



Side event at the 25th Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY TO PREVENT AND COMBAT ILLICIT TRAFFICKING IN PRECIOUS METALS

Strengthening the Security and Integrity of the Precious Metals Supply Chain

Vienna, 25 May 2016

13:10 to 14:00

Conference room M2

Background

Illicit trafficking in precious metals generates a number of local and global challenges and threats. It not only harms the mining companies, but also severely hinders the socio-economic development of producing countries while putting local communities at risk. In addition, illicit trafficking increases the precious metals supply chain's vulnerability to the infiltration of transnational organised crime and also it is frequently associated to various serious cross-border crimes.

As requested by the ECOSOC Resolution 2013/38, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) has conducted a comprehensive study to assess the links between transnational organized crime, other associated criminal activities and illicit trafficking in precious metals. The study represents the assessment component of an international strategy UNICRI has developed to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in precious metals.

Results in brief

UNICRI has conducted a study to assess the links between transnational organized crime, other associated criminal activities and illicit trafficking in precious metals. In close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, UNICRI has developed an international strategy to prevent and combat illegal mining and trafficking, associated crimes, and harmful social conditions linked to the illicit trafficking of precious metals.

The international strategy is intended to produce the following results:

- Reinforcing national capacities for comprehensively securing the integrity of the precious metals supply chain.
- Reinforcing cooperation between the Private-Public sectors.
- Enhancing knowledge and awareness of identified threats and effectiveness of counter-measures in place.
- Establishing an international mechanism to secure the integrity of the precious metals supply chain.

Side-event

The side event “International Strategy to Prevent and Combat Illicit Trafficking in Precious Metals”, to be held on Wednesday 25 May 2016 from 13.10 to 14.00 on the occasion of the 25th Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, is intended to provide an opportunity to present the main outcomes of the study as well as to launch the international strategy to strengthen the security and integrity of the precious metals supply chain. The side event will be opened by the distinguished representatives of the Government of South Africa and of the Russian Federation, who have sponsored the adoption of ECOSOC Resolution 2013/38. Following the partnership established during the International Meeting on “International strategy to combat illicit trafficking in precious metals”, held in Cape Town on 8-9 March 2016, an OECD expert and a representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo will participate in the event to share expertise and experiences in the field.

The side event foresees the participation of approximately 50 people, including Member States that are experiencing the challenges posed by the illicit trafficking of precious metals.