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Chair: Mr. Tafrov..... (Bulgaria)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 108: Crime prevention and criminal justice (A/68/125, A/68/127 and A/68/128)

Agenda item 109: International drug control (A/68/126)

1. **Mr. Fedotov** (Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)), speaking by video link, said that UNODC took the lead in helping countries to address the threats posed by drugs, crime, illicit trafficking, corruption and terrorism. Its integrated response rested on three pillars: normative work, research and analysis, and technical cooperation. As the guardian of the United Nations drug control and crime conventions, the Office maintained a corpus of legal principles and guidelines and produced state-of-the-art studies, surveys and reports, which were standard references in that area. In its field operations UNODC helped countries build the necessary capacity to respond. The Office was addressing new threats, including crimes committed at sea, cybercrime, trafficking in fraudulent medicines and cultural property, and wildlife crime, linking up regional and international initiatives. It had enhanced cooperation with United Nations partners and other multilateral organizations and civil society, encouraging local ownership and mutual responsibility.

2. The Secretary-General's report on advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 (A/68/202) had identified the major challenges that had emerged since the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) had been agreed and acknowledged the importance for development of effective governance based on the rule of law and transparent institutions. The General Assembly would be considering the Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, contained in a resolution of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, together with a resolution on the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 and other resolutions recommended by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

3. UNODC was preparing for the high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, to be held in Vienna in March 2014. He encouraged all

Member States to be actively engaged and represented at the appropriate level. In 2016, a special session of the General Assembly would be held on the topic, in accordance with resolution 67/193. As in the past, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and UNODC would assist Member States throughout the process.

4. The fifth and sixth sessions of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention against Corruption would be held, respectively, in Panama in November 2014 and in the Russian Federation in 2015. In 2014, the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime would take place in Vienna. Qatar would host the thirteenth Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2015, on the theme of integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and public participation. Regional preparatory meetings held in 2014 should make action-oriented recommendations to the Congress.

5. The rapid rise in voluntary contributions over the previous decade showed that donors trusted UNODC and Member States valued its work. However, over 90 per cent of voluntary contributions were earmarked for special purposes, not always reflecting the priorities of the governing bodies. Funding from the United Nations regular budget represented less than one tenth of the total, and the Office's core functions were already severely overstretched. The proposed budget for 2014-2015 reflected the Office's commitment to achieving the greatest possible efficiency and transparency, and its aim to move towards full cost recovery for its technical assistance programmes. He had engaged Member States in the discussion, by means of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC. Despite the Office's success in achieving overall strategic and operational coherence, the complicated governance and funding situation must be addressed. UNODC was committed to assisting Member States but it also counted on their support to carry out its vital work.

6. **Mr. Haniff** (Malaysia), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that in a borderless digital world transnational crime was becoming increasingly pervasive and diversified, threatening regional and international security. To

combat it effectively, all countries, civil society and State organizations had to cooperate by means of information exchange, capacity-building, mutual legal assistance and joint investigations. Cooperation on transnational crime within ASEAN took place primarily at its Ministerial Meetings on Transnational Crime, the ninth of which had taken place in Vientiane, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, in September 2013.

7. Annual senior officials meetings were held to implement and review ministerial decisions and recommend new projects and areas of cooperation with ASEAN's partners. Accordingly, ASEAN had renewed its cooperation with its 10 dialogue partners, including China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. ASEAN ministers would continue to respond to the transnational crime challenges facing the region through the Association's sectoral bodies. Moving towards realization of the ASEAN Community in 2015, it must ensure that the process was not hampered by transnational crime; the Community must not only be prosperous but also peaceful and free from drugs and crime.

8. Turning to international drug control, he said that a drug-free ASEAN by 2015 was a high priority, but the Association was aware of the urgency to implement its Work Plan on Combating Illicit Drug Production, Trafficking and Use (2009-2015) and the associated road map. ASEAN ministers, senior officials and the heads of anti-drug agencies had recently met in Brunei Darussalam in September 2013 to reaffirm their commitment and take stock of progress towards implementation of the work plan. A number of ASEAN bodies were involved in formulating policies and initiating activities to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking, including the Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime, the Finance Ministers Meeting, the Senior Officials on Drug Matters and the Committee on Culture and Information.

9. Alternative development programmes needed to be strengthened in tandem with drug eradication efforts. The root cause of illicit drug cultivation had been addressed through sustainable development for rural communities. ASEAN therefore welcomed the Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, recently adopted by consensus by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Economic and Social Council. ASEAN had four training centres where member State officials could learn and share knowledge and best

practices for combating illicit drugs. Noting the concerns raised in the Secretary-General's report on international cooperation against the world drug problem (A/68/126) about the need for UNODC to collect and disseminate accurate, reliable and comparable data and information to enhance knowledge on illicit drug trends, ASEAN welcomed the Office's continuous engagement with member States requiring assistance in capacity-building to provide data on the subject.

10. Criminal justice responses to transnational crime tended to operate within national borders, and cross-border cooperation in criminal investigations and prosecutions was impeded by practical and political factors. However, thanks to national laws and international agreements, most countries had developed tools that criminal justice agencies could use to facilitate cross-border cooperation. The Association needed to face the challenge of combating transnational crime as it moved towards the realization of the ASEAN Community, which aimed to be a cohesive, peaceful, stable and resilient region with shared responsibility for comprehensive security in an increasingly interdependent world.

