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Addendum

World crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice

1. At its 6th and 7th meetings, on 19 and 20 May 2010, the Commission considered agenda item 5, entitled “World crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice”.
2. For its consideration of item 5, the Commission had before it the following:
 - (a) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2010/3-E/CN.15/2010/3);
 - (b) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the expert group on improving the collection, reporting and analysis of crime data (E/CN.15/2010/14);
 - (c) Note by the Secretariat on world crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice: protection against trafficking in cultural property (E/CN.15/2010/17);
 - (d) Report of the Secretary-General on the state of crime and criminal justice worldwide (A/CONF.213/3);
 - (e) Report on the meeting of the expert group on improving the collection, reporting and analysis of crime data (UNODC/CCPCJ/EG.2/2010/2).
3. The Commission heard statements by the representatives of the Republic of Korea, Chile, China, the Russian Federation, Mexico, Thailand, Argentina, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Canada and Algeria. Statements were also made by the



observers for Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Italy, Indonesia and the Syrian Arab Republic.

A. Deliberations

4. In her introductory statement, the representative of UNODC gave an overview, based on available information, of recent crime trends at the international level and briefed the Commission on the recent work done by UNODC in consulting with Member States on data collection. She noted that challenges in the area of crime and criminal justice statistics included the limited capacity of some Member States to collect and disseminate crime-related data, the need to increase the rate of response to surveys and the need to improve the coherence of the data provided by Member States. UNODC was working to address those challenges, including through better analysis and dissemination of crime statistics and the promotion of population-based crime victimization surveys. The need to designate national contact points to facilitate the collection of data at the international level was emphasized.

5. Several speakers expressed appreciation for the efforts made by UNODC to provide a comprehensive picture of crime trends and the operations of criminal justice systems around the world. A number of speakers commended UNODC for the report of the Secretary-General on the state of crime and criminal justice worldwide (A/CONF.213/3), and support was expressed for the efforts being made to streamline the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems.

6. Several speakers noted that the availability of timely, accurate and comprehensive information at the international level was crucial for developing policy, carrying out operational responses and evaluating the impact of crime prevention activities. Some speakers emphasized the increasingly transnational nature of crime, noting that, in a globalized world, it was necessary to strengthen mechanisms for the coordination and exchange of information on crime and criminal justice. In that regard, one speaker highlighted the value of the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems for the international community. Some speakers expressed the view that UNODC should become the main centre for the collection and exchange of information on all kinds of crime-related threats and that the usefulness of a central repository of information on the magnitude of and trends in crime and criminal justice could not be overstated.

7. Most speakers referred to the growing threat posed by forms of organized crime such as drug trafficking, money-laundering, trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, cybercrime, environmental crime and corruption. One speaker welcomed the fact that UNODC data collection initiatives paid attention to both new and traditional types of crime.

8. Several speakers highlighted the need to enhance knowledge about different forms of and trends in organized crime. In particular, speakers highlighted emerging forms of crime that were increasingly being identified as manifestations of, or as having links to, transnational organized crime. Topics raised by speakers included

environmental crime, particularly illegal logging and fishing; counterfeiting and piracy of digital media; and trafficking in firearms.

9. One speaker noted that research indicated that counterfeiting represented a lucrative source of income for organized criminal groups and that such income could be used to fund other illicit activities. Another speaker said that, in his country, organized criminal groups appeared to be involved in both the piracy of digital media and drug trafficking. With respect to environmental crime, one speaker observed that illegal logging deprived communities of resources and jeopardized development. Some speakers specifically proposed that emerging types of crime, including counterfeiting, digital piracy and environmental crime, could be the subject of UNODC studies or reports to be submitted to the Commission at future sessions.

10. One speaker highlighted that the challenges posed by transnational organized crime should not be addressed from a security perspective alone and that relevant social and development aspects should also be recognized. In that respect, the speaker referred to a meeting of the Security Council held on 24 February 2010 at which the Council considered the issue of transnational organized crime as a threat to international peace and security. In the view of the speaker, the competent multilateral forums for addressing the issue were the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, including the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

11. Speakers highlighted the importance of national capacities for the collection and analysis of crime-related data and provided examples of the use of centralized databases and the Web to store and disseminate national-level crime statistics. The availability and accessibility of information were agreed to be of particular importance. It was noted that technical support, including that provided by UNODC, was crucial to the development of such capacities and to the fight against transnational organized crime and emerging forms of crime.

12. A number of speakers welcomed the recommendations made by the expert group on improving the collection, reporting and analysis of crime data at its meeting held in Buenos Aires from 8 to 10 February 2010 and expressed the hope that the work of UNODC would continue to be guided by the regular meeting of such groups. One speaker noted that States should have ample opportunity to review the recommendations of the expert group before they were considered by the Commission.

13. One speaker requested UNODC to continue working on streamlining its data collection questionnaires in order to minimize the burden and complexity of reporting for Member States while encouraging the rationalization of the various data collection efforts by different regional and international organizations and taking into account the reporting mechanisms related to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

14. One speaker encouraged UNODC to continue to provide data and analysis relevant to trafficking in cultural property at future sessions of the Commission. The speaker also recommended that documentation submitted under the new item of world crime trends should cover substantive matters of interest to the Commission. Documents submitted to both the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal

Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should include only items of direct relevance to both commissions.

15. The same speaker welcomed the revision of the Eleventh United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems as it represented a critical step and commitment towards enhancing international crime data collection. The speaker also called upon Member States to provide financial support to UNODC to ensure that efforts to increase the quality and quantity of internationally comparable crime data were supported.
