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## Third Committee

### Summary record of the 6th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 9 October 2014, at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Faye (Vice-Chair) . . . . . (Senegal)*Later:* Ms. Mesquita Borges . . . . . (Timor-Leste)

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Agenda item 105: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*)\*Agenda item 106: International drug control (*continued*)\*

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\* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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*The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.*

**Agenda item 105: Crime prevention and criminal justice** (*continued*) (A/69/86, A/69/88, A/69/89, A/69/92 and A/69/94)

**Agenda item 106: International drug control** (*continued*) (A/69/111 and A/69/87-E/2014/80)

1. **Mr. Yip** (Singapore) said that drug trafficking and abuse posed serious threats in his country, which was a major transport hub and well-connected to major drug production centres in the region. Singapore rejected the view expressed by a delegation at the previous meeting that drug-related crimes were not among the most serious crimes and that it was a matter of concern that some States applied the death penalty in such cases. That position had no basis under international law. Use of the death penalty and the types of crimes for which it was applied were matters of criminal justice that should be decided by the competent authorities of individual states, on the basis of their national circumstances.

2. Singapore's tough zero-tolerance stance against drug abuse had brought the drug and crime situation under control and the crime rate had reached a thirty-year low in 2013. It was simplistic to think that decriminalizing drugs would result in lower crime rates, cripple transnational organized crime networks and improve the quality of life of drug abusers. Drug abuse not only caused deaths but also frequently resulted in strained or abusive family relationships and created financial difficulties for the families of abusers. Those harmful effects on society should not be tolerated.

3. His country's approach to dealing with the drug problem was comprised of four key strategies: preventive education for young people; early intervention programmes for first-time drug abusers; effective rehabilitation for repeat drug offenders and their families; and strong enforcement and detection. Singapore remained fully committed to supporting and partnering Member States in the global fight against drug abuse.

4. **Mr. Patriota** (Brazil) said that efficient action against organized crime should encompass not only crime prevention, but also the promotion and protection of human rights and sustainable development. His delegation expected that the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime

Prevention and Criminal Justice would fully recognize the relationship between sustainable development and justice for all. The rule of law was a tool for the State to use to protect rights and promote equal access to justice, but the ways in which it was implemented in different countries would depend on their individual circumstances. Inclusive national ownership and policy space were key elements in that process.

5. Violence and crime were sometimes wrongly presented as the main drivers of underdevelopment, implying that instability emanated primarily from the poorest regions of the world. However, a serious approach should focus on the root causes of underdevelopment. At the same time, the fact that there was a nexus between transnational organized crime, sustainable development and human rights must not mean that only developing countries should be responsible for tackling the problem. He invited member States to work together in the context of the Thirteenth Congress, not only on how the post-2015 development agenda might contribute to crime prevention and criminal justice but also on how sustainable development might help combat transnational organized crime by mitigating the social determinants that allowed it to thrive.

6. The Thirteenth Congress should also consider the critical issue of cybercrime. The fluid nature of cyberspace and the lack of clear multilateral governance guidelines for the Internet meant that traditional judicial cooperation procedures for obtaining access to evidence were often ineffective. Developing countries were particularly vulnerable to asymmetrical cyberattacks, and Brazil welcomed the Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which provided a good basis for strengthening the international legal framework of the Internet. It was important to ensure that human rights, including the right to privacy, were respected in the digital age.

7. The convening of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016 would bring renewed momentum to the discussion of that issue. The principle of common and shared responsibilities was a core element of the drug debate, and no solution could be reached without the active engagement of the largest consumers of illicit drugs.

8. His country's drug legislation and policies had significantly evolved over the past decade to reflect its

understanding that drug use was a public health problem. It was committed not only to tackling organized crime, but also to strengthening prevention, care, treatment and social reintegration policies. Evidence-based demand reduction policies were needed, as well as efforts to improve public health and social services and counter the marginalization and stigmatization of drug users. It would also mean not incarcerating drug users. His country had also been making efforts to strengthen its multilateral, regional and subregional cooperation on the world drug problem, with a focus on South America.

