



# Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

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## Fifth session

Vienna, 18-22 October 2010

### Draft report

*Rapporteur*: Elizabeth Verville (United States of America)

### Addendum

## II. High-level segment

### A. Opening of the high-level segment

1. The high-level segment of the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime was held on 18 October 2010. The high-level segment was opened by Amina Mohamed, President of the Conference at its fifth session.

### B. General debate of the high-level segment on new and emerging forms of crime

2. The following high-level representatives made statements:

Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna

Taous Feroukhi, Ambassador of Algeria to the United Nations (Vienna) (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China)

Musthafa Mohamed Jaffeer, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the United Nations (Vienna) (on behalf of the Group of Asian States)

Sergey Bulavin, Secretary of State and Deputy Minister of the Interior of the Russian Federation (on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States)

Franklin Almeyda Rancier, Minister of the Interior and Police of the Dominican Republic (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States)



Nitto Francesco Palma, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of the Interior of Italy (on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States)

Frank Recker, Ambassador of Belgium to the United Nations (Vienna) (on behalf of the European Union)

Xolisa Mabhongo, Ambassador of South Africa to the United Nations (Vienna) (on behalf of the Group of African States)

Snežana Malović, Minister of Justice of Serbia

Mohammed Bello Adoke, Attorney General and Minister of Justice of Nigeria

Jean-Marie Bockel, Secretary of State for Justice of France

Alina Mihaela Bica, Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice of Romania

Marzena Kowalska, Deputy General Prosecutor of Poland

Marisela Morales Ibañez, Deputy Attorney General for Specialized Investigation of Organized Crime of Mexico

Deepak Obhrai, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Canada

Adbdullah Yusuf Almal, Legal Adviser of the Minister of State for Internal Affairs of Qatar

Ali Khashan, Minister of Justice of the Palestinian National Authority

### **C. Outcome and closing of the high-level segment**

3. In her introductory address, the President of the Conference recalled that the high-level segment was being held pursuant to General Assembly resolution 64/179, in which the Assembly recommended that the Conference organize a high-level segment during its fifth session to discuss new and emerging forms of crime and ways and means of enhancing the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto.<sup>1</sup>

4. Several speakers emphasized that the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Organized Crime Convention provided an opportunity to renew their collective and individual commitment to the fight against transnational organized crime and to assess the effectiveness of measures taken to date. Reference was made to the special high-level meeting on transnational organized crime held by the General Assembly on 17 and 21 June 2010, which provided significant political impetus to advancing the ratification and implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto.

5. Several speakers expressed deep concern regarding the growing and multidimensional threat of organized crime. Organized crime had become a business of macroeconomic proportions, thus hindering legitimate economic activities and undermining democratic governance, security and development. The importance of the Convention and its Protocols as the principal international instruments for

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

combating organized crime in all its forms and manifestations was underlined. Several speakers drew attention to the large number of States parties to the Convention and the importance of promoting universal adherence and comprehensive implementation. They also highlighted that concerted efforts were required to dismantle powerful international criminal networks.

6. Many speakers noted that globalization and interconnectivity had contributed to the expansion of transnational organized criminal groups, allowing them to gain power, adapt their modus operandi and operate beyond national borders. A number of speakers made reference to trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants as two of the most heinous manifestations of organized crime. It was also stated that trafficking in firearms facilitated organized crime, thus requiring greater cooperation and action in that regard.

7. Furthermore, speakers emphasized that criminal groups had also expanded their activities to include cybercrime, trafficking in cultural property, piracy, trafficking in natural resources, trafficking in counterfeit medicines and trafficking in organs. In that regard, many speakers underlined the great adaptability of the Organized Crime Convention, which provided a broad definition of serious crime. The Convention therefore constituted an invaluable and effective instrument in tackling new and emerging forms of crime.

8. Speakers underlined the importance of developing adequate legislative and operational responses in order to prevent and combat emerging and re-emerging forms of crime. It was emphasized that comprehensive crime prevention policies were necessary to address the root causes of crime. In addition, speakers highlighted the devastating effects of cybercrime as illustrated by the phenomenon of child sexual exploitation. The issue of whether a new legal instrument targeting cybercrime should be developed was raised. Several speakers noted the steady increase in trafficking in cultural property, which was a serious form of organized crime. They emphasized that cultural property was a common heritage that needed to be preserved and protected and that effective international cooperation was needed to facilitate the return of stolen property. Several speakers also expressed their growing concern with regard to piracy and trafficking in natural resources.

9. Most speakers underscored the importance of international cooperation as a key component of the Convention. They evoked the unique and comprehensive framework provided by the Convention, which established common mechanisms for extradition and mutual legal assistance and which would deny safe havens to criminals. Similarly, the ability to effectively carry out seizures and confiscations would ensure that criminal organizations were deprived of their illicit assets and deny them undue influence.

10. Several speakers stressed that it would be essential, 10 years after the adoption of the Convention, to develop a mechanism that would help the Conference to better monitor the implementation of the Convention and highlight good practices. It was also noted that full implementation could be achieved only through the consistent and sustainable provision of technical assistance to requesting countries. Speakers expressed their appreciation for the work of UNODC and called for a more stable and predictable funding of its activities in support of implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto.