

31 December 2009

English, French and Spanish only

Meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group on improving the collection, reporting and analysis of crime data

Buenos Aires, 8-10 February 2010

Provisional agenda and annotations

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Consideration of the content and structure of a revised simple and efficient reporting system.
4. Revision of the mechanism to collect and report information.
5. Measures to build capacity of Member States to collect and report information.
6. Conclusions and recommendations.
7. Adoption of the report.

Annotations**1. Election of officers**

Following the opening of the meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group on improving the collection, reporting and analysis of crime data, the meeting will elect its Bureau, to be composed of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and a Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Following the election of the Bureau, the meeting will adopt the agenda and the programme of work.

The provisional agenda for the meeting was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/25, entitled “Improving the collection, reporting and analysis of data to enhance knowledge on trends in specific areas of crime”.



In that resolution, the Council requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to establish an open-ended intergovernmental expert working group to review the current data-collection tools and the collection, collation, analysis and reporting process, on the basis of, inter alia, the following general considerations:

(a) The need to simplify and improve the reporting system of the United Nations Survey on Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems in order to encourage more Member States to report, in a coordinated and integrated way, on their efforts, achievements and challenges in specific areas of crime and provide information relating to the nature and extent of challenges posed by transnational crime;

(b) The need to avoid duplication of efforts to the extent possible by taking into account existing reporting procedures, including those of relevant regional and international bodies;

(c) The need for accurate, reliable and internationally comparable data on all relevant aspects of specific crime issues, bearing in mind the value of comparing those data with previously collected data, including from surveys on victimization, where possible;

(d) The possibility of using for the Survey a shorter, annual questionnaire containing a core set of questions;

(e) The possibility of including in such a core Survey thematic modules reflecting the theme or themes of the thematic discussions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

(f) The importance of learning from the experience acquired by UNODC through the data-collection mechanisms established in respect of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto¹ and the United Nations Convention against Corruption,² including in relation to the use of modern technologies, where feasible.

3. Consideration of the content and structure of a revised simple and efficient reporting system

The meeting will commence with a discussion of the rationale and concepts behind crime data collection, including consideration of those crimes and aspects of the criminal justice system on which it is important to collect data.

In this respect, the meeting will review a pilot data-collection tool, the Eleventh United Nations Survey on Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, which is composed of a core questionnaire and two modules, in line with paragraphs (3)(d) and (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/25, and consider the use of a questionnaire that includes a core survey and thematic modules that reflect the theme or themes of the thematic discussions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Accordingly, the Eleventh Survey pilot tool was structured as follows:

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

² *Ibid.*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

Core	Police: personnel, persons brought into formal contact with the police and recorded crime (7 Excel worksheets)
Core	Prosecution: persons prosecuted (1 Excel worksheet)
Core	Courts: persons brought before the courts (1 Excel worksheet)
Core	Prisons: capacity, personnel and persons detained (2 Excel worksheets)
Module A	Trafficking in persons (Police and courts, 2 Excel worksheets)
Module B	Trafficking in cultural property (Police and courts, 2 Excel worksheets)

As requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2009/25, the pilot tool is aimed at simplifying and improving the reporting system of the Survey and at encouraging more Member States to report, in a coordinated and integrated way, on their efforts, achievements and challenges in specific areas of crime, including transnational crime. The core sections of the pilot tool are aimed at the collection of reliable time-series data on specific crime and criminal justice issues. Module A may be used to collect data on different forms of complex or transnational crime on a rotating basis. Module B may be used to reflect the theme or themes of the thematic discussions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

The meeting is expected to discuss the principles that should guide the finalization of a simplified and improved Survey questionnaire. The meeting should analyse the experience of the pilot Eleventh Survey, including through part-by-part discussion of its content.

Documentation

Eleventh United Nations Survey on Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems pilot questionnaire

Response analysis and preliminary results of the Eleventh Survey

4. Revision of the mechanism to collect and report information

The meeting will discuss ways to improve the process of country reporting to UNODC. The following main topics will be discussed:

- (a) The proposal to create a network of national focal points that can coordinate at the national level the reporting of information to UNODC;
- (b) The need for developing and improving an electronic Excel-based data-collection tool, including possibly with a Web interface;
- (c) Increased collaboration for information collection, follow-up and checking through regional entities, including Eurostat, the Organization of American States and the United Nations regional commissions.

Documentation

Review of the data-collection process and proposals for further cooperation with Eurostat and the Organization of American States

5. Measures to build capacity of Member States to collect and report information

Building on experiences from the UNODC projects Data for Africa and Development of Monitoring Instruments for Judicial and Law Enforcement Institutions in the Western Balkans, the meeting will discuss the global approach that should be taken to support countries in monitoring their situations in respect of specific crime issues using relevant, timely and accurate information and the reporting of this information to UNODC to provide the international community with an assessment of the situation at the global level.

Measures to be taken by UNODC and donor and recipient countries will be discussed.

Documentation

Background note on capacity-building

6. Conclusions and recommendations

The open-ended intergovernmental expert group is expected to review the Eleventh Survey pilot tool and to develop recommendations for its further development and improvement.

Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/25, the expert group should submit to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its nineteenth session, to be held from 17 to 21 May 2010, a report on its activities. The report should include recommendations for the improvement of the Survey as a tool for the collection of relevant crime data and recommendations for the improvement of the collection, collation, analysis and reporting process.

7. Adoption of the report

It is expected that the open-ended intergovernmental expert group will adopt its report, containing conclusions and recommendations, on 10 February 2010, the last day of the meeting.

Annex

Proposed organization of work

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
Monday, 8 February 2010	10 a.m.-1 p.m.		Opening of the meeting
		1	Election of officers
		2	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	3	Consideration of the content and structure of a simplified and improved Survey questionnaire: general principles	
	3-6 p.m.	3	Consideration of the content and structure of a simplified and improved Survey questionnaire: core survey
Tuesday, 9 February 2010	10 a.m.-1 p.m.	3	Consideration of the content and structure of a simplified and improved Survey questionnaire: modules
	3-6 p.m.	4 and 5	Revision of the mechanism to collect and report information and measures to build capacity of Member States to collect and report information
Wednesday, 10 February 2010	10 a.m.-1 p.m.	6	Conclusions and recommendations
		7	Adoption of the report