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## Third Committee

### Summary record of the 7th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 11 October 2012, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Ms. Alfeine (Vice-Chair) . . . . . (Comoros)

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*In the absence of Mr. Mac-Donald (Suriname), Chair, Ms. Alfeine (Comoros), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.*

**Agenda item 103: Crime prevention and criminal justice** (continued) (A/67/96, A/67/97, A/67/155, A/67/156, A/67/218, A/C.3/67/L.3, A/C.3/67/L.4, A/C.3/67/L.5, A/C.3/67/L.6 and A/C.3/67/L.7, E/2012/30 and Corr.1 and 2)

**Agenda item 104: International drug control** (continued) (A/67/157)

1. **Ms. Abdul Rahim** (Malaysia), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that members' cooperation on transnational crime took place primarily within the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime, in order to implement and review decisions taken at the ministerial level and to recommend new projects. As ASEAN moved towards realization of the ASEAN Community in 2015, such cooperation was of growing importance. The ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism, which had entered into force in 2011, complemented the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and other United Nations instruments and was the first comprehensive regional convention on the subject.

2. A work programme to implement the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime had been adopted in 2002. The ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children had been signed in 2004. Since 2002, ASEAN member States had actively participated in the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime. In 2011, there had been agreement on a regional cooperation framework to respond to smuggling of human beings. ASEAN was supportive of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, which had met for the first time in New York in May 2012.

3. ASEAN had advocated a collective regional response to drug abuse and illegal drug trafficking as early as 1972, when the Association had convened a meeting of concerned officials and agencies to discuss the prevention and control of drug abuse. The Declaration of ASEAN Concord of 1976 had called for member States and relevant international bodies to intensify cooperation on prevention and eradication of drug abuse and trafficking. In 1984, an ASEAN

Regional Policy and Strategy in the Prevention and Control of Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking had been adopted and the Declaration for a Drug-Free ASEAN would be signed by 2015, to coincide with efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. However, the significant variations in economic and social development among ASEAN countries should be taken into consideration in region-wide assessments of the drug problem and responses to it.

4. Although there was a strong commitment to dealing effectively with the threat of illicit drugs, data-gathering and the production of evidence-based assessments remained a challenge. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) provided welcome assistance in capacity-building to provide data for analyses, assessments and response planning. The gap between the realities of transnational crime and the limits of national systems also presented a significant challenge to countries' ability to respond effectively to the issue.

5. **Ms. Salim** (Libya) said that her country faced particular difficulties in combating transnational organized crime because it lacked sufficient trained border security personnel and had not even finished forming its national army. It was at risk for trafficking in humans, drugs and weapons, as well as cross-border criminal activities carried out by the remnants of the previous regime. In March 2012, Libya had hosted the Ministerial Regional Conference on Border Security, resulting in the adoption of the Tripoli Action Plan, which provided for multilateral cooperation mechanisms.

6. She called on the international community to assist Libya in recovering assets stolen and taken out of the country. Those assets were now being used to fund terrorist operations that undermined the security not only of Libya but also of neighbouring States. Western countries and certain island nations should not provide havens for dummy corporations to hide funds looted from their peoples by third world dictators.

7. As a State Party to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, Libya called on all States, international organizations, and international financial institutions to coordinate efforts against illicit trafficking in drugs, persons and weapons. Such trafficking damaged not only the security but also the economies of developing countries. Her delegation looked forward to the 2013 high-level meeting of the

General Assembly to follow up and assess progress achieved on the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

8. **Ms. Niang** (Senegal) said that porous borders, poverty and political instability aggravated the problem of drug trafficking, especially in Africa. Unless strong measures were taken, the scourge would overwhelm economic development efforts and create instability in a number of countries.

9. Intensified international efforts to combat drug trafficking and transnational organized crime had led to improvements in the international legal framework. In that context, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) had adopted a regional plan of action to combat transnational organized crime for the period 2008 to 2011. The plan of action was the primary mechanism for cooperation and information-sharing with similar organizations in Europe, Latin America and the United States. In 2006, ECOWAS had adopted a Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition, and Other Related Materials, which had entered into force in 2009.

10. Criminal groups were taking advantage of advances in information technologies to elude even the most effective monitoring systems. It was therefore particularly important to attack underlying causes, such as poverty, underdevelopment and political and social instability.

11. **Mr. Brykov** (Russian Federation) called for a unified anti-crime strategy that would be overseen by the United Nations.

12. A session of the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption would be held in the Russian Federation in 2015. Preventive anti-corruption measures were being actively taken in the Russian Federation. Serving as an intermediary in bribery was a criminal offence, and stringent measures were being applied to civil servants who engaged in corruption.

13. Returning to the country of origin assets derived from corruption was an important element of international anti-corruption activity. A global network to coordinate asset return should be established under UNODC.

14. The upcoming sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention against Transnational

Organized Crime should launch the mechanism for monitoring States Parties' implementation of the Convention and its Protocols. The mechanism should be intergovernmental, objective, non-intrusive and non-politicized.

15. The United Nations should step up efforts to address cybercrime, including developing a universal convention on the issue. International cooperation on counter-terrorism and tourism-related criminal issues should be intensified as well.

16. A range of measures was being implemented in the Russian Federation to address human trafficking, including enhancement of the legal framework and greater efforts by law enforcement agencies to identify all types of crime related to human trafficking.

17. It was extremely important that the international community meet the goals set forth in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. UNODC should receive adequate funding from the regular budget of the Organization.

18. His country supported the efforts of UNODC to build capacity in Afghanistan, its neighbours and other States affected by opiates from Afghanistan. There should be capacity-building in the context of the Paris Pact to halt the spread of narcotics from Afghanistan. UNODC had achieved successes in strengthening border cooperation between Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan. In that context, there had been multilateral operations to intercept smuggled narcotics.

19. The Russian Federation was strongly opposed to any weakening in the international drug control regime and to any attempts to make changes to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, particularly with regard to the use of the coca leaf. The concept of harm reduction had significant shortcomings and should not be presented as a United Nations standard. National programmes to reduce the demand for narcotics and provide medical and social services to drug users should not run counter to the United Nations narcotics conventions.

20. **Ms. Calcinari Van der Velde** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that producer and consumer nations must participate jointly in the fight against illicit drug trafficking. Bilateral and multilateral cooperation

against drugs must be approached in full compliance with the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and respect for territorial integrity. The issue of drugs was addressed by the General Assembly and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. It clearly did not fall within the competence of the Security Council.

21. Venezuela had adopted programmes to prevent the use of its territory by powerful drug trafficking cartels as they brought drugs to the principal markets, in the United States of America and Europe. In 2011, the quantity of drugs being shipped through the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had dropped owing to controls implemented by the Government, including harsher penalties for drug trafficking. Recently UNODC had, for the sixth consecutive year, recognized Venezuela as free of drug cultivation. The country's cocaine seizures were among the largest in the world. Along the border with Colombia, 45 unauthorized drug routes and 17 illicit drug laboratories had been destroyed. Ninety leaders of criminal drug trafficking organizations had been caught, and 19 of them had been extradited to the United States. One of the most notorious, drug trafficker Daniel Barrera, had been captured after 20 years at large.

22. Unilateral and politicized reports weakened multilateralism rather than strengthening it and undermined national anti-drug efforts. Although there were attempts to discredit the country and its anti-drug efforts, Venezuela responded with specific actions that indicated its unshakeable will to confront the drug scourge. In 2011, Venezuela had assumed the chairmanship of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force. That indicated that Venezuela had won international recognition in the fight against money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

23. **Ms. Shaheed Zaki** (Maldives) said that, although her country did not produce, cultivate or manufacture drugs, its proximity to major illegal trafficking routes and the central role of tourism in its economy made the issue a serious one for the Maldives. Treating the victims of drug dependence as criminals had proven unsustainable in the Maldives. Drug dependence should be treated not as a crime, but rather as a health disorder.

24. As a small island developing State in the early stages of democratic consolidation, the Maldives faced

challenges in institutionalizing the necessary frameworks to ensure accountability, transparency and the rule of law. It was committed to strengthening the rule of law and acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols by 2014. The Government would soon formulate a national implementation strategy for the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

25. The Maldives supported all international efforts to combat piracy. The seventeenth summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), hosted by the Maldives in November 2011, had taken an important decision to initiate work towards combating piracy.

26. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh) said that his country was both a source and a transit country for trafficking in persons. Bangladesh had a zero tolerance policy with regard to human traffickers and had promulgated many laws and regulations that included stringent punishments.

