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Strategic management and programme questions

Proposed programme of work in crime prevention and criminal justice for the biennium 2002-2003

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The present note contains a summary of the proposed programme of work in crime prevention and criminal justice for the biennium 2002-2003 for consideration by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its tenth session. The proposed programme of work will appear in section 14, Crime prevention and criminal justice, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, which will be submitted to the General Assembly for approval at its fifty-sixth session.

II. Overview

2. The Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention is responsible for the programme of work described below. The Centre is guided by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which is a functional body of the Economic and Social Council and is the principal policy-making body of the United Nations in crime prevention and criminal justice. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000, the Centre will also receive guidance on activities related to the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto from the Conference of the Parties to the Convention once the Convention

* E/CN.15/2001/1.

enters into force. The official responsible for managing the programme is the Executive Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention.

3. The activities for which the Centre is responsible fall within the framework of programme 12, Crime prevention and criminal justice, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.¹ The programme was designated a priority area of work by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/234 of 23 December 2000 on programme planning.

4. The overall objective of the United Nations Crime prevention and Criminal Justice Programme is to strengthen international cooperation and assistance to Governments in tackling crime problems such as those posed by transnational organized crime, trafficking in persons, economic and financial crime, including money-laundering and corruption, illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as to promote fair and efficient criminal justice systems.

5. During the biennium, the Centre will undertake activities to promote and support the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the three protocols thereto (the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (the "Trafficking in Persons Protocol"); the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air (the "Migrants Protocol") (General Assembly resolution 55/25, annexes I-III); and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition (the "Firearms Protocol") (see A/55/383/Add.2)). The Centre will provide assistance to Member States to carry out preparatory work to implement the Convention and its protocols upon their entry into force. It will prepare for carrying out the functions of the secretariat of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, including its substantive servicing, and will provide assistance for the ratification process and its implementation thereafter. Subject to a decision by the General Assembly, the Centre would support the negotiation of an international legal instrument on the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in explosives and of a convention against corruption.

6. The Centre will undertake substantive activities to complement its tasks relating to the negotiation and implementation of conventions and protocols. For that purpose, it will promote data collection, analysis and exchange of information, policy and programme development and institutional capacity-building and the provision of advisory services to States, upon request. Those efforts will be pursued in an integrated manner, supported by the global programmes against transnational organized crime, trafficking in persons and corruption, and in close coordination with the Global Programme against Money-Laundering of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention. Through their operational activities and projects at the country, regional and global levels, the global programmes will enhance a greater operationalization of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme. Close coordination will be sought with other actors within and outside the United Nations system. The Centre will draw up project development and evaluation guidelines for operational activities and technical cooperation projects and provide support, coordination and backstopping to the advisory services conducted by the interregional advisers funded under section 21, Regular programme of technical cooperation.

7. The Centre will assist Member States in implementing the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century (General Assembly resolution 55/59, annex), adopted by the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.² In particular, it will support the achievement of specific targets contained in the Declaration.

8. The Centre will address the criminal aspects of international terrorism and contribute to its prevention by fostering research and data analysis, issuing periodic global terrorism surveys, preparing technical manuals and providing technical assistance to States upon request.

9. The Centre will monitor and publicize crime trends and newly emerging criminal justice challenges, using traditional means and new information technologies, and will provide assistance to the competent intergovernmental bodies for developing adequate policy responses to them. The Centre will provide substantive servicing to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and, in its area of competence, to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. In all relevant areas of work, it will pay special attention to effective gender mainstreaming and efficient application of information technology.

III. Policy-making organs

A. Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

10. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is a functional body of the Economic and Social Council. It is the principal policy-making body of the United Nations in crime prevention and criminal justice and has a membership of 40 member States. In accordance with the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991, the Commission fulfils the functions of preparatory body for the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders. During the biennium 2002-2003, the Commission is expected to make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding the holding of further congresses and to initiate appropriate action.

11. The Commission holds annual sessions of eight working days in Vienna. During each session, the Commission establishes in session working groups to consider specific agenda items in detail. In addition, in its resolution 5/3, entitled "Strategic management by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme", the Commission requested its bureau to meet during the periods between sessions and to hold inter-sessional briefings for Member States in preparation for forthcoming sessions and to submit a report on its inter-sessional work. Furthermore, it decided that the bureau should endeavour to hold inter-sessional meetings with the bureau of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in order to improve the coordination of the work of the two commissions.

12. In the Vienna Declaration, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was invited to design specific measures for the implementation of and follow-up to the commitments that the Member States had undertaken in it.

B. Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

13. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and two protocols thereto were adopted by the General Assembly by its resolution 55/25. At the time of writing, approval by the Assembly of the Firearms Protocol was still pending. The Convention will enter into force on the 90th day after the date of the deposit of the 40th instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. In accordance with article 32 of the Convention, a Conference of the Parties to the Convention will be established to improve the capacity of States parties to combat transnational organized crime and to promote and review the implementation of the Convention. In its resolution 55/25, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to designate the Centre to serve as the secretariat for the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, which the Secretary-General is to convene not later than one year following the entry into force of the Convention. At the present time, it is not possible to foresee whether the Conference of the Parties will meet during the biennium 2002-2003. However, should the Convention and its protocols enter into force during the biennium, the appropriate conference and substantive services would be provided to the Conference of the Parties.

C. Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

14. Pursuant to paragraph 10 of resolution 55/25, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime will complete its mandated work by holding a meeting in advance of the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention for the purpose of drawing up draft rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties and other rules and mechanisms as set forth in article 32 of the Convention.

IV. Programme of work

A. Objectives

15. The overall objective of the United Nations Programme on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for the biennium will be to strengthen international cooperation and assistance to Governments in tackling crime problems such as those posed by transnational organized crime, trafficking in persons, economic and financial crime, including money-laundering and corruption, illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as to promote fair and efficient criminal justice systems.

B. Expected accomplishments and performance indicators

16. The expected accomplishments of the Programme during the biennium and performance indicators are tabulated below:

*Expected accomplishments**Performance indicators*

1. Ratification and entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the three protocols thereto, as well as initiation of measures for their implementation.

2. Expanded knowledge and expertise to deal with transnational organized crime, trafficking in persons and corruption.

3. Enhanced capacity of Member States to respond at the national, regional and international levels to transnational organized crime, trafficking in persons, corruption and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, especially in the areas of policy and programme development, institutional capacity-building and training of criminal justice and law enforcement personnel.

4. Improved integration of gender sensitivity into all relevant areas of work of the programme.

1. The number of countries signing and ratifying the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the three protocols thereto.

2. Awareness of best practices and information disseminated, research undertaken and new techniques and tools developed to respond to transnational organized crime, trafficking in persons and corruption.

3. (a) The contribution of the expertise provided by the Centre to enhance the capacity of Member States to respond to transnational organized crime, trafficking in persons, corruption and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

(b) The number of criminal justice and law enforcement personnel receiving training;

(c) An increase in the number of actions taken by Member States to respond at the national, regional and international levels to transnational organized crime, trafficking in persons, corruption and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

4. Increased level of integration of gender sensitivity into all relevant areas of work, particularly demonstrable with respect to analysis, policy development, training, project activities and women as criminal justice and law enforcement personnel.

C. External factors

17. The Programme's ability to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments would be affected by the following external factors:

(a) The readiness of Governments to ratify the Convention and its protocols expeditiously; and the level of complexity at the national level regarding ratification, including required changes in legislation;

(b) Timely responses from Member States in providing data and statistical information; collaboration of Member States, experts and institutes; availability of specialized expertise; and availability of and access to data, including from sensitive governmental data sources;

(c) Request from Member States for assistance; and availability of extrabudgetary resources.

D. Outputs

18. During the biennium the following outputs will be delivered:
- (a) *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*
 - (i) General Assembly
 - a. Substantive servicing of meetings: 16 meetings of the Third Committee
 - b. Parliamentary documentation: annual reports on the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders; and annual reports on the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme;
 - (ii) Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
 - a. Substantive servicing of meetings: one session of two weeks' duration to prepare the draft rules of procedure and other rules and mechanisms for the Conference of the Parties to the Convention as set forth in article 32 of the Convention (20 meetings);
 - b. Parliamentary documentation: draft rules of procedure and other rules and mechanisms as set forth in article 32 of the Convention; and official records of the negotiation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto (*travaux préparatoires*);
 - (iii) Economic and Social Council
 - a. Substantive servicing of meetings: 24 meetings;
 - b. Parliamentary documentation: annual reports of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;
 - (iv) Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
 - a. Substantive servicing of meetings: 32 meetings of the Commission, 10 inter-sessional meetings of the Bureau and consultations with permanent missions (42 meetings); and informal consultations of Member States on the criminal misuse of information technologies (10 meetings);
 - b. Parliamentary documentation: one report of the expert group entrusted with the preparation of a study on the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in explosives by criminals and their use for criminal purposes; one report on each of the following: (i) computer-related crime; (ii) juvenile justice reform; (iii) penal reform; (iv) restorative justice and mediation; (v) the activities of the institutes constituting the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network; (vi) follow-up to the Vienna Declaration; (vii) the implementation of the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions and the International Code of

