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Chair: Ms. Melon (Vice-Chair) (Argentina)

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In the absence of Mr. Tommo Monthe (Cameroon), Ms. Melon (Argentina) Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 105: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/65/89, 91, 92, 113, 114 and 116; A/C.3/65/L.2 and L.4-L.6; E/2010/30 (Supp.10))

Agenda item 106: International drug control (*continued*) (A/65/89 and 93, A/C.3/65/L.3)

1. **Mr. Emadi** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the illicit production and trafficking of narcotic drugs could only be curbed through collective and concerted efforts based on the principle of shared responsibility. Although relatively sufficient international legal instruments existed, the cultivation, production, trafficking and consumption of narcotic drugs had sharply increased in recent years and the failure to resolve the issue of drugs in Afghanistan had further exacerbated the situation.

2. Iran had always supported the creation of mechanisms for international and regional coordination to more effectively counter drug-related crime and had extended particular support to the Triangular Initiative of Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan. That Initiative, which was supported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), had resulted in the establishment of Border Liaison Offices in the border region between the three countries and the seizure of precursor consignments. Iran had also collaborated with countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization on anti-drug initiatives.

3. Iran had allocated thousands of police officers and billions of dollars to its efforts to curtail the transit of illegal narcotics from Afghanistan and had reinforced its eastern border. As a result of such actions, Iran had seized more opium and heroin than any other country. Moreover, in its fight against illicit drug trafficking, Iran had signed memorandums of understanding with some 40 countries, provided treatment, rehabilitation and vocational training for drug addicts and encouraged the involvement of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in demand reduction programmes. Iran also participated in reconstruction and alternative development in Afghanistan and was working with UNODC to curtail supply and demand and strengthen the rule of law. There was an urgent need to reinforce regional and

global policies and programmes in order to strengthen existing initiatives.

4. **Ms. Morgan Sotomayor** (Mexico) said that her Government was taking decisive steps to combat criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking and related crimes. It had established a national security strategy based on increasing the presence of public authorities throughout the country, eliminating corruption, breaking up criminal networks, measures for the prevention and rehabilitation of drug addicts and promoting of international cooperation.

5. As a result, Mexico had made significant progress in undermining the capacity for action of criminal organizations and had regained State authority in areas where impunity had reigned. However, the fight against drug trafficking required the participation of civil society in order to consolidate a comprehensive security strategy. Mexico's achievements had been recognized by the United Nations in the World Drug Report 2010, which noted that despite drug-related violence, the national homicide rate was considerably lower than the regional average.

6. The links between drug trafficking and other serious criminal activities were increasing. Hence, comprehensive strategies were required to combat the problem at the global level, with actions to reduce supply matched by measures to lower demand, taking money-laundering and trafficking in firearms into account.

7. The problem was multidimensional and required increased international cooperation and information sharing. Accordingly, as in previous years, Mexico would present the omnibus resolution on international cooperation against the world drug problem. It invited Member States to honour their commitments under the three international drug control treaties and the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem adopted at the previous session. Combating the problem was not the exclusive responsibility of one country or region, but a global obligation that must be resolved by the international community based on the principle of shared responsibility.

8. **Mr. Takashima** (Japan) said that transnational organized and drug-related crime resulted in serious violations of human rights, severely damaged the livelihoods and well-being of affected individuals and

posed a security threat. Despite considerable efforts, the international community still faced enormous challenges in its fight against such criminal activity. Globalization facilitated cross-border human trafficking and smuggling, as well as trafficking in drugs and arms, and enabled organized crime groups and networks to diversify their operations.

9. There was a linkage between drug trafficking and other forms of transnational organized crime. Organized crime groups acted behind the scenes in States in conflict and post-conflict situations, eating away at the social fabric and impeding establishment of the rule of law and sustainable development. Such criminal activities were further exacerbated by corruption and by their ripple effect throughout the international community.

10. To combat such criminal activities, Member States must enhance their cooperation, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility and must strengthen their adherence to all relevant legal instruments. Furthermore, all stakeholders must redouble efforts to address the root causes of transnational organized crime.

