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- Chair:* Mr. Saikal (Afghanistan)
- later:* Mr. Molina Linares (Guatemala)
- later:* Mr. Saikal (Afghanistan)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 109: Crime prevention and criminal justice (A/73/131, A/73/132, A/73/133, A/73/134 and A/73/136)

Agenda item 110: International drug control (A/73/135)

1. **Mr. Brandolino** (Director of the Division of Treaty Affairs, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)), speaking on behalf of the Executive Director of UNODC, said that the rule of law was being undermined. Terrorism, fed by the root causes of radicalization and violent extremism, was increasingly interlinked with organized crime, corruption and trafficking in persons, drugs and arms. Terrorists and organized criminal networks were misusing technology, including for sexual exploitation and abuse. Such threats affected all countries and regions. In that context, commitment to agreed frameworks and international cooperation, based on the principle of shared responsibility, was absolutely vital. Time and again, criminals and terrorists exploited gaps in capacities and coordination, and profited from instability and weakened rule of law. Faced with those challenges, UNODC had adopted a prevention-based approach and aimed at mainstreaming gender and human rights. UNODC contributed to efforts to achieve targets under multiple Sustainable Development Goals, notably Goal 16 on justice and institutions.

2. Prevention was essential to strengthening young people's resilience to drugs, crime and violence, addressing prison reforms to stop radicalization, and reducing corruption risks. UNODC prioritized partnerships with United Nations entities and other international and regional organizations, businesses and civil society. UNODC was working with the World Health Organization (WHO) in more than 30 low- and middle-income countries to enhance drug prevention and treatment strategies and with Member States to improve access to controlled medicines for pain relief, while preventing diversion and abuse. UNODC was scaling up its HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care services for injecting drug users as well as services provided in prisons, and it was implementing strategies to help Governments respond to the continuing opioid crisis, including through international law enforcement operations. UNODC was working closely with Afghanistan and partners to address the challenges posed by record levels of opium production and cultivation, and it was supporting the Government of Colombia in engaging families in voluntary coca eradication initiatives.

3. UNODC was also supporting preparations for the ministerial segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2019, and it was assisting the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice with preparations for the fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Kyoto in 2020, which would focus on advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

4. 2018 marked the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and the African Union had declared 2018 as the African Anti-Corruption Year, in clear recognition of the fact that tackling corruption and recovering stolen assets played a critical role in fostering sustainable development, securing peace and countering violent extremism. Terrorist threats continued to evolve even as the international community had succeeded in pushing back Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), and UNODC and the Office of Counter-Terrorism had recently signed a framework agreement in Vienna to advance cooperation between the two offices.

5. Over the past year, UNODC had further strengthened its technical assistance to Member States, including to address returning foreign terrorist fighters and terrorists benefiting from transnational organized crime. The Security Council and the General Assembly had repeatedly recognized the importance of addressing the interlinked challenges of terrorism and organized crime, including money-laundering and terrorist financing; cybercrime; trafficking in firearms, drugs, natural resources, cultural heritage and other illicit goods; and migrant smuggling and human trafficking. Many of those challenges would be addressed later that month at the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Member States should use that session to advance their efforts to review the implementation of the Convention. UNODC also continued to support the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, which would be adopted in December, the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons and the Blue Heart Campaign against Human Trafficking.

6. UNODC would soon publish its 2018 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, which examined trafficking patterns in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as the 2018 Global Study on Homicide, which sought to shed light on challenges of crime and violence, including violence against women and femicide.

7. UNODC strove to meet the expectations of Member States, and it was fully engaged in supporting the Secretary-General's ambitious United Nations system reforms, but the Office continued to struggle with a severe lack of stable and predictable resources. Member States had recognized the importance of UNODC mandates with voluntary contributions totalling \$351.3 million in 2017, a 17 per cent increase over 2016. However, unearmarked general-purpose funds were predicted to account for less than 1 per cent of total income for the 2018–2019 biennium, and the UNODC share of the total United Nations regular budget amounted to less than 1 per cent. The financial situation was precarious and increasing resource constraints affected the core support provided by UNODC to Member States. The Office appealed to all Member States to provide predictable and stable funding so that the Office could respond to the increasing demands for technical assistance in the identified priority areas.

8. **Mr. Rattray** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that organized crime activities posed an immediate and significant threat to the sustainable development of the Caribbean region, and trafficking in illicit drugs and the illegal trade in small arms and ammunition was wreaking havoc on the social and developmental fabric of the small island States. The region must remain vigilant in combating and prosecuting human trafficking and money-laundering wherever they occurred. In so doing, however, States were compelled to divert resources from vital development activities such as education, health care and infrastructure development.

9. Earlier in the year, the CARICOM Heads of Government had reaffirmed their commitment to tackling transnational organized crime. At the first meeting of the CARICOM Crime and Security Strategy Review Steering Committee, in November 2017, the Committee had underscored the important role played by civil society. The Caribbean States continued to pursue collaborative border control and management programs to enhance the safety and security of their nationals. Chiefs of immigration and comptrollers of customs had met in Jamaica earlier in 2018 with a view to strengthening the regional security framework, the key pillars of which were the CARICOM Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the CARICOM Maritime and Airspace Security Cooperation Agreement.

10. The tenth European Development Fund CARIFORUM Crime and Security Cooperation Programme had been launched at the beginning of the year and focused on reducing the demand for illicit drugs; advancing drug supply control initiatives in

coordination with Latin America; and addressing critical factors for crime and violence prevention and social development.

11. Further collaboration in information-sharing, capacity-building and technical assistance would support efforts to disrupt criminal activities, strengthen criminal justice responses, and aid in the creation of peaceful, resilient and inclusive societies, thereby enhancing the safety of people and the security of borders. The world drug problem was a common and shared responsibility and required a comprehensive, strategic approach. CARICOM was committed to a balanced and effective drug control strategy based on international cooperation in the seven thematic areas listed in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem.

12. In preparation for the ministerial segment of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, CARICOM welcomed efforts to make the deliberations more accessible to Member States that did not have resident representation. Multilateral processes needed to be inclusive in order to be effective, and CARICOM countries should have greater representation on the Commission and other relevant bodies.

13. Several overarching documents guided the international community in addressing the problems of illicit drug use and trafficking, but greater flexibility should be afforded to countries to craft policies best suited to their respective national situations. In view of recent trends in the global psychoactive substances market, it was clear that innovative and creative responses were required to reflect the changing profile of the world drug problem. United Nations agencies and bodies should coordinate and collaborate with each other, and the Commission, in particular, played a critical role in shaping their response. Drug control policies must address illicit activities related to drug trafficking and drug use, while ensuring a people-centred approach with full respect for human rights and public health considerations. UNODC needed adequate, predictable and stable resources in order to effectively carry out its mandate.

