

International Strategies for Tackling Transnational Organized Crime: Challenges & Aspirations

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Abstract

Organized crime is an obstacle that erodes the progress of peace and security to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The exploitation of the development of modern means of criminal networks also plays a vital role. Organized crime is considered a serious crime that poses a serious challenge to criminal justice agencies in many countries worldwide. United Nations implemented a (UNTOC). In this research, it is contended that the legal international rules, whether they're conventional or norms, cover the rapidly changing nature of TOC and the growing developments intertwining between organized crime and the areas significantly influenced by the operations and impacts like terrorism, along with corruption, conflict, public health issues, and global finance.

Keyword: *organized crime, UN convention against transnational organized crime, international cooperation, United Nations (UN)*

International Strategies for Tackling Transnational Organized Crime: Challenges & Aspirations

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1. INTRODUCTION

Transnational organized crime (TOC) represents a global challenge that significantly threatens peace and security worldwide. However, in conflict-affected and fragile states, the dangers posed by TOC are especially complex and insidious, demanding innovative and tailored solutions. TOC not only weakens state institutions but also exacerbates the critical and often fragile relationship between the state and its society. In these vulnerable contexts, it is precisely the erosion of this state-society relationship that hinders progress toward lasting peace and development.

Organized crime has diversified, gone global and reached macro-economic proportions: illicit goods are sourced from one continent, trafficked across another, and marketed in a third. Mafias are today truly a transnational problem: a threat to security, especially in poor and conflict-ridden countries. Crime is fuelling corruption, infiltrating business and politics, and hindering development. And it is undermining governance by empowering those who operate outside the law. the rapid expansion of online connectivity, coupled with insufficient development of risk management measures at the legal and policy levels.

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted by General Assembly resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000, is the main international instrument in the fight against transnational organized crime. It opened for signature by Member States at a High-level Political Conference convened for that purpose in Palermo, Italy, on 12-15 December 2000 and entered into force on 29 September 2003. The Convention is further supplemented by three Protocols, which target specific areas and manifestations of organized crime: the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition. Countries must become parties to the Convention itself before they can become parties to any of the Protocols.

CHAPTER 1: LEGAL CONCEPT AND CHARACTERISTICS OF TRADITIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

The issue of organized crime has been and continues to be prominent in both popular culture and politics. Media representations such as *The Sopranos* or *The Godfather* trilogy portray mafia organizations in a manner both dramatic and romantic, fascinating audiences. In

actuality, criminal organizations are often similar to their fictional counterparts. Shrouded in secrecy and governed by long-established rules and laws, mafia variations around the world have developed into one of the most dangerous threats to international stability and safety today. These criminal groups exploit increasingly porous borders and facilitated communication to make their business of providing illicit goods and services a global endeavor. The market they operate in is expansive and provides many options for profit, including illegal weapons and narcotics trade, human trafficking, money laundering and extortion (Coriddi Chapel Hill 2007).

Organized crime, in its modern form, can trace its roots back to the rise of the mafia in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Originating in Southern Italy, particularly Sicily, the mafia exemplified the early organizational structure of criminal syndicates, characterized by a hierarchical framework, secretive operations, and a reliance on violence, intimidation, and corruption. "The Mafia, both in Italy and America, is a complex and historically rooted network of organized crime groups. Originating in Sicily, an island under foreign rule until the mid-19th century, these groups initially formed as a means for Sicilians to protect themselves and enforce their own justice systems. In its early stages, the term "mafioso" lacked criminal implications and referred to individuals distrustful of centralized authority. By the 19th century, some of these groups evolved into private armies, known as "mafia," that extorted protection money from landowners. Over time, they transformed into the notorious Sicilian Mafia, renowned for its violent and secretive nature.

The American Mafia emerged as a separate entity in the 1920s, gaining power during the Prohibition era. Although distinct from the Sicilian Mafia, the two share cultural traditions, such as omerta, a strict code of silence and loyalty that governs their operations. This shared history underscores the influence of cultural and historical factors in shaping organized crime networks (Newspaper History, 2024).

