



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

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Addendum

II. General discussion

1. At its 1st to 4th meetings, on 15 and 16 October 2012, the Conference took up agenda item 1 (f), entitled “Organizational matters: general discussion”.
2. The Conference heard statements by the representatives of the Russian Federation, Namibia, the United States, Spain, Australia, China, France, the Philippines, Finland, Qatar, Turkey, Egypt, Colombia, Belarus, El Salvador, Belgium, Morocco, Viet Nam, Cuba, Canada, Algeria, Norway, Costa Rica, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Ecuador, South Africa, the Holy See and Benin.
3. The Conference also heard statements by the observers for the following signatory States: Thailand, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan and Republic of Korea.
4. The observer for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean made a statement.
5. Statements were also made by the observers of the following non-governmental organizations: Forum for Women and Development, Coalition against Trafficking in Women, Mediterranean Network against Trafficking in Women, Global Alliance against Traffic in Women and Transparency International.

Deliberations

6. Several speakers acknowledged the increasing sophistication of transnational organized crime and its negative impact on the rule of law, peace, security and development. Many speakers emphasized the impact of organized crime on individuals, their families and communities and noted that the profits generated by criminal organizations were comparable to the budgets of some States. Some



speakers referred to the collusion between organized crime and terrorism, mentioning the situation in the Sahel region.

7. Speakers stressed that no safe haven should be afforded to criminals and that the Convention served as the main legal instrument in the fight against transnational organized crime by providing a flexible framework for international and regional cooperation. Many speakers underlined their readiness to use the Convention as a legal basis for extradition and mutual legal assistance. Several speakers also indicated that the Convention was a sound basis for countering different types of organized crime, including its new forms and dimensions, such as cybercrime and trafficking in cultural property. The coordinated involvement of relevant practitioners and the use of innovative technological tools in the fight against transnational organized crime were also noted.

8. It was emphasized that the Conference was the main forum for assessing progress and discussing strategy and direction. The Conference also provided States with the opportunity to benefit from a wide range of best practices and to adapt their national policies and strategies accordingly. Most speakers outlined their national legislative and institutional frameworks and called for regular reviews and updates of domestic legislation in order to adapt to the ever-changing forms and dimensions of organized crime. In addition, several speakers emphasized the need for evidence-based policy formulation and awareness-raising of various forms and dimensions of organized crime.

9. Most speakers highlighted the importance of adopting a mechanism to review implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto. Such a mechanism would be instrumental in advancing implementation and promoting regional and international cooperation, as well as identifying needs and providing technical assistance, upon request from States.