27. There were special training programmes to build law enforcement officials' prevention capacity. Steps were taken to rescue, rehabilitate and reintegrate trafficking victims. Bangladesh had taken a leading role in adopting the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating the Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution and was deeply engaged in the Bali Process.

28. Restrictive and discriminatory migration regimes by destination countries at times had the effect of pushing people into the hands of traffickers. The cooperation of destination countries in facilitating regular migration would be appreciated and would result in fewer people engaging in irregular movements.

29. His country's location and long, porous border made it vulnerable to drug trafficking. The country had a three-pronged strategy consisting of supply, demand and harm reduction. The policy strictly limited the use of drugs to legitimate purposes. Supply reduction was key to fighting drug abuse. It involved sustained alternative development programmes for people who cultivated such crops and overall economic development of the relevant regions. Family and faith-based organizations played an important role in raising awareness of drug abuse.

30. Technical cooperation and international financial assistance to combat terrorism still fell short for

developing countries. The necessary resources must be made available. There were impressive normative frameworks and strong political will, both nationally and globally. Commitments must be implemented.

31. **Mr. Kasymov** (Kyrgyzstan) noted that his country was located on drug shipping routes from Afghanistan. Strengthening regional cooperation among the countries of Central Asia was of particular importance. The efforts of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre and of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia were key in that regard. A regional programme to support efforts to address the flow of narcotics from Afghanistan for the period from 2012 to 2014 would be central to capacity-building for the States in the region.

32. Drug trafficking had a negative impact on the national economy, drawing able-bodied young people away from legitimate work and giving rise to corruption among civil servants. Growing drug dependency was a threat to the country's gene pool and undermined achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

33. Official statistics on human trafficking victims were in short supply, and it was therefore difficult to determine the scope of the phenomenon. Part of the difficulty had to do with how illegal acts related to human trafficking were defined. Changes were being made to national legislation in that connection.

34. **Mr. Yadav** (India), referring to the World Drug Report 2012, noted that drug consumption had decreased in the developed world while increasing in the developing world. New markets were emerging. While illicit drug use was stable, reported increases in the non-medical use of prescription drugs and the abuse of new psychoactive substances not under international control were alarming. Global drug trafficking generated more than 320 billion dollars annually.

35. In 2012, the Government of India had announced a comprehensive updated national policy on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The country had hosted a number of international meetings on the issue. India produced opium for legal use, recognized the therapeutic properties of opium and exported opiate raw material for medical purposes. It was important to ensure the adequate availability of drugs for medical and scientific purposes.

36. The moral and legal ambiguities that allowed terrorists to gain succour and even legitimacy must be removed. Concerted international efforts were needed to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism, including its network of training centres and financing. The international community must demonstrate the political will needed to conclude the comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

37. Emerging areas such as cybercrime, economic fraud, education-related fraud and identity theft were a source of concern.

38. **Mr. Nina** (Albania) said that, while trafficking of women and girls for sexual services had long been recognized as a serious problem, trafficking and exploitation of persons in mainstream economic sectors should receive more attention. Recent research showed that one third of trafficking victims worldwide were trafficked for labour exploitation and one quarter were trafficked for a combination of labour and sexual exploitation. In line with the Palermo Protocols and the Council of Europe Convention, Albania's approach to trafficking in human beings was based on the victims' human rights and focused on prevention, prosecution of criminals and protection of victims.

39. Since 2005, Albania had a mechanism to identify, refer and protect victims and possible victims of trafficking. The mechanism was based on an agreement signed between governmental, non-governmental and international organizations that provided services for victims. The mechanism ensured unconditional protection to all trafficking victims cooperating with the justice system. Albania was no longer a country of transit for trafficking victims and had not been for several years.

40. However, there were difficulties with the mechanism for victim compensation. Proposals for the relevant legal framework had been presented to the Ministry of Justice, including establishing a State compensation scheme for trafficking victims and improvements to the procedure for filing a civil suit within the criminal case.

41. **Mr. Román-Morey** (Peru) said that drug cultivation resulted in environmental damage, including soil depletion, deforestation and waste from chemical inputs. In addition to legislative measures to halt drug production, alternative agricultural development programmes were needed. Peasants who

cultivated drugs and lacked any other livelihood should be included in such programmes.

