

Committee Overview:*Purpose:*

In the United Nations, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) has the main responsibility of “international action to combat national and transnational crime, including organized crime, economic crime and money laundering.”¹ The CCPCJ is also has three other considerable responsibilities of: 1) “promoting the role of criminal law in protecting the environment,” 2) “crime prevention in urban areas, including juvenile crime and violence,” and 3) “improving the efficiency and fairness of criminal justice administration systems.” Implementation of the CCPCJ's programs are supported by the UNs Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network which coordinates information and direction between Member States. Finally, the “Commission acts as the governing body of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Fund, the United Nations fund that provides resources for promoting technical assistance in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice carried out by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.”

Membership:

The membership of the CCPCJ is outlined in the Commission's establishing resolution A/RES/46/152 Annex: Statement of Principles and Programme of Action of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme: “[t]he commission shall consist of forty Member States of the United Nations, elected by the Economic and Social Council on the basis of the principle of equitable geographical distribution. Its members shall serve for a term of three years...”²

Limitations:

Due to the sovereignty of Member States, it is difficult for the CCPCJ to have its programs implemented. Oft, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is resigned to a role of a consulting and advising organization. Funding for the organization is allocated from the regular budget of the United Nations. However, should the CCPCJ requiring more funding for

1 <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/index.html>

2 <http://daccess-ods.un.org/TMP/9862582.html>

technical assistance, it will need to seek direct contributions from Member States which may entail its own difficulties. Also it is important to note that the CCPCJ is a subsidiary organization of the Economic and Social Council and as such is subject to decisions of that body.