



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
17 May 2004

Original: English

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Thirteenth session
Vienna, 11-20 May 2004

Draft report

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Addendum

Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

1. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 11 May, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice considered agenda item 4, entitled “Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime”. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on development, security and justice for all (E/CN.7/2004/9-E/CN.15/2004/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network (E/CN.15/2004/4).

2. Following an introductory statement by the Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Commission heard statements from the representatives of Algeria (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Canada, Egypt, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Turkey and the United States of America.

3. The observers for Angola (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States), Colombia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), Ireland (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union and the candidate and potential candidate States), Morocco and Oman also made statements to the Commission. The observers for 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 United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute also made statements.

A. Deliberations

4. Several speakers welcomed the report of the Executive Director on development, security and justice for all (E/CN.15/2004/2) and commended the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for its efforts in preventing and combating all forms of criminality, in particular through advisory services and technical assistance programmes. A number of speakers expressed their appreciation for the efforts of the Executive Director and the Office to integrate the crime and drug programmes and welcomed the introduction of the new organizational structure, as well as the re-profiling of the field office network. Those measures were expected to further enhance the work of the Office and bring about cost-effectiveness and efficiency in delivery of services. It was suggested that consideration be given to submitting a report on those aspects of the work of the Office relating only to the mandate of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

5. Strong support was expressed by many speakers for the technical assistance programmes of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on promoting the ratification and implementation of the international legal instruments against corruption, transnational organized crime and terrorism. Donors were called on to support the activities of the related programmes. One speaker expressed support for the initiative of the Office in providing technical assistance for the reconstruction of judicial institutions in post-conflict situations in Afghanistan and hoped that Iraq would also become the beneficiary of similar initiatives.

6. Some speakers noted that the application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice depended on the conditions to be found in the various social systems, cultural backgrounds, legal systems and stages of development of Member States. At the same time, the application of United Nations standards and norms was an important part of the development of countries.

7. Some speakers highlighted the fact that developing countries needed sustainable international cooperation and technical assistance, including for national capacity-building in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice. Greater involvement of development agencies, such as the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank, was vital in that respect to enhance the sustainability of crime prevention and criminal justice programmes. It was noted that the meeting of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, hosted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in April 2004, had approved a major policy document on the relationship between crime and development that laid the foundation for strong partnerships with Member States and within the United Nations system to fight crime and thus remove a major obstacle to development.

8. Satisfaction was expressed at the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I) and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Woman and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (General Assembly

resolution 55/25, annex II), and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex III). Speakers also underlined the importance of the entry into force of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (General Assembly resolution 55/255, annex), which would become a useful tool against transnational organized crime and terrorism. The international community should give high priority to the ratification and implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols. Furthermore, the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention, scheduled to take place in Vienna from 28 June to 9 July 2004, would be an opportunity to review further measures for the effective implementation of the Convention. It would be essential to ensure that the Conference of the Parties and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime worked together in a fully complementary manner.

9. Many speakers also expressed their satisfaction at the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (General Assembly resolution 58/4, annex) by the General Assembly and the High-level Political Conference for the Purpose of Signing the Convention, hosted by the Government of Mexico in Merida, Mexico, from 9 to 11 December 2003. They called on States to act expeditiously to ensure the rapid entry into force of the Convention and expressed support for the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in that respect.

10. A number of speakers noted that the fight against terrorism had been reinforced by the increased number of States parties to the 12 universal instruments against terrorism and commended the efforts of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in promoting ratification and implementation of those instruments, in cooperation with the Security Council committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism (the Counter-Terrorism Committee). Strategies for combating terrorism should also include capacity-building, transfer of technology and training programmes.

11. Some speakers stated that their Governments were taking steps towards becoming parties to the above-mentioned instruments and were in the process of incorporating the relevant provisions into their legislation. Support was expressed for the use of the United Nations legislative guides in that endeavour. The use of in-country mentors could further strengthen the technical assistance programmes of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for combating transnational organized crime. The shift of those programmes towards long-term capacity-building was welcomed. The view was expressed that in order to tackle transnational organized crime effectively, there was a need to explore effective measures in order to confirm individual identification for the purpose of expeditious identification of the victim, as well as the suspect, and in order to contribute to the investigation and deterrence of crime.

12. Greater emphasis should be placed on international cooperation, including extradition and mutual legal assistance, to successfully combat transnational organized crime and terrorism. One speaker underlined the importance of enhanced cooperation in the fight against terrorism under Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001, as was reflected by the Follow-up Meeting to the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Special Meeting of 6 March 2003, with participants from international, regional and subregional organizations (see S/2004/276, annex) held in Vienna on 11 and 12 March 2004.

13. Several speakers provided information to the Commission on the activities of the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, which were making a valuable contribution to the work of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

14. The Chairman of the Group of African States stated that the investment of development partners in criminal justice sectors, in particular in Africa, was disproportionately modest in relation to its importance. He called on the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue conducting research in order to identify and address the root causes of crime. The Chairman of the Group of Asian States stated that the Group attached great importance to the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century (General Assembly resolution 55/59, annex), which acknowledged that comprehensive crime prevention strategies had to address the root causes and risk factors related to crime and emphasized the importance of the involvement of Governments, as well as national, interregional and international institutions in that regard. The representative of the Presidency of the European Union welcomed the commitment of the Executive Director to further improve the capability of the Office to conduct research and analysis on crime. He welcomed the establishment of the new independent evaluation function and stressed the importance of further integration of result-based management in the policies of the Office. The Chairman of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States recognized the efforts of the Office to combat drugs and crime in conjunction with the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network. The work undertaken by the Office, in particular in cooperation with the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, was of great importance to the region. The Chairman of the Group of 77 and China stated that improved mechanisms for enhancing prevention, law enforcement and institutional capacities of States against urban criminality were a high priority.

15. It was recommended that the Commission should follow up on the plans of action for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice (General Assembly resolution 56/261, annex) at subsequent sessions, taking into account the outcome of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Concern was expressed at the lack of adequate resources for relevant follow-up activities. Appreciation was expressed to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for the efficient organization of regional preparatory meetings for the Eleventh Congress and gratitude was expressed to the Government of Thailand for having briefed Member States on arrangements made for the Congress. One speaker emphasized the importance of the prevention of cyber-crime and expressed support for consideration of a United Nations convention against cyber-crime at the Eleventh Congress.

16. Several delegations welcomed the ongoing efforts of the Executive Director for management reform at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The importance of good governance, transparency, result-based budgeting and an independent evaluation function was emphasized. Continued improvements in long-term planning and increased cooperation with partners would promote the effective use of resources and help to maintain the momentum of increasing voluntary contributions. However, the disparity between the broad range and number of mandates of the crime programme and the availability of sufficient resources to carry out that work remained a challenge for the Office. Several speakers supported the efforts made by the Office to augment its resources, both from the regular budget and from voluntary contributions, and called for increased financial support from the donor community for its work on crime issues. One speaker announced his Government's intention to increase its contributions to the Office in relation to the activities mandated by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.
