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Draft report

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Addendum

Chapter IV. Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

A. Structure of the debate

1. At its 8th, 9th and 10th meetings, on 30 April and 3 May 1999, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice considered agenda item 5, entitled: "Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders".
2. For its consideration of agenda item 5, the Commission had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (E/CN.15/1999/6);
 - (b) Report of the Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held in Bangkok from 2 to 4 November 1998 (A/CONF.187/RPM.1/1);
 - (c) Report of the Western Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held in Beirut from 11 to 13 November 1998 (A/CONF.187/RPM.2/1);
 - (d) Report of the African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held in Kampala from 7 to 9 December 1998 (A/CONF.187/RPM.3/1);

(e) Report of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held in San José from 22 to 24 February 1999 (A/CONF.187/RPM.4/1).

3. At its 8th meeting, on 30 April, following an introductory statement by the representative of the Centre for International Crime Prevention, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Germany (on behalf of the European Union), Austria, Ukraine, Japan, the United States of America, China, Zambia, Argentina, the Philippines and Colombia. Statements were also made by the observers for Indonesia, Cuba, Canada and South Africa. The observers for the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations, the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and the Italian Centre of Solidarity also made statements.

4. The 9th and 10th meetings on 3 May, were devoted to consultations aimed at the preparation of a draft declaration for submission to the Tenth Congress, taking into account the results of the regional preparatory meetings, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/110 of 9 December 1998.

B. Deliberations

5. Several participants emphasized the value of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders. Pursuant to the Programme of Action of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme (General Assembly resolution 46/152, annex) the congresses provided a quinquennial forum for the exchange of views between States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines; the exchange of experiences in research, law and policy development; the identification of emerging trends; the provision of advice and comments to the Commission; and the submission of suggestions regarding possible subjects in crime prevention and criminal justice for the programme of work. The congresses should take stock of developments and assist the Commission in deciding future directions. The Commission should manage and formulate detailed implementation programmes on the basis of those decisions. The broad mandate of the congresses to deal with issues related to both national and transnational crime was stressed. One participant was of the view that the congresses had outlived their usefulness and that they should be discontinued or, alternatively, be held when the Commission determined that they were needed.

6. There was general agreement among the participants that the draft declaration to be prepared by the Commission for consideration by the Tenth Congress should be short and precise and should convey an action-oriented political message. It should also address the challenges that the international community could not meet in the twentieth century. Those challenges should be seen in the wider context of the ongoing globalization of markets and communication and transportation networks. It was recommended that the valuable results of the regional preparatory meetings should be taken into account in developing the draft declaration, so that it would reflect the needs and priorities of the various regions.

7. The view was expressed that transnational organized crime should serve as a priority topic of the Tenth Congress. The draft declaration should set a plan of action for the implementation of the convention against transnational organized crime that was being

developed. The basic message of the draft declaration should be that international cooperation should be strengthened to meet the needs of all countries confronting problems involving transnational crime. Many participants stressed that the draft declaration should contain specific recommendations on the provision of technical assistance to countries, where necessary. The challenges to those involved in crime prevention and criminal justice included many concerns other than transnational organized crime. Some of them were central to dealing effectively with transnational organized crime, while others might have little to do with it. Several issues to be dealt with in the draft declaration were identified, including the crime-related aspects and risks of globalization and advances in information technology, political instability, personal insecurity and the link between crime and economic conditions. Other priority issues to be dealt with in the draft declaration were: effective crime prevention measures; the role of civil society and community involvement; victim and witness protection programmes; the treatment of offenders; extradition and mutual assistance in criminal matters; and measures against money-laundering and currency counterfeiting, the abuse of power, prison overcrowding, xenophobia, hate crimes, terrorism, and violence in general and violence against women in particular.

8. Participants expressed agreement with the proposed organization of work for the Tenth Congress and for the workshops. Some emphasized that the work of the Tenth Congress should be organized in a manner that would enable States represented by small delegations to participate fully in all its meetings and workshops. The value of ancillary meetings to be held at the Tenth Congress was noted. It was stressed that the participation of non-governmental organizations could ensure that the results of the Tenth Congress would have an impact at the grass-roots level.

9. The observers for the organizations coordinating the workshops reported on the preparations by their organizations, including the organization of preparatory meetings and the identification of main issues to be discussed at the Tenth Congress. Participants expressed their appreciation to the Government of Austria for the efforts made regarding the hosting of the Tenth Congress.
