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Chair: Mr. Mac-Donald (Suriname)

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* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

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

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

1. **Mr. Chawla** (Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)) said that drugs, crime and in some cases terrorism had come to form an almost seamless web. The integrated response of UNODC rested on three pillars: normative work, research and analysis, and technical cooperation. UNODC was the guardian of the United Nations conventions on drug control and crime, and it maintained a corpus of legal principles and guidelines. Those activities laid the foundation for its state-of-the-art studies, surveys and reports, which were standard references in the field. Lastly, its cost-effective integrated approach was designed to achieve four strategic goals: (a) enhance cooperation with United Nations partners, multilateral bodies and civil society; (b) promote a sense of ownership, mutual responsibility and accountability; (c) maximize comparative advantages in upstream policy and normative support; and (d) encourage an integrated approach among Member States.

2. However, its internal coherence stood in stark contrast with its governance and funding. Although relatively small, UNODC had five governing bodies: the General Assembly, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Conference of Parties to the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Yet 92 per cent of its budget came not from those bodies but from voluntary contributions. The General Assembly provided just 8 per cent, and the drug and crime commissions, 4 per cent. Thus, it had the funding structure of a development or specialized agency and the governance of a normative or analytical Secretariat entity. It was imperative to streamline its governance and to make its funding more predictable. The Member States must decide whether UNODC should continue to perform all three functions — normative, research/analysis and development — and adjust its funding structure and governance accordingly.

3. **Mr. Wolfe** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that increasing cybercrime, transnational organized crime and other serious criminal activities were hampering the development process in Caribbean countries and threatening citizen security. Their strategic geographic location along the main corridors of illegal trafficking, combined with inadequate border security, had turned Caribbean countries into a major transit area for illicit drugs, which had brought with it increased violence, corruption and gun crime. CARICOM Member States were working with regional and international partners to combat the manufacture and trafficking of drugs and restore security as a matter of urgency. As a result, CARICOM was disappointed that the international community had failed to take decisive steps towards a legally binding treaty at the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty held in July 2012. It also believed that cooperation among relevant officials, including customs and border officials, was critical to tackling transnational organized crime and armed violence.

4. Gangs and youth crime constituted another threat to Caribbean development and social cohesion and resulted in revenue losses owing to youth incarceration and declines in tourism. Given that gangs were typically formed at secondary school level, countries should focus on prevention through education and the creation of suitable opportunities for young people to contribute to social and economic development. With regard to citizen security, CARICOM had recently begun implementing the regional Social Development and Crime Prevention Strategy, which had been developed jointly with UNODC and was designed to prevent and reduce violence and crime through a cross-sectoral, multidisciplinary approach focusing on areas such as social inclusion, reintegration, victim empowerment and protection of the environment and economic resources. CARICOM relied on UNODC and other agencies for technical and capacity-building support and looked forward to further discussions on its proposed regional programme for the Caribbean and the status of the UNODC subregional office formerly located in Barbados.

5. **Mr. Mnisi** (Swaziland), speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), said that crime prevention and improvement of criminal justice systems were not the responsibility of any single Government and that combating all forms of

criminal activity required technical cooperation. Recent initiatives targeting vulnerable groups in the region included a 2008 course on policing violence against women and children, organized by the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization. On the terrorism front, the Community supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and urged Member States to strengthen regional and international cooperation, especially in the field of capacity-building in the drafting of legislation against money-laundering and the financing of anti-terrorism actions. It also supported the African Union Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Corruption and would welcome continued assistance from its development partners to establish and strengthen the institutions necessary to combat that scourge. In particular, the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) needed increased funding from the United Nations and the international community so that it could continue to offer technical assistance to African countries in fighting crime and strengthening criminal justice systems.

