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Work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention

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Report of the Executive Director

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I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Executive Director is the second annual report on the work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat (ODCCP) submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. It covers the period between the eighth and ninth sessions of the Commission and provides an integrated overview of the work of the Centre during the past year and a preview of its future orientation. To reduce the volume of documentation, the present report fulfils, in one consolidated document, several reporting obligations to the Commission.

II. Major developments

A. Challenges of transnational crime and corruption

2. During the closing decade of the twentieth century, crime prevention and criminal justice concerns presented major challenges to Governments throughout the world. Preliminary data from the Sixth United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and data from the preceding Fifth United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems indicate patterns in overall crime rates that are consistent with much of the media portrayals of late. Specifically, the total number of crimes reported to the police during the 1990s dropped or stayed approximately the same in the States members of the European Union, but showed increases in States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States and in States of Asia and eastern Europe. Further, the decade witnessed increases for all regions of the world considered together. Those patterns held true for a diverse group of crimes, including fraud, embezzlement, burglary, automobile theft, assault, homicide, robbery and rape.

3. While the above-mentioned crimes have traditionally dominated police records and police efforts, the most significant new challenge for criminal policy is organized crime, particularly those forms which are cross-border in nature. New and fast-changing mechanisms of trade, finance, communications and information have helped to foster criminality that is not confined to individual countries but is increasingly global

in nature. Criminal organizations have managed to adapt corporate-like structures to criminal markets, employing strategies that allow them to respond swiftly to changing circumstances and conceal profits. Organized crime has shown a great capacity to exploit different opportunities and has grown internationally through new alliances and activities. Illicit trafficking in persons, firearms, automobiles, antiques and drugs is expanding in most parts of the world, with new and formerly uninvolved countries becoming new transit and host countries for illicit activities. The proceeds of those activities are often laundered, leading to the undermining of legal economies and democratic institutions.

4. Corruption is recognized as having also become a major problem capable of threatening social, economic and political development. While corruption is not a new phenomenon, the 1990s have witnessed an eruption of scandals that transcend national borders. The notorious cases involving the Bank of Credit and Commerce International and the Bank of New York had ramifications in several countries. Corruption has a particularly severe economic impact on developing countries and countries with economies in transition. It is now widely acknowledged that corruption scares away foreign investment as well as foreign aid. However, the problem is far from limited to those countries. In a recent poll of over 30,000 persons worldwide conducted by Gallup International, over 75 per cent of those surveyed perceived their politicians to be corrupt. Of those persons surveyed in South America and the Far East, over 90 per cent perceived their politicians to be corrupt. Regardless of the economic strength of a country, corruption is rooted in a lack of accountability and transparency, weak civil society and the failure of public officials, including politicians, to recognize the essential importance of the rule of law.

5. The smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings have expanded throughout the world in recent years. Ease of transport, improved roads, increased airline traffic and sophisticated methods of document forgery have all played a role in the growth of such crimes. The smuggling of migrants disrupts established immigration policies of the countries of destination and often involves human rights abuses. Prostitution by immigrant women ranks highest among the mechanisms of exploitation.

6. Technological advances, such as the expansion of the use of personal computers and of access to the

Internet, have prompted criminals both to target and to exploit new victims. Computer hacking, once seen as the harmless activity of a few individuals, is now regarded as a serious crime threat because of its cross-national ramifications and potential impact on sensitive computer systems. The fast-growing volume of electronic commerce has led to an increase in computer-related fraud. Software piracy is also on the rise. According to the Software Publishers Association and the Business Software Alliance, software piracy exists in all regions of the world, with rates in eastern Europe the highest at over 80 per cent. Of great concern is also the pervasive availability of child pornography on the Internet.

7. The unprecedented challenges posed by the modern criminal world have led to a clear recognition that no country alone can cope successfully with the growth of transnational crime. Issues that were traditionally considered as the exclusive preserve of national Governments must increasingly be addressed in multilateral settings where joint strategies and activities are agreed upon. One obvious example is the fight against trafficking in human beings, for which strengthening of immigration controls in the countries of destination alone cannot yield lasting results. There is a need for broad-based coalitions of various agencies and actors both within and between the countries involved, including the police, the prosecution, victim and witness support schemes and the media. Equally obvious is the need for international cooperation in the fight against corruption. International bribery can be effectively tackled only through joint action in countries providing and receiving international investment and development assistance. A cornerstone of any such strategy will have to be the reduction of bank secrecy in financial centres across the world, including the so-called offshore centres specializing in international monetary transactions.

8. In short, the increasingly sophisticated international networks of illegal activity must urgently be matched by equally up-to-date structures and mechanisms of the international criminal justice community.

B. Meeting the challenges: a new role for the Centre

9. For the Centre, 1999 has been a year of transition. Its programmatic and organizational transition began with the reform measures of the Secretary-General. On the basis of those measures and of the recommendations

emanating from the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Office of Internal Oversight Services, and with the guidance of the Commission, a process of significant transformation has been carried through. A basic guiding principle in that process has been the focusing of resources and activities on those areas of crime prevention and criminal justice where the United Nations possesses comparative advantages and can provide added value. Besides its traditional activities, such as standard-setting, the exchange of information and ad hoc technical assistance, the Centre is uniquely positioned to fulfil a central role in facilitating and coordinating international cooperation in combating transnational forms of crime. Whereas international agencies such as the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) have an important role in supporting criminal investigations of cross-border crime, the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme is the only universal institutional framework for the development, implementation and evaluation of the global criminal policies needed to combat transnational crime. It is for that strategic reason that the ODCCP leadership, with the endorsement of the Commission and the Member States, has been focusing the resources and activities of the Centre mainly on transnational crime. Important manifestations of that approach are its three global programmes against transnational organized crime, trafficking in human beings and corruption and its crucial support role in the elaboration of international legal instruments against organized crime.

