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COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES WITH  
OTHER UNITED NATIONS BODIES

United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute:  
report of the Institute

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\*E/CN.15/1993/1.

I. REGULAR RESEARCH PROGRAMME: RESEARCH PROJECTS AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

1. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1989/56 of 24 May 1989, mandated the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) to undertake action-oriented research, training and technical cooperation in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

2. The core staff of UNICRI currently consists of 25 members,\* while approximately 75 international consultants participate in the implementation of its work programme on a regular basis.

3. In the work programme adopted at the third meeting of the Board of Trustees of UNICRI, which took place at Rome from 26 to 28 October 1992, special attention was paid to the priority themes identified by the Commission at its first session. UNICRI activities were thus grouped according to those themes, although provision was made for a certain amount of flexibility in the implementation of the work programme to enable UNICRI to respond to urgent requests of Member States, particularly from developing countries. In addition, it was decided that special attention would be given in 1993 to the following concerns:

(a) Continued diversification of fund-raising strategies with a view to generating additional resources for the regular budget of UNICRI and meeting the ever-growing demand for specific UNICRI projects;

(b) Continued development of UNICRI collaboration with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Office at Vienna;

(c) Further development of collaboration with specialized agencies and other United Nations departments, entities and programmes, in particular the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);

(d) Further development of collaboration with affiliated and associated regional training and research institutes, the Arab Security Studies and Training Centre (ASSTC), the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC), and the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy, particularly with reference to the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and in preparing for the Ninth Congress;

(e) Strengthening of links with national academic and research structures, in both developed and developing countries, non-governmental organizations and with the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council;

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\*Also working at the Institute are two Associate Research Officers, one for an initial period of 18 months on a cost-sharing basis with the Government of Switzerland, another seconded by the Ministry of Justice of Japan for a period of two years, as well as an Associate Research Officer from the Research and Planning Unit of the Home Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, for an initial period of 18 months.

(f) Systematic on-the-job as well as externally based training and updating of the professional skills and capacities of the UNICRI staff as required through participation in training and refresher courses, study tours and visits, sabbaticals, secondments (resources permitting) etc.

4. In terms of collaboration within the United Nations system and in particular within the crime prevention and criminal justice programme, the main point of reference continues to be the need for UNICRI to work together with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch in the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Eighth Congress, and those emerging from the Commission. Preparatory work will also begin for the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, and, as in the past, UNICRI will be particularly involved in the organization of the research workshop.

5. UNICRI will continue to collaborate with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch in the implementation of Eighth Congress resolution 10 on the development of criminal justice statistical surveys, 1/ while AIC and the Helsinki Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations, will continue to cooperate with UNICRI in the implementation of the project entitled "Environmental crime, sanctioning strategies and sustainable development".

6. The Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders will continue to collaborate with UNICRI in carrying out the agreement concerning juvenile justice in Latin America, which was signed in 1990 with the Inter-American Children's Institute and Defence for Children International. The UNICEF Office of the Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean became the fifth party to this agreement in 1991.

7. UNICRI, along with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch and the associated regional training and research institutes, will continue in 1993 to explore ways of providing maximum possible scientific support to the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

8. There will be meetings of the Scientific Committee on Drug-related Activities, which was set up by UNICRI and includes representatives of WHO, UNDCP and the Centre for Human Rights. The objectives of the Committee are to assist UNICRI in the planning and implementation of activities and to guarantee full coordination among the United Nations entities active in the field of drug control.

9. UNICRI will collaborate with ILO, WHO, UNDCP and the Centre for Human Rights in following up the international seminar, "Cocaine today: its effects on the individual and society".

10. Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and institutes with which UNICRI collaborates include the Centre for the Protection of Children's Rights (at Bangkok), the Council of Europe, Defence for Children International, the International Association of Penal Law, the International Criminal Police Organization, the International Juridical Organization for Environment and Development, the International Penal and Penitentiary Foundation, the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council, the International Society for Criminology, the International Society of Social Defence and the World Society of Victimology. Project-based collaboration with these and other organizations will continue.

11. At the 11th International Congress on Criminology, to be held at Budapest from 22 to 27 August 1993, UNICRI is planning to organize a panel session on international victimization surveys, at which the results of the 1992 victimization survey will be presented. UNICRI also intends to organize a special workshop on the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme in collaboration with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch and affiliated and associated regional and cooperating institutes and centres. Staff members will present individual papers on selected topics such as environmental protection, community policing, child abuse, and social change and crime.

