



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
16 April 2008

Original: English

[Start]

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Seventeenth session

Vienna, 14-18 April 2008

Draft report

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Addendum

World crime trends and responses: integration and coordination of efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and by Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice

1. At its 2nd, 5th and 6th meetings, on 14 and 16 April 2008, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice considered agenda item 4, which read as follows:

“World crime trends and responses: integration and coordination of efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and by Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice:

- “(a) Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in facilitating the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;
- “(b) Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in facilitating the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;
- “(c) Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in facilitating the ratification and implementation of the international instruments to prevent and combat terrorism;
- “(d) Other activities in support of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.”



2. For its consideration of agenda item 4, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2008/3-E/CN.15/2008/3);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in combating transnational organized crime and corruption (E/CN.15/2008/4);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance in implementing the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism (E/CN.15/2008/5);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening international cooperation in preventing and combating trafficking in persons and protecting victims of such trafficking (E/CN.15/2008/6);

(e) Note by the Secretariat on world crime trends and responses: integration and coordination of efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and by Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice (E/CN.15/2008/7);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network (E/CN.15/2008/8);

(g) Report of the Executive Director on international cooperation in preventing and combating international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources (E/CN.15/2008/9) and supplementary information from Member States (E/CN.15/2008/CRP.4);

(h) Report of the Executive Director on the global initiative to fight human trafficking (E/CN.15/2008/10);

(i) Report of the meeting of the Open-ended Expert Group on International Cooperation in Preventing and Combating Illicit International Trafficking in Forest Products, including Timber, Wildlife and Other Forest Biological Resources, held in Jakarta from 26 to 28 March 2008 (E/CN.15/2008/20);

(j) Report on the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking, held in Vienna from 13 to 15 February 2008 (E/CN.15/2008/CRP.2).

3. Introductory statements were made on sub-items (a), (b) and (c) by the Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs. A representative of the Secretariat gave an audio-visual presentation on the online database of competent national authorities compiled by UNODC. The Commission heard statements from the observer for Slovenia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine, as well as Iceland and Norway) and from the representatives of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Ukraine (on behalf of GUAM) and the United States of America. The observers for Algeria, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Croatia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, France,

Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Morocco, Thailand and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) also made statements. Statements were also made by the observers for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Eurojust, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation.

A. Deliberations

1. Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in facilitating the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

4. The Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs introduced the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in combating transnational organized crime and corruption (E/CN.15/2008/4), which dealt with the integration and coordination of efforts by UNODC and Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. The report contained detailed information on adherence to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,¹ as well as on progress made in improving the rate of accession to the Convention and in implementing the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime at its third session. The Director also reported on the recent inclusion in the current online database for the Convention, in order to facilitate communication, of national competent authorities, designated by Member States for the purposes of the Convention and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.²

5. The Director reported on other activities of UNODC to support Member States in the implementation of the Convention, such as the development of specialized legal tools such as manuals to combat transnational organized crime; the identification of internationally accepted good practices on witness protection; the development of an updated toolkit and advanced training manual on trafficking in persons; the drafting of a model law against trafficking in persons and the development of a series of guidelines to assist Member States in implementing the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.³ The Director also introduced the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening international cooperation in preventing and combating trafficking in persons and protecting victims of such trafficking (E/CN.15/2008/6), highlighted its main conclusions and reported on the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking, which had been held in Vienna from 13 to

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2241, No. 39574.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2326, No. 39574.

15 February 2008, and other current and planned activities under the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking.

6. The Director also gave a progress report on international cooperation in preventing and combating illicit international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources (see E/CN.15/2008/9), pursuant to resolution 16/1 of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as well as a report on the meeting of the Open-ended Expert Group on International Cooperation in Preventing and Combating Illicit International Trafficking in Forest Products, including Timber, Wildlife and Other Forest Biological Resources (see E/CN.15/2008/20), jointly organized by UNODC and the Government of Indonesia and held in Jakarta from 26 to 28 March 2008.

7. The Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs of UNODC introduced the note by the Secretariat on world crime trends and responses: integration and coordination of efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and by Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice (E/CN.15/2008/7) and informed the Commission about recent efforts on the part of the Secretariat to improve the quantity and quality of information on crime prevention and criminal justice provided by Member States. He recalled that better data to increase the knowledge base on which to build crime prevention policies had been called for in the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The main instrument for the collection of crime and criminal justice statistics, the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, had been revised with a view to increasing and facilitating the response from countries, which had resulted in an encouraging number of replies to the Tenth Survey being received early in 2008.

