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**Communication and Crime Prevention:
How the impact of organized crime on society
shapes UNICRI's public relations policy**

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**At the Master in Communication for International Relations (MICRI)
IULM, Milan – 25 March 2009**

Slide 1

Thank you to MICRI and IULM for organizing and hosting this event.
It is a true honour to be here today with you, in this esteemed university to discuss such a relevant topic.

Slide 2

A poorly understood emerging threat

I will introduce you to the interconnections between crime and the socio-economic situation that have been troubling the international community.

I will not elaborate in depth the communication issues in this regard. But you will easily extrapolate them from the examples which I propose to the complexities of definitions, interpretations, perceptions and consensus-building which require urgent attention in order to reboot a correct policy-making on emerging threats.

Slide 3

The definition of crime has not changed much

The current juridical definition of **crime** describes it an act (of commission and omission) violating a law; because it is deemed **illegal**, the **judicial system** attribute **penalty** when such behaviour represents an offence to one or more juridical goods (patrimonial or non patrimonial) which are protected by a specific regulation.

Crime nowadays has become a relevant variable in the complex nexus between economics, development and human rights.

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Global public goods should be safeguarded while threatened by global public bads

Among the global public goods, security, development, economics and human rights are indivisible both in principle and in practice. In 2000, the then UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan emphasized in a report the inextricable connection between the concepts of development and security, integrated by a third element: human rights.

“Not only are development, security and human rights all imperative; they also reinforce each other. This relationship has only been strengthened in our era of rapid technological advances, increasing economic interdependence, globalisation and dramatic geopolitical change. [...] War and atrocities are far from the only reasons that countries are trapped in poverty, but they undoubtedly set back development.”¹

I would like to explain this nexus with a few items as food for thought (which you may eventually expand upon), focusing also on specific analyses of more complex realities.

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The nexus between security and development has become evident to all

The economic and the cultural development of a community are inseparable and they are possible only when fear and insecurity cannot find room in societies. Security policies play a crucial role in every nation's development and they must be planned keeping the people's needs in mind.

Those tensions, which could outburst in violent episodes and spur conflicts, can be alleviated only if we improve living conditions, develop health and education systems and manage the water resources properly.

¹ Kofi Annan, *In Larger Freedom*, par. 16

As a matter of fact, security depends on many interdependent factors. In many countries, hunger and precarious health conditions are the leading causes contributing to criminality, human trafficking, drug trafficking, terrorism and social disintegration, all of which are plagues spreading their appalling effects throughout the world. Therefore, it is crucial that we actively invest in security policies in collaboration with all the concerned parties.

For example:

Crimes against natural or cultural heritage can discourage foreign investment and can therefore have affect entire national economies.

Illegally exploiting natural resources of countries that are experiencing war or that are in the process of developing can seriously hinder reconstruction efforts.

Corruption is another obstacle to increasing wealth and it poses severe limitations on development. The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) is an indicator published every year since 1995 by *Transparency International*. It classifies all the countries in the world based on the “degree to which corruption is perceived to exist among public officials and politicians.”²

The United Nations Convention Against Corruption is the first global agreement aimed at fighting corruption as a transnational phenomenon; it was opened to signatures in 2003 in Merida, and entered in force in 2005.

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The nexus between crime and economics is poorly understood

The relationship between crime and economics is a particularly strong one. One of criminality's basic goals is to quickly run a profit, illegally. Unfortunately the legal sanctions are, more often than not, inadequate and they therefore fail to amount to real deterrents.

These crimes have severe repercussions on a State's economy. Among the many examples, we could cite the **speculative manoeuvres** concerning goods in the economic and financial realm; every day we hear about crimes like **building without planning permissions** and **illicit waste disposal**, both of which are considered strongholds of organized crime.

There are **two emerging phenomena** in the realm of economic crimes: on the one hand, the **progressive overlapping of organized crime and economic crimes**, and, on the other hand, the **growing interdependence between the main economic crimes**.

