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Chairman: Mr. Al Bayati (Iraq)

Contents

Agenda item 98: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*)*

Agenda item 99: International drug control (*continued*)*

* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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

Agenda item 98: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/61/96, 135, 178, 179 and 284; A/C.3/61/L.2 and L.3)

Agenda item 99: International drug control (*continued*) (A/61/208-S/2006/598 and A/61/221)

1. **Mr. Hashizume** (Japan) said that a recent visit to Japan by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) had offered a useful opportunity for an exchange of views on future policy cooperation. His Government attached great importance to the role played by UNODC, with which it was continuing to cooperate in combating trafficking in persons. Further multilateral action was needed, however, to address that problem globally. His delegation therefore welcomed the inter-agency coordination meeting held the previous week in Tokyo as a major step towards a global strategy in that area.

2. Efforts to combat the drug problem in the Asia-Pacific region also needed to be strengthened, particularly in view of the growing demand for amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS). He hoped that the newly opened UNODC field office in China would soon be playing a key role in the prevention of illegal drug manufacture and trafficking in East Asia. Lastly, his delegation supported the recent management reform measures taken by UNODC and looked forward to seeing their results. It would continue to cooperate closely with UNODC, intellectually, materially and politically, with a view to making the world a safer place.

3. **Mr. Jia** Guide (People's Republic of China) expressed satisfaction at the positive initial results of the international community's efforts to address the problems of drugs and transnational crime. Opium production was declining, cocaine production was being stabilized and the drug situation in the Golden Triangle region was improving steadily. His Government was cooperating actively with the Governments of Myanmar and the Lao People's Democratic Republic to develop alternative crops in those countries, as well as contributing generally to international action against illicit drugs. In that context, close attention needed to be given to drug control in Afghanistan and, in particular, to preventing the flow into that country of chemical precursors used

for heroin production. Opium cultivation in Afghanistan had risen by 59 per cent in 2006, and the root causes of that situation had to be tackled in terms of both supply and demand.

4. His Government had achieved significant results within its own country by enacting and enforcing drug control legislation and conducting an expanded "People's Campaign against Drugs". It was committed to regional and bilateral cooperation in that field and in 2005 had convened jointly with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) an international congress in Beijing which had adopted a guideline document for future cooperation, the Beijing Declaration. His Government had developed joint law enforcement, a regional plan of action and exchanges of intelligence with ASEAN countries to combat transboundary trafficking. It would also continue to support the work of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and UNODC, to which it urged developed countries to contribute more substantially.

5. His Government attached the utmost importance to international judicial cooperation in fighting crime, with particular emphasis on judicial assistance, extradition and confiscation and restitution of the proceeds of criminal acts. However, owing to such factors as differences in the legal systems of Member States, international provisions on transnational organized crime and corruption were not always put into effect. His Government hoped that double standards and political considerations would be set aside so that international cooperation in that area based on the relevant treaties, could be strengthened. Lastly, in order to play its role more fully, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), as the main decision-making body in that area, must be strengthened.

6. **Mr. Kazykhanov** (Kazakhstan), speaking on behalf of the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), said that despite the substantial results achieved in international drug control in recent years, the situation in Afghanistan, where there had been a 59 per cent increase in the area under opium poppy cultivation in 2006, was cause for concern. Trade in Afghan opium and heroin generated some US\$ 40 billion a year for crop traffickers, more than the entire budget of many of the world's countries. Up to 65 per cent of Afghan narcotics transited through CIS countries. The fact that part of that amount remained on their domestic markets contributed to an

increase in drug addiction, drug-related illness and crime in those countries.

7. The CIS Governments supported the efforts of United Nations Member States to address the global drug problem through effective international cooperation. One important step was the development of the Paris Pact enabling Governments to pool their efforts to combat the spread of drugs from Afghanistan. The CIS countries also hoped that the newly established Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre, working in close cooperation with the United Nations and UNODC, would permit real-time analysis and exchange of information on transboundary crime and the conduct of joint anti-drug operations by the region's law enforcement agencies. Afghanistan's participation in that project would ensure its successful implementation. Regional cooperation remained one of the most effective mechanisms for combating illicit narcotics trafficking in the CIS countries.

8. The CIS countries called on the international community to renew its efforts to promote a political solution to the situation in Afghanistan. They supported the policies of the Afghan Government aimed at strengthening Afghan society and freeing the country of drugs. Afghanistan's more active involvement in regional integration processes and cooperation with international organizations would also help to resolve the Afghan problem. No country could solve the drug problem on its own. Multilateral initiatives, with United Nations support, were needed to spare future generations from the tragedy of drugs.