9. **Mr. Dehghani** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the world's largest illicit opium producing hub in Afghanistan was on his country's eastern border, which made Iran a major impediment in the transit route of illicit drugs towards the West. His country had developed a strong counter-narcotics capability, spending millions of dollars on border control every year, and was responsible for 74 per cent of the world's opium seizures in 2014. Nevertheless, further investment and more sophisticated equipment would be needed in order to tackle the new regional challenge of drug trafficking through maritime routes.

10. Despite all barriers, especially the illegal sanctions imposed on the Iranian nation, the Islamic Republic of Iran had remained committed to the Political Declaration on the world drug problem. It had also been actively engaged in the UNODC country programme entitled "Technical Cooperation on Drugs and Crime in the Islamic Republic of Iran". In addition to its cooperation with Afghanistan and Pakistan in the Triangular Initiative, Iran had seized 7.5 tons of illicit drugs as a result of sharing intelligence with its maritime neighbours. Demand reduction programs were community based, with 80 per cent of harm reduction and treatment services being provided by Iranian non-governmental organizations.

11. The principle of shared responsibility had been well established in the Political Declaration and yet no action had been taken to provide affected countries with technical and financial assistance. The failure to act on that principle had led to an increase in drug cultivation and production over the past year. The international community should support alternative livelihood plans in Afghanistan. Modern equipment was needed at borders and checkpoints in view of the large volume of drugs being trafficked, and an international mechanism for timely online

communication should be established, as information- and intelligence-sharing between law enforcement agencies was still insufficient.

12. **Ms. Morgan** (Mexico) said that efforts made by individual States and the international community had not been sufficient to effectively tackle the complex world drug problem. The special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, to be convened in 2016, would therefore provide an important opportunity to reach agreements on comprehensive action, in accordance with the principle of shared responsibility. An objective discussion on new approaches to tackling the problem should take into account the realities of different countries. States, civil society, academics, United Nations agencies and regional organizations should all be involved in order to ensure that the debate was substantial, inclusive and transparent. The dialogue should include an analysis of health, social, economic and legal aspects and should stress the need to both reduce supply and demand and tackle violence and social exclusion.

13. Mexico was committed to reducing the effects of drugs on society through a strategy of prevention, protection, punishment and rehabilitation, and its long-term vision was centred on well-being and citizen's rights. Given that the ultimate aim of fighting the world drug problem was to ensure well-being, supply and demand reduction strategies should not cause more harm than the problem being addressed.

14. **Mr. Hilale** (Morocco) said that the issue of drug control deserved particular attention not only because of the challenges it presented to security, stability and sustainable development, but also because of the opportunities it offered to strengthen multilateral, regional and subregional cooperation. He called for a renewed commitment to cooperation in light of the links between transnational organized crime, terrorism, human trafficking and drug trafficking in a number of regions.

15. Morocco occupied a strategic geographical position and was committed to contributing to international efforts to combat the drug problem and activities that supported it. Policies should include strategies for demand reduction that targeted addicts; better sharing of information and best practices for supply reduction; and measures to promote economic development and alternative crop cultivation through North-South and South-South development programs.

16. National law enforcement services must find immediate, effective responses in keeping with the rule of law to deal with transnational criminal networks, which were using increasingly sophisticated financing and operation systems and covering larger areas. National strategies must combine law enforcement and prevention efforts. Morocco had developed a comprehensive strategy to fight terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking which had strengthened its judicial system through legislative and institutional reforms.

17. National strategies would not be comprehensive unless they were backed by inclusive international, regional and subregional cooperation. The alarming increase in organized crime in parts of Africa and its links with terrorism and armed rebellion should make those regions a priority for the international community. Morocco was continuing to develop collaborative initiatives focused on human development in Africa and was committed to supporting the Sahel countries and their place within the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Morocco wished to revitalize cooperation in the Sahel and re-launch the Conference of African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean.