Conventional criminal organizations are traditionally engrossed in criminal exploitation of their local territories through generalized extortions, or by controlling public contracts,

² In 2007, the survey included 180 countries.

local illegal markets and drug trafficking. Nowadays, these criminal organizations are moving towards new types of economic crimes (such as frauds, **counterfeiting** or money laundering), to the point that their traditional illegal activities (like violence and corruption) are becoming strategic ways for them to reduce their administrative costs and to compete with other illegal contenders. These new opportunities for traditional economic criminals are characterized by the wide geographic outreach of their activities (just think about international frauds) and by the increasing complexity of the necessary procedures involved; both of these factors make it essential for them to count on organized criminal structures that are able to act on transnational dimensions.

There are growing concerns for “white collar” crimes. In the past few years, this controversial form of deviance has held a position of absolute prominence not just in scientific debates, but also in the political and economic spheres. It has been particularly so after the massive financial scandals in the United States (Enron, WorldCom) and in other countries too, including Italy (Cirio, Parmalat, and the bank raids of BNL and Antonveneta). There are several ambiguities that characterize white-collar crimes, both in terms of the individual perpetrators and of the public’s perception of such crimes.

The **abuses of public power** (such as corruption, extortions, embezzlements, and so on) are crimes which are too often concealed for political interests, which should be aimed instead at protecting citizens and developing society.

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Today’s emerging threats: Transnational organized crime and Terrorism

Some of **the most significant criminal matters in question considered “emerging crimes”** represent an escalating threat to a State’s security and, consequently, to its socio-economic development, while severely undermining human rights as well.

In terms of collective security, the world is currently facing two main challenges: **transnational organized crime and terrorism.**

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Transnational organized crime is facilitated by globalization trends and grown even in times of financial crisis

To better understand how severe and widespread the phenomenon of crime actually is, we must analyse its capacity: the relation between the process of globalisation and transnational organized crime.

Transnational organized crime avails itself of all the opportunities offered by the globalisation of markets and of new communication and information technologies. For example, the international nature of money laundering confirms this very phenomenon of criminal activities taking advantage of the development of these new types of technology.

Transnational organized crime threatens States and societies; it erodes human security and the State's fundamental duty to safeguard order and justice. Fighting organized crime serves the double purpose of reducing the direct threat to the State and to human security. It's a necessary step in the endeavours of preventing and solving internal conflicts, fighting the circulation of weapons and preventing terrorism.

Furthermore, transnational organized crime represents a **severe threat to every State's economic and financial systems**. As a matter of fact, criminal groups operating in transnational markets are characterized by flexibility and by high levels of organization, both of which contribute to complicating the investigations of the authorities and of all the institutions involved in preventing and contrasting criminal activities. Criminals try to maximize the opportunities offered by national and international markets, and to minimize the risks of being identified, arrested and convicted, and having the proceeds of their criminal activities confiscated. In the future, the battleground over which control agencies and criminal organizations will be increasingly confronting one another will be the information sector. Therefore those **technologies** that will make it possible to confront those transnational criminal organizations on their same level will become a vital tool.

Crimes like money laundering, illegal trafficking of drugs and weapons, maritime piracy and environmental crimes are only a few examples of new synergies developed by transnational criminal groups.

The statistics on emerging crimes are constantly changing due to the very characteristics of organized crime, among which its extreme flexibility in finding immediate responses to countermeasures set up to contrast them.

There is an impelling need to know exactly how much transnational criminality there is in the world and how many people are involved in this kind of criminal activity. However, due to the enormous difficulties in trying to measure hidden activities, there are still no accurate assessments of this phenomenon that are close enough to reality.

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Drug trafficking represents a considerable threat to security. It is estimated that criminal organizations acquire between 300 to 500 billion dollars from illegal drug trades, which represents their largest source of revenue.

In some regions, the profits stemming from these activities amount to a consistent portion of some countries' gross domestic product. When this happens, they represent a real

threat to the States' authority, to economic development and to the rule of law. Drug trafficking has led to an increase in the intravenous consumption of heroin, contributing to the alarming spread of HIV/AIDS in some areas of the world. The nexus between the financing of terrorist groups and the revenues accrued from the opium/heroin industry is increasingly evident, particularly in Afghanistan.

As you can see from this list, there's an alarming increase in the supply of **drugs** (marijuana, cocaine, opium/heroin, amphetamines). In 2007 Afghanistan reached a new record in the production of opium, doubling the global illegal opium production since 2005.³ Similarly, Colombia also has witnessed increases of coca cultivation in 2007 (+27%); nonetheless, this production is still 40% less than it was in 2000.