11. **Mr. Rattray** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that the Community endorsed the call for UNODC to support Member States in capacity-building and for Member States to provide UNODC with adequate resources. As transnational organized crime evolved, Caribbean countries had been facing new and persistent threats to their progress towards sustainable development and inclusive economic growth. As the response had to be coordinated, multi-faceted and sustained, the heads of State and Government of CARICOM had declared crime prevention and security the fourth pillar of the Community's integration movement. A Crime and Security Strategy had been adopted in February 2013, and UNODC was due to launch its first regional programme for the Caribbean for the period 2013-2016 in support of it. The Strategy focused on gathering cross-border intelligence and sharing information, combating human trafficking, tackling criminal assets, protecting the financial system and improving criminal investigation.

12. Crime and corruption had a deleterious effect on development, and the illicit flow of drugs and firearms had negative consequences for the Caribbean, contributing to gang violence, negative social

behaviour, diversion of precious resources, loss of productivity and reduced revenues from potential investment and tourism. The Community noted with satisfaction that the Arms Trade Treaty had been adopted in April 2013 and included measures to stem the flow of small arms and light weapons. It was critical for the Caribbean, an acknowledged transit region for the flow of guns and ammunition, which contributed significantly to the domestic crime problem. CARICOM would work with its partners, in particular the States where those weapons originated, to achieve meaningful results. Thirteen CARICOM member States had signed the Treaty and three had ratified it. Parties to the Treaty should provisionally apply it in good faith until it entered into force.

13. As transnational organized crime had grown more elaborate and resilient, many criminal networks were better resourced, connected and informed than some States, adeptly employing new technologies in their enterprises. The Secretary-General's report (A/68/127) noted the emerging trends to be tackled, such as cybercrime, trafficking in cultural property and the use of new technologies to abuse and exploit children. The international community must be ahead of criminal enterprises, developing new means of tracking, controlling and preventing their activities. CARICOM was pleased to note UNODC proposals to address those emerging trends and called for special attention to be paid to small and vulnerable developing countries that might lack the necessary capacity. Otherwise transnational criminal enterprises might exploit loopholes to the detriment of all.

14. Concerned about the nexus between trafficking in firearms, persons and drugs, CARICOM welcomed the proposed UNODC studies on the links between firearms and other forms of trafficking, and on transnational routes and firearms trafficking. Although there was political will and public support for measures to tackle crime and the international drug problem, there was not enough action, resources and effective infrastructure. Without adequate investment, public confidence and success in winning the war on crime would suffer. In many small countries, the criminal justice system must be updated to address heavy case loads, complex investigations, comprehensive evidence gathering, and the need to locate and protect witnesses. Systems needed innovative reforms, including the implementation of restorative justice principles and non-custodial alternatives to imprisonment.

15. Turning to the post-2015 development agenda, he said that the route towards sustainable development encompassed many cross-cutting issues. Building societies on a platform of justice, security and the rule of law was essential for achieving sustainable development. That would require a multi-faceted collaborative approach going beyond the deployment of hard security assets to encompass social intervention and public education strategies. Working together through the United Nations system, regionally and bilaterally, CARICOM countries could protect their societies from the ravages of criminal activities, ensuring that criminal enterprises were dismantled while sustainably redressing the socioeconomic conditions that spawned them.

16. **Mr. Gaspar Martins** (Angola), speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), said that the burden of crime persisted in the region but, despite a more complex world with digital communication platforms, the authorities were bringing it under control. Thanks to prevention and mitigation policies and more effective strategies, the region was better prepared, working with local and international bodies to punish offenders and prevent their criminal activities.

17. While human trafficking remained a major regional concern, drug trafficking posed even greater threats, calling for a coordinated effort. SADC attached great importance to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, and to the international drug control conventions and international legal instruments addressing transnational organized crime. Drug trafficking and abuse were related to corruption, violent crime and violence against women and children, which threatened economic development and posed severe challenges to regional security and stability. As the target date to achieve the MDGs approached and pressure grew to show results, there was growing recognition that organized crime and illicit drugs were major impediments. The demand for drugs must be reduced and transnational organized crime must be fought on all levels.

18. The phenomenon of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, was growing in the SADC region as a new, sophisticated and aggressive form of slavery. Clear and comprehensive legislation was needed to prevent and combat it. The

Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children, adopted by the African Union in 2006, was being implemented by SADC member States. The regional plan of action addressed it in a comprehensive way, in line with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development and the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. SADC member States appreciated and supported UNODC activities, in particular in developing global legal instruments and providing developing countries with technical cooperation.

19. The SADC Protocol on Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking was aimed at reducing and eliminating drugs trafficking, money laundering, corruption and the illicit use and abuse of drugs through cooperation and the coordination of cross-sectoral programmes and activities. It required SADC member States to accede to the United Nations drug control conventions. Most had and were actively implementing their provisions while national ratification processes were under way. SADC member States had developed, implemented and evaluated strategies aimed at establishing comprehensive and integrated demand reduction programmes and developing community prevention, State school education and research activities to address the underlying causes of drug abuse. Some member States had also established facilities for the treatment, rehabilitation and social integration of drug dependent persons. The international community should make human and financial resources and technical assistance available to provide training for personnel involved in such activities and programmes.

