

The report of the Secretary-General to the first session of the Commission, in 1992, laid out the functions of the UN Crime Programme Network of Institutes (E/CN.15/1992/3, para 5):

- (1) service as a link between the UN and the member states in the different regions;
- (2) promotion of interregional, regional and subregional cooperation;
- (3) fostering UN criminal policy;
- (4) keeping member states abreast of the work and perspectives of the UN;
- (5) advising the Secretariat of the special needs, concerns and priorities of the region; and
- (6) assistance in the implementation of the UN programme.

The actual activities of the individual PNI institutes and entities can be divided into four “baskets”:

- activities that are carried out in accordance with UN mandates, as formulated by the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; examples include organization of workshops at the UN Congresses and the Workshop connected with the thematic debate at annual sessions of the Commission;

- activities that otherwise directly support the work of the UNODC; examples include assisting the UNODC in the preparation of documentation for the UN Crime Congresses and the sessions of the UN Crime Commission, assistance in organizing regional preparatory meetings for the UN Crime Congresses, and organization together with the UNODC of various expert meetings and training programmes;
- activities that otherwise contribute to implementing UN mandates in crime prevention and criminal justice; examples include various training programmes and research projects; and
- activities that are conducted primarily in accordance with mandates coming from sources other than the UN (this is the case in particular with the national level institutes, which are primarily accountable to their respective national Government).

The two clearest examples of the contribution of the PNI to the UN Crime Programme are in connection with the organization of the UN Crime Congresses, and in the organization of the annual sessions of the UN Crime Commission.

The PNI has had two specific roles to play in the organization of the Congresses. First, in the run-up to the Congresses, some institutes (such as ILANUD, but also for example UNAFRI and NAUSS) have been instrumental in organizing regional preparatory meetings, and in mobilizing regional interest in participation. Second, beginning with the organization by HEUNI and UNICRI of a workshop at the 1985 UN Crime Congress in Milan on juvenile justice, the PNI has assumed a considerable share of the responsibility for the Congress workshops. (This role of the institutes was formally recognized by the United Nations Crime Commission in 2001.)

Since 2001, the PNI has organized ancillary meetings at the sessions of the UN Crime Commission. The PNI has also been responsible, together with the UNODC, for the organization of the Workshop associated with the respective theme of each session.

When the architecture of the new United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice programme was designed in 1991, a special mention was made about the role of the institutes (GA/RES/46/152, annex):

United Nations institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders

35. The activities of the United Nations institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders should be supported by Member States and the United Nations, with particular attention being given to the needs of such institutes located in developing countries. Given the important role of such institutes, their contributions to policy development and implementation, and their resource requirements, especially those of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, should be fully integrated into the overall programme.

Coordination among the United Nations institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders

36. The institutes should keep one another and the commission on crime prevention and criminal justice informed on a regular basis about their programme of work and its implementation.

37. The commission may request the institutes, subject to the availability of resources, to implement select elements of the programme. The commission may also suggest areas for inter-institute activities.

38. The commission shall seek to mobilize extrabudgetary support for the activities of the institutes.

The Secretary General submitted the first progress report on the Institutes (E/CN.15/1992/3) at the first session of the UN Crime Commission in 1992. Such reports have become a regular part of the documentation of each regular session of the UN Crime Commission.

Coordination among the institutes has thus been a permanent agenda issue for the deliberations of the UN Crime Commission. Indeed, one of the five specific functions of the Commission (alongside providing policy guidance to the UN on crime prevention and criminal justice, implementing the programme, mobilizing the support of Member States for the programme, and preparing the UN Congresses) is to facilitate and to help coordinate the activities of the interregional and regional institutes (GA/RES/46/152, annex, para 26(c)). The Commission may request the PNI, subject to the availability of resources, to implement selected elements of the programme. The Commission may also suggest areas for inter-institute activities.

The UN Crime Commission thus has specifically been assigned the function of facilitating and helping to coordinate the activities of the interregional and regional institutes.