14. **Mr. Hilale** (Morocco), speaking on behalf of the African Group of States, said that the States recognized that poverty was one of the core causes of crime and had a major impact on development and the empowerment of individuals and families. African States had made significant progress in settling conflicts within their borders as well as improvements in governance, the rule of law and constitutional order. The Group reaffirmed its commitment to all efforts promoting respect for

human rights in accordance with the provisions of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and other relevant regional, continental and international instruments, including humanitarian law. Nevertheless, porous borders and coastlines, including inadequate infrastructure and limited law enforcement capacity, made it challenging for many African countries to deal effectively with crime and criminal activity within their borders. The mobilization of national resources in the field of crime prevention and law enforcement remained a key priority for the African continent.

15. The United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, with the support of UNODC, had provided technical support over the years to many African countries. However, the Group noted with deep concern that the continued precarious financial situation of the Institute had greatly affected its capacity to efficiently deliver the services required. Therefore, the Group reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize financial resources for the Institute.

16. The Group supported calls to address the root causes of terrorism. It was important to raise public awareness of those causes and the effects of terrorism on society and the process of development. Despite the progress made in Africa, the distribution, use and trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances continued to pose a major threat to security, health and overall development endeavours. The African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control (2013–2017) had created synergies with existing African Union Commission initiatives to address organized crime, corruption, and trafficking of small arms and light weapons and trafficking in persons, especially women and girls. Faced with the growing challenges of drug control, Member States, in collaboration with UNODC, were establishing integrated national programmes to combat drug trafficking and associated transnational organized crime.

17. The Group also reiterated its support for the extension beyond 2019 of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, which complemented the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem with regard to implementation of the commitments set out in the three main drug control conventions.

18. At the same time, an urgent response was needed to the serious challenges posed by the increasing links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of

organized crime, including trafficking in persons, firearms trafficking, cybercrime and money-laundering. To that end, the thirtieth Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union had designated 2018 as the African Anti-Corruption Year with the theme "Winning the Fight against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa's Transformation". The African Union had also set in motion several initiatives for combating corruption, which eroded the development of a universal culture of good governance, democratic values, gender equality, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law. The Group called on the international community to strengthen its efforts against drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime, and to adopt appropriate and sustainable policies.

19. **Ms. Tang** (Singapore), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that the borderless nature of transnational crime posed a security threat that necessitated enhanced regional and international cooperation. At its eleventh session, the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime had adopted the ASEAN Plan of Action in Combating Transnational Crime (2016–2025), which had been developed on the basis of the 1999 ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime. Human smuggling and illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber had been identified as the main areas of transnational crime. The new Plan demonstrated ASEAN's preparedness to tackle fresh challenges and combat transnational crime through regional cooperation.

20. In view of the severe threat that terrorism posed to the region and the world, the Association had adopted the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter-Terrorism in September 2017. ASEAN had also taken a long-term approach to preventing radicalization by promoting dialogue and engagement among young people. As a region with heavy cross-border flows, ASEAN was committed to preventing trafficking in persons and to protecting the most vulnerable. The ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children acknowledged trafficking in persons as a flagrant violation of human rights without regard for human dignity. Those and several other regional plans identified prevention, protection, enforcement and cooperation as key strategies for bringing traffickers to justice and safeguarding citizens from harm.

21. Southeast Asia remained an attractive market for methamphetamines and opiates; drugs undermined societies and threatened national security as well as the sustainable livelihood of citizens. The Association aimed to eliminate drugs and their abuse from societies by embracing a zero-tolerance approach. The ASEAN

Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs 2016–2025, adopted at the most recent ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters, promoted intra- and extraregional cooperation in the areas of preventive education, detection and rehabilitation. The ASEAN Airport Interdiction Task Force and ASEAN Seaport Interdiction Task Force had disrupted syndicate operations and curtailed the flow of drugs across the region. The ASEAN Narcotics Cooperation Centre had also been established. ASEAN strongly supported the central role of the three main international drug control conventions and would continue its efforts to protect families and communities from the devastating impact of illicit drugs.

22. In demonstration of its commitment to fighting cybercrime, ASEAN had adopted the ASEAN Declaration to Prevent and Combat Cybercrime, and had formed a working group on cybercrime to coordinate a regional approach. The ASEAN Cyber Capacity Programme continued to enhance legal and technical expertise and improve collaboration within the region. Transnational crimes were best tackled through close regional and international collaboration, as unity was strength.

23. **Ms. Ferreira** (Angola), speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), said that although the burden of crime persisted in the Community's member States, the authorities were gradually asserting better control, partly through complex work on digital and communication platforms. Nevertheless, human trafficking remained a major concern in the region, while the threat of drug trafficking would continue to grow if it was not addressed through coordinated efforts. SADC therefore attached considerable importance to the international legal instruments that laid the legal foundations for action against transnational organized crime, corruption and drug-related offences.

24. Drug trafficking and drug abuse were related to other crimes, such as corruption, violent crime and violence against women and children; they were a threat to economic development and a challenge to the region's security and stability. High rates of poverty and unemployment, inadequate justice systems and high prevalence of HIV/AIDS were at the root of the issue. Uneven economic development and high levels of social inequality, both within and among countries, also acted as drivers of organized crime in the region.

25. Illicit trade in wildlife was one of the most challenging forms of crime in the region. Despite significant strides in wildlife conservation, transnational organized groups took advantage of the ease of cross-

border trade, disparities in countries' legislation and a deficient system for sharing information among law enforcement agencies. Elevated levels of commercial poaching and illegal trade were fuelled by growing market demand. Poaching syndicates were also trying to spread their illicit activities across the entire SADC region, and most member States lacked adequate resources to protect wildlife. She urged the international community to address illicit trade in wildlife as a priority. SADC welcomed initiatives under the UNODC Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime. Its own regional response plan, the Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching strategy (LEAP), should also significantly reduce threats, enhance the law enforcement capacity in the region, improve prevention and mitigation policies and strategies and foster collaboration with local and international institutions.

26. Clear and comprehensive legislation was needed to prevent and combat the increasing number of trafficking cases in the SADC region, especially those involving women and children. The fact that all SADC member States were party to the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children demonstrated the region's commitment to global, continental and regional legislative frameworks on trafficking in persons. Of the 16 SADC member States, 13 had stand-alone act on trafficking in persons, while the others had criminalized the practice through a variety of legislative instruments. Strategies against child abuse and human trafficking needed to be developed to protect women and children and address challenges to the implementation and enforcement of anti-trafficking legislation.

27. Illicit traffic of every kind facilitated the spread of contraband, generating large profits for the individuals and organizations involved. The increasing drug problem in the region jeopardized prosperity and the future of young people, who were often disproportionately affected by drug-related crime and drug abuse. The drug problem required a multidimensional and balanced approach encompassing criminal, social and health policies. The drug policies of SADC member States were based on the Protocol on Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in the Southern African Development Community Region. The member States had responded to the drug problem by developing, implementing and evaluating strategies for reducing demand, establishing community prevention programmes, raising awareness in schools and carrying out research into the underlying causes of drug abuse. Some countries had also established facilities for the treatment, rehabilitation and social integration of drug-

dependent persons. Young people were an important part of the solution.