20. Speaking in his national capacity, he said that his Government had established objectives and strategies for combating drug trafficking domestically. In September 2001, it had established an interministerial committee to coordinate policy to combat drugs and drug addiction. The Government promoted implementation of the recommendations of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, and was preparing for the high-level review of their implementation by Member States. Angola had undertaken health-care reforms to combat drug abuse as part of a comprehensive effort to change the norms,

behaviours, systems and contexts that contributed to related problems. His country was committed to the fight against drugs and crime through the bilateral, regional and international instruments to which it was party.

21. **Mr. Vrailas** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Armenia, 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 in favour of a strong review mechanism for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime that would involve civil society. The Convention provided important technical support for extradition, mutual legal assistance and asset forfeiture. The Union made a financial contribution to UNODC and supported the work of the relevant United Nations bodies.

22. The European Union had developed a strategic and operational approach aimed at enhancing law enforcement cooperation within the Union and with its partners, prioritizing drug and firearms trafficking, irregular migration, cybercrime, property crime, counterfeit and sub-standard goods. Annual operational action plans were implemented and monitored regularly. The European Union was preparing a strategy to better secure licit trade in firearms, reduce their diversion into criminal hands and improve law enforcement, data collection and security. Social inclusion and a multidisciplinary approach were essential for any crime prevention policy. With regard to corruption, the European Union was committed to increasing 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. It also supported the work of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption.

23. The European Union had developed drug strategies and action plans to strengthen cooperation and improve coordination of drug policies in Europe. A

balanced, humane approach was necessary, especially in the context of HIV prevention, and the Union was committed to halving transmission among injecting drug users by 2015. The European Council had adopted a new anti-drug strategy for 2013-2020, providing the overarching political framework and priorities for the European Union drug policy. It built on the lessons learned from the implementation of previous drug strategies, taking into account other relevant policy developments and actions.

24. The European Union looked forward to sharing the strategy with its international partners, in preparation for the high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. In accordance with the fundamental principles of European Union law, it fully respected the European Convention on Human Rights and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, taking into account the international drug control conventions, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Political Declaration and Action Plan on International Cooperation and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS.

25. 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 neighbours and holding high-level dialogues on security and law enforcement. The European Union had adopted the Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012-2016. It had also appointed an anti-trafficking coordinator to provide the overall strategic policy orientation. The Union was committed to addressing trafficking in persons in a victim-centred and holistic way. The High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, held in May 2013, had been an opportunity to appraise the progress achieved in the implementation of existing instruments and exchange best practices in the prevention and prosecution of human trafficking and protection of victims.

26. In view of the threat posed by piracy to important international maritime routes and international trade, the European Union appreciated the results of the UNODC Counter Piracy Programme. The Union's

long-standing engagement in the fight against piracy in the western Indian Ocean was reflected in its naval operation Atalanta. The threat of piracy had been growing in West Africa, and local efforts to tackle it deserved coordinated international support. The European Union had launched a new initiative to help seven African countries increase the safety of maritime routes in the Gulf of Guinea.

27. **Ms. Velichko** (Belarus), speaking on behalf of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), said that the increase in transnational organized crime, often related with terrorism and its funding, was a cause for concern. The United Nations and its bodies played a leading role in combating such crime, and the Commonwealth, of which her country currently held the presidency, was interested in intensifying its cooperation with them. In recent years, CIS had adopted various inter-State programmes for combating organized crime in all its forms in the territory of the CIS member States, taking a holistic and dynamic approach. Those programmes had created the international legal basis for cooperation in combating crime, terrorism, drug trafficking, illegal migration, economic crimes and offences in the field of intellectual property. The key instrument in cooperation was the CIS Convention on Legal Assistance and Legal Relations in Civil, Family and Criminal Matters.

28. At their meeting in Ashgabat in December 2012, the CIS heads of State had agreed on the future development of their cooperation, laying emphasis on organized crime. Member States had been carrying out joint measures and special operations to combat various forms of transnational crime, including trafficking in drugs, weapons and explosives, in particular in the CIS border regions. A special data bank created at the bureau for coordinating efforts to combat organized crime in the territory of the CIS member States enabled national law-enforcement agencies to cooperate effectively. Moreover, CIS was offering training and materials related to the fight against crime at those agencies and educational institutions. The CIS heads of State had signed a cooperation agreement on combating trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives and explosive devices, to enable more effective cooperation between law enforcement agencies.

29. Stressing the increasing importance of combating corruption as it became more globalized, she said that

domestic and multilateral efforts must be combined to be effective, while national mechanisms must be in line with international practice and standards. An agreement on the formation of a council of heads of CIS financial intelligence units had been signed to enhance cooperation in the fight against money laundering and financing of terrorism. The aim of such cooperation was to protect the interests of individuals, society and the CIS member States from transnational organized crime while respecting national sovereignty and the principles of international law, strengthening trust between agencies and protecting human rights and freedoms.

30. **Mr. Zagaynov** (Russian Federation), speaking on behalf of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), said that the coordinating role of the United Nations and its core institutions must be strengthened if Member States were to combat organized crime, in particular drug trafficking, which threatened world peace and security, and the socioeconomic development of States. Accordingly, CSTO confirmed its commitment to the effective implementation of the United Nations three basic drug conventions and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The ever-growing production of heroin in Afghanistan constituted a major threat to regional stability, despite concerted action by that country's Government and the international community. It was important to establish a partnership between CSTO and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on the Afghan drug problem, including the joint combating of drug trafficking, the exchange of experience and data and the operational coordination of rapid reaction forces.