8. The observer for Malaysia, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and with the support of several other speakers, noted with satisfaction the new ratifications of the Organized Crime Convention and the holding of the meeting of the Open-ended Expert Group on International Cooperation in Preventing and Combating Illicit International Trafficking in Forest Products, including Timber, Wildlife and Other Forest Biological Resources, as mandated by Commission resolution 16/1, and welcomed the growing attention being paid to crimes against the environment. A number of speakers expressed regret that UNODC had not convened the expert group meeting on protection against trafficking in cultural property, as requested by Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/34 of 21 July 2004, and called on donors and UNODC to raise funds for the establishment of an expert working group on trafficking in cultural property. Speakers expressed grave concern about trafficking in cultural property, in particular in developing countries and in conflict settings. It was emphasized that countries should promote or reinforce mechanisms to strengthen cooperation and mutual assistance to fight such trafficking. One speaker highlighted the need to further examine the use of the Organized Crime Convention to break up and prosecute international smuggling operations and build the capacity of countries to address the issue within the framework of the Convention.

9. Many speakers emphasized that globalization and increased international trade were factors facilitating the illicit activities of transnational organized criminal

groups and that, in response, the international community must combine its efforts to combat such illicit activities. Several speakers called for improved international cooperation through mechanisms for mutual legal assistance, extradition, the exchange of information and review to ensure a coordinated and comprehensive approach to all aspects of international organized crime and its consequences. Some speakers also called for prompt and increased adherence to the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols,⁴ and urged UNODC to continue its commendable work of assisting States in enhancing regional and international cooperation, including mutual legal assistance.

10. A number of speakers noted that political, jurisdictional, cultural and practical obstacles to enhanced international cooperation remained and affirmed that such obstacles could be overcome through political will and effective implementation of the Organized Crime Convention.

11. Several speakers reiterated the need to strengthen the roles of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime as policymakers and governing bodies on matters regarding crime prevention and criminal justice, and to ensure close coordination between UNODC and interested parties in the design and implementation of training and cooperation at the regional level. Some speakers also affirmed that there was a need for a more comprehensive and balanced approach to preventing and combating transnational organized crime. One speaker suggested that UNODC should examine not only links among different transnational illicit activities (such as trafficking in persons, drugs and other controlled substances, arms, forest products, exotic and endangered species and luxury goods) but also emerging issues, including the use of the Internet and other technologies to commit crimes.

12. Several speakers noted the impact of transnational organized crime, in particular trafficking in persons, on economic and social development, and the fact that there were close links between human trafficking and other forms of transnational organized crime, such as terrorism, as demonstrated by the commonalities of criminal networks, routes and methods. Similarly, corruption was noted as a factor facilitating the trafficking of persons. It was also noted that the current high public profile of trafficking in persons reflected the growing dimension of the problem.

13. While supporting the increased emphasis put on the issue of trafficking in persons, the observer for Malaysia, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, expressed concern about the lack of attention being paid to the issue of trafficking in human organs and suggested convening an open-ended expert group meeting to discuss the extent of the problem and possible remedies.

14. Several speakers applauded the success of the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking, held in February 2008, noting that it had provided an environment conducive to the exchange of information, the establishment of partnerships and the development of networks. It was noted that the Forum had been instrumental in raising global awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons and had provided for the active involvement of the private sector and other new partners in the response

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

to trafficking in persons. Several speakers noted that the Forum had highlighted the need for Governments to more fully and formally involve civil society in addressing the issue of trafficking in persons. In that context, several speakers stressed the point that trafficking in persons could not be addressed by Governments alone, but required effective partnerships between Governments and civil society, in particular organizations working on the protection of vulnerable groups, including migrants.

15. While noting the positive impact of the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, one speaker pointed out that the Inter-Agency Cooperation Group against Trafficking in Persons, which was established in 2006, was overshadowed by the Global Initiative and should be utilized to the fullest extent possible. It was noted that two expert group meetings had been held by the Group, but that Member States had not been notified of them. The Group and UNODC were urged to become more active in coordinating the activities of the Group. One speaker noted the contribution to public awareness that the broad spectrum of regional meetings under the Global Initiative had provided on the many aspects of trafficking in persons. Some speakers emphasized the importance of long-term planning and funding for initiatives on trafficking in persons in order to maintain and build on the momentum generated by the Global Initiative.