9. **Ms. Feller** (Mexico) said that the priority given to combating terrorism should not detract from the need to combat the equally grave threats posed by the interrelated problems of organized crime and drug trafficking. International cooperation was essential for that purpose and her Government had played a leading role in the negotiation of international instruments and the establishment of follow-up mechanisms in that regard. It was currently working for the adoption, under the auspices of the Organization of American States (OAS), of a Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime, based on the United Nations Convention and its Protocols and aimed at strengthening coordination and cooperation between OAS organs and States through a cross-cutting approach.

10. Because organized crime and drug trafficking networks were constantly changing, new strategies must be adopted to tackle them and channels of communication and joint action must be strengthened at the multilateral, regional and bilateral levels. Her Government knew from its own experience that the fight against drugs was most successful when it was conducted according to the principles of shared responsibility and respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and legal equality of States. It therefore condemned a priori judgements as to the situation in particular States, believing that unilateral approaches undermined national efforts and strengthened the hand of criminal organizations and drug cartels.

11. Emphasizing that demand was an intrinsic part of the problem of drug production and distribution, she said that her Government had promoted various initiatives to strengthen the inter-American Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), which, as the only peer-evaluation mechanism for drug control activities, could serve as an example for other regions and be used to assist national capacity-building. It also participated actively in other mechanisms of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD). It was particularly concerned about the worldwide increase in the use of synthetic drugs and appealed to UNODC to develop strategies and implement short-term measures to combat it. In that connection, it attached great importance to the role of INCB in not only combating the illicit use of chemical precursors but also promoting greater cooperation and information-sharing among countries to that end.

12. **Mr. Uras** (Turkey) said that his Government was implementing a national plan of action to combat human trafficking, for which it was a country of destination. Under that plan, victims had access to shelters, medical care and free extendable residence permits in Turkey. The Government had also set up a toll-free helpline and, in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), had launched a public awareness campaign within Turkey and abroad. It was actively involved in regional and international cooperation to address the problem.

13. His Government believed that the same cooperative approach was essential for combating drug trafficking. It had ratified the relevant United Nations instruments and had concluded bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements with 66 countries.

In 2000, it had established the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime, which functioned as a regional resource centre and consultation forum and trained law enforcement personnel from countries of the region and beyond.

14. With a view to assisting States most affected by illicit trafficking, notably Afghanistan, his Government was an active participant in Paris Pact initiatives and a lead player in regional cooperation against drug trafficking in South-East Europe. Lastly, since various forms of organized crime were major sources of funding for terrorism, his Government advocated an integrated approach to combating those phenomena.

15. **Ms. Seanedzu** (Ghana) said that, despite some progress in combating the global drug problem, drug abuse and illicit trafficking continued to have devastating consequences, particularly for developing countries. African countries, notably those along the Gulf of Guinea, were increasingly being used by traffickers for the transshipment of cocaine and heroin to Europe and her own country was fast becoming a transit route for illegal drugs smuggled by European and Latin American criminal networks. Her Government had therefore taken a number of measures to enhance the effectiveness of its law enforcement and strengthen international cooperation in that area. It had set up an inter-ministerial Narcotics Control Board to guide and coordinate all drug-related activities of the various authorities responsible for drug control in the country and had taken steps to combat the transshipment of drugs, eradicate cannabis cultivation and introduce integrated alternative development programmes. The increasing number and volume of seizures of illicit drugs, particularly cocaine, in Ghana and neighbouring countries revealed the various risks to which the region was exposed. Clearly, anti-drug measures needed to be mainstreamed into national development programmes and projects and her Government was therefore giving priority to updating legislation on the control and monitoring of narcotic drugs and chemical precursors and to developing drug abuse prevention and demand reduction programmes. It called upon UNODC to provide it with technical assistance, including training to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement authorities to intercept illicit drug consignments.

16. While primary responsibility for implementing international agreements rested with Governments, national efforts needed to be complemented by

international cooperation. Her delegation endorsed the comprehensive approach adopted by the United Nations and supported the international community's ongoing efforts to develop an appropriate legal framework and tools. Developing countries, particularly transit countries, needed greater assistance, however, in implementing the relevant international instruments and in training the necessary judicial and law enforcement personnel. The necessary resources needed to be allocated to prevention, as well as to programmes for illicit crop eradication and alternative development. Accordingly, she called on Member States to contribute significantly to the fund of the UNODC drug control programme and urged all those that were not yet parties to the international drug control treaties to accede to them and to apply the necessary control measures at the national level.

17. **Mr. Kang** (Republic of Korea) said that his Government was implementing a national anti-corruption act and had established an independent commission against corruption. It had also built a close partnership with civil society aimed at combating corruption. The efforts of UNODC to promote the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption were commendable. The organization of high-level regional seminars, such as the one held in the Asia-Pacific region in January 2006, provided valuable opportunities in that regard and his Government had recently organized a task force to step up its efforts to ratify the Convention.