6. With regard to illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse, the abuse of coca and opium had declined but consumption of amphetamine-type stimulants and cannabis continued to increase. Given that young people were especially vulnerable, SADC had designed school and community-based programmes to educate that group on the dangers of drug abuse. Other recent developments included the signing of the SADC Protocol on Combating Illicit Drugs and the SADC Protocol against Corruption. In addition, most SADC Member States had signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the Convention against Corruption. Through the Regional Drug Control Programme, SADC members had identified key areas of intervention, including capacity-building and coordination, legislative developments, supply and demand reduction and addressing the relationship between illicit drugs and HIV/AIDS. The Community believed that emphasis should be placed on a balanced approach to supply and demand reduction measures, including the balanced allocation of funds. Lastly, Member States were urged to step up international cooperation and to continue to support UNODC in its important mandate.

7. **Ms. Aitimova** (Kazakhstan), speaking on behalf of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), said that the coordinating role of the United Nations and its core institutions and global programmes must be strengthened if Member States were to combat organized crime. The Organization welcomed the recent establishment of the United Nations Task Force on Transnational Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking, not least because the production of heroin in Afghanistan constituted the main threat to the region's stability and illicit opium production in that country had shot up again in 2011. CSTO was therefore keen to join forces with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to combat drug trafficking and expand partnerships with UNODC regional organizations.

8. As part of their efforts to counter the flow of drugs from Afghanistan, CSTO Member States had established cross-border initiatives and were carrying out joint operations under the UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries, and the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre was actively working to strengthen multilateral cooperation. In addition, international efforts to combat the Afghan drug expansion were being mobilized through the Paris-Moscow process. Other joint initiatives under way included the Kanal anti-drug operation, which had resulted in the seizure of more than 320 tons of narcotic drugs, and the organization of joint military exercises. All those activities reflected the view of CSTO that drugs should not be legalized and that strict controls over them should be maintained.

9. Lastly, with regard to illegal migration and human trafficking, CSTO Member States firmly supported the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and were working together to combat those problems in a joint operation known as Nelegal. In addition, special security units and enforcement bodies were actively collaborating in a special operation entitled Proxy, which was designed to prevent crimes relating to advanced information technologies.

10. **Mr. Koehler** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidate countries

Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that transnational crime must be tackled in a holistic, integrated manner at all levels and that cross-border threats could be countered only through effective judicial and law enforcement cooperation between States and regions. The European Union was therefore in favour of a strong review mechanism for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime that would involve civil society. The European Union was continuously enhancing its internal legislative framework and intensifying cooperation on police, customs and judicial matters through initiatives such as the European arrest warrant.

11. With regard to corruption, a European Union anti-corruption reporting mechanism had recently been established, which would increase compliance with international commitments such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). Member States should involve civil society in the UNCAC review process and embrace field visits. On the drugs front, in addition to national drug control strategies, European Union drug strategies and action plans had been developed in order to strengthen cooperation and improve coordination of drugs policies in Europe. In addition, the European Council would adopt a new anti-drugs strategy for 2013-2020 at the end of 2012. As part of its efforts to promote internal security, the European Union was establishing bilateral and regional partnerships between the law enforcement agencies of Member States and their European Union neighbours and holding high-level dialogues on security and law enforcement.

12. With regard to human trafficking, in 2011 the European Union had adopted a directive on preventing and combating human trafficking and protecting its victims, followed by a new European Union Strategy on eradicating human trafficking in 2012. It had also appointed an anti-trafficking coordinator to provide the overall strategic policy orientation and improve coordination between European Union institutions and between member States and international actors. In addition, in 2010, the European Commission had launched an anti-trafficking policy website.

13. On other matters, the European Union had adopted a directive on child sexual abuse and exploitation and child pornography and launched the European Financial Coalition to combat the production, distribution and sale of child pornography images

online. However, it urged Governments worldwide to participate in building a global alliance against child sexual abuse online.

14. **Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol** (Thailand) said that the root causes of crime and drugs must be tackled, in particular poverty, poor quality education and the absence of the rule of law. Thailand fully supported the efforts to mainstream crime prevention and criminal justice into the development agenda beyond 2015 and to establish United Nations system-wide coordination on those cross-cutting issues. It therefore welcomed the opportunity to co-chair the Bali Process Workshop on the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in December 2012 and was collaborating with UNODC in organizing the Asia-Pacific regional meeting on the implementation of the Bangkok Rules on the treatment of women prisoners.