12. In 1993, UNICRI will continue to follow a policy of expanding collaboration with academic and research bodies, at both national and international levels. This involves the leading national institutions in developed and developing countries, as well as the principal professional associations operating in criminology and related fields. UNICRI will continue to pursue the policy of hosting visiting fellows.

13. UNICRI will continue to collaborate with the following journals: International Review of Sociology; Revue internationale de criminologie et de police technique; C. J. International, issued by the Office of International Criminal Justice of the University of Illinois at Chicago; Rassegna Italiana di Criminologia; Youth Information Bulletin, issued by the United Nations; and International Legal Practitioner.

14. Collaboration was initiated in 1992 with the International Child Welfare Review and Dimensione dello Sviluppo.

15. UNICRI will continue to examine possible outlets for the publication of information and articles, including, in particular, an article dealing with the victimization surveys.

16. The information contained in the present report are grouped around the following priority themes identified by the Commission at its first session: national and transnational crime, organized crime, economic crime, including money-laundering, and the role of criminal law in the protection of the environment; crime prevention in urban areas and juvenile and violent criminality; and efficiency, fairness and improvement in the management and administration of criminal justice and related systems, with due emphasis on the strengthening of national capacities in developing countries for the regular collection, collation, analysis and utilization of data in the development and implementation of appropriate policies.

A. Priority theme A: organized crime, including the role of criminal law in the protection of the environment

17. UNICRI continued work on a project on environmental crime, sanctioning strategies and sustainable development, in collaboration with AIC and the Helsinki Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations. Consultations were held with the Max-Planck Institute for Foreign and Criminal Law at Freiburg, and a final report is being prepared by UNICRI and AIC.

18. The negative impact of corruption has been pointed out on various occasions, for example at the interregional seminar on corruption held at The Hague from 11 to 15 January 1989. More recently, the manual on practical measures

against corruption, prepared by the Secretariat and submitted to the Eighth Congress, noted that the corrupt activities of public officials can destroy the potential effectiveness of all types of governmental programmes, hinder development, and victimize individuals and groups. Moreover, it pointed out that corruption can affect the working of the criminal justice system and undermine principles of equity and fairness and, in the long run, give rise to injustice. The project, "Anti-corruption strategies", aims at gathering appropriate information on corruption scenarios and anti-corruption strategies, analysing them, describing the results and assembling a register of experts. The resulting report will form a curriculum for future training courses. An initial interregional seminar will be held at the end of the second year of the project for a restricted group of key persons, mainly from developing countries, who will either be heads of law enforcement agencies dealing with the problems of corruption, or policy advisers at either the administrative or legislative level. The key persons will thereafter be involved, in collaboration with UNICRI, in the dissemination of know-how and expertise on a national level through a series of training courses to take place in their respective countries.

19. The steering committee established by the working group on the follow-up to the international seminar, "Cocaine today: its effects on the individual and society", held its second meeting in March 1992 (with the participation of representatives from the Centre for Human Rights, UNDCP, UNICRI, WHO, the European Communities and the Government of Italy. During the meeting, five projects were submitted and approved, and UNICRI was entrusted with the task of acting as coordinator of the activities and secretariat to the steering Committee. The following two projects will be implemented by UNICRI: Comparative study for the standardization of the indicators and the methodologies of toxicological analysis in the field of cocaine abuse; and cocaine markets and law enforcement. The first-named project has been divided into two parallel subprojects, as follows:

(a) Evaluation and standardization of analytical methods for comparative analysis of illicit cocaine samples. In a restricted expert meeting, including a representative of UNDCP, held in June 1992, the international experts and laboratories to be included in the project were selected, and methodologies and data-collection tools were discussed;

(b) Epidemiological survey on cocaine abuse based on the analysis of metabolites found in hair. During the above-mentioned expert meeting, the international experts on hair analysis who will participate in the project were selected. These experts were requested to provide a report on the methodologies applied and the validity of the tests used, as well as on the strategies adopted to obtain the hair samples from donors and solutions to possible technical, ethical and legal problems. A review of literature was carried out, and the reports were discussed in an international meeting held at the beginning of December 1992.

20. The project proposal has been prepared and revised, with the aim of producing a report on the interaction between law enforcers and cocaine traffickers both nationally and locally. The material for the report is being collected using the following sources: background reports on national drugs legislation and policy; interviews with users, traffickers and enforcers; and selected case-studies on the interaction between trafficking and enforcement. The study is currently based in five countries, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom, and local researchers have been selected in each country.