10. To implement the new strategy, the Centre has recruited several new staff members who possess the relevant substantive expertise. That has been facilitated through increased contributions to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund. Special attention was given in the recruitment effort to the goals, as set by the Organization, of achieving greater gender balance and equitable geographical distribution. As a result, 9 of the 11 Professional staff recently recruited by the Centre are women, 5 of them from developing countries.

11. As noted in the first annual report on the work of the Centre, the renewal of the human resources of the Centre has been accompanied by appropriate structural adjustments, namely the establishment of three organizational units dealing with legal affairs, with crime reduction and analysis and with technical cooperation. To facilitate the implementation of the newly focused

technical assistance programme of the Centre, teams have been established with responsibility for each of its three global programmes. The teams are supported by the unit dealing with technical cooperation activities in terms of quality control and project administration. With the filling of the two Professional posts included in the 1998-1999 programme budget for terrorism-related activities, a corresponding small organizational unit on the prevention of terrorism has also begun work. The work of the ODCCP global programme against money-laundering is closely coordinated with that of the Centre.

12. Substantive synergy with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) has been further improved and is reinforced through regular meetings of the Executive Director of ODCCP with senior managers and periodic meetings with all ODCCP programme managers. A corporate identity of ODCCP has taken root, both internally and externally. Operational synergy between the Centre and UNDCP at the field level has been further pursued through the establishment of ODCCP regional offices in Cairo, Moscow, Pretoria and Tashkent. Setting up additional ODCCP field offices in other regions will be considered when funding for implementing the projects of the Centre in those regions becomes available.

13. The Centre has also greatly benefited from increased synergies, pooling of resources and consolidation of tasks within ODCCP. Thus, the servicing of intergovernmental bodies is carried out jointly with the secretariat of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Assistance in programme support, personnel administration, fund-raising and external relations are also provided at the ODCCP level, with the related input of the United Nations Office at Vienna.

III. Supporting the global policy forum

A. Servicing intergovernmental bodies

14. The Centre continued to support the function of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme as a global policy forum. It provided substantive servicing for the eighth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and carried out preparations for the ninth session. The reduction in the number and length of documents submitted to the Commission was further pursued. The

Centre supported the servicing of the relevant meetings of the Economic and Social Council, at its regular session of 1999, and of the General Assembly, at its fifty-fourth session. The Centre also serviced the third to the eighth sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (see also section IV below).

15. The Centre carried out a "customer satisfaction" assessment on its servicing of the eighth session of the Commission through an evaluation questionnaire distributed to a random sample of participants. Questions were included on several aspects of the servicing, which were to be answered on a scale of 1 to 10, with the lowest number indicating "not satisfied" and the highest number indicating "fully satisfied". The average level specified in the responses to the questions was eight. Such a high average indicated overall satisfaction of the respondents with the services. Some respondents suggested that the documents needed to be provided in all languages at an earlier date in advance of the sessions. Some others noted that the time provided for the discussion of policy issues was inadequate. Open-ended comments were also invited on ways of improving both the servicing of the Commission and its work generally. That request generated only a small number of responses, which pointed out the need for more careful translation of documents and for the accurate use of terminology. The Centre will continue to carry out similar surveys at future sessions of the Commission.

B. Preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

16. The Centre, acting as the secretariat of the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, has ensured the substantive and organizational preparations for the conduct of the Congress. It prepared the overview of the state of crime and criminal justice worldwide for presentation at the opening of the Tenth Congress and the substantive documents on each of the four substantive items of the agenda. It also coordinated and processed the background papers on each of the subjects of the four workshops to be held during the Tenth Congress, the preparations for which were conducted by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), the Asia and Far East Institute for the

Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations and the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime. Member States were kept abreast of the preparatory measures through inter-sessional consultation meetings for permanent missions in Vienna. The Centre has also lent substantive input and support to the media and information campaign for the Tenth Congress.

IV. Progress towards a convention against transnational organized crime and the protocols thereto

17. The Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime intends to complete its work in 2000. By the end of its seventh session (held from 17 to 28 January 2000), the streamlined schedule of the Ad Hoc Committee and the efforts and constructive spirit of delegations had led to significant progress (for details, see the report on the work of the Ad Hoc Committee (E/CN.15/2000/4)).

18. At the request of the General Assembly, the Ad Hoc Committee, at its seventh session, examined the desirability of an independent or ancillary international legal instrument against corruption. The Ad Hoc Committee unanimously concluded that an independent international instrument against corruption was desirable. The development of such an instrument should be based on sound preparations, including an analysis of existing international legal instruments and pertinent recommendations, and on the body of knowledge reflected in the drafting of a United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Work on an international instrument against corruption should begin after completion of the drafting of the Convention and of the protocols thereto.

19. At its seventh session, the Ad Hoc Committee began to finalize the revised draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. With regard to the revised draft Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the "Migrant Protocol", and the revised draft Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational

Organized Crime, the "Trafficking Protocol", the Ad Hoc Committee completed the first reading of the revised drafts during its sixth session. At the seventh session, informal consultations were held on the Trafficking Protocol and the second reading of the revised draft was begun. With regard to the revised draft 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, the "Firearms Protocol", the Ad Hoc Committee continued the second reading of the revised draft during its seventh session.