31. CSTO welcomed the establishment of the UNDOC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries and supported the expansion of the Office's partnerships with regional organizations — CIS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, the Eurasian Group on Combating Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism, and the Eurasian Economic Community — and with national structures. In addition, international efforts to combat the Afghan drug expansion were being mobilized under the Paris Pact. CSTO favoured implementation of the decisions taken in that regard at the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit Traffic

in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan. Other CSTO joint initiatives included the Kanal anti-drug operation, which had resulted in the seizure of 470 kilograms of narcotic drugs in 2012.

32. In view of its significant contribution to protecting the entire Eurasian region from the drug threat, it was in the interest of the States of the region and regional and international organizations, including UNODC, to increase their cooperation with CSTO to counteract drug trafficking. There was a need to combine effective law-enforcement measures with programmes to reduce drug abuse, promote development and create jobs. As part of a holistic and balanced approach, CSTO favoured action to improve people's socioeconomic plight and ensure them a healthy and dignified future through alternative development as an integral part of sustainable development programmes. Measures to combat the drug problem would be effective only if all countries strictly observed the provisions of the United Nations three basic drug conventions.

33. Speaking in his national capacity, he said the Russian Federation supported the central role of the United Nations in combating transnational crime and stressed the need for a single anti-crime strategy based on decisions by the leading agencies in that field, first and foremost the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. He noted the results of the Commission's twenty-second session and attached particular importance to enhancing the effectiveness of international cooperation in countering criminal and terrorist threats and challenges to the tourist sector, including by means of public-private partnerships. The United Nations should step up efforts to combat cybercrime, inter alia, by drawing up a universal convention on cooperation in combating that phenomenon.

34. The Russian Federation called for more effective implementation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and support for the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking. His country was particularly concerned at the threat posed by trafficking in human organs, cells and tissues. There was a need to strengthen the investigative and analytical potential of UNODC through increased funding, including through the regular budget. It looked forward to the Thirteenth Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2015 and had already begun preparing for the sixth

session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention against Corruption, which it would be hosting.

35. The problem of drug trafficking could be combated only through increased multilateral cooperation according to the principle of joint responsibility. The international drug control system needed to be strengthened on the basis of the United Nations three basic drug conventions, and his country opposed any attempt to undermine it. Efforts to reduce demand for narcotics and provide assistance to addicts must not contravene those conventions. His delegation also underscored the urgent need for the international community to achieve the objectives of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action to Counter the World Drug Problem.

36. He supported the work by UNODC to strengthen the structures of Afghanistan, its neighbours and a number of other countries affected by Afghan opiate trafficking, which was closely linked with terrorism. Efforts should therefore be stepped up under the Paris Pact to halt the spread of narcotic drugs from Afghanistan. His country noted the decisions to stem the financial flows from Afghan drug trafficking taken at the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners. In that connection, he welcomed the inclusion, at the initiative of the Russian Federation, of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in the work of UNODC to halt the flow of illegal income from Afghan drug trafficking, which was a priority theme of its presidency of the Task Force.

37. His country intended to step up joint work within the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, particularly in carrying out its ongoing anti-narcotics strategy and programme of action, and it valued the efforts by CSTO to combat the drug threat in Afghanistan. In that connection, the Russian Federation welcomed the holding by CSTO of an international conference on Afghanistan in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in October 2013. It also supported the activities of the International Narcotics Control Board and reaffirmed its readiness to cooperate closely with the Board, whose financing should be maintained at the necessary level. There was a need to take immediate further measures to stop the spread of synthetic drugs and launch the global system to monitor trafficking in them. His country welcomed the work by UNODC to establish a global contact point on new psychoactive substances, which could help coordinate efforts to combat the use of such drugs.

38. Effective drug law enforcement must be supported by socioeconomic measures, including projects to create a real alternative to criminal activity and promote the stable development of society, respect for human rights and adequate remuneration for honest labour. Accordingly, it was hoped that the General Assembly would adopt the draft resolution on guiding principles on alternative development recommended at the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

39. **Mr. Sparber** (Liechtenstein) said that his country was in favour of examining the contribution of sound legislative and judicial systems to the promotion and protection of human rights, the rule of law and good governance. The Committee should support and strengthen the mandate of UNODC. Discussions on the post-2015 development agenda provided a valuable perspective on crime prevention, criminal justice, corruption and counter-terrorism. The quest for more inclusive, sustainable development could be seriously undermined if individuals were prevented from claiming their fundamental rights and freedoms. The Office had an important role to play in that regard.

40. Liechtenstein attached particular importance to the prevalence of corrupt practices worldwide, in particular everyday abuses of authority, and to legislation that barred parts of society from effective participation in decision-making processes, often in the guise of security policy. Having developed global anti-corruption norms, in particular the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the international community should make their universal implementation and monitoring more effective. Liechtenstein was fully committed to the standards set out in the Convention for the recovery, return and disposal of assets and was working to improve national procedures while respecting rule of law principles and international obligations. Most of its international cooperation and development assistance efforts went into capacity-building to fight corruption, in partnerships with UNODC, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and the International Centre for Asset Recovery.

