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Chairman: Mr. Butagira (Uganda)
later: Ms. Carvalho (Vice-Chairman). (Portugal)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 106: Crime prevention and criminal justice (A/60/123, A/60/131, A/60/157, A/60/164, A/60/172, A/60/403-S/2005/621 and A/60/405-S/2005/623)

Agenda item 107: International drug control (A/60/129, A/60/130, A/60/336, A/60/403-S/2005/621 and A/60/405-S/2005/623)

1. **Mr. Costa** (Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)), introducing agenda items 106 and 107, explained that the mandate of UNODC required it to prevent and contain the human and social costs of drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism by means of a comprehensive and balanced approach. His Office regarded crime as both the cause and consequence of poverty, insecurity and underdevelopment and therefore, while fighting crime, it sought to work synergistically with development institutions. UNODC had achieved substantial progress in that regard since 2002, when it had set out to recast drug and crime policies into a broader development mould, based on the promotion of justice and good governance, while grouping drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism under a single operational umbrella. Illicit drug trends were to some extent determined by supply and demand, but drug cultivation was also about poverty, just as drug abuse was also about HIV/AIDS. Rural development was then an antidote to drug cultivation, and drug prevention an important means of containing HIV/AIDS. That analysis could be extended to other fields, including human trafficking, where, while the perpetrators must be punished, there was also a need to tackle its root causes.

2. UNODC had in the previous two years been addressing drug prevention and crime control issues in ways that cut across its own internal jurisdictions and had just recently gone one step further, by promoting initiatives that cut across the portfolios of many other United Nations agencies and national organizations, the aim being to develop a global alliance towards the common goal of fighting crime, preventing terrorism and promoting justice for all.

3. Besides striving to secure the translation into domestic policies of the three United Nations conventions on drugs, UNODC was also the custodian

of five important recent instruments against crime, the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three protocols, and the Convention against Corruption. The last-mentioned instrument, which would enter into force on 14 December 2005, represented a real breakthrough in that it offered for the first time a mechanism for the return from one country to another of plundered wealth, which could mean an unexpected infusion of funds for development. The agreement so swiftly reached on those instruments reflected the new awareness that money-laundering, corruption and terrorism had an international dimension and an impact on peace, security and development.

4. After welcoming the encouragement given to UNODC by the Secretary-General and his High-level Panel and by the 2005 World Summit, he described its action in various areas. It had recently issued a report on crime and development in Africa, which provided evidence that Colombian cocaine and Afghan heroin was trans-shipped through the continent to avoid detection and showed that Africa was also the target of criminal gangs that frequently exploited post-conflict situations, increasing the risk of conventional crime and urban violence. Moreover, the inadequacy of Africa's police force and judicial systems was in itself an enticement to crime.

5. In that context, he expressed appreciation to Nigeria's President Obasanjo who had given strong support to a UNODC initiative, funded by a \$32 million grant from the European Union, to fight corruption and financial crime in Nigeria. Indeed, because of crime and corruption, that country was marked by the highest rate of capital flight in the world. If there were no change, it was unrealistic to expect development aid to reach its intended beneficiaries intact. UNODC had accordingly developed, in partnership with African experts, a programme of action to deliver assistance in strengthening the rule of law in African countries. It remained for African Governments and interested institutions to integrate elements of that programme into their national development strategies, and for funding partners to earmark official development assistance for projects to strengthen the rule of law throughout the continent.

6. Other continents were equally affected by drugs, crime and corruption. Colombia, which suffered greatly from the evil alliance between drug traffickers

and guerrillas, had worked aggressively to counter drug production and insurgency by combining interdiction efforts with sustainable livelihood schemes. While, however, the most recent UNODC survey indicated a 50 per cent decline in coca cultivation in that country since 2000, Colombia continued to be the world's leading producer of coca, accounting for more than half the global supply. Neighbouring countries were also affected, as were countries in the Caribbean and Central America, caught in the nexus between crime, corruption, money-laundering and drug trafficking. The scope, nature and complexity of the problems demanded increased support from the international community.

7. Another significant challenge was Afghanistan, in terms of both counter-narcotic activities and alleviating the suffering of a population emerging from a quarter century of war. While the most recent UNODC survey showed a 21 per cent decline in opium cultivation there, in some areas it had increased owing to corruption. He stressed that one of the most important lessons to come out of Afghanistan in 2005 was that, in every region where cultivation had declined significantly, alternative development had been available. Again, a balanced, comprehensive approach was the key, with the international community being willing to address the problem simultaneously on a number of different fronts. He referred in that connection to the need to strengthen border security and law enforcement in the countries lying between drug-producing regions and the major drug hubs, in Europe and Russia. The Paris Pact, an initiative to that end, having already borne fruit, he expressed the hope that it would soon be broadened to combat terrorist financing, money-laundering, crime and corruption even more strenuously in the countries concerned.

