

## UNTOC's Role in Combating Transnational Organized Crime: An International Response

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### Abstract

*This paper aims to describe the problems of transnational organized crime and how the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNTOC) is fighting this menace. It also talks about different categories of organized crime including environmental crime, firearms trafficking, corruption, counterfeiting, and terrorism giving examples of their impacts on health, safety, and the environment. This is the reason why UNTOC has been developed to help fight against these types of crimes by encouraging cooperation at the international level, establishing legal instruments, as well as enhancing the measures of law enforcement. The article also stresses the need to enhance laws and promote ethical standards in other fields such as waste disposal and wildlife conservation. It also highlights the problems involved in conducting research and arresting the members of organized crime groups, particularly because of the difference in legal frameworks and political issues in different nations. Thus, as new types of criminal activities appear, the necessity of the relevant legal gnomes appears to be urgent. The article points out that there is a need for countries to collaborate and share information and resources which is very vital in investigations and prosecution. In giving readers an insight into the UNTOC objectives and the ongoing fight against organized crime, the article seeks to urge the international community to tackle this danger to protect the citizens and the environment.*

**Keywords:** *Organized Crime, UNTOC, UN Convention, Criminal Law, UNODC*

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### 1. Introduction:

Transnational organized crime (TOC) is one of the most complex threats to global security and stability in the 21st century. It involves several criminal acts that are transnational that erode governance, security, and the rule of law. These are international crimes with the drug trade, human trafficking, money laundering, and cybercrime being some of the most common examples that require joint intervention from other countries. Such response has found its expression in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) was adopted by the General Assembly in November 2000 and came into force in September 2003. UNTOC thus provides a legal tool for fighting TOC through the promotion of international cooperation, the setting of legal norms, and the improvement of the law enforcement activities of member states.

The emergence and sustenance of TOC can be explained by several factors such as the globalized world, advancement in technology, and integration of various economies and societies. These factors have allowed criminal organizations to internationalize and diversify their business extending their activities across national borders taking advantage of the differences and even contradictions in the legal framework and police efficiency of different states. Therefore, TOC has become a phenomenon that is diverse and extensive, which encompasses different types of unlawful activities that impact negatively the security, stability, and development of countries across the globe. The effects of TOC are therefore very devastating and have a ripple effect on the countries that are of origin, transit, and destination. Illicit drug businesses such as narcotics and psychotropic substances have adverse effects in causing negative health impacts on the people, social vices such as violence and corruption, and slowed economic growth and development. Likewise, human trafficking is a form of infringement on the basic human rights and dignity of millions of people, who are forced to be subjected to exploitation, physical and mental abuse, and inhuman treatment. While money laundering thus distorts the critical economic institution of the monetary system, it also allows criminal organizations to conceal the sources of their funds and continue their operations. UNTOC was created to address the increasing menace of TOC and the necessity for a comprehensive and efficient global approach. The Convention contains all necessary elements for combating TOC, including the promotion of cooperation between states, the development of legal tools to fight different forms of organized crime, and improving the measures of law enforcement. It is complemented by three Protocols, which target specific areas of organized crime: these include 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. However, much work still has to be done in the fight against TOC; you only need to open a newspaper to witness this. This is due to the variation of laws and policies, the willingness of different nations the fight against organized crime and the coordination of investigation and prosecution. For instance, some countries have well-developed legal frameworks and efficient police forces that can fight TOC but other countries do not have adequate human and financial resources, qualified personnel, or political will to combat these crimes. This situation makes it possible for criminal organizations to conduct their activities with a lot of ease, and without being apprehended. The last challenge is related to TOC itself and that is the dynamism in the development of the theory. Therefore, in cases of new and innovative types of crimes including cybercrime and environmental crime, there is a constant need for the improvement of legal measures and the implementation of law enforcement tactics. Criminal activities are however rife, especially in the recent world of computerization; cybercrime including hacking, theft of identity, and other fraudulent conducts are on the increase due to the anonymity and the international connection of the internet. Other new forms of transnational crime such as illegal logging, wildlife trade, and smuggling of hazardous waste are also becoming alarming with severe consequences on the environment and health of the people. Apart from these challenges, various factors hinder the implementation of UNTOC which include; Some countries have not ratified the UNTOC; Sometimes the provisions of the UNTOC are not being enforced as required; The process of coordinating international efforts in the implementation of the UNTOC is complicated. For instance, even though UNTOC requires states to make some activities linked with TOC unlawful, including membership in an organized criminal group, money laundering, and corruption, the effectiveness of these requirements may significantly differ between states. There are still some nations that have not translated the provisions of UNTOC into their national laws

