

# **COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**STUDY GUIDE**



*Biplove Gnyawali,*  
Chairperson

*Swarnika Pokharel*  
Vice-Chairperson

Distinguished Delegates,

I welcome you all to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) of Mitini MUN 1.0! Having participated in most of my MUNs in these past 5 years as a delegate—I know what it's like being one, and I will try my best to assist you in learning and improving as much as my chairs did. My role as chair is to guide you through these two MUN days as well as keeping your debates flowing and ensuring that the rules are followed by all of the delegates. Naturally, I will also assure that this experience will be fun and interesting for all of you. I fully believe you will enjoy it !

Best Regards,

Biplove Gnyawali  
Chair

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to UNCCPCJ. It brings me immense pleasure to be serving as the vice chair for this committee in the first Mitini MUN! Even though the name, UNCCPCJ, seems a bit long and because it's long, it might seem a bit intimidating, I personally believe that you all will be able to fully enjoy yourselves throughout the 2 days of being in this committee. All of you will be able to learn something new with each committee session, and your individual research sessions as well. I, as your vice chair, assure you that I will try my best to make this experience memorable for you all.

Best Wishes,

Swarnika Pokharel  
Vice Chair

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## ***Introduction to the committee***

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is the principal policy-making body and governing body of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and is a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); it also approves the budget of the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund. Recent threats to international peace and security have made CCPCJ's role even more relevant in contemporary times. At the same time, adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has also significantly influenced the work of the Commission.

As a subsidiary body of the ECOSOC and the governing body of the UNODC, the CCPCJ plays a central role in the implementation of policies related to criminal justice and the fight against (international) crime. According to Resolution 46/152, the CCPCJ has several goals: combating national and international crimes, strengthening international cooperation in the fight against international and/or transnational crime and the improvement of crime prevention, aiding member states in the administration of justice and implementing human rights standards in their internal criminal justice systems, as well as generally promoting high standards of fairness, justice, humanity, and professional conduct. Priorities include transnational crime, money laundering, economic crimes, and fraud, protecting the environment, prevention of crime in urban areas – particularly youth crime and (sexual) violence, and ensuring efficient criminal justice systems that respect the rights of the defendants to an adequate defense and a fair trial.

Additionally, the CCPCJ organizes the quinquennial UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and, as the UNODC governing body, approves the budget for the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund.

## ***Introduction to the Agenda***

The agenda "Developing strategies to tackle corruption, money laundering, and financial crimes" within the UNCCPCJ is a critical and pressing matter on the global stage.

Corruption, money laundering, and financial crimes pose significant threats to the stability and integrity of nations worldwide. These illicit activities not only undermine the rule of law but also erode public trust in institutions, hinder economic development, and perpetuate social inequalities. The scale of the issue is immense, with estimates suggesting that between 2 and 5 percent of the world's annual GDP is laundered annually, highlighting the magnitude of the problem.

The necessity of combatting corruption and financial crimes lies in the far-reaching impact these activities have on societies, economies, and governance structures. Corruption diverts resources away from essential public services, such as healthcare and education, leading to

increased poverty and inequality. It also stifles economic growth by discouraging foreign investment and distorting market competition. Money laundering enables criminals to legitimize their illicit gains, perpetuating criminal activities and threatening the stability of financial systems. Moreover, financial crimes undermine the integrity of markets, distort competition, and weaken the overall economic fabric of nations, contributing to economic instability and financial crises.

On a global scale, corruption and financial crimes fuel conflict, terrorism, and organized crime, destabilizing regions and threatening international security. These illicit activities also enable the financing of other criminal enterprises, such as human trafficking and drug smuggling, exacerbating social problems and human rights abuses. Furthermore, corruption and financial crimes disproportionately impact the most vulnerable populations, widening the gap between the rich and the poor and hindering sustainable development efforts.