8. UNODC would be developing in the coming period a sharper focus on specific regions. Its report on Africa would thus be followed by a similar study for the Caribbean and Central America, and later perhaps Asia. It also planned to release the first report on trafficking in persons in the near future. While its field operations would continue to address the same key areas as previously, it would be endeavouring to develop a stronger partnership with the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations in order to build links between peacekeeping and the restoration of the rule of law in post-conflict situations. UNODC could not succeed, however, unless its efforts were

better aligned with the needs of assisted countries, as well as with the visions of international lenders and donors. In that spirit, he asked developed countries to give serious thought to doubling the proportion of resources allocated to criminal justice projects in their development assistance, so that justice systems in developing countries could be of the same standard as in rich countries and thereby contribute significantly to the fight against drug trafficking, crime, corruption and terrorism.

9. **Mr. Bâzel** (Afghanistan) stressed that the positive developments in Afghanistan had been achieved thanks to Government efforts combined with the self-restraint of cultivators of opium, resulting in the 21 per cent decline in cultivation already mentioned. Stressing the importance of shared responsibility, he said that, in order to sustain that trend, Afghanistan needed the assistance of the international community, particularly for the poorest segments of the population which had suffered the ravages of a quarter century of conflict. Alternative livelihoods had to be found to replace opium cultivation, while there had to be a reduction in the demand of consuming countries.

10. **Mr. García González** (El Salvador), referring to the problem of juvenile gangs in Mexico and countries of Central America, with links to drug trafficking and money-laundering activities, asked what possibility there might be of strengthening technical cooperation with the countries concerned in order to tackle that problem. He also wondered if there was any prospect of studies being sponsored to evaluate the impact of juvenile gangs on efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

11. **Mr. Al-Enezi** (Kuwait) raised the question of transit countries for drug trafficking, especially in the Middle East, where millions of dollars changed hands in that connection. What measures were being taken or envisaged to address that issue?

12. **Ms. García-Matos** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), referring to the links between the drug trade and organized crime, asked for fuller information about assistance to countries adjacent to Colombia in developing policies to fight drug trafficking and money-laundering.

13. **Mr. Costa** (Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime), replying to Committee members' questions, reaffirmed UNODC

support for the policies being carried out by the Afghan Government.

14. Replying to the representative of El Salvador, he said that the impact of violence and trafficking in people and arms in Central America and the Caribbean had perhaps not been fully appreciated and now required urgent attention. In cooperation with the World Bank, UNODC would replicate in the Caribbean and Central American region the activities it was currently carrying out in Africa. A preliminary study for launching a development-based programme in the region would be carried out in spring or summer 2006. The study would take into account the tragic phenomenon of juvenile gangs.

15. As for the impact of Afghan drug exports on transit countries, according to a survey by his Office that would soon be released, drug cultivation along the south-eastern border of Afghanistan had shifted to the north-western provinces, and opium and an even larger volume of heroin traffic had been re-routed as a result. Thus, trafficking through Pakistan had declined from 37 per cent in 2004 to 20 per cent in 2005, and through the Central Asian republics, from 24 to 19 per cent, but it had jumped from 40 to 61 per cent through the Islamic Republic of Iran. From there, it was increasingly finding its way into the Gulf Cooperation Council countries about which the Kuwaiti representative had expressed concern (Qatar, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and, to some extent, Saudi Arabia) before heading for Africa and its final destination, Europe, which consumed about three fourths of Afghan opium.

16. He acknowledged that cocaine en route from Colombia to North America caused havoc in transit countries, a matter which his Office was investigating. UNODC accorded priority to addressing the counterflow of precursors used to transform coca paste into cocaine hydrochloride and was grateful to the Government of Venezuela for its efforts to curb the trafficking of cocaine out of Colombia and of precursors into Colombia.

17. **Ms. Sonaike** (Nigeria) said that the fight against crime was complicated by the fact that Africa was also facing development issues. Nigeria called upon the international community to support the outcome of the round table meeting on "Crime and drugs as impediments to security and development in Africa: strengthening the rule of law" held in Abuja, Nigeria.