while others are faced with challenges in implementing the laws due to lack of capacity. Additionally, some of the state's political and economic considerations may not be in tandem with the objectives of UNTOC and hence may not support or may offer partial support in some aspects. For instance, where organized crime is affiliated with politics or the economy there may be a lack of desire to prosecute or investigate issues that may bring down the political-economic system. Also, differences in legal systems, for instance, differences in the burden of proof as well as differences in accessibility of some measures hampers the integration of legal practices and the improvement of cooperation at the international level. These challenges therefore call for improvement in the implementation of UNTOC and cooperation in combating TOC. This entails not just the accession to and the effective implementation of the Convention and the Protocols by all the states but also how the states facilitate the operation of organized crime through corruption, bad governance, and poverty. It also demands a strategic initiative in combating the new trends in organized crime by the formulation of new laws and policies, the application of new police techniques, and the advancement of high ethical standards in different fields including environmental management, wildlife protection, and cyber security.

### **2.1 Types of Organized Crime UNTOC is Targeting:**

1. *Drug trafficking*: This includes the growing, manufacturing, distribution, and sale of illicit drugs, which include; cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine. Illicit drug use and trafficking are another area of interaction between organized criminal organizations, which is a source of income and in most cases entails violence and corruption (Williams, 2001) (UNTOC) aims to check the incidence of drug trafficking through the enhancement of cooperation among countries, raising law enforcement measures, and lowering the use of prohibited drugs.
2. *Human trafficking*: This includes the buying, selling, movable, moving, and sheltering of humans for exploitation: forced labor and sexual exploitation. There is no doubt that human trafficking is a form of contemporary slavery that touches the lives of millions of people globally. UNTOC's goal is to reduce and fight human trafficking by raising awareness, assisting victims, and enhancing legal frameworks and enforcement actions.
3. *Money laundering*: This also encompasses acts such as the process of hiding or camouflaging the proceeds of crime to appear as legal. Money laundering is used by criminal business organizations to conceal their unlawful operations and their ill-gotten wealth. UNTOC aims to prevent and combat money laundering by enhancing anti-money laundering laws, encouraging cooperation between nations, and raising awareness of the money laundering menace.
4. *Smuggling of migrants*: This is the smuggling of persons across borders, which may be for exploitation or use in forced labor. Migrants are smuggled by some organized crime syndicates and this endangers migrants' rights and safety. UNTOC aims to prevent and combat the smuggling of migrants by enhancing the legal frameworks, raising awareness, and assisting victims (Baird, 2016).
5. *Organ trafficking*: This involves the illegal trade in human organs. It is a form of human trafficking and has risks to the health and security of every giver and taker. To counter and eradicate organ trade, UNTOC aims to enhance laws and law enforcement's zeal, focus, and ethical approach to organ procurement and transplantation.
6. *Cybercrime*: This covers the use of computers or the internet in the commission of crimes which are hacking, identity theft, and online fraud. Cybercrime is an emerging threat to people, businesses governments, and societies in the world. The goal of UNTOC is the

prevention and combating of cybercrime through the enhancement of the laws and law enforcement measures, international cooperation between countries, and raising awareness of the dangers of cybercrime (Grabosky, 2007).