The UNOCD, in turn, is charged with the practical implementation of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, and according to GA/RES/46/152, the institutes provide programme support. The opening paragraph of ECOSOC Res 1992/22 (I para 1) sets out the framework for the relationship between the UNODC and the institutes: "Under the guidance of the Commission, the secretariat of the programme should be responsible for facilitating the planning, coordination and implementation of practical activities in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, in close collaboration with governments and interregional and regional institutes ..."

The Secretary General, in his report to the first session of the UN Crime Commission, had this to say (E/CN.15/1992/3, para 104): "To make the network viable, support is needed for strengthening and consolidated action on the part of the Secretariat. The Secretariat's support requires continuous advisory, monitoring and follow-up action. Effective coordination of the institutes' work programmes and activities is necessary to programme performance and impact."

Since the UNODC is to coordinate the work of the PNI, the UNODC has from the outset been considered an integral part of the PNI itself. Furthermore, since the regular staff of the UNODC is able to develop day-to-day working routines, it is in a better position than the UN Crime Commission to understand how the institutes work, and to strengthen coordination. This is most evident in the fact that the UNODC representative has traditionally set the agenda for, and chaired, the PNI coordination meetings. It is also evident in the formal role of the UNODC in reporting to the annual sessions of the UN Crime Commission on the work of the institutes.

Second, the UNODC is either formally or informally a part of the advisory board, management board or equivalent of many of the institutes. This allows it to follow, and potentially influence, the actual work of individual institutes.

Third, the UNODC has at times requested the assistance of individual PNI institutes in the preparation of formal Secretariat documentation for the sessions of the UN Crime Commission or for the UN Crime Congresses, or in providing feedback by commenting on early drafts of such documentation.

Fourth, individual PNI institutes or staff members have either co-organized or participated in UNODC activities implementing the programme. This includes the hosting by some institutes of regional preparatory meetings for the Congresses, the organization together with the UNODC of expert meetings, and a large variety of technical assistance activities.

RECENT PNI PUBLICATIONS RELATED TO CYBERCRIME

The PNI are helping the international community in responding to cybercrime, the theme of this year's session of the UN Crime Commission



Cybercrime has rapidly emerged as a serious threat to individuals, communities, the private sector and governments around the world. Cybercrime evolves quickly, and developing effective prevention and response measures requires specialized expertise.