16. While acknowledging the importance of the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, including the holding of the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking, the representative of Argentina, speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, underlined that initiatives of such importance should have the full participation of the competent intergovernmental organs and Member States in order to ensure that those initiatives conformed to agreed mandates. Several speakers encouraged the Secretariat to continue consultations with Member States on the conduct of the Global Initiative, including on upcoming events, in order to give Member States an opportunity to provide guidance. The observer for Malaysia, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, reminded UNODC that, in paragraph 10 of its decision 16/2, the Commission had requested UNODC to provide Member States, the Commission and the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime with all information on the proceedings of the Vienna Forum as well as on progress and future planning of the Global Initiative, and expressed regret that the information on the Vienna Forum had been presented in the form of a conference room paper rather than as a document of the seventeenth session of the Commission and was thus not available in all official languages of the United Nations. The observer for the Sudan, speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, emphasized the governing role of the Commission and requested that UNODC keep the Commission informed of all initiatives relating to the mandate of UNODC.

17. One speaker noted with appreciation the conclusions presented in the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening international cooperation in preventing and combating trafficking in persons and protecting victims of such trafficking (E/CN.15/2008/6), in particular with regard to the need to ensure protection of victims of trafficking in persons and to enhance coordination of law enforcement at the national, regional and international levels, as well as to increase research and analysis on trafficking in persons in post-conflict situations and regions that had suffered natural disasters.

18. A number of speakers called on Member States to actively participate in the forthcoming thematic debate of the General Assembly on human trafficking, to be held in June 2008. It was noted that the thematic debate would provide a good opportunity for Member States to consider developing a comprehensive United Nations strategy to combat trafficking in persons and improve the coordination of existing responses. It was further noted that such a strategy could support the implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the Convention.⁵ Subject to further consideration by Member States, the prospect was raised of holding a special session of the General Assembly on trafficking in persons.

19. One speaker, while noting with appreciation the many activities undertaken by UNODC in response to the decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, observed that the two entities needed greater coordination and dynamism and expressed the view that the recent reorganization of UNODC would contribute to that goal. He noted that it was crucial for UNODC to have an overall integrated and coordinated approach in all its activities.

20. One speaker stressed the importance of the protection and preservation of cultural property from theft and trafficking and the importance of the issue of trafficking in human organs and suggested that expert group meetings should be held to discuss those topics, with due attention being paid to the selection of experts to ensure geographical representation.

21. One speaker expressed concern at the low ratification of the Firearms Protocol and called upon UNODC to intensify its efforts in that regard.

2. Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in facilitating the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

22. The Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs, referring to the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in combating transnational organized crime and corruption (E/CN.15/2008/4), outlined the steps that had been taken to implement the resolutions of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention against Corruption at its first session and provided information on the second session of the Conference of the States Parties, held in Indonesia from 28 January to 1 February 2008. She noted that the number of States parties to the Convention had increased to 113. She briefed the meeting on the follow-up to the resolutions adopted by the Conference of the States Parties at its second session, including the development of a comprehensive self-assessment checklist in electronic form, the expansion of the voluntary pilot review programme and the launch of new activities under the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative of UNODC and the World Bank. She provided an overview of the technical assistance activities conducted by UNODC for the promotion of the ratification and implementation of the Convention.

23. Several speakers noted the negative effects of corruption, in terms of undermining economic growth, reducing investment, diverting public funds from

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

necessary spending on infrastructure and destroying public trust in state institutions, thereby undermining the rule of law, justice and security. It was emphasized that corruption was a crime that had transnational dimensions and that created social tensions. It was also highlighted that corruption impeded the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and threatened democratic rule.

24. A number of speakers emphasized the importance of modernizing national institutions in order to prevent and combat corruption, and suggested that corruption in the criminal justice system should receive special attention worldwide because it created an environment conducive to crime.

25. Many speakers welcomed the increase in the number of ratifications and accessions to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (General Assembly resolution 58/4, annex) and expressed appreciation to the Government of Indonesia for hosting the second session of the Conference of the States Parties, in January 2008. One speaker noted that the Conference was now the main body adopting decisions on implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Speakers welcomed the continuation of the work of the three open-ended intergovernmental working groups established by the Conference in the lead-up to the third session, to be held in 2009.