28. The criminal justice systems of many SADC countries were still weak, lacking not only capacity for crime prevention and prosecution services, but also legislation on transnational crimes. Since criminal activities in the region increasingly transcended national borders and were becoming more organized and sophisticated, future prevention efforts must rely on global and regional cooperation. SADC member States had signed protocols on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters; extradition; corruption; combating illicit drugs; and firearms, ammunition and other related materials. In response to the growing threats, they were working to improve the capacity and transparency of their justice systems.

29. SADC had launched a 2013–2020 regional programme to help its member States respond to challenges related to organized crime, security, the effectiveness and integrity of their criminal justice systems, drug abuse and HIV/AIDS by building capacity at the national level and promoting regional cooperation, in line with each country's priorities and needs. The programme, which would also contribute to reducing crime levels by fostering sustainable socioeconomic development, could serve as a basis for initiatives in other regions with similar development challenges.

30. **Mr. O'Brien** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that every Member State faced issues of drug control, transnational organized crime, including cyberattacks and potentially terrorism, which affected their achievement of the five core priorities of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership. The United Nations system offered crucial support to each Government in its response to those issues and fostered judicial and law enforcement cooperation between States and regional organizations. In fighting those crimes, Member States sought to achieve a delicate balance between security and freedom, and between efficiency and the defence of values and rights.

31. The European Union reaffirmed the importance of the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols in combating existing and emerging forms of transnational organized crime and called on all States to implement

them in full. Human trafficking was a serious form of organized crime that represented a transnational threat and a grave violation of human rights. Driven by high financial profits and a complex interplay between demand and supply, it disproportionately affected women and children and remained characterized by impunity. The European Union had stepped up its response to human trafficking through a set of targeted priorities and actions. In December 2017, the European Commission had presented measures focused on preventing and countering impunity by disrupting the traffickers' business model.

32. The European Union had prioritized disruption of the smugglers' business model in its external migration policy. The European Union military operation in the Southern Central Mediterranean had resulted in numerous arrests of smugglers and the seizure of hundreds of vessels. Civilian missions in Libya, Mali and Niger had helped police and other internal security forces to build counter-trafficking capacity within the framework of human rights and the rule of law. Considerable funding was being allocated to addressing trafficking through projects both in European Union member States and globally. The Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, for example, was a project launched by the European Union and UNODC to help 13 countries to enhance their capacities and to develop and implement comprehensive national counter-trafficking and counter-smuggling responses.

33. The European Union welcomed a decision by the Security Council in June 2018 to impose sanctions on the leaders of criminal networks in Libya, including a global travel ban and assets freeze on six of the most prolific smugglers. It had swiftly transposed those United Nations sanctions into European Union sanctions that complemented measures taken earlier to restrict the export of dinghies and motors to Libya.

34. Maritime crime and trafficking at sea, especially piracy and armed robbery, arms and drug trafficking, smuggling of migrants and human trafficking were increasingly recognized as among the most serious threats to global security and the economy. The European Union's revised action plan on maritime security promoted a holistic perspective, encompassing terrorism, cybercrime, as well as hybrid, chemical, and other threats; supported regional, tailor-made responses to challenges; and encouraged stronger collaboration between civilian and military actors and among specialized agencies. The Security Council Arria formula meeting on maritime crime in July 2018 had helped the international community identify good

practices for improving the prevention of and response to maritime crime.

35. In mid-2018, the European Union had improved its legal framework on money-laundering, including by harmonizing the definition of criminal offences and sanctions related to money-laundering, including the proceeds of cybercrime, and removing obstacles to cross-border judicial and police cooperation. All Member States should step up their efforts in that area.

36. The thirtieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016, at which participants had called for a more comprehensive and balanced drug policy and a greater focus on the health aspect of the drugs problem, had been a major turning point in international drug policy. The European Union wished to focus efforts on implementing the outcome document of that session rather than adopting a new policy document at the high-level ministerial segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2019. In preparation for the ministerial segment and with the aim of reaffirming the outcome document, the European Union regularly held dialogues on drugs with third countries, provided assistance through external cooperation programmes and worked with partners to promote international drug policies. A stronger connection should, however, be made between the 2030 Agenda and the world drug problem, since efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and tackle the world drug problem should complement and reinforce each other. To achieve the transformative shift required, Member States should try to implement the outcome document in line with the relevant Sustainable Development Goals.

37. New legislation on psychoactive substances, due to enter into force in November 2018, would provide European Union member States with the necessary tools to respond quickly and efficiently whenever they needed to prohibit new drugs or prosecute those who traded in them. As a matter of principle, the European Union would continue to oppose the use of the death penalty, including for drug-related crime.

38. The European Union had further improved and integrated the counter-terrorism instruments at its disposal. It cooperated with partner countries through the contacts of the European Union Counter-terrorism Coordinator and the network of counter-terrorism and security experts stationed in European Union delegations in priority countries around the world. The European Union continued to support the key role of the United Nations in counter-terrorism and contributed to the biannual review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. That Strategy, the relevant

Security Council resolutions and the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism would continue to guide the European Union's counter-terrorism efforts.

39. **Ms. Oehri** (Liechtenstein) said that December 2018 would mark the seventieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Despite the clear commitment agreed under that instrument and enshrined in customary international law that no one should be held in slavery or servitude, modern slavery and human trafficking remained among the greatest human rights scandals of modern times and an obstacle to sustainable development. Some 40 million people were directly affected by those crimes globally, including 15 million victims of forced marriage and 25 million victims of forced labour. Almost three quarters of the victims of modern slavery were female.

40. Modern slavery, although invisible to many people, was a crime that directly or indirectly involved everyone because it affected the supply chains of products of daily life, such as laptops, mobile phones, garments, fish, cocoa and sugar cane. Although data from the 2018 Global Slavery Index showed that modern slavery was more prevalent in some regions than others, every country was implicated, even leading global economies. Modern slavery and human trafficking constituted grave violations of human rights, and yet were lucrative business models that generated over \$150 billion in annual revenue. Disruption of the associated financial flows was thus a crucial element of the fight against crime.

41. On the margins of the general debate of the current session, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Liechtenstein and Australia had established the Financial Sector Commission on Modern Slavery. The Commission, known as the Liechtenstein Initiative, was a public-private partnership developed in cooperation with the United Nations University that brought together retail banks, hedge funds, global regulators, institutional investors, victims of modern slavery, the United Nations and the anti-slavery movement. By 2019, it planned to develop actionable measures for tackling modern slavery and human trafficking.

