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Addendum

Chapter II. Work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention

A. Structure of the debate

1. At its 4th and 5th meetings, on 28 and 29 April 1999, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice considered agenda item 3, entitled:

“Work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention:

“(a) Criminal justice reform and strengthening of legal institutions: the development, analysis and policy use of crime and criminal justice information and the computerization of criminal justice operations;

“(b) Technical cooperation;

“(c) Cooperation with United Nations entities and other bodies;

“(d) Resource mobilization.”

2. For its consideration of agenda item 3, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the institutes comprising the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network (E/CN.15/1999/4) and the report of the Executive Director on the work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention (E/CN.15/1999/2).

3. At its 4th meeting, on 28 April 1999, following an introductory statement by the Principal Officer of the Centre for International Crime Prevention, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Costa Rica, China, Japan and the United States of

America. The observer for South Africa also made a statement. The observers for the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (on behalf of the institutes comprising the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network), the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the Latin American Institute for Crime Prevention and the Treatment of Offenders, the Naif Arab Academy for Security Sciences, the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights also made statements.

4. At its 5th meeting, on 29 April 1999, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Germany (on behalf of the European Union), the Russian Federation, the Netherlands, Ukraine, Mexico, France, the Republic of Korea, Togo and India (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China). The observers for Morocco, Belarus, Turkey, Indonesia and Israel also made statements.

B. Deliberations

5. Several participants praised the Executive Director's efforts in producing a clear and concise report on the work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention (E/CN.15/1999/2). Many participants expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Centre in focusing, coordinating and organizing its work, in particular its technical cooperation activities, to address transnational organized crime, corruption and trafficking in human beings. The Centre was also commended for the preparation of the global programme on trafficking in human beings (E/CN.15/1999/CRP.2), the global programme against corruption (E/CN.15/1999/CRP.3) and the global studies on organized crime (E/CN.15/1999/CRP.4). Those programmes were considered to represent a sound strategic basis for the technical cooperation activities of the Centre. The importance of a comprehensive and regional approach to tackling issues was stressed. Some participants expressed appreciation for having been consulted and for having had the opportunity to provide their comments during the formulation of the programmes. Others indicated their desire for the Commission to be used as a forum for the development of such initiatives. Further refinement of the global programmes was suggested, in particular as regards methodology and the definitions of the research components. One participant was of the opinion that the Centre should describe more clearly the resources needed to implement the global programmes while maintaining the technical cooperation activities already in progress.

6. Participants expressed the need to develop technical cooperation activities that would be in line with and supportive of the draft United Nations convention against transnational organized crime. While many participants offered clear support for the consolidation of the technical cooperation activities of the Centre, others suggested that attention should continue to be given to the improvement of the criminal justice system, in particular in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition. Such improvement of the justice system would constitute an important element in the fight against transnational organized crime. The importance of ensuring that technical cooperation activities had a regional focus and impact was emphasized by some participants. In addition, some participants noted the need for the Centre to expand its activities at the regional and subregional levels, giving particular attention to the African continent. Several commended the Centre for the expansion of its field presence with a view to improving the quality and timeliness of technical cooperation projects. In that regard, many participants expressed their appreciation for the

increased interaction of the Centre with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

7. It was noted that there was still a gap between the mandate of the Centre and its limited financial resources, both from the regular budget and from extrabudgetary sources. Appeals were made by several participants for increased resources for the Centre. The efforts of the Centre to present a focused and result-oriented programme of work were recognized. In that context, several participants indicated their Governments' intention to provide additional resources to the Centre to support technical cooperation activities.

8. Participants indicated that one of the important conditions in the fight against organized crime was the existence of an efficient criminal justice system, which took advantage of technological advances such as computerization and data management while maintaining a proper balance between law enforcement and respect for human rights. A few participants saw the need for the Centre to continue to address traditional areas of involvement in crime prevention and criminal justice in its technical cooperation programme.

9. Many participants agreed that every effort should be made to avoid duplication in the technical cooperation activities in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. Coordination with the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network and with regional organizations, national institutes and other associations was considered important. In that regard, the activities carried out by the institutes of the Programme network were much appreciated. Some participants noted the importance of strengthening the capacity of the institutes to assist in the work of the Secretariat.