18. **Ms. Holguín Cuéllar** (Colombia) said that the situation in Colombia was particularly difficult because illegal armed groups had joined forces with the drug traffickers. Despite that complication, the Government had managed to substantially reduce the number of hectares devoted to coca farming and had introduced a programme to provide the affected families with alternative crop projects. However, rising demand in consumer countries was a further complicating factor.

19. **Mr. Hussain** (Pakistan) wished to know what criteria had been used in estimating the transit trade from Afghanistan to other countries. If the figures were correct, Pakistan wondered why the efforts to curb the transit trade were not succeeding.

20. **Ms. Feller** (Mexico) said that her delegation wished to receive additional information on UNODC programmes and policies with respect to UNODC transit countries.

21. **Mr. Gzllal** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) wished to know what action UNODC was taking in North Africa, given that it was a transit and stockpiling region.

22. **Mr. Costa** (Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) said that the Colombian Government had managed to reduce coca cultivation by 50 per cent in three years, with the assistance of the international community. However, he agreed with the representatives of Colombia and Afghanistan that it was necessary to reduce demand as well as supply and that the consuming nations should increase their efforts in that respect.

23. With regard to the comments of the representative of Pakistan concerning UNODC estimates of cultivation and trafficking, he pointed out that UNODC was currently monitoring cultivation in approximately one dozen countries around the world. During the fall, UNODC technicians visited farmers in thousands of villages to learn whether or not they intended to grow opium; in the winter, hundreds of satellite pictures were taken to verify the severity of the problem; during the spring months, the technicians returned to the field to verify the accuracy of the satellite readings. The margin of error stood at approximately 8 per cent. As for trafficking, the figures were derived from assessments by national intelligence agencies.

24. Regarding the question from Mexico, he suggested the possibility of establishing an arrangement for the purpose of monitoring trafficking

out of Colombia through Central America and the Caribbean. The document which UNODC was to produce in the next few months could serve as a basis for the project.

25. In response to the question from Libya regarding UNODC activities in North Africa, UNODC had six offices in Africa, including one in Cairo. Projects included the monitoring of cannabis cultivation in Morocco; finding alternative activities for cannabis farmers; monitoring the impact of cannabis trafficking out of North Africa into Europe; HIV/AIDS; corruption; and the trafficking of Afghan heroin. It was hoped that Governments in the region would contribute resources and technical assistance so that UNODC would be able to increase its activities.

26. **Mr. Thomson** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries (Bulgaria and Romania), the candidate countries (Croatia and Turkey), the stabilization and association process countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), and, in addition, Norway, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that it was vital to tackle the underlying causes of crime as well as the problem of crime itself. The European Union fully supported the work of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, as international cooperation played a key role in building the necessary capacity to tackle crime. Effective international measures were also essential to counter organized criminal networks, which were becoming increasingly sophisticated.

27. The European Union welcomed the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and noted that its three Protocols had also entered into force. It called upon all States that had not yet done so to ratify or accede to and implement the Convention and its Protocols at the earliest possible date. The smuggling of migrants and the trafficking of human beings for prostitution and labour exploitation were two areas of growing concern. The European Union was currently developing an action plan to combat human trafficking which would provide a balanced and coherent framework to support law enforcement and protect the victims of trafficking.

28. Recognizing that corruption was an obstacle to sustainable development and that organized crime and terrorism largely depended on corrupt practices and

networks, the European Union welcomed the signing of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and looked forward to its entry into force later in the year. The European Union was also aware of the need for effective international cooperation in the fight against terrorism and continued to support the valuable work of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC in its efforts to facilitate implementation of the 13 United Nations conventions and protocols on terrorism.

29. The European Union was alarmed at the drastic rise in the use of drugs and at the incidence of HIV/AIDS among drug users. Given the global nature of the problem, it was vital to find an effective response based on shared responsibility. In 2004, the European Council had endorsed the European Union Drug Strategy (2005-2012), which concentrated on the reduction of both supply and demand and on international cooperation, research and evaluation. In June 2005, the European Union had adopted an action plan on drugs for 2005-2008, through which to implement the Strategy.

30. In conclusion, the European Union wished to stress its commitment to the international fight against drug trafficking and transnational organized crime as well as its strong support for the work of UNODC. The European Union considered that greater coordination between the different areas of activity was needed to achieve maximum efficiency from existing structures and suggested that the international community should begin to reflect on how to improve its strategy against drugs in the run-up to the next special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to the world drug problem in 2008.