18. The United Nations system was helping African States to combat destabilizing criminal activities. His country commended the capacity-building activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in African States and called for greater support for the strengthening of regional, subregional and interregional cooperation.

19. **Mr. Chir** (Algeria) said that the complexity of organized crime required an integrated approach and close cooperation at all levels. Repressive measures alone would not deal with the underlying socioeconomic factors; fighting poverty and promoting social inclusion were equally important. His country called for universal participation in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and would welcome the establishment of a review mechanism for the Convention and its protocols.

20. Algeria lauded the efforts made by African leaders in response to those challenges, noting that several African States had had to divert significant resources from their human development budgets to strengthen public safety. The Government reiterated its commitment to fighting transnational crime through

information exchange, mutual legal assistance and extradition.

21. Algeria's five-year strategic plan to counter illicit drugs was based on prevention (including awareness campaigns and youth-focused activities), treatment and repression. Legislation provided for the suspension of legal proceedings in the case of addicts who underwent treatment.

22. Human trafficking was another organized criminal activity with significant security and development implications. Algeria supported the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and had introduced legislation to support victims of human trafficking.

23. Terrorism was another major challenge requiring a global response. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy would not be complete without the successful conclusion of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

24. **Mr. Ruiz** (Colombia) said that conflicts around the world were being fuelled by the drug trade. An open, participative, transparent and ideology-free debate was needed, and new and holistic ways of combatting the drug trade, with well-being as the central focus, should be explored. The Organization of American States had recently adopted a document that set out the consensus of States in the region for developing and implementing comprehensive strategies to tackle the world drug problem. Agreements on new focus areas had been reached, and there was sufficient flexibility so that each country could develop policies suited to its particular context. Human rights should also be taken into account when developing policies, including the possibility of alternatives to incarceration for low-level offenders, especially consumers.

25. It was important for all States, the United Nations, international financial institutions, international organizations, civil society, the private sector, the media and researchers to be involved in the discussions leading up to the special session of the General Assembly in 2016.

26. **Mr. Raja Zaib Shah** (Malaysia) said that violent extremism and religious intolerance contributed to acts of terrorism and, to a certain extent, transnational crime, both of which were a threat to social, political and economic development. Priority areas for Malaysia's crime prevention efforts included terrorism,

drug trafficking, human trafficking, money-laundering, sea piracy, arms smuggling, international economic crime and cybercrime. Transnational crime needed to be addressed in a more comprehensive manner, by strengthening the capacity of law enforcement agencies and enhancing inter-agency cooperation. Information exchange between States (on the basis of necessity and reciprocity), capacity-building, mutual legal assistance and joint investigations were key issues. His country was cooperating with many other countries, and had recently signed a memorandum of understanding with Canada to facilitate cooperation on trafficking in persons and maritime security and a memorandum of understanding with Singapore to increase cooperation on drug-related issues.

27. The need for effective international action was particularly great with respect to combatting terrorism. The approach should include action to address the underlying contributing factors, strict enforcement measures, legislative measures, capacity-building for law enforcement agencies and enhancement of inter-agency cooperation. Malaysia's national directive on handling and managing terrorist crises established links between the military, the police and other civilian authorities.

28. Drug trafficking was a threat to countries' social and economic structures, and was particularly challenging in South-East Asia owing to proximity to the world's main opium-producing region. Measures to control drug trafficking were best carried out through concerted international efforts, which should include technical assistance and capacity-building programmes to provide alternative sources of income in drug-producing regions. In Malaysia, the three major drug-related problems were smuggling for local consumption, drug abuse by the population and the transit of drugs through the country. The government had established a national anti-doping strategic plan for 2011-2015, building on the national drug policy established in 1996.

29. He urged Member States to take a balanced and holistic approach to combatting transnational crime, particularly terrorism and drug trafficking, through national, regional and multilateral efforts that nevertheless respected differences in national policies and contexts.