18. His Government had signed the newly adopted International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. At the domestic level, it had revised its national counter-terrorism guide and had established a Terrorism Information Integration Centre in 2005. Anti-terrorism laws were under review in the National Assembly and a task force had been set up to draft legislation on suppressing the financing of terrorism. In compliance with the relevant Security Council resolutions, the assets of persons connected with terrorist groups could be frozen.

19. In the area of criminal justice reform, his Government had given priority to the protection of women and children, including victims of gender-based violence. It had recently introduced measures to prevent child recidivism by providing better education and rehabilitation to children in conflict with the law. His delegation hoped that the General Assembly would provide adequate authority to the Commission on

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for the management of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, by adopting the draft resolution in document A/C.3/L.2.

20. On the issue of drug control, his Government had taken steps not only to control supply but also, in close partnership with non-governmental organizations, the media and the private sector, to reduce demand, including public awareness and education campaigns focused on youth. Since 1989, it had hosted the annual Anti-Drug Liaison Officials Meeting for International Cooperation, designed to establish and strengthen regional information-sharing and cooperation mechanisms. It also hoped to increase its contribution to global efforts to control precursors by joining Project Cohesion and Project Prism. Since anti-money-laundering laws had come into effect in 2001, various measures to tackle money-laundering had been in operation. The Korean Financial Intelligence Unit, also established in 2001, had been actively engaged in international cooperation to that end and the Government would be participating as an observer, in the next plenary meeting of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) and hoped to become a full member in the near future.

21. **Mr. Cumberbatch** (Cuba) said that no country had the capacity to fight single-handedly all the different manifestations of transnational organized crime, illegal drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, money-laundering, arms smuggling and terrorism. In efforts to combat crime and drug trafficking, it was important not to lose sight of certain fundamental principles: all States shared responsibility for tackling transnational crime, while adhering strictly to the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations; States that were in a position of power and military superiority must renounce the threat and use of force and doctrines based on illegal prerogatives such as the alleged right to wage preventive warfare; all States must ratify and respect international instruments relating to, inter alia, terrorism, international drug control, transnational organized crime, corruption and illicit trafficking of migrants; the agreements reached at the various United Nations Congresses on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders must be applied; and resources must be mobilized to ensure universal access to education for children and young people, which would

require only a fraction of the exorbitant amounts currently squandered each year on weapons.

22. In the struggle against international crime and drug trafficking, there was no room for double standards, much less for the hypocritical unilateral certifications used to classify Member States as good or evil. It was inconceivable that the United States, where drug traffickers amassed anywhere between US\$ 13.6 and US\$ 48.4 billion a year, at a social cost of US\$ 180.9 billion, and there were millions of drug users and addicts, should presume to judge others on the issue of drug trafficking. It was absurd that the United States, which had a law that applied only to Cubans and simply promoted unsafe illegal immigration, should seek to set the standard for combating trafficking of persons. How could the United States claim to lead the global war on terrorism when it was prepared to release the most notorious terrorist and murderer in the western hemisphere, Luis Posada Carriles?

23. Thanks to a social and political system which advocated equality and justice and despite the harm done it by the United States blockade, Cuba had made great strides in preventing crime, promoting criminal justice and combating the global drug problem. Its legislation provided harsh penalties for money-laundering, the trafficking of arms and illicit drugs and other forms of organized crime. However, the cornerstone of its crime prevention efforts was education of its children, young people and the population at large, including those serving prison sentences.

24. His Government had amply demonstrated its commitment to international cooperation in combating transnational crime and drug trafficking and also its willingness to work with the United States in combating drug trafficking, terrorism and illegal trafficking of persons. However, its proposals in the latter regard had so far been rejected, even though the American people would be the primary beneficiaries. It would continue to cooperate internationally and would make every effort to prevent its territory from being used to carry out criminal acts against the American people or any other people.

25. **Ms. Chan** (Singapore) said that the *World Drug Report 2006* gave reason to be optimistic about trends in international drug control. The challenge was to sustain the progress made thus far and to strengthen the

existing multilateral drug control system. Member States should focus on meeting the targets set for 2008 at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.

26. Her Government had adopted a multi-pronged approach to the fight against drugs, focusing on prevention, education, treatment and care. Drug traffickers were deterred through tough legislation and rigorous anti-drug enforcement. Public awareness of the adverse effects of drugs was raised through intensive, high-profile education. Drug abusers were compelled to undergo treatment and rehabilitation, and job training and employment programmes helped them reintegrate in society. The Government's efforts had led to significant improvements: in the past decade, the number of drug abusers arrested had dropped from over 6 000 to less than 800.

27. Her Government also cooperated with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other international partners in tackling the drug problem. In 2005, it had hosted the twenty-sixth meeting of ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters and the second ASEAN and China Joint Task Force Meeting on Drugs. Since 2000, training seminars for enforcement officers in the region had been conducted jointly with Australia. In 2006, the Government had held a training programme on illicit drug control for law enforcement officers from Afghanistan. As a signatory to the three major international conventions on drug control, it was happy to share its expertise to help countries deal with the global drug scourge.

