



AS(10)RP 2 E

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

REPORT

**FOR THE GENERAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS,
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

***“RULE OF LAW: COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL
CRIME AND CORRUPTION”***

**Rapporteur
Mr. Sergiy Shevchuk
Ukraine**

Oslo, 6 to 10 July 2010

REPORT FOR THE GENERAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Rapporteur: Mr. Sergiy Shevchuk (Ukraine)

1. The fight against transnational crime and corruption in the work of the international community

Since the early 1990s the international community has recognized that transnational crime and corruption are global problems. Many regional and intergovernmental organizations have started to become actively involved in this field. Their work has resulted in the adoption over the past 15 years of a range of international instruments by such organizations as the United Nations, the European Union, the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Organization of American States.

They all have a single goal – to establish common standards for combating corruption at the national level through its criminalization and the unconditional implementation of anti-corruption laws as well as activities to prevent corruption and, on a broader scale, transnational crime.

In the European context, one of the first sources of “soft” international standards highlighting the need for specialized institutions to be responsible for the prevention, investigation and prosecution of corruption offences were the Twenty Guiding Principles for the Fight against Corruption, adopted by the Council of Europe in 1997.¹

In 1999 most of these principles were reflected in the Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption.² Following the adoption in 2003 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption³ particular attention began to be paid to the problem of preventing this phenomenon. The entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime⁴ imparted a fresh impulse to international co-operation in countering transnational organized crime and in suppressing it, something that helped to introduce broader approaches to combating various forms of this kind of crime.

Since the start of the global financial crisis the group made up of the world’s 20 leading countries undertook firm commitments to ensure that conscientiousness and transparency would become the cornerstone of the new international financial regulatory

1 Council of Europe: “On the Twenty Guiding Principles for the Fight against Corruption”, Resolution 97(24), 6 November 1997, [http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/greco/documents/Resolution\(97\)24_EN.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/greco/documents/Resolution(97)24_EN.pdf)

2 Council of Europe: Criminal Law Convention on Corruption, 27 January 1999, <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/EN/Treaties/Html/173.htm>

3 United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), adopted by United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/58/4 of 21 November 2003.

4 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted by United Nations General Assembly resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000, <http://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNTOC/Publications/TOC%20Convention/TOCebook-e.pdf>

system. When the G20 turned their attention to the problems of economic reform and the stability of the banking sector, the adoption of measures designed to counter corruption as a breeding ground for transnational organized crime became a matter of critical importance.

As United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon made clear in his address on the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day on 9 December 2009: “Development is not the only casualty [of corruption]. Corruption steals elections. It undermines the rule of law. And it can jeopardize security. As we have seen over the last year, it can also have a serious impact on the international financial system... When public money is stolen for private gain, it means fewer resources to build schools, hospitals, roads and water treatment facilities. When foreign aid is diverted into private bank accounts, major infrastructure projects come to a halt. Corruption enables fake or substandard medicines to be dumped on the market, and hazardous waste to be dumped in landfill sites and in oceans. The vulnerable suffer first and worst”.⁵

The high level of crime, coupled with the “erosion” of society as a result of corruption in low-income countries, is undermining global efforts to combat poverty and is threatening to frustrate the achievement of the development goals set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

It is very important for the OSCE to co-operate and co-ordinate its activities with the international efforts to combat corruption that are being undertaken by the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Council of Europe and the OECD.

In 2004 the OSCE Ministerial Council adopted at its 12th meeting in Sofia a decision (MC.DEC/11/04) reaffirming its commitment to make the elimination of all forms of corruption one of its priority tasks, *inter alia* through the implementation of national legislation and programmes to that end.

At the 14th Ministerial Council meeting in Brussels in 2006, the OSCE adopted a decision (MC.DEC/5/06) on the threats and challenges posed by organized crime, stating that organized crime commands vast wealth, potentially undermining democratic values and threatening the safety and security of ordinary citizens directly and indirectly.

The Astana Declaration underscores the urgent need to expand co-operation and the exchange of information as regards cyber security and cybercrime within the international community. In that connection, the Astana Declaration regards the Convention on Cybercrime as the only international treaty at the present time that is directly concerned with the issues of computer-aided fraud and falsification.