42. The Lima Declaration had been adopted at the International Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Specialized National Agencies against the World Drug Problem in 2012. Representatives of 61 countries and 10 international organizations had been in attendance. The Declaration called for effective, concrete, multilateral, bilateral and regional measures to reduce narcotics supply and demand. The Declaration also highlighted the need to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs for scientific and medical purposes, while preventing their diversion and abuse.

43. New approaches employed in Peru included measures to protect the health of the population, rehabilitation for drug abusers and alternative development programmes for those illegally cultivating coca leaves. One successful measure had involved the provision of low-cost loans to growers.

44. Differential treatment of consumer and producer countries had not proven successful in addressing illicit drug use. Drug production and trafficking had in fact increased, and only 1 per cent of drug money was seized, while drug-related violence was increasing. Developed nations and especially consumer nations must play a key role in cooperation to reduce drug trafficking.

45. **Ms. Dali** (Tunisia) said that effective approaches to combating crime included addressing the mobility of organized crime actors and terrorists and their use of new information technologies, as well as various types of multilateral action and mutual assistance.

46. Tunisia called upon the relevant international actors to support efforts to recover assets belonging to the Tunisian people that had been diverted by the former President and his family. The Tunisian people needed those assets immediately in order to address the challenges posed by the transition. States which had received requests to extradite individuals involved in those crimes should respond favourably. The Tunisian justice system would proceed with respect for all international instruments, providing fair trials for the accused.

47. Since the revolution of 14 January 2011, Tunisia had implemented reforms to reduce crime and support sustainable social and economic development, including establishing a commission to investigate cases of corruption, embezzlement and abuses

committed by the fallen regime; the establishment of a standing anti-corruption body and the appointment of an anti-corruption minister.

48. A new constitution enshrining rights and liberties for future generations was being drafted. In a recent address to the General Assembly, the new President had announced an initiative to establish an international constitutional court to guarantee the international rule of law.

49. **Mr. Elbahi** (Sudan) said that his country had made efforts to combat transnational organized crime, money laundering and trafficking in human body parts. It fulfilled its obligations under its agreement with INTERPOL and under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and was conducting joint patrols with Chad and the Central African Republic under the tripartite agreement on border security that it had signed with those two countries. It had also signed numerous cooperation agreements with South Sudan.

50. The Sudan had ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols, as well as International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions Nos. 38 on the minimum age for admission to employment and work and 182 on the worst forms of child labour. It had a national plan to combat violence against children, and policies on population, woman's empowerment, displacement, persons with disabilities and family protection. It had enacted a number of laws against terrorism, trafficking in persons and drugs. It also had a number of programmes in place for victims of drug abuse, and had recently conducted a study on the prevention of drug abuse among students. His country stood ready to cooperate with all international efforts against transnational organized crime, drugs and terrorism, and hoped for continued international assistance to combat those scourges and the poverty causing them.

51. **Ms. Can Linh** (Viet Nam) said that in the past ten years there had been unprecedented growth in illicit trafficking of drugs, people, firearms and natural resources, owing to the explosion of information technology and globalization. The value of illicit trade worldwide was estimated at 1.3 trillion dollars yearly, while profits from drug trafficking alone amounted to 322 billion dollars. Those numbers were increasing.

52. Organized crime and drugs were particularly devastating in weak and vulnerable countries, as the

underlying causes were lack of development, high unemployment and economic difficulties. Therefore, countering crime must form part of the development agenda, and social and economic approaches must be part of the response to organized crime. Crime prevention and criminal justice must be mainstreamed into the development agenda for 2015 and beyond.

53. Its location made Viet Nam a convenient transit country for drug traffickers. Drug traffickers' methods were becoming increasingly ingenious and their routes more and more diverse. Drug trafficking prevention was therefore a State priority.

54. In Viet Nam, more than 70 per cent of drug addicts were under 30 years of age. Educating youth and their families was therefore a task of central importance. Job creation for former addicts was also important, as addicts who had undergone rehabilitation and detoxification relapsed easily if not employed.

55. **Mr. Adnan** (Indonesia) said that his country was committed to stronger measures and closer cooperation with the international community to address emerging crimes such as cybercrime, illicit trafficking in cultural properties and in forest products such as timber, wildlife and other forest resources, and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing practices. Crimes related to natural resources hurt individuals in the short run and also inflicted significant long-term damage on the entire ecosystem.