30. **Mr. Mahmadaminov** (Tajikistan) said that drug trafficking was a breeding ground for terrorism and

international organized crime and that national and regional efforts should be integrated into a comprehensive international narcotics control strategy, while the United Nations should coordinate a global system of international cooperation. Tajikistan had adopted an anti-drug strategy that included short-term and long-term programmes and bilateral and multilateral collaboration. Working with Afghanistan in combatting drug trafficking was particularly important. A regional antinarcotics conference would be held in Dushanbe in 2015 to develop proposals that would contribute to a modern international policy on combatting the drug trade.

31. **Mr. Abubaker** (Libya) said that developing countries would require technical assistance in order to accede to the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and other relevant instruments and to implement them at the national level. Noting the link between illicit drug cultivation and trafficking and poverty, particularly in developing countries, he called on the international community to help those countries put an end to drug production and find alternative sources of income. While it was not a drug-producing country, Libya remained vulnerable to smuggling on account of its geographical situation. His Government had enacted legislation criminalizing activities related to drug trafficking and had established preventive programmes, including awareness-raising campaigns aimed at families and the young. Libya was committed to enhancing cooperation with all regional and international entities involved in anti-drug efforts. In that regard, it had also concluded bilateral agreements with a number of countries.

32. A party to the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols, and the Convention against Corruption, Libya had enacted criminal legislation in accordance with those instruments. In closing, his Government called on donor countries and global financial institutions to extend support to developing countries in order to enable them to develop their institutions and agencies to combat the various forms of crime.

33. **Mr. Al-Dai** (Kuwait) said that his country had acceded to the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air in 2006. In 2013 Kuwait had issued an anti-

corruption and wealth disclosure decree and established an anti-corruption authority. In addition, a decree combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism had been enacted, and a financial intelligence unit had been created within the Central Bank, in accordance with the Convention against Corruption, which Kuwait had ratified.

34. Kuwait urged the international community to take measures to combat the illicit drug trade, including by enlarging the scope of alternative development programmes to ensure that illicit crops were not cultivated and to improve the socioeconomic situation of those regions. It had ratified several international conventions on illicit drugs, and while no illicit drugs were produced on Kuwaiti soil, his Government was tackling drug smuggling and abuse. National efforts to combat drug abuse included annual education campaigns targeting the young on the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the establishment of a centre to treat drug addiction and the launch of a national awareness project for schools, universities and mosques. Those efforts, led by the National Anti-Drug Commission, had resulted in a significant decline in illicit drug use between 2010 and 2013. Moreover, drug-related crimes had declined by 7.2 per cent and drug-related deaths by 30 per cent.

35. **Mr. Khan** (Pakistan) said that the world drug problem needed careful consideration in the crafting of the post-2015 development agenda, as drug abuse damaged public health and destroyed the social fabric, while narcotics smuggling promoted crime and corruption. Pakistan had retained its zero poppy-cultivation status in 2013, but the 36 per cent increase in poppy cultivation in the region was a matter of concern and, as a transit country, Pakistan was prone to the destructive and destabilizing impact of drug abuse and narcotics smuggling.

36. The Government of Pakistan took the challenge very seriously. Its counter-narcotics agencies maintained a robust level of operational preparedness and cooperated closely with international agencies and other countries in the region. In 2013 seizures of illegal drugs in Pakistan had increased significantly, and the agencies had helped secure the seizure of significant volumes in other countries as well. The world drug problem could not be controlled, however, without also addressing demand. Increased demand for drugs and financial transfers from the developed world stimulated production in developing countries, and the recent

trend towards the legalization of narcotic drugs in some countries could further drive up demand.

37. Pakistan attached great importance to coordination with other countries and cooperation with the pertinent international bodies in the fight against drugs and organized crime, which called for an integrated and comprehensive strategic response at the international level. Pakistan was party to all the United Nations drug control conventions and an active partner in the Paris Pact Initiative, the Triangular Initiative and the regional programme for Afghanistan and the neighbouring countries. The lead role played by UNODC was appreciated, as was the valuable technical assistance it had provided to Pakistan. To perform its role effectively, UNODC must be provided with the financial and human resources it required for its global operations.