1. DEFINITION & SCOPE OF ORGANIZED CRIME

- Definition

There is no single accepted definition of TOC. In 1994, researchers defined "transnational crime" to include offences whose inception, prevention, and/or direct or indirect effects involve more than one country. Experts believe TOC networks vary considerably in structure, strength, size, geographical range, and the scope and diversity of their operations. (John R. Wagley, 2006)..

The realization that not a single country, no matter how powerful, can fight organized crime across borders in isolation, led to the passage of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which came into force in 2003. The negotiations leading up to this Convention caused Member States to consider the definition of organized crime in setting the stage for international action.

The Convention does not contain a definition of (TOC) or organized crime. There are many elements of organized crime, which might not occur in every case, and might also change over time, making a specific consensus definition difficult. Instead, the Convention defines "an

organized criminal group." A precise definition is required because the Convention aims at directing policy, law, and practice in preventing and combating organized crime.

Under the Convention (Article 2A), an "organized criminal group" is defined using four criteria:

1. A structured group of three or more persons.
2. The group exists for a period of time.
3. It acts in concert with the aim of committing at least one serious crime.
4. To obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit.

Organized crime, however, is a notoriously difficult concept to define. Although there is an awareness that the phenomenon exists everywhere, there are multiple forms of crime, enabled by different actors, that fluctuate and adapt to various environments. In 2003, the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), the principal international instrument against organized crime, came into force, compelling member states to consider a definition for organized crime. Unable to reach a consensus, however, the UNTOC does not actually provide a definition, but rather offers clarity on two constants within the broad context of organized crime (European Union Agency, 2018).

The terms 'organized criminal group' and 'serious offence', outlined in the convention, offer the basic conditions for an activity to be deemed to be organized crime and the flexibility to address the widest possible range of concerns. For example, an organized criminal group may refer to a broad range of criminal associations, from hierarchal structures to loosely connected networks. Likewise, the convention's focus on the term 'serious offence' ensures a distinction is maintained between low-level criminality and organized criminal activity. Moreover, the convention specifically speaks to activities that are profit-driven, allowing for policies and responses to distinguish organized crime from solely politically motivated actions, such as terrorism. Today the consensus among the convention's member states is increasingly to refrain from definitional debates surrounding the term 'organized crime' and accept that it is flexible, that it refers to a broad spectrum of ever-changing activities and circumstances, and that there are many ways in which the label 'organized crime' can be understood and conceptualized.(G. O.C.I, 2023).

- Scope of Organized Crime

The discussion about the scope of the organized crimes leading to discuss the following types of jurisdiction

- Territorial Jurisdiction Jurisdiction Rationed Loci

The jurisdiction of the state achieves over offenses committed within its territories and boundaries.

Article 15(1)(a) mentions :1. Each State Party shall adopt such measures as may be necessary to establish its jurisdiction over the offences established in accordance with articles 5, 6, 8 and 23 of this Convention when: (a) The offence is committed in the territory of that State Party; or (b) The offence is committed on board a vessel that is flying the flag of that State Party or an aircraft that is registered under the laws of that State Party at the time that the offence is committed. (U.S. Department of State, 2009).

The provision seeks to prevent safe havens for perpetrators of transnational organized crime by ensuring the jurisdiction of all States possibly affected by transnational crimes. Regulations on jurisdiction are vital since the offenses under UNTOC are committed transnationally and fall within the territorial jurisdiction of more than one State. Moreover, regulations must be in line with the international law principles of non-intervention and sovereign equality of States. It should be mentioned that the increasing complexity of jurisdictional issues has arisen due to transnational crimes committed in cyberspace.(Bettina Weißer, 2023).

- Personal Jurisdiction (Jurisdiction Personalis)

The jurisdiction is based on the nationality of the offender or the victim. Article 15(2)(a) & (b) provides : Subject to article 4 of this Convention, a State Party may also establish its jurisdiction over any such offence when: (a) The offence is committed against a national of that State Party; (b) The offence is committed by a national of that State Party or a stateless person who has his or her habitual residence in its territory;

The provisions are designed to ensure that States Parties to the UNTOC can effectively combat organized crime by asserting jurisdiction over crimes that directly affect them, whether through the actions of their nationals or the victimization of their citizens. By enabling jurisdiction over offenses committed by or against nationals, and even over stateless persons, the article balances the needs for national sovereignty and the protection of citizens with the realities of transnational organized crime.