31. **Mr. Kapoma** (Zambia), speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), said that the increasing sophistication and diversification of organized criminal activities posed a serious challenge to the international community. SADC noted with appreciation the contributions made by the United Nations congresses in that they facilitated the exchange of views and recommended policy options at national, subregional and international levels. SADC particularly welcomed the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and took note of its adopted declaration.

32. The entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and

the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition was warmly welcomed by SADC and the African region in general, given that poor communities, especially those in countries in conflict or post-conflict situations, were particularly vulnerable to human trafficking and smuggling. SADC had its own protocol on the control of firearms and was ready to cooperate with the international community by sharing information and best practices. It attached great importance to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and had held various workshops and seminars to try to sensitize Member States and encourage them to ratify the Convention without delay.

33. SADC wished to emphasize the need to strengthen international cooperation to help developing countries implement the Conventions and called on the donor community and financial institutions to continue making voluntary contributions for the provision of technical assistance.

34. With respect to the world drug problem, SADC noted with satisfaction that international cooperation continued to strengthen and that considerable progress had been made in achieving the goals set for 2008 by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session. To help reduce drug abuse and trafficking, SADC had developed a strategy framework on drugs which promoted the gathering and sharing of information on the drug situation within and among each SADC member State. Other programmes included community-based prevention initiatives, increased awareness campaigns and support for law enforcement officers. SADC welcomed the round table meeting entitled "Crime and drugs as impediments to security and development in Africa: strengthening the rule of law" and commended UNODC for cooperating on the implementation of technical assistance projects in Africa. SADC was also pleased that UNODC had widened its network by establishing field offices on the continent.

35. Training, dissemination of information and the provision of advisory services were fundamental elements of the fight against drugs and crime. The Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had reaffirmed that the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders should be the regional coordinating mechanism for specialized training programmes for African law enforcement officers.

SADC felt that, if it received greater financial aid from the international community, the Institute would be able to assist Member States in the implementation of crime prevention programmes.

36. In the face of increasing global challenges posed by all forms of crime and the interconnected nature of criminal activities, the importance of international cooperation could not be overstated. That imperative was clearly highlighted in the report of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change entitled "A more secure world: our shared responsibilities" (A/59/565) and in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all" (A/59/2005). SADC wished to reaffirm its commitment to crime prevention, criminal justice and drug control and would continue to support the international community in its efforts to find durable solutions.

37. **Mr. Hussain** (Pakistan) urged Member States to take very seriously their obligations under the Bangkok Declaration on Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. In addition to complying with their treaty obligations, Member States must strengthen partnerships against terrorism, drugs, organized crime and corruption. He called for further action in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and greater efforts to reduce poverty, which fuelled crime.

38. In the past five years, Pakistan had taken a number of important steps to strengthen its criminal justice apparatus. It intended to ratify the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in the near future. It had set up a special unit in its Federal Investigation Agency to counter trafficking in persons. A new unit to deal with cybercrime had also been established. The National Accountability Bureau had achieved significant success in curbing high-level corruption and had recovered billions of rupees in illegally obtained money. The Bureau had organized an Integrity Retreat to sensitize Government ministers and high-level officials to the negative social and economic impact of corruption. In collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, it had launched an Access to Justice Programme designed to reform the criminal justice, prosecutorial, judicial and prison systems and to make the police force more accountable and responsive. Its reform agenda placed special emphasis on strengthening regional and international cooperation in matters of mutual legal assistance.

39. Multipronged strategies, at both the national and international levels, to address the world drug problem must include illicit crop eradication and alternative development programmes in producer countries as well as measures to prevent, monitor, control and punish money-laundering, the financing of terrorist acts and transnational organized crime. The negative impact of the drug problem on long-term socio-economic development and social issues, such as the HIV/AIDS pandemic, should also be monitored. Through bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements and arrangements, the international community must provide financial, legal and technical support to national efforts to reduce demand, eliminate psychotropic substances and precursors, and exchange information on money-laundering. Such programmes should also include assistance to transit countries.

40. Thanks to its Anti-Narcotics Force, Pakistan was a poppy-free country. The Force had intercepted tons of heroin and other drugs bound for Europe and North America. Pakistan had played a leading role in sensitizing the international community to the drug problem in its region and had bolstered international efforts to stop the outflow of drugs and the inflow of precursor chemicals in that part of the world. At home, its illicit crop cultivation had been eliminated through a combination of law enforcement and alternative development initiatives.