B. Priority theme B: urban, juvenile and violent criminality

21. Two projects were initiated with the Research Institute of the Ministry of Interior of the Russian Federation, entitled "Latent crime in Russia" and "Urban crime". For the first project, activities have included the collection of victimization data. A draft report has been prepared and approved by the authorities of the Russian Federation.

22. For the project on urban crime, a research team from the Russian Federation has prepared material for the first stage of the work, including information on crime rates, juvenile delinquency and violent crime, and the opinions of Moscow residents on the danger of crime in the city. These data, together with the UNICRI publication, International Bibliography on Urban Crime Prevention, were presented to a meeting held at Rome in June and July 1992, at which project-related material and the organization of work for the next two years were also discussed.

23. A meeting between the authorities of the Russian Federation and UNICRI was held in Moscow on 8 and 9 October 1992 to discuss the report on the survey of migration processes and crime in Moscow. A questionnaire was discussed and adopted, and the next meeting has been set for May 1993.

24. A project proposal was prepared on "Police training in the prevention and control of drug abuse and related phenomena: a comparative study in 10 countries". The countries involved are Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Nigeria, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States of America. Experts in each country will prepare national reports.

25. An international comparative study on child abuse is designed to illustrate the situation concerning child abuse and the protection of the child in selected European countries, describing official and non-official responses to the problem in each country, as well as trying to place child abuse in a more general social and legal context. Research will focus on the following points of comparison: the situation in each country on the basis of five independent variables (gross national product, level of education, level of illiteracy, educational institutions and the demographic curve); an estimate of the extent of child abuse; and the level and types of prevention and protection against child abuse.

26. Another area of interest to UNICRI is that of domestic violence, which is not an easy subject to tackle since it involves a wide variety of subjects and human conditions and often strong and particular relationships between the victim and offender. This problem is worldwide and not peculiar to any one race, class or social condition. Cultural prejudices and economic dependence of the victim encourage the perpetration of various forms of violence, and the death of female children, the murder of widows and the mutilation of children for economic purposes are still accepted in many countries. Research into this subject will help to expose the problem. Thus the project, "Violence in the family: an international bibliography", aims at collecting references for the creation of a data bank and analysing the data collected.

27. Community-based prevention of crime and juvenile delinquency\* is a comparative project involving Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom and United

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\*A project to be carried out by Tadashi Moriyama, visiting fellow to UNICRI.

States, aimed at collecting research papers and books on issues relating to community policing and statistical data on the crime rate in selected communities in order to create a standardized index. There will also be an analysis of the results of victim surveys, including data on the fear of crime among the people in communities in which community policing is implemented. A quantitative comparative study will be carried out on community policing in selected countries, including a meta-analysis (for example by utilizing crime rates in each community) as well as, if possible, an evaluation of each programme.

28. The pilot project, "The role of women in drug abuse prevention education in Mediterranean countries", will focus on the preparation of a preventive strategy. The project will be divided into two phases. The first phase, lasting 18 months, will focus on the collection of data and national reports, as well as on an analysis, and the gathering of suggestions and indications. This will be followed by a second phase, which will involve the implementation, monitoring and evaluation, at a national level, of a concrete project. A preparatory three-day working group meeting was organized by UNICRI in February 1993.

C. Priority theme C: administration of justice

29. With regard to the preparatory work for the Ninth Congress, the Commission, in draft resolution III adopted at its first session, 2/ approved the holding of action-oriented research and demonstration workshops related to the topics of the Congress, as part of the programme of the Congress, and requested the Secretary-General to prepare a discussion guide for consideration by the Commission, including proposals for the workshops in cooperation with inter-regional and regional institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders. UNICRI will explore and develop both the strategy and the concrete modus operandi of its involvement in the preparations for the Ninth Congress, while participating in preparatory activities, including interregional working groups and meetings, upon request and within the limits of available financial resources.

30. In the course of coordination meetings held with the participation of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, UNICRI, and the affiliated and associated regional and cooperating institutes and centres, the following possible topics for the workshops were identified: development and policy use of international criminal justice information (United Nations surveys of crime trends and operations of criminal justice systems and international victimization surveys); criminal justice and environmental protection; massmedia in crime prevention; and computerization and management of the criminal justice system.

31. Outlines for the above-mentioned topics were prepared for discussion at the coordination meeting hosted by ASSTC in January 1993. UNICRI prepared the outlines for the first two topics.

