



# General Assembly

Sixty-sixth session

Official Records

Distr.: General  
14 November 2011

Original: English

---

## Third Committee

### Summary record of the 6th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 5 October 2011, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Haniff..... (Malaysia)

## Contents

Agenda item 107: Crime prevention and criminal justice\*

Agenda item 108: International drug control\*

---

\* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

---

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.



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

**Agenda item 107: Crime prevention and criminal justice** (A/66/91, A/66/92, A/66/131, A/66/303, and A/66/315 and Add.1 and Corr.1; A/C.3/66/L.2-5; E/2011/30)

**Agenda item 108: International drug control** (A/66/130 and A/66/315 and Add.1 and Corr.1)

1. **Mr. Chawla** (Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)) said that drugs, crime and in some cases terrorism had come to form an almost seamless web. The integrated response of UNODC rested on three pillars: normative work, research and analysis, and technical assistance. UNODC was the guardian of the United Nations conventions on drug control and crime, and it maintained a compendium of legal good practice and guidelines. Those activities laid the foundation for its state-of-the-art studies, surveys and reports, which were standard references in the field. Lastly, it provided support on the ground through 300 ongoing technical assistance projects, based on a cost-effective integrated approach that should allow it to move to about a dozen regional programmes and half a dozen thematic programmes.

2. However, its internal coherence stood in stark contrast with its governance and funding. Although relatively small, UNODC had five governing bodies: the General Assembly, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Conference of Parties to the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Yet an increasing share of its budget — 92 per cent in 2010-2011 — came not from those bodies but from voluntary contributions. The General Assembly provided only one tenth, and the drug and crime commissions, one twentieth. Thus, it had the funding structure of a development or specialized agency and the governance of a normative or analytical Secretariat entity. It was imperative to streamline its governance and to make its funding more predictable. The Member States must decide whether UNODC should continue to perform all three functions — normative, research/analysis and development — and adjust its funding structure and governance accordingly.

3. **Mr. Sparber** (Liechtenstein) said that the work of UNODC included building capacity to prosecute

serious crimes under international law in order to reduce the role of the International Criminal Court, in accordance with the principle of complementarity. He would be interested in the views of the Deputy Executive Director regarding how its capacity-building function could be strengthened in that area. He would also like to know the Office's plans for the 2012 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law, which would provide an opportunity for engaging discussions on that subject.

4. **Mr. Archondo** (Bolivia) drew the Committee's attention to the June 2011 *Report of the Global Commission on Drug Policy*. According to the authors, international drug policy had become a straitjacket that prevented countries from exploring alternative approaches suited to their own cultures. For example, as Bolivia had stated in its reservation to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, chewing coca leaf in its natural form was not harmful and should not be prohibited. He believed that the issues raised by the Commission had a bearing on the matter of the functions, funding and governance of UNODC.

5. **Mr. Chawla** (Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)), responding first to the representative of Bolivia, said that while the Global Commission had no connection with the United Nations, 95 per cent of the data in its report were UNODC data, and most of its arguments were UNODC arguments. The role of UNODC was not to express an opinion, but rather to provide data and evidence that would enable the Member States to decide collectively what, if any, changes should be made in the multilateral control system.

6. Responding to the representative of Liechtenstein, he thanked him for his country's important work on complementarity. UNODC looked forward to working with Liechtenstein to follow up on the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute in December and was currently organizing a follow-up on the 2010 Assembly.

7. **Mr. Tanin** (Afghanistan) said that, of the many devastating effects of years of war and insecurity, increased poppy cultivation was the most damaging. The illicit drug industry converted precious agricultural land into a catalyst for war and violence. Poppy cultivation funded regional terrorist groups and transnational mafias, and 97 per cent of the profits flowed outside Afghanistan.

8. Rather than continuing to point the finger of blame at the Afghan farmer, the international community should collaborate more closely on combating trafficking. In that connection, he welcomed the recent regional agreement to establish a joint strategic counternarcotics centre in Kabul.

9. Despite formidable challenges, Afghanistan had eradicated 65 per cent more poppy fields in 2011 than in 2010. However, as acknowledged in the Secretary-General's recent report on the situation in Afghanistan (A/66/369-S/2011/590), those fields lay in the country's most insecure provinces, and the eradication efforts had cost hundreds of police officers their lives. Afghanistan's hard-won gains were at risk without the continued partnership of the international community to address what was a trans-boundary, multifaceted issue.