The global market for cannabis seems to be stable, perhaps even in slight decline. It is estimated that the cannabis herb production is 8% less than it was in 2004, while the production of cannabis resin decreased by 20% between 2004 and 2006. There are some alarming signs, however: Afghanistan has become the main producer of cannabis resin, passing perhaps even Morocco. In developed countries, the domestic cultivation is breeding a wider variety of cannabis herb. Between 1999 and 2006 the average quantity of psychoactive substance (THC) contained in this drug has basically doubled, from 4.6% to 8%.

Counterfeiting has, unfortunately, affected a very wide range of products (technology, software, pharmaceuticals, cars, cigarettes, airplanes, banknotes, watches, etc...), bearing consequences on the markets and on the consumers.

UNICRI has paid special attention to the counterfeiting issue (particularly in regards to medicines and products that could endanger public health and safety), emphasizing the close connection between these activities and organized crime. The success of the Report laid the foundations to develop further research and to expand the activities counteracting this phenomenon. And, while we can speculate the revenues of this sort of activity, as you can see, the total amounts of the damages caused by it are extremely difficult to quantify.

Piracy (of software, movies, cell phones, video games, cable TV, etc...) has risen from 40% in 2006 to 64% in 2007, and it now has an illegal market that is just as big as the legal one. In this scenario, Internet piracy plays an overwhelming role, to the point that it has almost supplanted street piracy.

Contraband refers to the illicit traffic of various types of products:

- Consumer goods: cigarettes, alcohol, clothing
- Strategic goods: weapons or raw materials
- Drugs: opiates, cocaine, hashish
- Rare animals, works of art, archaeological artefacts (stolen or from illegal excavations)

³ Source: 2008 World Drug Report, UNODC

In Europe, Africa and Asia, the abuse of smuggled painkillers, sedatives and stimulants has already exceeded heroine, cocaine and ecstasy. The abuse of prescription drugs in the USA has even surpassed the total consumption of “traditional” drugs (with the exception of cannabis). According to recent estimates issued by the WHO, up to 50% of the medicines in circulation in developing countries come from contraband. Buprenorphine is now the most used intravenous drug in India, and it is also illegally sold in France in form of tablets.

In Italy contraband cigarettes are, alarmingly, once again on the rise, after a decline in the 1990s. Last year the Italian Financial Guard arrested 292 people in Italy for smuggling cigarettes, a number which has increased threefold since 2004. Over 460 tons of cigarettes have been confiscated, along with 60 tons of counterfeit stamps.

Nowadays a lot of attention is going to **environmental crimes**, such as deforestation, arsons, illegal fishing, and illicit trafficking of waste. As the seeds of illegality are sprouting throughout agricultural lands, crimes against the environment are growing, along with the sheer number of criminal organizations involved.

The world has already lost almost half of forests and deforestation’s persistent speed has contributed to global warming and to decreasing biodiversity. Waste trafficking is a problem that doesn’t only concern Italy, but also many other countries in the world, particularly the developing ones, which are at the receiving end of these forms of waste dumping.

Every day, 83 crimes are committed against the environment. In 2007, environmental crimes have risen by 27.3% from 2006; their turnover amounts to 18.4 billion euros. Woodland arsons have risen, along with the number of ascertained offences in the cement and waste management cycles. Huge piles of trash almost 2000 meters-high have completely vanished into thin air. Agriculture is under assault. This is the picture portrayed by Legambiente’s report on Ecomafia.

Legambiente had already denounced in 1994 the existence of illicit waste trafficking, which leaves from Italy’s industrial north and end up in the South. In the past 15 years, one after the other, investigations, confiscations, expropriations, charges and arrests have been following the trail of illicit traffics, from solid urban waste to hazardous and toxic waste.⁴ Based on the trafficking activities exposed by the police forces, it is estimated that the waste business accrues to about 7 billion euros a year, but real numbers are likely to be much higher if we factor in also the traffics that haven’t yet been discovered.⁵

⁴ According to estimates from Legambiente based on information issued by the police and by judiciary investigations, in the past 15 years about 10 million tons of toxic waste have been illegally disposed of in Calabria’s countryside.

