



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
15 April 2010

Original: English

---

### Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

#### Nineteenth session

Vienna, 17-21 May 2010

Item 4 (e) of the provisional agenda\*

**Integration and coordination of efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and by Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice: other activities in support of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in particular activities of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, non-governmental organizations and other bodies**

### Major activities of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

#### Report of the Board of Trustees

#### *Summary*

The present report provides information on the major activities of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolutions 1989/56 and 1992/1, by which the Board of Trustees is required to report periodically on the Institute and its work to the Council through the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

---

\* E/CN.15/2010/1.



## **I. Introduction**

1. The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) was created in 1968 to assist intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations in formulating and implementing improved policies in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. In today's rapidly changing world, the major goals of UNICRI are to advance security, serve justice and build peace.

2. The Institute has become known for its dynamic, fresh and innovative approach to applied research. Creative solutions, knowledge management and the power of partnerships are its main instruments of work. The Institute operates in selected fields of crime, justice and security; its activities assist in the integration of national and international efforts to build a reliable knowledge base and to identify good practices and adapt them to different situations at the national level. The present report briefly describes the activities carried out by UNICRI in 2009.

## **II. Applied research programme**

3. In 2009 the UNICRI applied research programme continued to work in the areas of security governance and counter-terrorism; emerging crimes; and training and advanced education.

4. Throughout the year, the unit acting as the Security Governance/Counter-Terrorism Laboratory further consolidated and intensified its activities in several areas of security governance, through the development of initiatives to face emerging security threats by directly involving not only security and law enforcement agencies, but also a broad cross-section of civil society, local and regional governments, the private sector and agents of economic development. To consolidate the initiatives, in 2009 the laboratory launched its new strategy called "Host an idea". Its main objective is to maximize the potential of UNICRI programmes by seeking locations able to provide a new flow of ideas and innovative networks, and capable of investing and supporting the initiatives planned.

5. In 2009, the laboratory continued to concentrate its action on non-traditional areas, such as major events security and public-private partnerships, as well as sensitive topics such as the prevention of illicit trafficking of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear material and countering the appeal of terrorism.

6. As part of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force of the United Nations, UNICRI has actively contributed to the implementation of the international agenda to ensure coordinated and coherent efforts across the United Nations system to prevent terrorism.

7. The Emerging Crimes Unit intends to contribute to building a global knowledge base on organized crime and threat convergences. The focus is on illicit groups, their transnational activities, the interactions among different groups and their impact on the legal economy. The Unit has intensified its efforts to increase the efficiency of criminal justice systems and international cooperation and to

strengthen juvenile justice systems, particularly in developing countries. The activities carried out in 2009 were aimed at:

- (a) Strengthening criminal justice institutions and increasing the professional capacities of criminal justice practitioners in fighting different types of organized crime activities;
- (b) Increasing international cooperation and partnerships in different fields of organized crime;
- (c) Developing innovative tools to better address human trafficking, counterfeiting, environmental crime and cybercrime;
- (d) Decreasing the vulnerability of potential victims of organized crime;
- (e) Supporting victims, promoting social reintegration and empowering victims of human trafficking;
- (f) Providing legal assistance on juvenile justice issues through the support of Member States in assessing the degree of conformity of national legislation with international standards and norms;
- (g) Establishing governmental and non-governmental structures for the protection of victims and vulnerable groups.

8. The objectives of the Training and Advanced Education Unit are to strengthen and enhance UNICRI activities in the fields of post-graduate education and specialized training for judicial personnel. The Unit also assists academic institutions around the world by applying its advanced training methodologies. In order to carry out these objectives and to promote national self-reliance and the development of institutional capabilities, the Unit:

- (a) Offers a series of post-graduate classes and short courses on topics that fall within the scope of the UNICRI mandate on crime prevention and criminal justice. In 2009 UNICRI offered its fourth annual LLM programme in International Crime and Justice, jointly organized with the Faculty of Law of the University of Turin;
- (b) Designs and implements a variety of specialized training courses for executives and judicial personnel at the request of Member States, aimed at building and reinforcing the capacities of executives and United Nations personnel on the basis of needs assessed at the global and local levels;
- (c) Is involved in a wide range of training and education activities in developing countries with the aim of enhancing legal awareness and promoting greater understanding of fundamental rights and broader developmental issues;
- (d) Remains committed to developing an international network for information exchange on training and advanced education within the United Nations system;
- (e) Organizes outreach projects in the local community to raise awareness of the fight against crime and injustice among the general population, and in particular among youth.