42. Cybercrime posed complex security challenges and directly threatened the enjoyment of human rights, in particular, the right to privacy. Nevertheless, investigative powers and criminalization should not be used to dismantle human rights and fundamental freedoms. Indeed, United Nations representatives had repeatedly affirmed that the same rights that people enjoyed offline must also be protected online. Every State was obliged to ensure that any interference in the

right to privacy was consistent with the principles of legality, necessity and proportionality. In the same vein, the regulation of cyberspace and the criminalization of cybercrime should represent a good balance between security concerns and respect for human rights. Liechtenstein strongly supported the strengthening of international regulations for activities in cyberspace, such as the Convention on Cybercrime, on the basis of transparency, cooperation and human rights.

43. **Mr. Amayo** (Kenya) said that his Government reaffirmed its commitment to implementation of the three international drug control conventions and the recommendations of the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly. Kenya had adopted numerous legislative instruments for prevention of the abuse, production, manufacturing and trafficking of drugs.

44. Transnational criminal networks posed a challenge to Kenya's achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Kenyan national action plan on transnational organized crime emphasized the importance of international cooperation as a way of preventing, detecting, investigating and neutralizing such activities. The Kenyan Government had also invested heavily to ensure that the criminal justice system adequately responded to all forms of organized crime, as well as to security threats arising from radicalization, violent extremism and acts of terrorism. Further challenges included an increase in illicit drugs entering the region through the Indian Ocean for transshipment around the world; the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the volatile Horn of Africa region; the country's vast, sparsely populated and porous borders; and the low level of international collaboration in tracing money trails that financed such activities.

45. As part of efforts to implement its transnational organized crime and drug control strategy and policy, Kenya had revised its Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act, invested in regional mechanisms for stemming the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and established mechanisms for cooperation with foreign agencies to exchange information and investigate suspected money-laundering activities. In addition, Kenya had enacted the Counter-trafficking in Persons Act, set up an advisory committee on the elimination of trafficking in persons and adopted the Proceeds of Crime and Anti-money-laundering Act, thereby establishing a financial reporting centre to identify the proceeds of money-laundering and financing of terrorism. He called on all Member States to continue to work together to enhance their national capabilities, by sharing intelligence, data

and training opportunities within criminal justice systems.

46. **Mr. Musikhin** (Russian Federation) said that amid the growing and evolving challenges and threats of transnational organized crime, it was vital to strengthen multilateral collaboration under the auspices of the United Nations. The Organization played a crucial role in coordinating the international community's efforts in that regard, and it should take a comprehensive and balanced approach, in strict compliance with the norms and principles of international law. The United Nations currently had the two important tasks of preserving the intergovernmental nature of the Mechanism for the Reviewing of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and of developing an equivalent mechanism for the Organized Crime Convention. He urged Member States to accede to the two Conventions and implement their provisions.

47. The Russian Federation opposed attempts to recast anti-corruption efforts as a new challenge to international peace and security or to politicize the subject. His delegation supported further strengthening of the legal basis of international cooperation in countering criminal challenges and threats, including through the development of new international legal instruments at the United Nations that took into account new types of crime, such as cybercrime, and focused on issues such as asset recovery. It also reaffirmed its unwavering support for the continued promotion by UNODC of a collaborative approach to fighting crime and its provision of technical assistance to Member States. The funding of UNODC should be improved and its research and analytical capacity strengthened.

48. His delegation was concerned by recent developments in global drug policy, including the rise in the number of States that were legalizing drugs and the increasingly divergent attitudes to the international system of drug control enshrined in the three international conventions on the subject. The determination of some States to shift the focus of global drug policy away from its law enforcement aspects was particularly troubling. The Russian Federation encouraged the international community not to weaken the drug control regime and called for a balanced approach to solving the global drug problem, with due regard for the global dimension of the problem.

49. The Russian Federation supported the activities of the International Narcotics Control Board, which not only ensured proper monitoring of the implementation of those instruments but also took a principled stance regarding countries that adopted a selective approach to implementation. The key role played by the

Commission on Narcotic Drugs as a policy-making organ in the United Nations system should be maintained and strengthened, including in the build-up to the review of the implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action at the high-level ministerial segment in March 2019. United Nations drug control activities and the strategy for the period after 2019 should be fully consistent with the decisions of its intergovernmental policy-making bodies. Failure to adhere to that principle would considerably harm the existing drug control system, which had already proven its worth. Efforts to elaborate a hidden agenda outside the auspices of the Commission or to establish parallel platforms that duplicated the work in Vienna would considerably hinder progress and negatively affect efforts already made in the build-up to the 2019 ministerial segment.

50. **Ms. Zappia** (Italy) said that, in the fight against international crime and terrorism, Member States should promote the full implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and its protocols as essential components of any crime prevention and criminal justice programme. The international community must consider how best to equip the Convention with an effective and sustainable review mechanism. During the current session, the Committee should pay particular attention to countering trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants; defending the status and rights of women and minors, with special attention to the victims of crime; protecting cultural heritage and addressing related crimes; fighting corruption and financial crimes; and responding to the abuse of the Internet and social media by criminal and terrorist groups.

51. Her delegation wholeheartedly supported the creation and work of central authorities and specialized agencies to foster judicial cooperation between countries. Italy had been a pioneer in establishing such structures, particularly in the fight against organized crime, and was willing to offer its expertise and experience for the benefit of the wider United Nations membership. Italy also worked closely with all relevant European institutions to strengthen common action at every level.

52. Italy lent its steadfast support in furtherance of Sustainable Development Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda, with the aim of establishing genuinely transparent societies and institutions. Achieving that ambitious goal required disseminating a culture of legality, improving access to justice, and advancing the protection of human rights, both for the victims of criminal actions and for the perpetrators.

53. As a candidate for election to the Human Rights Council in 2019–2021, her delegation wished to reaffirm Italy's unwavering commitment to preventing and combating international crimes and impunity. Protecting and promoting human rights was at the core of Italy's policy and action at the national and international levels.

54. **Ms. Rodríguez Camejo** (Cuba) said that UNODC had a pivotal role as the primary United Nations forum for discussing drugs and crime. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs must also continue their work to address drugs and crime and not have their responsibilities diminished or their work duplicated by other forums that undermined their authority.

55. Her delegation supported the establishment of a review mechanism for the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto with similar characteristics to the one established for the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Care should be taken to ensure that, as an intergovernmental body, it did not generate rankings among countries and that it worked cooperatively, non-punitively and on the basis of peer review procedures.

56. The United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was important as an intergovernmental framework for evaluating and establishing non-binding guidelines and facilitating the exchange of information and best practices among States and professionals. Delegations would do well to remember, however, that they could not eradicate crime without addressing underdevelopment and working towards the establishment of a more just, democratic and equitable international order and fairer and more inclusive societies.

