



General Assembly

Seventy-seventh session

Official Records

Distr.: General
18 November 2022

Original: English

Third Committee

Summary record of the 5th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 3 October 2022, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Blanco Conde (Dominican Republic)
later: Mr. Venancio Guerra (Vice-Chair) (Portugal)
later: Mr. Blanco Conde (Dominican Republic)

Contents

Agenda item 109: Crime prevention and criminal justice

Agenda item 110: Countering the use of information and communications
technologies for criminal purposes

Agenda item 111: International drug control

This record is subject to correction.Corrections should be sent as soon as possible, under the signature of a member of the
delegation concerned, to the Chief of the Documents Management Section (dms@un.org),
and incorporated in a copy of the record.Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the
United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>).

22-22668 (E)



Please recycle



The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 109: Crime prevention and criminal justice (A/77/125, A/77/127, A/77/128, A/77/132 and A/77/164)

Agenda item 110: Countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes

Agenda item 111: International drug control (A/77/137)

1. **Ms. Schantz** (New York Office of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)) said that, in the past year, UNODC had continued to implement its corporate strategy for 2021–2025, providing technical cooperation and support for Member States in the fight against drugs, corruption, terrorism and organized crime, including crimes affecting the environment and cybercrime. Championing inter-agency and cross-sectoral collaboration, UNODC had developed a joint programme to support countries in measuring progress on Sustainable Development Goal 16 with the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. It had also produced a statistical framework to measure gender-related killings of women and girls (“femicide”) with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and one to measure illicit financial flows with United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, both approved by the Statistical Commission. UNODC had also launched its Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (2022–2026), a commitment to fostering a more diverse, gender-equal and inclusive workplace and to mainstreaming gender across all activities.

2. UNODC continued its work to protect the lives and human rights of all migrants, including in the fight against smuggling and trafficking. During the first International Migration Review Forum, UNODC and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) hosted a round table on the topic, and Member States adopted a Progress Declaration, in which they committed themselves to ensuring the effective protection of and assistance to migrants who had become victims of trafficking. As a member of the Executive Committee of the United Nations Network on Migration, UNODC would continue to support those commitments. With the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic having exacerbated economic and social inequalities, which were among the root causes of trafficking, and given the increased misuse of information and communications technology (ICT) to identify, recruit and exploit

potential victims, the adoption of a strong and comprehensive political declaration on the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons was a major milestone. In addition to including the principle of non-punishment of trafficking victims and recognition for the important role played by the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, coordinated and co-chaired by UNODC, the political declaration contained an acknowledgement of the role of trafficking survivors as agents of change. Also in 2022, UNODC would launch a toolkit to assist Member States in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking in persons for organ removal and publish its biennial Global Report on Trafficking in Persons.

3. Owing to the impact of the pandemic on the manifestations of terrorism, in particular the increased reliance on technology, States’ responses must be increasingly connected, with proportionate, legal and accountable responses compliant with international legal obligations. Through a revamped global programme, UNODC supported the creation of people-centred responses to terrorism, including through technical cooperation and assistance in the development of prevention and detection strategies, and continued to support intergovernmental processes such as the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes, in which Member States and more than 110 multi-stakeholder organizations had been actively engaged. In addition, UNODC continued to provide States, upon their request, with technical assistance on cybercrime, including through training and awareness-raising activities and the promotion of public-private cooperation.

4. At a special event held by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in commemoration of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, UNODC launched its 2022 World Drug Report, providing information on global drug markets, drug use, production and trafficking, the relationship between drugs and conflict and the impact of drugs on the environment. At its sixty-fifth session, the Commission had devoted special attention to scaling up the implementation of international drug policy commitments to improve the availability of and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes. At the ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, UNODC launched the Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment (GRACE) initiative and received new mandates relating to Convention

implementation, including with regard to emergencies and regional fast-tracking.

5. UNODC also continued to support the review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto. As part of its follow-up to the fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held intersessional discussions on preventing and combating crimes that affected the environment, bringing together experts and policymakers from more than 800 State and non-State participants. In accordance with resolution 10/6 of the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention, a joint thematic discussion was held on the application of the Convention on transnational organized crimes affecting the environment. UNODC also published a legislative guide on waste trafficking, and the publication of the third edition of its World Wildlife Crime Report was planned for 2023.

6. Given the increasing complexity of the drug and crime situation in the post-pandemic period, UNODC was receiving more requests to provide normative assistance and technical support to Member States, and its mandates continued to develop. However, as the lack of a sound core budget continued to hamper its capacity to respond accordingly, UNODC relied on Member States to help to ensure and enhance the continued provision of essential cooperation and support.

7. **Ms. Ekmektzoglou** (Representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer), said that the European Union and its member States valued the expertise of the Office in preventing and countering transnational terrorism, organized crime, corruption, drug trafficking and abuse and in reinforcing criminal justice systems and strengthening the rule of law. All Member States were urged to adhere to the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, the Convention against Corruption and the three drug control conventions, and to fully implement the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

8. Despite recent progress, trafficking in persons remained a serious concern, but it was necessary to follow a human rights-based approach to combating that crime and cooperation between UNODC and other United Nations bodies and agencies should be further promoted. UNODC commitments to fully mainstream gender equality, the empowerment of women and youth, the protection of children and the promotion and protection of human rights in its programmes were

commendable. As socioeconomic vulnerabilities continued to be exploited by transnational organized crime networks, United Nations Member States must redouble their efforts to strengthen criminal justice institutions and promote the rule of law to tackle crimes committed both online and offline. The new United Nations convention on the global fight against cybercrime currently being negotiated was commendable but should not be used by States to restrict access to the Internet, practice surveillance or violate human rights.

9. She asked how youth justice reform could be integrated into broader rule of law efforts and how children could be more meaningfully involved in the design of such reforms. Standing united in their unwavering support for Ukraine and firmly condemning the unprovoked and unjustified military aggression of the Russian Federation in that country, the European Union and its member States wished to know how the war had affected organized crime in the region and beyond, and what actions were needed, including by UNODC, to address and prevent those crimes. Fuller details were also requested on the contributions by the Office to United Nations action in Ukraine.