11. Through the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, Japan was providing assistance to combat such crime. Successful initiatives had included projects to combat human trafficking in Thailand and the Philippines and drug trafficking in Myanmar. In addition, Japan had pledged \$7 million to UNODC to support counter-drug measures in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries. The Japanese Government had also provided technical cooperation in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice through the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. That institute provided training for criminal justice practitioners from developing countries.

12. Japan was enhancing the screening process for visa applicants and was issuing machine-readable passports in order to strengthen its immigration policy and the identification process for victims. Japan had also established a national drug abuse prevention strategy acceleration plan and maintained a “zero tolerance policy” against drug abuse, which had been deemed a success by the International Narcotics Control Board.

13. **Ms. Cho** (Republic of Korea) said that social networking systems such as blogs and instant

messaging could be used to spread malicious code, commit sex offences and carry out cyberbullying. Those and other forms of cybercrime posed a threat to society and required a multinational response. To that end, the Korean Institute of Criminology had developed an online training programme entitled “Virtual Forum against Cybercrime” to provide technical assistance to law-enforcement officers in Asian countries.

14. In the past, strategies to counter drug-related crime had largely focused on reducing supply. However, demand reduction was now integral to drug control policies. Drawing on other countries’ experience and UNODC guidelines, her Government was pursuing demand reduction strategies and focusing on raising public awareness of the destructive consequences of drugs. Moreover, to reach those who were most at risk of exposure to drug-related crime, the Government encouraged the involvement of civil society and relevant NGOs, by supporting their education and rehabilitation programmes.

15. International cooperation, particularly in the fields of information sharing and technical assistance, was critical in effectively addressing new criminal behaviour trends. Korea supported information-sharing initiatives and in November 2010 would host the World Customs Organization National Contact Points meeting in cooperation with the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific. That meeting would strengthen cooperation among countries in Asia and the Pacific and international organizations, such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), so as to more effectively combat customs fraud and the trade in illegal drugs.

16. UNODC played a central role in information-sharing efforts and must improve its information-gathering system. Korea commended the UNODC *World Drug Report 2010*, as well as the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime, which provided the international community with a firm basis for the formulation of counter-drug strategies. However, better information on certain regions of the world was required in order to more accurately assess global trends.

17. **Ms. Solórzano-Arrigada** (Nicaragua) said that, since transnational organized crime and the drug problem were global phenomena, they called for a response from the international community based on

coordinated multilateral actions that fully respected State sovereignty and the rule of law. Moreover, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, the response should include the mobilization of funds to assist transit countries for drugs and weapons, such as Nicaragua, which had to use their limited national resources to combat transnational crime.

18. Nicaragua had revealed its firm commitment to the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols by amending domestic laws, and implementing national and regional plans. Whereas the crime rate in the other countries of Central America had increased in recent years, it had declined in Nicaragua, and the country's murder rate was among the lowest in the region.

19. While Nicaragua was free of the so-called *maras* (violent juvenile gangs), youth gangs represented a problem, even though they had no ties to transnational organized crime. A comprehensive care model had been developed that had resulted in the withdrawal of around 500 members of such groups each year.

20. The police had acted relentlessly against international drug trafficking and local distribution networks. Specific attention had been paid to dismantling the logistic structure that the drug traffickers had tried to establish in the country by seizing assets, weapons and shell companies. Clandestine laboratories for the manufacture of synthetic drugs had been destroyed, and numerous foreign drug traffickers and criminals captured and prosecuted. In addition, Nicaragua was a member of several regional bodies that developed and executed regional plans to combat organized crime.

21. Member States should be encouraged to sign and ratify the relevant international conventions so that money-laundering, abduction, people trafficking, corruption, people smuggling and related crimes were defined as offences under the domestic laws of the countries of the hemisphere, and the assets resulting from such crimes were identified and seized. Nicaragua would continue its efforts to combat such crimes, despite its limited resources, because it was convinced that only in a climate of peace and security could the country achieve its full potential.

