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Draft report

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Addendum**Follow-up to the Eleventh United Nations Congress on
Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations
for the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime
Prevention and Criminal Justice**

1. At its 8th meeting, on 26 April 2007, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice considered agenda item 8, entitled “Follow-up to the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”. For its consideration of the item, the Commission had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Lessons Learned from United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Bangkok from 15 to 18 August 2006 (E/CN.15/2007/6);

(b) Reporting checklist developed by the Government of Thailand on the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/CN.15/2007/CRP.1).

2. The Commission heard statements by the representatives of Peru (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), Canada, the Republic of Korea, the United States of America and Thailand. The representative of the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders also made a statement. A statement was also made by the representative of Canada, speaking in her capacity as rapporteur of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on



Lessons Learned from United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Deliberations

3. The Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs recalled Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/26, which reiterated the invitation to Governments to implement the outcome of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as embodied in the Bangkok Declaration on Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (General Assembly resolution 60/177, annex). She noted that the resolution requested UNODC to convene an Intergovernmental Group of Experts to discuss previous congresses in order to accumulate and consider lessons learned, with the objective of developing a methodology to build on such lessons for use by future congresses. She provided a brief account of the outcome of the meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, held in Bangkok from 15 to 18 August 2006. Reporting on the consultations with the four countries that had offered to host the Twelfth Congress, in 2010, she informed the Commission that the Governments of Burkina Faso and Pakistan had withdrawn their candidacies, the latter in favour of Qatar. She noted that Brazil and Qatar were engaged in consultations, which hopefully would come to an expeditious conclusion in order for the Commission to recommend to the General Assembly a consensus decision on the host of the next congress.

4. Speakers welcomed the adoption of the Bangkok Declaration and stressed the importance of its effective follow-up. They also commended the development of a checklist offered by the Government of Thailand as a sample of a tool for ensuring follow-up to the Bangkok Declaration. In that respect, some speakers highlighted the usefulness of a voluntary self-assessment process and avoiding a questionnaire-based approach or duplication with other existing information-gathering or follow-up mechanisms. The importance of technical assistance provided by UNODC to developing countries in implementing the Bangkok Declaration was also emphasized.

5. One speaker provided a brief outline of the salient features of the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts. Speakers expressed appreciation for the work of the Group and commended its report, and expressed general support for its conclusions and recommendations. It was noted that the objective of the meeting was to develop a methodology for capturing lessons learned from previous congresses in order better to prepare for, conduct and follow-up on future congresses. Speakers reiterated the importance of early preparations for future congresses, selection of the host country and engagement of the Commission, to be reflected in a multi-year programme of work. In that respect, it was noted that early preparations aimed at determining the theme, substantive agenda items, workshop topics and adequate time allocation would ensure a more focused agenda. Some speakers made concrete proposals for the next congress on each of those elements.

6. Speakers stressed the importance of regional preparatory meetings as a way to reflect regional concerns in the preparatory process of future congresses. One speaker expressed the view that the Commission and its intersessional meetings

were a more appropriate venue and offered a more cost-effective means for raising regional concerns and carrying out the preparatory process.

7. Noting the pivotal role and functions of the host country, both during the planning stages and the congress itself, speakers expressed the wish that ongoing consultations on the host of the Twelfth Congress would come to an expeditious conclusion.