10. **Mr. Pilipenko** (Belarus) said that his country especially welcomed the efforts of UNODC to combat trafficking in persons, implement the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and coordinate the work of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons. Belarus was grateful to the New York office of UNODC for providing advice on the resolution on improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons adopted during the previous session of the General Assembly. His delegation would welcome more details about how UNODC cooperated with special procedure mandate holders and what key activities to combat trafficking in persons were planned for the current year.

11. **Ms. Romulus Ortega** (Mexico) said that her country worked closely with UNODC and applauded its leadership in combating drugs and crime through the development and application of balanced, comprehensive and human-rights based responses to the global drug problem. She requested information on plans to strengthen ties and synergies between UNODC and other United Nations system entities so as to build on efforts made in Vienna, Geneva and New York.

12. With the world facing a new socioeconomic crisis exacerbated by geopolitical issues, while still under the shadow of the pandemic, the United Nations system must adopt a multidimensional and multisectoral focus to effectively address current needs. UNODC must cooperate with other system entities to meet the

challenges posed by the drug problem to the realization of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, with a view to “delivering as one” United Nations.

13. **Ms. Schantz** (New York Office of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) said that, at a recent high-level debate on enhancing youth mainstreaming into criminal justice and crime prevention, jointly organized with the Office of the President of the General Assembly, UNODC had illustrated and highlighted initiatives to encourage young people to be active enablers of change. Proposals and recommendations emerging from the debate and its interactive dialogue shed light on examples of youth cooperation and involvement in legislative policy development on criminal justice. UNODC had also been mainstreaming youth in corruption-related activities, such as the GRACE initiative. In addition, prior to the special session of the General Assembly against corruption, as well as before sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, UNODC had participated in several Youth Forum events, which provided opportunities for young people to discuss their priorities and how they could contribute to the design of government policies.

14. With regard to Ukraine, UNODC had deployed a new Black Sea grain initiative in 2022, under the global Container Control Programme, whereby UNODC inspectors checked and cleared cargo containing grain. UNODC was currently deploying a Programme office in Istanbul to strengthen assistance in that area. The situation of trafficking in humans in Ukraine was not new. UNODC had observed a large number of victims since 2015 in its Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, and had anticipated that the threat to women and girls could be heightened as a consequence of the conflict. Neighbouring countries and other States had already started investigating and prosecuting cases of human trafficking involving victims from Ukraine. UNODC had also published research papers on trafficking and migrant smuggling in and around Ukraine, in close cooperation with organizations in the field, in particular IOM, with law enforcement and authorities from neighbouring countries and with dedicated European task forces, in an effort to help to devise the best prevention strategy. Through the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, the coordination mechanism used by United Nations and partner agencies, UNODC conducted meetings to develop policies aimed at helping Member States to respond to the potential threat of human trafficking.

15. UNODC had focused its policy development on responding to the worrisome increase in online sexual exploitation activity observed by its partner, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), while noting that technology could also help in detecting cases. UNODC had recently provided input to the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants and would be working with the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and on Violence against Children in order to coordinate an approach to delivering technical assistance. UNODC also helped to coordinate a working group in an effort to respond to the situation.

16. **Ms. Ekmektzoglou** (Representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer) said that issues of drug control, transnational organized crime, cyberattacks, violent extremism and potential terrorist attacks affected all five core priorities of the Sustainable Development Goals agenda: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership. The United Nations system provided an efficient framework for tackling complex challenges, but fighting such crimes involved balancing security efficiency with freedom and the defence of values and human rights.

17. Combating existing and emerging forms of transnational organized crime required a coordinated and targeted response through the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto by all States. The European Union had stepped up efforts against organized crime, money-laundering and terrorism financing, and had developed a comprehensive toolbox to combat corruption globally and provide support and protection for those exposing it. Internally, the European Commission monitored measures established by its member States under the European rule of law mechanism. It was also necessary to boost international efforts against environmental crime, which caused serious economic, environmental and social damage.

18. The European Union adhered to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and reaffirmed its efforts towards the achievement of the applicable 2030 Agenda targets through development assistance and partnerships. The use of migrants and refugees for political purposes was unacceptable. The European Union had new and renewed strategies and action plans aimed at cutting demand for trafficked persons, tackling crime networks, disrupting and dismantling the business model of traffickers and smugglers and protecting, supporting and empowering victims, all bolstered by the exchange of best practices and information across borders.

19. The European Union also supported regional and tailored responses to threats against maritime security, including terrorism, and called for stronger collaboration between civilian and military actors and among specialized agencies. The outcome document of the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly, held in 2016, remained the most comprehensive international drug policy document, incorporating broader human rights, health and development perspectives. The joint commitment to strengthening actions to address and counter the world drug problem was reaffirmed through the ministerial declaration adopted in 2019 by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixty-second session. In that regard, the European Union had adopted a strategy and action plan on drugs, held regular dialogues with partner countries and continued to oppose the use of the death penalty, including for drug-related crimes, promoting instead responses that were in line with international law and standards.

20. All States needed to step up efforts to prevent, investigate and prosecute those responsible for the surging number of ransomware attacks. The Second Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime on Enhanced Cooperation and Disclosure of Electronic Evidence provided enhanced possibilities for accessing digital evidence. The new instrument resulting from the work of the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes needed to be effective, compatible with existing international instruments and underpinned by strong conditions and safeguards for human rights and fundamental freedoms. With an agenda focused on international engagement across the four pillars of anticipation, prevention, protection and response, the European Union cooperated with partner countries to effectively counter terrorism and violent extremism and supported the key role of United Nations entities such as the Office of Counter-Terrorism.

21. **Mr. Gafoor** (Singapore), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that criminals taking advantage of technological trends and other opportunities resulting from social and economic transformations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic had led to a growth in the scope and complexity of transnational crime. ASEAN was committed to working with the international community to coordinate policies and responses to such threats. In 2021, in a declaration building on the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime, ASEAN ministers had addressed post-pandemic trends in

transnational crime and reaffirmed their shared commitment and collective responsibility in that regard.