20. On the basis of legal advice that the issue of explosives was beyond the mandate given to the Ad Hoc Committee under General Assembly resolution 54/127 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/17, the Committee decided to remove explosives from the Firearms Protocol. The second reading of the Firearms Protocol was concluded. Final discussion of the draft resumed at the eighth session of the Ad Hoc Committee.

21. It is envisaged that a report will be submitted to the Commission at its tenth session on the implementation of relevant resolutions on explosives and firearms, by which time the related work, to be financed through voluntary contributions, is expected to be sufficiently advanced.

22. The quality of the draft articles of the Convention and of the protocols thereto would ensure that, when adopted, they could serve as effective tools for government authorities to establish new mechanisms for international cooperation in fighting transnational organized crime. At the same time, it should be emphasized that their effectiveness will also depend greatly on their universality. In other words, they can be most effective when the majority of countries participates in the drafting process, as well as signing and ratifying the instruments. Ensuring participation, signature and ratification by a maximum number of countries requires that the needs and concerns of all States should be taken into account throughout the process.

23. The Ad Hoc Committee has also been paying particular attention to the implementation of the Convention after its ratification by States. Currently, the draft Convention contains various articles related to implementation. One of those articles provides for the establishment of a Conference of the Parties to the Convention to improve the capacity of States Parties to promote and monitor the implementation of the Convention (A/AC.254/4/Rev.6, article 23). For many

States, the ratification of the Convention and the protocols thereto would require amending existing or drafting new laws, as well as strengthening their law enforcement structures and criminal justice systems. In order to meet those challenging requirements, States need to cooperate with each other. Adequate levels of support and assistance will need to be provided, in particular to developing countries.

24. Provision of such assistance should be pursued at the bilateral, regional and global levels. In particular, it is essential to provide developing countries with the required technical assistance. Without such assistance, they will not be able to carry out the required reform of the existing systems because of a lack of resources and expertise. It has been proposed that the draft Convention envisage the establishment of a special fund for that purpose and that confiscated assets of organized crime groups may be credited to that fund.

25. The Centre is expected to play a pivotal role in supporting the implementation process. To enable the Centre to fulfil that role, it will be necessary to continue to strengthen its operational capacity through increased regular budget allocations. Adequate resources will also be required to support the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. Reinforcing its human and financial resources will therefore be crucial. The provision of advisory services and other forms of technical assistance by the Centre will also need to be increased through voluntary contributions. As the process of implementation of the new instruments and the performance of the functions of the Conference of the Parties will be gradual, the required strengthening of the Centre can be achieved over a certain period of time through careful planning. Nevertheless, the continued and sustained support of Member States is necessary to enable adequate budgetary provisions for its activities.

26. The Centre has been exploring avenues for promoting the implementation of the Convention upon its adoption. Pursuant to an international ministerial symposium organized by the Centre, jointly with the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council (ISPAC), and held in Rome on 26 and 27 February 1999, the Centre is organizing regional ministerial and expert meetings on the Convention, with the objective of promoting political support and awareness, facilitating cross-fertilization of ideas and fostering regional cooperation. A ministerial seminar for the region of Asia and the Pacific, hosted by the

Government of Thailand and devoted to building capacities for fighting transnational organized crime, is scheduled to be held in Bangkok, on 20 and 21 March 2000. A regional expert meeting is scheduled to be held in Tashkent on 22 and 23 March 2000. Plans are also being made for a ministerial meeting to be held in the region of southern Africa. Similar activities may be undertaken in other regions not covered by the above-mentioned meetings, subject to the interest of the countries concerned and the availability of funds.

V. Global programmes

A. Global programme against trafficking in human beings

27. In the past year, the Centre has advanced the implementation of the global programme against trafficking in human beings, launched jointly with UNICRI in March 1999. The global programme is being carried out together with other international and national entities working on issues related to trafficking in human beings. The global programme aims at enabling countries of origin, transit and destination to develop joint strategies and practical actions against trafficking in human beings. It will contribute to empowering donor and recipient countries to address a common problem in a manner that transcends a purely bilateral approach, recognizing that, given the transnational character of trafficking in human beings, effective and efficient criminal-justice-related responses can be developed only through international cooperation.

28. The global programme consists of an integral package of assessment, technical cooperation, evaluation and the formulation of an international strategy against trafficking in human beings. In addition to an in-depth assessment of trafficking trends, its main feature is a series of technical cooperation projects in selected countries. Activities to be carried out in cooperation with the national counterparts are based on an analysis of the involvement of organized crime in the trafficking of human beings. A database containing best practices will be established so that the collected information can be used by policy makers, practitioners, researchers and non-governmental organizations. Technical assistance projects carried out under the global programme will be evaluated independently by an international advisory

board consisting of high-level representatives from Member States and individual experts.

29. The first technical cooperation project was initiated in the Philippines, with the support of the Government of Australia, through the Australian Institute of Criminology, and of the Government of the United States of America. A start-up mission to the country was carried out, which enabled the Centre to prepare a rapid assessment and to provide a detailed plan for the project activities. Technical assistance activities in the Philippines include establishing a national coordination mechanism, support for developing a database on the involvement of organized crime in trafficking, awareness-raising and training for law enforcement officers and increasing the protection and support provided to victims and witnesses.

30. Another technical cooperation project against trafficking in human beings has been initiated in eastern Europe, with the financial support of the Governments of Austria and the Netherlands and of the European Union. The project covers the Czech Republic and Poland. Austria, Finland, Germany and the Netherlands are participating as partner countries. The main focus of the project is on the necessary cooperation between the criminal justice system, other agencies and civil society in order to find ways to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings, in particular where organized criminal groups are involved. Another integral element of the project is the provision of support to victims and witnesses.

