



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
25 April 2013

Original: English

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Twenty-second session

Vienna, 22–26 April 2013

Draft report

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Addendum

Integration and coordination of efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice

1. At its 5th, 6th and 7th meetings, on 24 and 25 April 2013, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice considered agenda item 5, which reads as follows:

“Integration and coordination of efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice:

“(a) Ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto;

“(b) Ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

“(c) Ratification and implementation of the international instruments to prevent and combat terrorism;

“(d) Other crime prevention and criminal justice matters;

“(e) Other activities in support of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in particular activities of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, non-governmental organizations and other bodies.”



2. For its consideration of agenda item 5, the Commission had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in combating transnational organized crime and corruption (E/CN.15/2013/4);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance in implementing the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism (E/CN.15/2013/5 and Corr.1);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network (E/CN.15/2013/8);

(d) Report of the Executive Director on combating the problem of transnational organized crime committed at sea (E/CN.15/2013/17);

(e) Report of the Secretariat on ways and means of enhancing the effectiveness of international cooperation in countering criminal and terrorist threats and challenges to the tourism sector, including by means of public-private partnerships (E/CN.15/2013/19);

(f) Anti-Corruption Charter of Russian Business and the Charter Road Map (E/CN.15/2013/CRP.8).

3. Introductory statements were made by the Chief of the Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch, the Chief of the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch and the Chief of the Terrorism Prevention Branch. The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism made a statement.

4. Statements were made by the representative of Ireland (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Iceland, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Turkey and Ukraine, as well as Liechtenstein) and the representatives of Belarus (on behalf of the Group of Friends United Against Human Trafficking), Algeria, Thailand, China, the Republic of Korea, Italy, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, the United States, Indonesia, Croatia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Russian Federation, Cuba, Thailand, Japan, Kenya, Argentina and Austria (also on behalf of Brazil and Switzerland). The observers for France, Romania, Sri Lanka, the Republic of Moldova, Spain, Libya, Azerbaijan, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Egypt, India, Qatar and Belgium (also on behalf of the Netherlands and Slovenia) also made statements. The observer for the Sovereign Military Order of Malta also made a statement. Statements were also made by the observers for the International Anti-Corruption Academy, the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law on behalf of the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice network.

A. Deliberations

1. Ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto

Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in facilitating the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

5. Discussions under agenda item 5 (a) addressed, inter alia, the importance of universal ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto; the use of the Convention as a basis for international judicial cooperation; and continuing support for the adoption of a review mechanism.

6. Several speakers expressed regret that the Conference of the Parties had been unable at its sixth session to adopt a mechanism to review the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto and expressed their willingness to continue the dialogue on this subject.

7. National efforts and initiatives to combat transnational organized crime in all its forms and manifestations, including trafficking in persons, the smuggling of migrants and firearms trafficking, were emphasized. Speakers expressed appreciation for the technical assistance provided and tools developed by UNODC and encouraged donors to provide extrabudgetary contributions to UNODC to enable it to continue its effective work.

2. Ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in facilitating the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

8. With regard to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, speakers welcomed the role of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention in gathering valuable information on good practices, implementation gaps and technical assistance needs. Some speakers reported on their countries' efforts to implement the Convention. Some speakers also referred to Conference of the States Parties resolution 4/6, entitled "Non-governmental organizations and the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption". Speakers called upon States parties to make optimal use of the Convention for international cooperation in criminal matters, including by using it as a legal basis. Many speakers encouraged technical assistance and capacity-building programmes, and some made reference to the work of the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative. Some speakers highlighted the importance of reducing barriers to international cooperation and asset recovery.

3. Ratification and implementation of the international instruments to prevent and combat terrorism

9. Several speakers commended the work of UNODC in assisting States in the implementation of the international legal instruments against terrorism and in providing capacity-building assistance for criminal justice officials, as well as in enhancing criminal justice strategies on preventive aspects. Many speakers referred to the increasing use of modern information technologies by terrorists and highlighted the importance of countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes. Some speakers also highlighted the fundamental role that victims of terrorism can play before, during and after criminal justice proceedings and in countering the appeal of terrorism. Delegations emphasized the assistance provided by UNODC in both these thematic areas. Speakers also underlined the importance of upholding the rule of law, respecting human rights and complying with international obligations and standards in countering terrorism and called upon UNODC to continue providing assistance in this regard. Speakers also expressed appreciation for the close cooperation and joint projects carried out by UNODC, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

4. Other crime prevention and criminal justice matters

10. Speakers emphasized the importance of continuing to make efforts to counter criminal and terrorist threats and to respond to the challenges created by those threats, including in the tourism sector, through international cooperation and coordination among relevant international and regional organizations and Member States in the area of mutual legal assistance, as well as through public-private partnerships. Speakers encouraged UNODC to continue its efforts and to coordinate with relevant actors in that regard.

11. Speakers also expressed the necessity of enhancing international cooperation to combat a wide range of crimes more effectively and specifically referred to crimes against journalists, violence against women and children, war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

12. Reference was made to the Arab Initiative for Building National Capacities to Combating Human Trafficking, supported by Qatar.

5. Other activities in support of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in particular activities of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, non-governmental organizations and other bodies

13. Reference was made to the mission and activities of the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice network. Appreciation was expressed for their work. It was noted that challenges existed in conducting research in the international environment where laws and definitions varied and different cultures required all the responses within each study to be put into context. The constant need to find new and more effective research methods was also noted.