41. However, closer attention should be paid to corrupt practices as an obstacle to the full enjoyment of human rights. His delegation welcomed the adoption of the resolution on preventing and combating corrupt practices, but stressed the need to focus more on combating corruption where it affected people most

directly, address instances of everyday corruption impairing the enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms, limiting political participation and causing violence. Liechtenstein understood States' legitimate concerns to ensure their peoples' security, in particular when addressing terrorist threats. It was committed to full international cooperation in that area, for which the United Nations anti-terrorism conventions provided a solid framework.

42. However, his country was concerned at ways in which national laws and practices interfered with international human rights standards. Recent revelations pointed to the need for stronger international scrutiny of the compatibility of surveillance practices with human rights law, in particular the right to privacy. International dialogue was needed to address concerns about current tendencies to restrict fundamental rights and freedoms unduly by means of "anti-terrorism" or "security" legislation. International human rights law did not allow anti-terrorism legislation to be toughened in response to legitimate expressions of political dissent. Liechtenstein called for the excessive sanctions handed down under such laws to be reconsidered and encouraged UNODC to help States bring their anti-terrorism legislation into line with human rights law.

43. **Mr. Shamash** (Libya) noted that the increase in transnational organized crime was due in part to the global financial and economic crisis, as well as unemployment, poverty and armed conflict. During its transition, Libya had been facing high levels of illegal migration, which presented it with humanitarian challenges. It was imperative to step up international efforts to find rapid solutions to limit migration. Migrants faced death, exploitation and human rights violations at the hands of transnational organized crime gangs. It was important to respect the dignity of migrants and the sovereignty of States when seeking international solutions to the phenomenon, and he thanked the International Organization for Migration for its cooperation with the Libyan authorities and its technical assistance.

44. His country was especially at risk from trafficking in humans, drugs and weapons. 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. The Prime

Ministers of Algeria, Libya and Tunisia had met in Ghadames, Libya, in January 2013, to discuss the security situation in the region.

45. He 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. As a State party to the 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.

46. **Ms. Hernando** (Philippines) said that her country had established an inter-agency council against trafficking in persons, chaired by the Justice Secretary, to ensure the harmonization and standardization of databases, collection systems and data verification systems. In the absence of legislation on money-laundering, the Philippines had signed a memorandum of agreement committing domestic agencies to supporting the Anti-Money Laundering Council by implementing legislation and cooperating with foreign financial intelligence units. Mindful that domestic initiatives needed to be complemented regionally and internationally, the Philippines had become a party to the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto and UNCAC.

47. International and regional cooperation must be enhanced through treaties on extradition and mutual legal assistance, above all with regard to the investigation, prosecution and transfer of organized offenders. Regulatory arrangements requiring financial institutions to report suspicious transactions must be tightened to suppress terrorist financing. States should pursue initiatives for good governance, enhanced transparency and public accountability, and conduct public awareness campaigns on corruption. Regional cooperation could help to combat transnational organized crime through information exchanges, database development, and training and capacity-building.

48. The fight against organized crime relied on strong international cooperation with the assistance of the United Nations. In its normative and technical assistance work, UNODC had joined forces and strengthened coordination with other bodies, such as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, to mainstream human rights into its programmes and activities. Her country welcomed that step as well as the Office's initiative on the implementation of system-wide initiatives to ensure comprehensive and holistic responses to organized crime and drug trafficking. However, it was important to remember the victims of organized crime, as they had to cope with the immediate aftermath and the longer-term effects.

49. **Ms. Li Xiaomei** (China) said that illicit drugs, human trafficking, money laundering, terrorism and cybercrime seriously threatened social stability and economic development and impeded the achievement of the MDGs. The relevant United Nations bodies should continue to coordinate and facilitate cooperation to combat transnational crime and drug control. Implementation of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime needed to be strengthened by means of an effective and widely supported review mechanism based on the principles of sovereign equality and non-interference in internal affairs and funded by the regular budget. China hoped that the fifth Conference of the States Parties to UNCAC would give fresh impetus to implementation of the Convention and international cooperation to combat corruption.

50. Turning to international cooperation on drug control, she said that the high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem offered the international community an opportunity to build greater consensus and enhance cooperation. China stood ready to cooperate on exploring ways of reinforcing the role of the international drug control treaties and to implement the integrated and balanced strategy more effectively. The review should offer effective guidance for international endeavours to respond to the ever worsening drug situation.

51. Strong international cooperation was needed to respond to the new global challenge of cybercrime. China supported the open-ended intergovernmental

expert group to conduct a comprehensive study of the problem of cybercrime, which should issue recommendations for a global legal framework for international cooperation. It called on the States parties to the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to formulate guidelines for crime prevention and criminal justice with regard to trafficking in cultural property. Her country had recently begun implementing its action plan against human trafficking for 2013-2020 and its work plan for establishing a system for punishing and preventing corruption 2013-2017, with a view to preventing and combating human trafficking and improving the system for punishing and preventing corruption.

52. China took an active part in international cooperation on drug control, assisting countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion to curb illicit poppy cultivation and opioid trafficking. It was committed to tackling new challenges, such as new psychoactive substances and drug trafficking over the Internet, and to continuing to cooperate effectively with UNODC, the International Narcotics Control Board and the States concerned. China would continue to work within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Paris Pact initiative and make a greater contribution to tackling drug problems.