31. A third technical cooperation project is being prepared, covering the region of Latin America, for which partial funding has been provided by Portugal and a contribution pledged by Brazil. A preparatory mission to Brazil has been undertaken, to be followed up by expert missions to prepare an in-depth evaluation of the situation. The project is expected to entail assessment of the following: the involvement of organized crime in the trafficking of human beings; existing national legislation and international agreements on criminal matters; migration flows; and problems encountered by law enforcement officers and criminal justice personnel.

32. Another project is under preparation, covering a number of countries in the region of west Africa. The project, to be financed by the Government of France and the Government of Norway, will assess and analyse trafficking flows and the responses of governmental and non-governmental organizations in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire,

Nigeria, Senegal and Togo. The project aims at raising awareness of trafficking in human beings and strengthening the institutional capacity of States to combat the criminal activity behind it.

33. In planning and implementing the global programme against trafficking in human beings, the Centre continued its cooperation with other international and regional organizations, including the United Nations Children's Fund, the European Union, Interpol, the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, as well as international and national non-governmental organizations and local institutions and experts. The Centre also contributed to a number of relevant international conferences. UNICRI and the Municipality of Verona, in collaboration with ODCCP, organized a conference on the theme "New frontiers of crime: trafficking in human beings and new forms of slavery", held in Verona, Italy, from 22 to 23 October 1999.

B. Global programme against corruption

34. Considerable progress has been made in refining and implementing the global programme against corruption, launched jointly with UNICRI in March 1999. The global programme consists of an integral package of assessment, technical cooperation, evaluation and the formulation of an international strategy against corruption. During its initial stage, projects will be undertaken in 12 countries in five regions (Africa, Asia, eastern Europe, Latin America and the Middle East). The selected countries have requested assistance from the United Nations to assess the current situation and design and implement an integrated and realistic anti-corruption programme.

35. The global programme entails a systematic process of "action learning", which will identify best practices and lessons learned through the country project, donor participation and programme execution. As corruption tends to be dynamic and has cross-cutting dimensions and impact, the approach to the technical cooperation component will, by necessity, be dynamic, integrated and holistic. Attention is given equally to preventive measures, law enforcement and prosecution. The technical cooperation component will also follow a modular approach consisting of tools that may be implemented individually or as a package in different stages at the international, national and local levels. An

important initiative to be taken, for example, will be the establishment of a credible, independent complaints mechanism that would enable citizens to identify corruption and/or a lack of services. Such a set of anti-corruption tools is being tested and refined through the process of action learning. Approaches along those lines are being pilot-tested in a project in Hungary.

36. The assessment component will be carried out through the application of a corruption monitoring protocol. It will be issued regularly to document trends in corruption. The results will be made available in a database accessible through the web pages of the Centre and UNICRI. Plans have been made to establish a steering committee for the global programme, to be entrusted with the task of reviewing the implementation strategy, the work programme and the project tools.

37. Implementation of a number of projects is already under way. A project in Lebanon, entitled "National anti-corruption strategy plan in Lebanon" and launched in March 1999 with funding from the Government of the United States, has been reoriented within the framework of the global programme, at the request of the Government of Lebanon. As part of the project, a workshop on the theme "Law standardization and modernization for the parliamentary committees", particularly the finance and budget committee, was held in June 1999 to evaluate their role and responsibilities with respect to measures to prevent and control corruption. A series of three workshops on the nature of corruption and its implications at the financial, economic and administrative levels was organized in November 1999 for members of supervisory bodies, magistrates, officers of the criminal police, public service officials at the decision-making level, persons responsible for the direction of financial services and non-governmental organizations. Working groups of the Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform and relevant non-governmental organizations have been set up to support the elaboration of a campaign to raise public awareness of anti-corruption measures.

38. The Centre has launched a project in Hungary, entitled "Assessment of corruption in Hungary", with funding provided by the Government of the United States. The project will assist the Government of Hungary in its efforts to prevent, detect and fight corruption and promote transparency, accountability and the rule of law. A meeting of scientific experts was held in Budapest in June 1999 to discuss and design a methodology and tools

for the assessment of the extent and nature of corruption and anti-corruption measures in Hungary. A pilot test of the rapid assessment instruments was carried out, involving the completion of surveys, a focus group and a case study, and the results have been evaluated.

39. In Romania, the Centre has advanced the implementation of a project entitled "Institution building and strengthening of corruption control capacity in Romania", funded by the Governments of Greece and the United States and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Three study tours to Milan, Italy, were conducted for magistrates (judges and prosecutors) and officials from the Ministries of Justice and the Interior, the Financial Guard, the Court of Account and the Customs Administration. The first stage of a public awareness campaign was completed in June and the second stage is under way. Seven seminars were held, involving the training of 150 magistrates and 70 officials (from, for example, the Ministry of the Interior and the Financial Guard, the Court of Account and Customs Administration) in such areas as public corruption, drafting laws, task force organization, investigative techniques and inter-institutional cooperation.

40. Projects are currently being developed for implementation in Benin, Nicaragua, South Africa and Uganda. Consultations have also been initiated regarding the design of projects in Bolivia, Guatemala and Nigeria. Preparatory work for those projects is financed through funds provided by the Government of the Netherlands. Resources to implement the projects are also being sought at the country level from bilateral funding sources.

41. The Centre will complete work on a modified version of the manual on practical measures against corruption during the second half of 2000.