32. UNICRI, in cooperation with the United Nations, continued work aimed at the preparation of a global report on crime and justice, in accordance with the proposals made at the Planning Meeting on the Development of the United Nations Criminal Justice Information Programme (E/CN.15/1992/CRP.2). Activities included an expert group meeting, held in June 1992, which reviewed the design of the questionnaire for the Fourth United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (1986-1990) and proposals for data analysis and dissemination, with a view to strengthening the

clearing-house functions of the crime prevention and criminal justice programme. The global report will be made available as a publication.

33. The UNICRI publication, Alternative Policing Styles, was completed. It consists of the following three parts: conceptual and analytical issues; examples of alternative styles; and cross-cultural perspectives.

34. The UNICRI publication, Criminology in Africa, which forms part of the series, Criminology in the Developing World, will be available in the first half of 1993.

35. The 1992 international victimization survey has been carried out in more than 30 countries, with the financial assistance and support of the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs of Italy and the Netherlands. With the financial assistance of the Ministry of the Interior of Italy, UNICRI, in connection with the victimization survey, organized the International Conference, "Understanding crime: experiences of crime and crime control", held at Rome from 18 to 20 November 1992.

36. A survey resulting from the 1991 project, "Promoting victimization surveys in developing countries", was implemented in Brazil, Costa Rica, Egypt, India, Philippines, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania. Other developing countries, in particular Argentina, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, have now become involved in this project. Pilot projects were carried out in South Africa and Tunisia. The questionnaire has been translated into local languages, a sample of about 1,000 respondents per country have been selected, and local staff have been trained in data collection and processing. The final reports of the national surveys will be presented at a forthcoming conference and published thereafter.

37. Work will commence in 1993 on the project, "Testing theories using international victimization surveys", the main purpose of which is as follows: to explore the possibility of testing certain macrocriminological theories by utilizing international victimization survey data to review literature on criminological theories and theory testing, in order to identify the criminological theories suitable for testing by means of such data; to identify the dependent variables; to identify the major concepts, as well as operationalized independent variables, of each criminological theory; to construct models which show how dependent and independent variables are related; and to test the theories by statistical analysis.

38. National reports were received from Canada, Egypt, Germany, Italy, Japan, Nigeria, Peru, Thailand, Sweden and United Kingdom for the project, "Pathways of management of mentally ill offenders in the criminal justice system". Preparation of summary papers of national reports for publication has been initiated. Contact has been established with the Ministry of Justice of Italy in order to explore the possibility of obtaining financial assistance for this project to cover its next stage, which includes empirical research to be carried out in forensic psychiatric institutions.

39. Negotiations between UNICRI and the Research and Planning Unit of the Home Office of the United Kingdom resulted in an agreement to cofinance a survey on probation systems and services in 1993.

40. A project on evaluation techniques applied to correctional treatment will commence in 1993 in order to review related literature, summarize the ideas (including problems and techniques), and provide practitioners who are not

familiar with scientific methodology with information on such evaluation techniques without overcomplicated technical terminology.

## II. TRAINING

### A. Priority theme B: urban, juvenile and violent criminality

41. The agreement with the Government of Italy for the project, "Training of trainers in drug abuse prevention activities for police officers", was finalized, and the preparatory phase of the project was initiated in March 1992. Five two-week courses were held by the end of the year.

42. In May 1992, UNICRI prepared a working paper on possible training programmes for social workers in Morocco. Funding possibilities are being explored.

43. UNICRI concluded its pilot project, "School prevention security: an educational project on drug abuse prevention among pre-teenagers". This involved the training of 25 police officers and prevention courses in five pilot schools covering approximately 700 students. A final report was presented to the sponsor, the Ministry of the Interior of Italy, in June 1992.

### B. Priority theme C: administration of justice

44. Funding for a training project, "Training of judicial personnel in Chad: proficiency courses for experienced judges and accelerated courses for clerks of justice", is being sought.

45. Within the training component of the UNICRI programme, special emphasis is given to training in research methodology as a sine qua non for the development of research capacities in developing countries. UNICRI efforts to develop organized training in research methodology fall within the mandate of UNICRI. In addition, this activity promotes human resource development, which is considered to be of crucial importance to the process of sustainable global development. The proposed Second Interregional Training Course in Research Methodology for Criminologists from Developing Countries is a continuation of the UNICRI experience with the First Interregional Training Course in Research Methodology in Criminal Justice held at Rome from 30 September to 11 October 1991 with participants from Brazil, China, Egypt, Indonesia, Nigeria, Oman, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay.

