UNU-CPR Insights
News and updates from UNU-CPR's strategic research programmes and projects.

August 2024

Understanding the new United Nations treaty to fight cybercrime

In 2022, the Government of Costa Rica declared a national emergency after a ransomware attack brought 27 government bodies offline, disrupting everyday functions for months. In 2023, an employee

of a multinational corporation in Hong Kong transferredd $25.6 million after being instructed to do so during a Zoom call with colleagues he recognized. The other attendees, however, were deepfakes, and the money was sent to sham accounts.

The frequency, sophistication and costliness of cybercrimes have continued to increase in recent years, and they are becoming notoriously difficult to counter. International consensus and cooperation are becoming more critical to address the rapidly evolving risks these crimes pose to States, businesses and individuals.

In a new blog UNU-CPR Research Fellow Charlie Plumb explores the new Treaty on cybercrime currently being negotiated – and asks whether the Treaty can balance effective law enforcement with privacy and human rights concerns.

2024 Aswan Forum for sustainable peace and development

In July UNU-CPR supported the 2024 Aswan Forum, which gathered African leaders and thinkers to advance conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts across the continent. Together with the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) and the Cairo International Center for

Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA), UNU-CPR co-organized a thematic roundtable on "Re-envisioning Peacebuilding at the Summit of the Future and Beyond."

The roundtable discussed African-led, actionable proposals aimed at strengthening peacebuilding in anticipation of the Summit of the Future and the 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review. Key recommendations included integrating peace and development agendas, ensuring sustainable financing for African Union peacebuilding efforts, enhancing the capacities of regional organizations, leveraging partnerships within Africa and promoting inclusive approaches to peacebuilding.

Central to these discussions was the recommendation to deepen strategic relationships between the UN and regional bodies, echoing the insights of the High Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism (HLAB) and other proposals suggesting how the United Nations can better integrate regional prevention work into its crisis response plans.

Find out more

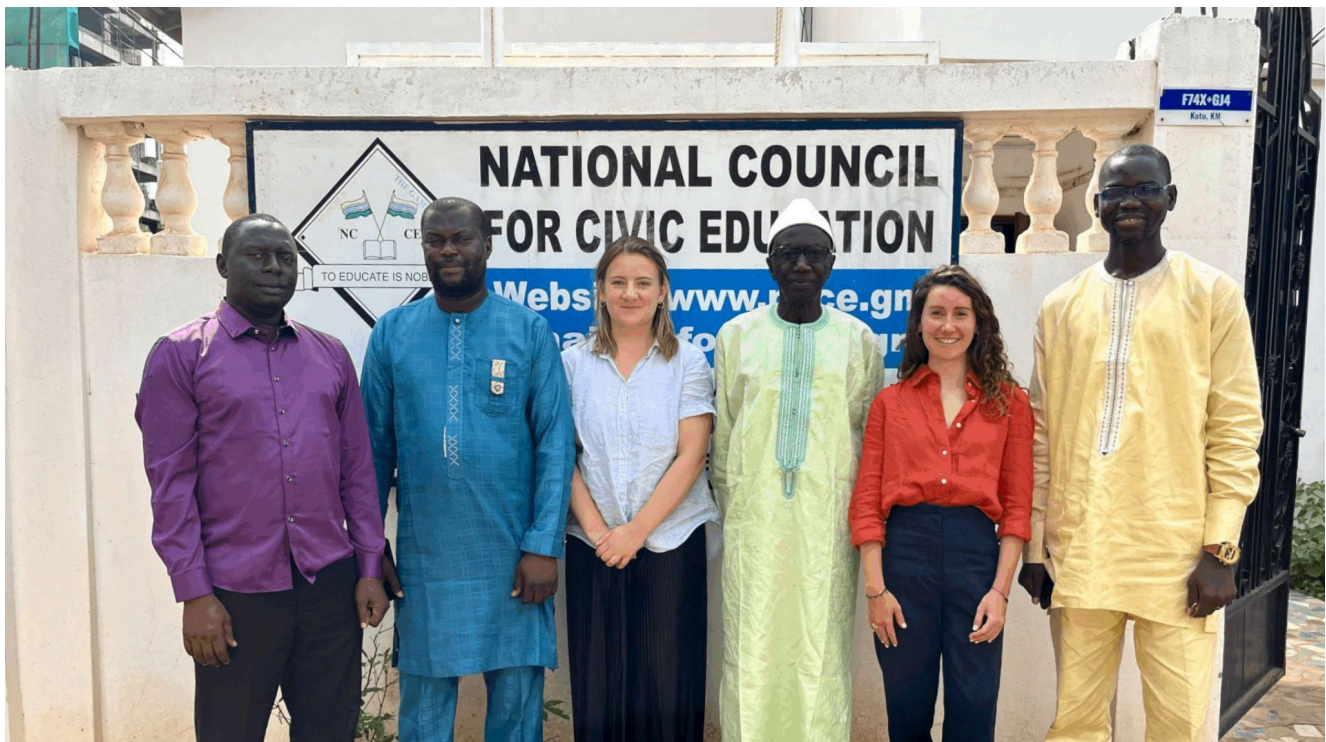## Strengthening global governance of AI for climate action