The OSCE institutions and field missions are endeavouring to provide the public with a broad range of information and to encourage a partnership between governmental and private structures to combat organized crime and corruption, in addition to being engaged in joint activities with local, regional and international organizations.

Organized crime and corruption warrant particular attention on the part of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, since these are the most destructive among all the social ills.

5 Message of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, on the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day, 9 December 2009, <http://www.un.org/en/events/anticorruptionday/sgmessages.shtml>

Crimes of a kind that fall outside the area of organized crime – fraud, theft, everyday murders and other forms of violence – seem when compared with organized crime less threatening, almost day-to-day events that have happened in all societies in all ages. Only organized crime – the creation of gangs, the shadow economy, the mafia and corruption – strikes at all areas of public life and at all institutions of society and its underlying structure in many countries. In its extreme form, when organized crime affects 30 to 50 per cent of social relationships⁶, it becomes a system of authority operating in parallel to the official one, controlling society and corrupting it, giving rise to both domestic and international conflicts.

2. The global nature of organized crime

The international community must realize that organized criminal groups are operating in a world that, as far as they are concerned, has, essentially, no borders. For their part, on the other hand, the law enforcement agencies function as a rule within the territorial and national jurisdiction of their States.

The internationalization of crime today can be seen in ever-larger markets for the sale of narcotic drugs, weapons and other goods and services that are transported and processed by means of a network of criminal commercial organizations encompassing the entire world. According to experts, the volume of the illegal turnover accounted for by these organizations totals hundreds of billions of US dollars and exceeds the budgets of many countries.⁷

By entering into international strategic alliances, translational criminal organizations are able, first of all, to seek outlets to new markets or to increase their share in existing ones; secondly, they can neutralize real or potential competitors or make them their partners. Some criminal organizations have infiltrated the world economy at the global level and exhibit a multi-tier hierarchical structure. In other organizations this structure is simpler and turnover volume smaller, but against this the degree of their adaptation to the environment in which they operate, their ability to survive and their level of professional flexibility are greater. Their common feature is a parasitic existence relying on goods produced by other people, the sale of unlicensed or banned products, the smuggling of legally produced goods, and the theft and concealment of various items.

The global financial crisis is creating additional challenges for countries and, as paradoxical as it may seem, is opening up new opportunities for organized criminal groups, enabling them to act as one of the few sources of credit.

3. Globalization and crime

Unfortunately, the scale of transnational criminal activity is a secondary aspect of an extremely positive process, namely the globalization of the world community.

6 Kravchenko, A. I.: “Sotsiologiya Deviantnosti”, the electronic library of the sociology faculty of the M. V. Lomonosov Moscow State University, <http://lib.socio.msu.ru/l/library?e=d-000-00---001ucheb-00-0-0-0prompt-10---4-----0-01--1-ru-50---20-help---00031-001-1-0windowsZz-1251-10&a=d&c=01ucheb&cl=CL1&d=HASH01d860037a6f82dbb24fe132.3> (in Russian only)

7 See also the United Nations World Drug Report, www.unodc.org

The emergence of international financial systems that have facilitated international transfers of enormous sums of money and an increase in the number of transnational economic transactions have at the same time complicated the possible mechanisms for monitoring monetary flows and establishing their origin. The modern mechanisms used in transnational operations make it possible for criminal organizations to gain access to the most profitable markets and to monitor them while remaining themselves in regions where there is a reduced risk and where they are outside the reach of the law enforcement agencies. Revenues from criminal activities merge indistinguishably in the electronic channels of the world financial system and are laundered with the help of banks that are under the control of these organizations or of States with liberal financial regulations, thus inflicting considerable damage on the world economic system.

Globalization promotes the simplification and diversification of international exchanges and the creation of worldwide communication and financial systems, a fact that is actively exploited by criminals. To some degree, globalization is displacing the traditional ethnic criminal communities, which are ever more frequently giving way to multi-ethnic, multifunctional and macroregional criminal structures.