To address these challenges, it is essential to focus on:

- Enhancing transparency in financial transactions,
- Strengthening regulatory frameworks,
- Promoting international cooperation,
- Fostering a culture of integrity and accountability,
- Empowering anti-corruption agencies,
- Implementing robust preventive measures,
- Enhancing cross-border information sharing,
- Developing comprehensive asset recovery mechanisms,
- Providing adequate resources and training for law enforcement,
- Encouraging public-private partnerships in combating financial crimes,

Combating corruption and financial crimes within the UNCCPCJ is of utmost significance due to its profound implications for governance, economic stability, and societal welfare. Resolving these issues necessitates a united effort from governments, international bodies, civil society, and the private sector to devise comprehensive strategies that address the underlying causes of corruption, money laundering, and financial crimes, thereby laying the groundwork for a more transparent, accountable, and prosperous future for all.

## ***Corruption***

The UN defines corruption as the abuse of entrusted power for private gain. This encompasses activities such as bribery, embezzlement, trading in influence, abuse of functions, illicit enrichment, money laundering and obstruction of justice.

Resolution 71/208 adopted by the UNGA focuses on preventing and combating corrupt practices and illicit financial flows to foster sustainable development. It is part of the UN's broader effort to implement the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). Similarly, Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals titled "Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) aims to substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.

The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) by Transparency International ranks countries based on perceived levels of public sector corruption. From the 2023 rankings, Scandinavian countries hold most of the top ranks, with Denmark leading the charts scoring 90 out of 100, indicating a strong institutional framework, high levels of transparency, robust legal systems, effective public sector oversight, and a strong emphasis on integrity and ethical behaviour. On the bottom of the list was Somalia, reflecting severe issues with governance, weak institutions, pervasive corruption, and ongoing conflict and instability that hinder effective anti-corruption measures. Below is a comparison between the United States and Russia:

**United States:** The United States has a score of 69 out of 100, ranking 24th out of 180 countries. This indicates a relatively lower level of perceived public sector corruption compared to many other countries but shows areas for improvement.

**Russia:** Russia has a significantly lower score of 26 out of 100, placing it at 141st out of 180 countries. This score reflects a high level of perceived corruption in the public sector, with systemic issues exacerbated by weak rule of law and authoritarian governance. Delegates are advised to look into the CPI of all the countries in the committee.

## **Money Laundering**

The UN General Assembly defines money laundering as “any act or attempted act to disguise the source of money or assets derived from criminal activity. Money laundering is not a stand-alone criminal activity. Rather, it is a means to a monetary gain for other criminal activities, such as drug trafficking, prostitution, etc. Therefore, delegates should be aware that combating money laundering is also a way to fight other illegal activities.

There are three stages to the money laundering process:

1. Placement of dirty money in the financial system, usually by cash deposits or cheques, so that the funds are removed from the location of the crime.
2. Performing a series of complex transactions to conceal the origin of the funds, by adjusting sufficient amount of “layers”. Usually these manipulations are done internationally, so that it is more difficult to track them. This is the money-laundering phase that most often uses offshore mechanisms. Numerous comings and goings between financial havens and the launderers' banks, punctuated by false invoices, false loans, or other devices, ultimately mislead investigators regarding the origin of the money.
3. Integrating illegal funds to legitimate financial system, so that the origin of money is indistinguishable. It is done most frequently by:
  - i. Consumption of luxury times
  - ii. Investments in assets, including shares and real estate
  - iii. Investments in economic entities: hotels, casinos, restaurants - companies where the payment is made in cash, therefore it is easier to conceal the origin of the money.

It has been calculated that approximately \$2 trillion is laundered every year in the United States, which is approximately on par with 11-12% os the US GDP (Gross Domestic Product) and 2-5% of global GDP. Anti-money laundering policies (AML Policies) and regulations set up by the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering established by the G7 and the UNODC in 1989, the Global Programme on Money Laundering (GPML), along with the various national laws of UN Member states are in place to prevent the laundering of money, and prosecute those who partake in it.

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## ***Financial Crimes***

Financial crimes refer to illegal activities that involve the misuse of money or financial systems for personal gain or to achieve illegal objectives. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), financial crimes include money laundering, terrorist financing, and other financial crimes that facilitate organized crime and corruption.

