



# Economic and Social Council

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## Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

### Thirtieth session

Vienna, 17–21 May 2021

Item 3 of the provisional agenda\*

### General debate

## **Statement submitted by the International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges (IAAI), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council\*\***

The Secretary-General has received the following paper, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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\* [E/CN.15/2021/1](#).

\*\* Issued without formal editing.



**Written statement submitted by the International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges<sup>1</sup>**

**Recognizing** the importance of the **Kyoto Declaration** and its emphasis on partnership and multi-stakeholder approaches to crime prevention and criminal justice;

**Wanting** to encourage a fruitful partnership between faith-based organizations and the United Nations agencies devoted to crime prevention and criminal justice, we, as steering committee members of the Coalition of Faith-Based Organizations for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, linked with many others from around the world representing the world's religions join with the UNODC in encouraging productive partnerships to achieve the sustainable development goals, particularly goal 16 – which calls for the promotion of “peaceful and inclusive societies” as well as “provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”; and

**Noting** that faith-based organizations have evident capacities to contribute to crime prevention, social justice, violence prevention, criminal justice reform, anti-corruption efforts, humane treatment of prisoners, restorative justice, victim assistance, juvenile justice, youth programmes, poverty reduction, health and hospital projects, schools and professional training, urban rejuvenation, community development, protection and empowerment of women, reducing inequalities and discrimination against minorities, environmental justice, good governance, judicial integrity, terrorism prevention, urban safety and promoting a culture of lawfulness; and

**Appreciating** the fact that virtually all religious teachings affirm core principles, norms, virtues, values and practices that promote kindness, service, care for others, forgiveness, honesty, fairness, accountability, and humane justice; and

**Recognizing** that the root causes of crime are often related to inequality, lack of access to employment, food for the family, health services, and education but also greed, racism, ethnocentrism, economic exploitation, political corruption, tax evasion, money laundering, and organized criminal activity; and

**Respecting** that the Compendium of United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice adopted by the international community; and

**Having** formed the **Coalition of Faith-Based Organizations for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice** in 2019 as an instrument for collaboration not only among faith-based organizations but, more importantly, to encourage productive partnership with UNODC and other United Nations agencies, evidenced in a wide range of programmes convened by the **Coalition** throughout 2019–2021, reported on the **Coalition's** website at [www.coalitionfb.org](http://www.coalitionfb.org) and published in our **Special Report** found at the following link <https://coalitionfb.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/CFBO-2021-April13-A5-d1.pdf>;

We therefore encourage:

- Increased partnership between faith-based organizations and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as well as with the Secretariat of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, focused on specific topics of mutual interest such as combatting corruption, migrant smuggling, environmental crime, terrorism prevention, urban safety, good governance, preventing violence against women, and promoting a culture of lawfulness; and
- Faith-based organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to seek greater collaboration with UNODC, including participation in the annual Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Crime Congress, the Conference of State Parties (COSP) of the United Nations

<sup>1</sup> On behalf of the Coalition of Faith based Organizations

Convention against Corruption, the organs of the United Nations Convention Against Organized Crime and its Protocols; and,

We encourage faith-based organizations to:

- Disseminate the documents of UNODC dealing with combatting corruption, treatment of prisoners, anti-corruption, restorative justice, victim assistance, wildlife and forest crime
- Translate key documents of UNODC into local languages
- Engage with UNODC programmes in the context of inter-agency collaboration, as well as participation in the Kofi Annan Briefings and with the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Engaging Faith-Based Actors for Sustainable Development
- Collaborate with UNEP, UNFPA, Habitat, UNDP, the World Bank, UNICEF, and other United Nations agencies
- Dialogue with and collaborate with believers of all religions who affirm tolerance, equality, mutual respect, and human rights and responsibilities of all peoples, but specifically, law enforcement personnel, judges, social workers and rehabilitation officers, community workers, teachers, prosecutors and defence lawyers, youth workers, advocates for women and social causes, city planners, and anti-corruption officials.

We encourage UNODC to:

- Convene forums for exchange of best practices and establish a platform for “what works” with links to reports and academic studies of successful programmes of faith-based organizations
- Provide training for representatives of faith-based organizations that may be applied at the grass roots level in countries throughout the world, including fostering a greater knowledge and appreciation of the documents of the United Nations, specifically relating to the sustainable development Agenda 2030 and United Nations programmes of crime prevention, anti-corruption, prisoner rehabilitation, restorative justice, victim assistance, and environmental crimes
- Include in UNODC documents information that underscores best practices of faith-based organizations engaged in crime prevention
- Appreciate the ongoing significance of religious traditions from throughout the world as shapers of individual ethics, social, cultural, national and civilizational values and identities and that religions are not only repositories of doctrines, rites and sacred texts, but also animators of social engagement, activism for good on many levels, humanitarian, philanthropic, charitable, and service oriented activities
- Include reference to the importance of faith-based organizations in relevant statements of UNODC.

We call upon the UNODC to expand its range of partnerships with civil society to include a more robust set of partnerships with faith-based organizations, whereby a variety of projects could be explored in areas such as crime prevention in urban environments, prevention of corruption, or prevention of migrant smuggling; and

We hereby submit this statement to the 2021 Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Supporting the statement:  
Universal Peace Federation