41. Referring to the discussion of terrorism at the 2005 World Summit, he said that the Secretary-General's global strategy against terrorism formed a sound basis for future discussions. Pakistan had made significant contributions to fighting international terrorism but, at the same time, believed that that mission should not become a pretext for oppression, occupation and injustice.

42. **Mr. Xie Bohua** (China) said that in recent years China had made great efforts to improve its domestic criminal justice system, enhance the effectiveness of its law enforcement mechanisms and strengthen international cooperation. Anti-money-laundering legislation was currently being drafted; law enforcement agencies were targeting organized crime, smuggling, economic crimes and gangs; and fighting crime was a top priority of its anti-corruption agencies. As for international cooperation, China had signed 71 mutual legal assistance treaties or protocols with 47 countries, mainly relating to assistance in criminal justice matters. It had concluded extradition treaties

with 23 countries and cooperated with a number of countries on the transfer of convicted criminals. China had ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its National People's Congress was completing the necessary formalities for ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. His Government hoped to set up exchange and consultation mechanisms with other countries in order to enhance international cooperation in the field of justice.

43. For historical reasons, his Government was attuned to the dangers of drugs and had long taken a comprehensive approach towards drug control that involved various government agencies and all of Chinese society. China was drafting a drug control law and, in recent years, had made remarkable progress in drug control enforcement and demand reduction. In 2004 alone, China had dealt with 98,000 drug-related crimes and seized 10.83 tonnes of heroin, 2.75 tonnes of methamphetamine, 3 million ecstasy tablets and 160 tonnes of precursor chemicals. It had also prevented 3,500 tonnes of various types of precursor chemicals from being exported illegally.

44. His Government attached great importance to the role played by enforcement cooperation and legal assistance in combating transnational drug crimes. In 2004, China had worked with the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand and other neighbouring countries to crack several large-scale transnational drug trafficking cases. Under bilateral drug control agreements and within the framework of the UNDCP project on cross-border cooperation in drug law enforcement, China had engaged in cooperation with Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Viet Nam and Cambodia on legal assistance and the transfer of suspects. His Government had contributed 500,000 yuan to alternative development projects in the northern regions of Myanmar and Laos and had hosted a seminar on alternative development for the States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

45. **Mr. Afifi** (Egypt) said that the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Bangkok, and the fourteenth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in May 2005, had been crucial to the further development of the concept of criminal justice and the rule of law, and to building an international consensus on liberty and common values. Despite the progress achieved, however, much remained to be done

in terms of exchanging experiences and information at the international level and supporting systems of justice in developing countries that faced huge economic and other challenges. Capacity-building at the regional level was equally vital.

46. He stressed, in particular, the need to provide financial and human resources for the effective operation of the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. Egypt accorded particular importance to crime prevention within the framework of its national policy to enhance stability and peace for all its people. Through its governmental structures, Constitution, religious and cultural laws and values, and a neutral and totally independent justice system, Egypt strived to affirm the rule of justice and the primacy of law. It had drafted anti-crime legislation and launched programmes to rehabilitate criminals and integrate them as productive and effective elements in society, and to provide protection to children accused of committing crimes, whom it did not regard as juvenile delinquents. At the international level, Egypt had taken part in all the relevant conferences and was effectively implementing the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols.

47. The terrorist attacks that had taken place around the world in the past year, particularly in Sharm el Sheikh and more recently in Bali, had demonstrated the close link between crime prevention and counter-terrorism. More than ever, the international community must summon the political will to face those challenges and to combat terrorism on all fronts. In that context, he called for greater cooperation and coordination among counter-terrorism efforts by the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention. He hoped that proposals to that effect would be submitted to the General Assembly at the forthcoming high-level meeting on counter-terrorism.

48. Egypt had studied in detail the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation against the world drug problem (A/60/130) and welcomed, in particular, its recommendations on achieving the objectives established at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. It also supported the recommendation on consolidating those achievements by removing existing procedural, logistical and technical obstacles. A global vision was needed to address a problem that jeopardized future economic

and social development; its root causes must be analysed from a political, economic and social perspective.

49. It was already well known that Egypt was playing a vital role at the international and regional levels in the area of drug control. It had been one of the first countries to accede to the various international conventions, beginning with the International Opium Convention concluded at The Hague, and had participated in United Nations drug control activities. Its National Council on Drug Control was cooperating with the United Nations regional bureau in Cairo. As the global phenomena being discussed by the Committee were not limited to one specific country or region, broad and effective international cooperation was vital to the success of national efforts to combat crime, drug trafficking and terrorism in all their forms.