15. Effective penalties must be imposed to punish corruption and money-laundering and to that end multi-stakeholder partnerships were vital. In its efforts to combat drugs and crime, Thailand had reformed its public sector and relevant legislation and had given support to international anti-corruption bodies such as the International Anti-Corruption Academy. In October 2012, Thailand would host the seventeenth Annual Conference and General Meeting of the International Association of Prosecutors, which was working to create a network of prosecutors to improve the implementation of UNCAC obligations.

16. With regard to narcotic drugs, Thailand had hosted the International Workshop and Conference on Alternative Development in 2011 as part of the Thai-Peruvian initiative to develop a new set of international guiding principles on alternative development. In addition, opium cultivation had been drastically reduced through the provision of alternative legitimate income sources in Thailand's northern provinces, while the country's Mae Fah Luang Foundation was working with UNODC to implement similar initiatives in neighbouring countries and beyond. Thailand was also working with members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to implement the Declaration adopted by ASEAN leaders on a drug-free ASEAN by 2015 and in doing so would welcome support from the United Nations.

17. Lastly, multi-stakeholder cooperation among developed and developing countries was crucial if countries were to combat crime and drugs, and policies on crime prevention and criminal justice should be based on considerations of development, rule of law and basic human rights.

18. **Mr. Sparber** (Liechtenstein) said that national and international criminal justice systems were only functional and effective if they ensured accountability for crimes. Accountability was indispensable where there were systematic or large-scale violations of the rights enshrined in international human rights, humanitarian and criminal law, as was the case in the civil war in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Committee should send a clear message that there would be no impunity for the parties to the conflict, in particular the Syrian authorities. Commending the work done by the Human Rights Council's independent international commission of inquiry, Liechtenstein joined others in calling on the Security Council to refer the situation to the International Criminal Court and to guarantee the requisite cooperation and resources to bring those crimes to justice.

19. Liechtenstein, as a long-standing supporter of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, welcomed its focus on capacity-building in domestic criminal justice systems and on strengthening international cooperation. United Nations bodies such as UNODC should step up technical assistance and capacity-building, giving particular emphasis to strengthening domestic capacity in prosecuting the most serious crimes. The preventive dimension of such efforts, which contributed to fair, transparent and rules-based criminal justice systems, was often underestimated.

20. Liechtenstein also attached particular importance to access to legal aid in criminal justice systems. It welcomed all efforts aimed at strengthening the resilience of such systems, as their impartiality and effectiveness were eroded by a number of factors, in particular the scourge of corruption. In addition to implementing international standards, particularly those set out in the United Nations Convention against Corruption, it had made the fight against corruption one of its development assistance priorities. Governments should focus on fighting corruption as an obstacle to the enjoyment of human rights. That required a more systematic look at the phenomenon of "petty" corruption, which had serious repercussions on

human rights, such as the right to non-discrimination, to health and to full political participation, of citizens who were already vulnerable and socially marginalized.

21. **Mr. Khalil** (Egypt) said that greater attention should be given to the possible contribution to development of the United Nations Task Force on Transnational Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking. Egypt looked forward to the appraisal in 2013 of the progress achieved in the implementation of the landmark Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, which would provide clear guidance for future steps, and welcomed the active role played by the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

22. All States were affected by corruption and therefore had a responsibility to fulfil their obligations under the United Nations Convention against Corruption by repatriating funds of illicit origin and curbing the illicit transfer of funds. Egypt therefore urged States to remove administrative and other barriers to asset recovery and reiterated the importance of improving international cooperation in tracing and repatriating its stolen assets, identifying the flow of corruption proceeds — particularly in cases involving prominent current or former public officials and their associates — and freezing assets pending proceedings.