22. In 2019, with terrorism a grave security concern threatening to destabilize and fragment societies, ASEAN had adopted a workplan that, together with the Manila Declaration to Counter the Rise of Radicalization and Violent Extremism, reflected the Association's long-term strategy of combining youth engagement and dialogue with rehabilitation and reintegration in order to complement counter-radicalization efforts with robust enforcement and detection. That strategy was supported by regional law enforcement cooperation and by strengthened national efforts through enhanced operational capabilities and effective counter-terrorism protocols, as well as deepened international cooperation with other regional organizations, including the European Union, through new strategic partnerships. ASEAN had also taken concrete steps to prevent trafficking in persons, which had also been exacerbated by the pandemic, and to protect the most vulnerable, including through the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, the related plan of action and the Bohol Trafficking in Persons Workplan, which was currently being updated. The key strategies set out therein, namely, prevention, protection, enforcement and cooperation, enabled ASEAN member States to bring traffickers to justice and safeguard their citizens from harm.

23. The record haul of methamphetamine tablets reported by UNODC as having been seized in East and South-East Asia in 2021 represented a seven-fold increase over 10 years and reflected the severity of the drug problem in the region. In its efforts to protect individuals, families and communities, ASEAN had adopted a zero-tolerance approach and its members stood united in their vision of a drug-free region. In 2021, ASEAN leaders reaffirmed their commitment to continue the implementation of the ASEAN Cooperation Plan to Tackle Illicit Drug Production and Trafficking in the Golden Triangle and the related workplan to secure communities against illicit drugs. The ASEAN Airport Interdiction Task Force and ASEAN Seaport Interdiction Task Force had disrupted syndicate operations and curtailed the flow of drugs across the region, and the ASEAN Narcotics Cooperation Centre and the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network were vital platforms for information-sharing and coordination among member States. The three international drug control conventions served as the cornerstone of global drug policy. ASEAN reaffirmed its support for the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and would continue its close cooperation with the United Nations, including

UNODC, in tackling the world drug problem by sharing best practices and finding effective strategies to eradicate illicit drugs and combat international crime.

24. As digital connectivity and financial integration increased in the region, ASEAN countries faced heightened risks from cybercrime, a growing and persistent transboundary challenge. Only steadfast global cooperation would help to effectively and efficiently prevent, detect and respond to the evolving threat. ASEAN was actively engaged in the discussions of the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes to find a suitable outcome.

25. **Mr. Bulgaru** (Russian Federation) said that his country supported the central coordinating role of the United Nations in consolidating international efforts to combat crime in all its forms. It was only at the United Nations that a coherent international strategy for combating crime could be developed. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was an effective forum for holding expert discussions and enhancing international cooperation. The launch in 2020 of the mechanism for the review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto had been an important step.

26. It was essential to develop a coherent approach to removing obstacles to extradition, the provision of mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and the return of illegally transferred assets. Further strengthening the legal framework for international cooperation in combating crime could facilitate that endeavour.

27. The coordination of efforts to combat corruption under the United Nations Convention against Corruption should be enhanced. The Russian Federation supported the mechanism for the review of the implementation of the Convention and its open, intergovernmental and technical nature. The political declaration adopted at the special session of the General Assembly against corruption should be implemented. The Conference of the States Parties to the Convention should be tasked with examining the gaps in international law relating to combating corruption and asset return, and a special thematic session should be organized at the end of the second review cycle.

28. The Russian Federation categorically opposed any attempts to revise or weaken the international drug control system and firmly condemned the legalization of any drugs for non-medical purposes. His delegation supported the work of the International Narcotics

Control Board in guaranteeing compliance by States with relevant United Nations conventions. Cooperation in countering drugs, including within the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, should not be politicized, and irrelevant items should not be included in the Commission's agenda. Attempts to create mechanisms that duplicated the work of the Commission and thus impose an alternative strategy for solving the global drug problem that bypassed the Commission were harmful.

29. The rapid deterioration of the drug situation in Afghanistan was due in large part to the 20 years of inaction by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization coalition to address the drug problem in that country, as well as to the blocking of financial assets by the new Taliban Government. Smuggling of opiates and methamphetamines to Central Asian countries and Russia was increasing as a result. His Government was helping its Central Asian partners to combat the drug threat in Afghanistan and recognized the importance of regional drug control efforts under the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) group were also sharing experiences in countering global drug-related threats and crime.

30. International law was not always able to keep pace with rapidly evolving information and communications technology (ICT), and the resulting loopholes enabled the commission of unlawful acts in cyberspace. The situation was compounded by inadequate national laws and an ineffective system for international cooperation in that area. The existing legal instruments, which had been established 10 to 20 years ago, were failing to keep up with cybercrime, especially since it was mostly carried out remotely, including in the territory of other countries. To address that complex problem, the international community, above all States and their competent authorities, must join efforts, with the United Nations playing a central coordinating role. The Russian Federation welcomed the outcomes of the thematic discussions on the use of digital evidence in criminal justice and countering cybercrime held during the thirty-first session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

31. The lack of sufficient cooperation among States in the transmission of digital evidence and the lack of legal means to immediately identify the Internet resources and devices used to commit crimes were the main problems facing the investigation of cross-border ICT-related crimes. The work of the Ad Hoc Committee to

Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes, which had been established at the initiative of his country, had thus become even more essential. A key outcome of 2022 was the full launch of practical work towards the elaboration of the convention, which had long been delayed. Excessive politicization and attempts to impose one-sided policies had given way to multilateral and constructive diplomacy, with the close involvement of leading experts from around the world.

32. During the sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee in 2022, participating States had discussed the content of every chapter of the draft. His country advocated a convention that was comprehensive, covering the majority of crimes committed with the use of ICT, including for terrorist and extremist purposes and for illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and that ensured the protection of State sovereignty and the achievement of the objectives of countering crime without compromising human rights. As a national contribution, the Russian Federation had submitted its own draft universal convention on countering cybercrime, which had been co-authored by Belarus, China, Tajikistan, Nicaragua and Burundi. A consolidated negotiating document would be drafted during the forthcoming session and submitted to the General Assembly during its seventy-eighth session.