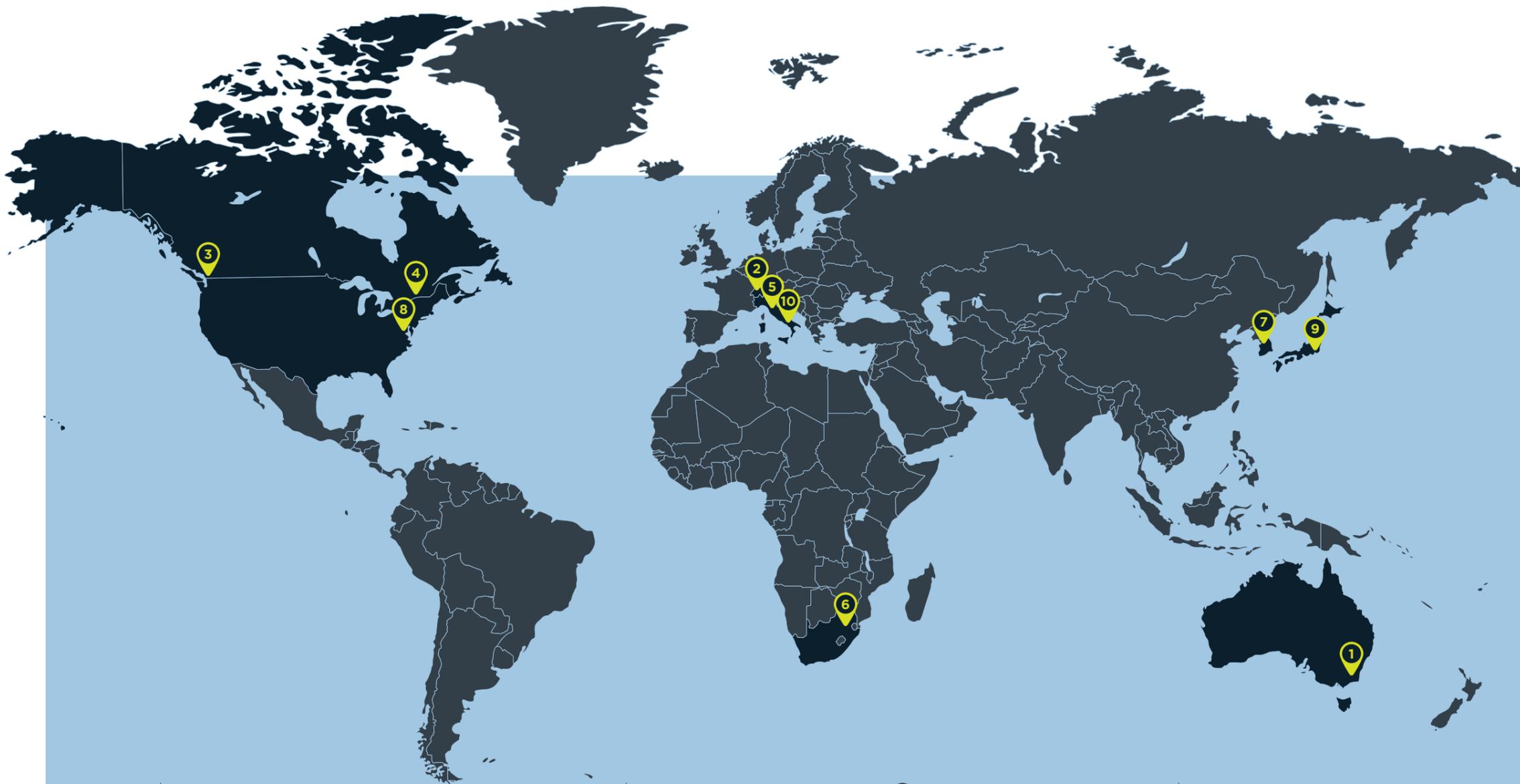
As in other sectors of crime prevention and criminal justice, the PNI have been assisting the international community in developing a deeper understanding of cybercrime, identifying promising practices and assisting UN Member States, as well as many other stakeholders, on request.

The thematic discussion at the 2022 session of the UN Crime Commission deals with Strengthening the use of digital evidence in criminal justice and countering cybercrime, including the abuse and exploitation of minors in illegal activities with the use of the Internet. In preparation for the Workshop that is to be held at the session, information was collected on publications prepared by the individual PNI that are related to this theme.

The full list of over 270 PNI publications, podcasts and other sources of information related to this year's theme is available [here](#). These sources can be accessed through the websites of the respective PNI members, and the PNI are prepared to respond to any queries for further information.

Although the earliest PNI publications related to this year's theme date back to the 1990s, half of the publications contained in the list have appeared over the past five years.

The PNI publications cover a wealth of issues. A few examples are the use of social media by terrorist, violent extremist and criminal groups during the Covid-19 pandemic (UNICRI), cryptocurrencies and money-laundering (BIG), child sexual abuse (AIC; NIJ; KICJ), ransomware (AIC), and digital evidence (NIJ).



- 1 AIC**
Online child sexual offenders' language use in real-time chats, Martine Powell, Sharon Casey and Jon Rouse, 2021

How do child sexual abuse live streaming offenders access victims?, Sarah Napier, Coen Teunissen and Hayley Boxall, 2021

Malware in spam email: Risks and trends in the Australian Spam Intelligence Database, Roderic Broadhurst and Harshit Trivedi, 2020

The identity theft response system, Megan Wyre, David Lacey and Kathy Allan, 2020
- 2 Basel**
Basel Institute on Governance, Europol, INTERPOL, Combating virtual assets-based money laundering and crypto-enabled crime: Recommendations of the Tripartite Working Group on Criminal Finances and Cryptocurrencies, 2022

Working Paper 28, Federico Paesano, Regulating cryptocurrencies: challenges and considerations, 2019
- 3 ICCLR&CJP**
Both Sides of the (Bit)Coin – Agenda, 2019
- 4 ICPC**
The 6th International Report on Crime Prevention and Community Safety: Preventing Cybercrime, 2019
- 5 ISPAC**
Cybercriminality: Finding a Balance between Freedom and Security. Proceedings of the International Conference on "Cybercrime: Global Phenomenon and its Challenges", December 2011, Courmayeur Mont Blanc, Italy, Stefano Manacorda (ed), 2012
- 6 ISS**
Maritime cyber security: preparing for rough seas ahead, 2021