23. Deeply concerned by the appearance of amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive and synthetic substances, Egypt saw the recent thematic debate in the General Assembly on Drugs and Crime as a Threat to Development as an important opportunity to highlight the global challenges to mainstreaming drug control and crime prevention in development strategies. Special focus should be given to strengthening international cooperation to finance alternative development and poverty-reduction programmes, particularly where narcotic crop cultivation and criminal activity were the main sources of livelihood.

24. Egypt remained fully committed to its obligations as a State party to the main international and regional crime, drug and terrorism-related treaties and commended the comprehensive technical assistance provided by the UNODC Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa in Cairo. Egypt's National Coordinating Committee on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Persons was implementing

its first plan of action (January 2011-January 2013), which relied on partnerships with civil society and international organizations. A number of successful capacity-building, prevention and victim protection projects had already been realized and the National Committee was seeking other innovative partnerships with relevant stakeholders to implement legislation passed in 2010. Plans were under way for a joint capacity-building and awareness-raising programme that aimed to protect potential victims of trafficking, especially women and children, through enhanced law enforcement, prosecution and identification of and assistance to victims.

25. Egypt welcomed the recommendations of the recent open-ended intergovernmental expert group meeting on protection against trafficking in cultural property, which highlighted the importance of international cooperation and the use of relevant databases and tools developed by competent international organizations.

26. **Mr. Shan** Ao (China) said that strengthening international cooperation to combat transnational organized crime was a shared responsibility. Given the disruption to the economic development and social order of countries affected by increasingly interconnected crime networks, on the basis of mutual respect for sovereignty and equality, countries must demonstrate political will to improve cooperation and give special attention to developing countries and their capacity-building concerns in that area.

27. States should fulfil their obligations under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and tap its full potential for fostering international cooperation and judicial assistance. The Conference of Parties to the Convention had considered the establishment of a mechanism to review its implementation; the special features of the Convention and its protocols must be taken into account and the procedure established must be government-led and funded by the regular budget to ensure smooth and steady functioning.

28. The United Nations Convention against Corruption — a landmark achievement in the fight against corruption — should be fully utilized; efforts were needed to promote the effective implementation of the provisions related to asset recovery and international cooperation.

29. Cybercrime, trafficking in cultural property and other related crimes had attracted increasing attention worldwide, and a comprehensive convention within the United Nations framework would be an effective global tool to deal with the issue. China supported the continued research by the United Nations Intergovernmental Experts Group on Cybercrime and had been working with the Russian Federation to promote the establishment of the International Codes of Conduct on Information Security. Destination countries of trafficked cultural property must take effective measures to fight trafficking through import control, market regulation, judicial assistance and return of cultural objects and should also take the claims of countries of origin seriously and strengthen cooperation with them.

30. The Chinese Government, long committed to improving the judicial system and promoting the rule of law, had recently issued a white paper outlining judicial reform. The revised Code of Criminal Procedure provided for the confiscation, even posthumously, of the illegal gains of corruption and terrorism suspects, thereby streamlining the conditions to allow competent authorities to cooperate with their foreign counterparts. China had participated in the review of the implementation of the Convention against Corruption and supported capacity-building in developing countries by hosting international seminars and workshops. In the fight against human trafficking, Chinese law enforcement authorities had cooperated with neighbouring countries and had successfully dismantled a series of transnational organized criminal networks. In dedicated efforts to improve legislation and enforcement mechanisms to control precursor chemicals, China had responded to new trends in trafficking of precursor chemicals and had cooperated effectively with UNODC, the International Narcotics Control Board and the States concerned. China would continue to play an active role within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Greater Mekong subregion and the Paris Process and make a greater contribution to tackling drug problems.

31. **Mr. Nichols** (United States of America) said that respect for the rule of law was fundamental to reducing violent crime, public corruption and the threat of terrorism. The legal framework of United Nations conventions related to drugs, transnational organized crime and corruption was the centrepiece of international efforts and their effective use had

powered the fight against organized crime. Colombia was proof that effective rule of law and a revitalized economy could flourish even after a concerted campaign of violence.