26. Speakers considered the self-assessment checklist to be a useful basis for information-gathering on the implementation of the Convention, and the high number of States Parties that had submitted their self-assessments using the software designed by the Secretariat to facilitate the collection of information was noted. The further development and expansion of the software was welcomed by several speakers.

27. The topic of the review of the implementation of the Convention was intensively discussed. The observer for Malaysia, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and the observer for the Sudan, speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, stressed that any review mechanism should be a subsidiary body of the Conference and meet the criteria set out in resolutions 1/1 and 2/1 of the Conference, namely, that it should be transparent, efficient, non-intrusive, inclusive and impartial and not produce any form of ranking. Its sole objective should be to assist the Conference in helping States to effectively implement the Convention. Its reports should not be disclosed until they had been considered by the Conference and should be based only on information provided by States Parties. In addition, the review mechanism should be funded from the regular budget in order to ensure the independence of its decisions. The observer for Slovenia, speaking on behalf of the European Union, emphasized that it was necessary to ensure that information gathered on the implementation of the Convention was reliable and homogeneous. Thus, the review mechanism should operate according to balanced, transparent and objective assessment criteria. The speaker suggested that the information gathered through self-assessments should be supplemented by information gathered as a result of discussions among international experts. Several speakers were of the view that the review mechanism should seek to minimize the burden on States Parties, in particular in view of their participation in other regional and sectoral review mechanisms. It was also noted that the mechanism should not undermine the universality of the Convention or discourage ratification and accession by new States. Countries should be encouraged in their implementation of the provisions of the Convention and not punished for poor performance. The importance of

involving civil society in the review process was emphasized by some speakers. Some speakers welcomed the work carried out under the pilot programme for the review of the implementation of the Convention and the expansion of the programme to other countries. The pilot programme was seen as a useful means of testing methods to review implementation of the Convention and had already yielded lessons learned in that respect.

28. It was noted that technical assistance was a cross-cutting issue and that its provision was an essential part of effective and efficient implementation. The need to provide developing countries with adequate assistance was emphasized. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, speaking on behalf of the Group of Asian States, and the observer for the Sudan, speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, noted that technical assistance should be delivered upon request and on the basis of the priorities of the recipient country, mutual benefit, respect for diversity and national sovereignty. Furthermore, no conditions should be attached and no links should be established with development assistance, and the provisions and principles of the Convention should be used as the framework for bilateral and multilateral donors to provide assistance. Several speakers indicated that sufficient and stable funding of the Conference of the States Parties and UNODC was essential to enable the two entities to promote programmes and projects.

29. Several speakers noted that their countries would benefit from technical assistance, both for the ratification of the Convention itself and for the implementation of its provisions. The observer for Slovenia, speaking on behalf of the European Union, encouraged requesting States to identify their needs, develop multi-year plans and designate focal points. One speaker referred to technical assistance as a partnership between developed and developing countries.

30. A number of speakers addressed the issue of asset recovery as a high priority for the States parties and called for the elimination of safe havens for illegally acquired funds. They urged all States to facilitate the rapid return of assets and assist requesting States in building capacity to minimize the costs of tracing, confiscating and recovering illegally acquired assets. The Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative was welcomed as a particularly useful endeavour in the field of asset recovery. The key role of UNODC in facilitating international cooperation, including through building the capacity of and training authorities, was noted. Some speakers expressed regret that the proposal submitted to the Conference of the States Parties to establish a consultative group on asset recovery had not been fully discussed at the second session of the Conference.

31. Several speakers reported on the efforts of their countries to implement the provisions of the Convention. The updating or adoption of new legislation was seen as a key initial phase in implementation, which created a solid legal framework at the national level. Some countries had developed and adopted national action plans or programmes to combat corruption, and the importance of adopting an approach that included all relevant actors at the national level was acknowledged. Speakers reported the establishment of national anti-corruption authorities and ethics committees, and emphasis was placed on the preventive role of those bodies. Capacity-building and training were considered crucial to the implementation of anti-corruption measures.