10. **Mr. Kapambwe** (Zambia), speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), said that his Community was actively seeking to strengthen regional mechanisms for fighting transnational organized crime. At a May 2011 meeting of the Community's Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (SARPCCO), agreement had been reached on specific actions, including joint operations and arms marking, to combat the illicit accumulation and trafficking of firearms and explosives in Africa. Also through SARPCCO, SADC members had recently decided to prepare a regional action plan for joint operations against cross-border crimes, including cybercrime, human trafficking, drug trafficking, armed robbery, fraud, and motor vehicle and stock theft.

11. By deepening poverty in developing countries, the ongoing global economic, financial and energy crises had created a breeding ground for crime. The fast-growing crime of piracy was a particularly serious threat for SADC member States, both landlocked and coastal, which relied heavily on international seaborne trade for food stocks and economic development. A SADC summit would be held in late October to explore ways to address the problem.

12. The SADC Protocol on Combating Illicit Drugs provided a regional framework for cooperation and coordination on drug control activities, and SADC member States systematically shared information on drug abuse and trafficking. The Protocol also required SADC members to accede to the United Nations drug

control conventions, and most members were signatories and had enacted the relevant domestic legislation. However, much remained to be done in order to translate the regional and international instruments into action.

13. To fight drug abuse more effectively, the region needed adequate opportunities for training on all aspects of demand reduction, as well as adequate human and financial resources. In that connection, the April 2011 Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation on Crime Prevention and Drug Control between SADC and UNODC provided a framework for cooperation on drug abuse prevention and treatment. It also established a basis for cooperation on organized crime, illicit trafficking and criminal justice.

14. SADC supported the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report on review of management and administration in UNODC (A/66/315 and Add.1 and Corr.1). It was important for the Office to receive stable, adequate funding to enable it to carry out its core mandates, including the provision of technical assistance.

15. **Mr. Wolfe** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that high rates of crime and violence stood in the way of economic growth and social development in the Caribbean region. CARICOM recognized the fundamental need to preserve security through an integrated, multifaceted security policy and was developing its own systems to address critical issues.

16. The CARICOM Action Plan for Social Development and Crime Prevention, developed jointly with UNODC, recognized the importance of improving social and economic conditions in order to make crime less necessary for survival. It took a multisectoral, cross-disciplinary approach based on five main pillars: reducing violence, fostering social inclusion, promoting integration, empowering victims, and protecting the environment and economic resources.

17. Drug use and addiction had devastating social and economic impacts in all of the CARICOM member States, including loss of human capital, burgeoning health and security budgets, and loss of revenue from tourism. Together with organized crime, the drug trade created flows of illegal small arms and light weapons, led to corruption and money-laundering, and aggravated violence.

18. The region's location along one of the principal drug trafficking routes made it especially vulnerable to organized crime. It was also affected by emerging policy issues such as cybercrime, sexual exploitation of children and trafficking in cultural property. Given the transnational nature of its drug and crime problems, as well as the Community's limited institutional capacity and financial resources, the collaboration and assistance of its regional and international partners were crucial. It relied on agencies such as UNODC for technical and capacity-building support, and the decision to close the Caribbean office of UNODC was most unfortunate.

19. With respect to UNODC, CARICOM wished to register its strong concern regarding the Office's limited budget resources and shrinking general purpose funding, which were incompatible with its expanding programme volume. CARICOM welcomed the recommendations contained in document A/66/303, including in particular paragraph 92 (b) on improving the system of governance and financial base of UNODC.

20. **Mr. Noziri** (Tajikistan), speaking on behalf of the Commonwealth of Independent States, said that during the twenty years since the founding of the Commonwealth, there had been a strong focus on combating organized crime. The Commonwealth supported efforts by the United Nations to intensify international anti-crime cooperation on the basis of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Convention against Corruption and relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. The Commonwealth agreed upon the priorities set forth in the report of the Secretary-General on Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity, including in the fields of combating corruption, cyber-terrorism, human trafficking, illicit trafficking in weapons and piracy.

21. At the 2010 Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the following instruments had been adopted, inter alia: the Intergovernmental Programme of Joint Anti-Crime Measures 2011-2013; the Commonwealth of Independent States Member States Cooperation Programme to Combat Terrorism and Other Violent Manifestations of Extremism 2011-2013; the Commonwealth of Independent States Member States Cooperation Programme to Combat Illicit Trafficking

in Narcotics, Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors 2011-2013; the Cooperation Programme to Combat Human Trafficking 2011-2013, et al.