32. However, individual Government efforts alone were not enough. Collective action was the most effective protection: not only had the Merida Initiative targeting major drug traffickers reduced the demand for drugs and provided increased treatment for addicts, it had also promoted a growing culture of lawfulness. Similar successes had been achieved through two other partnerships in the Western Hemisphere, the Central America Regional Security Initiative and the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, which had increased peace and safety in the region. Efforts to enhance security in other regions included cooperation with the West Africa Cooperative Security Agreement, to which nearly \$99 million had been allocated; cooperation with Central Asian governments to enhance criminal justice sectors and disrupt Afghan opium networks; and intensified cooperation with China on improving controls of precursor chemicals. The United States welcomed Burma's renewed interest in international cooperation in that area and hoped to tackle opium cultivation and methamphetamine production there. Although many law enforcement challenges remained in Afghanistan, there had been significant progress, with 180 per cent more hectares of poppy fields destroyed in 2012 than in 2011. To enhance citizen security, sustained judicial and penal reforms were required and better ways must be found to reduce opium poppy cultivation further and to create alternatives. Consumer States must also reduce their own demand for drugs. The United States had seen significant long-term progress, with overall drug use declining by nearly one-third over thirty years and cocaine use falling 40 per cent since 2007, though abuse of prescription drugs remained a serious problem which was being addressed through public education and tightened regulations.

33. Globalization and the communications revolution had brought enormous benefits but had also produced new challenges for law enforcement officials as they tackled sophisticated multibillion-dollar criminal organizations with a global reach. Despite crackdowns, traffickers easily found new markets for cocaine or substituted new and equally effective uncontrolled precursor chemicals to create harmful synthetic drugs. Transnational organized crime groups produced a wide

range of goods and services, using the Internet for countless forms of theft, fraud and arms trafficking, and had recently branched out into environmental crimes which generated hundreds of billions of dollars in laundered proceeds that distorted legitimate economies, undercut development, and undermined democratic institutions.

34. The international community had made great strides in collective action. The United States had invoked the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols one hundred times for extradition and mutual legal assistance requests and had already been reviewed in line with its obligations under the Convention against Corruption. Most States were party to those relatively new instruments, which had robust provisions for international cooperation, and the United States welcomed opportunities to share experiences. His Government had already contributed over \$30 million to UNODC in 2012; it urged all Member States to augment their political and financial support to allow the Office to continue its valuable work. All States must join efforts for collective and effective action, as no criminal enterprise could succeed against the consensus of society.

35. **Mr. de Séllos** (Brazil), recalling the indiscriminate nature of crime, said that fighting transnational organized crime required greater efforts towards effective cooperation, including South-South cooperation. Efficient action must encompass crime prevention along with the promotion and protection of human rights and sustainable development. The Convention against Transnational Organized Crime was the cornerstone of those efforts and universal ratification must be achieved. Brazil welcomed the establishment of a review mechanism for the Convention and its Protocols.

36. Brazil attached special importance to young people in the context of crime prevention. Its National Public Security and Citizenship Programme (PRONASCI) coupled traditional public safety strategies with actions aimed at addressing the root causes of violence and strengthened citizenship by promoting community participation in Government initiatives in crime-affected areas. The Programme also focused on protecting children in vulnerable situations and supported the work of the Police Pacification Units (UPP) in the State of Rio de Janeiro.

37. Cybercrime was truly a global phenomenon involving significant technical complexity; effective solutions therefore required the participation of the entire international community and should be considered in the appropriate multilateral forums. In that connection, Brazil support the work of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group to conduct a comprehensive study of cybercrime.

38. Brazil firmly supported the principle of shared responsibility in facing the world drug problem, based on the framework provided by the pertinent United Nations Conventions, as no solution could be found without the active engagement of the world's largest consumers of illicit drugs. Its national legislation and policies had been updated to integrate public health and human rights aspects. The Brazilian Drug Law established a legal distinction between traffickers and drug users and included the financing of drug trafficking as a serious crime. Internationally, Brazil had been making efforts to strengthen multilateral, regional and subregional cooperation in the fight against drugs with a focus on its South American neighbours.