22. **Ms. Sahussarungsi** (Thailand) said that Thailand attached great importance to tackling both domestic and transnational organized crime. Crime was one of

the greatest impediments to development, as criminal activity deterred investment and discouraged doctors and teachers from living in certain areas. In addition to meting out punishments, however, attention must also be given to correcting those who had committed crimes while ensuring that they were held in decent conditions and that their human rights were respected. The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners played an important role in Thailand's correctional systems. However, those rules no longer reflected the changing reality of the twenty-first century and correctional facilities needed to be updated. Thailand had initiated the draft version of the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders. Those draft rules had been endorsed by the United Nations Economic and Social Council, which had recommended their adoption by the General Assembly.

23. Thailand also attached great importance to the welfare of victims of crime and, *inter alia*, provided assistance to victims of human trafficking to facilitate their reintegration into society without stigma. Thailand was also committed to fighting corruption and would host the fourteenth International Anti-Corruption Conference in November 2010.

24. Fostering development remained critical so that people had alternatives to engaging in criminal activity; to that end, Thailand, *inter alia*, provided sustainable income-generating opportunities for small farmers to discourage them from growing crops used in the production of illegal drugs.

25. Thailand was, moreover, promoting Thai-style alternative development projects in countries both within and outside South-East Asia and, to enhance cooperation and exchange best practices, Thailand and Peru would co-host the International Workshop and Conference on Alternative Development, in November 2010. Thailand was focusing on raising awareness in the border areas, schools, communities, societies and families and was working to achieve the target of an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) drug-free area by 2015.

26. **Mr. Rudi** (Norway) said that the human suffering and costs to society of organized crime were enormous. The capacity for innovation of criminal networks was boundless; they were involved in numerous areas where illicit profit could be made and more effective

international cooperation was therefore required to counter them. Norway believed that the best way forward was to implement existing instruments, while reviewing implementation mechanisms. Such mechanisms existed for the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, but not for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Norway therefore urged Member States to develop principles for the corresponding mechanism during the fifth session of the Conference of Parties to that instrument.

27. UNODC should be more focused in its work, with a balance between headquarters and field activities. It should strengthen its role as guardian of human rights in the area of crime and drugs, enhance transparency and the application of the gender perspective in its programmes and human resources policy, and strengthen the culture of evaluation.

28. Measures to increase transparency and to identify illicit financial flows had contributed significantly to Norway's fight against organized crime. However, in order to establish an effective response, more information was required about global criminal groups and how they took advantage of existing financial structures. Norway supported UNODC research activities in that area, and recommended that they be based on the experiences of Member States.

29. Illegal fishing was emerging as a new type of transnational organized crime; attractive because of relatively high profits and low risks of prosecution. Norway undertook to report on the situation at future discussions on the issue.

30. Challenges to preventing drug use and drug-related crime were present in each link of the drug chain. Norway welcomed resolution 53/2 of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on preventing the use of illicit drugs within Member States and strengthening international cooperation on policies of drug abuse prevention and encouraged Member States to follow up on it.

31. The advantages of the global norms established by the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime were evident in the area of human trafficking. That issue was one of the priorities of the Council of the Baltic Sea States under the Norwegian presidency; specifically, the Council

intended to increase the focus on the labour market through improved cooperation between the police and labour inspection authorities, and develop a more effective victim identification programme.

32. **Ms. Halimah** (Malaysia) said that national investment in basic crime prevention efforts had benefits at the local, national, regional and even international levels. However, international cooperation, in such areas as information exchange, capacity-building, technology transfer and confidence-building, continued to be necessary in order to allow countries to gain trust, improve their capabilities and better coordinate the practical and operational aspects of their work.

33. In Malaysia's experience, bilateral agency-to-agency contact on a needs basis and within the limits of national laws remained the most effective way of sharing information on transnational crime. Information sharing on a wider scale, while desirable, presented a challenge, in part because it might require conventions, treaties, regional arrangements, bilateral agreements or memorandums of understanding.

34. For the new Global Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons to be effective, it must be implemented in coordination with the Palermo Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, to which Malaysia was a party. However, the international community must move beyond a criminal justice response to trafficking in persons. A more comprehensive approach to the problem was needed to address the underlying issues that made people in the countries of origin vulnerable to exploitation.