22. The Commonwealth regularly held joint border protection exercises, anti-poaching operations and operations to halt drug smuggling in Central Asia. The Commonwealth, the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Eurasian Group on Combating Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism participated in a joint integrated anti-narcotics operation. A special data bank to coordinate efforts to address organized crime and other dangerous crimes in the territory of the Commonwealth was operating effectively.

23. Law enforcement cooperation was also a priority area, supported by specialized scholarly institutions in the Russian Federation, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

24. **Ms. Aitomova** (Kazakhstan), speaking on behalf of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)), said that, despite the decline in Afghan heroin production noted in the *World Drug Report 2010*, it was too early to talk about a lasting change. Heroin from Afghanistan, which produced 90 per cent of global volume, remained her region's biggest threat. Every year, up to 120 tons of Afghan heroin were transported northward towards the Russian Federation, and half remained in Central Asia.

25. Multinational initiatives such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)-Russian Council and the Paris Pact initiative had contributed substantially to combating that threat; cooperation between CSTO and NATO would also be beneficial. She welcomed the growing contribution of the NATO International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and urged increased cooperation between ISAF and the Government of Afghanistan.

26. A regional, CSTO-sponsored counternarcotics operation, Operation Channel, had achieved significant results and was attracting an increasing number of participants, including Afghanistan as an observer. In addition, the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, a central coordinating mechanism for fighting transborder drug trafficking, had been strengthened in August 2011 by the CSTO decision to increase cooperation among law enforcement, border and customs authorities in member States. CSTO was also making serious efforts to build a financial "security belt" around Afghanistan in order to detect

and suppress channels for smuggling drugs and precursor chemicals.

27. Another approach to tackling the threat of Afghan heroin was to alleviate the need to produce it. It was important to encourage economic growth and political stability by involving the country in the regional economy and regional integration.

28. **Mr. Mukashev** (Kyrgyzstan) said that in order to combat organized crime, Kyrgyzstan had undertaken reforms to improve the structure, funding and logistics of its entire law enforcement system, as well as the efficiency, transparency and accessibility of its judicial system. As a result of the changes made, it had been able to arrest many members of organized criminal groups.

29. Organized crime was of particular concern for Kyrgyzstan, since it was on the south-to-north route for heroin from Afghanistan and the north-to-south route for amphetamine-type stimulants from Europe. A third of the trafficked drugs remained in Kyrgyzstan, drawing the local people into criminal activities.

30. Kyrgyzstan was working closely in its reform efforts with UNODC and cooperated actively on combating drug trafficking with CIS, CSTO, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre. It welcomed the launch by UNODC of its new Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries and stood ready to contribute to that and other international and regional initiatives.

31. **Mr. Giade** (Nigeria) said that the Government of Nigeria appreciated the enormity of the drug problem and gave it priority attention, with considerable success. Between January and July 2011, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency had arrested 3,531 suspected drug dealers and confiscated 119,464 kg of cannabis and 536 kg of other drugs, although inventive methods of concealing drugs continued to pose a challenge. It had destroyed 593 hectares of cannabis in 2010 and 365 hectares thus far in 2011.

32. Nigeria appreciated the value of offering and receiving effective collaboration. It recognized the crucial role of UNODC and would remain committed and open to all of its initiatives. It would continue to participate actively in the West Africa Joint Operations platform.

33. Nigeria's National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control was working to stem the abuse of prescription drugs, especially codeine-containing substances, by cutting some drug manufacturers' codeine allocations and collaborating with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders on drug abuse prevention campaigns. Its overall aim was to address the demand factor in drug abuse and to create awareness of the negative effects of the use of illicit and substandard drugs.

34. **Mr. Sparber** (Liechtenstein) said that the Arab Spring had forcibly reminded the international community that governance was unsustainable without a fundamental commitment to justice and the rule of law. Recent events made the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, with its focus on capacity-building in national justice systems, more relevant than ever. Post-conflict States in transition to the rule of law needed the expert assistance of UNODC, too. It was the view of Liechtenstein that, because impunity from the most serious crimes under international law — genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity — was the most striking violation of the principle of an independent judiciary, UNODC should be able to assist in strengthening the capacity of a State's criminal justice system to prosecute such crimes. He hoped that those who had previously expressed doubts as to the usefulness of such UNODC assistance might be swayed by recent events.