- Protective Jurisdiction

It refers to the Jurisdiction over offenses committed outside the State's territory with the intent to affect the State's vital interests.

Article 15(2)(c) mentions : The offence is: (i) One of those established in accordance with article 5, paragraph 1, of this Convention and is committed outside its territory with a view to the commission of a serious crime within its territory; (ii) One of those established in accordance with article 6, paragraph 1 (b) (ii), of this Convention and is committed outside its territory with a view to the commission of an offence established in accordance with article 6, paragraph 1 (a) (i) or (ii) or (b) (i), of this Convention within its territory.

This refers to crimes related to organized criminal groups. The offense is committed outside the state's territory with the intent to carry out a serious crime within that state's territory. While Offense under Article 6, Paragraph 1 (b) (ii) pertains to money laundering. The offense is committed outside the state's territory to facilitate a related crime (such as converting or transferring criminal proceeds) within the state's territory.

In both cases, the key element is the extraterritorial nature of the offense, combined with its intended impact on the state's territory.

- Universal Jurisdiction

Article 15(4) provides : For the purposes of article 16, paragraph 10, of this Convention, each State Party shall adopt such measures as may be necessary to establish its jurisdiction over the offences covered by this Convention when the alleged offender is present in its territory and it does not extradite such person solely on the ground that he or she is one of its nationals.

It means that Jurisdiction a State exercises over certain offenses regardless of where they occur or the nationality of the offender or victim.

• Jurisdiction Based on Non-Extradition of Nationals

Article 15(3) mentions that each State Party may also adopt such measures as may be necessary to establish its jurisdiction over the offenses covered by this Convention when the alleged offender is present in its territory, and it does not extradite him or her. This means Jurisdiction is established to prosecute offenses when a State does not extradite its nationals to other countries.

Thus, States are permitted to discuss the most appropriate jurisdiction for prosecution, thereby avoiding conflicts and duplication of efforts. However, this also compromises Cooperation in Legal Processes. Effective investigation, prosecution, and judicial proceedings are facilitated through mutual legal assistance, extradition agreements, and information sharing among states.

• Residual Jurisdiction

Article 15(6) mentions: Without prejudice to norms of general international law, this Convention does not exclude the exercise of any criminal jurisdiction established by a State Party in accordance with its domestic law. it defines as the Jurisdiction a State create beyond clear provisions of international law, based on domestic laws.(STUDY ON RESIDUAL JURISDICTION, 2005).

“Organized Crime Groups, whether traditional mob families or street gangs, have several common characteristics:

1. Organized crime thrives on supplying illegal goods and services for which a large number of people are willing to pay. For example, in 1999 an estimated fifteen million Americans used illegal drugs, 75 percent of whom used marijuana.
2. The goal of organized crime groups is to make money; members also gain a sense of pride, power, and protection.
3. Groups have what is called a pyramid power structure like legal businesses. In legitimate businesses, there is a boss called the chief executive officer (CEO), under the CEO are vice presidents, treasurers, advisors, accountants, lawyers, technical staff, and so on.

Organized crime has a boss, advisors who work closely with the boss and assign tasks to different crews, captains who run the different crews, soldiers who carry out the physical work and act out tasks from collecting money to killing people, and men with special skills.

4. Members are extremely loyal and committed; they go through initiation rituals, take oaths, and swear to secrecy.

5. Punishment for members who stray might be a demotion to a lower rank or, depending on their offense, death.(Newspaper Organized Crime, 2009).

While organized crime is not a new phenomenon, the spread, impact and forms of organised crime in the modern world are unprecedented. The effects of organised crime are being felt in fragile and developed nations alike, and in many parts of the world, organised crime creates the very conditions that allow it to thrive, resulting in a self-perpetuating cycle of insecurity and diverted development.

The renewal of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), as a universal development agenda, is a key opportunity to sensitize development actors to organized crime and ensure that it is built into the development lexicon, so that development actors are able to identify organized crime when it affects the achievement of their mandates. In addition, they should feel equipped to bring development approaches to bear to mitigate the impact of crime on human security, the environment and on development, and to address the root causes.(Ministry of foreign Africa of the Netherland, 2015).