The UNODC estimates that the proceeds of transnational organized crime amount to 1.6% to 2.2% of global GDP, or \$800 billion to \$2 trillion annually. The United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) estimates that the total global cost of corruption is over \$3.6 trillion per year, or 5% of global GDP. Similarly, Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2022 found that over two-thirds of countries score below 50, with an average global score of just 43 out of 100. Financial investigations are constantly reported as a challenging area for most countries participating in UNODC's regional anti-corruption platforms. Many corruption offences remain undetected due to a lack of adequate financial investigation capacities. Public procurement is repeatedly reported as the largest single area of corruption in countries participating in UNODC's regional anti-corruption platforms. Corruption in public procurement can significantly inflate costs and reduce the quality of public services as well.

Hence, to combat financial crimes, governments and international organizations must work together to strengthen financial regulations, improve transparency, and enhance cooperation. The CCPCJ recommends implementing robust anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing systems, as well as increasing international cooperation to disrupt organized crime networks. And, Transparency International suggests that governments should prioritize good governance, strengthen institutions, and increase public access to information to reduce corruption.

## ***Position Paper***

Position Paper: A MUN Position Paper, is a Research Paper/Policy Paper, a strategic document that gives an overview of a delegate's country position. A standard, good MUN Position Paper has four parts in no more than 4 paragraphs.

1. Introduction to the Agenda
2. Country's Position on the Topic
3. International and National actions are taken for Topic
4. Proposals of Policies, Solutions for a Resolution

Format of a Position Paper:

1. Font-Times New Roman/Arial, Size-11
2. Length of Position Paper-1.5-2.5 pages
3. Add your delegation's Flag to the top-left and Coat of Arms on the right side to the top like in the sample provided.
4. Use credible sources for research, and the use of editable/opinion-based sources like Wikipedia, Quora, etc is strictly prohibited.
5. Do not plagiarise.



Committee: Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL)

Agenda: Reconsidering China's South China Sea Claims

Country: People's Republic of China

The South China Sea is one of the most important trade routes for the countries surrounding it and additionally possesses a large number of natural resources. Due to this, there have been tensions among all the surrounding countries as to the territory each one claims over the area. Most notably

there are concerns regarding the Spratly Islands, the Paracel islands, the Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands, and multiple reefs all of which are estimated to contain large oil reserves. One-third of global shipping, or a total of US\$3.37 trillion of international trade, passes through the South China Sea. About 80 percent of China's oil imports arrive via the Strait of Malacca, in Indonesia, and then sail across the South China Sea to reach China.

China has repeatedly been trying to solve the dispute through bilateral talks. China appreciates the efforts made by the president of the Philippines and the government of Vietnam to negotiate and settle disputes through peace. In November 2002, China and the ten Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) states signed the non-binding Declaration of the Conduct (DoC) of Parties in the South China Sea. That document saw all eleven parties pledge their commitment to eventually conclude a binding code of conduct. That document noted that "the adoption of a code of conduct in the South China Sea would further promote peace and stability in the region." Officially the government stands by its determination to abide by the United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) which it has signed and ratified. However, China is the country where there has been the biggest impact due to this situation and it remains firm on its nine-dash lines and historical rights over the territory marked by the lines.

The delegate of China feels that due to the unnecessary interference of countries such as the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Australia & other non-claimant countries showing their involvement in the issue, the dispute is getting out of hand. This is an international concern and the delegate of China urges the UN to take action against such countries. These countries

breaching the South China Sea with military ships and aircraft is a serious threat to the integrity of the boundary countries. The Chinese government shall provide help to those who want to secure and maintain the territorial integrity and sovereign rights of the South China Sea and the East China Sea. China under the UN is ready to play the role in protecting the security of oversea interest and participate in international maritime cooperation to provide strategic support for all needy countries.

**The delegate of China proposes the following solutions to settle the dispute:**

- All the outsider countries that are not directly involved in this matter or don't have their country boundaries linked with the South China Sea must take back any type of military forces they've deployed in the sea. The delegate of China requests the UN to take action against any country that doesn't do so.
- The involved countries should come to a bilateral agreement through peace talks. China can also agree to a binding agreement that favors all the claimant countries including China. The agreement will include allocations of the parts of islands and the sea that the countries get, laws that the countries will implement in the territory allotted to them, and will only be implemented if all the claimant countries and the People's Republic of China are fully satisfied with the agreement.

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