53. **Ms. Al Dosari** (Qatar) said that combating drugs and crime, which impeded development and fostered global instability, was a key challenge for the international community. It was vital, therefore, to strengthen international institutions working in that area and promote international cooperation. To that end, Qatar was working with Member States, regional and international organizations and United Nations agencies to combat illicit drugs and crime, address the root causes of those challenges and strengthen its criminal justice system. It had also adopted key legislation to strengthen relevant Qatari authorities, in accordance with its international obligations, and established institutions to enhance its efforts in that regard, including the Qatari Foundation for Combating Human Trafficking, which, inter alia, provided assistance to human trafficking victims.

54. Qatar had hosted numerous international forums and workshops on drugs and crime and, in 2015, would host the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which would bring together heads of State and Government and policy makers with a view to combating the growing

challenges posed by organized crime, drugs and terrorism and promote a more just and safer world. A committee that included representatives from Qatari ministries, the Office of the Public Prosecutor and the Qatar Foundation had been formed to oversee the preparations for that Congress and ensure its success. The Congress would be preceded by a conference on crime prevention and criminal justice that would be attended by university students from around the world.

55. **Ms. Bar Sadeh** (Israel), referring to the high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, to be held in 2014, said that her country was committed to the global efforts to combat drug abuse, with a strong emphasis on protecting the young. Israel's drug control policy was centred on health, human rights and a balanced reduction of demand and supply. Efforts to reduce demand included primary prevention, early intervention, treatment, rehabilitation and harm reduction measures, targeting drug addicts, including those in prison, and their families and communities. Needle exchange programmes had helped to halve the cases of HIV/AIDS among injecting drug users.

56. Israel participated in international efforts to control drug abuse according to the principle of shared responsibility. It had developed a training module for professionals in developing countries working with alcohol and drug abuse, a project in which UNODC was a key partner. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had recently sent a mission to Israel to learn best practices, to be shared with Member States. As the newest member of the Council of Europe's Pompidou Group, Israel would host an expert group meeting on prevention and treatment for youth later in October 2013. Cooperation with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction helped to ensure that Israel had an effective monitoring system to support evidence-based national policy.

57. Seizures of hashish and heroin at Israel's borders had increased in 2012, while growing numbers of Yaba tablets entered from Southeast Asia, mainly by post. Seizures of marijuana, however, had been declining. The growing popularity of new psychoactive substances, particularly among young people, was of great concern to the international community. Openly sold throughout Israel, they were modified so quickly

that regulatory norms and law enforcement efforts could not keep up. In 2013, Israel had issued an ordinance allowing law enforcement authorities to seize and destroy substances considered dangerous. The abuse of synthetic drugs among young people had decreased, owing to prevention and awareness campaigns and legislative measures.

58. Countering money laundering and promoting judicial cooperation played an integral part in Israel's drug control efforts. Legal and regulatory steps had been taken to prevent illicit financial flows and to confiscate and recover illicit assets. Party to all the international conventions on drugs and the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, Israel had established a money laundering and terror financing prohibition authority in 2002 and cooperated with the relevant entities to confiscate the proceeds of crime. Those confiscated in illicit drugs cases were re-allocated to drug prevention, treatment and law-enforcement activities.

59. **Mr. Mashabane** (South Africa) said that the global scale of transnational crime threatened peace, security, sustainable development and human rights, above all in developing and fragile States, whose wherewithal for combating it was weak, which in some cases resulted in criminalized economies. The effective implementation by Member States of the United Nations conventions on crime, drugs, trafficking and corruption would contribute to combating those phenomena. International partnerships, technical cooperation and financial assistance for weak developing countries, in particular, were critical for building national and regional criminal justice capacities. Timely responses were required to deal with specific hotspots of transnational organized crime, such as the seas plagued by piracy off the Horn of Africa and West Africa.

60. South Africa strongly supported UNDOC in its key role of coordinating Member States' efforts to ratify and implement the relevant international instruments. The international community must provide UNDOC with sustainable and predictable financial support to fulfil its mandate. The fight against crime and corruption was one of the priorities of his Government. South Africa had enacted legislation to give effect to its international obligations under United Nations conventions and protocols for combating transnational organized crime, human and drug trafficking and corruption. It was successfully fighting

corruption by means of a number of legislative and judicial initiatives, overseen by an inter-ministerial committee set up to eradicate the scourge. An inter-ministerial committee on combating substance abuse had been established to oversee national policy and prevention strategies.

61. Although the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora outlawed illegal trade in ivory, inter alia, South Africa and neighbouring countries continued to lose wildlife and endangered species, in particular the rhinoceros, at an alarming rate. The massive scale of illicit poaching and trade in wild fauna and flora underscored the need for international cooperation. The South African Government had taken a number of measures to address the problem domestically and to cooperate with other Governments in the region.

62. Within the framework of the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, an additional protocol to the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime should be elaborated, to provide maximum protection for wildlife and endangered species. It would further criminalize at the international level illicit trafficking in wildlife and endangered species, make it punishable by law, create mechanisms to combat impunity and set up an international monitoring mechanism for the Convention and the additional protocol.

63. **Ms. Grignon** (Kenya) said that crime and drugs continued to impede development in many countries, despite concerted efforts to combat rising crime levels and suppress the sale and distribution of drugs. In East Africa and the Horn of Africa region, the supply of illicit drugs destined for Europe and Asia was increasing. Those drugs not only posed dangers to public health and quality of life but also had a negative impact on political, economic and social stability. The international community must discuss new ways of dealing with those problems, examining the reasons for the growth in drugs production and consumption.