35. Regionally, Malaysia had undertaken useful efforts to combat trafficking in persons within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Domestically, under the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act 2007, which had recently been amended to address the smuggling of migrants specifically, enforcement agencies had thus far rescued almost 1,800 suspected victims, a portion of whom were currently housed in shelters. It had also launched a national strategic plan to combat trafficking in persons that identified strategic goals and the associated programme areas requiring support.

36. Malaysia remained concerned about the increased consumption of synthetic stimulants identified in

various reports by the Secretary-General and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Also, despite its tough drug laws, it had experienced an increase in drug trafficking. Clearly, national drug control measures needed to be accompanied by a more concerted international effort, which should include technical assistance and capacity-building to provide alternative sources of income in drug-producing areas.

37. **Ms. Ojiambo** (Kenya) said that, despite the concerted efforts of the international community, crime and drugs were among the factors that thwarted achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Hence, questions arose as to the efficacy of the strategies adopted and the collective commitment to combat the problem, and as to whether a completely new approach should be taken.

38. Human trafficking was one of the most profitable activities of criminal groups worldwide. By its nature, it was very difficult to eradicate, particularly in regions affected by conflict, humanitarian disasters and poverty. Despite the provisions of several international treaties and the corresponding regional measures the problem continued unabated. The African Heads of State and Government had called for urgent action to coordinate the scattered efforts and, in response, the General Assembly had launched the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons in August 2010. The plan of action would offer a more coherent approach to combating the problem, while providing protection and assistance to victims.

39. Kenya had increased campaigns against human trafficking, strengthened security at its ports of entry and exit, and was adopting legislation on trafficking and on money-laundering. The Judicial Training Institute, with international cooperation, had organized an event on the administration of justice, emphasizing the code of ethics and professionalism. The country had also received support from UNODC to enhance its capacity to enforce maritime law and to rehabilitate prison facilities. Furthermore, the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders was supporting capacity-building programmes in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice.

40. Kenya continued to bear the brunt of the political turmoil in Somalia; the influx of weapons together with increasing cases of piracy and terrorism had caused untold suffering. While Kenya was grateful for

the international community's efforts to help the region deal with the problems, a permanent solution would only be found when political stability was restored to Somalia. Moreover, infrastructure was required to ensure that weapons originating from legitimate trade did not end up on the illicit market. Kenya remained committed to regional and international efforts to find solutions to the challenges posed by crime and drugs worldwide and called on the international community to increase efforts, including by providing resources.

41. **Ms. Velichko** (Belarus) said that States must undertake coordinated action at all levels to fight crime, which had increased. Belarus was an active participant in such regional organizations as the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and others, and had recently received dialogue partner status in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The main areas of cooperation with SCO would include combating illicit trafficking in drugs and weapons, other types of transnational crime and illegal migration. Belarus welcomed the start of the work of the United Nations Convention against Corruption review mechanism and looked forward to participating in the review process in 2013.

42. UNODC had done important work to combat trafficking in persons, one of the most terrible crimes of modern times. Belarus welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the outcome of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to launch the United Nations Global Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons. The Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, which had a membership of 20 States, had recently adopted a declaration emphasizing the importance of further enhancing coordination of efforts and strengthening partnerships to combat trafficking in persons.

43. The Global Plan of Action provided the best opportunity to ensure effective implementation of all international instruments to combat trafficking in persons, including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as well as to ensure effective coordination of efforts in the area among all interested parties. Recently, the State Programme on Combating Human Trafficking, Illegal Migration and Related Illegal Acts for 2011 to 2013

had been adopted by decree of the President of Belarus. It would be an important component of her country's implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

44. The International Study Centre for training, upgrading skills and retraining staff working in the fields of migration and human trafficking had been founded in 2007 to train professionals in new approaches to combating illegal activity related to migration and trafficking in persons. The facilities of the Centre would be made available to specialists from other countries.

45. Belarus welcomed the measures to strengthen coordination of efforts to address trafficking, which had been carried out by the Inter-Agency Cooperation Group against Trafficking in Persons. The Group could become one of the most important coordination mechanisms for implementation of the Global Plan.

46. It was hoped that the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, to be held in October 2010, would give new impetus to implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and mark a decisive advance in addressing transnational crime.