33. **Mr. Oehri** (Liechtenstein) said that cybersecurity had become a top priority for many Governments. Measures to counter cybercrime had been adopted at the national and regional levels, including by the Council of Europe. At the global level was the work of the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes. The resulting instrument must be brief, functional, universally accepted and built upon and consistent with existing international law, while carefully balancing preventive measures, investigative powers and the clear and focused criminalization of cybercrime with robust data protection safeguards and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

34. An increasingly militarized cyberspace, developments in artificial intelligence and pervasive data collection and manipulation constituted real security risks and must be analysed and addressed comprehensively across all three United Nations pillars: peace and security, human rights and sustainable development. As noted in the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”, serious and urgent ethical, social and regulatory questions existed, including with respect to the lack of accountability in

cyberspace. States parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court had determined that the provisions of the Statute also applied to cyberwarfare. Further examination of the application of existing international law to both cyberattacks and cyberwarfare was of direct and high relevance to other discussions in the United Nations system.

35. Human trafficking and modern slavery were two other major human rights crises of the current times. The global public-private partnership, Finance against Slavery and Trafficking, was aimed at leveraging the financial sector to harness knowledge and funding for prevention and support for survivors. It was hoped that more States, the global financial sector and other relevant stakeholders would assist in the implementation of the initiative.

36. **Mr. Yap** (Singapore) said that cybercrime and drugs were pressing cross-border threats that required everyone to work together to tackle them effectively. Countering cybercrime had been a prominent theme for the thirty-first session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in response to the rising scale, complexity, and pervasiveness of global financial crime across jurisdictions in recent years. Singapore had established strong public-private sector partnerships to tackle cybercrime and worked with regional and international law enforcement counterparts to disrupt criminal networks and strengthen the recovery of proceeds of crime. As the ASEAN Voluntary Lead Shepherd on Cybercrime, Singapore had established the ASEAN-Singapore Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence to enhance capabilities and promote information-sharing on regional cyberthreats. Efforts to foster closer global cooperation against cybercrime included helping the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) to establish its Global Financial Crime Task Force, assuming the presidency of the Financial Action Task Force in July 2022 and being actively involved in the discussions of the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes.

37. According to the 2022 World Drug Report, drug abuse was responsible for half a million deaths worldwide in 2019 alone. A longstanding global challenge, the problem aptly demonstrated the need for transformative solutions to interlocking challenges, while the environmental impacts of drug markets, including substantial deforestation and waste, reflected the interconnected nature of the issues confronting the United Nations. Global action, with the three international drug control conventions at the core, was required to advance the Sustainable Development Goals,

in particular Goals 15 and 16. As an international hub with a high population density and located close to major drug production centres, Singapore needed to remain vigilant against drug abuse and had chosen to be drug-free and not drug-tolerant. Its holistic and comprehensive strategy, comprising preventive education, strict and rigorously enforced laws and effective rehabilitation, was underpinned by robust community partnerships and public support. The number of abusers arrested each year had been halved since the 1990s, and Singapore currently had one of the lowest rates of drug abuse worldwide. Singapore was committed to tackling existing and emerging transnational threats in close partnership with the international community, including UNODC, so as to protect its people and create a safer future for generations to come.

38. *Mr. Venancio Guerra (Portugal), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

39. **Mr. Hu Bin** (China) said that transnational organized crime, corruption and drugs were serious obstacles to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and were common challenges for humanity requiring joint efforts by all countries. To that end, the international community must practice multilateralism and firmly support the United Nations in playing its central role.

40. All countries should implement the political declaration entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”, the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem, and other important outcome documents in a comprehensive and balanced manner. They should also implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the three international drug control conventions and ensure that the relevant Conference of the States Parties and compliance review mechanisms adhered to the nature of the intergovernmental process. Countries should abide by important principles such as sovereign equality and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, and urgently undertake negotiation of a United Nations international convention against cybercrime so as to

provide a universal and solid legal basis for cooperation in combating cybercrime.

41. More importantly, countries should continue to forge political consensus, overcome legal obstacles and strengthen international cooperation on a basis of respect for sovereignty and equality and mutual benefit, including more proactive use of relevant multilateral and bilateral treaties to promote cooperation in such areas as extradition, judicial assistance and asset recovery. Developing countries required strengthened support in the areas of technical assistance and capacity-building.

42. China steadfastly promoted the rule of law, adhered to a people-centred concept of development and resolutely and effectively dealt with the issues of crime and drugs. In recent years, it had strengthened its legislative, judicial and law enforcement initiatives, carried out regular campaigns to crack down on organized crime and tackled such crimes as telecommunications network fraud, cross-border gambling, and human trafficking. China also insisted on a comprehensive policy of zero tolerance for corruption. China had persevered in the struggle against illicit drugs and had achieved remarkable results, with the numbers of drug-related crimes, drug users and seizures all dropping significantly.

43. China had constructively participated in the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, fulfilled its obligations under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Convention against Corruption, and undertaken a review of implementation of those Conventions despite the difficulties of the pandemic. It strongly supported the building of the United Nations Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities and hoped that the Network would be completed as soon as possible so as to serve international cooperation in anti-corruption efforts to track down fugitives and recover stolen goods. As Chair of BRICS for 2022, China had joined with other parties to adopt the BRICS Initiative on Denial of Safe Haven to Corruption and successfully hosted the first BRICS Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting. China firmly upheld the current international anti-drug regime, opposed the legalization of drugs and supported countries in independently formulating and implementing anti-drug policies and legal systems that were consistent with their own realities. China welcomed the introduction of the UNODC regional strategy for developing countries and would continue to support its work.

44. China had decided to begin the domestic process of ratification of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, an important step in implementing global security initiatives and maintaining international and regional peace, and stability and support for multilateralism. China would take the opportunity to participate more actively and constructively in international cooperation to combat related transnational organized crime and work with other countries to promote the building of a community of a shared future for humanity.

45. The use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes was a major challenge shared by all countries. That challenge was even more pressing in the era of the pandemic and in the context of new technologies that continued to give rise to new types of crime, and could not be addressed effectively by existing international treaties and cooperation mechanisms. The development of a global legal instrument within the framework of the United Nations had become the shared responsibility of all countries.

46. The General Assembly had adopted resolutions [74/247](#) and [75/282](#) to establish the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes, formally launching the negotiation process and laying out a clear road map. So far, the Committee had held three negotiation sessions and completed a first reading of the main elements of the draft convention. In accordance with resolution [75/282](#), the Committee would submit the draft convention to the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly for adoption. Therefore, all parties must continue to strengthen communication and coordination to ensure the timely completion of the negotiations.

47. The fourth and fifth negotiation sessions of the Committee would be held in Vienna and the discussions would enter the critical stage of the second reading, for which the participation of all countries would be crucial. China called on Member States and the Secretariat to actively support the participation of representatives from developing countries. The negotiations should be based on the new types of crimes closely linked to information and communications technologies and on the practices of countries in combating such crimes, and should take into consideration the special needs of developing countries. His delegation supported the Committee in hearing the views of academia and

industry and believed that the negotiation process must follow the principle of leadership by Member States.

48. **Mr. Smith** (Bahamas), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that poverty eradication, education, employment opportunities and other socioeconomic factors were critical to achieving the region's developmental aspirations and reducing crime, but that porous borders, irregular migration, the flow of illicit drugs and illegal firearms, human trafficking, money-laundering and emerging cyberthreats posed challenges. Over the past 10 years, CARICOM had enhanced its efforts to tackle crime by raising public awareness and mobilizing action, including through projects focused on youth, violence and social development.

49. As the majority of violent crimes in the Caribbean were committed using illegal firearms sourced from outside the region, intensified national, regional and international law enforcement collaboration was necessary. The COVID-19 pandemic had diverted critical resources away from crime prevention, resulting in the loss of safe spaces and increased domestic and gender-based violence. For 2021–2023, CARICOM had focused on strengthening access to microfinancing; creating alternatives to imprisonment for minor infractions; strengthening intersectoral partnerships; and analysing gaps in the application of non-custodial sentencing. Data-driven processes and rigorous monitoring and evaluation were needed to better combat crime in the region. Leaders at a recent dialogue of the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative had therefore made commitments to address risk and resilience factors, improve institutional capacity and continue supporting a community of practice on preventing youth crime and violence.

50. While the world drug problem presented a serious threat to public health, citizen security and socioeconomic development, transit States were especially affected by illicit drug use and trafficking and other multifaceted challenges. The recent memorandum of understanding between the International Narcotics Control Board and the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security served to formalize international cooperation and technical support by facilitating the sharing of expertise and intelligence with a view to combating transnational criminal activity and stemming the influx of synthetic substances. CARICOM underscored the need for dynamic and research-supported policy responses and called for flexibility for Member States to craft drug policies that met their specific needs. CARICOM welcomed the holistic approach set out in the UNODC Strategic Vision for Latin America and the Caribbean for 2022–2025 and

intended to strengthen cooperation with international partners and stakeholders with a view to future action on combating the world drug problem.

51. The use of ICT for criminal purposes was a serious and potentially crippling threat to all Member States. Many Caribbean countries had begun the increasingly important transition to digital economies in the pursuit of both socioeconomic growth and environmental sustainability, but lacked the resources and technical capacity to develop the infrastructure required to fully participate in the global digital economy while protecting citizens from its misuse. Significant and inclusive transformation was required to bridge the digital divide, both within and between countries, which must be prioritized, as evidenced by the more dire impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on those lagging behind. Only international cooperation could effectively protect cyberspace and its physical infrastructure and ensure its safe and secure availability to all.

52. The misuse of ICT could lead to increased crime, harm critical infrastructure and, ultimately, hinder development. Creating a legally binding global instrument for navigating cyberspace was necessary for a unified global response that would not only strengthen cybersecurity and technological resilience, but also social resilience and citizen security. CARICOM was committed to continuing its engagement in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee and appreciated the assistance offered to small and developing countries to facilitate and enhance the full and meaningful participation of all countries in negotiating sessions. While much remained to be achieved by 2024, CARICOM acknowledged the efforts made by the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee and by UNODC to conclude deliberations in a timely manner while giving due regard to human rights and State sovereignty, among other principles, and enhancing international cooperation through technical assistance, capacity-building and information-sharing.

53. **Mr. Mabhongo** (South Africa) said that transnational organized crime diverted State resources from poverty eradication, socioeconomic development and the maintenance of international peace and security. In sub-Saharan Africa, the collective impact of drug trafficking, human trafficking, illicit financial flows, wildlife crime, cybercrime and corruption exerted tremendous pressure on state institutions and weakened government administration. Guided by the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the Government of South Africa had strengthened its national anti-corruption strategy and had introduced new measures to prevent corruption in law enforcement and asset recovery. To investigate fraud and corruption in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, it had established a

fusion centre that coordinated the activities of the different crime prevention and security structures.

54. The pandemic had created new risks and challenges for victims and survivors of human trafficking, and it had increased the vulnerability of at-risk groups, especially women and children. In partnership with UNODC, South Africa had developed a training manual on the trafficking-in-persons law. To target its responses more precisely, it was also developing an integrated information system and had commissioned research on human trafficking.

55. South Africa had three laws on gender-based violence and was working with UNODC to develop a national prevention strategy. A Southern African Development Community model law on gender-based violence, which was being developed with the support of UNODC, would provide a blueprint for survivor-centred criminal justice reforms in the region.

56. South Africa continued to engage constructively in the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes.

57. **Ms. Hassan** (Egypt) said that her country attached great importance to combating transnational crime in all its forms, including trafficking in drugs, cultural property and persons, especially in the light of the connections between transnational organized crime and terrorism. It supported the work of UNODC in the face of challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. In December 2021, Egypt had hosted the ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in Sharm el-Sheikh. It stressed that assistance for building human and technical capacities to fight corruption should be provided to developing countries without conditions. States should cooperate in tracking illicit financial flows and returning stolen assets to their countries of origin in accordance with chapters IV and V of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

58. Egypt had taken a number of domestic measures to combat cybercrime. It had enacted legislation on trafficking in persons that was in line with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its two supplementary protocols, namely, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. Egypt had established a national committee to combat illegal migration under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and adopted a strategy that had succeeded in preventing any illegal migration from its

shores since 2016. It had also taken a number of measures to combat international terrorism and the financing thereof, including measures to prevent terrorist groups from using cyberspace to spread their ideologies.