CHAPTER TWO: LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR COMBATING ORGANIZED CRIME: A FOCUS ON THE UNTOC, KEY PROVISIONS OF CRIMINALIZATION & MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE.

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), also known as the Palermo Convention, is a key international treaty aimed at addressing these challenges by establishing a global legal framework for cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime. This chapter explores the legal provisions within the scope of the UNTOC that focus on the criminalization of organized crime activities and the mechanisms for mutual legal assistance among states.

1. THE UNTOC FRAMEWORK

The UNTOC, adopted in 2000, is the primary international instrument in the fight against organized crime. It comprises three main protocols:

1. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons (especially women and children)
2. The Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air

3. The Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms.(United Nations, Conference, 2022).

Together, these instruments aim to tackle the root causes of organized crime and enhance cooperation among states. However, beyond the protocols, the UNTOC itself is crucial for establishing common legal principles and provisions that guide member states in addressing organized crime effectively.

1. Key Provisions of Criminalization under the UNTOC

The UNTOC emphasizes the need for states to adopt domestic laws that criminalize the key activities associated with organized crime. These provisions aim to ensure that organized crime is addressed comprehensively across borders. The central provisions include:

- Criminalization of Organized Crime

Article 5 of the UNTOC obliges states to adopt criminal offenses related to participation in organized criminal groups. Specifically, it requires states to criminalize the following activities:

- i. Either or both of the following as criminal offences distinct from those involving the attempt or completion of the criminal activity.
 - ii. Agreeing with one or more other persons to commit a serious crime for a purpose relating directly or indirectly to the obtaining of a financial or other material benefit and, where required by domestic law, involving an act undertaken by one of the participants in furtherance of the agreement or involving an organized criminal group.
 - iii. Conduct by a person who, with knowledge of either the aim and general criminal activity of an organized criminal group or its intention to commit the crimes in question, takes an active part in:
 - a. Criminal activities of the organized criminal group.
 - b. Other activities of the organized criminal group in the knowledge that his or her participation will contribute to the achievement of the above described criminal aim.(United Nations Convention, 2000).

The provisions on the criminalization of participation in a criminal organization have been the outcome of lengthy negotiations, reflecting the difficulty of State Parties to reach agreement as regards the criminalization of organized crime. It has been noted that it was recognized in negotiations that it would be difficult for many states to envisage legislation that would make mere participation in an organized criminal group a criminal offence.

The option criminalizing of participation in a criminal organization in Article 5(a)(ii) is coupled with the option of criminalizing the agreement to commit a serious crime (Article 5(a)(i)). The latter wording is based on the offence of conspiracy which reflects the common law tradition (European Parliament, 2011)..

- Criminalizing Money Laundering

The objective of organized criminal groups is to generate criminal proceeds from a broad range of offences. Various money-laundering methods are then utilized to disguise the illicit origins of the proceeds. Article 6 of the Organized Crime Convention requires the criminalization of the laundering of proceeds of crime. Moreover, the international community, through the Financial Action Task Force, has developed international standards to combat money-laundering. Those standards call upon Member States to criminalize money-laundering by establishing robust and comprehensive legal regimes against it (UN Convention, 2000). By criminalizing the laundering of proceeds from crime, this provision works to dismantle the financial infrastructure supporting organized crime. This includes:

- a. the concealment or disguise of the true nature, source, location, disposition, movement, rights with respect to, or ownership of property.
- b. the Possession, illegal possession
- c. the conversion or transfer of property with the knowledge that such property is derived from a drug-trafficking offense for the purpose of concealing and disguising its illicit origin(The world bank, 2024).

- Corruption & Bribery

The UNTOC emphasizes the need to combat corruption, often a key enabler of organized crime. Under Article 8 This includes:

1. Each State Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences, when committed intentionally:
 - (a) The promise, offering or giving to a public official, directly or indirectly, of an undue advantage, for the official himself or herself or another person or entity, in order that the official act or refrain from acting in the exercise of his or her official duties;
 - (b) The solicitation or acceptance by a public official, directly or indirectly, of an undue advantage, for the official himself or herself or another person or entity, in order that the official act or refrain from acting in the exercise of his or her official duties.
2. Each State Party shall consider adopting such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences conduct referred to in paragraph 1 of this article involving a foreign public official or international civil servant. Likewise, each State Party shall consider establishing as criminal offences other forms of corruption.
3. Each State Party shall also adopt such measures as may be necessary to establish as a criminal offence participation as an accomplice in an offence established in accordance with this article (UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime,2000,art(8)).