42. The Centre also contributed to several meetings on corruption. Together with the Government of France, the Centre organized an expert group meeting on corruption and its financial channels, held in Paris from 30 March to 1 April 1999. Contributions were also made to the following: the workshop for central European prosecutors and magistrates, held in Slovakia; the global conference relating to corruption and financial crime, held in London; the First Global Forum on Fighting Corruption, held in Washington from 16 to 24 February 1999; the ninth annual anti-corruption conference, held in Durban, South Africa; and the ISPAC Conference on Responding to the Challenge of Corruption, held in Milan.

C. Global studies on transnational organized crime

43. The global studies on transnational organized crime include two components. The first, entitled “assessing transnational organized crime groups: dangerousness and trends”, is being conducted by the Centre. The second, entitled *World Organized Crime Report*, is being coordinated by UNICRI. The studies were initiated in pursuance of several mandates emanating from the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on the collection, analysis and dissemination of information and data on transnational organized crime. The draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime reflects a widely felt need for in-depth knowledge of transnational organized crime. It contains requests for the regular collection and analysis of information and research findings concerning organized crime and for the preparation of overviews of global trends in organized crime.

44. Although there is a wide scientific debate and considerable media speculation about organized crime, there is little empirical research on the extent, structure, nature and strategies adopted by transnational organized criminal groups at the global level. The global studies on transnational organized crime aim at analysing and assessing the dangerousness of, and the societal threat posed by, the major and emerging groups involved in transnational criminal activities, identifying their geographical distribution and their international connections, forecasting future trends and suggesting effective countermeasures to prevent and combat the phenomenon at national, regional and international levels.

45. The Centre has advanced the implementation of the first phase of the studies, which consists of a pilot survey on the most dangerous organized criminal groups active in 12 countries—Australia, Canada, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, South Africa, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States—and one region—the Caribbean. In collaboration with international experts, a comprehensive methodology has been drawn up, known as the “United Nations transnational organized crime assessment form”, which will allow the collection of qualitative and quantitative information on organized criminal groups.

46. With the assistance of 13 national correspondents in the field identified for the study, the Centre has finalized an assessment of the most dangerous organized crime groups active in the above-mentioned countries. Moreover, background information on legislation, relevant investigations and criminological analysis of organized crime at the national level has been collected and analysed. The results of the pilot survey are expected to be published in mid-2000.

47. Within the framework of the global programme against transnational organized crime, the Centre has also formulated a project aimed at analysing and assessing the threat posed by Nigerian organized criminal groups with criminal networks in the region of the Economic Community of West African States, at forecasting the possible future evolution and at suggesting concrete countermeasures to prevent and combat organized crime in the region. The project will focus on four African countries—Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal—and will benefit from close cooperation with national experts and institutions operating at various levels.

48. The Centre has also actively contributed to the international debate on transnational organized crime and related issues through participation in relevant events.

VI. Other programme activities

A. Promoting the use and application of standards and norms

49. The Commission has before it the sixth quinquennial report of the Secretary-General, for the period 1994-1998, on capital punishment and implementation of the safeguards guaranteeing the rights of those facing the death penalty (E/CN.15/2000/3). The report provides an analysis of the information provided by States in response to a survey on the use and application of the death penalty during the period covered, and of the views and observations of other United Nations entities and of relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. It also provides an indication of developments in criminological research and in the study of the death penalty worldwide. For the first time, the report contains information not only on gender and age, but also on the race of persons sentenced to death and executed for capital offences during the period under review. The report takes due account of the

ongoing related work carried out on the death penalty and on arbitrary and extrajudicial executions by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and by the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions of the Commission on Human Rights.

50. The Commission also has before it the report of the Secretary-General on progress achieved regarding juvenile justice reform (E/CN.15/2000/4), prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolutions 1997/30 and 1999/28.

51. Pursuant to the relevant mandates of the Council, the Centre continues to gather information on the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. Six survey instruments have been sent to Governments on the following topics: crime and public security; corruption and bribery; the International Code of Conduct for Public Officials (General Assembly resolution 51/59, annex); the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (The Tokyo Rules) (General Assembly resolution 45/110, annex); the role of lawyers; and the role of prosecutors. The analysis of the survey results will be presented to the Commission at its tenth session. A sufficient number of replies has not yet been received to enable the preparation of a report on non-custodial measures, on the role of lawyers and on the role of prosecutors. A report on bribery and corruption was before the Commission at its eighth session. Another report on the matter is to be submitted to the Commission at its tenth session.

B. Prevention of terrorism

52. Terrorism is a special form of crime that often encompasses elements of politics, warfare and propaganda. While “the philosophy of the bomb” has been around for well over a century, its current manifestations are more ominous, and some analysts perceive a trend towards mass casualties. The existence of such a threat has led to the inclusion of terrorism as one of the eight priority areas of work of the United Nations under the current medium-term plan.

53. As noted in section II above, the Centre initiated, in April 1999, work pursuant to its mandate concerning activities related to terrorism. Its unit on the prevention of terrorism cooperates and coordinates with the Office

of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, with the latter retaining its position as the focal point for legal matters pertaining to terrorism. The activities of the unit are focused primarily on research and technical cooperation, as well as on promoting international cooperation in the prevention of terrorism.

54. Several activities have already been undertaken. A research project focusing on the nexus between terrorism and other forms of criminality, such as trafficking in narcotic drugs and firearms, has been completed. In addition, in order to investigate the causes of the escalation and de-escalation of terrorist activities, a series of case studies is being conducted, with a view to identifying variables that can serve as early warning signs of terrorist activity.