38. **Mr. Seck** (Senegal) said that West Africa was an area particularly vulnerable to illicit trafficking. Porous borders and political instability were contributors to instability in the region. According to the UNODC World Drug Report 2013, more than 50 tons of cocaine passed through West Africa every year to European cities, where it had a resale value of 2 billion dollars. Such income enabled criminal organizations to finance terrorist activities in West Africa and the Sahel.

39. With the adoption of the ECOWAS Political Declaration on the Prevention of Drug Abuse, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime in West Africa and the Regional Response Action Plan in 2008, West African States had established a cooperation mechanism in order to tackle illicit trafficking. Senegal invited UNODC to continue to assist ECOWAS member States with implementation of the Regional Programme for West Africa 2010-2014. Financial support for the programme should be increased in order to integrate it into national programmes. The trials initiated by UNODC through the West Africa Coast Initiative should be extended to all countries in the subregion in order to suppress infiltration networks.

40. Senegal had strengthened the capacity of the relevant institutions and had streamlined community efforts by organizing regional conferences on harmonizing the legislation of West African and Sahel States on combating drugs. However, strategies must also be developed to tackle the underlying causes of

vulnerability in certain countries, such as poverty, underdevelopment and political and social instability.

41. Emphasizing the need for a global and coordinated response to the scourge, Senegal welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to establish the United Nations Task Force on Transnational Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking and called on all States, international organizations and civil society to play an active role in preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in April 2015 in Doha. The international community should strengthen information exchange systems and stakeholders' capacities, as well as reform security and justice sectors in order to respond to the challenge.

42. **Ms. Ibrahim** (Ethiopia) said that heinous crimes, such as human trafficking, drug trafficking, corruption, terrorism and transnational organized crimes, were a serious challenge to humanity and required a coordinated international response. Ethiopia had adopted appropriate legislation and administrative mechanisms to implement its Democratic System Building Policy including the Criminal Justice Policy, which ensured that transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism were the prime focus of the criminal justice system. The police, public prosecutors and the judiciary collaborated and worked together to fight those crimes and punish the perpetrators in a timely manner. The policy identified the main areas for international cooperation: the investigation and prosecution of criminal cases involving transnational organized crime that were brought before courts of other States, victim and witness protection, transfer of sentenced persons, extradition, mutual legal assistance and confiscation and return of the proceeds of crimes.

43. The Government had paid particular attention to combating human trafficking, putting in place a domestic legal framework and acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. Fully aware that poverty, unemployment and lack of socioeconomic opportunities were the contributing factors that made Ethiopians vulnerable to trafficking, the Government had focused its economic growth and development policies on poverty eradication, job creation, democratization and good governance.

44. The establishment by the Government of the Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission several years previously was testimony to its firm commitment to fighting corruption. The Commission was carrying out awareness-raising programmes aimed at establishing zero tolerance to corruption, and it was bringing perpetrators of corruption to justice. Ethiopia was also a party to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and was committed to its implementation.

45. **Mr. Meza-Cuadra** (Peru) said that Peru had suffered the violence and social upheaval generated by the illicit use, production and trafficking of drugs and was firmly committed to implementing effective policies to address the problem. The country's national strategy to combat drugs for 2012-2016 had already drastically reduced both drug trafficking and consumption, as well as their negative consequences, and had succeeded in integrating former producers of illegal crops into the licit economy.

46. The national strategy included actions to promote alternative sustainable development, prevent and treat drug abuse, link international cooperation and national efforts and steadily increase the pertinent budget. By those means, Peru had managed to reduce illegal coca production by a record 17.5 per cent in 2013, making the country the first in the Andean region to report an exponential increase in the reduction of illegal coca crops. Furthermore, for the first time, alternative crops exceeded illicit ones in Peru. In parallel, the social, economic and environmental situation of the population had improved thanks to comprehensive post-eradication plans that included State investment in health and education services, as well as the environment, and the promotion of social inclusion.