59. **Ms. Alomair** (Saudi Arabia) said that her country had taken a number of measures to combat corruption, and had made transparency a priority as it implemented a package of economic reforms. The Riyadh initiative for enhancing international anti-corruption law enforcement cooperation had brought about the creation of the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network), which had been joined by 55 countries and 92 agencies since its launch in 2020. The report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation against the world drug problem (A/76/121) had drawn attention to links between drug smuggling and other forms of organized crime, including money-laundering, corruption and other criminal activities. In her country, youth were being targeted by drug networks sponsored by terrorist organizations sheltered by neighbouring countries. Her Government was fighting that threat with a combination of prevention, treatment and local and international measures.

60. **Mr. Sharma** (India) said that transnational organized crime continued to undermine efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. A global cross-sectoral response was needed to combat criminal and terror networks, which were increasingly interconnected. Priority should be given to building the capacity of Member States to respond to the dynamic threat posed by terrorist use of ICTs and emerging technologies, and the United Nations should cooperate more closely with bodies such as the Financial Action Task Force. India valued and participated actively in the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes.

61. India had enacted a drug control law in 1985, and its penal code provided a comprehensive definition of human trafficking and stringent punishments for traffickers. It had recently set up anti-human-trafficking cells across the country. In addition, it had accelerated action to provide health and rehabilitation services and to generate greater awareness in schools, and it was taking stringent law enforcement measures against drug trafficking. In association with UNODC, it had initiated a multi-year project to provide training for law enforcement officers in the area of human trafficking.

62. In 2020, India had launched a campaign to discourage the use of illicit drugs, and it was working closely with neighbouring countries on drug control. It continued to share skills and expertise in law enforcement, forensic science, cybersecurity and other fields.

63. *Mr. Blanco Conde (Dominican Republic) resumed the Chair.*

64. **Ms. Romulus Ortega** (Mexico) said that States should focus less on punishing crimes and more on preventing them. Mexico would continue to emphasize international cooperation in preventing human trafficking and migrant smuggling in a human rights-informed, gender-inclusive manner. Preventing and combatting illicit arms flows remained a national priority. It was essential to make arms sales transparent, and manufacturers and distributors should be required by law to identify, prevent, mitigate and answer for the negative consequences of their commercial activities. Mexico was also concerned about the substantial rise in cybercrime and the easy adaptability of cybercriminals.

65. All United Nations entities should share a common vision of support for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and for the promotion and protection of human rights. Steps must be taken to strengthen synergies and coordination among the Vienna-based commissions and their interactions with the other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as with United Nations bodies such as the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly.

66. It was necessary to move towards a more holistic and preventative global approach to drug control, centred on the health and well-being of people. Mexico would continue to promote comprehensive, integrated policies for combating drug trafficking and facilitating access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes.

67. **Ms. Mimran Rosenberg** (Israel) said that effective action on all of the agenda items under discussion required strong public policies and intersectoral and intergovernmental cooperation. To combat the growing threat of cybercrime, Israel was blocking access to or removing content from online platforms and worked in cooperation with law enforcement worldwide.

68. States had a common responsibility to share best practices and knowledge in drug control. Involving children in sports activities at an early age could prevent the mental and physical distress that led to drug abuse later in life. Cross-sectoral activities, conducted jointly by governmental agencies, civil society organizations

and private companies, helped to make cities and communities safe, resilient and sustainable.

69. **Ms. Banaken Elel** (Cameroon) said that transnational organized crime posed significant threats to national and international security and stability. Her Government remained concerned about the close interconnection between drugs, terrorism and cybercrime. Of those crimes, terrorism posed the greatest threat to Cameroon, which in recent years had been subject to terrorist attacks by Boko Haram. However, cybercrime was a growing problem. Cameroon had adopted a series of operational and legal measures to address cyberterrorism, Internet fraud, cyberespionage, scamming and hacking, including a cybersecurity and cybercrime law, and it was following with interest the work of the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes. A well-drafted international instrument on cybercrime would provide a basis for confidence- and capacity-building measures and foster international cooperation. The future convention should encourage technical assistance, technology transfer and tailored capacity-building programmes.

70. **Mr. Pilipenko** (Belarus) said that his country consistently supported the central coordinating role of the United Nations in consolidating international efforts to combat transnational organized crime. Such efforts should be strengthened, with focus placed on new forms of organized crime involving the use of new financial instruments.

71. As coordinator of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, Belarus would continue to promote efforts to combat trafficking in persons as a priority. The political declaration adopted at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons had sent a strong signal of the political will and readiness of Member States to provide the resources necessary to combat that criminal practice. All States that had not yet done so should consider becoming parties to, or ratifying as soon as possible, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing that Convention. States parties to those agreements should ensure their full and effective implementation.

72. As part of its efforts to combat ICT-related crime, his Government had adopted a national information security policy in 2019. At the regional level, Belarus had shared its experience in that area with the CIS

member States and had participated actively in the development of the CSTO collective security strategy for the period up to 2025. As Chair of CSTO in 2022–2023, Belarus would continue to give due attention to strengthening cooperation in combating ICT-related crime. Within the United Nations, Belarus contributed to the promotion of efforts to combat ICT-related crime on the basis that each State had sovereignty and could exercise jurisdiction over its territory with respect to cyberspace in accordance with its domestic law.

73. In the light of contemporary developments in drug-related crime and the use of the darknet and cryptocurrency for drug trafficking, Member States should give priority to organizing exchanges of information about means of committing crimes and methods for detecting criminal activity on the darknet at the supranational level, to compiling and seizing digital evidence, and to developing and using specific techniques for investigating crimes committed in cyberspace. An international legal mechanism should be developed for the seizure of criminal cryptoassets and their storage until the rendering of a court decision. Belarus supported the work of the open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025.

74. **Ms. Nkombo** (Zambia) said that drug trafficking and abuse remained a serious concern and a threat to sustainable development. Her Government regularly reviewed the related laws and policies to adapt them to emerging challenges and ensure that controlled substances were available for medicinal and scientific purposes. It had taken steps to improve collaboration among institutions involved in controlling and managing the movement and use of precursor chemicals and controlled substances, thereby facilitating local, regional and international cooperation. It was also implementing programmes for drug-dependent persons. Its infrastructure development and sustainable livelihood programmes would help to prevent and control drug trafficking and abuse.