57. The cost of the scourge of drug abuse was enormous, as it reproduced the cycles of poverty, violence and various forms of criminal behaviour and social exclusion. It would be very difficult to resolve the problems of drug production and trafficking from the impoverished South without eliminating demand in the developed North. The principle of common and shared responsibility was more important than ever, and the problem would not be solved by militarizing countries, legalizing drugs or treating them as harmless substances.

58. Cuba supported the existing international framework for drug control, as well as the intergovernmental bodies that monitored compliance with the three international drug control conventions. Cuba had a zero-tolerance policy on the production, consumption and trafficking of drugs and complied with

all international obligations to combat organized crime and provide international cooperation in that area. It had a good record in dealing with crimes such as international terrorism, drug trafficking, money laundering, piracy and trafficking in persons. Cuba was also a party to 16 international anti-terrorism instruments and had enacted a comprehensive law against terrorist acts. Cuban territory had never and would never be used for organizing, financing or undertaking terrorist actions against any country.

59. **Mr. Khashaan** (Saudi Arabia) said that his country supported the recommendations set forth in the reports of the Secretary-General contained in documents [A/73/131](#) and [A/73/135](#). The international community must respect the sovereign right of every Member State to develop its own legal system and decide on appropriate penalties to deter the perpetration of certain crimes, including drug-related offences, in accordance with their obligations under international law and the relevant international conventions, so that they could ensure the safety and security of their citizens and societies.

60. Saudi Arabia deeply appreciated the technical assistance provided by UNODC to Member States to help them strengthen their legal systems in order to combat terrorism effectively and promote criminal justice in a changing world. To uphold the rule of law, Saudi Arabia had developed a modern legal system and had established an office of the public prosecutor that was fully independent of the country's executive authorities.

61. Certain neighbouring countries were seeking to thwart the development efforts of Saudi Arabia through their support of terrorist groups involved in the illicit drug trade. To counter that threat, Saudi Arabia had adopted a four-point strategy that focused on raising awareness of the danger of illicit drugs, combating the illicit drug trade within the country, providing treatment and rehabilitation services to drug users and strengthening international and regional cooperation to combat illegal drugs.

62. A proud member of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Saudi Arabia would continue to take all necessary steps to comply with its obligations under international instruments and agreements on human trafficking and the trade in human body parts. It would also continue to take action to prevent, investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of economic fraud and identity-related offences.

63. The Global Centre for Combating Extremist Ideology sought to combat extremism in the media and on the Internet and promote coexistence and tolerance

among peoples. Saudi Arabia, which had ratified numerous conventions to promote cooperation in the security and judicial fields, also actively encouraged the exchange of information and expertise in those areas, inter alia, by holding training courses on judicial cooperation in criminal matters for experts from the League of Arab States and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

64. **Ms. Suzuki** (Japan) said that her country would host the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2020. Participants would discuss implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals from the perspective of the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice, with a focus on Goal 16. Substantive discussions would begin in the regional group preparatory meetings in early 2019 and she urged Member States to participate in order to foster greater cohesion between the Congress and other United Nations forums.

65. To combat the increasing diversity of illegal drugs, the expansion of illicit drug trafficking and the use of the proceeds to fund organized crime, Member States must coordinate implementation of their drug control policies. A similar coordinated approach should be taken to emerging cybercrime issues, and her Government had been supporting capacity-building programmes in East Asia. Japan hoped that discussions on cybercrime would continue within the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as well as within other open-ended intergovernmental expert groups.

66. Member States should continue their collective efforts to combat corruption through existing international frameworks. In 2019, Japan would co-chair the Group of 20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, and her country was determined to make further contributions to the international fight against corruption.

67. **Mr. Mohamed** (Iraq) said that Iraq was committed to tackling organized crime in all its forms, which included countering terrorism and the terrorist groups that targeted the safety and security of civilians, particularly ISIL. Legislation to eliminate terrorism and cut off funding to terrorist groups must adhere to human rights principles, and to that end, Iraq had enacted Law No. 13 of 2005 on Counter-terrorism and Law No. 28 of 2012 on Combating Trafficking in Persons.

68. In an effort to deter corruption, Iraq had established the Commission on Integrity, which reported to the parliament. Iraq had addressed the problems posed by illicit drugs by enacting Law No. 50 of 2017, which provided medical care to drug users and addressed the trafficking of illicit substances. In an

initiative to promote tolerance and facilitate the social reintegration of criminal offenders, Iraq had enacted an amnesty law in 2016. Furthermore, Iraq had acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in 2007 and the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto in 2009.

69. Iraq wished to pay tribute to the efforts of the United Nations to combat organized crime. It would continue its efforts to prosecute perpetrators of transnational organized criminal activity and rehabilitate its victims, and shared the concerns of the international community, as expressed in paragraph 21 of the political declaration on the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, regarding the increasing links between armed groups, including terrorist groups, and trafficking in persons. Iraq appreciated, in particular, the efforts made by UNODC, which had provided technical support and capacity-building to Iraqi officials working with the country's law enforcement agencies.

70. **Mr. Castañeda Solares** (Guatemala) said that his country and region were particularly affected by human trafficking. Despite national and international efforts to prevent and combat the crime, it remained relatively easy to traffic victims across borders in the region, owing to poor border security and a lack of coordination.

71. Guatemala had made unprecedented efforts in the region to combat transnational threats and had made significant progress in the areas of transparency and efforts to counter corruption. It was implementing its third action plan as a member of the Open Government Partnership, and had fulfilled 87 per cent of the commitments made in the areas of access to public information, fiscal transparency, public participation, technological innovation and accountability. In addition, following its hard work to meet the international standards set by the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes, including ratification of the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters, Guatemala had been removed from the list of countries considered to be tax havens.

72. Guatemala supported measures for drug prevention, control and supply reduction and the treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration of drug users, to ensure that drug-related crimes did not go unpunished. At the same time, drug users should not be stigmatized. In collaboration with other countries, Guatemala had destroyed over 471 million opium poppy plants and seized 34,000 kilos of cocaine over the past

two years, while heroin seizures had been 400 per cent higher than in previous years.

73. Lastly, in a tripartite effort, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador had made significant progress in preventing and combating transnational organized crime in the subregion, including human trafficking and money-laundering.

74. **Mr. Dang Dinh Quy** (Viet Nam) said that, in recognition of the serious impact of drugs and drug-related crime on human health, social life and development, her country had joined many other Member States in signing the Global Call to Action on the World Drug Problem in September. The challenge of detecting and identifying new psychoactive substances was a major obstacle to effective treatment and law enforcement.

75. Viet Nam had implemented a comprehensive and inclusive approach to raising public awareness and mobilizing participation in drug control programmes and drug-related crime prevention. Her Government was developing its national action plan to promote justice, crime prevention and reform of the criminal justice system, improve the drug control agency system, and strengthen the investigation and prosecution of drug-related crimes. It had established a national committee on drug control and amended its penal code to apply severe punishments for drug-related crimes. In addition, it had investigated money-laundering, conducted parallel financial investigations and endeavoured to deprive criminals of the proceeds of crime through confiscation measures.