Is Africa cybercrime-savvy?, 2019

Cybercrime: A complex problem requiring a multi-faceted response, 2014
- 7 KICJ**
Grooming in the Sexual Abuse of Children and Future Policy Responses (2019) Jeongsook Yoon, Taeheon Lee and Hyeonsuk Kim

The Criminal Justice Response and Development Strategy in the age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (II): The Internet of Things (IoT) and Block chain (2019) Jee-young Yun, Hyun-wook Chun, Jin-mook Kim, Bu-gon Ryu, Byung-uk Lee, Won-sang Lee

Cryptocurrency-related Crime and Criminal Justice (2017) Seong-jin Yeon, Hyun-wook Chun, Gi-bum Kim, Ji-ho Shin, Seon-hee Choi

Public Perception and Effective Control Measures of Children and Youth Pornography (2016) Eun-Young Kang, Hye-Jeong Kim, Tae-Jeong Hwang
- 8 NIJ**
Evaluation of a Multi-Session Group Designed to Prevent Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors: The "My Life My Choice" Curriculum - Emily F. Rothman, Amy Farrell, Jennifer Paruk, Katherine Bright, Megan Bair-Merritt and Sarah R. Preis, 2021

Improving the Collection of Digital Evidence, 2021
- Digital Evidence Policies and Procedures Manual, 2020

Protecting Children Online: Using Research-Based Algorithms to Prioritize Law Enforcement Internet Investigations, Technical Report, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 2016
- 9 UNAFEI**
Watanabe, Machiko, "The 23rd UNCAC Training Programme (Online): Tackling Emerging Threats of Corruption in the Borderless and Digitalized World", Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders, Resource Material Series No. 113, UNAFEI, March 2022 https://www.unafei.or.jp/publications/pdf/RS_No113/No113_01_ALL.pdf

UNAFEI Resource Materials Series No. 79, December 2009

The Criminal Justice Response to Cybercrime
- 10 UNICRI**
Stop the virus of disinformation: the malicious use of social media by terrorist, violent extremist and criminal groups during the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020

Guidelines for IT Security in SMEs, 2015

THE AIC AND UNAFRI IN FOCUS

A CLOSER LOOK
AT THE PNI

INTERVIEW WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR RICK BROWN, AIC



The Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) is an Australian federal government agency that has a mandate to reduce crime and promote justice. We do this by informing crime and justice policy and practice in Australia by undertaking, funding and disseminating policy-relevant research of national significance. Rick Brown is the Deputy Director at the AIC, and his role involves overseeing the day-to-day operation of the Institute. Rick has been in this role since joining the AIC in 2011.

How many people work at the AIC and what is the mix of roles?

The AIC has 25 staff. Eighteen of those staff are researchers who are responsible for undertaking research on AIC's priority issues, which currently include transnational serious and organized crime, illicit drugs, economic crime, violence against women and children and Indigenous over-representation in the criminal justice system. A small team also manages AIC's statistical collections on homicide, deaths in custody, sexual assault, fraud and identity crime. In addition, the AIC has a team of four librarians who manage the Institute's extensive collection of books and journals and undertakes literature searches on behalf of the researchers. The AIC also employs an editor who proofreads all publications and manages the publications process, and a grants manager who oversees the Institute's Criminology Research Grants programme. The AIC works closely with the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission which provides all of AIC's corporate services.

Who are the AIC's key stakeholders and how do you interact with them?

The AIC works closely with federal government policymakers in the Department of Home Affairs, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Attorney General's Department and the Department of Social Services. The research undertaken by the AIC is primarily intended to inform crime and justice policymaking. In addition, AIC researchers work closely with law enforcement practitioners to ensure the research has an impact on the ground. Interaction occurs at all stages of the research process. The research programmes are typically developed in consultation with stakeholders, fieldwork and data collection are often undertaken with their assistance, and the findings from the research are fed back through regular meetings, presentations and publications.