35. The fight against corruption would be central to strengthening good governance in post-conflict and transitional States. Liechtenstein was a signatory of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and was actively involved in a variety of international and multinational groups and programmes that targeted grand corruption. However, petty corruption was also harmful to development. The international community should take a more methodical look at the scope of petty corruption and its considerable consequences, not only in terms of financial costs but also for the enjoyment of fundamental freedoms such as the rights to non-discrimination, health and full political participation. He was therefore pleased that the Committee would finally have an opportunity to address the human rights dimension of the crime of corruption systematically in 2012 during the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

36. **Mr. Diop** (Senegal) said that drug trafficking undermined government authority and imperilled thousands of lives. It was associated with other criminal activities — money-laundering, corruption, arms trafficking, trafficking in human beings and terrorism — that nurtured transnational organized crime and helped to fund terrorism and armed conflict. Through drug addiction, it had a devastating impact on public health.

37. Africa, with its fragile developing economies, could ill afford to become a drug trafficking hub, yet the risk was real. It was necessary to grapple with the underlying causes of the continent's vulnerability. Africa needed technical assistance to build national regulation and surveillance capacity. It would welcome more initiatives like the UNODC partnership with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the United Nations Office for West Africa to support cross-border law enforcement.

38. Drug trafficking was a transnational phenomenon, and tackling it effectively required transnational action. That would mean strengthening and improving international cooperation and coordination, especially with respect to judicial and police assistance and information exchange.

39. **Ms. Rosenberg** (Israel) said that Israel's anti-drug authority and national law enforcement officials worked closely with their international and regional counterparts and the United Nations bodies to combat illegal trafficking and crime. As a signatory of all three international drug control treaties and a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, it continued to seek new opportunities for collaboration with other Member States and United Nations entities.

40. Prevention should be an integral part of any comprehensive national drug reduction strategy. Israel promoted a healthy, drug-free lifestyle as part of the school curriculum. It treated drug addiction as a chronic health disorder and offered victims of substance abuse and their families a wide array of treatment solutions tailored to meet the specific needs of various groups, including women. Israel's prevention and treatment programs, which were based on the evidence of many years of research and data collection, would benefit in the future from the high standards of data collection of its new national drug and alcohol observatory.

41. Israel's legal system emphasized treatment as an alternative to prosecution for first-time offenders. With a view to reassessing how the legal system treated cannabis use, Parliament had recently appointed an expert committee whose final recommendations would be reflected in Israeli drug policy. The medical use of cannabis was regulated by the Ministry of Health.

42. **Ms. Putanapan** (Thailand) was pleased to note that the Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, established under the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, had garnered initial pledged contributions of \$1 million. However, much greater generosity was required in view of the magnitude of the problem. UNODC could count on Thailand's full cooperation and support in preparing its biennial *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*. She looked forward to working with the Committee to identify a long-term solution for UNODC funding.

43. In new developments, Thailand had launched the Thailand Institute of Justice to provide assistance for implementing the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok rules). It would be taking concrete action to follow up on the recent ASEAN joint statement on enhancing cooperation against trafficking in persons in Southeast Asia, and it was looking forward to the report and recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons following her August visit. In March, it had ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption and, in that connection, had recently established the Thailand Anti-Corruption Agreements Coordination Center to coordinate anti-corruption matters among domestic and foreign agencies.

44. In 2011, Thailand had declared drug abuse prevention a national priority. In addition to raising awareness of the dangers of drug abuse and promoting stricter penalties for drug traffickers and corrupt officials, the Government would be working to ensure that drug addicts, including victims of HIV/AIDS, had access to treatment under universal health care. With respect to alternative development, Thailand's Mae Fah Luang Foundation continued to promote more sustainable income-generating alternatives in remote areas where narcotics cultivation was traditionally the only source of income. Her Government looked forward to cooperating with it, UNODC, the World Bank and Bank of Asia on similar projects. In addition,

Thailand and Peru would be co-hosting an international workshop and conference in Thailand on alternative development.

45. **Ms. Solórzano-Arrigada** (Nicaragua) said that the developed countries still did not attach due importance to drug trafficking and organized crime. Nicaragua, which was merely a transit country, should not be forced to divert limited resources from combating domestic problems to combating transnational crimes. She called on the international community to assume its share of the burden, on the principle of common but differentiated responsibility.

46. Nicaragua fought organized crime mostly by generating employment, educating its people and improving social conditions. While the rest of Central America was experiencing ever-accelerating violent crime, Nicaragua's sharp upsurge had quickly tapered off. It had the region's lowest homicide rate and lowest crime rate. The most effective way to eliminate drug trafficking and organized crime was to strengthen values and improve social and economic conditions.

47. **Ms. Li Xiaomei** (China) said that in combating crime and drugs, greater attention should be given to the needs and concerns of developing countries. In all countries, corruption seriously undermined social stability and sustainable development, and as the implementation review mechanism for the Convention against Corruption began its second year of work, China cherished the hope that it would yield positive results.