75. Zambia underscored the importance of achieving the goals and targets of the three international drug conventions and had made efforts to domesticate them. Cognisant of the role of international cooperation in addressing and countering illicit drug production, it would continue to implement evidence-based, balanced and integrated approaches.

76. The world drug problem was a shared responsibility which must be addressed in a multilateral setting in an integrated and balanced manner. Zambia remained opposed to the decriminalization and

legalization of illicit drugs, which it considered counter to the spirit of the three international drug treaties.

77. **Mr. Pedroso Cuesta** (Cuba) said that national and international anti-crime initiatives should be accompanied by efforts to promote development and a more just, democratic and equitable new international order. They should be State-led, cooperative and non-punitive. It was important to avoid country rankings and unilateral lists, which only contributed to polarization and selectivity.

78. The work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should not be duplicated by other forums, because doing so would undermine their authority. Cuba recognized the importance of the congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice and had supported the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes since its inception.

79. Information and communications technologies should be at the service of sustainable development, peace and well-being. Their increasing use for criminal and destabilizing purposes was a matter of concern. Democratizing access to ICTs, including the Internet, was imperative to enable every country to combat such uses.

80. For decades, the Government of the United States had used social networks to incite destabilizing violence and crime in Cuba in order to impede development and interfere with Cuban efforts to combat the criminal economic embargo, in accordance with its declared intent of subverting the constitutional order freely chosen by the Cuban people.

81. Drug abuse and dependence were a serious health problem and a threat to security and economic and social development. Cuba supported the existing international framework for drug control, as well as the intergovernmental bodies that monitored compliance with the three international drug control conventions, and considered the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to be the main United Nations body for dealing with the global drug problem. Cuba had a zero-tolerance policy on the production, consumption and trafficking of drugs. Lastly, in the context of the ongoing process of updating Cuban laws, a number of changes had recently been enacted to improve crime prevention, law enforcement response capacities and the justice system.

82. **Archbishop Caccia** (Observer for the Holy See) said that crimes against the environment did not always receive due attention and were perceived as victimless,

yet they had a negative impact on the three dimensions of sustainable development. All human beings were responsible for the earth and must work together to preserve their common home. The dichotomy between profit and social responsibility was false.

83. Illicit drug-related activities were expected to increase, making continued efforts to prevent and combat drug use essential. While mindful of the serious concerns related to the incarceration of users and petty traffickers, the Holy See was convinced that those concerns could be addressed without legalizing drugs. The use of drugs was always destructive and could not be eradicated without condemning it, preventing their sale and eradicating the drug culture. The focus should be on identifying trafficking networks, prosecuting major criminals and preventing use. Anti-drug policies should include compassionate support for drug addicts, and preventive efforts should start with quality education that fostered a sense of values and an understanding of human dignity. True justice did not simply punish; it led the criminal to rehabilitation and reintegration.

84. The rapid development of information and communication technologies had been positive on the whole, but ICTs were not always neutral. Their use and implementation had ethical implications, and their criminal use must not be ignored. ICTs had magnified the impact of “traditional” crimes such as the production, distribution and consumption of child pornography. While States had a responsibility to combat production and distribution, those activities cut across national borders, outstripping the efforts and resources of the relevant institutions. Terrorists employed ICTs for radicalization, recruitment, fundraising, training, cyberattacks and tactical and field operations and used cryptocurrency to receive and transfer funds anonymously. The Holy See supported the development of a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes.

85. **Ms. Bafrani** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that her Government was addressing drug abuse through a wide range of plans and programmes for prevention, demand reduction, harm reduction, treatment and rehabilitation. The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomed all forms of bilateral, regional and international cooperation in the fight against narcotics and had signed memorandums of understanding with more than 40 countries. It was an active member of the UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries, and together with Afghanistan and Pakistan, was one of the three countries in the Triangular Initiative on drug control. It had also organized activities in

cooperation with the UNODC country office in Tehran and other specialized United Nations agencies.

86. In 2021, Iran had carried out some 5,000 drug control operations resulting in the dismantling of more than 2,300 armed drug trafficking networks and the seizure of more than 1,100 tons of illicit drugs. However, her country's continued active role as a frontline country in the international campaign against drug trafficking depended on the meaningful engagement of the international community and adequate financial and technological support. Unfortunately, its relentless efforts received inadequate recognition from the countries of destination and were limited by unilateral sanctions, which also diminished the resources it could devote to preventing drug abuse among young people.

87. With respect to the use of ICTs for criminal purposes, it was essential to take effective measures to prevent young people from becoming involved in cybercrime and to provide a supportive online environment that promoted dignity and morality. Regarding the increase in hate crimes mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the mandates of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, with particular reference to the technical cooperation activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([A/77/127](#)), the alarming rise in hate crimes and hate speech against Muslims was accompanied by the continued targeting, profiling and harassment of Muslims by police and security agencies.

88. **Mr. Abd Aziz** (Malaysia) said that, as people became increasingly reliant on the Internet, criminals were moving online, where their activities transcended national borders and jurisdictions. Unfortunately, the socioeconomic hardships engendered by the COVID-19 pandemic had increased the susceptibility of vulnerable populations, including a number of Malaysians who had fallen victim to online job offer scams. The pandemic had also seen increased linkages between drug trafficking syndicates and other transnational criminal organizations.

89. Malaysia regularly reviewed and updated its laws and policies to address the evolving nature of criminal activities. Thanks to a whole-of-government approach and close collaboration with non-governmental and civil society organisations, its crime rate had declined substantially in 2021. Its drug policy combined stringent measures to address supply, programmes for the treatment, rehabilitation, care and reintegration of drug dependents and a prevention strategy targeting high-risk areas.

90. National efforts to combat crime and drugs must be supplemented by regional and international cooperation. International cooperation should include capacity-building, sharing of experiences and best practices, and the regular exchange of information and intelligence. Malaysia stressed the importance of comprehensive strategies and strong coordination and integration among security and law enforcement agencies at the national, regional and international level.

91. Malaysia valued the work of UNODC and remained committed to the relevant international instruments, as well as to the regional and bilateral agreements to which it was a party. At the level of ASEAN, it was evaluating a proposal for a special committee to address the job scam issue. It also participated actively in the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes.