What does a regular day look like for you?

No two days are the same at the AIC, but typical activities include representing the AIC in external forums, meeting with stakeholders, meeting with staff, reviewing draft research publications, arranging events, responding to media enquiries and dealing with routine administrative processes. Very occasionally, I have an opportunity to roll up my sleeves and get involved in a research project too.

What research areas will be key for the AIC over the next twelve months?

While we undertake research on a range of issues at the AIC, there are three key areas of concern over the next twelve months. We have just launched a new Indigenous Justice Research Program that is funding nine new projects that aim to explore ways of reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the criminal justice system. Our programme on domestic violence will include a trial of focused deterrence approaches to tackling the problem, with three police jurisdictions funded to test a new model. Cybercrime will also be a priority in the next year, with the launch of a new Australian Cybercrime Survey and a focus on combating ransomware victimization.

Are there any major events involving the AIC in the next twelve months?

The AIC will be hosting four major events over the next twelve months. In June, we will host the 5th Serious and Organised Crime Research Forum, which brings together academics and practitioners to discuss the latest research. In August, we will host an event on online sexual exploitation of children that will explore new approaches to tackling the problem. In September, we will partner with the Australian Border Force to deliver a national conference on human trafficking and modern slavery. Finally, in November, we will host AIC 2022, a conference that will showcase research focused on AIC's research priorities. Although still in the early stages of planning, we also hope to hold an event in February 2023 to mark the 50th anniversary of the AIC.

What advice would you give to a new researcher/educator keen to work for the AIC?

As a small team that responds to the needs of our stakeholders, we need to be flexible in the type of research we undertake. The best advice for new

researchers is to gain experience of a range of methodologies – both qualitative and quantitative – and to be willing to work on different topics.

How has Covid-19 impacted the work of the AIC? And how has the AIC addressed the challenges posed by Covid-19?

Covid-19 brought both challenges and opportunities. The lockdowns that occurred from March 2020 required us to work from home, often in difficult circumstances for staff with young families. On the whole, this transition worked well and staff have continued to largely work from home, with no deterioration in productivity.

We also recognized the opportunities from a research perspective and quickly adapted our research programme to address the crime and justice impacts of Covid-19. This included research on online gambling, domestic violence, cybercrime and fraud during the pandemic, which provided an evidence base for government programmes. We have also hosted numerous events using online platforms, which have allowed us to reach new audiences at low cost.

What are the advantages/opportunities of being a PNI member?

Being a PNI member provides an opportunity to make a difference on an international level by supporting the agenda of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ). This most recently has involved developing the agenda for the PNI workshop that will be held at the start of this year's CCPCJ on the topic of improving criminal justice responses to internet related crimes against children. Membership also provides an opportunity to connect with researchers from around the world, who are working in institutes similar to the AIC and on similar topics of concern. It also creates opportunities for joint projects and in recent years we have worked closely with the Thailand Institute of Justice and with the Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice. These connections are hugely valuable from a personal perspective.

INTERVIEW WITH UNAFRI ACTING DIRECTOR JOHN SEMBUYA SSALI



John Sembuya Ssali, the Acting Director (Director a.i) of UNAFRI (the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders), has worked at UNAFRI for over fifteen years. Starting as the Finance Officer and later the acting Director of the Institute, his role is to provide leadership in the development and implementation of the substantive work programme, including fund-raising.

How many people work at the (institution) and what is the mix of roles?

At full capacity, the Institute's workforce is twenty-two staff. Six Professional International staff, eight National Officer middle managers and eight support staff. The Institute employs Researchers, Lawyers, Financial Analysts and Social Scientists.

Who are the (institution) key stakeholders and how do you interact with them?

UNAFRI's stakeholders are the fifty-four countries in Africa, academia, and members of the international community. We have our focal point in each African country. In addition, the Technical Advisory Committee, which is part of the governance structure of UNAFRI's Governing Board, is composed of ten representatives of African Governments. We also communicate regularly with heads of universities.

What does a regular day look like for you?