55. Information is provided to Member States about terrorism from a number of sources, including the databases that have been set up and which are continually being updated. Steps are being taken to expand a global directory of centres of expertise that address the phenomenon of terrorism. In addition, needs and threat assessments are being conducted for requesting Member States. There are plans to publish, on a biennial basis, a global terrorism survey, which will include, inter alia, an analysis of trends in terrorism. Work has already begun on some components of the survey, for example, a directory of terrorist movements linked to the production of and trafficking in drugs.

56. In the area of technical cooperation, outlines have been prepared for a series of six technical cooperation manuals, to be used as tools for training with law enforcement and other appropriate agencies in Member States. A proposal for funding one of the manuals has been submitted to a Member State, and funding for all of them still needs to be secured. The manuals in the series will cover the following: (a) assisting victims of terrorism: a United Nations manual for helpers; (b) media coverage of terrorism: a guide for journalists and law enforcement officers; (c) bomb threat analysis and response; (d) a manual for dealing with hostage situations; (e) recognizing early warning signals of terrorist escalation (including potential use of weapons of mass destruction); and (f) legal aspects and actions pertaining to terrorism.

57. Whereas the work of the Centre on the prevention of terrorism is still in a nascent stage, some of the planned projects have been initiated, some are well under way, and still others are close to, or have been, completed.

However, staff and financial constraints are a major impediment to reaching full potential at short notice.

C. Collecting and disseminating information

58. During the reporting period, the Centre has continued its efforts to reinforce its capacity and performance in the collection, analysis and dissemination of relevant data and information on crime trends and the operations of criminal justice systems so as to better inform policy development and implementation.

59. The Centre is currently administering the Sixth United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems. The periodic surveys are the primary vehicle used by the Centre for the collection of statistics on crime trends and criminal justice at the national level. So far, over 50 countries have provided official data on police, prosecution, courts, prisons and resource allocation.

60. The Centre continues to expand its dissemination of information, especially by electronic means, through maintaining and expanding the Internet-based United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network (UNCJIN) (accessible at <http://www.uncjin.org>). UNCJIN has become one of the world's most frequently visited substantive databases containing crime statistics and information on criminal justice publications, with links to relevant United Nations entities, research organizations and universities. Recently, UNCJIN was selected as a "Best of the Web" Internet site by the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. The selection criteria included accuracy, breadth of information, usefulness, timeliness and quality of design. UNCJIN currently contains the documents of recent sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, of the various sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and of the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, as well as updates to the central repository on transnational organized crime.

61. Consideration is being given to launching a new regular publication, tentatively entitled *Forum on Crime, Society and Governance*, to serve as a forum for expert debate on issues of priority concern to the Centre, for

which the active involvement of external academicians will be sought.

VII. Overview of operational activities

62. In 1999, the Centre supported projects that have a total budget value of 5,133,738 United States dollars (\$). Approximately \$3.2 million within that total represented activities being funded over the years from the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, the balance being funded by UNDCP and UNDP. Those projects, substantive information on which is contained in the relevant sections of the present report, are listed in table 1.

63. The Centre has increasingly focused its technical cooperation activities on combating organized crime, trafficking in human beings and corruption. The main priority has been to translate the three global programmes of the Centre into concrete projects at the regional and country levels.

64. Some ad hoc projects were also carried out in other criminal justice areas, such as juvenile justice, with a view to maintaining the involvement of the Centre and preserving expertise in those fields. In Lebanon, a project to strengthen the legislative and institutional capacity for juvenile justice is being implemented. Project proposals on juvenile justice have also been drawn up for Guatemala and Nigeria. In Senegal, a crime prevention project has been formulated and submitted to the donor community for funding. A prison reform project in the Caribbean has been designed and is expected to be funded by the European Commission.

65. Preparatory work is being carried out on developing a new programme activity in crime prevention that will seek to assist national and local governments in protecting vulnerable groups of adolescents, particularly through educational programmes, from being recruited by organized crime.

66. The increased financial contributions received by the Centre from the international community in 1999 in support of its work programme allowed it to act as both funding and executing agency. This ensured substantive control over its projects and, at the same time, enhanced the visibility of the Centre.

Table 1
Technical cooperation projects supported by the Centre for International Crime Prevention in 1999

<i>Country</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Total budget (United States dollars)</i>	<i>Role of the Centre</i>
Hungary	Assessment of corruption in Hungary	175 263	Funding and executing agency
Lebanon	Support for the national anti-corruption strategy	304 309	Funding and executing agency
	Strengthening the legislative and institutional capacity for juvenile justice	806 594	Funding and executing agency
Philippines	Coalitions against trafficking in human beings in the Philippines	219 231	Funding and executing agency
Romania	Institution-building and strengthening of corruption control capacity	325 000	Funding and cooperating agency
Russian Federation	Technical assistance in control and prevention of drugs and related organized crime	1 370 841	Cooperating agency
South Africa	Mechanisms to counteract domestic violence	660 000	Funding and associate agency
	Preparatory assistance: support for the national crime prevention strategy	558 500	Cooperating agency
	Measures to counteract organized crime	414 000	Funding and cooperating agency
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Specialized police unit for preventing and controlling economic and financial crime	300 000	Funding and executing agency
Total		5 133 738	
Funded by the Centre		3 204 397	

67. Increased synergy has been established with UNDCP. While keeping their distinct profiles, UNDCP and the Centre, the two pillars of ODCCP, have developed close cooperation at the operational level. That has resulted in an increased number of joint missions and in the design of new programmes and projects in Guatemala, the Russian Federation, South Africa and central Asia.