## III. TECHNICAL COOPERATION

### A. Priority theme B: urban, juvenile and violent criminality

46. UNICRI has drawn up a pilot project, "Drug abuse prevention in Hungarian schools", for which funds have been pledged by the Directorate for Technical Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy. Experts from Hungary, selected by the Ministry of Education, were engaged to collect the data necessary for the feasibility study. Two experts met with UNICRI staff, decided on the selection and adaptation of materials, and structured a detailed agenda for the training of the expert team.

47. An agreement has been reached with the UNICEF office at Yangon to develop a project, "Reformation of the juvenile justice system in Myanmar", in the context of the Convention on the Rights of the Child 3/ and other United Nations juvenile justice instruments, and in relation to children in especially difficult circumstances. An innovative fund-raising campaign was launched by UNICRI - the auctioning of art objects donated by Italian antique dealers, in the course of 14 weekly television programmes broadcast between November 1991 and February 1992. Meetings were held between UNICRI and government authorities at Yangon in July 1992. Discussions were also held with the Centre for the Protection of Children's Rights at Bangkok. The project document has been finalized and implementation should begin at Yangon in early 1993.

B. Priority theme C: administration of justice

48. The possibility of securing the funds necessary for the completion of the project, "Social rehabilitation and economic development at El Katta Prison Farm in Egypt", was still being explored.

49. During the first session of the Commission, the delegation of China approached UNICRI with a request to explore the possibility of organizing and conducting a seminar on development and use of criminal justice information for the monitoring and evaluation of the operation of the justice system in China. UNICRI will undertake an exploratory mission in May 1993 to discuss future cooperation, to become acquainted with the particular problems and needs relating to the development of the criminal justice system, including monitoring and evaluation, and to identify the structure and organizational requirements of the proposed seminar.

IV. PUBLICATION, LIBRARY AND DOCUMENTATION SERVICES

50. The updating of the computer cataloguing system of the library continued. In response to requests from various countries, bibliographical reference lists have been prepared for dissemination. UNICRI now subscribes to the DIALOG network in the United States. On-line research is thus possible through the various data banks made available by that network. UNICRI offers DIALOG connections and photocopying services for a fee and bibliographical searches free of charge.

51. Letters have been sent out with the aim of collecting crime and criminal justice statistics and criminal procedure codes from as many countries as possible. Responses to these requests has been slow, but some material has been forthcoming, most significantly from some of the newly emerging democracies in Eastern Europe.

52. The UNICRI mailing list has been drastically reduced (from 2,000 to 700 entries focusing mainly on developing and least developed countries), in accordance with the current UNICRI policy of selling copies of publications whenever possible. The administration of the mailing list is now under the control of the library, and the work has been facilitated by the acquisition of a computer specifically for this purpose, which will also be connected to the computer network set up for the clearing-house and used for the insertion of library catalogue data.

53. The Drug Abuse Comprehensive Centre (DACC) has joined, as an advisory centre, the experts group of the European Prevention Assessment System, a

network of documentation centres for the collection and diffusion of data on prevention policies and methodologies, promoted by the Commission of the European Communities (CEC) within the framework of the European Drug Monitoring Centre. UNICRI participated in a meeting at Brussels, with representatives of the 12 member States of the European Communities, the advisory bodies and CEC, during which it was decided that in order to increase the role of each participating centre and guarantee stability and continuity within the network, each centre would be provided with a grant. DACC has been requested to join the network.

54. In April, DACC joined the activities of the working group on European "grey literature" promoted by the Swedish Council for Information on Alcohol and Other Drugs (CAN). A meeting was held at Geneva, with the participation of CAN, the WHO Programme on Substance Abuse, UNESCO and representatives of the European Communities, in order to discuss the project for the establishment of a common European database on grey literature. The Directorate General for Alcohol and Drug Abuse of the Ministry of Health of Italy has been officially designated a collaborating centre by the WHO Programme on Substance Abuse, and DACC will be the body responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.

55. A publication entitled European Issues on Drug Abuse, containing a collection of instruments and texts adopted by the European Communities on drug abuse and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), prepared in English, French and Italian by DACC, was distributed by UNICRI at the VIII International Conference on AIDS held at Amsterdam from 19 to 24 July 1992.

56. During the period under review, UNICRI published the following two studies: Development and Crime: An Exploratory Study in Yugoslavia; and Del Revés al Derecho: la Condición Jurídica de la Infancia en América Latina, produced jointly with UNICEF and the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

#### Notes

1/ Eighth United Nation Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, 27 August-7 September 1990: report prepared by the Secretariat (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.IV.2), chap. I, sect. C.

2 Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1992, Supplement No. 10 (E/1992/30), chap. I, sect. A.

3/ General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex, of 20 November 1989.