- Obstruction of Justice & Witness Protection

The UNTOC also recognizes the importance of protecting victims, witnesses, and law enforcement officials from intimidation and retaliation. (Article 24) addresses the criminalization of actions aimed at obstructing justice, including:

1. Each State Party shall take appropriate measures within its means to provide effective protection from potential retaliation or intimidation for witnesses in criminal proceedings who give testimony concerning offences covered by this Convention and, as appropriate, for their relatives and other persons close to them.

2. The measures envisaged in paragraph 1 of this article may include, inter alia, without prejudice to the rights of the defendant, including the right to due process.

(a) Establishing procedures for the physical protection of such persons, such as, to the extent necessary and feasible, relocating them and permitting, where appropriate, non-disclosure or limitations on the disclosure of information concerning the identity and whereabouts of such persons.

(b) Providing evidentiary rules to permit witness testimony to be given in a manner that ensures the safety of the witness, such as permitting testimony to be given through the use of communications technology such as video links or other adequate means.

3. States Parties shall consider entering into agreements or arrangements with other States for the relocation of persons referred to in paragraph 1 of this article.

4. The provisions of this article shall also apply to victims insofar as they are witnesses (UNODC, 2004).

- Mutual Legal Assistance

Mutual legal assistance shall be afforded to the fullest extent possible under relevant laws, treaties, agreements and arrangements of the requested State Party with respect to investigations, prosecutions and judicial proceedings in relation to the offences for which a legal person may be held liable in accordance with article 10 of this Convention in the requesting State Party. Mutual legal assistance to be afforded in accordance with this article may be requested for any of the following purposes:

a) Taking evidence or statements from persons.

b) Effecting service of judicial documents.

c) Executing searches and seizures, and freezing.

d) Examining objects and sites.

e) Providing information, evidentiary items and expert evaluations.

- f) Providing originals or certified copies of relevant documents and records, including government, bank, financial, corporate or business records.
- g) Identifying or tracing proceeds of crime, property, instrumentalities or other things for evidentiary purposes;
- h) Facilitating the voluntary appearance of persons in the requesting State Party;
- i) Any other type of assistance that is not contrary to the domestic law of the requested State Party.

And also States Parties shall afford one another the widest measure of mutual legal assistance in investigations, prosecutions and judicial proceedings in relation to the offences covered by this Convention as provided for in article 3 and shall reciprocally extend to one another similar assistance where the requesting State Party has reasonable grounds to suspect that the offence referred to in article 3, paragraph 1 (a) or (b), is transnational in nature, including that victims, witnesses, proceeds, instrumentalities or evidence of such offences are located in the requested State Party and that the offence involves an organized criminal group(UNODC, 2022).

The Organized Crime Convention also requires States parties to afford each other mutual legal assistance to the fullest extent possible.

However, different countries and traditions usually have substantial differences regarding evidence gathering. For instance, in many civil law systems a magistrate supervises the process, while in common law systems generally investigators have broader powers. Evidence gathered without respecting procedures and formalities of the requesting country may not be admissible in its courts, thus hampering prosecution. Article 18 provides guidance to States on how to deal with incoming and outgoing requests in order to reduce the risk of admissibility issues of the evidence gathered(Hartfield, Clive (2008)).

Given the wide and growing range of international instruments, each requiring States parties to afford one another the widest possible mutual legal assistance and to designate for that purpose a central authority, it is also important for States to ensure that their central authorities are a single entity in order to facilitate greater consistency of mutual legal assistance for different types of criminal offence and eliminate the potential for fragmentation of effort in this area(UNODC, 2007).

The relationship between bilateral and multilateral treaties for international mutual legal assistance is addressed in the Organized Crime Convention. Major points are summarized below:

- The Convention does not override any existing mutual legal assistance treaty already in place between States. Instead, the Convention gives States the option to use its article 18, if that would facilitate cooperation.
- The Convention applies to States parties if there is no existing treaty in place, allowing for a framework for mutual legal assistance when making a request pursuant to the Convention.