48. For the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols to be effective, it was imperative to preserve the paramount authority of the Conference of the Parties; to set up and improve the implementation mechanism in a prudent and objective manner consistent with the Convention and Protocols; to identify priority areas for technical assistance, and to strengthen international cooperation.

49. Cybercrime was a growing concern in the international community. In response to calls for international rules to regulate behaviour in cyberspace, China and Russia had recently submitted a potential General Assembly resolution on an international code of conduct for information security.

50. With respect to the important issue of drug control, working within the framework of the regional organizations, China provided pragmatic, multi-level

cooperation on drug control, with an emphasis on intelligence sharing, law enforcement, training and alternative development. It was willing to strengthen its cooperation with UNODC and the International Narcotics Control Bureau.

51. **Ms. Morgan** (Mexico) said that organized crime derived its strength from drug trafficking money and cross-border firearms trafficking. Agreements were urgently needed to address the challenge of drug control in all of its dimensions and to bring the political will of the international community to bear in a spirit of common but differentiated responsibility. Demand reduction was essential, particularly in the case of Mexico, which shared a border with the primary country of destination. It was also essential to break the connection between drugs and corruption. In the face of powerful drug cartels, Mexico was continuing its fight against drug trafficking through wide-ranging domestic reforms and regional initiatives.

52. **Mr. Kasap** (Ukraine) said that multilateral cooperation and national sustainable development strategies were essential to stem organized crime, corruption and human trafficking. He thanked UNODC for helping his country to develop and strengthen its law enforcement agencies and for its ongoing assistance in improving the witness protection system, which would enhance its ability to fight organized crime.

53. Ukraine's 2010-2015 drug strategy was designed to create a unified national system for combating illicit drug manufacturing, trafficking and use and for preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals. Such a strategy was crucial, since as a transit point for drugs destined for Western Europe, Ukraine had become a country of destination. International technical support, such as that of UNODC, would be important in order to build the capacity of the relevant institutions. In addition to other problems, illicit drug use had produced a surge in HIV/AIDS, which required immediate action.

54. **Ms. De** (India) said that combating illicit drugs required an integrated approach among countries, which India was pursuing through bilateral and regional arrangements. The keys to controlling illicit drugs were supply reduction, through alternative economic development, and demand reduction, through stringent legal measures and anti-drug campaigns. As one of the largest producers of licit opiates for

pharmaceutical use, India followed a balanced drug control approach that precluded the possibility of any proliferation of such opiates. On a related issue, drug control efforts were also needed to address the non-medical use of prescription drugs, which was emerging as a new health issue.

55. Terrorism had become truly global, operating across continents on a real-time basis, and required a global response. Furthermore, it must be fought on all fronts, not selectively. Recalling that the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy would not be complete without the conclusion of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, she urged the Member States to approve the draft convention during the ongoing sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

56. Together with Belarus, India had been instrumental in coordinating the adoption of the Global Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons. It had a comprehensive national legislative and policy framework in that area which, in the spirit of the Global Plan, was implemented in a holistic, participative, inclusive manner and not restricted to direct intervention against trafficking.

57. India's Criminal Code of Procedure and other laws ensured speedy justice while safeguarding the rights of its citizens. It had strong anti-money-laundering legislation and had signed several bilateral agreements with other countries to combat money-laundering, terrorism and organized crime. With respect to transnational organized crime, she called on the international community to intensify cooperation on emerging threats, such as cybercrime, economic fraud and piracy, and to explore how they might be addressed within the existing legal framework.

58. **Ms. Wong** (Malaysia) said that international cooperation on crime control must include information sharing, capacity-building, confidence building and technology transfer. In the case of transnational organized crime, it was also important for States to provide mutual legal assistance, to cooperate on freezing assets and on extradition arrangements, and to harmonize their legislation so that they could work together effectively.

59. For the Global Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons to make a genuine contribution, it must complement the framework already established by the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, its Protocols and the Conference of Parties. Stemming

trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants required concerted cooperation based on bilateral, agency-to-agency contact among all of the countries involved.

60. Malaysia was especially prone to drug-trafficking and drug abuse problems because of its proximity to the Golden Triangle, and its national anti-drug agency, established in 1997, was active in prevention, enforcement, treatment and rehabilitation. Malaysia would continue to cooperate with both international organizations and NGOs to combat illicit trafficking.

*The meeting rose at 12:50 p.m.*