28. **Mr. Pham Hai Anh** (Viet Nam) said that, given the serious threat to peace and prosperity posed by transnational crime, the United Nations should continue to play a leading role in the coordination of international efforts to combat it, in keeping with international law. His delegation noted recent achievements in strengthening the global legal framework against transnational crime and welcomed the entry into force of the Convention against Corruption. It appreciated the efforts made by the relevant United Nations organs to strengthen international cooperation in combating transnational crime through the provision of technical assistance to Member States. Continued technical assistance was needed to help developing countries strengthen their national institutional capacities and improve their domestic legal systems.

29. At the national level, his Government had taken numerous legal and practical measures to combat transnational crime. The Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure had been revised to incorporate provisions of relevant international treaties to which Viet Nam was a party. In 2005, a decree on preventing and combating money-laundering had been promulgated. His Government was grateful to UNODC for its assistance in drafting a law against corruption that had taken effect on 1 June 2006.

30. At the regional level, his Government continued to spare no effort to strengthen cooperation in combating transnational crime within the framework of regional forums. It had participated actively and constructively in the negotiation of the ASEAN Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, to which it was a party. It was currently working closely with other ASEAN member countries on an ASEAN counter-terrorism convention.

31. At the international level, Viet Nam had become a party to a large number of international instruments on transnational crime, terrorism and narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The Government had signed the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Convention against Corruption and was working towards their ratification. It had also concluded many bilateral agreements on combating transnational crime, including agreements on extradition and legal assistance.

32. **Mr. Wolfe** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the countries members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that those countries, because of their location, ran the risk of being used for the transshipment of drugs and other illegal goods. The resulting rise in crime levels had required them to invest heavily in seeking to protect their borders and to cooperate with their neighbours through bilateral agreements and programmes, some of which had achieved significant successes, particularly with regard to drug interdiction and law enforcement.

33. The mass deportation of individuals back to the Caribbean region because of their criminal activities overseas was unreasonable, as many of them had few or no ties to the CARICOM countries. That phenomenon threatened to destabilize Caribbean societies, as Caribbean Governments were ill-equipped

to facilitate their orderly reintegration. It was also counterproductive that, despite those realities and the significant successes achieved, they had been subjected to unilateral monitoring and threats of sanctions from outside the cooperative framework that the United Nations had sought to encourage.

34. The CARICOM countries continued to call for international assistance to transit States such as their own in order to enhance national and regional interdiction efforts. At the same time, they recognized that an effective strategy to eliminate the drug trade required more than just interdiction. A more balanced approach in relation to demand and supply was needed that involved investing more in demand reduction programmes and mechanisms while providing employment opportunities that eliminated the need to rely on illegal narcotic production for a livelihood.

35. The CARICOM countries had consistently stressed the imperative of a concerted, cooperative international approach to tackling the world drug problem and criminal activity and enforcing the rule of law. They were proud of their record in acceding to the numerous international instruments in that sphere and in ensuring criminal justice and the rule of law. However, bridging the gap between formal adherence and actual implementation at the national level often required assistance beyond what those countries were able to provide. Technical cooperation was therefore an imperative. The CARICOM States attached particular importance to the role of UNODC in that regard and strongly supported the Secretary-General's recommendations to strengthen it. For that reason, they were deeply concerned at the decision to close its regional office in Barbados, which would not make the region any safer. Those countries needed continued assistance in combating activities that could reverse years of efforts to place the region on a sound economic footing. For the same reason, they regretted the failure to adopt a binding instrument to control the illegal trade in small arms and light weapons.

36. **Ms. Abdelhak** (Algeria) welcomed the overarching strategy developed by UNODC, which would enhance the synergy between drug control and crime prevention programmes and the activities of development partners. However, the means to combat crime could be updated only through an exhaustive study of trends in criminal activity and the functioning of criminal justice systems, based on reliable data.

37. Her delegation noted with satisfaction that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had identified terrorism as one of the most serious challenges facing humankind and welcomed the unanimous adoption of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It endorsed the Commission's recommendation to set up an intergovernmental expert group to consider ways of implementing the recommendations in the Bangkok Declaration.

38. Her Government had ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, its three Protocols and the Convention against Corruption and had incorporated them into its domestic legislation. Under an anti-corruption law enacted in February 2006, a national body to prevent and combat corruption would compile and centralize information in that regard. Her Government was concerned at the increase in drug trafficking and use in Algeria. Outside assistance was needed in tackling the problems created by its use as a transit country for drug trafficking. Regional and international cooperation were crucial for coordinating a response to those problems and for promoting alternative development programmes.

