



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA : “The Majority of Youth engage in Crime for survival purposes “

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31st Session of the COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE, 16– 20 May 2022, Vienna, Austria, and some NGO side events.

SUMMARY OF COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS: The session was physically attended by Government delegates; for representatives of non-governmental organizations it was held in a hybrid format. The session was opened by its chairperson, H.E. Mr. TAKESHI HIKIHARA, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Japan.

The Commission adopted 5 resolutions, including such topics as:

- Follow-up to the Kyoto Declaration adopted at the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the 15th Congress;
- Strengthening the international framework for international cooperation to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife;
- Reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration;
- Strengthening national and international efforts, including with the private sector, to protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse.

SIDE EVENTS: The Commission held over 80 side events. Here are notes on a few of them including:

Ten years of the anti-femicide campaign at UNODC; Criminalizing ecocide; Gender-based violence as torture inflicted by Non-State Actors; Cross-cutting evidenced-based interventions on drugs and crime in Africa for the implementation of the UNODC Strategic Vision for Africa.



On this last point, we learned the following: **Barbara Nakijoba**, Uganda Youth Development Link, reported on evidence based interventions on drugs and crime. 77% of the population in Uganda is below 25 years. Unemployment is high. **The majority of youth engage in crime for survival purposes.** After the Covid pandemic 40% of students did not go back to school. The “safe space model” is a holistic strategy in addressing drugs and crime: case management; holistic intervention in addressing social, economic and health needs; youth participation in designing and implementation of programs – peer to peer methodology; involvement of family institutions and community; creating safe environment for young people to achieve significant development competencies; building resilience through socio-economic empowerment and psychosocial support; bonding and networking. Successful interventions should strengthen protective factors and remove stress. The goal is to give the youth problem solving skills and the strength to say no to criminal behavior.

This analysis falls in line with the theme of the Day of African Child 2022 set forth by the African Committee of Experts on « Eliminating Harmful, Practices affecting Children ... » We wish **Happy International Day to African Children** as we share these precious words from Irénée Guilane Dioh « ... *Shining amidst the dust of human stars, you are a star... Do not forget it. Lift up your eyes!* »

Report by Herta Kaschitz-Wüstenhagen and Lilly Sucharipa, Representatives of AAA to the United Nations, Vienna

WEBSITES: www.unodc.org
<https://crimealliance.org>

Contacts: www.africanactiononaids.org

HONG - KONG	USA	Europe	Cameroon
Vivek Aranha <i>AAA Representative in Asia</i> Unit 103, 7 May Road, May Towers one, Mid-levels HONG-KONG v_aranha2000@yahoo.com	Laraine Lippe <i>Chairman AAA Board of Directors</i> P.O. Box 1680 New York, NY 10163- 1680 E-Mail: laraine.lippe@gmail.com	Herta P. Kaschitz- Wuestenhagen <i>AAA Representative in Vienna</i> Schottenfeldgasse 20/9 - 1070 Vienna, Austria E-Mail: hpkaschitz@aol.com	Ruth Bamela Engo <i>President AAA</i> B.P. 4340, Yaoundé Cameroon ruthengooaaa@gmail.com / francoisebaaaaa@gmail.com Whatsapp & O.M : 237 699 236 169