The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development may well be remembered as a turning point in the history of global crime governance. Prior to this, crime control and international development existed as two relatively distinct spheres of policymaking and practice. The inclusion of criminological issues and themes is noteworthy but it would be misleading to suggest that ‘crime’ or the ‘rule of law’ represent core components of the post-2015 development agenda. Rather, their inclusion signifies formal recognition by the international community that combating transnational crime, promoting the rule of law, and enhancing the delivery of criminal justice at the national and sub-national levels represent important international development issues. I associate the convergence of these issues with the emergence of a ‘crime-development nexus’. This paper sketches out the contours of the crime-development nexus and proceeds to theorise its construction by analysing its discursive underpinnings.

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