47. Tackling the complex challenges posed by the world drug problem, corruption and money-laundering was beyond the scope of individual States; it required the collective action of all Governments in coordination with the pertinent international agencies. Cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking should be at the centre of the agendas of all developed countries, in keeping with the principle of shared responsibility.

48. **Mr. Sin** (Myanmar) said that the global menace posed by illicit drugs had increased since the problem had become closely linked to other transnational crimes, including terrorism. It was a challenge that

could be met only by increasing regional and international cooperation and improving the coordination of technical and financial assistance, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility. In that regard, his delegation welcomed the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs issued on 14 March 2014.

49. It was discouraging to learn from the Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation against the world drug problem (A/69/111) that illicit opium poppy cultivation in 2013 was at its highest level since 1998. Even more concerted efforts must be made by the entire international community in the war on drugs, more international support must be given to sustainable alternative development programmes, and serious supply-reduction efforts must be complemented by equally serious demand-reduction policies.

50. The Government of Myanmar was working to raise living standards in the border areas of the country as part of its efforts to eradicate illicit narcotics and the cultivation of opium poppies. It was also addressing both the supply and demand for drugs and boosting law enforcement. Measures included the provision of alternative livelihoods to opium poppy farmers and the increase of anti-narcotics police units from 26 to 50. As a result, in 2013 alone, there had been over 4,000 cases of drug-related offences, large quantities of narcotic drugs had been seized, and over 7,000 persons had been apprehended for drug-related crimes. In addition, 12,700 hectares of poppy crops had been destroyed and, as a reflection of the country's commitment to the war on drugs, seized drugs valued at \$130 million had been destroyed to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in June 2014.

51. Myanmar was now combating the growing threat of amphetamine-type stimulants. At the regional level, the Government was working with other States members of ASEAN to reach their common goal of making the region free from drugs by 2015. In its efforts to tackle major crime, the Government of Myanmar had established a 15-member anti-money laundering board and signed a landmark agreement with UNODC to collaborate on major drug and crime issues and on strengthening the rule of law.

52. **Ms. Belskaya** (Belarus) said that the number of crimes perpetrated in her country had fallen by 5.3 per

cent in 2013 compared with 2012 as a result of the measures taken by Belarus to fulfil its international obligations under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The programme for combating crime and corruption over the period 2013–2015 ensured efficient coordination and planning by the state bodies responsible for fighting crime, corruption, human trafficking, illegal migration and drug trafficking. A review of the implementation of the obligations of Belarus under the Convention against Corruption was underway. Belarus had also acceded to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and the Convention had entered into force in Belarus on 1 March 2014.

53. As the main sponsor of General Assembly resolution 68/192 on improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons, Belarus was keen for its provisions to be implemented in a timely manner, including through the preparation and submission of a separate report on implementation. Belarus hoped that the report would reflect the role of all Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons partners in adopting measures to combat trafficking in persons during the period under review.

54. Belarus expressed gratitude to all States that had co-authored resolution 23/2 on preventing and combating trafficking in human organs and trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal, which had been adopted during the twenty-third session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Under that resolution, the Commission had requested UNODC to conduct a study on trafficking in human organs for consideration at its twenty-fifth session in 2016. Belarus hoped that the findings would be disclosed in the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons to be presented by UNODC at the end of 2014.

55. **Mr. Al-Hamadi** (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 the relevant Qatari authorities, in accordance with its international obligations, and had established institutions to enhance its efforts in that regard.

56. In 2015, Qatar would host the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which would bring together heads of State and Government and policymakers with a view to combating the growing challenges posed by organized crime, drugs and terrorism and promote a more just and safer world. In cooperation with UNODC, his Government was overseeing the preparations for the Congress, which had included a meeting of representatives from Member States and Qatari Government officials in Doha in September 2014. His delegation commended the role of the Office in strengthening criminal justice systems and supporting countries in combating transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism. In closing, he stressed that Qatar would spare no effort in ensuring the success of the forthcoming Congress, and he underscored the importance of integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the post-2015 development agenda.