- The Organized Crime Convention also encourages States parties to enter into their own regional or bilateral agreements, with a view to enhancing cooperation regarding transnational organized crime in all its forms and manifestations(UN Seventh Crime Congress (1985)).

Chapter Three: Establishing the Balance between the Rapid Growth of Organized Crime & Innovative Legal Measures to Tackle It.

The battle between organized crime and the evolving legal frameworks meant to counter it is complex, ongoing, and dynamic. As organized crime continues to adapt and grow with globalization, technology, and shifting geopolitical landscapes, the responses from law enforcement, legal systems, and international bodies must evolve in tandem.

- The Role of Innovative Legal Measures

To combat these increasingly complex and transnational threats, legal frameworks must be equally innovative. Traditional methods of law enforcement, such as conventional policing, are often insufficient in addressing the multifaceted and technological nature of organized crime. However, modern legal tools, such as cybercrime laws, digital forensics, international treaties, and asset forfeiture mechanisms, are becoming increasingly essential.

International treaties and legal frameworks provide the foundation for cooperation. They establish common standards, procedures, and obligations that guide countries in their fight against organized crime. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) is a key instrument in this regard(Newspaper Toxigon Infinite, 2025).

The UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC 2000): The UNTOC, also called the Palermo Convention, requires signatories to provide the widest possible range of mutual legal assistance (MLA) for its covered offenses. It aims to promote cooperation to prevent and combat transnational organized crime more effectively(UN Treaty collection, 20024). The Convention is further supplemented by three Protocols, which target specific areas of organized crime: the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition. (Newspaper Toxigon Infinite, 2025).

Some UNSCRs - notably, (1373 and 2322) also contain specific obligations related to international cooperation in CFT matters (especially when adopted under chapter VII of the UN Charter). UNSCR 2322 explicitly calls upon states to exchange information and enhance cooperation in counterterrorism matters, and to use all applicable international instruments to which they are a party as a basis for MLA and extradition.

This framework of conventions, treaties, and resolutions, if fully implemented, provides authorities with the tools needed to combat the financing of terrorism, including mechanisms to facilitate international cooperation(Kathleen Kao, 2023).

- International Cooperation: A Necessity for Success

Transnational organized crime requires a coordinated transnational response. As organized criminal networks span the globe, efforts to combat them must likewise cross borders so as to ensure that organized crime networks do not simply divert their activities to countries or regions where weak cooperation means weak criminal justice responses. International cooperation against organized crime should, as a matter of urgency, be conceived and used as a tool for strengthening sovereignty and security, not surrendering it (UNODC, 2022).

By aligning national and international policies, resources, and enforcement capabilities, countries can better counter organized criminal enterprises. Collaborative efforts can also ensure that those who commit transnational crimes are held accountable, regardless of where they operate.

An important direction of international cooperation in the field of fighting transnational organized crime and international crimes is the conclusion of international treaties, which constitutes the legal basis for these activities. including multilateral and bilateral international conventions on international legal aid and other forms of international cooperation in criminal proceedings; consular conventions and agreements regulating certain issues of criminal proceedings. It is necessary to take into account the provisions of multispectral international treaties concluded by ministries, and central executive authorities of the states on the issues referred to them and aimed at improving the practical mechanisms for the implementation of international cooperation of law enforcement agencies of the States (Kristin M. Finklea, 2010).

The UN and other multilateral institutions have a role to play in facilitating the integration of “TOC “control efforts through international cooperation and using international forms and Mechanisms to counter transnational organized crime. at the level of state and society capacity building, we should work to create international review mechanisms to provide incentives for coordinated and effective crime control strategies on the part of state governors and private actors. As organized crime becomes increasingly transnational, so may the need for international, organized crime working groups, task forces, and law enforcement cooperation. The benefits of international cooperation and partnerships are twofold. (Cherniavskyi, S.S, 2025).