32. The importance of exchanging information, good practices and lessons learned in the implementation of anti-corruption mechanisms was emphasized. The technical assistance tools developed by UNODC and other organizations were welcomed. Several speakers reported on national and regional initiatives, in particular the seminars and workshops organized by the United Nations Interregional Crime Research Institute, the Asia and Far East Institute and the International Centre for Asset Recovery of the Basel Institute on Governance, which had provided useful platforms for the exchange of information and training.

3. Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in facilitating the ratification and implementation of the international instruments to prevent and combat terrorism

33. In her introductory statement, the Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs referred to the counter-terrorism technical assistance delivered by the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the Division and to the challenges ahead. While significant progress had been made, much work remained to be done in order to reach universal ratification and full implementation of the international legal instruments relating to terrorism. In order to meet the increasing number of requests and to enhance the delivery of assistance for strengthening the capacity of criminal justice systems, UNODC sought to draw on and build upon its in-house capacities and expertise and to enhance collaboration and coordination with other entities and organizations. She expressed profound gratitude for the support provided in that area to and the confidence entrusted in UNODC by donor and recipient countries. She assured the Commission that UNODC was committed to delivering effective assistance to Member States in compliance with its mandates, the relevant results defined in the UNODC strategy for the period 2008-2011 and result-based programme management.

34. Many speakers condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. They noted that terrorism constituted a very serious challenge to international peace and security and threatened to undermine the very values on which the United Nations was founded, including the rule of law, respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the opportunity for all to achieve social and economic development. Speakers also noted that terrorism should not be associated with any particular nationality, civilization, religion or ethnic group.

35. Several speakers underlined the importance of upholding the rule of law, respecting human rights and complying with international obligations and standards in countering terrorism. Effective counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights and the rule of law were complementary and mutually reinforcing. The importance of a criminal justice response in due conformity with the principle of the rule of law was also stressed. It was noted that counter-terrorism measures must comply with the obligations of Member States under international humanitarian law and refugee law.

36. Speakers stressed the importance of the efforts made by the international community and the United Nations to address terrorism. Several speakers referred to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (General Assembly resolution 60/288) and underlined their strong support for the review by the General Assembly of progress made in the implementation of the Strategy, to take place in September 2008. Several speakers underlined the importance of addressing the

conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and emphasized the need to promote inter-faith and inter-civilization harmony and understanding, as well as the need to address unresolved conflicts.

37. Most speakers highlighted the high value of the technical assistance delivered by the Terrorism Prevention Branch, which had become the key provider within the United Nations system of technical assistance in the legal and related aspects of counter-terrorism. Speakers expressed appreciation and strong support for the work of the Branch in assisting more than 150 States in becoming parties to and implementing the relevant universal instruments related to terrorism, including for strengthening the capacity of national criminal justice systems to apply effectively the provisions of those instruments and for reinforcing international cooperation. Some speakers made specific reference to the efforts undertaken by the Branch to make technical assistance tools accessible, including by using all the official languages of the United Nations on its website. Appreciation was also expressed for the organization by the Branch of numerous subregional and regional conferences and a workshop, including the Fourth Conference of Ministers of Justice of the French-speaking African Countries on the implementation of the international counter-terrorism instruments, organized jointly with the International Organization of the Francophonie and held in Ouagadougou in March 2007, the Ministerial Conference on International Cooperation against Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime, organized jointly with the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States and held in Santo Domingo in March 2007, and the Euro-Mediterranean workshop on the mechanisms of international cooperation in criminal matters pertaining to counter-terrorism, organized together with the European Commission and the Slovenian Presidency of the European Union, to be held in Rabat in May 2008.

38. It was underlined that universal adherence to and implementation of the universal instruments against terrorism was an essential component in the global effort to combat terrorism and that much work needed to be done to achieve universal adherence. Several speakers stressed that technical assistance needed to be sustained to ensure an effective and adequate follow-up to the initial assistance efforts undertaken and thus achieve a long-term impact. The need for specialized and systematic training for criminal justice officials was highlighted, and appreciation was expressed for the involvement of experienced prosecutors and criminal justice officials in the conduct of specialized training sessions.

39. Several speakers underlined the importance of close collaboration with the bodies established by the Security Council to counter terrorism, in particular the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate. Speakers underlined the importance of working in partnership and of enhanced cooperation and coordination, both in-house and with other regional and international organizations. One speaker said that enhanced cooperation with regional organizations should not disadvantage Member States that were not members of those organizations. Strong support was expressed for the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force in enhancing cooperation among entities of the United Nations system and other international organizations involved in the field of counter-terrorism and for the UNODC contributions to its work.