47. **Mrs. Kavun** (Ukraine) stood firmly behind enhanced multilateral cooperation on transnational organized crime, terrorism, human trafficking and corruption. The United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementary protocols were the cornerstones of the international regime for combating organized crime. Ukraine noted with regret that some senior officials of UNODC, the main international institution responsible for strengthening multilateral efforts in connection with those agreements, had made public statements containing groundless assertions that distorted the activities of some Member States. Disseminating such information and making recommendations based on it could undermine the authority of UNODC as an impartial organization. UNODC should not exceed its mandate. Its studies and assessments should address priority issues identified by the Member States and should be based on information provided by them.

48. Ukraine wished to express its unwavering support for the principles and targets adopted by the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. She expressed the hope that the measures outlined in the Salvador Declaration on

Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges would contribute significantly to improving mechanisms for international cooperation in those areas.

49. Ukraine had implemented numerous measures to increase awareness of corruption and to combat it in the public and private sectors, including legal measures on money-laundering and bribery. It hoped that the results of the Third Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) would lead to improved national and international standards. It supported the establishment of an open-ended intergovernmental review mechanism to assess national progress towards anti-corruption goals and targets and had been selected to be reviewed and to conduct a review at the first meeting of the UNCAC Implementation Review Group.

50. Ukraine needed to strengthen its national terrorism prevention capacities and was grateful to UNODC for its assistance in organizing a regional workshop on terrorism prevention for the countries of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development (GUAM) in February 2010. In May, it had hosted a regional workshop on maritime terrorism for the countries of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization.

51. The twentieth special session of the General Assembly had proved that countries and international organizations could work together successfully to address the world drug problem. Also of note was the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. It set long-term priorities that would require full transparency in international cooperation, as well as financial assistance from international institutions.

52. Finally, Ukraine wished to underline the link between HIV/AIDS and illicit drug use. Reducing drug demand and use was crucial to stemming the spread of HIV/AIDS.

53. **Mr. Loayza Barea** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that the report of the Secretary-General (A/65/93) acknowledged the efforts made by the countries of the Andean region to decrease the area under coca bush cultivation. Nevertheless, it should be noted that a significant percentage of the production was intended for legitimate consumption as food and

medicine. Bolivia had reduced coca cultivation based on effective control and agreements with organizations of coca growers, while strictly respecting human rights. In addition, the Government had decided to eliminate illicit cultivation in the national parks.

54. Although recognizing the efforts made by Bolivia to combat drug trafficking, the current United States Administration, for strictly political reasons with no relationship to the problem, had again decertified Bolivia, while certifying major cocaine producers. Bolivia's achievements were ignored and contradictory data recorded; thus, while the United Nations indicated that coca cultivation had increased by 1 per cent, according to the United States it had increased by more than 9 per cent.

55. Despite such political problems, the Government was firmly committed to the fight against the global drug problem, drug trafficking, organized crime and corruption and considered that eliminating banking secrecy would make a significant contribution.

56. Bolivia had improved the coordination of efforts to counter drug trafficking, principally with its neighbouring countries, by executing joint operations and following up on bilateral and multilateral efforts. In addition, a council to combat drug trafficking had been established within the framework of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR). All of which reaffirmed that the global drug problem was a common and shared responsibility. A series of discussions had been initiated with the European Commission, the Russian Federation and Canada on the implementation of a radar-based project to give the country direct control over its airspace, which would constitute a crucial tool in the fight against drug trafficking and other unlawful activities.

57. Bolivia reiterated that the chewing of coca leaves was an ancestral practice of the region's indigenous peoples and formed part of their cultural identity. Coca plants caused no harm to the environment and the legitimate production and consumption of coca was protected and regulated by the Constitution.

58. Bolivia was firmly committed to the international fight against drug trafficking and the illegal cultivation of coca. However, confronting the problem required the cooperation of organizations or countries that respected Bolivia's sovereignty as well as human rights.