56. The recent massive increase in international support for the asset recovery agenda was heartening. Asset recovery was a priority of the Government of Indonesia in its fight against corruption.

57. While terrorism must be condemned in all its forms and manifestations, counter-terrorism must be conducted with full respect for human rights and the rule of law. Moreover, the root causes of terrorism must be eliminated. It was therefore Indonesia's policy to promote moderation and tolerance, in addition to strengthening law enforcement measures.

58. **Mr. Desta** (Eritrea) said that combating transnational crime had grown more difficult in recent years, as criminal groups were better equipped, organized and financed than before. When certain elements in powerful States became involved in transnational criminal activity to promote their geopolitical interests, such crime was even more serious.

59. Trafficking in persons and human smuggling had affected Eritrea. The country had longstanding laws in place against such activities, and protecting victims and combating such activities was a top priority. Several criminals had been prosecuted and investigations were actively pursued.

60. **Ms. Awino Kafeero** (Uganda) said that prison conditions in her country had improved, and advances had been made in meeting human rights standards. A sector-wide approach had benefited all entities involved in the administration of justice. Uganda was committed to a prison service that aimed to rehabilitate offenders, rather than inflicting pain on them.

61. Prison directors from several African countries had met recently in Uganda to discuss how to reduce congestion in prisons and provide sufficient food to inmates. Other challenges addressed included overcoming the spread of HIV/AIDS in prisons, more rapid dispensation of justice and adherence to international correctional norms and standards.

62. Prison congestion in Uganda had been reduced from over 500 per cent to approximately 200 percent, owing to the construction of prisons and Government-supported rehabilitation programmes. More prison personnel were being recruited, and access to justice was being expanded through the creation of more courts. Prisoners were being trained in a range of occupational skills, including soap manufacturing, carpentry, tailoring and metalworking, in order to meet institutional needs for certain items; create meaningful employment for inmates in order to ease their reintegration; and generate revenue.

63. Continuing challenges in Uganda included insufficient numbers of judges, prosecutors, police and prison officers. Prisons must be brought into geographical alignment with courts and police stations. Justice institutions were overwhelmed by their workload.

64. Development partners must prioritize their assistance following a comprehensive and careful needs assessment. Too often, donors prioritized process over gaps in structures, quality and quantity in rule of law institutions.

65. **Mr. Laher** (South Africa) said that the provision of technical assistance to States Parties to the United Nations Conventions against Transnational Organized Crime and Corruption, as well as to its conventions on

narcotic drugs and terrorism served as a key tool to strengthen the implementation of those Conventions and their Protocols.

66. The African Union Commission had developed and implemented three plans of action on drug control and crime prevention to respond to emerging drug and crime challenges. Meetings had been held in Botswana and South Africa in 2011 to develop a regional programme under the aegis of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and UNODC to make the SADC region safer from drugs and crime.

67. According to the Secretary-General's report in document A/67/157, cannabis was the most widely cultivated, trafficked and abused drug in Africa. There had also been an increase in heroin use, which suggested that there had been an expansion of the market in some parts of Africa and Asia. There had been an increase in substance abuse and related crime in southern Africa. South Africa was an important hub for the shipment of cocaine and heroin destined for illicit markets in other parts of the world, and was also a country of destination for cocaine and heroin. Cocaine use was a growing challenge for South African law enforcement authorities.

68. To curb access to the precursors ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, the Government of South Africa had reclassified those substances so that they were available by prescription only. It had stepped up anti-crime and anti-corruption efforts, and, as a result, culprits were being identified and brought before the courts.

69. South Africa was witnessing the emergence of new crimes such as rhinoceros poaching, cybercrime, human smuggling and illicit mining and trafficking of precious metals.

70. **Mr. Llorentty Solíz** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) referred to the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation against the world drug problem (A/67/157). His delegation agreed that drugs jeopardized health, public safety and welfare, and involved countries of production, transit and consumption under the principle of co-responsibility.

71. His Government contributed funds allowing UNODC to continue its monitoring in the Plurinational State of Bolivia. The UNODC 2012 World Drug Report had recognized his Government's efforts to eradicate coca cultivation on the basis of voluntary

rationalization involving the organizations of producers. A fundamental characteristic of the plan was full respect for human rights. His Government had reduced illegal coca production by 12 per cent between 2010 and 2011. From January to October 2012, more excess coca had been eradicated in the Plurinational State of Bolivia than in any other country.