⁵ In the late 1980s, we see the birth of a de-facto criminal holding, which was renamed by Legambiente “Rifiuti S.p.A.” (Waste Inc.). This organization systematically inundated the region of Campania and the entire Southern Italy with all kinds of toxic trash. This holding immediately manifested as an extraordinary guild between business and mafia, bringing together criminal clans, entrepreneurs, brokers, professionals, politicians and corrupt public officials.

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Arms trafficking⁶ and violence in war-torn countries remains grave and hidden

The harm done by these “merchants of death” every year⁷ is under the eyes of the entire world. Arms embargos are systematically violated; but these have to be strengthened if we want to really stop the flows of weapons that fuel human rights violations. There are currently about 30 ongoing conflicts in the world.⁸

10 billion dollars – how much the illegal arms trade is worth

1-4 billion dollars – the illegal trade in small weapons

2 million people involved in arms trafficking

Every day, **2000 weapons** bought in the U.S are smuggled into Mexico by drug traffickers

140.000 weapons are illegally **smuggled into Kenya**

Every year, about **1 million light weapons** around the world are reported lost or stolen, but end up in the black market.

UN experts believe that **60% of the arms illegally trafficked** originate from a legal transaction.

(intro to next slide)

But let's not forget about those atrocious crimes involving people, like **human trafficking**, organ trafficking, illegal international adoptions, kidnappings, all of which are criminal phenomena that often converge with one another, creating complex dynamics quite difficult to identify despite their gravity.

The NGO *Terre des Hommes* considers international adoptions an actual “industry” which makes around 8 billion dollars a year. Even if there is a humanitarian concern at the basis of it, international adoptions actually have economic implications that often coincide with veritable trafficking patterns. Between 30 to 90% of children are adopted through unofficial channels and, according to UNICEF, most of these are illegal adoptions.

In many developed and emerging countries, there is a growing fear of migration flows

⁶ For reliable data on production and trade of weapons: SIPRI – Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

⁷ Tracing illegal arms trafficking by analyzing the trends in the global stock market of the producing companies' stocks. Two Italian researchers, Stefano Della Vigna (Berkeley University professor of behavioral economics) and Eliana La Ferrara (Bocconi University professor of political economics) have recently illustrated this method in a study they published entitled “Detecting Illegal Arms Trade.” This report focuses on eight countries undergoing a UN-sanctioned embargo from 1990-2005: Angola and Ethiopia, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan and former Yugoslavia. Illegal arms trade continues to fuel conflicts in embargoed countries; they are responsible for killing thousands of people every day. It estimated that the civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo has caused 3.8 million death from 1998 to now. (source: www.ilsole24ore.com)

⁸ for further information, visit www.crisisgroup.org

from poorer countries. In Europe the arguments against migration are similar to those present in the United States and in other developed countries: immigrants would steal local employment opportunities, threatening cultural values and undermining the social pattern.

However, many studies have measured migration's impact on the European economy and the numbers actually indicate the contrary: immigration can contribute significantly to economic growth, accelerating the European economy, creating new demand for goods and services, and generating further jobs for national workers.

In his article *In Praise of Migration*, the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, writes that "ever since national frontiers were invented, people have been crossing them, not just to visit foreign countries, but to live and work there. In doing so, they have almost always taken risks, driven by a determination to overcome adversity and to live a better life. Those aspirations have always been the motors of human progress. Historically, migration has improved the well being, not only of individual migrants, but of humanity as a whole."⁹

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Human trafficking and the difficulties in distinguishing illegal phenomena within migration movements challenges migration policies.

Trafficking in human being is an aberrant crime. Humans have always migrated; and they have the right to do so. Unfortunately, they often do it through illegal channels and in situations that fuel criminal associations. But illicit migrations, people smuggling and human trafficking are distinct phenomena, and there needs to be clearness or we risk losing sight of the victims' abused rights.