64. The Horn of Africa region was awash with small arms and light weapons produced elsewhere. Kenya continued to invest heavily in regional mechanisms for stemming their proliferation and had diverted enormous resources to strengthening its security apparatus. The capture in September 2012 of the Somali town of Kismayo from the Al-Shabaab terrorist group by Kenyan and African Union troops had

allowed the democratically elected Somali Government to take control. However, the ineffective response to the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons was affecting the whole region, as illustrated by the horrific attack recently carried out in Nairobi by Al-Shabaab.

65. Kenya welcomed the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty as means of stopping arms from reaching the illicit market. However, the best way to prevent poor young people in the region from listening to the Al-Shabaab message was economic empowerment. With its international partners Kenya had identified three ways in which the terrorist group was funded: the illegal trade in ivory, the diversion of international remittances and the theft of money intended for assisting communities. Kenya planned to hold a meeting of Governments and NGOs to devise and implement a global plan to end poaching. Her Government had recently passed comprehensive legislation against human trafficking, and was also instituting the widest ranging judicial reforms since its independence.

66. **Ms. Sandoval** (Nicaragua) said that her country was committed to attaining the goal of a Central American region free of crime and drugs, and would continue to strengthen the Central American Security Strategy to meet the region's needs. Nicaragua neither produced nor consumed drugs or weapons; it was merely a transit country and, despite its limited resources, had taken significant steps to fight organized crime. Thanks to national and regional efforts, inter alia to improve border security, combat drugs trafficking and enhance police cooperation, Nicaragua had become the safest country in the region.

67. Unlike those in neighbouring countries, young people in Nicaragua had been mobilized in social and economic movements that kept them away from drugs and crime while improving the lives of whole communities. Her Government offered free access to education and health, assisted families with energy and food, and improved infrastructure. A bilateral agreement had been signed with the Russian Federation to fight drug trafficking by means of exchange of information, technical assistance and equipment.

68. A new financial agreement had been signed between the European Commission and the National Police of Nicaragua to prevent and control organized crime and drug trafficking. The project focused on

regional efforts to prevent youth violence and drug abuse. 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.

69. **Mr. Raja Zaib Shah** (Malaysia) said that transnational crime was a global concern posing a genuine threat to national stability and security and affecting social, political and economic development. In line with the Work Programme 2013-2015 adopted at the ninth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime in September 2013, Malaysia's efforts were constantly reviewed to meet the growing challenges of transnational crime in eight priority areas: counter-terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, money laundering, sea piracy, arms smuggling, international economic crime and cybercrime.

70. His Government had made crime prevention one of its six National Key Result Areas. Malaysia had been ranked top among the upper-middle income countries and sixteenth globally in the Order and Security index, according to the World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2012-2013. Building on its encouraging outcomes from 2010 to 2012, his Government had launched the second phase of its transformation programme, with the aim of achieving 65 per cent in the public safety perception index by 2015.

71. Combating transnational crime required international cooperation through exchanges of information, capacity-building, mutual legal assistance and joint investigations. In addition to regional efforts with ASEAN and other partners, Malaysia had been enhancing its bilateral security cooperation. In 2012, it had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Singapore to combat the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, their analogues and precursor chemicals, and another with the United States of America on assistance in the field of transnational crime. Such cooperation would mutually benefit national agencies concerned with transnational crime and drug-related issues.

72. The global drug problem continued to pose a serious threat to public health, in particular for young people. The International Day against Drug Abuse and

Illicit Trafficking was observed every year on 26 June. Malaysia had fully supported the 2013 theme, "Make health your 'new high' in life, not drugs", in view of the importance of informing the public about the harmful effects of the new psychoactive substances, which were believed to be far more dangerous than traditional drugs and were sold openly, including on the Internet.

73. Malaysia faced three major drug-related challenges: drug smuggling for local consumption, domestic drug abuse and transit through Malaysia to third countries. Combating drug abuse had been a priority area for the Government, which had proclaimed it a threat to national security in 1983. The Government had been endeavouring to accelerate implementation of the National Anti-Doping Agency's Strategic Plan 2011-2015, with a view to stop the supply and demand of illicit drugs by combating illicit drugs while focusing on treatment and rehabilitation, law enforcement and international cooperation.

74. In the general debate many Member States had mentioned the challenges faced in the fight against drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking. Some Member States had called for a re-evaluation of existing international policies and the need to find more effective solutions, in terms of health, respect for human rights and impact reduction. Prevention was the best way to tackle illicit drugs and responsibility had to be shared, which required an effective and holistic approach through national, regional and multilateral efforts.

75. **Ms. Morgan** (Mexico) said that, despite the international community's efforts and the existing legal framework, the strategy implemented to address the global problem of drugs had not been effective enough. Existing policies had to be assessed, in particular with regard to demand for illicit substances. The Mexican Government had developed a comprehensive policy, focusing on prevention while maintaining and strengthening the rule of law. Her country supported the idea of a new global strategy worked out through an open and inclusive debate at the regional and global levels.