76. His country worked within ASEAN on regional approaches and with other intergovernmental organizations such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). Viet Nam continued to face many challenges and her Government appreciated the international and regional cooperation and assistance it had received in the areas of drug control and drug-related crime prevention. It remained committed to cooperating closely with the international community.

77. **Mr. Munir** (Pakistan) said that the World Drug Report 2018 had revealed some worrying trends, in particular the unprecedented expansion and diversification of the range of drugs and drug markets. Illicit cultivation and drug production in Afghanistan alone had increased considerably, which was a matter of serious concern for his country, as one of the most affected transit States.

78. In 2009, the international community had set itself a number of ambitious goals, but still had substantial ground to cover by the target date of 2019. The key to

success lay in enhancing political will and closing the gap between the goals and implementation. International cooperation must be strengthened based on the principle of common and shared responsibility and the entire chain needed attention, starting with illicit cultivation. Pakistan had a comprehensive legal, policy and administrative framework in place to contribute to combating the world drug problem. It had been a poppy-free State since 2001, and domestic drug production had been successfully reduced through strict law enforcement. As part of its commitment at the international level, Pakistan had introduced and sponsored a draft resolution on strengthening efforts to prevent drug abuse in educational settings during the sixty-first regular session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

79. **Ms. Gebrekidan** (Eritrea) said that, given the cross-boundary and amorphous nature of transnational organized crime, international cooperation was essential and the Organized Crime Convention and other instruments provided the necessary legal framework. However, criminals were one step ahead of States because of the resources at their disposal and because they were not bound by legal or moral imperatives. A review mechanism should be established to ensure that the Convention remained a relevant and effective tool in combating and eradicating transnational organized crime.

80. The crime rate in Eritrea remained below the global average, perhaps because of society's abhorrence of criminal behaviour and because of the integrated crime prevention strategy implemented by the Government since independence, which focused on improving quality of life and protecting human rights. The Government was not complacent about the low crime rate, and the maintenance of public safety and security would continue to be challenged by urbanization, advances in information and communications technologies and the proliferation of transnational organized crime in the region.

81. The Eritrean police force was undergoing a structural transformation owing to the implementation of a national strategy aimed at reducing crime and victimization, consolidating the rule of law and promoting a fair, humane and accountable criminal justice system, among other goals.

82. The Horn of Africa and the Red Sea were particularly affected by transnational organized crime, especially human trafficking and migrant smuggling. Eritrea would continue to work with countries in the region bilaterally and within the framework of regional initiatives, including the Khartoum Process and the

UNODC Regional Programme for Eastern Africa (2016–2021). As the incoming Chair of the Khartoum Process, Eritrea would aim to consolidate the gains and accelerate progress towards eradicating human trafficking from the region, in close collaboration with other member States.

83. **Mr. Locsin, Jr.** (Philippines) said that the ease with which an imperial power had defeated China in the 1800s through opium addiction had revealed the secret of empire. Drugs were clearly a more effective weapon than navies.

84. As UNODC had reported, East and Southeast Asia was a primary subregion for methamphetamine trafficking worldwide. The substance had penetrated around 60 per cent of the smallest communities in the Philippines. The previous Government had done nothing to combat it, and the current administration had been elected on a campaign promise to exterminate the drug trade. Since then, 4,000 dealers had been killed in police operations. Unaccountably, human rights groups put the figure at 22,000, but that only revealed the extent of drug abuse in the country. Tragic mistakes had been made as a result of police recklessness, as happened everywhere, and while such tragedies were inexcusable, they were no reason to end the war on drugs.

85. As at April 2018, 99,000 drug control operations had been conducted. More than 2,600 kilos of crystal meth had been seized, 192 dens and clandestine laboratories had been dismantled, 7,000 minors had been rescued and more than 600,000 drug users had turned themselves in. The international community had referred to the war on drugs as genocide. However, genocide was defined as the killing of people for their race, religion or political persuasion. The drug trade was not about race; it was a purely personal and criminal career choice.

86. A United Nations human rights rapporteur had suggested that methamphetamine was harmless, and anyone who agreed was welcome to ingest the chemical in front of television cameras. The legalization of drugs was an idiotic idea, and would simply turn the Government into the biggest drug dealer. The United States Drug Enforcement Administration had warned his country against such a prospect.

87. **Mr. Yesod** (Israel) said that a new authority had been established within the Ministry of Public Security to lead her country's combined efforts in preventing and combating crime, violence, drugs and alcohol abuse. A key element was the bottom-up approach; local and municipal authorities were perceived as key players, and the aim was to establish a continuum of prevention and

early identification at the local level, as well as treatment and reintegration services.

88. Israel was particularly concerned about the negative impact of drugs on young people. Prevention efforts, which started as early as kindergarten and continued throughout school, included life skills programmes and the promotion of healthy, drug-free lifestyles. Treatment and recovery services aimed at young people had also been developed. Outreach was a key aspect of demand reduction strategies, since young people, particularly those at high risk, did not tend to actively seek out services. In addition, a range of activities, such as workshops and lectures, targeted parents and significant adults. There was also an emphasis on recruiting and training members of the community, such as bartenders and taxi drivers, to act as gatekeepers, since they often witnessed risky behaviours first hand.

89. Proportionality was a central aspect of the Israeli criminal justice system. When appropriate, alternatives to incarceration were applied. A new reform decriminalizing the use of cannabis for first-time offenders would take effect in 2019, representing a shift from criminal enforcement to education, prevention and treatment. A complementary evidence-based plan was also being developed in parallel to the reform, and it would cover seven key areas, including public campaigns, training aids and rehabilitation programmes.

90. Services must be implemented that met the needs of vulnerable groups to ensure that no one was left behind. The combination of a top-down and bottom-up approach was vital to achieving that goal.

91. **Mr. de Souza Monteiro** (Brazil) said that transnational criminal organizations were constantly updating their strategies and the international community must improve its response. In order to combat transnational crime effectively, the underlying causes must be addressed and prevention must be at the heart of all strategies, especially those aimed at eradicating poverty, improving education and health, empowering women and girls and combating all forms of discrimination. Nevertheless, the rule of law and human rights must be respected in all law enforcement activities and proportionate sentencing was essential. His delegation wished to reiterate its condemnation of the death penalty under any circumstances.

92. His Government had put in place an ambitious plan in January 2018 to reduce violence and criminal activity. With the creation of the Ministry of Public Security, Brazil had placed public security at the top of its agenda. Brazil was also committed to fighting corruption at all levels, as shown by the high-profile

investigations and convictions of recent years, which had contributed to strengthening democracy and the rule of law.

93. Brazil was fully committed to an integrated, balanced and multidisciplinary approach to drug policy that respected human rights and emphasized health and social perspectives. It was essential to recognize that drug use was a public health issue, and that health services must be improved, health professionals must be trained, and concepts that stigmatized and marginalized drug users must be avoided. It was also important to address HIV and viral hepatitis associated with drug use.