Conduct for Public Officials; and (viii) the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on Crime and Public Security; annual reports on the work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention; annual reports on standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice; one report to the informal consultations of Member States on the criminal misuse of information technologies; and two reports on the criminal misuse of information technologies;

(v) Ad hoc expert groups: Four regional expert group meetings on technical issues of common regional concern on the ratification and/or implementation of the Convention and its three protocols; one expert group meeting each on (a) the criminal misuse of information technologies; (b) best practices to combat trafficking in persons, with attention given to gender dimensions; (c) best practices in combating corruption, with attention given to the gender dimensions; (d) monitoring criteria to assess the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and the Migrants Protocol; (e) hostage situations and rescue operations; (f) recognizing early warning signals of terrorist escalation; and (g) legal approaches to combating terrorism;

(b) *Other substantive activities*

(i) Recurrent publication: *Forum on Crime and Society* (4 issues);

(ii) Non-recurrent publications: sixth United Nations survey of crime trends and operations of criminal justice systems; preliminary results of the seventh United Nations survey of crime trends and operations of criminal justice systems; one brochure each on (a) combating corruption; (b) combating trafficking in persons; (c) combating transnational organized crime; (d) crime prevention and criminal justice; and (e) terrorism prevention; the Convention and its three protocols; implementation guide on the Convention and its protocols; official records of the negotiation of the Convention and the protocols thereto (*travaux préparatoires*); three technical manuals on specific provisions of the Convention and its protocols; one technical assistance manual each on (a) hostage situations and rescue operations; (b) legal approaches to combating terrorism; and (c) early warning signals of terrorist escalation; one technical publication each on (a) combating trafficking in persons: results of rapid assessment efforts in selected countries; and (b) combating trafficking in persons: lessons learned and best practices; Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention Studies Series: one issue each on (a) corruption, including gender dimensions; (b) transnational organized crime, including gender dimensions; and (c) trafficking in persons, including gender dimensions; one United Nations global terrorism survey; and one anti-corruption kit;

(iii) Technical material: one database each on (a) global trends in corruption and best practices in combating corruption; (b) information on trafficking in persons and best practices in combating it; (c) information on transnational organized crime and best practices in combating it; and (d) the criminal aspects of terrorism; web site of the Centre for International Crime Prevention, which contains the United Nations Crime

and Justice Information Network (UNCJIN) and provides electronic access to the documents of intergovernmental bodies, the results of the sixth and seventh United Nations surveys of crime trends and operations of criminal justice systems, other technical and informational publications of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme;

(c) *International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison.* Contribute substantive input on crime and justice matters to facilitate the inclusion of those aspects in relevant activities of other concerned actors; coordinate with and participate in the relevant activities of the Office of Legal Affairs, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Disarmament Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme, the interregional, regional and cooperating institutes for crime prevention and criminal justice, the Council of Europe, the European Commission, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the International Criminal Police Organization, Europol, relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in particular through the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and the World Bank; cooperation and exchange of information with counterterrorist agencies; and implement joint activities with the regional commissions and regional intergovernmental organizations;

(d) *Technical cooperation*

(i) Advisory services. Provision of advisory services to countries, at their request, on the following: the ratification and implementation of the Convention and its protocols; addressing the criminal aspects of terrorism; and combating trafficking in persons and corruption;

(ii) Training courses, seminars and workshops. A global forum on developing a global strategy to combating trafficking in persons; and training courses on the use of technical manuals on hostage negotiations, police and media relations and bomb threat assessment;

(iii) Field projects. Implementation of projects at the national, regional and/or international levels (a) to support (i) the ratification and implementation of the Convention and its Protocols (5 projects); (ii) combating transnational organized crime (6 projects); (iii) combating trafficking in persons (8 projects); and (iv) combating corruption (8 projects); (b) to foster fair and efficient criminal justice systems in other areas, such as juvenile justice, as well as to promote crime prevention (4 projects); and (c) to monitor and analyse crime trends and newly emerging criminal justice challenges at the national level to serve as input for developing policy recommendations (2 projects).

Notes

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/55/6/Rev.1).*

² See *Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Vienna, 10-17 April 2000: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.IV.8).