



**UNICRI-ICTY Regional Conference in Sarajevo, 15 June 2009
by Mr. Sandro Calvani**

Excellencies, Honored Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you here as UNICRI's Director, to the UNICRI-ICTY Regional Conference in Sarajevo. I am honored with your presence here today in order to mark a key development in the field of Security Governance in Post Conflict and Crisis Areas on an International level.

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 punishment of 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 successes and important achievements, the Tribunal is now moving towards the end of its mandate. Consequently, the courts within the Balkan region will remain the only institutions dealing with large numbers of allegations of crimes under international law 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 region. Moreover, the experience of this "laboratory of innovation" will be extremely beneficial for the other international and 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 to the Tribunal and to make its contribution to the transition process through various initiatives aimed at promoting the individual and joint legacies of the International Criminal Tribunals.

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, UNICRI and the ICTY 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 wide dissemination and promotion of such practices. Such an innovative cooperation between a UN Research Institution on Justice, Crime and Security and an International Tribunal has been possible thanks to the commitment and hard work of Judge Fausto Pocar, former President of the ICTY, and the leadership and strong will of the ICTY President, Judge Patrick L. Robinson.

The purpose of this Manual is to act as a point of reference for various national and global policy makers as well as international criminal law agencies.

The "ICTY Manual on Developed Practice" is the outcome of a lengthy yet fruitful process which, without the commitment and co-ordination between UNICRI and the ICTY would not have been possible. It is important to note that the Manual has been drafted by experienced personnel from various branches of the Tribunal: in my opinion, this makes our 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 judicial and managerial aspects of the proceedings, from investigations to enforcement of sentences.

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 country dealing with similar issues.

The purpose of this Conference is to assess the applicability and the usefulness of the ICTY Manual on Developed Practices in the Balkans and in other international jurisdictions: in this regard, I consider your participation crucial in order to start discussions on how best to promote and transfer the knowledge acquired by the Tribunal to the national jurisdictions.

While we present today the Manual in Bosnian language, I feel it essential to establish a sincere and constructive dialogue with you all, because I believe that the exchange of experiences is bilateral by definition, and I am sure we have a lot to learn from each other. Moreover, your feedback will be particularly useful in enabling us to plan the next phase of activities and interventions in the field of international criminal law.

I would like to thank the Minister of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina Hon. Bariša Čolak and Chief Prosecutor Milorad Borašin for their support in this endeavour.

The Italian Development Cooperation has contributed generously to our efforts and to make this conference possible.

Our special thanks go also to the Italian Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina Raimondo De Cardona.