50. **Mr. Hashizume** (Japan) said that UNODC, whose work Japan strongly supported, could not implement its mandate fully unless donor confidence improved. To that end, it must create an accountable and transparent management system, including a strategic organizational plan with a clearly articulated programme of work, and prepare concise and comprehensive annual reports on its finances and activities.

51. His delegation welcomed the imminent entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and was preparing for the expeditious conclusion of formalities to ratify it as well as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols.

52. He praised the work accomplished by the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in April, and expressed support for the Bangkok Declaration. At the Congress, the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI), a United Nations regional institute based in Tokyo, had conducted a workshop on measures to combat economic crime. It was his Government's firm intention to continue providing support to UNAFEI and its activities.

53. In December 2004, Japan had adopted an action plan of measures to combat trafficking in persons, whose three pillars were: the prevention of trafficking in persons (including revised criteria for "entertainer" visas), the eradication of trafficking in persons by, inter

alia, criminalizing it in the Penal Code, and the protection of trafficking victims. Japanese delegations had also visited a total of eight countries with a view to preventing trafficking in persons and to sharing information with Governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and religious groups.

54. Japan consistently supported UNODC programmes and activities, in particular, through its annual contributions to the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP). In recent years Japan had witnessed a rapid increase in the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), such as methamphetamine and MDMA (ecstasy). It therefore had a zero-tolerance policy towards any form of drug abuse, which was strictly prohibited by law and severely punished. As a result, there had been a decrease in the number of heroin addicts. Japan was concerned about a “harm-reduction” approach, as it strongly believed that the international community must target drug demand reduction.

55. His delegation called for urgent measures to combat synthetic drugs, which, unlike traditional drugs, could be produced anywhere. He expressed grave concern that many such drugs and precursors were not subject to international conventions and stressed the importance of sharing information on them in order to develop effective countermeasures on an international scale. A resolution to that effect submitted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs earlier in the year had been adopted by consensus.

56. Japan supported a “human-security” approach to combating international crime and the drug problem and hoped that that concept would eventually be mainstreamed into the work of the United Nations.

57. **Mr. Kyaw Tint Swe** (Myanmar) said that he was encouraged by the overall downward trend in the cultivation of illicit opium poppy and the coca bush since the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. According to the UNODC World Drug Report, opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar had declined by 73 per cent between 1996 and 2004, while the United States Government reported that poppy cultivation in Myanmar had declined by 34 per cent in 2003-2004 alone. Over eight years, cultivation had dropped by 88 per cent, from 2,560 tons to an estimated 292 tons. Myanmar owed its success in fighting illicit narcotic drugs to political will and

specific action in the areas of prevention, legislation and enforcement. Alternative development and cooperation at the bilateral, regional and international levels had also been decisive factors. Poppy cultivators who willingly submitted poppy seed to the authorities were given support for alternative cash crops under the New Destiny Project launched in April 2002. Myanmar had also signed memoranda of understanding with neighbouring countries on regional and subregional cooperation in the fight against narcotic drugs. In the area of demand reduction, the Government had taken measures to provide treatment, rehabilitation programmes and education campaigns for students and the general public.

58. Myanmar was addressing the issue of trafficking in persons through national legislation, a national plan of action and bilateral, regional and international cooperation. It had acceded to the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime, and a law to counter trafficking in persons drafted in accordance with the Convention had been enacted in September. At the regional level, the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative (COMMIT) had been signed in Yangon in October 2004. Myanmar had also participated in the Bali Process. ASEAN member States had adopted the ASEAN Declaration against Trafficking in Persons, particularly Women and Children in November 2004.

59. **Mr. Al-Enezi** (Kuwait) said that Kuwait had become a State party to a number of international drug conventions owing to its awareness of the social and economic impact of narcotic drugs. The private sector and civil society had also contributed towards combating narcotic drugs, with the former providing funding for a Kuwaiti drug rehabilitation centre and the latter launching media campaigns focused on educating those at schools, universities and mosques about the dangers of narcotic drugs.

60. Pursuant to a legislative decree on money-laundering, a financial intelligence unit had been established within the Central Bank of Kuwait with national responsibility for combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. A number of decisions had already been issued by the Bank to prevent and combat money-laundering. Kuwait was also in the process of ratifying the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

61. The 2005 World Summit Outcome recognized that narcotic drugs posed a serious threat to humanity, requiring a collective international response. In that respect, he stressed the importance of strengthening UNODC and enhancing its ability to provide assistance to Member States in combating transnational organized crime.

