IOVA

International Organization for Victim Assistance, Organization in Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC

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IOVA calls on the 13th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to encourage Member States and UN Offices (jointly UNODC, WHO, UNDP, OCHR, UNHCR, and UN Habitat) in partnership with civil society to commit to 5 goals for Sustainable development achievable within <u>10 years</u>:

1. Reduce the numbers of victims of intentional homicide by 50%.

2. Reduce the number of women and children who are victims of violence by 25%.

3. Reduce the number of victims involved in human trafficking by 50%.

4. Increase by 50% the number of victims of crime, abuse of power and terrorism who demonstrably receive support, reparation and rights consistent with international standards.

5. Invest 1/10th of 1% of global GDP to the planning, training, development, implementation and evaluation of the actions to achieve these goals

Overview

In 1985, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a land mark decision for victims by resolving to prevent victimization and implement the UN Declaration on Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power (1985).

Much Important Progress has been achieved since 1985, including:

- Fewer homicides and violent crimes in many affluent countries;
- Significant accumulated evidence about effective ways of reducing violent crime;
- Better ways to measure violence against women and children and so focus efforts on prevention;
- Inspiring examples of cities that have reduced violence by 50% or more in some developing and developed countries;
- Growing investments in, and laws for, services and rights for victims of crime in many developed and some developing countries;

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- Development of codes of practice and ways to evaluate the implementation of victim services and rights;
- Knowledge that confirms that high rates of violence slow sustainable development and threaten rule of law.

Important Challenges remain for 2015 and following years, including:

- Epidemic rates of street violence in many countries in Latin America and some countries in Africa and elsewhere;
- The combination of street violence and violence against women and children diverts 5% of the world GDP from sustainable development;
- Most efforts to control crime are not using scientific methods or agreed UN standards and norms and so are unnecessarily wasteful of human lives and scarce resources;
- Continuing high rates of intimate partner and sexual violence impact particularly the lives and productivity of women and children;
- Significant problems of human-trafficking, terrorism and cyber-crime are now recognized and added to the challenges;
- Most victims of violence in developing countries will not get the services and rights that the UN has called for;
- Victims of abuse of power and terrorism are unlikely to get essential services and rights.

The progress achieved by successful initiatives in some Member States, universal agreement on UN norms and standards, accumulated evidence on achievements from prevention, and successful best practices, all provide inspiring examples to overcome some of the important challenges and confirm estimates of what is achievable.

Given this knowledge, norms and inspiring examples, too many persons are victims of too many crimes with too few rights because of too little action to implement UN declarations and guidelines and too little use made of 21st century evidence and successful innovations. It is time to use successful actions, UN norms and scientific evidence to reduce the number of victims, provide services and rights to victims. The goals set out here are achievable. If they were achieved, it is estimated that the achievement would free up $2 trillion by the end of ten years for economic and sustainable development.

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Summary of Selected Justifications for the Goals

Goal 1: Reduce the numbers of victims of intentional homicide by 50%, through implementing effective violence ¨victimization prevention¨ consistent with UN norms and standards.

UNODC (2013) estimates that at least 437,000 persons are victims of intentional homicides each year. The strategies that will reduce homicides will reduce street and related violence. The 2006 UNODC Compendium of UN Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (UNODC Standards Compendium) lists four instruments specifically on prevention, including the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime.

Today a number of major organizations, including the World Health Organization (2009), US Dept. of Justice, the British Home Office and soon organizations such as the World Bank are sharing the compelling evidence on actions that have tackled some of these risk factors and so shown reductions in violence of 50% or more. Criminological studies confirm studies and examples that have reduced violence by 50% and the consequent contributions to sustainable development (Waller, 2013). WHO, UNODC, UNDP (2014) completed the first Global Survey on the State of Violence Prevention.