57. *Ms. Mesquita Borges (Timor-Leste) took the Chair.*

58. **Mr. Lasso Mendoza** (Ecuador) said that the traditional international strategy for combating the world drug problem had clearly not produced the desired results. The regional and international context had generated and was now worsening the drug problem, and Ecuador, despite being a transit rather than a producer country, was suffering the consequences. Ecuador had nevertheless, in proportional terms, recorded the second highest level of drug seizures in the world.

59. In its fight against illegal drugs, Ecuador had moved away from a purely punitive approach towards one based on the individual and respect for human rights. Prohibitionist policies, promoted by hegemonic interests, only generated violence and death in developing countries and must be halted. The countries with the highest levels of drug consumption must boost their efforts and assume responsibility for the role they played in perpetuating the problem. The international community should, as a matter of urgency, implement strategies that focused on health and drug-abuse

prevention. The special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, to be held in 2016, as proposed by Mexico, should be seized as an opportunity for open and inclusive talks aimed at crafting a new global strategy for tackling the problem.

60. The strategy presently pursued by the United Nations would not achieve solid results as long as it maintained its current biased approach. His delegation wished to remind Member States that the Plurinational State of Bolivia had the right to defend the traditional, harmless use of coca leaves, which should be recognized as an expression of Bolivian culture and respected by the international community. The persecution of countries from the South must end: it distracted attention from the real issue.

61. **Archbishop Auza** (Permanent Observer for the Holy See) said that preventing and fighting the consumption of drugs was key to preventing and fighting the production and trafficking of illicit drugs. The Holy See would not cease to underline the irreplaceable role of the family as the cornerstone of prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, reintegration and health strategies related to drug addiction. Any policy that promoted the family also promoted the prevention of both trafficking and consumption of illicit drugs.

62. The Holy See underscored with special concern the ever more obvious links of the illicit drug trade to trafficking in persons, the proliferation of illicit small arms, money-laundering, organized crime and terrorism. It urged greater international cooperation to consolidate the progress made in the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons.

63. Countries and populations afflicted by poverty were particularly vulnerable to the devastating effects of drug trafficking and related crimes, and the Holy See appreciated the efforts of developing countries that provided farming families with real alternatives to drug-related crops.

64. **Mr. Zambrana** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that since the Plurinational State of Bolivia had achieved economic and political autonomy in its fight against drug trafficking, it had shifted its focus from social to criminal organizations, and the levels of seizures and arrests were far higher than when the United States Drug Enforcement Administration had operated in the country. Police action had expanded in geographical scope and no longer targeted only the coca-leaf producers of Cochabamba. Cooperation at

the international level, especially with neighbouring countries, had increased. As a result, coca crop reduction had reached a record high without there being any bloodshed, thanks to the demarcation of legal coca production zones and the use of a participative, rights-based and environmentally sound approach.

65. The 2013 report of the Organization of American States “The Drug Problem in the Americas” had recognized citizens’ ownership of efforts to reduce coca production as good practice for tackling drug problems in a manner that took account of the local context. Furthermore, as of June 2013, the country was no longer listed by the Financial Action Task Force as having “dark grey” status in relation to the global fight against money laundering and terrorist financing, and as of December that same year it had ceased to be subject to the “intensive monitoring” process of the South American Financial Action Task Force.

66. According to United Nations figures, the number of hectares planted with coca in the Plurinational State of Bolivia had shrunk by 26 per cent in 2010-2013 and fallen to the lowest level since 2003, which was proof of the country’s ongoing commitment to reduction efforts. In addition, seizures of illegal drugs had increased threefold during the six years that President Morales had been in office. In the first six months alone of 2014, over 12 tons of cocaine and 6 tons of marihuana had been seized and incinerated. Despite those tangible results, the current United States Government had, for strictly political reasons, criticized the country’s efforts, whereas the international community had commended them. The Plurinational State of Bolivia nevertheless remained committed to the fight against the global drug problem, organized crime and corruption and had prepared a national five-year plan to tackle demand for drugs that had been praised as meeting international standards by the UNODC representative in the country, Mr. Antonino De Leo.