39. **Mr. Rogachev** (Russian Federation) said that in establishing reliable global security mechanisms, attention was increasingly being focused on non-State actors and structures, such as terrorist organizations, criminal groups and drug traffickers. Such groups were among the major threats of the new millennium not only because of their global reach but because of the danger they posed to every State's efforts to protect public safety, human rights, economic and social stability and State sovereignty. The outcome document of the 2005 Summit contained measures to combat those new threats and challenges.

40. The new Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy showed that the key to successful United Nations efforts lay in pursuing a full and constructive dialogue with States and in strengthening their capacity to combat terrorism. The capacity of UNODC to help countries draft national legislation and institute mechanisms to combat terrorism, crime and drug trafficking also needed to be strengthened. The forthcoming meetings of the States Parties to the Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and the Convention against Corruption would also provide a forum for discussing the question of exchanges of information and experience and help set up a mechanism for implementing the Conventions.

41. With regard to drug trafficking in Afghanistan, there was little reason for optimism. Despite the efforts of the international community and the Afghan authorities, the situation continued to escalate out of control and the country was on the verge of becoming a “narco-State”. The Second Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking Routes from Afghanistan, held in Moscow in June 2006, had lent impetus to the Paris Pact process and the Declaration issued by the Conference had laid the basis for developing an international strategy to combat the threat posed by drug trafficking in Afghanistan. His delegation had called on all States to support efforts to resolve that problem.

42. **Ms. Shahar** (Israel) said that her Government recognized the extreme danger posed by organized crime and illicit drugs, the destabilizing effects of which cut across national boundaries, and was committed to addressing those problems both nationally and internationally. Drugs and organized crime, financial crime, terrorism and human trafficking had become increasingly transnational and the globalization of such criminal activity called for a new approach, based on international cooperation and greater use of information and communication technologies.

43. Her Government’s anti-narcotics policy was coordinated by the Anti-Drug Authority, which employed an inter-ministerial, multipronged approach to eliminating illicit drugs from Israeli society. Its strategy was based on anti-trafficking legislation, education of Israeli youth as to the dangers of narcotics and novel approaches to the treatment and rehabilitation of drug users. Israel’s drug treatment court, which worked closely with drug treatment centres, had a detoxification success rate of 90 percent. Drug seizures were the highest in the region, while the incidence of drug addiction was low compared to other developed nations. Nevertheless, given the demand for Ecstasy, LSD and heroin and the increasing use of substances not specifically prohibited by law, such as inhalants, enforcement needed to be strengthened. Awareness-raising campaigns were conducted on an ongoing basis, including in schools from kindergarten upwards, and innovative public education programmes were also necessary to change the dangerous misperception that cannabis was a “soft” drug. To address those problems, her Government continued to work with its neighbours, inter alia, by signing memorandums of understanding aimed at strengthening regional coordination in the

fight against the transnational movement of drugs and promoting information sharing on drug use prevention and therapy. It was a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and would continue to coordinate with other States to reduce the global demand for and supply of illicit drugs.

44. Her Government had increased its efforts to prevent human trafficking, which, because of its geographical situation, was a serious challenge for Israel, by prosecuting and convicting traffickers and strengthening border patrol units. It worked with other States to educate the public about trafficking, and a committee in the Israeli Parliament was addressing the issue of trafficking in women.

45. The different aspects of international organized crime were interrelated: drug cartels depended on illegal financial movements across borders and international terrorist organizations operated with the profits from major crime. Effectively addressing drug cultivation and trafficking therefore drastically reduced the ability of terrorist groups to fund themselves and therefore to operate. Her delegation applauded the work done by UNODC, including in the area of money-laundering, and called on other States to ratify the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and to implement General Assembly resolution 60/178. While she was encouraged by United Nations initiatives to strengthen international cooperation and technical assistance in the fields of crime prevention, illicit drugs and criminal justice, States must take real action to gain the upper hand: at the national level, through legislation, enforcement and education, and at the international level, through commitment to the goals of international conventions and multinational coordination that transcended States’ differences.

46. **Ms. Southichack** (Lao People’s Democratic Republic) said that the global problem of illicit drug trafficking could be dealt with effectively only through international cooperation, given that criminal organizations linked to it operated collectively in the territory of several countries. Her Government would continue to cooperate actively to that end and had enacted important legislation and conducted awareness-raising efforts which, in 2005, had resulted in 10 northern provinces, as well as Xaysomboun, former Special Zone, declaring themselves opium-free areas. By early 2006, opium cultivation had been eradicated nationwide. The results were already apparent in terms

of rural families' improved quality of life and access to clean water, education and health care.