4. Transnational organized criminal activities in specific sectors

4.1 Information technologies

Information technologies have accelerated the emergence of new conditions that are being exploited by criminal groups to commit crimes at the national and international levels. Criminal associations and individual criminal business “specialists” are making full use of the latest technologies for laundering money acquired through criminal means for gaining unauthorized access to information systems, etc.

Since in a wide variety of transactions an ever greater emphasis is placed on the identification of individuals and legal entities, society is becoming extremely vulnerable and unprotected in the face of the unauthorized acquisition (theft) of citizens’ personal data and of other related fraudulent activities. As a result of the spread of modern technologies for the processing and transmission of information and communications, new forms of economic crimes have emerged that use personal electronic data. These forms are interlinked with other kinds of crime such as money-laundering, corruption and cybercrime.

Most cases of transnational fraud and unlawful use or falsification of personal data can be traced back to organized criminal groups. According to Interpol data released in August 2000 at the sixth meeting of the Working Group on co-operation between law enforcement authorities in Central and Eastern Europe in combating cybercrime, criminal proceeds obtained through the unlawful use of the latest technology rank third in the world in terms of proceeds after trafficking in narcotic drugs and weapons.

According to a number of American experts, the average cost of losses from a single cybercrime in the United States amounts to around 500,000 dollars, whereas the average figure for a single physical bank robbery has been put at 3,200 dollars. Each month, according to experts, databases throughout the world are attacked thousands of times by international hackers. For example, in 2005 the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice published data on the fraudulent transfer to unintended

channels via the Internet of charitable donations for humanitarian assistance to the victims of natural disasters.

One of the potential threats of cybercrime is that it also provides considerable material support to organized criminal groups intending to carry out violent forms of crime, including terrorist acts.

It should be noted that not only the member States of the Council of Europe can accede to the Convention on Cybercrime⁸ but also countries that were involved in the drafting of that Convention and countries that have been invited to accede to it.

4.2 Fuel and energy sector

The highly profitable nature of operations in the fuel and energy sector is drawing the attention of criminal structures to the economic agents in that sector. Criminal associations are stepping up their efforts to infiltrate the commercial and financial activities of companies operating in the extractive industry. The scale of these criminal operations has moved from that of sporadic pilfering to large-scale control over both individual enterprises and entire sectors.

With the direct involvement and lobbying of corrupt government officials, energy resource exporters are selected, selling prices are set, sales volumes are determined, and the revenue gained through export activities over which there is no supervision is distributed.

Increasing transparency and accountability in the activities of the fuel, energy and extractive sectors is the task of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), which is a coalition of governments, business and civil society. Only six of the OSCE participating States are taking part in that Initiative or have announced their intention to join it.⁹

4.3 Ecology and the environment

Environmental crime has been referred to as a new form of transnational organized crime. A welcome development would be the stepping up of international co-operation to prevent the unlawful international trade in wood products, including timber, wildlife and other biological resources found in woodlands, and also the focusing of greater attention on environmental crime.

There is no question but that countries have sovereign rights to their own biological and genetic resources. International co-operation takes place on the basis of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora¹⁰ and the Convention

8 Council of Europe: Convention on Cybercrime, adopted in Budapest, 23 November 2001, <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/EN/treaties/html/185.htm>

9 According to information on the website of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (www.eiti.org).

10 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Washington, 3 March 1973, <http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/text.shtml>

on Biological Diversity.¹¹ However, wood products resulting from the felling of trees in violation of national laws frequently find their way into illegal international trade channels. Activities of this kind are having negative environmental, social and economic consequences in many countries. For this reason, it is important to criminalize the illicit trade in and transport of protected species of plants, fauna or products that are traded in violation of national or international law – all the more since activities of this kind are being carried out on a transnational scale, while the criminal groups are at the same time involved in other forms of unlawful activity.

New expanding markets such as trading in carbon emission quotas as part of the worldwide response to climate change require more serious monitoring if they are to operate effectively.

