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Launch of the ICTY Manual on Developed Practices During the ICTY Diplomatic Conference

**Welcoming speech by
Mr. Sandro Calvani**
The Hague, 28 May

Excellencies, Honored Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. I am very pleased to welcome you here this morning in my capacity as UNICRI's Director, to the ICTY Diplomatic Conference on the occasion of the official presentation of the "ICTY Manual on Developed Practices".

Firstly, I would like to thank the ICTY in the name of UNICRI for involving us in such an outstanding initiative. UNICRI is proud of having prepared this Manual in conjunction with the ICTY. I would also like to give my special thanks to President Robinson for his enthusiasm in continuing this project which was instituted under the Presidency of Judge Pocar. I would also like to give special thanks to the UNICRI Scientific Advisors: Judge Roberto Bellelli and Prosecutor Jesus Santos, who provided UNICRI with substantial advice in this process.

Since its establishment in 1993, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia has represented a significant step forward in the fight against gross violations of international humanitarian law and in holding individuals accountable for the commission of mass atrocities.

After Nuremberg and Tokyo, it was the first time that the international community committed itself to narrow the impunity gap created by armed conflicts and to ensure a punishment to those who perpetrated or ordered the commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

Over the last 15 years, the Tribunal's activities have provided us with an enormous contribution to the development of international criminal law and the proliferation of other international and hybrid courts. This reflects extremely positively on the work that has been carried out by the Tribunal.

After several years of important achievements, the Tribunal is now moving towards the end of its mandate, envisaged for the end of 2010. Consequently, the courts within the Balkan region will remain the only institutions dealing with large numbers of allegations of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide related to the conflicts in the former republic of Yugoslavia. The task of these courts is extremely difficult and sensitive, however the positive outcome will be a crucial factor for the stability and future of the countries concerned.

In this regard, it is essential that the legacy of the ICTY in terms of expertise and good practices acquired during the years of its activity is properly recorded and

transmitted to the national judiciaries in the regions and countries dealing with similar crimes. “Knowledge has no boundaries” and I am also convinced that the experience of our “laboratory of innovation” will be extremely beneficial for the other international as well as hybrid courts and tribunals dealing with issues of such importance.

Given the extraordinary importance of the issues mentioned, UNICRI felt it essential and completely in line with its mandate to commit itself, within the framework of our Security Governance in Post Conflict and Crisis Areas, to various initiatives aimed at promoting the legacies of International experiences.

At the beginning of 2008 UNICRI established a formal cooperation with the ICTY with the aim of assisting in the promotion and dissemination of the Tribunals’ achievements in the field of international criminal justice.

As the first activity, the ICTY and UNICRI initiated the process of identifying and selecting the most effective practices developed by the Tribunal with the view of creating a Manual to facilitate the widespread dissemination and promotion of such practices. The purpose of this Manual is to act as a point of reference both for national and global policy makers and practitioners in the field of international criminal law.

The “ICTY Manual on Developed Practice” is the outcome of a lengthy yet fruitful process. It has been drafted directly by experienced personnel from various branches of the Tribunal: in my opinion, this makes such a publication unique in its field, since it is the first time that the Tribunal has written about itself in such a comprehensive manner, covering all the judiciary and managerial aspects of the proceedings, from investigations to enforcement of sentences.

This overview of the ICTY’s practices is intended to serve as a reference tool for global and national level policy makers, international criminal law practitioners and other international, internationalized or hybrid tribunals. In addition, this Manual provides UNICRI, as a fully-fledged UN entity, with a method for promoting the legacy of the international criminal tribunals.

At UNICRI, this publication is intended to be the cornerstone for the development of a programme aimed at promoting the individual and joint legacies of the International Criminal Tribunals, not only in the countries which are directly affected by the Tribunals’ closure, but also in any other countries dealing with similar issues.

In that respect, this Manual underscores the key role of UNICRI as an interregional institute of the UN in promotion of the legacy of ICTY in the Balkan region and in other countries and regions all around the world affected by conflicts. Our intention is to develop innovative Knowledge Management Systems as well as Information Centres in order to share data on International Tribunals so as to promote their legacy.

Finally, I would like to mention 2 other events in which the “ICTY Manual on Developed Practice” will be presented:

a) The next event will take place on the 9th of June in New York. The manual will be presented to the Security Council Informal Working Group on International Tribunals, the Diplomatic Community of New York and other relevant international organizations, during a meeting of the Assembly of State Parties to the ICC.

b) On the 15th and 16th of June, the Manual will be presented during a Regional Conference in Sarajevo, which was made possible thanks to the generous contribution of the Italian Government. The event was organized in cooperation with the ICTY and envisages the participation of representatives and practitioners from the courts in the Balkans, as well as from the other International Tribunals, such as the Extraordinary Chambers in the Court of Cambodia (ECCC), the International Criminal Court (ICC), Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) and the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX). Also various International Missions in Sarajevo will participate in this event. The conference will be the first occasion to present the finalized version of the Manual in Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian (BCS) language as well as to test the applicability of good practises developed by the ICTY at national level.

In this regard I would like you to invite you all to participate in the next events aiming to promote the legacy of the International Tribunals.

I would like to again express my gratitude to the ICTY in choosing UNICRI to assist in the elaboration of this manual and its dissemination. I look forward to receiving the support of the International Community in promoting the "ICTY Manual on Developed Practice" in all post conflict and crisis areas of the world.