59. **Ms. Alsaleh** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the Syrian Arab Republic, which was a party to most international instruments on crime prevention, was one of the safest and most stable countries in the world. Her Government's firm commitment to combating all forms of crime was evinced by the steps it had taken to bring domestic legislation in line with the relevant international agreements and standards. Moreover, as an early member of INTERPOL, the Syrian Arab Republic had actively participated in its conferences and had implemented the various resolutions adopted by INTERPOL and other international bodies.

60. While incidents of human trafficking in her country were isolated, a comprehensive law to prevent and prosecute that crime, in addition to providing care for its victims, had been enacted in 2010. Other domestic legislation passed over the previous decade specifically addressed a number of contemporary crimes, including a law on electronic signatures and another concerning money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

61. The use by gangs of technological advances to commit transnational organized crimes required a multipronged response that drew upon best practices and employed specialized police units. In that connection, her country had hosted an international INTERPOL conference on combating human trafficking earlier in the year, and in 2009 had organized a workshop on establishing an international legal framework to combat terrorism.

62. Her Government had intensified its efforts to combat drug use and smuggling on its territory and fully supported international efforts and cooperation to that end. Moreover, the Syrian Arab Republic worked closely with UNODC and welcomed the technical support that its Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa was providing to the countries of the region. Her country stressed the need to grant the Office additional resources in order to enable it to carry out its mandate. The United Nations and Member States should address the root causes of drug-related and other crime and, in so doing, adopt a preventive approach that entailed working to resolve regional and international conflicts and supporting the economies of poor countries.

63. **Mr. Tanin** (Afghanistan) said that his Government valued the support the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) had provided to

eliminate the threat of narcotic drugs in Afghanistan, including the provision of capacity-building for law enforcement and opportunities for alternative livelihoods. The threat of narcotic drugs was part of a sophisticated criminal network and defeating it required concerted international efforts. The people of Afghanistan continued to suffer immensely, and the Government had taken a number of steps at the national and international levels to address the drug threat as a top priority. With the support of international partners, poppy cultivation had been reduced by 48 per cent in 2010, a success that had been recognized by UNODC. Twenty out of 34 provinces had been kept poppy-free through comprehensive measures that included agricultural development and demand reduction.

64. Greater efforts were needed from transit and consuming countries to prevent trafficking of chemical precursors and reduce demand, and in that regard, he called for increased measures by Member States to implement Security Council resolution 1817 (2008). In addition, terrorism needed to be addressed in tandem with the problem of drugs, as proceeds from narcotic drugs were a main source of funding for terrorist activity in the country and the region, posing a threat to stability. Easy access to drugs and war-related trauma had resulted in drug use in roughly 8 per cent of the population aged between 18 and 64 in Afghanistan, causing serious damage to the fabric of society. Sustained international assistance was urgently needed to expand the quality and quantity of treatment centres, as more than 90 per cent of users remained in need of treatment.

65. Afghanistan was collaborating with countries in the region to address the challenges of terrorism, extremism, narcotic drugs and organized crime. Cooperation was also planned to strengthen law enforcement agencies, share intelligence regarding terrorist threats and curtail trafficking of chemical precursors and drugs. Forums such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation were also a source of consultation. He underscored the need to expedite recruitment and training of Afghan border and customs police for more effective border management.

66. **Mr. Aw** (Singapore) said that the UNODC World Drug Report 2010 had revealed many of the alarming challenges still faced in its efforts to improve global drug control. Those included up to 38 million problem

drug users, who faced serious social and health consequences; thriving production centres and trafficking across borders; and the growing abuse of prescription drugs. While his delegation respected that each country employed strategies it deemed suitable to address drug-related issues, the Government of Singapore took a “zero tolerance” stand, affirming that prevention of drug abuse was a better approach to the problem than attempts to reduce it. Singapore’s anti-drug strategy included laws with strict penalties for drug traffickers and recalcitrant drug abusers, which were enforced by multiple agencies. A rehabilitation regime was mandatory for drug abusers, and addicts’ families were welcome participants in anti-drug campaigns. Extensive public awareness and media campaigns focused on prevention, particularly among youth. The comprehensive approach had resulted in a relatively drug-free society. The number of arrests of drug abusers had decreased by 69 per cent from 1994 to 2009, and the number of repeat abusers had been in steady decline. Operations by the Central Narcotics Bureau had resulted in the break-up of 28 drug syndicates in 2009.