7. *Environmental crime*: This includes continued illicit transport, export or dumping of hazardous wastes, wildlife smuggling, and piracy /poaching of forest resources. Environmental crime is very risky to the health of the people and the environment and most of the time it is conducted by an organized crime group. To this end, UNTOC aims to tackle and combat environmental crime through the enhancement of laws and law enforcement, awareness, and ethical practices in handling waste disposal, wildlife, and forestry controls.
8. *Firearms trafficking*: This includes smuggling, trafficking, and selling firearms in other countries without the consent of the legal authorities. Firearms trafficking is conducted by organized criminal groups and is a potential threat to public safety and security. There are several goals of the UNTOC which include prevention and combating firearms trafficking through enhancing laws and law enforcement, fostering collaboration between countries, and raising awareness of the dangers of firearms trafficking (Saul, 2017).
9. *Corruption*: Specifically, UNTOC contains provisions that mandate that all countries ought to make corruption unlawful and that efforts to prevent and combat this crime be made (Rose-Ackerman & Palifka, 2018). It also provides the exchange of information on corruption between the countries to help each and dethrone this heinous crime.
10. *Counterfeiting*: UNTOC requests the member countries of the United Nations to make counterfeiting a criminal offense and to step up their effort to prevent and fight counterfeiting. It also facilitates the sharing of knowledge and information about counterfeiting as well as the cooperation of the police in the prevention and fighting of this crime (Haider et al., 2023).
11. *Intellectual property crime*: Some of the provisions of UNTOC provide that the countries must make it a criminal offense to engage in intellectual property crimes and that they must take steps to prevent and combat these offenses. It also fosters communication and sharing of information and data and enhances laws and coordination to eliminate such practices
12. *Terrorism*: Some of the provisions of UNTOC are the provisions that need the nations to outlaw terrorism and also need to work on the prevention of the activity as well as combating it (Haider, 2023).

## 2.2 References by Articles in UNTOC of the aforementioned Organized Crimes:

Crime Type	Associated Numbers
Drug trafficking	3, 5, 6, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20
Human trafficking	3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 20
Money laundering	6, 7, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20
Smuggling of migrants	3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 20
Organ trafficking	3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20
Cybercrime	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 20, 24
Environmental crime	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20
Firearms trafficking	3, 5, 6, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20
Corruption	15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21
Counterfeiting	3, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20
Intellectual property crime	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20

Terrorism

2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20

**Remarks:**

It offers countries a comprehensive package for cooperation in the area of prevention and combating of a diverse number of organized crimes. It confirms the fact that organized crime is an issue that has international dimensions, has to provoke an international response, and offers the legal rationale for doing so against these crimes.

**2.3 UNTOC's Influence on National and International Efforts in Fighting Organized****Crime:**

Through the implementation of the UNTOC, the countries that are party to it have been forced to collaborate in the investigation as well as prosecution of organized crime offenses. This explains that the countries that have signed the convention are bound to assist each other and share all the information concerning organized crime cases. This has resulted in enhanced sharing of information and records, cooperation in investigations, and also the extradition of offenders across the nations. This in a practical sense implies that law enforcement agencies and judicial systems of different countries are working more closely than before to fight against organized crimes. For instance, if there is an organized crime syndicate that is active in several countries, then the law enforcement agencies of those countries can come together and study the operations of the syndicate to counter it at its core. They can exchange information, consolidate their efforts, and make sure that the criminals are dealt with as required. Besides, in case the suspect involved in organized crime is in another country, the UNTOC allows extradition between the nations that are signatories to this convention. This phenomenon is a possibility where a suspect can be arrested and taken to another state to stand trial for the crimes he or she committed. That power to extradite suspects has ensured that it has become difficult for criminals to escape the long arm of the law by merely transferring from one state to the other (Haider et al., 2023)

One of the essences of the UNTOC is that it has offered the countries opportunities to enhance the domestic laws and institutions to combat organized crimes by offering the signatory countries certain essential requirements and guidelines. The Convention prescribes that countries have to have criminal provisions for involvement in organized crime, money laundering, and corruption. This means that countries that have signed the Convention are forced to enact new laws and enhance the capabilities of their law enforcement and judicial systems to meet these demands. For example, countries may also wish to create further new criminal practices to address the work of organized crime and extend or modify their current laws to ensure they match the worldwide. They may also require increasing their ability to identify, monitor, and investigate money laundering and corruption as well as provide for the forfeiture of assets arising from organized crime. Because of these requirements, most countries have adopted new legal frameworks to fight against organized crime and produced enhancements in law enforcement and judicial systems. This has enhanced the development of a powerful and unified response to organized crime at the national and international levels.