4.4 Cultural heritage

Surplus financial assets from the activities of transnational criminal groups are also used to acquire unique artefacts of cultural value, something that represents an assault on both the historic evidence of the culture and the identity of peoples and also on the shared heritage of humanity. This area of activity, in which representatives of customs and law enforcement agencies and government officials may be involved, has once again demonstrated the transnational character of organized crime and its links with corruption.¹²

Unfortunately, the demand for valuable cultural artefacts and the heightened involvement of criminal groups in all aspects of illicit trafficking is frequently linked to the relocation, loss or destruction of the cultural heritage of peoples. It is regrettable that the transfer of such artefacts is also carried out through legal market channels such as auctions and via the Internet. On the basis of the UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects¹³, Interpol has released a disc containing information on more than 31,500 stolen works of art.¹⁴

5. Corruption

The dynamic and increasingly globalized economic environment is at the same time giving rise to another phenomenon – the evolution of corruption practices in OSCE countries.

5.1 Corruption, business and the State

When irresponsible companies become involved in corrupt practices, the consequences may be devastating. From water shortages, the exploitation of labour or the

11 Convention on Biological Diversity, Rio de Janeiro, 5 June 1992, <http://www.cbd.int/convention/convention.shtml>

12 Brodie, N., Doole, J., Watson, P. (2000), "Stealing History: The Illicit Trade in Cultural Material", Cambridge, the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research.

13 Convention of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects, Rome, 24 June 1995.

14 According to information on the Interpol website (<http://www.interpol.int/Public/WorkOfArt/CDrom/Default.asp>).

illegal felling of trees to dangerous medicines and poorly or illegally built structures that can collapse with fatal consequences – corruption can cause unprecedented harm.

The “open door” between State agencies and the private sector makes possible fraudulent transactions involving government procurement based on non-competitive bids and untransparent processes and results in enormous expenditures and the widespread circulation of goods and services undeserving of confidence.

In addition, corruption makes access to capital far more expensive, reduces the value of the companies involved and undermines the morale of the employees. It subverts the basis of fair competition, results in the loss of new business opportunities and breeds a bureaucracy that is itself marked by corruption.

The findings of scholarly research into “law and finance” show that, despite the fact that “laws on paper” may meet high standards, it is precisely such factors as corruption, an ineffective law enforcement system and a poorly functioning judiciary that result in significantly lower chances of attracting the external financing so necessary for transition economies.¹⁵ By exploiting shortcomings in national legislation, corrupt judicial and law enforcement authorities become accomplices in the pillaging of private property.

These phenomena can be prevented if there is a comprehensive legislative basis and an effective and independent judicial system. The OECD Principles of Corporate Governance, which have been incorporated into the legislation of many countries with a transition economy, have provided a successful defence and guaranteed protection of the property and income of both domestic and foreign investors.

In a number of countries the public health system is regarded as one of the State institutions most affected by corruption. As noted in a recent fact sheet of the World Health Organization, every year throughout the world approximately 750 billion US dollars are spent in the pharmaceutical market. At the same time, 10 to 25 per cent of public procurement spending is lost to corrupt practices.¹⁶ Shortages of drugs and the availability of counterfeit and substandard medicines lead to patients suffering and have direct life or death consequences. The appearance in the market of dangerous or ineffective medicines as well as of drugs that have been illegally registered is something that is encountered in both wealthy and poor countries. In countries with a high level of corruption the indicators for infant mortality are higher even despite the existence of health care quality control.

Another source of concern is the potential increase in the exploitation by criminal groups of human need, poverty and deprivation for the illegal trade in human organs involving the use of violence, coercion and kidnapping of persons for the use of their organs in transplant operations. In cases of this kind, the human body is used by those engaged in this trade as a commodity, something that is inadmissible, wherever it may take place.

15 Pistor, K., Raiser, M., Gelfer, S. (1999), “Law and Finance in Transition Economies”, EBRD Working Paper No. 49. See also La Porta, R., Lopez-de-Silanes, F., Shleifer, A., Vishny, R. W. (1998), “Law and Finance”, *Journal of Political Economy*, 106(6), pp. 1113–1155.

16 WHO: “Medicines: corruption and pharmaceuticals”, Fact Sheet No. 335, December 2009, <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs335/en/index.html>

At the end of the day, corruption negates the social contract between society, business and the authorities and damages the legality and confidence on which business relies, especially in times of crisis when the taxpayers' money is needed to maintain markets that have become unstable. For these reasons, legislators have a responsibility not only to draft effective laws but also to exercise oversight and control over the way legal systems in their country operate and evolve.