How we navigate and mitigate the effects of the climate crisis will partially hinge on our use of one crucial tool: Artificial Intelligence (AI). Despite its significant carbon footprint, AI can help by reducing

and improving adaptation planning for vulnerable communities. Yet access to this new technology remains unequal – particularly in the developing world where the effects of the climate crisis are most acute.

In a recent blog, Eleonore Fournier-Tombs, Head of UNU-CPR's Anticipatory Action and Innovation research pillar, discusses how fostering "AI ecosystems" can drive innovation to benefit local communities and support climate action. She proposes five effective strategies to drive ethical and community-focused innovation.

Fournier-Tombs recently shared her expertise on AI at the 2024 Expert Meeting on AI & Climate, hosted by the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) in Bonn, Germany. She highlighted the governance considerations arising from AI's expanding role in climate initiatives and the potential for cultivating a more innovative AI ecosystem to serve local communities. Decentralizing AI globally while encouraging local AI advancements, she argued, can ensure these technologies support sustainable development rather than undermining it.

Find out more

Sub-Saharan Africa is the youngest region in the world – 70 per cent of its population are under the age of 30. Young Africans are facing the compounding effects of globalization, inequalities and the climate crisis, all catalysts of conflict, and it's therefore critical to include them in solutions that address these challenges while working towards a more peaceful future.

The landmark UN Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015) on Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) recognized the crucial role of youth in maintaining and promoting international peace and security. Yet, the full promise and commitments of this resolution have yet to be fully operationalized.

UNU-CPR is conducting a new thematic review to evaluate the UN Peacebuilding Fund's (PBF) impact on advancing the YPS agenda over the past five years, building on previous reviews related to Climate Security and Human Rights. This review will assess how strategies for youth participation and empowerment have influenced local and national political processes and peacebuilding efforts. As part of this research, UNU-CPR researchers have visited The Gambia and Guinea to engage with UN agencies, national institutions, and youth-led civil society organizations involved in PBF-supported projects aimed at enhancing youth and women's roles in decision-making and strengthening community resilience against climate-induced conflicts.

Find out more

Insights

Applying the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy in Peacebuilding

Applying the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) in peacebuilding

As a key UN standard, HRDDP ensures compliance with international law and the UN Charter while enhancing human rights and peacebuilding efforts. This Policy Brief examines how HRDDP can be more effectively used in peacebuilding initiatives.

South Korea wants the world to wake up to the serious threats of cybersecurity

In a recent PassBlue UNSCripted Podcast episode, Eduardo Albrecht explained South Korea's increasing focus on cybersecurity in the context of its tenure as the rotating president of the United Nations Security Council back in June.

Listen here

AI, gender roles and the future of equality

We Are Power is a Podcast that amplifies the stories and successes of women leaders. In a recent episode, UNU-CPR's Eleonore Fournier-Tombs explained how AI tools can perpetuate gender stereotypes – and offered strategies to help companies address gender bias and advance gender equality in AI software.

Listen here

News and Events

Pioneering anti-modern slavery initiative transitions to UNDP

UNU-CPR's signature anti-modern slavery initiative, Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking (FAST) has transitioned to the United Nations Development Programme where it will build on the foundational concepts and research carried out at UNU-CPR and strengthen strategic engagement with the financial sector.

Read more

The rewiring of the global economy

UNU-CPR was proud to serve as the academic partner of the 15th Annual Conference organized by the Banco Central de Reserva del Perú – BCRP, the Reinventing Bretton Woods Committee (RBWC), and the Inter-American Development Bank. "The Rewiring of the Global Economy" was held in July in Cusco, Peru.

Read more

Unlocking the potential of inclusive and adequate housing interventions through a cross-sectoral and multidimensional impact assessment

Together with UN Habitat, UNU-CPR convened academics to discuss how the positive socioeconomic outcomes of strategic investments in stable, adequate, and affordable housing can

best be measured and demonstrated to policymakers.

Read more

Anticipatory policymaking workshop

UNU-CPR organized a workshop on anticipatory policymaking with Alexander Evans of the London School of Economics. The first in a new series, the workshop focused on shaping the principles and practices of anticipatory governance to proactively address emerging global challenges in preparation for the Summit of the Future.

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