With the problem of organized crime, UNTOC has played a significant role in increasing awareness of the problem and mobilizing public and political support for combating the problem. The convention has drawn attention to various negative impacts that arise from using organized crime in threatening the safety, stability, and overall economic development of many countries across the globe (Borgstede, 2014). In a way of convening representatives from members' countries to extend and ratify the Convention, the UNTOC has served in helping to draw attention to the problem of organized crime and its effects on society. This has created a forum for discourses

and dialogues on the most appropriate measures, methods, and approaches to tackle the menace of organized crime and has helped countries act in unison to tackle the menace (Van Dijk, 2007). Moreover, the UNTOC has stimulated the appearance of new measures and actions for preventing and combating organized crime on the national and international levels. The Convention has encouraged the countries to come up with new policies, strategies, and action plans to address the problem of organized crime and has assisted in the process of sourcing funds and resources to accomplish these tasks. On the national level, countries have created new law enforcement and intelligence structures; adopted new legislation and regulations; and conducted awareness-raising and training of law enforcement and judicial officers. At the international level, new cooperation and partnership with other countries, exchange of information and experience, as well as joint actions against the actions of organized criminal groups have been created. In general, the UNTOC has been an empty-headed call for effective awareness raising against organized crime and for public and political support in favor of initiatives, programs, projects, and measures aiming at prevention of the organized crime and its fight at national and international levels (Van Dijk, 2007).

### **3.1 Difficulties in the Execution Process of UNTOC:**

The difficulties that can be met in the process of implementing UNTOC or any other international convention, are the various barriers to combating transnational organized crime. Some of these complications consist of:

1. *Lack of Ratification:* This means that when a country ratifies a convention it means that the state is bound by the provisions of the convention and does everything possible to ensure that the convention is implemented in the country. However, some countries have withdrawn from UNTOC, or never ratified it, which means that they are now no longer legally required through its provisions, and therefore, are not required to accomplish the crucial legal and institutional frameworks needed to fight transnational organized crime (Tennant, 2021). This lack of ratification could have meaningful results as the lack of legislation to investigate and prosecute transnational organized crime or collaborate with different countries could be a result of the lack of ratification to this international instrument. This could create gaps and hideouts that the criminals can use and thus conduct their activities across the borders. Therefore, all countries must ratify UNTOC and ensure there is a collective campaign to fight transnational organized crimes.
2. *Inadequate implementation:* To be more specific, the phrase “Inadequate implementation” refers to a situation where a country has committed itself to observe the measures provided for in the given international convention, the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; however, it does not enforce the measures properly (OWOJORI et al., 2020). This could be attributed to various issues for instance; resource constraints, the capacity to train the police as well as other security organizations, and political will to enforce the provisions among others. That can also be the case where it undermines the state’s capacity to investigate and prosecute transnational organized crime within its territory (Yuliantiningsih & Barkhuizen, 2021). Transnational organized crimes may at times and in a single cycle involve crimes that take place across national borders, for instance, human and drug trafficking and other connected crimes. Therefore, the fight against this phenomenon presupposes the effectiveness of international cooperation. However, if a country is not in inadequate compliance with the convention, it may create a deficiency as to how the country can cooperate with other countries to fight transnational organized crimes. Therefore, poor compliance with the convention can reduce the

international attempts to fight transnational organized crime, by setting the capacity of a state to investigate and prosecute the mentioned crimes and cooperating with other states on this matter.

3. *Different legal systems*: The term legal systems is used in different ways and it just refers to the framework and process by which laws are enforced and administered in countries. These legal systems have different burdens of proof which are employed in establishing whether an individual is guilty of a criminal offense or not (Haider, 2024). Now let us look at some forms of standard of proof which have been adopted by certain countries for example the United States of America adopted the standard of proof known as “beyond reasonable doubt” This simply means that the prosecution must produce evidence that is almost compelling or convincing. In other countries especially some in Europe, the standard of proof that is required is ‘on the balance of probabilities. This means that it has to be proved beyond reasonable doubt that it is more probable that the defendant committed the crime than it is probable that he or she did not. These distinguished standards of proof can sometimes place countries in rather awkward and challenging circumstances especially when they seek and actively engage in criminal investigations / or prosecution. For instance, a country that sets very high evidential criteria to convict a suspect may find itself in a situation where it has no option but to release the suspect to another country that has a low burden of proof standard. If a suspect is required in a country where the standard of proof is high, to convict him whereas the evidence collected against him is sufficient to only prove beyond a reasonable doubt in another country, he will not be extradited. It can also be rather difficult to extradite suspects to justice and this may limit international cooperation in the fight against crime, particularly the so-called organized crimes (Haider, 2024).
4. *Political barriers*: Political threats on the other hand refer to the challenges that fall under politics whereby nations cannot or are not willing to unite and fight the menace of organized crime. These tensions can in various ways which include the following: Political structures; past enmities; territorial issues; or security issues. One is where a country will not report any information to any other country, this is an example of a political hindrance to cooperation on organized crime (Gray, 2019). This may occur because intelligence or information sharing may be dangerous to the security of the national level or may result in the revelation of some secret information. Moreover, the political relations between various countries may limit cooperation in criminal issues and investigations and trials. This is because most of the criminal groups are international and will always capitalize on the existing loopholes in the police service whenever there are political barriers in place. Thus, to counteract these challenges, the countries should build confidence and belief while creating proper networks between the police forces. This involves sketching and remapping diplomacy, haggling, and developing universal treaties and charters (Haider, 2024)
5. *Technological limitations*: In the context of the statement, the following are defined: Technological sources refer to a situation whereby a country may lack all the structures, equipment, or other necessities that can make it easy to share intelligence and information with other countries or conduct complex investigations in the fight against organized crime. One of the major reasons why coordination of information is important when dealing with the war against organized crime is because it facilitates the sharing of intelligence and collaboration among enforcement agencies across the world. However, if

