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Draft report

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Addendum

Preparations for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

1. At its 6th meeting, on 13 May, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice considered agenda item 8, entitled “Preparations for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”. The Commission had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/CN.15/2004/11);

(b) Discussion guide (A/CONF.203/PM.1);

(c) Report of the Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Eleventh Congress (A/CONF.203/RPM.1/1);

(d) Report of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Eleventh Congress (A/CONF.203/RPM.2/1);

(e) Report of the African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Eleventh Congress (A/CONF.203/RPM.3/1 and Corr.1);

(f) Report of the Western Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Eleventh Congress (A/CONF.203/RPM.4/1).

2. Following an introductory statement by the Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Commission heard



statements by the representatives of Algeria (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), the observers for Angola (on behalf of the African Group), Colombia (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States) and Ireland (on behalf of the European Union and the candidate and potential candidate States), the representatives of Canada, Egypt, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Uganda and the observer for Australia. Statements were also heard from the following institutes and non-governmental organizations: Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council and Asia Crime Prevention Foundation.

A. Deliberations

3. In his introductory statement, the Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs thanked Member States, intergovernmental organizations and other entities for their invaluable contributions to the preparations for the Eleventh Congress, which were reflected in the various related reports, including those of the four regional preparatory meetings. In stressing the crucial role of the Commission as the preparatory body of the Congress, he reported on consultations with the relevant authorities of the Government of Thailand regarding host country arrangements, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 58/138 of 22 December 2003, and on the outcome of two planning missions. He thanked the Governments of Costa Rica and Lebanon, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, for hosting and supporting the respective regional preparatory meetings. He stressed the importance of the recommendations made by those meetings, which had identified regional priority concerns in respect of the substantive agenda items before the Congress and possible measures and innovative ideas for addressing them, including proposals for follow-up action. He noted that, owing to their short duration (three days), some regional preparatory meetings were not able to make recommendations on the workshop topics.

4. Speaking on behalf of the European Union and its candidate and potential candidate countries, the observer for Ireland noted that the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice presented important opportunities to exchange views and experience and to identify emerging trends and issues. The European Union welcomed the substantive items before the Eleventh Congress, in the belief that discussion of those items at the global level would be very beneficial. The Congress would also provide a good opportunity to examine the implementation of both the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I) and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (General Assembly resolution 58/4, annex). The European Union welcomed the selection of the workshop topics and appreciated the preparations made with the assistance of the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network and a number of Governments. The observer noted with concern that there might be insufficient time for the workshops, owing to the short duration of the Congress and the large number of workshops. He recalled the provisions of General Assembly resolution 56/119 of 19 December 2001 regarding the policy-making role of the

Commission with respect to making recommendations concerning the programme of work to be included in the declaration to be adopted by the Congress.

5. Speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, the observer for Angola expressed the satisfaction of the Group with the preparations undertaken for the Congress and the outcome of the African Regional Preparatory Meeting. He noted that the Group had recommended that the African position at the Eleventh Congress be represented by the African Union. The Group welcomed the allocation of resources to enable delegates from least developed countries to participate in the Congress.

6. The observer for Colombia (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States) expressed the gratitude of the Group to the Government of Costa Rica and the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders for hosting the regional preparatory meeting, which had produced an in-depth analysis of the substantive items before the Congress and the workshops and had formulated important recommendations, which should serve as a valuable input for the declaration to be adopted by the Congress. The Group recognized the importance of the topic of urban crime and youth at risk as a workshop topic, whose discussions would contribute to a balanced and integrated approach in combating urban crime and addressing its causes. Special attention should also be devoted by the Congress to the substantive item on economic and financial crime and to the workshop on measures to combat economic crime, given the negative impact of increased money-laundering in all parts of the world, which constituted a threat to the stability of global financial and commercial markets as well as government structures.

7. The representative of Algeria (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), expressed appreciation to the Government of Thailand and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for the preparations that had been made and hoped that the results of the regional preparatory meetings would serve as a very useful basis for the deliberations and recommendations of the Congress.