### III. External relations

#### Documentation Centre

9. Throughout 2009, the library collection continued to grow through commercial acquisitions, exchange agreements, free acquisitions, ad hoc donations and internal production. Online services and accessibility to electronic resources were improved, and assistance to internal staff and in loco and remote users was provided. The broad range of specialized catalogues, directories and databases offered by the library drew the usual large number of visits to the Documentation Centre website. Close collaboration with the libraries in the United Nations system was further developed.

10. Through its participation in the United Nations System Electronic Information Acquisition Consortium, the Centre offered access to a wider range of electronic resources, and through its participation in the United Nations inter-agency Knowledge Sharing and Information Management workspace, access to shared documents and data was increased. New information-sharing initiatives were further developed, such as the International Criminal Justice Events Calendar, managed by the UNICRI Documentation Centre in collaboration with the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme.

11. The Documentation Centre also promoted joint initiatives aimed at students in collaboration with the United Nations organizations of the Turin campus. Cultural initiatives targeting the general public, such as meetings with authors and publishers, were also organized, and synergies among law enforcement, the judiciary and academia were thus promoted.

12. The Documentation Centre also continued to produce internal publications, including United Nations monographs.

#### Communications

13. UNICRI communications activities, media activities in particular, have been conducted by the Turin headquarters in cooperation with the Liaison Office in Rome. A wide range of communications materials and official documents were produced with the aim of improving knowledge of the issues that UNICRI seeks to address. The communication cluster elaborated and published the Institute's books and leaflets and prepared articles and speeches related to ongoing activities, research and analysis.

14. Public events were organized, including screenings of a movie on trafficking in human beings, the design and implementation of a summer course on migration and the development, planning and organization of the international conference on capital crime and conflicts. A new project to promote the Millennium Development Goals was initiated. The activities of the project were implemented in the context of the Terra Madre event.

15. A new website on counterfeiting was created, providing information for experts and the public at large. The Italian-language website (<http://onuitalia.it>) was restructured and improved.

**Liaison Office in Rome**

16. In 2009, the UNICRI Liaison Office in Rome continued to play its role of liaising with the host country, the diplomatic corps, the academic and business sectors and civil society. In particular, steps are being taken with the diplomatic corps in Rome to present UNICRI projects and find possible donors among United Nations Member States.

17. The Liaison Office has followed up on ongoing projects financed by the Italian Foreign Ministry and has successfully negotiated new projects, which are currently under way. In addition to advocacy and image-building, activities were carried out in close cooperation with the Turin headquarters.

18. The Liaison Office maintains contact with host country institutions, civil society and media, both for UNICRI and in support of the United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe. It launches United Nations reports and organizes events to celebrate observances such as United Nations Day, Human Rights Day and the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, and has placed a strong emphasis on advocacy of the Millennium Development Goals. The Liaison Office provided support to the Secretary-General on the occasion of the World Summit on Food Security, in Rome from 16 to 18 November 2009, and to other senior United Nations officials during their official visits to Italy.

**IV. Management services****Information technology**

19. In the past year the infrastructure of the UNICRI information technology cluster has been considerably expanded. Moreover, capabilities and services have been enhanced, particularly in regard to Intranet and Internet services.

**Administration**

20. The UNICRI administration department has continued to support the work of the Institute through its routine daily work. The main activities include human resource management and finance, which have required extensive consultations with relevant sections of the United Nations Office in Vienna in order to achieve full compliance with United Nations administrative procedures.

**Staff**

21. During 2009, UNICRI had 26 approved posts funded by general purpose and special purpose funds. Of those posts, 19 were at the Professional level (including some appointments of limited duration) and 7 at the General Service. In addition, 53 junior and senior fellows, consultants and individual contractors were hired to perform tasks related to the implementation of the programme activities, 6 of whom were implementing projects in the field.