72. The UNODC country director had described the reduction as successful and a positive reflection of the Government's work to reduce production. The struggle, however, was hindered by the increasing effectiveness of the precursors of cocaine base paste and his country's transformation into a transit country. The Government's efforts should be intensified and accompanied by sustainable development.

73. Since 2006-2007, Bolivian funds had allowed three times more cocaine to be seized than in the previous five years. His delegation therefore objected to the United States unilateral policy of desertification, for political reasons totally divorced from the problem. His Government, however, had shown its commitment to the fight against drug trafficking by improving coordination with neighbouring countries and continuing to apply its bilateral agreements.

74. Chewing coca was an ancestral practice of indigenous Amazonian peoples, but had been criminalized through the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. His Government had therefore withdrawn from that Convention and then acceded to it again, with the reservation that the right to use coca for cultural and medicinal purposes in the Plurinational State of Bolivia should be preserved. His Government would comply with the Convention within the framework of its Constitution.

75. His delegation reiterated its desire for international commitment to the fight against drugs. The United Nations should discuss the problem's international context in greater depth, paying particular attention to bank secrecy, money laundering and tax havens.

76. **Mr. Cassidy** (International Labour Organization) said that a sense of urgency and momentum had been created at the international level with regard to ending trafficking in persons. The International Labour Organization agreed unreservedly with the position of the European Court of Human Rights that, like slavery, "trafficking in human beings, by its very nature and aim of exploitation, is based on the exercise of powers



attaching to the right of ownership. It treats human beings as commodities to be bought and sold and put to forced labour ...” In addition, the ILO Constitution stated quite clearly that “labour is not a commodity.”

77. According to recent ILO estimates, there were at least 21 million victims of forced labour, trafficking and slavery in the world. Some 90 per cent of forced labour occurred in the private sector, in such industries as manufacturing, agriculture and food processing, fishing, domestic work and construction.

78. ILO sought to address the root causes of forced labour by empowering vulnerable people to say no to coercion at work and by addressing demand factors that made exploitation profitable. ILO would focus on research and knowledge management, elimination of forced labour from global value chains and implementation of country-based interventions.

79. ILO would create a clearing house for data on forced labour, slavery and trafficking to facilitate collaboration among researchers and to generate reliable statistics on the prevalence of forced labour. Data could be used to assess investment decisions and measure the impact of action against forced labour by monitoring the change in prevalence rates across countries and regions. It would also assist evidence-based policy-making at the country level. ILO would study the role of informal labour brokers in global value chains where forced labour was most prevalent. National employers’ and workers’ organizations and labour inspectors were important partners in facilitating policy changes at the company and industry level.

80. Since 2000, ILO had successfully implemented more than 60 interventions against forced labour at the country and regional levels. Using a unique combination of preventive and punitive measures, ILO had addressed bonded labour in South Asia, debt bondage in Latin America, vestiges of slavery in Africa and human trafficking in Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

81. **Ms. Muedin** (International Organization for Migration) said that the global economic crisis had

reduced opportunities for decent work, leading to a rise in human trafficking. While headway had been made in combating the crime, there had been no decline in the numbers of victims assisted by the International Organization for Migration, nor in the number of countries in which the Organization provided such assistance. Since the problem was cross-cutting, anti-trafficking tactics must be mainstreamed into the health and education sectors, and private companies needed to be engaged.

82. The International Organization for Migration had recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding on combating human trafficking with UNODC. The Organization brought vast experience to bear, having implemented over 1,000 counter-trafficking projects in over 100 countries since the early 1990s, including training of tens of thousands of public and private representatives and over 600,000 migration officials. The Organization supported Governments in their efforts to strengthen cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination.

83. Private companies must become proactively involved in combating labour exploitation, including in the areas of prevention and rehabilitation efforts for victims. Governments were encouraged to engage more with private recruitment agencies, employers and migrant workers’ associations to promote ethical labour recruitment practices.

84. Migrants represented one seventh of humanity and more people were on the move than ever before. It was necessary to work collectively to find ways of making migration safe, humane, legal and orderly. Ignoring human mobility and its development opportunities increased the risk that migrants would be driven into situations where their rights were not guaranteed and their circumstances made them excessively vulnerable to trafficking, exploitation and abuse.

*The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.*