8. The representative of Thailand expressed the host country's appreciation for the spirit of the international community in recognizing the significance of crime prevention and criminal justice and for the efforts and contributions made for the regional preparatory meetings. He welcomed their successful outcome, providing action-oriented recommendations and guidelines for consideration by the Congress. He stressed the appropriateness of the theme of the Congress, "Synergies and responses: strategic alliances in crime prevention and criminal justice", as well as the relevance of the substantive items and the workshop topics. He proposed that the Eleventh Congress pay special attention to developing appropriate policies and measures, including the possibility of negotiating an international legal instrument to counter cyber-crime. The delegation of Thailand gave a video presentation to the Commission on the background, objectives and preparations for the Eleventh Congress.

9. Speakers welcomed the preparations being made for the Congress and endorsed the draft programme of work contained in the report of the Secretary-General. They expressed deep appreciation to the Government of Thailand for its invaluable efforts as host country for the Congress. Appreciation was also expressed

for the important contribution being made by the institutes of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network.

10. Many speakers stressed the importance of the recommendations made by the regional preparatory meetings, especially concerning the proposals to negotiate international legal instruments to counter cyber-crime and on extradition and mutual legal assistance, as well as the need to pay attention to the theft of and trafficking in cultural property. Several speakers also emphasized the significance of the substantive items to be considered at the Eleventh Congress, in particular the item “Making standards work: fifty years of standard-setting in crime prevention and criminal justice”. Considering that it was nearly 50 years since the adoption of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners,¹ it might be appropriate for the Congress to conduct an in-depth examination of the issues related to the treatment of prisoners, including female prisoners, in the light of new developments within the criminal justice systems in the various regions of the world.

11. Several speakers suggested that the draft declaration to be adopted by the Congress should be prepared as soon as possible after the conclusion of the current session, through the intersessional meetings of the Crime Commission, taking into account the recommendations made by the regional preparatory meetings. One speaker stressed that the declaration should be comprehensive and action-oriented. Another speaker proposed that it contain a detailed plan of action.

12. The observer for the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders highlighted the importance of the workshops and the useful role that the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network had played in preparations for the workshops. He stated that his Institute would assist in the preparations for the workshop on measures to combat economic crime, including money-laundering. He apprised the Commission of the preparatory steps taken by the Institute and the Economic Crimes Bureau of Sweden, which had also expressed an interest in the preparation of that workshop.

13. The observer for the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council gave a briefing on the Council’s work, relating in particular to the ancillary meetings to be held at the Congress, which presented a unique opportunity for criminal justice professionals, academics and non-governmental organizations to share information on best practices. He stressed the importance of mobilizing the participation of criminal justice professionals at the Congress and of utilizing the opportunity it offered to enhance the fight against crime and terrorism. The observer for Penal Reform International stressed the importance of the substantive item on “Making standards work: fifty years of standard-setting in crime prevention and criminal justice” and called attention to his organization’s handbook entitled *Making standards work*, submitted to the Ninth Congress, which had been widely distributed around the world and translated into more than 25 languages. The Eleventh Congress, which coincided with 50 years of United Nations standard setting in crime prevention and criminal justice, would be an opportunity to reassess the wealth of existing United Nations standards and norms, as well as to reaffirm adherence to them by all States. He called attention to the “Charter of Fundamental

¹ *First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Geneva, 22 August-3 September 1955: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 1956.IV.4), annex I.A.

Rights of Prisoners”, recommended to the Eleventh Congress by the African Regional Preparatory Meeting (see A/CONF.203/RPM.3/1, chap. II, sect. A.5) and endorsed by the other three regional meetings. The observer for the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation recalled various initiatives undertaken by the Foundation as contributions to the Congress and expressed deep appreciation to the Government of Thailand for hosting the Eleventh Congress, which would return to the Asian region 35 years after the Fourth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders had been held in Kyoto, Japan.