67. In a global community that was increasingly connected through trade, infrastructure and transport systems, the battle against drug trafficking required international cooperation in law enforcement efforts. Singapore was party to the three multilateral conventions aimed at combating the drug problem, while its Central Narcotics Bureau cooperated in bilateral joint investigations and maintained contacts with INTERPOL and with the World Customs Organization’s intelligence liaison office for the Asia and Pacific region. In cooperation with Australia, Singapore had also hosted a training programme earlier that year to share expertise and best practices in fighting the drug problem among member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

68. **Ms. Millard-White** (Trinidad and Tobago) said that considerable criminal activity in her country was linked to the growth of organized crime locally and internationally. The countries of the Caribbean subregion had agreed to stand together to eradicate that plague, and her Government was already aggressively pursuing a number of measures that included bilateral, regional and global arrangements. At the domestic level, it was committed to legislative review, institutional reform and capacity-building throughout the country’s national security and criminal justice

framework. It had also made significant efforts to strengthen its police service and improve its prison system. Legislation enacted over the preceding 10 years had enhanced the legal framework by targeting specific crimes, including those involving drugs, small arms and light weapons, and the newly established Ministry of Justice would provide swifter justice and bring a more integrated, multidisciplinary approach to criminal justice. The Ministry was responsible for providing compensation and care for crime victims, introducing new criminal legislation, creating specialized courts, improving data recording and improving the parole system.

69. Because of its geo-strategic location, perpetrators of organized crime had exploited Trinidad and Tobago as a major trans-shipment area and had encouraged the development of a large and growing domestic consumer group. The Government had reacted by tightening border controls in order to combat the importation of illegal drugs, arms and ammunition, and in that connection, she reaffirmed its commitment to the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons. It was seeking to address the increase in the illicit domestic consumption of drugs through widespread public awareness programmes.

70. Multilateral cooperation was critical in order to implement crime prevention and drug control measures effectively, and Trinidad and Tobago continued to work with its CARICOM family and other regional, hemispheric and international organizations such as the International Organization for Migration and UNODC. Because of the key importance of UNODC in strategic action and collaboration to combat drug crime, she reiterated her Government's call for the reopening of the Caribbean office of UNODC. She also stressed the value of concluding an internationally agreed binding arms trade treaty to assist in the fight against small arms and light weapons.

71. **Mr. Benmehidi** (Algeria) said that while adoption of the United Nations Convention on Transnational Crime was a remarkable accomplishment, the international community had not met its commitments under the Political Declaration adopted by the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. Moreover, such progress as had been made was fragile, in part because of increasing links between illicit drugs and other criminal activities. The international community needed to adopt an integrated, multidisciplinary approach to cooperation on the world

drug problem. Faced with growing drug trafficking and drug-related crime, the African States had decided to attack those problems on a regional level, and at its third session in 2007, the African Union Conference of Ministers for Drug Control and Crime Prevention had adopted a five-year African plan of action. His delegation welcomed the attention given at the fifty-third session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to the importance of international cooperation in combating drug trafficking, to the signature of agreements on extradition and mutual legal assistance and to practical measures for detection and prevention, as well as its recommendations on information exchange and joint investigation.

72. Algeria, which was a trans-shipment nexus owing to its proximity to production centres, had ratified the three United Nations drug-related treaties and had established an Algerian drug control office. The substance of the treaties was reflected in its national laws, which provided for the prevention of drug use and trafficking, drug awareness programmes and the treatment of drug users. It supported the Salvador Declaration adopted by the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, particularly its recommendations with respect to redoubling efforts to combat cybercrime, protecting the rights of prisoners, dealing with new forms of crime and combating violence against migrants.

73. Algeria had also ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three supplementary protocols concerning trafficking in persons, migrants and firearms. In the area of crime prevention and combating international terrorism, the rise of ransom payments presented a new problem for the international community. Algeria therefore welcomed Security Council resolution 1904 (2009), which contained a provision included at the behest of the African Union criminalizing the payment of ransom to terrorist groups.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.