39. He reiterated Brazil's support for the activities of UNODC, which had a vital role supporting the efforts of Member States to fight transnational crime and drug trafficking.

40. **Mr. Ferguson** (Australia) said that transnational organized crime was becoming ever more sophisticated and had negative repercussions on development, the rule of law and international security. With increasingly well-coordinated, well-financed transnational criminal networks, equally sophisticated and coordinated responses were required. Criminal networks did not recognize borders, which meant that no country was immune or unaffected. Effective long-term solutions necessitated strong national, regional and international commitment and coordinated engagement and must bring together all stakeholders.

41. Australia had worked actively with regional partners to combat human trafficking through the Bali Process, which had become the pre-eminent mechanism in the Asia-Pacific region for policy dialogue and action, with over 46 partner organizations and States. Australia had developed an extensive network of Transnational Crime Coordination Centres throughout the region, providing technical assistance to help local law enforcement agencies develop their own

integrated transnational crime capabilities. The system was being expanded to Africa and could also include other interested regions.

42. Regional organizations such as the Central American Integration System (SICA) played a central role in combating transnational organized crime. Australia had contributed approximately \$25 million to a SICA programme addressing violence reduction, civilian security, poverty alleviation, scholarships, disaster risk reduction and food security. It was a good example of an integrated, locally driven solution. Practical outcomes of collaboration with SICA would include training for law enforcement agencies conducted by Australian Federal Police on international drug control and workshops on money-laundering.

43. Prevention must be at the heart of any long-term solution. Strong rule of law institutions and good governance, robust domestic legislation and independent judiciaries were fundamental for uprooting transnational crime. In that regard, Australia had earmarked \$314 million to strengthen the rule of law in developing countries and was working with those countries to put police back on the streets, strengthen courts and improve access to justice for marginalized groups by training 14,000 law and justice officials by 2016.

44. All countries had a responsibility to do more to reduce demand and thereby prevent drug trafficking and human trafficking. As a destination country, Australia was improving border controls and the detection of narcotics at key air and sea ports and working in partnership to address the growing challenge of synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances in the region and beyond, drawing on the expertise of UNODC. Innovative measures targeting drug suppliers had been developed, including the Proceeds of Crime Act which traced and confiscated the proceeds of narcotics and related crime, reinvesting assets in the Australian community and in countries involved in joint investigations or prosecutions. Australia was committed to working with all of its partners to tackle transnational crime in all its forms.

45. **Mr. Haniff** (Malaysia) said that there was no room for complacency in the fight against crime, which was one of Malaysia's six National Key Result Areas. He called for a more comprehensive approach to addressing transnational organized crime through

capacity-building for law enforcement and enhanced inter-agency cooperation. In addition to moderation, as advocated by the Global Movement of Moderates initiated by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, effective international cooperation was also required for combating terrorism, in accordance with international law. Malaysia was committed to strengthening regional and international cooperation through capacity-building and other projects conducted at the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT).

46. It was equally determined to address and eradicate the heinous crimes of human trafficking and people smuggling and had taken a number of steps to that end, promulgating the Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Act (2010) and establishing the Council of Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants. The Council, responsible for formulating and implementing policies covering all aspects of the fight against trafficking, from enforcement to protection and publicity, was comprised of Government and civil society stakeholders and occasionally invited diplomatic representations from other countries to its meetings.

47. Given Malaysia's geographic proximity to the Golden Crescent, drug trafficking was not just a serious socioeconomic threat — as early as 1983, it had been declared a threat to national security. The fight against drug trafficking had been a priority of the Government, resulting in the formulation of the National Drug Policy (1996) and the National Anti-Drugs Agency (1997) which focused on prevention, enforcement, treatment and rehabilitation. Measures to control illicit drug trafficking were best carried out through concerted international efforts, including bilateral and regional agreements that sought to provide technical assistance and build capacity to guarantee alternative sources of income. While the international community had made much progress in combating transnational organized crime, it remained a shared responsibility which called for balanced and holistic cooperation while respecting differences.