5.2 Corruption and the financial crisis

Many conditions that led to the financial crisis are linked to corruption-associated risks. These include conflicts of interests, the corrosion of the system of stimuli that influence decision-making, insufficient transparency and responsibility within various market segments and among different market players, and also serious flaws in the exercise of corporate checks and management and in ensuring that the demands of corporate standards and ethics are met.

The adoption of recent strategies to lower corruption-associated risks in business is also linked to efforts to prevent a repetition of the financial disaster. The crisis has focused attention on the inadequacies in the work of the regulatory bodies and on the critical state of affairs in the area of international collaboration.

Secret deals and illegal commercial mergers represent problems of corruption that impact the market. Authorized lobbying paves the way for attempts to illegally influence government officials or to push through political decisions that are not in the interests of society. The unlimited financial power of certain companies and sectors involved in trade and industry is harnessed to exert an excessive and improper influence on political decision-making. The inability to regulate this influence results in the emergence of kleptocratic systems and slower economic growth.

As the Nobel economics prize-winner Douglass North has pointed out, these interest groups are so closely integrated with existing public institutions that they shape these institutions' policies to their own ends, thereby limiting the opportunities for the reforms that are so needed in our rapidly changing times.¹⁷ Such instances of administrative corruption show a clearly defined tendency to transform themselves into what has been referred to as a "State capture". This term refers to the actions of certain influential persons, groups or enterprises, in both the State and private sectors, aimed at bringing influence to bear on the drafting of laws, decrees and other instruments of State policy with a view to their own profit or advantage.

5.3 Corruption perception assessments in the OSCE region

An objective measurement of the level of corruption is quite impossible for the reason that between 80 and 95 per cent of corruption-related crimes remain undisclosed. Accordingly, experts have to proceed indirectly. The annual publications of respected international organizations, including the Governance Indicators of the World Bank,¹⁸ the

17 North, D.C. (1990), "Institutions, Institutional Change, and Economic Performance", New York, Cambridge University Press, pp. 92–104 (99).

18 Kaufmann, D., Kraay, A., Mastruzzi, M. (2009), "Governance Matters VIII: Aggregate and Individual Governance Indicators, 1996–2008," World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No. 4978.

statistics of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development,¹⁹ and also the data of the International Corruption Perceptions Index prepared as part of the “Report on Corruption in the World” by the public organization Transparency International²⁰, offer a survey of corruption perception ratings throughout the world. These studies involve questioning ordinary citizens, political scientists and managers both in the countries themselves and abroad.

In 2009 some countries of the former Soviet Union showed an increase in their Corruption Perceptions Index scores (Georgia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan – the holder of the Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2010). Nevertheless, the low ratings given in the Index for the post-Soviet republics demonstrate that corruption in these countries remains systemic and that the sectors where the problem is greatest are the judicial system, the law enforcement agencies, the customs service, property rights, land registration and construction projects.

The leaders of these countries frequently acknowledge, candidly and publicly, the epidemic nature of the corruption facing them. The State’s excessive involvement in the economic and business sector, political corruption, a lack of confidence in the official bodies responsible for countering these phenomena together with a high level of tolerance on the part of the public towards corruption-associated practices merely aggravates this problem. By itself, a Corruption Perceptions Index of less than three points is a national disgrace for any country. What this means is that the government authorities are unwilling (and, less commonly, unable) to acknowledge corruption as a threat to the national security of their country and to the personal security of its citizens or to take the kind of measures that would gradually minimize this threat.

While focusing on the problems of the transition-period countries, one cannot but take note of the considerable efforts that have been undertaken by the States of the Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia and the Istanbul action plan to combat corruption in co-operation with other international organizations along with civil society and business representatives for the purpose of lowering the level of corruption-related phenomena and of improving State and corporate management. One must also not overestimate the importance of the prospect of membership of the European Union as a lever for the intensification of anti-corruption efforts in the countries of South-East Europe.