68. The Centre has been actively seeking funds from the donor community for the implementation of the above-mentioned projects, and is currently awaiting responses from a number of countries that have expressed interest in funding them.

69. The capacity of the Centre to deliver technical assistance has been enhanced through the increased presence of staff of the Centre at the country and subregional levels, achieved especially through the conversion of some UNDCP offices to ODCCP offices where that has been programmatically beneficial. The year 1999 marked the opening of ODCCP offices in Moscow, covering the Russian Federation and Belarus; in Pretoria, covering southern Africa; in Tashkent, covering central Asia; and in Cairo, covering North Africa and the Middle East.

VIII. Mobilization of resources

70. The contributions and pledges provided to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund during 1999 are listed in table 2 below.

71. The contributions and pledges in 1999 amounted to \$3,331,859, which represented an increase of 20 per cent compared to 1998 and a continuation of the recent pattern of growth in contributions to the Fund. Another significant development has been advance pledges for future years, for example from the Government of the Netherlands, which amount to an additional \$1,030,000. When this is taken into account, the rate of increase is 57 per cent.

72. The figure below shows the increase in contributions over the past four years and the distribution of contributions between general and specific purposes. The bulk of the specific-purpose contributions were for the three global programmes of the Centre and for supporting the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, mainly to finance the cost of additional sessions that were

not included in the programme budget for 1998-1999 and to assist least developed countries with the travel and related costs of participation in the sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee.

73. The increase in contributions has enabled the launching of several activities. However, the increase is on a small resource base and there remains a pressing need for largely increased funding to permit full implementation of the new programmes initiated by the Centre. That is particularly true with regard to the implementation of its global programmes against corruption, trafficking in human beings and organized crime. As Governments remain the major source of funding for the Centre, their pledges to the Fund will determine the extent of the activities that can be undertaken. In this context, it is also necessary to stress the importance of further increases in general-purpose contributions, to enable the Centre to continue the process of building up specialized expertise, field presence and timely initiatives to respond to emerging critical areas.

IX. Strategic management by the Commission of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme

74. Between its eighth and ninth sessions, the Commission continued its inter-sessional activities in support of its strategic management of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme. The bureau of the Commission held four meetings and organized four inter-sessional consultations for the permanent missions at Vienna, at which representatives were briefed on issues pertaining to the ninth session of the Commission, preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and the work programme of the Centre. The bureau continued efforts to reduce the number of resolutions to be considered by the Commission and the reports to be requested for its consideration, by reviewing draft proposals in advance and coordinating and consolidating them as appropriate. Nine resolutions were adopted by the Commission at its ninth session.

Table 2
Contributions to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund in 1999
 (United States dollars)

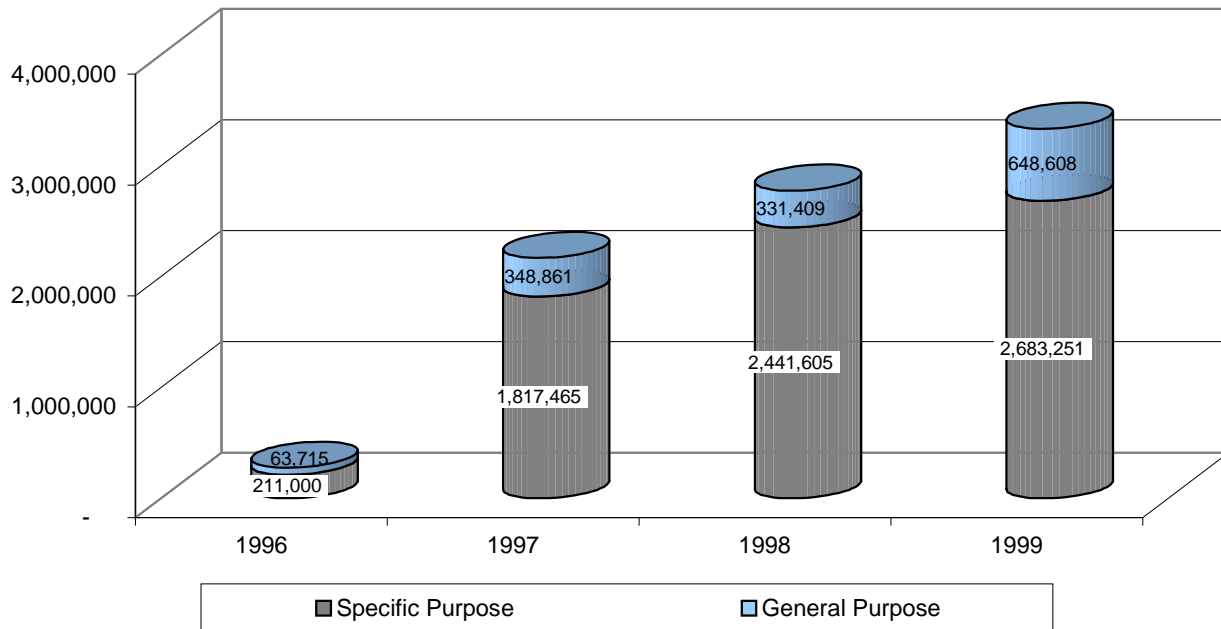
<i>Country or organization</i>	<i>Amount pledged</i>	<i>General-purpose funds</i>	<i>Special-purpose funds</i>
Australia	10 000	10 000 ^a	
Austria	569 755	381 127 ^a	188 628
Bolivia	1 000	1 000 ^b	
France	479 000		479 000 ^c
Iceland	5 200	5 200 ^b	
Italy	292 692	133 400 ^a	159 292 ^a
Japan	300 000		300 000 ^a
Netherlands	364 165		364 165 ^a
Norway	13 043		13 043 ^a
Poland	19 726		19 726 ^a
Portugal	100 000		100 000
Republic of Korea	12 991	12 991	
Slovenia	490	490 ^b	
Thailand	3 000	3 000 ^b	
Tunisia	1 400	1 400 ^b	
Turkey	50 000	50 000 ^b	
United States of America	965 000	50 000 ^a	915 000 ^c
European Union	135 000		135 000 ^b
Asia Crime Prevention Foundation	9 397		9 397 ^a
Total	3 331 859	648 608	2 683 251

^a Paid.