48. **Mr. León González** (Cuba) said that all countries, regardless of their economic might, land mass or population size, were vulnerable to crime and new forms of criminality. No country was capable of fighting terrorism, drug trafficking, human trafficking or money-laundering unaided. Combating those crimes first required fighting underdevelopment and

promoting a more democratic and equitable world economic order. International cooperation based on respect for the sovereignty, domestic legislation and territorial integrity of States was essential to prevent and combat transnational organized crime effectively. Cuba rejected any attempts, under the pretext that such crime affected regional or international peace and stability, to impose the national agendas of powerful countries on those that refused to bend to their will. It was therefore not within the purview of the Security Council to deal with those matters.

49. Cuba reiterated its readiness to collaborate in any serious, coherent effort to combat drug trafficking, on the understanding that consumer countries should assume the greater responsibility. It also rejected the drafting of spurious lists of countries alleged to have committed transnational criminal acts, such as the politically motivated lists compiled by the United States Department of State to bring political pressure to bear on countries or to justify unilateral sanctions such as the embargo against Cuba. While the United States Government proclaimed itself a paradigm in the fight against human trafficking, it supported illegal and unsafe migration and the trafficking of Cuban citizens into its territory under the Cuban Adjustment Act. Thousands of Cuban citizens had been injured or killed as a result of terrorist acts committed against Cuba for half a century, and the confessed perpetrators roamed free in the United States of America. In contrast, five Cubans had been arbitrarily and unjustly detained for 14 years in high security American prisons for having tried to save the lives of American and Cuban citizens by investigating terrorist groups operating out of Miami. Cuba had never been and would never be used to organize, fund or carry out terrorist acts and reiterated its willingness to cooperate with all countries, even the United States of America, to prevent and combat international terrorism, on the basis of mutual respect, sovereign equality and other principles and standards outlined in international law.

50. Cuba met all its international obligations concerning collaboration in the fight against organized crime, and had an outstanding record in tackling major crimes. All crimes related to transnational organized crime were regulated and punishable under existing Cuban legislation and the ratification of the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime was proof of Cuba's strong commitment to fight such activity. It was party to 13 international anti-terrorism

instruments, had a general counter-terrorism act, had adopted a host of non-legislative counter-terrorism measures, and scrupulously complied with Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). Cuba reiterated its unwavering commitment to continue combating transnational organized crime and strengthening cooperation with the international community.

51. **Mr. de Alba** (Mexico), speaking also on behalf of Colombia and Guatemala, highlighted the fact that despite the efforts undertaken in previous decades, it was evident that the strategy of the international community to address the global problem of drugs had not been effective. Consequently, it was critical for the United Nations to spearhead an in-depth debate, which would allow for the evaluation of the achievements and limitations of the current policy.

52. The Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the General Assembly, had recommended that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should hold a high-level review of the implementation of those instruments by States. The three delegations would give their support to a decision by the General Assembly to hold a high-level meeting in 2014 that would draw on that review. That meeting should adopt, as a priority, the requisite actions to develop an effective policy to counter the global drug problem and the ensuing violence and examine with honesty, academic rigor and global responsibility all possible options, in particular regulatory or market alternatives. The United Nations should give the same attention to stopping the wave of death and suffering caused by drugs as it did to other global challenges that threatened the lives of millions.

53. **Mr. Hisajima** (Japan) said that his country welcomed the importance that the Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law had given to strengthened international cooperation in fighting drug trafficking and transnational organized crime and to protecting the rights of vulnerable groups, who suffered most from the effects violent crime and corruption. Though the international community had a shared responsibility, each State also had the individual responsibility to strengthen its judicial system to combat crime. A loophole created in one State had repercussions elsewhere and undermined the effectiveness of the international legal framework. Japan had adopted a

zero-tolerance policy regarding the abuse of narcotic drugs; it therefore took a cautious approach to proposals to decriminalize or even legalize drug-related activities.