Interpol works with the police division and its serious and organized crime team to strengthen the role of police in international peacekeeping, and also the Interpol benefits from the support of the UN in local capacity building, and in return the UN endorses policing capabilities in host countries. Interpol and the United Nations Department of Peace operations have coordinated with one another on several initiatives aimed at supporting national police agencies in developing the “capacity and integrity” needed to uphold the rule of law. For example, Interpol assists the UN Police, specifically the Serious and crimes Unit, with their transnational threats Project. This collaboration enables United Nations field missions to better address transnational threats, including serious and organized crime, corruption, and violent extremism. (Interpol Cooperation with UN entities, 2023).

The positive impact published by the United Nations Secretariat in its report for Interpol in 2020 shows the relations – both direct and indirect – between each of the seven Interpol GPGs and individual United Nations SDGs and their targets. This analysis took into account the

Organization's three priority crime programmed (Counterterrorism, Organized and Emerging Crime, and Cybercrime), and its Strategic Framework. It demonstrates the positive impact of the GPGs through concrete examples of Interpol's policing capabilities, operational activities, and initiatives. In some cases, all seven Interpol GPGs support the same UN SDG, due to the crosscutting nature of the SDG in question.(Interpol. Global Policing Goals.2023) .

implemented law enforcement agencies from Europe and Asia a complex operation and highly intelligent process, with the active support of Europol's European Cybercrime Centre (EC3). on (Members of an international cybercrime syndicate active in Europe and Asia) this organized crime group is responsible for carrying out highly sophisticated attacks against banks' ATMs which were made to dispense all the money deposited inside. under this operation Five members of an international organized criminal group (OCG) have been arrested, Europol's European Cybercrime Centre (EC3) assisted the investigation by providing analytical support, organizing operational meetings in Europe and Asia as well as analyzing the seized data/ equipment.(Interpol. Global Policing Goals. 2023)..

The modus operandi employed was very complex and involved:

1. spear-phishing emails with attachments containing malicious programmers.
2. penetration of the banks' internal networks.
3. compromising and controlling the network of ATMs.
4. special computer programmers who deleted most of the traces of criminal activity, etc.

One arrest has been made by the Romanian National Police, three arrests by the Taiwanese Criminal Investigation Bureau and one arrest by the Belarusian Central Office of the Investigative Committee. In some cases, after the cashing-out, the stolen money was partially recovered from the criminals. A key factor for the successful dismantling of this criminal organization was close police cooperation on the global level and the deep involvement of the Europol Liaison Office at Interpol I.G.C.I(European Union Agency, 2017).

CONCLUSION:

The social importance of transnational organized crime should not be underestimated. It is characterized by complex criminal activities carried out on a large scale and violating social relations protected by the criminal laws of various States. The effectiveness of law enforcement in combating transnational organized crime remains a challenge.

The following conclusions emerged from the study on the challenges of countering transnational organized crime:

1. We find that there is a great support and wide confirmation that organized crime has flourished and developed in the past decade, but the problem here is any discussion about

organized crime, the extent of its existence, and the size of the threats that can threaten now and societal peace global.

2. The secrecy and mystery that surrounds organized crime and the clandestine nature with which it operates makes it hard to quantify and reach sound conclusions.
3. One of the most important factors is the establishment of a proper and sound working definition of organized crime to move away from the mythical notions that pervade the popular consciousness and perhaps many security and intelligence institutions within Europe and the world.
4. Ongoing need for adaptation: Stress that this is an ongoing challenge and that legal systems must remain flexible and adaptable to new forms of crime. As technology and criminal methods evolve, so too must legal frameworks.
5. Call for global cooperation and investment: Conclude with a call for increased global cooperation and investment in both legal innovation and international law enforcement to ensure that the fight against organized crime continues to evolve in a way that maintains public safety, fairness, and justice.

Ultimately, The challenge of combating organized crime is not a static one. It is a continuous struggle, as criminal organizations innovate and adapt to new opportunities, while the law strives to keep up with these changes. However, the increasing sophistication of legal responses offers hope for a more balanced and effective approach.

The challenge of balancing the rapid growth of organized crime with effective legal measures is not one that can be easily solved, but it is one that must be addressed continually. Governments, law enforcement agencies, the legal community, and society at large must remain vigilant and adaptable. Legal innovations will continue to evolve, and as new technologies and methodologies emerge, so too must the tools used to combat crime.

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