Trafficking in persons refers to "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation."¹⁰

Smuggling in human beings refers to "the procurement in order to obtain (directly or indirectly) a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a state Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident."¹¹

⁹ Kofi Annan, *In Praise of Migration*, Wall Street Journal, 5 June 2006

¹⁰ Annex II Art.3 (a) of the UN General Assembly "Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime" (A/RES/55/25 of 15 November 2000)

¹¹ Annex III Art. 3 (a) of the "Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime" (A/RES/55/25 of 15 November 2000)

The key differences between the two lie in the fact that trafficking is not necessarily transnational, that it involves coercion and exploitation; smuggling, on the other hand, involves the consent of the victim, crossing borders and it doesn't entail exploitation; there is, however, the possibility that a victim of smuggling may become a victim of trafficking upon its arrival in the country of destination.

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Given the illegal nature of the criminal market of human trafficking, it is rather difficult to put a figure on the precisely number of victims involved. The *Vienna Forum on Human Trafficking* (which took place just a year ago, in February 2008), has estimated that the minimum number of persons being trafficked **every year is 2.7 million**.

Of these:

70% are trafficked for **sexual purposes**

80% of the victims are **women**

50% of the victims are **minor**

For a **turnover worth of 9.5 billion dollars** a year.

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Terrorism targets stability and global governance

Terrorism poses severe challenges to collective security and human development. There is a strong awareness this kind of crime nowadays, but there isn't enough insight about its current undermining weaknesses, nor of its interactions within individual States, nor of its international relations.

Terrorism threatens the core values of the United Nations Charter: respect for human rights, rule of law, laws of war and humanitarian law to protect civilians, tolerance between peoples and nations, and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

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Terrorism thrives in environments characterized by despair, humiliation, poverty, political oppression, extremism and human rights abuses; it flourished in contexts of regional conflicts and foreign occupation; it profits from the States' incapacity to enforce laws and maintain order.

Emerging dynamics are heightening the threat of terrorism. Amongst these is Al-Qaeda, the first (but surely not the last) expression of an armed non-governmental network with global outreach and sophisticated capacities carrying on mass attacks.

Over the past 5 years, it has carried out attacks against ten different States in the four continents, proving that Al-Qaeda and its affiliated organizations represent a worldwide threat for the United Nations and its member States. Al-Qaeda has publicly announced that the UN is one of its enemies and that they represent the major obstacle in achieving their objectives. Furthermore, the risk that any kind of terrorist, with any motivation, could try to launch a massive attack, represents an unprecedented danger.

There currently isn't a globally accepted legal definition of terrorism or of protection victims' rights, to some extent because this could interfere with the sovereignty and with the political sphere of individual States.

Governments and the international community should prepare the defences against such attacks, and, considering the relevance taken by this phenomenon, and each Party should establish and adopt measures necessary to the protect and support the victims of terrorism and their families.¹²

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The international community has encountered obstacles in confronting emerging threats

States and international organizations have responded too slowly to the threat posed by organized crime and by corruption. Despite the declarations on the severity of the menace, these have rarely been followed by concrete actions. **Three obstacles** in particular are hindering the international community from reacting with greater efficiency: States' insufficient cooperation, weak coordination between international agencies, and inadequate efforts of many countries.

Efficiency levels in fighting various types of organized crime are not homogenous. The efforts undertaken against corruption lack credible commitments, as well as accurate analyses of corruption's types, levels, affected areas and costs. The successes achieved

¹² The UN General Assembly's 1994 resolution on "Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism" condemns those "criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for political purposes are in any circumstance unjustifiable, whatever the considerations (political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or any other nature)." [9 December 1994, A/RES/49/60] This GA resolution also defines as "Acts, methods and practices of terrorism constitute a grave violation of the purposes and principles of the United Nations, which may pose a threat to international peace and security, jeopardize friendly relations among States, hinder international cooperation and aim at the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the democratic bases of society." [*ibid.*]

The Security Council resolution 1373 (28 September 2001) declares that "acts, methods, and practices of terrorism are contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations and that knowingly financing, planning and inciting terrorist acts are also contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations."

by some countries in fighting drugs are too often obscured by the failures of others. Demand-reduction measures in developed countries have been ineffective and the number of opium and heroine consumers has been relatively stable throughout the past decade.

During conflicts and in their aftermath, the fight against organized crime is decentralized and fragmented. During the post-conflict phases, former belligerents try to take advantage of their connections with the criminal world and of the skills acquired during the war, undermining international peacebuilding operations. Deep-seated corruption, the use of violence to protect criminal activities and the connection between criminal endeavours and political elites, all represent obstacles to the creation of rule of law and of efficient State institutions. The international efforts in the fight against trafficking of weapons have been lacking, as sanctioning regimes have not been sufficiently implemented.