54. To implement the rule of law effectively, it was critical to build capacity in law enforcement personnel and combat corruption. Through UNODC, Japan had provided financial and technical assistance, such as the UNODC-led counter-narcotic training programme for Afghan police officers currently being conducted in the Russian Federation with Japanese funding and expertise.

55. Japan was especially concerned about trafficking in women and children, given increasingly sophisticated criminal techniques. In accordance with its 2009 action plan to combat trafficking in persons, and recognizing the importance of sharing information between countries of origin and of destination, Japan had taken measures to protect victims of trafficking which included the establishment of a joint task force with Thailand. The Government was considering ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

56. **Mr. Alzaabi** (United Arab Emirates) said that terrorism, money-laundering and illegal trafficking in drugs, weapons, and human beings were interlinked. His country had ratified relevant international conventions and protocols against transnational organized crime and terrorism, and was also a party to two regional counter-terrorism conventions, the Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism and the Convention of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf on Combating Terrorism. The United Arab Emirates had a federal counter-terrorism law that was in line with international instruments, and had established both an anti-money-laundering committee and a counter-terrorism committee. In conjunction with a number of partners, his Government would be opening a centre for combating violent extremism in Abu Dhabi by the end of the year.

57. The United Arab Emirates had ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its optional Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. It took active part in international efforts to address human trafficking within the framework of the Global Plan of Action against Trafficking in

Persons adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in August 2010, and had contributed to financing United Nations programmes in that regard. Its law against human trafficking had been the first of its kind in the region, and data showed that its national campaign against human trafficking was having a tangible impact. His country had also enacted laws to confront the relatively new threat of cybercrime.

58. **Ms. Solórzano-Arriagada** (Nicaragua) said that as a sovereign country under the rule of law, Nicaragua defended its territorial integrity and reaffirmed its commitment to domestic and international law on transnational organized crime and human trafficking, given that prevention was the key for confronting the threats related to those crimes and to imperialist geo-political interests. Pursuant to domestic legislation, the Government had developed national and regional plans such as the National Coalition against Trafficking in Persons, the National Council against Organized Crime and the National Multidisciplinary Commission for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons. As a result of improved police effectiveness and cooperation with other agencies, crime had slowed overall and there had been reductions in homicides, firearms offences and human trafficking.

59. Drug trafficking and transnational organized crime were criminalized under domestic law, but special attention was required from the international community because those crimes affected everyone. Nicaragua neither produced nor consumed drugs or weapons; it was merely a transit country, and despite its limited resources, had taken significant steps to address crime, allocating just over 3 per cent of its GDP to fighting organized crime directly. It also fought crime through job creation, public education, sports and recreation programmes for young people and improved social conditions. The Government was aware that its efforts were not enough and consequently urged the international community to do its part under the principle of common but differentiated responsibility. Such cooperation would allow Nicaragua to build on the bilateral, regional and international support already received and continue the progress that had led it to become the safest country in the region, to the benefit of the entire international community.

60. Interpol had signed a cooperation agreement with the National Police of Nicaragua, and had commended its effectiveness despite limited financial resources,

which translated into a crime rate of less than 12 per cent per 100,000 inhabitants. A bilateral agreement with the Russian Federation to fight drug trafficking covered exchange of information, technical assistance and equipment, as well as capacity-building for special forces from Nicaragua and the wider region to address organized crime jointly. Regional cooperation efforts included participation in the Central American Security Commission and the Commission of Heads of Police in Central America and the Caribbean. The Security Strategy for Central America and Mexico (ESCA), adopted in 2011, was a milestone in regional security. It included eight projects related to fighting crime, preventing youth violence, reintegrating detainees and strengthening police institutions in each member country.

61. In a world where crime knew no borders and law enforcement challenges were increasingly complex, it was vital to work together to detect and eliminate criminal networks, while taking into account the economic disparities between developing and developed countries.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.