a country does not possess such crucial technological assets, it may feel uncomfortable in exchanging information with other countries or sharing data securely feeling that there would be a setback in the overall operation of the international fight against the so-called organized crime. Similarly, when conducting complex investigations there is a requirement to employ complex technology including forensic software, analytical tools, and equipment. If a country lacks these technological resources then the country may not be in a position to conduct effective investigations hence making it easy for the organized crime to perpetrate their activities.

6. *Corruption*: This is a case where a person is in a certain capacity and they take the law in their hand and exploit their power in the wrong manner for their benefit. Therefore, the authors predict that corruption, especially in the law enforcement agencies and judiciary will have profound impacts on the war against transnational organized crime. Transnational organized crime simply refers to criminal activities that are conducted across national borders for example the sale of drugs, human beings, and more. Most of the time they are cross-border crimes and hence they require cooperation from various countries to deal with (Al Hait, 2014). Nevertheless, when the police or the judiciary is involved in the process, that deters it. For instance, corrupt officials may also receive bribes from criminal groups for them not to arrest the criminals or for them to provide information concerning the investigation to the criminals. It can enable criminal groups to go on with whatever they are doing as criminals in society without having to look behind for a policeman or a judge. Still, the corrupt officials could be involved in crime making, apart from drug trafficking or money laundering. This also affects the fight against organized crime; it also reduces the reliability of police forces, and the judiciary system as well (Haider, 2024).

**Remarks:**

Some challenges make the UNTOC implementation difficult, which reduces its capability of checking transnational organized crime. Solving these issues implies further institutional and capacity building of the countries for efficient controlling of the convention and overcoming political, legal, and technological limitations for cooperation and exchange of information.

**3.2 Emerging Forms of Organized Crimes Poses Challenges to UNTOC**

Transnational organized crime is a serious threat to international stability, security, and development. Therefore, new and developing types of transnational organized crime pose new problems to UNTOC. Here are some of the challenges presented by the emerging form of transnational organized crime to UNTOC:

1. *Cybercrime*: Cybercrime is best described as unlawful acts that are committed using computers and the Internet or any other form of information technology. This is because as the number of individuals, organizations, and governments go about their business activities through technology and the internet, cybercrime has become a growing concern. The hackers can be from any part of the globe making it difficult for the police forces to apprehend them and bring them to book. This way they can easily transfer money, documents, and information to other countries, and therefore it becomes very difficult if not impossible for law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute such individuals. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, also referred to as UNTOC is an international legal instrument directed to fight transnational organized crime inclusive of drug trafficking, human trafficking, and money laundering. But it is not a piece of work that will assist in the fight against cybercrime. The traditional methods of



policing investigation and prosecution may not be effective in the fight against cybercrime since this needs technical skills and professionalism. Criminals use encryption and anonymization technology in such a way that they cannot be easily arrested. Besides, the scale and speed at which cybercrime is being executed means that there is always a very great difficulty for the various law enforcement agencies to read up on the new developments and trends in this area. As such, cybercrime needs to be faced more actively with the assistance of law enforcement bodies, legislators, and businesses of different countries. This includes developing new tools, techniques, and perhaps paradigms for studying cybercrime as well as criminal justice investigation of the phenomena; as well as signing new treaties and conventions for cooperation and sharing of information.