40. Several speakers noted the steps that had been taken by their Governments to ratify the existing regional and universal instruments related to terrorism and made

reference to specific measures undertaken with the support of the Terrorism Prevention Branch, including national, subregional and regional workshops that had been held to assist in the ratification and implementation of those instruments. Those speakers also referred to the process of bringing national legislation into compliance with international standards for the implementation of the ratified instruments and taking into full consideration the requirements of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001. The legislative measures adopted included the criminalization of offences, the enhancement of the capacity to prevent and prosecute terrorist acts and the introduction of specific steps to identify the financing of terrorism, including new provisions for the seizure and confiscation of funds. Other measures included the creation of specialized counter-terrorism bodies, inter-agency coordination mechanisms and capacity-building in police and intelligence agencies to respond effectively to the threat of international terrorism, as well as activities addressing the victims of terrorism and sensitization and awareness-raising activities addressing civil society, in particular young people.

41. Speakers emphasized that international cooperation, in particular extradition and mutual legal assistance, was crucial to any effort to prevent and combat terrorism. Some speakers made reference to the need to develop subregional and regional mechanisms to foster cooperation in criminal matters in the area of counter-terrorism and to the need for in-depth training in specialized areas, in particular international cooperation in criminal matters to counter terrorism. One speaker explained how the work of his organization had helped to improve coordination and cooperation among national authorities in order to render investigations and prosecutions more effective. Another speaker made reference to the work of his organization in promoting the universal legal framework against terrorism and in enhancing international cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism and to the joint activities undertaken with the Terrorism Prevention Branch.

42. Several speakers noted the links between terrorism and other forms of crime, including organized crime, drug trafficking and corruption. National, regional and international efforts and mechanisms needed to be continuously improved to effectively counter those interrelated phenomena. The increasingly complex and multifaceted nature of terrorism required integrated services that incorporated the cross-cutting aspects of drug control and the prevention of crime and terrorism to provide synergetic responses. It was noted that that also required the integration of pertinent counter-terrorism aspects into other relevant substantive areas of the mandates and work of UNODC, such as money-laundering, transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, corruption and criminal justice reform. One speaker cautioned against the growing tendency to automatically link terrorism with other types of crime as it was not sufficiently evidence-based and called on UNODC to remain focused on its mandated areas of work.

43. The need to complete work on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, including reaching agreement on a definition of terrorism, was highlighted by some speakers. One speaker stressed the need to distinguish between acts of terrorism and acts undertaken in the course of the legitimate struggle for self-determination, as recognized under international humanitarian law. It was reiterated that terrorist acts were unacceptable in all circumstances.

44. Some speakers recalled the financial and other contributions made by their countries to support the work of the Terrorism Prevention Branch. Many speakers called upon the international community and donors to provide adequate financial resources for the counter-terrorism work of UNODC, especially in view of the need to expand the scope of its activities to meet the growing number of requests from States for technical assistance, as well as the related expansion in operational activities and substantive initiatives to assist States with the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

45. In his concluding remarks, the Chief of the Terrorism Prevention Branch referred to the need for mutual understanding among Member States and the importance of interregional cooperation against terrorism. He thanked Member States for the policy guidance provided by the Commission and for the ongoing support of both recipient and donor countries for the work of the Branch. He expressed appreciation for the excellent cooperation received from other international organizations, subregional and regional organizations. He assured the meeting that the Branch would continue to undertake its work in full coordination with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate and reiterated that the Branch was closely cooperating with other UNODC entities working on related matters, including money-laundering and criminal justice reform.

4. Other activities in support of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

46. One speaker recalled the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development (A/CONF.192/2006/RC/2, annex), and the United Nations Millennium Declaration (General Assembly resolution 55/2) and referred to a national programme for crime prevention that had been established to attain the aims and goals set out in those declarations. The speaker emphasized that that programme was innovative as it went beyond traditional crime prevention and criminal justice measures and focused on addressing the root causes of violence and strengthening social cohesion by tackling such problems as urban crime, poverty and education.

47. Another speaker gave a brief presentation on the work of the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation in providing technical assistance and training to Member States in relation to the United Nations crime conventions.
