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Draft report

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Addendum

World crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice

1. At its 7th and 8th meetings, on 14 April 2011, the Commission considered agenda item 6, entitled “World crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice”.
2. For its consideration of item 6, 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.7/2011/3-E/CN.15/2011/3);
 - (b) Note by the Secretariat on world crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice (E/CN.15/2011/10);
 - (c) Note by the Secretariat on civilian private security services: their oversight and their role in and contribution to crime prevention and community safety (E/CN.15/2011/14);
 - (d) Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in the prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of economic fraud and identity-related crime (E/CN.15/2011/16);
 - (e) Report of the Secretary-General on improving the collection, reporting and analysis of data to enhance knowledge on trends in specific areas of crime (E/CN.15/2011/17);
 - (f) Note by the Secretariat containing the report of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group on the comprehensive study of the problem of

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cybercrime and responses to it by Member States, the international community and the private sector (E/CN.15/2011/19);

(g) Report on the outcome of the planning meeting held in Abu Dhabi on 10 and 11 May 2010 for an expert group to study the role of civilian private security services, their oversight and their contribution to crime prevention and community safety (E/CN.15/2011/CRP.2);

(h) Report on the meeting of the core group of experts on identity-related crime held in Vienna from 6 to 8 December 2010 (E/CN.15/2011/CRP.3);

(i) Updates to the report of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute entitled *Counterfeiting: A Global Spread, A Global Threat* (E/CN.15/2011/CRP.4).

3. Introductory statements were made by the Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Treaty Affairs and Chief of the Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch and by another representative of the Secretariat. Introductory statements were also made by the observer for South Africa in his capacity as chair of the open-ended intergovernmental working group to conduct a comprehensive study on the problem of cybercrime, and by the representative of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, pursuant to Commission decision 19/1. The Commission heard statements by the representatives of Canada, the United States, Germany, Mexico, Argentina and Iran (Islamic Republic of). Statements were also made by the observers for Italy, South Africa, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), the United Arab Emirates, Colombia and Zimbabwe.

A. Deliberations

4. The efforts of the Secretariat to collect comparable information on crime and criminal justice statistics and to offer related technical support to Member States were welcomed. Official administrative statistics and data from crime victimization surveys offered important complementary information on the nature and extent of crime. Recent efforts to improve the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, in line with the recommendations of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group established by Council resolution 2009/25, were also noted.

5. It was noted that the Commission represented a key forum for the identification of new forms of crime with a view to developing effective policies. It was observed that there was a need to further develop information and data on new, emerging and evolving forms of crime, including cybercrime, maritime piracy, economic fraud, illicit mining and trafficking in precious metals, identity-related crime, transnational organized crime in the fishing industry, environmental crime and the counterfeiting of goods and products. Longitudinal assessments of specific types of crime were highlighted as important, and the initiative of UNODC to collect and analyse high-frequency data on crime and underlying economic and development-related factors was welcomed. Member States were urged to report information on crime trends to UNODC in a timely manner and on an ongoing basis. It was stated that, in preparing reports, the Secretariat should utilize data

obtained from authorized sources of Member States, consulting them where appropriate, in order to avoid the presentation of inaccurate information.

6. Reference was made to the role of private security services in crime prevention and their contribution to the development of related strategies in national settings. It was noted that the exercise of police powers remained the prerogative of the State.

7. It was noted that a comprehensive response to cybercrime might have to include a range of elements, including criminal law, technical assistance and other measures that would link cybercrime to a broader context of development and the use of information and communications technologies in general. The issue of the timing of the provision of technical assistance in relation to the comprehensive study was also raised.

8. Speakers outlined their national efforts to address the issues of cybercrime and cybersecurity and stressed that the unique needs of developing countries should be addressed. It was suggested that the Secretariat should endeavour to schedule meetings of the expert group to conduct a comprehensive study of cybercrime and of the core group of experts on identity-related crime consecutively.

9. The illegal trafficking of counterfeit products and crimes that had a negative impact on the environment were seen as emerging phenomena with a transnational organized crime dimension that merited increased attention by the Commission.

10. Speakers referred to economic fraud and identity-related crime and their increase over the past few years as a result of, among other things, the spread of information and communications technologies. The United Nations study on fraud and the criminal misuse and falsification of identity,¹ submitted to the Commission at its sixteenth session, had provided a baseline assessment for more concrete work at both the national and international levels. Reference was made to the work of the core group of experts on identity-related crime, which was established by UNODC to develop strategies, facilitate further research and agree on practical action.

¹ E/CN.15/2007/8 and Add.1-3.