



Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

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Addendum

III. General discussion

1. At its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 18 and 19 October 2010, the Conference took up agenda item 1 (f), entitled “General discussion”.
2. The sub-item had been included in the agenda to allow time for statements to be made on matters of a general nature that were related to the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto and that might be of interest to the Conference. Based on the experience gained at past sessions of the Conference, the extended Bureau had decided that the organization of a general discussion would offer participants an opportunity to express their views in general terms in the plenary, while allowing more focused and interactive exchanges to take place under the substantive items of the agenda.
3. The Conference heard statements by the representatives of Algeria (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Sudan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the African Group) and Sri Lanka (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Asian Group). Statements were also made by the representatives of Austria, the United States of America, Canada, Ecuador, Liechtenstein, Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Yemen, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Mongolia, the Philippines, South Africa, Switzerland, Argentina, Belarus, Morocco, China, Kenya, Guatemala, Oman, Armenia, Norway, Israel, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Costa Rica, Peru, Panama and Egypt.
4. The Conference also heard statements by the observers for the following signatory States: Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Republic of Korea and Viet Nam.



5. The Conference also heard a joint statement by non-governmental organizations.

Deliberations

6. Speakers underlined the importance of the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols, stressed the need for universal ratification of those instruments and recalled the importance of international cooperation and technical assistance for such implementation.

7. Several speakers reported on achievements made by their Governments in implementing the provisions of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, including progress made in bringing national legislation in line with the requirements of the Convention and measures taken to enhance effective coordination at the national level and cooperation with other countries in combating transnational organized crime.

8. Several speakers noted that one country alone could not tackle the threat of transnational organized crime and highlighted that improved international cooperation was key to effectively countering such criminal activities. Speakers noted that international instruments dealing with organized crime, corruption and terrorism contained provisions on exchange of information, data collection, mutual legal assistance and extradition and that efforts should be better coordinated in order to fully implement those provisions.

9. Speakers stressed the importance of the technical assistance provided by UNODC to requesting States in order to assist them in meeting their obligations under the Convention and its Protocols and reaffirmed that technical assistance should be delivered on the basis of needs and priorities. Some speakers also noted that the Open-ended Interim Working Group on Technical Assistance was an essential component of the Conference.

10. Most speakers emphasized that organized crime was becoming increasingly varied and interconnected, and underlined the applicability of the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols to both traditional and new forms of transnational organized crime.

11. Some speakers stressed the need to fulfil the potential of the Convention before exploring the creation of supplementary protocols to address emerging forms of organized crime, while other speakers highlighted the need to create new instruments to deal with new threats, particularly those posed by cybercrime and trafficking in cultural property.

12. Many speakers welcomed the outcomes of the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the nineteenth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, particularly with regard to the establishment of an open-ended intergovernmental expert group on cybercrime and the recommendations made by the open-ended intergovernmental expert group on protection against trafficking in cultural property.

13. Many speakers noted with concern the lack of consistent and predictable funding available to UNODC and underlined the need to increase regular budget funding for core activities.

14. Many speakers welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,¹ which was viewed as an important step in combating that particularly serious form of organized crime. In particular, speakers noted the importance of the establishment of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, to provide adequate financial, social and other support to victims of trafficking in persons.

15. Several speakers expressed their strong support for Conference decision 4/5, in which States parties were urged to consider the advisability of establishing an open-ended intergovernmental working group on the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.² In addition, speakers called upon States parties to collaborate towards that end.

16. Some speakers reported having taken steps to bring their national legislation into conformity with the requirements of 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

17. A number of speakers welcomed the progress made by UNODC in developing a comprehensive self-assessment software (“the omnibus survey software”) to facilitate data collection and dissemination, assist countries in monitoring progress made in the implementation of the Convention and help States better identify their technical assistance needs in that regard.

18. Many speakers urged the Conference to move quickly to establish a formal mechanism to review the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, particularly in light of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention. Many speakers stressed that a formal review mechanism reflecting all aspects of the instruments would help to identify common and individual challenges, offer solutions for greater implementation and provide an opportunity to identify needs for technical assistance. Some speakers suggested that the recently adopted mechanism for the review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption⁴ could serve as a basis for further deliberations on that issue.

¹ General Assembly resolution 64/293.

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

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 2326, No. 39574.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.