94. Brazil continued to strengthen its efforts to combat drug trafficking and money-laundering. The strongest links of the drug market could only be reached through intelligence and enhanced inter-agency cooperation. Criminal organizations were not bound by national borders and Brazil had therefore been actively increasing its cooperation with neighbouring countries and would continue to do so.

95. **Ms. Tripathi** (India) said that India gave high priority to national drug control and had accelerated action to provide health and rehabilitation services, increase awareness in schools and colleges and apply stringent law enforcement measures against narcotics trafficking. India was also working with neighbouring countries to address the drug problem.

96. Since the adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, the four aspects of prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership had become keystones of global efforts to combat trafficking. India had adopted a multi-pronged approach, including a strong legislative framework that included a prohibition on bonded labour and measures to protect children and women from all forms of exploitation. A comprehensive framework facilitated the rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims. New legislation was being drafted to cover all aspects of trafficking in persons, including prosecution, prevention, protection of victims, witnesses and complainants and rehabilitation of victims.

97. India had zero tolerance for all criminal activities that supported terrorism. A coordinated global response was needed to address the well-documented linkages between terrorism, violent extremism, drug production and trade, human trafficking and the illegal exploitation of natural resources. In that context, her delegation welcomed the establishment of the Office of Counter Terrorism in 2017 and the first-ever United Nations High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, held in June 2018.

98. Although there was a body of international legal instruments to prevent and control transnational organized crime in specific sectors, there was still no common global strategy to curb criminal activities in cyberspace. The draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism had also seen little progress over the years. Political boundaries and bureaucracy should not be a barrier to countering criminal and terror networks that were increasingly interconnected. India supported greater international cooperation in criminal justice responses to address the challenges posed by transnational organized crime, terrorism and drugs.

99. **Mr. Sandoval Mendiola** (Mexico) said that progress with international drug policy had not been linear. Since the adoption more than fifty years previously of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the new realities of the world drug problem had required constant improvement in Member States' efforts. Mexico had recognized that an approach based on law enforcement was ineffective, and his Government supported an inclusive approach with the involvement of civil society, regional organizations, academics and the scientific community.

100. Prevention, by means of development, inclusion, education and empowerment of youth, remained an essential element in addressing the world drug problem. The special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem had changed the paradigm for the international debate, as Member States had recognized the importance of mainstreaming the public health approach, while incorporating human rights and gender perspectives, and focusing on prevention. They had emphasized the principle of shared responsibility, the need to improve access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, and they had agreed to strengthen international cooperation and multilateralism in the fight against transnational organized crime.

101. His delegation recognized the emerging challenges of synthetic drugs and other new psychoactive substance, but it was important to move from mere prohibition to effective regulation. It was also essential to take a new approach to related crimes, such as money-laundering and trafficking in small arms and light weapons and ammunition.

102. The General Assembly was the forum in which all Member States could follow the roadmap provided by the seven thematic areas of the outcome document of the special session. Coordination and dialogue should continue between UNODC, WHO, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Office of the High Commissioner for

Human Rights (OHCHR), the Statistics Division and other entities of the United Nations system.

103. Mexico had had the privilege of chairing the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in preparation for the ministerial segment of the sixty-second session of the Commission in March 2019. It was time to address the world drug problem with a realistic and effective vision.

104. With regard to crime prevention and criminal justice, Mexico would continue to promote strengthened multilateral action against corruption, illicit financial flows and the irresponsible trade and trafficking in firearms. Weapons were the main instrument of organized crime, and it was time for the international community to be more forceful and put an end to proliferation.

105. Lastly, with regard to the link between transnational organized crime and terrorism, his delegation was concerned at the construction of a narrative that overlooked the distinctions that should be made between the two phenomena and undermined the effectiveness of the institutional framework for efforts against organized crime.

106. **Mr. Gonzalez** (Colombia) said that all the efforts currently being made to implement the 2030 Agenda and address the world drug problem were complementary and mutually reinforcing and should be continued. It was also important to abide by the principles recognized by the international community, which included common and shared responsibility, multilateralism, comprehensiveness, balance, and also regional, subregional and international cooperation. The organizations involved in drug-trafficking and related crimes could only be combatted with constant and forceful efforts, through a legal framework based on security and justice.

107. In 2018, as of 19 September, the Colombian security services had eradicated 37,081 hectares of illicit crops, while a total of 26,219 hectares had been eradicated on a voluntary and assisted basis. Colombia was also continuing implementation of the national plan to promote health and prevent and address drug use for the period 2014–2021.

108. In the area of crime prevention, Colombia gave priority to combating corruption, both nationally and internationally. However, the progress made within the country would not have a real impact unless international cooperation was strengthened. Member States should implement the relevant international instruments, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and its review

mechanism, and the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and its follow-up mechanism.

109. Lastly, with regard to cybercrime, it was important to respect free access to information technologies and ensure their proper use. Such technologies could be used to support the work of law enforcement agencies and criminal justice authorities in addressing transnational organized crime. Colombia supported the important work of the United Nations in combating cybercrime and the work of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group on cybercrime, which had a workplan for the period until 2021.

110. **Ms. Simpson** (United States of America) said that the United States was acutely focused on combating the challenges posed by transnational organized crime and illicit drugs. A devastating opioid crisis was killing thousands of her country's nationals every year, and in 2017 alone the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had estimated that more than 72,000 Americans had died from drug overdoses, with than 40 per cent of those deaths involving synthetic opioids such as fentanyl.

111. The nature of the world drug problem had changed, with new substances being developed at a rate faster than national and international frameworks could respond, and traffickers had exploited the boom in global access to information and technology. Illegal drug producers exploited the perceived anonymity and convenience of the Internet and other emerging information and communications technologies to market and sell aggressively on a global scale. The illicit drug trade was highly profitable and difficult to disrupt.

112. The international community should coordinate its efforts, and she expressed appreciation to the 130 countries who had joined the Global Call to Action on the World Drug Problem. The commitment demonstrated by world leaders would surely energize the international community to take concrete action.

113. Through international cooperation, Member States could work towards building a future in which all nations could be prosperous and secure. Criminals did not respect political boundaries or legal jurisdictions, and therefore prosecutors and investigators must increasingly look outside their own borders to find evidence, witnesses and stolen assets. Fortunately, the international community already had the necessary tools in the form of international treaties and legal instruments to address those ever-changing threats.

114. The United States had leveraged the existing international frameworks to address the common threat of transnational crime. Since 2005 the United States had

relied on the Organized Crime Convention more than 650 times as a legal basis for providing or requesting mutual legal assistance, extradition and other forms of international cooperation with nearly 97 countries. It had also invested heavily in helping other States to use that treaty effectively.