Many projects that tackle risk factors for violence have been shown to reduce homicide and other violence by 50% or more. There are some cities, such as Bogota in Colombia, Glasgow in Scotland, and Recife in Brazil, that have applied this knowledge across cities to cut violence close to 50%. Regional initiatives in Latin America are working "Towards the effectiveness of public policies on citizen security in Latin America: the multi-sectoral approach and evidence-based policy"

Goal 2: Reduce the number of women and children who are victims of violence by 25% through implementing effective ¨victimization prevention¨ for these groups, consistent with UN principles.

One billion women are victimized by sexual violence in their lifetime. 1/5 homicides are committed against children under the age of 19, 1/3 under the age of 10. WHO (2014) estimates that 1 in 3 women will be victims of intimate partner violence in their lifetime. The UNODC Compendium lists two instruments specifically on the elimination of violence against women. The World Health Assembly endorsed guidelines to reduce violence in 2014, emphasizing ¨Strengthening the role of the health system in addressing violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children¨.

WHO report (2009) on the evidence on effective violence prevention includes a number of actions that are likely to reduce such violence including school education programs and all-female police stations. Instruments such as the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2013) exist to better measure and diagnose problems. UNICEF has published "Ending Violence against Children: Six Strategies for Action".

Goal 3: Reduce the number of victims involved in human trafficking by 50%.

The UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons (2012) reports 21 million victims of human trafficking each year. This involves 152 citizenships across 124 countries. The UNHCHR suggests, some of the following guidelines for responding to victims of trafficking: promotion and protection of human rights; identification of trafficked persons and traffickers; ensuring an adequate law enforcement

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response; protection and support for trafficked persons; special measures for the protection and support of child victims of trafficking; access to remedies; specific obligations of peacekeepers, civilian police and humanitarian and diplomatic personnel; and cooperation and coordination between States and regions. Other national initiatives focus on reducing demand for sexual services. Good practices and guidelines exist; so action is needed now to get best results.

Goal 4: Increase the number of victims of crime, abuse of power and terrorism who demonstrably receive support, reparation and rights consistent with international standards by 50%

The UNODC Compendium lists four instruments specifically on the rights of victims of crime, though others are linked to other UN instruments and the International Criminal Court. The forthcoming UNODC Handbook on Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power (Rev.) emphasizes the needs of victims and gives many examples of services and justice for victims in different jurisdictions, including Chile, Japan, Mexico, South Africa, US federal government and States, the European Union and other developed countries. Many lessons can be drawn from these experiences, including the importance of a central office to lead implementation, of having norms or codes of practice and of raising public and professional awareness.

It is no longer enough to legislate nice principles without ensuring that the changes happen so that victims get what they need. What gets measured gets done. The tools now exist so that legislators can insist on monitoring the implementation and evaluating outcomes. Technical assistance and training are vital on a large scale for victim assistance, police, prosecution, the judiciary and others. The UNODC report on terrorism proposes improvements for victims of acts of terrorism.

Goal 5: Invest 1/10 of 1% of global GDP in the planning, training, development and evaluation of the actions above in order to increase sustainable development and peaceful communities across the world.

The cost of violence and counter-violence exceeds 5% of the global GDP (Institute of Peace, 2012). In the low violence countries the resources freed are smaller. But in high violence countries or those using exceptional levels of resources on law enforcement and punishment, the economic resources diverted from sustainable development and sometimes used outside the rule of law are significant. The targets proposed here would achieve an average reduction in costs to 2.5% of global GDP. This would free about $2 trillion worldwide.

Most of the effective programs proposed in the four goals above will reduce demand for expensive police, courts and corrections systems. These programs invest particularly in young people and women. They tackle problems in families, or schools, or concern themselves with improving life skills through mentoring, substance abuse or trauma treatment programs and public health strategies. They control facilitators of violence such as alcohol, illicit drugs and firearms. Not only do they reduce violence by 50% or more but they do so at rates of social return on investment that are several times more cost-efficient than reaction. These are investments in the futures of young people that itself will contribute to sustainable development.

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