47. Despite the successful elimination of opium cultivation, however, alternative development assistance had reached only 50 per cent of growers, and 50 per cent of villages that had formerly cultivated opium urgently required such assistance. Some 12,000 remaining addicts also needed to be treated. There was national and international concern about the sustainability of opium elimination in the country, since many communities did not yet have the means or the time to develop new cash crops or staple food crops or to replace the income lost in abandoning opium production. In 2005, the Government had adopted a national programme strategy to deal with the situation following opium elimination, covering the period 2006 to 2009 and requiring US\$ 8.3 million in funding. If implemented successfully, it would help stabilize the situation in the northern provinces, prevent a return to opium poppy cultivation and consumption and ward off, or mitigate, the dangers of illicit drugs, HIV/AIDS, increased poverty, crime, human trafficking and corruption that threatened the country and the region. She urged the international donor community to provide urgent support not only for appropriate technical assistance but also for funding timely alternative development actions.

48. **Ms. Hasteh** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that widespread cultivation of opium poppy and production of opiates and heroin in Afghanistan had caused many social and economic problems for her country, where illicit drugs were banned. Despite severe enforcement measures and the building of various fortifications along her country's borders with Afghanistan and Pakistan, illicit drug trafficking through Iran, the most direct overland route to Europe, had increased. In addition to financial outlays, over 3,500 Iranian anti-drug personnel had been killed fighting armed drug convoys entering from Afghanistan and Pakistan in the past two decades. Some 1,300 armed clashes had been reported in 2005, as a result of which over 2,000 drug trafficking groups had been dismantled and over 2,400 weapons had been seized. A total of 319,000 kg of narcotics of various kinds had been seized nationwide in 2005. Various drug prevention programmes had also been implemented, including public awareness-raising on the dangers of drugs by anti-drug centres in all cities and villages, life skills training and consultation services for vulnerable families, counselling and

support centres for at-risk individuals and information seminars for law enforcement authorities.

49. Closer cooperation among States was urgently required to counter the problems caused by increased drug production in Afghanistan and the related activities of criminal networks, which violated countries' territorial integrity and threatened their security. To that end, her Government had entered into a range of bilateral and multilateral agreements in the area of drug control; it had signed memorandums of understanding with 38 countries and was negotiating them with a further 32 countries. It had also implemented the NOROUZ (Narcotic Reduction Unitized Programme) cooperation programme with UNODC, focused on legal assistance, national initiatives, demand reduction and supply control. In September 2005, it had hosted a Paris Pact Expert Round Table at which foreign experts had asserted that the Islamic Republic of Iran was a world leader in the fight against drugs.

50. The problems faced by transit countries needed to be addressed at the international level, as they were the link between producer and consumer countries. Greater attention should be paid to the issue of demand reduction at the national, regional and international levels. Given that the fight against the demand for and the supply of drugs required an approach that integrated preventive and enforcement measures, international organizations and developed countries should provide additional financial resources and technical assistance to producer countries and the most seriously affected transit countries. Regional and international networks should also be formed to exchange and evaluate regular, confidential information so that illicit drug trafficking networks could be identified and dismantled quickly.

51. **Mr. Swe** (Myanmar) welcomed the positive information on the reduction of opium cultivation in the Secretary-General's report, but expressed surprise that, while specific figures were given for Afghanistan and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, none were given for Myanmar, the third country listed as having contributed to the region's success in reducing illicit opium cultivation. The *World Drug Report 2006* stated clearly that there had been a 26 per cent reduction in opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar in 2005. Despite those improvements, however, illicit drug trafficking, which was closely linked to other transnational crimes such as terrorism and money-laundering, continued to

be a global challenge. Success in the war on drugs could boost efforts on other fronts, but that required international cooperation based on the principles of shared responsibility. Effective measures to reduce supply and interdict trafficking must be complemented by equally effective measures to reduce demand.

52. One factor in his Government's success in its war on illicit narcotic drugs was the effective implementation of the 15-year National Plan for Drugs Elimination initiated in 1999. Since April 2002, the Plan had been complemented by the New Destiny Project, which provided support for former poppy growers who agreed to grow alternative cash crops. The Government had also taken specific measures in the areas of prevention, treatment and community-based control of drug abuse and was involved in various bilateral, regional and international cooperation programmes to eliminate trafficking. It was working with the other ASEAN countries to reach the common goal of making the region free from drugs by 2015. It had acceded to the major international instruments on drugs and crime and was also taking measures to eliminate the emerging threat of methamphetamine-type drugs. It was therefore regrettable that, despite all the measures taken by his Government, a certain powerful government had not only failed to provide material or moral support for its efforts but had also sought to tarnish his Government's image with groundless accusations. He thanked the countries of the region that had opened their markets to the alternative cash crops produced by Myanmar's former poppy farmers, thereby helping to address the problem of rural poverty, and reiterated his Government's determination to continue the fight against illicit narcotic drugs, terrorism and human trafficking, in cooperation with its regional and international partners.