115. Her delegation commended the ongoing work of the United Nations intergovernmental expert group on cybercrime. The current discussion should focus on reinforcing and not undermining or duplicating the leading role of that expert group in the United Nations system.

116. The omnibus resolution on crime prevention and criminal justice was the proper vehicle for all negotiations in the Third Committee on law enforcement and criminal justice matters. Member States should direct proposals for new language on specific forms of crime, including but not limited to cybercrime, into that omnibus resolution, to avoid unnecessary proliferation of resolutions on different types of crime.

117. Most solutions to drugs and crime would be found, not by diplomats at the United Nations, but by doctors in emergency rooms that were flooded with overdose victims; by police officials who responded to murders; by investigators who traced links between drug traffickers, money-laundering and terrorists; and by prosecutors who ensured that victims received justice. The United States was committed to making sure that they succeeded.

118. **Mr. Sukhee** (Mongolia) said that the statistics contained in the World Drug Report for 2018 were truly terrifying. Global production of opium and cocaine had never been higher, and over 450,000 people were dying every year from overdoses or drug-related health issues.

119. Thirty years had passed since the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. While progress had been made during those three decades, new challenges were emerging, and the international community needed to work together to share analysis, strengthen border patrols and target the links between drugs, corruption, arms, human trafficking and terrorist networks. For that reason, Mongolia, together with 129 other Member States, had signed the Global Call to Action on the World Drug Problem.

120. In Mongolia, where 63 per cent of the population was aged between 15 and 59 years, preventing young people from becoming a target for illegal drugs posed a real challenge. Owing to the rise in illegal trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs in his country, his Government had launched a national programme on

countering narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in 2017.

121. According to the World Drug Report 2018, South-East Asia was one of the main markets for dangerous synthetic drugs. While Mongolia was geographically in North-East Asia, its proximity to that market posed a threat. His delegation called on Member States and United Nations organizations to improve their coordination, information-sharing and capacity-building to combat the world drug problem.

122. *Mr. Molina Linares (Guatemala), Vice-Chair, took the chair.*

123. **Mr. Solari** (Peru) said that efforts to combat transnational organized crime and associated crimes were a priority for Peru. At the seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, Peru had supported the adoption of a resolution to prevent and combat that scourge. At their eighth summit, in April 2018, the Heads of State and Government of the Americas had adopted the Lima Consensus, which contained 57 measures to prevent and combat corruption, mainly by strengthening integrity and democratic governance. All States should take action to renew their political commitment and explore new and more effective ways to combat corruption.

124. Efforts to combat corruption would strengthen the institutions needed to combat transnational organized crime, and a comprehensive approach was needed, in addition to targeted action. The dangerous nexus between transnational organized crime and terrorism was present in different regions in different forms, and the international community had to develop an understanding of that nexus in order to disrupt it more effectively. Member States should also combat the use of information and communications technologies by criminal groups, while ensuring full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

125. His delegation was fully committed to the preparations for the ministerial segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to be held in Vienna in 2019. All States should renew their political commitment, in line with the goals and targets established in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action. Peru gave priority to alternative development, which between 2012 and 2016 had contributed to the eradication of more than 135,000 hectares of illicit coca crops. In all such efforts, Peru recognized the support of the United Nations system, and in particular the commendable work of UNODC.

126. **Mr. Baizhanov** (Kazakhstan) said that his country had always given priority to countering drug trafficking.

As a non-permanent member of the Security Council for 2017–2018, Kazakhstan was determined to combat the drug problem and prioritize drug control efforts in both national and foreign policies. That goal was incorporated into the long-term Kazakhstan-2050 national strategy and a number of sectoral programmes, and national drug control policies were fully consistent with United Nations conventions and resolutions. The Government of Kazakhstan aimed to harmonize its laws with other countries, especially at the regional level, and also worked closely with UNODC, INTERPOL and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol). Kazakhstan had joined the Global Call to Action on the World Drug Problem in September 2018.

127. The growing dynamics of the drug threat required greater efforts to strengthen global and regional security. It was therefore very important to ensure the sustainability of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC), located in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The Centre had already achieved significant success as the only effective information and coordination entity in the region for combating drug trafficking. It was also a unique specialized platform for multilateral interaction over the vast territory between South and South-East Asia and Europe. There was great potential for expanding its activities and strengthening coordination with UNODC, INTERPOL and others. Member States should prioritize support for the Centre, and Kazakhstan proposed a threefold strategy: strengthening the security-development nexus; adopting a regional approach; and the United Nations Delivering as One.

128. *Ms. Moreno González* (Ecuador) said that her Government was committed to achieving the 2030 Agenda, including Sustainable Development Goal 16. Democratic institutions could only be strengthened if Member States were successful in preventing crime, promoting criminal justice and international drug control and combating corruption. Transnational organized crime remained a threat to public safety and a barrier to social, economic and political development. International cooperation and the sharing of experiences was vital for preventing crime and building fairer and more efficient criminal justice systems.

129. The world drug problem was complex and dynamic, with many causes. Her country's public policies were based on full respect for human rights and focused on addressing the socioeconomic issue of drugs with a comprehensive, balanced and gender-sensitive approach that treated addiction as a health problem. Ecuador focused its coordinated programmes of information, prevention and control on vulnerable

groups, while also addressing associated activities such as drug trafficking.

130. The Government gave priority to combating corruption and strengthening transparency in public management. Ecuador had signed a memorandum of understanding with UNODC to establish a framework for cooperation to promote transparency, prevention and efforts to counter corruption. Her delegation reaffirmed the principle of common and shared responsibility, which was a fundamental element in addressing transnational crime, the world drug problem and corruption.

131. *Mr. Saikal (Afghanistan) took the chair.*

132. **Mr. Teffo** (South Africa) said that South Africa continued to implement the provisions of the three international drug conventions. The year 2019 was the target date set out in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action for States to eliminate or reduce significantly the illicit demand for and supply of drugs, and the next opportunity to build on the progress made in that area would be the high-level ministerial segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2019.

133. South Africa was working closely with partners to combat the scourge of drugs and crime that continued to undermine development, peace and human rights. New efforts were needed to better understand the challenges associated with synthetic opioids and the public health problems caused by their non-medical use in developing countries. Strategies that included science-based prevention and the provision of skills, education and opportunities for legitimate employment could help to break the cycle of vulnerability for young people. His delegation welcomed the UNODC crime prevention initiative, “Line Up, Live Up”, in which sports coaches, teachers and other stakeholders worked with at-risk youth in sports settings.

134. The international community should develop and adopt an international instrument on cybercrime, under the auspices of the United Nations. Drawing on existing relevant regional and international agreements, that instrument should cover norms, standards and agreements for good conduct in cyberrelations and on combating cybercrime. His delegation commended the work of the intergovernmental expert group on cybercrime and welcomed the adoption in April 2018 of a multi-year workplan that had extended the mandate of the group to 2021.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.