62. **Ms. Brown** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that the efforts of CARICOM States to counter the increasing challenges posed by transnational crime continued to be hampered by their limited financial and human resources. They therefore welcomed the recommendations of the Congress regarding the continued provision of technical assistance to developing countries, particularly with a view to strengthening their capacity to prevent crime, including economic and financial crimes. They also welcomed the recommendation that UNODC should provide technical assistance and training to States in order for them to deal with computer-related crimes and exchange information and research to counter such crime.

63. CARICOM States were well aware of their national, regional and international responsibilities to promote and implement the road map contained in the Bangkok Declaration and they appreciated the Declaration's clear intention to strengthen and increase international cooperation on crime prevention through the provision of technical assistance and the reinforcement of institutional machinery for the maintenance of criminal justice and the rule of law. In that respect, CARICOM States noted the recent approval by the Economic and Social Council for the General Assembly to endorse the Bangkok Declaration and invite Governments to consider legislation, policy directives and training material based on international standards and best practices for the effective implementation of the Declaration.

64. CARICOM States were encouraged by the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme (A/60/131) and supported the initiatives to broaden the Programme's donor base and channel improved technical assistance to the region. They welcomed the Secretary-General's review of efforts to strengthen the capacity of States to ratify and implement relevant legal instruments. They also welcomed the recent entry into force of the Firearms

Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

65. A number of CARICOM States had signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption and others were considering doing so. CARICOM States supported the efforts of UNODC and other relevant bodies to promote ratification of the Convention and its early entry into force.

66. Despite the increased coordination and cooperation on drug controls in the region, most CARICOM States required further resources and technical assistance to establish legislative measures and implement fully their programmes and international obligations for the long-term control of illicit drugs and drugs trafficking. Nevertheless, CARICOM States were participating in bilateral and multilateral initiatives to combat crime and drugs.

67. The Caribbean Community had established an implementation agency for crime and security, which operated as a nerve centre for research, evaluation and monitoring, project development and implementation, and information centralization and dissemination. A regional task force on crime and security was also undertaking a comprehensive review of justice protection programmes.

68. The CARICOM secretariat and the Regional Task Force on Crime and Security had begun collaborating with the University of the West Indies on a joint study to assess the negative impact of the increasing number of criminal deportees who had recently been returned to CARICOM States. The outcome of the study would help the States to determine further initiatives they should adopt to address their security and other concerns.

69. **Mr. Dapkiunas** (Belarus) speaking on behalf of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), welcomed the successful outcome of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and said that the Bangkok Declaration was an important political instrument in that area. Over the following five years, the Declaration would serve as a global strategy for crime prevention as well as a useful guideline for the establishment of international standards. Most of the issues raised by the Declaration in the area of crime and criminal justice were in line with the tasks set out by the CIS countries in their interstate programme of joint measures to combat crime for the period 2005-2007.

70. The CIS countries would broaden their cooperation, particularly through their Coordination Bureau and Anti-Terrorist Centre, in order to combat the most dangerous types of crime in the region. The 2005 World Summit Outcome had confirmed the political will of world leaders, including those in the CIS countries, to combat transnational organized crime through collective efforts and, to that end, to strengthen UNODC.

71. He welcomed the recent strengthening of the international legal basis for cooperation in combating crime, particularly the entry into force of the Firearms Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the United Nations Convention against Corruption. In addition to participating in those instruments, more than half of the CIS countries had also already signed the new International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, which had been an initiative of the Russian Federation.

72. The CIS countries stood ready to develop any form of cooperation with United Nations bodies involved in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice. They hoped for closer cooperation on drugs and crime with UNODC under the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and many of them required technical assistance to reduce the threat posed by transnational organized crime and terrorism.

73. Many CIS countries had adopted special national programmes to prevent and suppress illegal migration, human trafficking and the transborder weapons trade. In August 2005, the CIS Council of Heads of Governments had approved programmes of cooperation for the period 2005-2007 to combat illegal migration, terrorism and other forms of violent extremism. The CIS countries were constantly improving the treaty and legal basis for combating illegal migration, money-laundering, kidnapping, trafficking in humans, the trade in illicit weapons and other crimes. They were currently actively involved in drawing up a treaty to counter the legalization (laundering) of illegal funds and the financing of terrorism, agreements on cooperation to combat the illegal trade in weapons, ammunition and explosives and agreements on cooperation to combat the kidnapping of and trafficking in humans or in their organs and tissue for transplants. In June 2005 the CIS Council of Heads of Governments had also adopted an agreement on

cooperation to combat taxation fraud, which had already been signed by a number of CIS countries.