But all is not well in the politically stable countries of the European Union either. During the year that has elapsed since the last study there has been a deterioration in the situation in a number of the new member countries of the European Union, a fact that is explained by the period of political instability that ensued following the resignation of governments, by delays in carrying out the necessary reforms and by frequent reshuffling of personnel in the law enforcement agencies.

19 Available on the website of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (www.ebrd.org).

20 Transparency International: Corruption Perceptions Index 2009, http://www.transparency.org/policy_research/surveys_indices/cpi/2009

Rankings of the countries of the OSCE region in the International Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)

Transparency International, 2009²¹

Country	Ranking	CPI
Denmark	2	9.3
Sweden	3	9.2
Switzerland	5	9.0
Finland	6	8.9
Netherlands	6	8.9
Canada	8	8.7
Iceland	8	8.7
Norway	11	8.6
Luxembourg	12	8.2
Germany	14	8.0
Ireland	14	8.0
Austria	16	7.9
United Kingdom	17	7.7
United States of America	19	7.5
Belgium	21	7.1
France	24	6.9
Cyprus	27	6.6
Estonia	27	6.6
Slovenia	27	6.6
Spain	32	6.1
Portugal	35	5.8
Malta	45	5.2
Hungary	46	5.1
Poland	49	5.0
Czech Republic	52	4.9
Lithuania	52	4.9
Latvia	56	4.5
Slovakia	56	4.5
Turkey	61	4.4
Italy	63	4.3
Croatia	66	4.1
Georgia	66	4.1
Montenegro	69	3.9

21 The higher the ranking, the lower the estimated level of corruption in the country. There are no data for Andorra, the Vatican, Liechtenstein, Monaco and San Marino.

Country	Ranking	CPI
Bulgaria	71	3.8
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	71	3.8
Greece	71	3.8
Romania	71	3.8
Serbia	83	3.5
Moldova	89	3.3
Albania	95	3.2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	99	3.0
Armenia	120	2.7
Kazakhstan	120	2.7
Belarus	139	2.4
Azerbaijan	143	2.3
Russian Federation	146	2.2
Ukraine	146	2.2
Tajikistan	158	2.0
Kyrgyzstan	162	1.9
Turkmenistan	168	1.8
Uzbekistan	174	1.7

6. Conclusion

As long ago as the first century B.C. the ancient Roman historian Gaius Sallustius Crispus wrote: “Wealth does not diminish greed”. These words resonate with the statement contained in United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s message of 9 December 2009 referred to above: “Corruption is not some vast impersonal force. It is the result of decisions, most often motivated by greed”.

The political elites are unable to achieve either an economic, scientific, technological or social breakthrough for the reason that, if it continues to be what it is today, corruption will keep on eating up the very resources that they might otherwise have invested in the future of their countries.

Mention might be made of the progress achieved in the matter of accession to the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols to it, progress that has led to the establishment of a virtually universal framework for international co-operation covering a broad range of serious crimes.

However, much still remains to be done in this area. The fact is that the Convention was designed as a basic document for general purposes. Accordingly, many countries need to introduce amendments to their national laws, and strengthen their law enforcement structures and justice systems. Repeated and urgent appeals have been made to countries that have not yet acceded to these documents to do so.

The thorough implementation of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols will establish a foundation for comprehensive international co-operation. The complex links between various forms of transnational crime such as economic fraud and crimes involving the use of personal data, money-laundering, environmental crimes, the illegal trade in narcotic drugs and weapons and the financing of terrorism – all of this requires universal accession to the documents in force and their full implementation so as to achieve concerted approaches that can be applied by States with different legal systems.

Translator's note

1. Page 2 of the original Russian text referred to MC.DEC/6/06 on organized crime. This has been corrected in the English translation to MC.DEC/5/06.
2. Some of the website addresses given in the footnotes in the English translation differ from those given in the original Russian report so as to ensure easy access to the English-language version of the relevant conventions or documents.
3. The ancient Greek historian Sallust mentioned in the first paragraph of the conclusion of the original Russian report is in fact an ancient Roman historian. This has been corrected in the English translation and his name has been given in full as requested by the Rapporteur.