^b Not paid.

^c Paid in part.

Figure
Pledges to the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund
 (United States dollars)



75. In its resolution 1999/51 on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions, the Economic and Social Council invited the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to consider adopting multi-year programmes of work.

76. In its resolution 6/1, section I, the Commission had decided to establish a multi-year work plan, each year being devoted to a specific theme, in an effort to simplify the agenda of the Commission and to plan substantive discussions in advance. The Commission had established the themes for its seventh, eighth and ninth sessions. Action is required by the Commission, at its ninth session, to establish themes for future sessions, or consider establishing a main topic of discussion for each future session, in order to better focus its proceedings.

77. In its resolution 6/1, the Commission set the following criteria for scheduling the discussion of agenda items:

(a) Reports on the use and application of standards and norms, which require the provision of information by Governments, should be submitted every two or three years, to permit input from as many Member States as possible;

(b) Reports on surveys and crime statistics, as well as reports based on continued collection of data and other information, should be submitted not more frequently than every two years;

(c) Reports on coordination with other entities should be submitted every two years, preferably at the end of every programme budget biennium;

(d) Full reports and studies requiring a large volume of work in terms of research, or because of the complexity of the subject matter, should not be submitted

to the session immediately following the one in which the mandate was given;

(e) Consideration of, or reporting on, a substantive issue should be based on whether the issue has been significantly advanced in a given year through specific activities and developments.

78. Given the determination of the Commission to streamline its work and documentation and in view of numerous reports mandated at several previous sessions, it may be necessary to review all recurrent reports to future sessions of the Commission. Available to the Commission will be a conference room paper that lists all reports mandated by earlier decisions for submission to the tenth session of the Commission and any other recurrent reports.

79. In resolution 1999/51, the Economic and Social Council welcomed the progress made in ensuring an increased interaction of the Council with its subsidiary bodies, including through joint bureau meetings, and in strengthening its coordinating functions. A joint bureau meeting between the bureau of the Council and the bureau of the Commission was held on 3 May 1999. That meeting discussed methods of work of the Commission and follow-up to the relevant resolutions. The bureau requested the Secretariat to prepare an overview of the work of other relevant functional commissions of the Council, in order to establish whether joint meetings could be useful or feasible.

80. By its resolution 1999/55, the Council encouraged the functional commissions, in their outcomes, to identify more clearly actions that require a coordinated United Nations system-wide response as well as to highlight recommendations specifically addressed to organizations of the United Nations system and to identify areas in which the Council could provide guidance to the programmes, funds and agencies regarding the decisions and recommendations of the functional commissions addressed to them.

X. Programme questions

81. The Commission, at its eighth session, had before it a note by the Secretary-General on the proposed programme of work in crime prevention and criminal justice for the biennium 2000-2001 (E/CN.15/1999/9). The General Assembly, in its resolution 54/691, approved the United Nations programme budget for the biennium

2000-2001. In section 14, crime prevention and criminal justice, the Assembly approved the establishment of one new P-4 post for strengthening the operational activities of the Centre.

82. The Commission, at its eighth session, also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (E/CN.15/1999/11), which contained a preliminary outline for the programme narrative on crime prevention and criminal justice. Pursuant to the establishment of ODCCP, consideration is being given to proposing the consolidation of the two relevant programmes into a single programme, entitled "International Drug Control and Crime Prevention". The subprogramme narrative on crime prevention and criminal justice, to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the Committee for Programme and Coordination, is before the Commission (E/CN.15/2000/6).

XI. The way ahead

83. As evident from the overview of developments during the past year, the Centre has been undergoing a fundamental reorientation. It has successfully completed a difficult process of transition during which major internal changes were accomplished and a new strategic course has been brought to bear on its work. Central to its successful execution has been and will continue to be the support of Member States, in policy guidance and in their role both as donors and recipients of technical cooperation. In that regard, the importance of increased financial support cannot be overemphasized.

84. As the focus has initially remained on substantive issues, somewhat less attention could be given to external interfacing with other relevant agencies active in the domain of work of the Centre. It is envisaged that progress can be made in the coming years on the strategic reorientation of the network of institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme. In that respect, it is noted that there has been intense collaboration with UNICRI and the Australian Institute of Criminology in implementing the global programmes of the Centre and that a clear division of responsibilities and tasks is evolving. With further refinement and adjustment, this can serve as a model for future cooperation with other institutes of the network.

85. In the coming year, the primary goal of the Centre will of course be to stay on course and advance the work begun. The global programmes should increasingly result in concrete activities benefiting recipient countries and the international criminal justice community at large. The Centre will continue to seek to expand and deepen its expertise on priority issues, especially organized crime, trafficking in human beings and corruption. This is necessary to enable the Centre to be prepared for and fulfil its new tasks in implementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; in facilitating global action against corruption, including the envisaged elaboration of a results-oriented, comprehensive convention against corruption; and in supporting the translation into concrete measures of the declaration on crime and justice to be adopted by the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.