74. **Mr. Muchemi** (Kenya) said that transnational crime remained a major global threat whose negative effects could not be overstated. No country was immune from transnational crime, which undercut any prospects for stable and economically viable societies and also jeopardized peace and security, human rights and the rule of law.

75. Kenya was encouraged by the commitment of the United Nations to tackle transnational crime through the development of relevant instruments, the provision of technical assistance and the exchange of experience. The Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held recently in Bangkok had demonstrated the international community's resolve to work collectively to eliminate transnational crime and had provided a crucial opportunity for it to exchange views and experience. His delegation fully endorsed the Bangkok Declaration, which laid the foundation for future action by the international community to strengthen international coordination and cooperation efforts in order to prevent and combat crime.

76. He urged those States that had not yet done so to become parties to the Firearms Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its other Protocols, and the 13 treaties relating to terrorism. Such action would facilitate the implementation of those instruments globally and boost international efforts to rid the world of transnational crime.

77. Kenya recognized the important role of UNODC in providing Member States with technical assistance, advisory services and other forms of assistance in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. He particularly appreciated the technical assistance received from UNODC for the development and promotion of anti-corruption policies and measures. He was also glad to note that UNODC had made it a priority to provide assistance in the training of law enforcement officials, investigators, prosecutors and judges with a view to strengthening law enforcement and fostering international and cross-border cooperation.

78. While his delegation welcomed the fact that the donor base of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme had continued to grow and broaden, it called upon those countries able to do so to enhance their voluntary contributions to allow the Programme greater flexibility to respond to growing requests for technical assistance.

79. Domestically, with the support of international funding institutions, the Kenyan Government was undertaking sector-wide reforms to promote good governance, the administration of justice and the protection of human rights. The Kenyan anti-corruption authority, whose mandate included the investigation of corruption cases, had been established and was fully operational. Special courts had been established for the prosecution of corruption cases, several of which were pending. The National Agency for the Campaign against Drug Abuse was a Government agency established to coordinate efforts to counter drug abuse countrywide. The agency was carrying out public awareness campaigns and developing demand reduction strategies. An anti-narcotics police unit was also in place. Draft legislation on money-laundering had been finalized and was awaiting debate by the Parliament. A specialized prosecution unit had also been established at the Office of the Attorney General to prosecute terrorism and money-laundering cases and to deal with the forfeiture of assets emanating from terrorist activities.

80. **Mr. Salov** (Russian Federation) said that globalization and technical progress had increased the geographical reach of criminal groups and had allowed them to use more effective criminal methods. Organized crime and illicit drugs trafficking provided supportive mechanisms for terrorist groups and made it more difficult for States to address urgent issues of security and development. The Russian Federation fully supported the conclusions of the 2005 World Summit Outcome on the need for a comprehensive increase in collective measures to combat transnational crime. The new global threat would only be countered effectively through the implementation of an integrated United Nations strategy based on international law.

81. The Russian Federation placed a high value on the outcome of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held in Bangkok and supported the principles and objectives set out in the Bangkok Declaration. It gave particular importance to measures to strengthen the international

legal basis in the fight against organized crime. In that connection, it supported the process of increasing the number of parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three additional Protocols. It also supported the call for consistent implementation by States of those instruments.

82. The forthcoming entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the model bilateral agreement on the sharing of confiscated proceeds of crime or property provided a basis for establishing universal international standards in the area of transnational crime. In that connection, the Russian Federation supported the efforts to further develop the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and intended to continue close cooperation in that area, including through international regional cooperation.

83. The Russian Federation was firmly committed to the decisions of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and consistently advocated the further development of international cooperation to suppress illicit drugs trafficking and combat drug abuse under the aegis of the United Nations. However, despite the efforts it had undertaken, the international community had not prevented the production of heroin in Afghanistan. The international community should therefore undertake renewed efforts to develop and implement an integrated international strategy, with the cooperation of Afghan authorities, in order to establish a reliable anti-drugs infrastructure in Afghanistan and strengthen the anti-drugs security belt along that country's borders. UNODC had a central role to play in coordinating those efforts, and his delegation also attached particular importance to the further development of the Paris process in that respect. Effective and timely preventive measures would also be required from the international community to counter the increasing flow of synthetic drugs to the Russian Federation from Europe.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.