Organized crime is operating with increasingly **fluid networks** rather than through formal hierarchies. This type of organizational structure ensures criminals a greater diversification, flexibility, low profile and longevity. The relation between various networks has become the main characteristic of organized crime in the 1990s, creating a sort of “network of networks.” The flexibility of these systems is in stark contrast with the convoluted exchange of information and the weak cooperation between States during criminal investigations and legal proceedings.

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International instruments to prevent and control global mafias

Last year we celebrated the **60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, in my opinion, a fundamental constitution for all of humanity. This document was based on a vision: a vision the future after World War II, a vision based on human dignity of all and on the supremacy of Law everywhere around the world.

That dream hasn't yet become a reality. There isn't a single country in the world that has always respected the Declaration's 30 articles. And there isn't a single article that is respected worldwide.

In the past decades, there has been a growing number of internal conflicts and civil wars, fertile ground for human rights abuses.

The United Nations are called upon every year to monitor cases of grave violations and to put a stop to degenerations of regimes and of human insecurities completely outlawed.

Every legislator and every partner involved should keep in mind that, at the core of contrasting and preventive measures, there is the recognition of everyone's inalienable right to have rights, without distinctions based on nationality or on belonging to specific communities.

The main challenge is finding a legal system in order for “We the people of the world” to become protagonists of our own futures.

The first response lays in the judicial instruments available to the international community and to the UN to ensure the respect of human rights.

In his book “On Crimes and Punishments”, Cesare Beccaria wrote “there is no freedom when the laws permit that in certain circumstances a man ceases to be a person and becomes a thing.”

Many Nations would like to beyond the Universal Declaration and create a legal code engaging all of the countries in the world in the respect of Human Rights.

The disagreement over whether to include socio-economic norms or not has led to the preparation of two different documents: the 1966 *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* and the 1976 *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*. Together with the Universal Declaration, these three documents form the *International Bill of Rights*.

There are several other international documents safeguarding Human Rights aimed at contributing to a universal jurisdiction.

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1951)

UN Convention Against Torture (1984)

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1969)

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1981)

Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)

Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (2002)

Throughout the 20th century’s evolution of constitutionalism, we can observe the trend of domestic constitutional order within supranational, international and European public order and how, by protecting human rights, these international treaties can foster and strengthen international peace and security.

This is the essence of the United Nations’ political perspective, as summarized by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in the report he presented on 31 May 2005 *In Larger Freedom: towards Security Development and Human Rights for All*.

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The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime represents the global consensus on control measures against Transnational Organized Crime

This Convention and its two additional protocols are the main international instrument to prevent, repress and punish trafficking in human beings, especially women and children, and to fight smuggling of migrants. They were open to signature during the Palermo

Convention (12-15 December 2000). The General Assembly approved the third protocol in May 2001, and the one against the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons in all its aspects was opened to signatures in July 2001. The **Consent** on the drafts of the Convention and of its protocols was achieved in a short time, an unprecedented event in the history of the elaboration of international Conventions.

The Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols represent a milestone in the international cooperation against crime. These legal instruments eliminate terminological differences encountered among various judicial codifications, and they introduce a unified criminal phenomenology that include money laundering, corruption, and obstruction of justice. Moreover, they represent a juridical base for acts of cooperation between Governments and, particularly, between law enforcement agencies.

The Palermo Convention's innovative profile is based on the importance it gives to **prevention**. The entire Convention is, in fact, pervaded by the idea of applying measures with that not only repress, but prevent transnational crime as well.

The Convention contains norms regarding, on the one hand, the main transnational crimes (like participating in an organized criminal group, money laundering, corruption) and, on the other, the technical measures with which we can fight this phenomenon (like confiscating and impounding, extradition, reciprocal judicial assistance, special investigation techniques, witness protection services),

The ratification of the Palermo Convention and of its additional Protocols represent a concrete turning point. In a time characterized by globalization, there is the necessity of an international response based on cooperation among States and on the application of common judicial instruments.

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How global public goods could face global public bads

We cannot allow violence and crime to keep on hindering security, development and democratic institutions.