A normal working session involves checking for updates on the implementation of directives from the Governing Board, and the status of the resolutions for mobilization of support from stakeholders; oversight of programme implementation by the Technical Committee of the Institute, some activities of which are shared with professional networks; aligning Institute programmes with the guidelines of the United Nations Commission for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; organizing regular meetings of the Management Committee and its subcommittees; attending to staff matters and other routine issues. We close at five p.m., although this can be adjusted depending on unforeseen urgent matters regarding the Institute.

What research/teaching areas will be key for (UNAFRI/you) over the next twelve months?

UNAFRI's research/teaching areas focus on the programme of activities based on the needs of the member States and the themes of the UN Crime Commission (transnational organized crime and human rights projects).

What's the most interesting research you/UNAFRI have undertaken recently?

The research project on prison management in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic.

What would your "elevator pitch" be to promote the work of UNAFRI?

Since UNAFRI's funding mostly depends on contributions from member States (90%), UNAFRI needs to enhance its visibility by offering activities to member States (and other African non-member States). Publication of the Newsletters highlighting our activities must be maintained and widely circulated. Funding should be made available for travel so that UNAFRI can

explore with different member States the possibility of UNAFRI providing them with advisory services on request. Research on emerging crime trends should be undertaken with the findings widely circulated and shared with member States and partner agencies.

Are there any major events involving UNAFRI over the next twelve months?

Absolutely. The United Nations Crime Commission and the annual PNI coordination meetings are due to be held in Vienna in May 2022; UNAFRI shall definitely attend. Currently we have completed phase one of the recruitment of the Director (shortlisting), and the second phase of interviewing is slated for early June 2022. Our schedule of regional workshops, starting with training in capacity-building and judicial cooperation in prosecution, investigations of terrorism and related offences, is planned to take place during the third week of May 2022.

What new or emerging areas of research are you interested in exploring?

Cybercrime; gender violence (domestic violence) and human rights research; youth unemployment and criminality; firearms control programmes; mutual legal assistance, extradition programmes; environmental crime.

What advice would you give to a new researcher/educator keen to work for UNAFRI?

Such a person should have an interest in Africa's pursuit of implementation of Agenda 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

How has the Covid-19 pandemic impacted the work of your organization? What has been the response of your organization in addressing challenges posed by Covid-19?

The pandemic has continued to limit physical contact and, as a result, the number of beneficiaries of the Institute's programmes, due to lack of freedom of association attributed to constant fear of infection, has been reduced to the bare minimum. However, the Institute has maintained the internationally recognized health precautionary measures, such as the standard operating procedures (SOPs); promoting online meetings/discussions; and ensuring mandatory staff vaccination programmes.

Apart from the challenges, do you find any opportunities arising from the Covid-19 situation?

Yes, a number of opportunities have arisen from the pandemic. These include overhauling our IT system, to meet the current technological information systems, in order to host the various advanced digital platforms. The staff have been introduced to the new digital technology. We have also started online workshops and training using Zoom, thereby reducing travel costs and daily subsistence allowances to course participants.

What are the opportunities offered by being a PNI member?

The PNI offers opportunities for collaboration with other institutes whose experts promote the sharing of good practices, knowledge, and strategic programme accomplishments. There are prospects of in-house mutual support on a range of needs for technical expertise.

We are working closely with UNODC, ILANUD, UNICRI, UNAFEI, RWI and HEUNI. We were given an opportunity to present the implementation of thematic themes developed from the Kyoto Declaration prepared by the UN Crime Commission. UNAFRI is also a member of the PNI Newsletter Editorial Board.

What are the most challenging parts of your job?

The major challenge is inadequate funding. This has led to the exodus of professional international staff due to inadequate remuneration. The Institute has been without a substantive Director for over ten years due to lack of adequate resources to attract and retain high-calibre international staff.

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PNI

NEWSLETTER

UPDATES FROM
PNI MEMBERS
UPDATES ON
UN CRIME PROGRAMME
ACTIVITIES

**THE UNITED NATIONS CRIME PREVENTION
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMME**
NETWORK OF INSTITUTES (PNI)

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ARTICLES
PUBLICATIONS ON CYBERCRIME
EXECUTIVE INTERVIEW
WITH AIC AND UNAFRI

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