2. *Illicit trade in cultural property*: Illicit traffic in cultural goods can be described as the movement of art across borders involving paintings, sculptures, and any other valuable items that can either be stolen or even plundered from museums and any other archeological sites (Poucki & Bryson Clark, 2018). One of them is a quickly developing transnational organized crime which has a great economic and cultural potentiality. As can be seen, UNTOC does not have provisions that are solely focusing on the trafficking of cultural property. The current laws and acts are inadequate for combating illicit traffic of cultural property and many countries have their law or ordinances for the protection of their property. Hence the legal system has its weaknesses that the traffickers can always exploit. For instance, there can be no legal provisions in some countries that prohibit the import or export of cultural goods and this explains why the traffickers can easily traffic the property across the borders. Art and antiquities trafficking is a major issue of socio-economic concern and has major implications for cultural heritage. SUCH things or items may include historical products or other important cultural and identification values of people and state; the flow can bring billions of revenues to criminal organizations. For them to be in a position to solve the problem of illicit traffic in cultural property, they need to increase cooperation and interaction with other countries and or law enforcement agencies, policymakers, and private players. This has entailed the development of novel strategies, techniques, and other processes that will be utilized in preventing and tackling those crimes, international conventions, and charters that will facilitate cooperation and information sharing. Besides, it involves adherence to legal measures and safeguard measures regarding cultural property and the struggle against illicit traffic in cultural property.
3. *Human trafficking*: The offenders in human trafficking include; anyone who directly or indirectly facilitates the recruitment or transportation of persons through coercion to exploit their labor or sexual exploitation. This is a transnational problem with millions of people being transported across borders for forced labour and forced sexual exploitation yearly. UNTOC has provisions that are supposed to tackle and fight human trafficking with special emphasis on assisting the victims and lastly, arresting the culprits. However, the measures that have been taken towards eradicating the vice have not borne a lot of success since human trafficking is still prevalent today (Poucki & Bryson Clark, 2018). This is a form of crime that is very hard to combat because human trafficking is not as a simple crime as it has been made to sound like. Most of the traffickers get involved in secret by using fake documents and also conceal their activities. Additionally, in most cases there are many individuals involved in it like recruiters, transporters, financiers, and exploiters of the victims thus it presents a difficult task to arrest and prosecute all the

suspects. Further, several countries and jurisdictions' involvement contribute to legal and organizational issues that come up whenever investigating and prosecuting cases concerning human trafficking. To summarize, information, legal non-conformity, language, and insufficient money tied the cooperation of the police authorities.

4. *Environmental crime*: Environmental crime can be defined as other unlawful conduct that has negative impacts on the environment such as poaching, logging, and fishing. These crimes affect the economy, society, and environment; loss of species, deforestation, and destruction of ecosystems. The same can also be said of the UNTOC which does not refer to environmental crime. The legal measures to address environmental crime are lacking, and most countries have their legislation and procedures to conserve their resources (Marquès-Banqué, 2018). Consequently, there exist vices in the interior of the legal system which can be manipulated with the help of criminal associations. For instance, some countries may not have legislation that considers the exploitation of natural resources that are banned by law as a criminal act hence making it easier for these criminal organizations to engage in such activities. The looting of natural resources has many negative economic and social effects including loss of income and means of living for the people. Besides, they state that the environmental effects can be long-term and sometimes even permanent because they can influence life on earth, ecosystems, and climate.
5. *Terrorist financing*: Terrorist financing involves the financing or other support of the financial resources that are given to terrorists and their counterparts. Terrorists employ different ways through which they can get their needed funds, these include; the drug business, arms business, and money business. UNTOC is the treaty aimed at combating transnational organized crime but despite the efforts made the financing of terrorism remains a problem. Terrorist organizations are flexible and can employ several strategies to collect and transfer funds and this is through the hawala, which is a form of informal funds transfer, charities, and front companies (Yeh, 2021). Further, multiple jurisdictions and the employment of complicated techniques and technologies in executing the crimes make it difficult to track and dismantle the financing networks of terrorists. Also, the impacts on the environment may be long-standing and some of them are irreversible such as on the population of the species, ecosystems, and climate (Haider et al., 2023).

#### 4.1. Conclusion:

In the 21st century, the major and imminent threat to global Peace and security is organized crime. United Nations adopted a convention against organized crimes but one of the major challenges that UNTOC faces is the presence of new types of transnational organized crime that require the enhancement and strengthening of the legal basis to effectively combat them. In the fight against international organized crime, all nations have to work together.

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