53. **Ms. Rebello** (India) expressed support for the integrated approach taken by UNODC to drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism, which she hoped would enhance its effectiveness in dealing with those issues. Her delegation also welcomed UNODC initiatives to place drug and crime policies in a broader development context, based on the promotion of justice and good governance. Her Government had increased its contribution to UNODC fivefold.

54. Narcotic drugs were one of the main sources of funding for transnational crime and terrorism. The interrelationship between international terrorism and money-laundering, illegal arms transactions and illegal

movements of nuclear, chemical and biological materials posed a serious threat to international security and must be monitored carefully and addressed forcefully. The United Nations should convey a strong, unambiguous message directed at countering terrorism, which could never be justified, and her delegation therefore hoped that the recently adopted Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy would provide the impetus for unified action by the international community through practical cooperation measures such as extradition, prosecution, information exchange and capacity-building. It also called for the early conclusion of negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. India, which had borne the brunt of terrorist attacks for decades, was taking steps towards ratifying the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and had entered into various bilateral and regional agreements in the area of terrorism, money-laundering and organized crime which complemented its own strong domestic legislation.

55. While the reduction of opium poppy cultivation in South-East Asia and the steady decline in global coca cultivation and cocaine production were positive developments, levels of global illicit opium production and the increased use of amphetamine-type stimulants were worrying trends against which the international community must take rapid action. Her Government had taken the necessary steps to achieve the targets set at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. As a traditional producer of licit opium, India commended INCB efforts to monitor and maintain a lasting balance between opiate supply and demand. However, her Government was concerned about the emerging problem of trafficking through online pharmacies, which must be tackled through strengthened international cooperation and the harmonization of domestic legislation governing online pharmacies. While India's Narcotic Control Bureau had achieved considerable success in combating trafficking and seizing illicit narcotic drugs, national efforts alone were not enough and her Government remained committed to bilateral, regional and international cooperation in that area.

56. **Mr. Anzola** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that combating illicit drug trafficking should be seen as a shared responsibility of producer and consumer countries. His Government took a preventive rather than a punitive approach to crime by addressing

such basic needs as education, health, sports and recreation, housing and access to credit in order to prevent its people from being forced to turn to crime as a means of subsistence. It attached great importance to social programmes designed to eradicate poverty and redress the inequalities that had existed in Venezuelan society. The State should make security a priority concern, but must also involve other social sectors and institutions in addressing that issue. His Government was working towards a new concept of the police as a public service guided by the principles of permanence, efficiency, democracy and participation. Its efforts to strengthen its infrastructure for combating money-laundering had also been recognized.

57. The problem of trafficking in persons should also be addressed as a shared responsibility of countries of origin, transit and destination, using an integrated approach that combined prevention, social support and protection of the human rights of victims. Poverty, inequality and social exclusion were factors that increased the vulnerability of women and children in particular to domestic as well as transnational traffickers. His Government was participating in regional efforts by OAS to combat trafficking and, at the national level, had recently passed a law criminalizing trafficking in persons.

58. His Government also took an integrated approach to the drug problem and was promoting preventive alternative development. Various social programmes in the areas of education, health and agricultural credit were designed to protect vulnerable groups from becoming involved in drug cultivation and trafficking. The Government had also increased the efficiency of its drug seizure mechanism and had located and eradicated illicit crops through the use of satellite monitoring. Its cooperation with the European Union in the area of prevention of drug use in Venezuela and control of chemical precursors had been especially useful. It had also signed 33 bilateral agreements on combating the drug problem, money-laundering and the diversion of chemical precursors. Latin America and the Caribbean were cooperating with the European Union regionally to facilitate the exchange of information, research and technical expertise on the drug problem.

59. **Mr. Muchemi** (Kenya) commended UNODC for its pivotal role in enhancing the capacity of States to respond more effectively to the challenges posed by transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism

and endorsed the recommendations in the Secretary-General's report (A/61/179) aimed at strengthening UNODC further, in particular those in paragraphs 66 to 71. His Government had benefited from UNODC technical assistance programmes, including an in-depth assessment of its institutional and legislative framework with a view to enhancing its capacity to combat money-laundering. Regrettably, ratification of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols was still far from universal. The collective response to organized crime could be effective only if there was universal ratification and implementation and he therefore urged States that had not yet done so to consider acceding to and ratifying those instruments.

60. His Government was committed to international efforts to combat trafficking in narcotic drugs. Because of its unique position as a communications hub in East Africa, Kenya was a preferred transit route for international drug dealers. Despite its limited capacity, the Government had recently increased border controls, strengthened the Anti-Narcotics Unit of the police, imposed stringent administrative and penal measures against drug trafficking and established an Inter-Ministerial Drug Coordinating Committee and a National Agency for the Campaign against Drug Abuse. It recognized that drug trafficking was closely linked with money-laundering and the financing of terrorism and had redoubled its efforts against those crimes as well.

