

BIGMUN 2018

ECOSOC 2: Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)

# Research Report

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Topic 3: The question of future drastic rises in crime in relation to potential sudden mass unemployment.



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## Introduction

Unemployment tends to be catalyst for crime, which is why the UN would like to consult the CCPCJ to attend to this matter. If unemployment was to drastically rise, the UN needs measures in place to deal with such an event.

## Key terms

**LEDCs:** Less Economically Developed Country

**MEDCs:** More Economically Developed Country

**NICs:** Newly Industrialised Country

## Background information

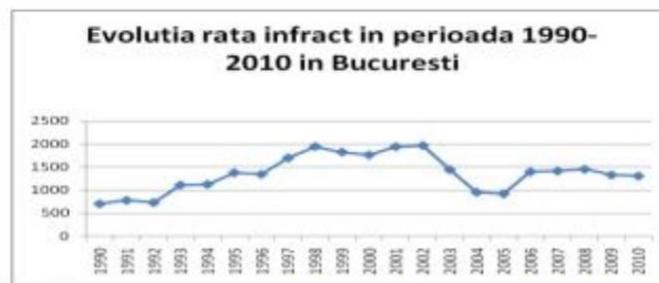
The potential issue at hand:

This issue is not current. This issue is being made relevant in the event that a spike in unemployment does happen. However, there has been a steady increase in global unemployment. As of the 9th of October, 2017, the number lies at about 200,000 million individuals without jobs which is a 3 million increase from last year. This number not expect to decrease, as quality jobs will be more challenging to get throughout 2018. Measures need to be in place to prevent a country affected by such an event into a crime zone. The UN can already look at examples of countries in which this happened to, such as South Africa. The country has a massive unemployment rate of 27%, which correlates well with its 4th place on the crime index, even going above Syria. There is a correlation, and this needs to be addressed by either active methods, or preventative methods. The countries that are most prone to such an event are LEDCs, as one of the key traits of an LEDC is high unemployment.

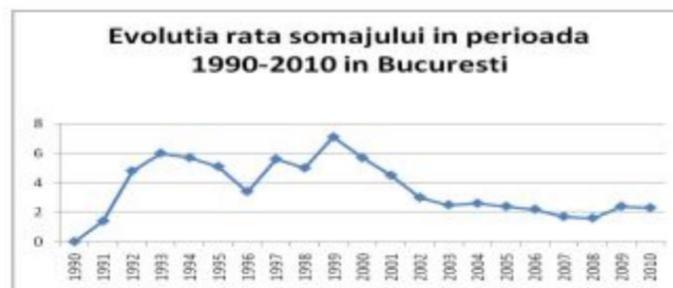
This is possible to happen to MEDCs as well, such as Sweden. As well as LEDCs, NICs are also countries to keep an eye on.

### Evidence of a correlation:

There is a correlation between the two, as can be seen from the image below. They may not follow each other completely to the letter, but it is clear that they affect each other in some manner, as from the year 1999, the unemployment decreases drastically, which then prompts the crime rate to fall drastically 5 years later.



*Evolution crime rate in the period 1990-2010 in Bucharest*



*Evolution of unemployment rate in the period 1990-2010 in Bucharest*

### Prevention? Where is the focus?

However, in the first few years, it seems to be the crime that affects the unemployment. It rises in 1992 while the unemployment seems to slowly rise until it hits a peak in 1998. This means that countries with high crime rates could have a wave of unemployment incoming, which is why crime prevention methods must be focused on. However, in the event that country has already got a high crime rate and unemployment rate, as can be seen from the graph, it is better to focus on getting rid of the unemployment first, as the crime rate will most likely follow suit

As was also observed in the 1990s by the University of Chicago, almost every major type of crime, that being household crimes, etc, were decreasing. It seemed to correlate quite well with the opening a of a lot of job opportunities in the area, which allowed for people who had to resort to committing crime to sustain a living, to get jobs which sustained them well. Therefore, the suggestion for lowering crime rates in already crime-ridden countries is to place the focus on the unemployment to open new job opportunities, as this will allow for the crime rate to take care of itself.

## Relevant countries

South Africa - Country is relevant as an example of what this type of event could bring with it.

Sweden - Country is relevant due to its steady increase in crime since the refugee crisis.

Venezuela - Country is relevant as an example as this country has the highest crime rate in the world, while having 26.4% unemployment.

Nigeria - Country is relevant as it has had a steady increase in unemployment and could be a country to keep a close eye on.

## Relevant UN organisations

Security Council

ILO (International Labour Organizations)

CCPCJ

GA2

## Relevant UN Resolutions

ECOSOC Resolution 2008/2018: Promoting full employment and decent work for all: Deals with methods of lowering unemployment rates and how to maintain job safety for everyone.

CCPCJ Resolution 25/3: Strengthening crime prevention in support of sustainable development, including sustainable tourism: Deals with the implementation of crime prevention methods in a sustainable manner

CCPCJ Resolution: 2014/21. Strengthening social policies as a tool for crime prevention : Methods of preventing crime through social inclusion and other social methods.

ECOSOC Resolution: 2015/24. Improving the quality and availability of statistics on crime and criminal justice for policy development: Deals with ways of collecting data for crime statistics, to allow us to more accurately portray a country's crime rate.

ECOSOC Resolution: 2015/19. Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: Acknowledges the achievements made with the Doha Declaration in crime prevention

ECOSOC Resolution: 2016/18. Mainstreaming holistic approaches in youth crime prevention: Deals with youth crime prevention to make sure they do not become adult fugitives.

UN Resolution: 2016/15: Promoting youth employment: Focuses on creating job opportunities for young adults.

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