The extreme ease with which organized crime adapts itself to an ever-changing globalized international environment, its rapid adaptability, its dynamism in establishing contacts with other criminal groups... all of these aspects turn this phenomenon into something necessitating States to build up the capacity to adapt themselves to an extraterritorial context and to develop forms of cooperation with other States' judicial authorities, police and intelligence services.

In our field of work we ask ourselves every day what other answers can we give? And can we find faster, more efficient and long-lasting solutions?

To counter, prevent and dismantle criminal networks and the threat they pose, the key word is cooperation.

If we look at the way organized crime has branched out to a transnational dimension, we understand why it's necessary that the fight against this phenomenon reach a transnational level as well. We must join our efforts in building governance capacities and law enforcement, supporting reforms, strengthening transparency and empowering citizens so they can monitor and hold institutions accountable for their behaviors.

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These goals can be achieved with four steps, as suggested by the Director for the United States' Anticrime Programs, David Luna¹³:

1. **Implementing** the existing **conventions** and protocols that define and promote international standards and provide guidelines for domestic implementation (i.e. UN Convention against Corruption, and the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime along with its protocols);
2. **Developing and spreading** new enforcement tools and techniques to combat these threats, promoting new initiatives to confront future crises, to promote security, development and human rights;
3. **Strengthen partnerships** between public and private sector, between business and non profit organizations; and increasing cooperation with all partners and actors involved;
4. Conduct **training and technical assistance** programs (on bilateral, regional and global level) to strengthen law enforcement and prosecutorial capacities, and to implement those standards and best practices.

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Information and Communication are key tools to understand and face emerging threats

This implies, first and foremost, the circulation of information and a greater cooperation with each country's investigative authorities. Communication is therefore essential. We need to gain a clear awareness of emerging crimes. There is currently a very fragmented perception and the media is unable to portray the multifaceted complexities of these crimes, often stressing or "instrumentalizing" the wrong aspects of these intricate realities. The real challenge therefore is not so much quantitative as it is qualitative: we need to find the appropriate research-oriented approach and a tailored information management system to be utilized by the various institutions and partners.

¹³ David M. Luna "Dynamic Threat Mitigation: Combating Transnational Threats and Dismantling Illicit Networks. The Role of Corruption Nodes." U.S. Department of State www.state.gov/p/inl/rls/rm/119840.htm

Moreover, I hope that the current global economic crisis can be an opportunity to improve the coordination of our actions, including those taken by our organization, the UN and Member States. There needs to be more creativity and imagination. We should try to optimize the resources we have available; this doesn't mean only "saving funds," but it also implies an effort to identify a clear **common objective** and a **coordinated multilateral strategy**.

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UNICRI is celebrating its 40 years in the fight against all forms of organized crime, with its creative approach, promoting the power of partnerships, cooperation and communication. UNICRI sees itself as a laboratory of ideas, a "first response broker" known for its dynamic, fresh and innovative approach in applied research to help the integration of national and international efforts to search for good practices and adapt them to different national situations.

Our documentation centre is constantly growing and it is a very valuable asset to communication, research, training and field activities. It enables the Institute to promote partnerships, develop programs, and to meet the needs of international organizations, national institutions, NGOs, experts, professionals and the general public too.

UNICRI's Applied Research Programme is working in partnership with over 600 criminological institutes. This Programme is organized in four main work areas: Emerging Crimes and Anti-Human Trafficking; Security Governance and Counter Terrorism Laboratory; Justice Reform and Post-Graduate Training.

In the sector of emerging crimes, in the past few years we have also started working on issues like maritime piracy, counterfeiting, environmental and computer crimes.

In a rapidly changing world, UNICRI's major goals today are advancing security, serving justice and building peace. A very promising sector of applied research of good practices against crime is the one analyzing potential future scenarios, not just of crises, but also of international responses.

This is an ever-changing battle that will never end. We are at your disposal with our expertise in cooperation and technical assistance, with quality training and applied research, to continue this human fight together. Future generations might be the victims of today's idleness in pursuing innovation and creativity to confront emerging threats. But the youth of today, including young scholars, might also be a great asset to test new ideas and design more effective practices to face problems without passports such as emerging crimes.

Slide 25 – Thank you for your attention