61. Preventing and combating corruption presented another formidable challenge and his Government had demonstrated its commitment to countering corruption by being the first country to sign and ratify the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Ratifications and accessions to the Convention continued to increase steadily, but the great majority of current States parties were developing countries. Participation by all regions of the world was required to achieve its full implementation. Over the past three years, his Government had been grappling with the complex issue of recovery of assets derived from corrupt practices, with very limited success. Kenya and Nigeria had been used as case studies in a UNODC initiative aimed at strengthening the legal and institutional frameworks of States for preventing the laundering of assets and facilitating their return. The resulting assessment and recommendations were under consideration with a view to accelerating action to

close existing loopholes. Lastly, his delegation welcomed the adoption of the Programme of Action for Africa for the period 2006-2010, designed to strengthen the rule of law and criminal justice systems in Africa, and urged the international community to support its implementation.

62. **Ms. Halabi** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the documents before the Committee indicated the seriousness of the problems of crime and narcotic drugs. UNODC had achieved successes and it was essential to support it in its goals of providing practical crime-fighting assistance to States and drafting model instruments to serve as guides for national legislation. Her Government was a party to most of the international crime prevention instruments, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols. It had been an active participant in conferences to draw up a plan of action to combat human trafficking in the Middle East and North Africa and, with the cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), had formed a national committee to draft a law on human trafficking. It had concluded bilateral and multilateral extradition agreements and had also signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption and acceded to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism.

63. Her delegation reaffirmed its condemnation of the crime of terrorism in all its forms. Information shared by her Government with other countries had saved lives and resulted in the dismantling of international terrorist cells and it had been actively involved in the consultations that had led to the General Assembly's adoption of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Although that strategy fell short of providing a legal definition of terrorism, distinguishing between terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples against foreign occupation and addressing the root causes of terrorism, it was a building block that went beyond the Security Council's purely security-based approach. Terrorism could not be confronted by force alone, its root causes needed to be tackled.

64. Her Government was working to incorporate counter-terrorism provisions into its national legislation. The body created under the law to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism had a particularly important role to play, in view of the opening up of banking to the private sector and

international investment. Several workshops had been held in conjunction with international bodies such as the World Bank, as well as a regional conference for the Middle East and North Africa held in Damascus on the theme "Development of an effective system to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism".

65. Her Government had promulgated Act No. 2 of 1993 on the illegal use of drugs, which was in line with the goals of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. It had acceded to the various international conventions on the drug problem, was a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and had concluded bilateral information exchange agreements with Cyprus, Turkey, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan. It welcomed all forms of international cooperation against the drug scourge and appreciated the technical assistance provided by the UNODC Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa. It was confident that efforts by the United Nations and its Member States would succeed in overcoming the threats of drugs, crime and terrorism.

66. **Mr. Chaimongkol** (Thailand) said that among its many benefits, globalization had turned the world into a global village. However, the same forces had also brought about unprecedented growth in transnational organized crime, ranging from drug trafficking to the financing of terrorism.

67. Drugs destroyed lives and societies, hindered development and undermined security. Every country, large or small, was affected and a global problem demanded a concerted global response. A holistic approach was also essential. His Government had achieved success in tackling the drug problem with an alternative development project that combined crop substitution with development objectives such as reforestation, environmental protection, poverty alleviation and improved quality of life. Its strategies included providing alternative employment opportunities, vocational training, education and health services and creating value-added products for marketing. Former poppy farmers who had switched to substitute cash crops such as coffee and macadamia nuts had seen their average income rise almost ten-fold in just over a decade. His Government believed that that model could be applied elsewhere and was working with the Government of Myanmar to extend

its success story to another side of the Golden Triangle. It was also working with the Government of Afghanistan to transfer its alternative development expertise and was cooperating with Indonesia and countries in Latin America. However, private sector help in developing and marketing alternative development products were needed, as well as cooperation from developed countries in opening their markets to such products.

68. To combat trafficking in human beings effectively, a balanced but firm approach was needed in the three core areas of prevention, protection and prosecution. Prevention of the root causes of trafficking must be at the forefront and experience had shown that a human rights-based approach to victim protection and assistance was essential to successful prosecution. His Government had placed the fight against trafficking on the national agenda, but that crime's transnational nature meant that enhanced international cooperation was indispensable.

69. Transnational organized crime and terrorism often fed on each other and it was impossible to tackle one without tackling the other. His delegation called for the full and effective implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy recently adopted by the General Assembly. Even with the best of intentions, however, many developing countries would be unable to fulfil their commitments without a significant increase in technical assistance. His delegation therefore welcomed the launching of the open-ended interim working group on technical assistance activities at the forthcoming Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols. It also believed that UNODC, as a pivotal institution in the global fight against drugs and crime, deserved the fullest support from the international community.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.