76. The special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016 should generate a new international consensus. Her delegation believed that the General Assembly itself should carry out the preparation for the session and would submit a

proposal in that regard as part of its omnibus draft resolution. The high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem would be an excellent starting point and provide important input for the session. Proper preparation of the special session was vital as the international community faced a global problem that needed to be addressed as a priority. The world drug problem affected millions of people and their families, in some cases threatening the very survival of States. The United Nations was the only institution able to implement strategies to deal successfully with organized crime.

77. **Mr. Ahmadu** (Nigeria) said that the fight against the production, cultivation, distribution, possession and use of illicit drugs was a priority for his Government. Acting through its National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, Nigeria had developed national drug control master plans in 1999 and 2008. Together with UNODC and the European Union, it had begun work on its third plan, based on the control of illicit and licit drug supply by means of an effective legal framework and the reduction of demand. The Agency had scored remarkable success in controlling illicit drug supplies through sustained interdiction, crop eradication and the prosecution of traffickers. It had also strengthened inter-agency cooperation, enhanced international collaboration and shared information and intelligence.

78. In 2012 and 2013, substantial volumes of narcotic drugs had been seized and over 2000 hectares of cannabis farms destroyed. Nigeria's aim was to ensure an adequate deterrent and proportionate punishment for offenders. Convicted drug offenders had been denied the proceeds of their crimes through robust anti-money laundering legislation and asset tracking and forfeiture. His country had also promoted international judicial cooperation on extradition, mutual legal assistance and transfer of proceedings.

79. Nigeria encouraged compliance with the international drug control treaties. The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control had adopted measures to limit the import, domestic manufacture, distribution, sale and use of narcotics and psychotropic substances to medical and scientific purposes and had embarked on capacity-building for stakeholders. His Government had introduced strategies for addressing different forms of drug abuse,

misuse and drug dependence. Awareness-raising programmes for different target groups were being implemented, and drug treatment services had been extended nationwide.

80. In Nigeria, cannabis had tended to be the only locally produced drug, but five methamphetamine production laboratories had recently been discovered and shut down, placing additional demands on law enforcement. Trafficking in methamphetamine had become a new threat owing to rising prices and demand on global markets. Local drug syndicates would probably devise ways of putting drugs on local markets, and young people remained their most vulnerable targets. Drug barons sponsored violence and terror using laundered drugs proceeds. The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency focused attention on prosecuting drug offenders, and all cases were diligently investigated and pursued to a logical conclusion.

81. Over the years, his country had secured an average annual conviction rate of 1,500. Nigeria would continue to respect the rule of law and ensure that justice was served. Since drug control called for international cooperation, it maintained a close working relationship with several countries, which had helped greatly to combat illicit trafficking. The Nigerian Government was committed to dismantling drug trafficking syndicates and would continue to fight money laundering together with the international community.

82. **Mr. Kasap** (Ukraine) said that transnational crime and drug trafficking posed a serious threat in a globalized world, with dangerous implications for domestic security, socioeconomic well-being and public health. While complying with its obligations under the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, Ukraine was deeply committed to upholding the rule of law and respecting international law. Ukraine appreciated the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the efforts made by UNODC to provide Member States with technical cooperation and advisory services. It welcomed the Secretary-General's initiative to establish the joint global focal point for the police, justice and corrections areas in the rule of law in post-conflict and other crisis situations, which should enable the United Nations to build civilian capacity following conflicts. Structural changes had been made to United

Nations entities but the implementation of their tasks needed to be made more effective.

83. Ukraine placed a high priority on the fight against transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, viewing them as security threats on a par with terrorism and illegal trafficking in weapons and nuclear materials. Deeply committed to promoting international and regional cooperation to that end, it believed that Member States should do more to exchange information, share experience and provide technical and expert assistance. His country already took full advantage of Interpol's global tools and services. With regard to regional cooperation, Ukraine's major partners in the field were Europol, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative, the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development-GUAM and CIS. Although that cooperation was efficient thanks to frequent contacts, there needed to be stronger international and regional cooperation among law enforcement agencies.

84. Noting with concern that new forms of transnational organized crime posed fresh challenges to criminal justice systems, he commended UNODC on its comprehensive study of cybercrime and supported its call for a stronger response by the international community and the private sector. In September 2013, leading Ukrainian scholars had given a presentation at United Nations Headquarters of the best practices in terms of technical capabilities for countering cybercrime. Ukraine was fully implementing the provisions of the Convention against Corruption and remained committed to the effective implementation of the recommendations contained in the Salvador Declaration, adopted at the Twelfth Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Welcoming the preparations for the Thirteenth Congress, his country recognized the importance of its potential contributions to the post-2015 development agenda.

85. Ukraine supported the enhanced cooperation within the framework of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and took an active part in related efforts. Trafficking was a key issue being addressed by OSCE under his country's chairmanship. With a view to securing maritime safety, Ukraine endeavoured to combat piracy at sea by reinforcing the mechanisms for prosecuting those responsible. It contributed to the safety and security of major maritime routes and international

trade with the active engagement of Ukrainian warships in the NATO counter-piracy mission in the Gulf of Aden and off the Horn of Africa.

86. The drug problem was a major challenge to the international community, negatively affecting socioeconomic development, public health, security and general well-being. Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem helped to make that cooperation more effective. In August 2013, Ukraine had adopted a new anti-drug strategy up to 2020, based on international treaties and human rights instruments. Its aim was to reduce illicit drug supply and demand, striking a balance between punishing trafficking and ensuring the availability of drugs for medical and scientific uses.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.