92. **Mr. Paredes Campaña** (Colombia) said that the war on drugs had failed. Future efforts should focus on public health, protecting human rights and international cooperation. Inspired by the principle of common and shared responsibility, States should approach the drug problem in a spirit of solidarity, engaging in open and transparent dialogue among themselves and with all of the actors in the international system.

93. Drug control efforts must address both supply and demand without neglecting other factors. Continued compliance with the provisions of the international drug control treaties was essential. Drug policies should respect the fundamental human right of drug users to health by ensuring accessible treatment for related health problems and adequate harm reduction services.

94. The current international context highlighted the importance of multilateral dialogue on the cultivation of cannabis and coca. Alternative development efforts should be based on dialogue with the communities concerned, in order to ensure practical, sustainable solutions and prevent the affected areas from falling into the hands of organized crime. Government actions should target criminal organizations, not farmers.

95. The political declaration entitled "Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation", adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption ([A/RES/S-32/1](#), annex), was the most important programmatic document in the fight against corruption. That declaration and the United Nations Convention against Corruption constituted the new global standard for anti-corruption policies. Colombia

welcomed the establishment of the mechanism to implement the declaration, which had met for the first time in September 2022 during the intersessional meeting of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption on the achievements of the political declaration by the special session of the General Assembly against corruption.

96. Colombia appreciated the ongoing efforts of the international community to negotiate a cybercrime treaty. It would continue to work to strengthen international cooperation and capacity-building in the fight against cybercrime, with due regard for the existing international instruments.

97. **Ms. Andújar** (Dominican Republic) said that crime, corruption and the world drug problem remained a source of human suffering and injustice and major obstacles to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Drug trafficking and organized crime undermined public safety, weakened government institutions and diverted resources sorely needed for other purposes.

98. In recent years, the Dominican Republic had worked hard to achieve transparency, combat drug trafficking and strengthen the justice system and legal certainty. To combat corruption, the Attorney General was no longer appointed by the President, independent professionals had been positioned in key bodies, and a new general directorate of ethics and governmental integrity had been established. In June, her Government had organized a high-level discussion on mainstreaming youth considerations in crime prevention policies. It would continue to work to strengthen interinstitutional coordination, improve cooperation with other countries, eliminate the adult-centric focus and promote the participation of young people.

99. The Dominican Republic had participated in the efforts to draft a cybercrime treaty, which should be governed by the principles of transparency, impartiality and inclusion.

100. States and other interested parties had a collective responsibility to tackle human trafficking more vigorously, taking a comprehensive, interdisciplinary and survivor-centred approach, in accordance with the 2021 Political Declaration on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons ([A/RES/76/7](#)). The Dominican Republic was working to align its laws with its international obligations and was developing a third action plan on human trafficking. Her Government hoped that the recently launched UNODC Strategic Vision for Latin America and the Caribbean would strengthen the regional response to organized crime,

human trafficking, drug trafficking and corruption. To end those scourges, it would be necessary to confront the causes and risk factors, make institutions more responsible and transparent and promote people-centred law enforcement and criminal justice systems.

101. **Mr. Dang** Tran Nam Trung (Viet Nam) said that the world drug problem threatened economic development, social security and the health and welfare of people everywhere; it could not be addressed by a single State in isolation. Viet Nam welcomed all international efforts to tackle the problem and, especially, the leading role of United Nations organizations such as the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and UNODC. It also emphasised the fundamental role of the three United Nations conventions on drug control.

102. The Vietnamese approach to drug control and the prevention of drug-related crimes was comprehensive, inclusive and people-centred. Its revised narcotic substances law emphasized the prevention of cross-border drug trafficking while providing for anti-drug programmes, more diverse rehabilitation models and stringent control of illegal drug-related activities. It had both a national strategy and a national vision document on drug control. At the regional and international level, Viet Nam cooperated closely with the international community and other countries in the region and participated actively in bilateral and multilateral cooperation frameworks on drug control.

103. To improve effectiveness, Member States should coordinate their efforts more closely. They should balance supply, demand, and harm reduction and strive to eliminate root causes. It was also necessary to promote information exchanges and to share experiences.

104. Enhanced cooperation, capacity-building and technical and financial assistance were needed in the implementation of national strategies, programmes and action plans on drug control. In that context, it was important to adhere to the principles of territorial integrity, respect for sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of Member States, as well as to the provisions of the United Nations drug control treaties.

105. **Ms. Lortkipanidze** (Georgia) said that the crime prevention, respect for human rights, a fair and independent judiciary, rule of law and good governance were key elements in democratic and sustainable development. To fight cybercrime effectively, Georgia had reformed its laws and its policy instruments to conform to the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime. Thanks to various capacity-building projects, it had been able to train several hundred law enforcement and judiciary professionals in the area of

cybercrime and to adopt a number of well-informed policy documents.

106. An inter-agency coordinating council for combatting drug abuse brought the relevant stakeholders together for the formulation of anti-drug policies, and a national drug observatory had been established to ensure that such policies were evidence-based. The national anti-drug strategy and action plan reflected international human rights principles and were based on the four-pillar concept: supply reduction, prevention, treatment and harm reduction.

107. **Mr. Marwa** (Nigeria), emphasizing the role of common and shared responsibility, said that tackling the world drug problem was a long-term effort. As elsewhere in the world, the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian-Ukrainian war had exacerbated drug abuse and trafficking problems in Nigeria, where they also fuelled terrorism and banditry.

108. To counter the sale of illicit drugs on the dark web, Nigeria had launched a concerted effort to trace and charge the perpetrators within the framework of existing legislation. It had also initiated a capacity-building programme to train police officers on policing the Internet, with emphasis on the dark web. However, robust international cooperation was essential to combat cybercrime effectively. Nigeria looked forward to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes.

109. Nigeria was implementing a drug control master plan and had launched a substance abuse prevention programme. It had introduced a high-tech lie detection system at the new terminal of the national airport in order to combat drug trafficking, and it operated a toll-free drug abuse call centre. Between January 2021 and May 2022, Nigeria had arrested more than 17,000 drug suspects, convicted over 2,000 traffickers and seized 3.5 million kilograms of drugs. Two clandestine methamphetamine laboratories had also been dismantled.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.