67. The chewing of coca leaves was an age-old ancestral practice of the indigenous peoples of the Andes and the Amazon, as well as part of his country’s history and cultural identity. In 2013 the Plurinational State of Bolivia had again acceded to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, with a single reservation that reserved the right to allow in its territory the use of the coca leaf for cultural and medicinal purposes. The

international community’s acceptance of that reservation had repaired the deep injustice committed against a tradition that harmed nobody and was part of the country’s indigenous heritage. His country reaffirmed its commitment to the process of decriminalizing the use of coca leaves and removing them from the list of Schedule I drugs. It also reaffirmed its commitment to the international fight against drug trafficking and the surplus production of coca leaves and would do everything necessary to implement the measures and achieve the objectives set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. In that regard, further action was needed to eliminate banking secrecy and “tax havens” so that the various instruments prepared by UNODC could be applied worldwide and a truly effective international fight could be waged against drug trafficking and money-laundering.

68. **Mr. Kihurani** (Kenya) said that Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa had witnessed an increase in the supply of illicit drugs destined for Europe and Asia. The fight-back strategies had not been very successful and it was imperative that the regions discuss a completely new approach to dealing with those problems. There was a need to examine the reasons for the increasing production and consumption of drugs in source and destination countries.

69. Kenya continued to invest heavily in the regional mechanisms established to stem the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and had diverted enormous resources to strengthening its security apparatus. Those measures had resulted in positive developments, such as the removal of Al-Shabaab from Kismayo, which was Somalia’s major port and had been a crucial source of funding for terrorists, in September 2013 and the capture of the port of Barawa from Al-Shabaab in 2014. The international community must do more to stem the flow of deadly weapons and eliminate terrorist activities. Former members of Al-Shabaab had been persuaded to join by offers of money or the simple promise of a daily meal. It was therefore equally important to address poverty and empower young people in the region who might otherwise be vulnerable to the Al-Shabaab ideology. Kenya and its international partners had identified three routes of funding for Al-Shabaab: the illegal ivory trade, the diversion of international remittances

and the theft of money intended for communities. In the coming months, Kenya would seek to bring Governments and non-governmental organizations together to devise and implement a global plan to end poaching, which endangered wildlife and bankrolled terrorist attacks.

70. The rule of law was the bedrock of peaceful coexistence and sustainable development in any society. Kenya had therefore implemented wide-ranging judicial reforms since independence in order to promote high standards of conduct and discipline among judicial officers, address the backlog of cases, improve administration and enhance performance and accountability. The reforms had culminated in the vetting of all judicial officers to determine their suitability to hold office. For the first time, all judicial positions had been advertised in the media and a rigorous recruitment process had been conducted by an independent panel that included representatives from a cross section of stakeholders. As a result, Kenya had an independent and effective judiciary.

71. The Government had promoted women's leadership within the Kenya National Police Service, increasing the number of women in police and other security organs. It had also supported the development of policies, action plans and initiatives focused on responding to the security needs of women and girls. There were also programmes to secure women's participation in the community policing committees and in the Nyumba Kumi initiative that sought to address issues of terrorism and radicalization and ensure accountability within and among communities.

72. The Government had recently passed comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation to improve measures for prevention and victim protection. The stringent minimum 30-year sentence for perpetrators of human trafficking was expected to serve as a serious deterrent.

73. **Mr. Emuze** (Nigeria) said that Nigeria had deepened its commitment to the fight against illicit drug cultivation, trafficking and use by strengthening the relevant government agencies through increased funding, legislative reviews and enhanced personnel training. The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) had taken bold steps to eradicate drug trafficking and the demand for narcotic drugs and other psychotropic substances.

74. The emergence of clandestine laboratories for the production of methamphetamines had presented a fresh challenge to Nigeria's drug control efforts and posed a threat to the entire world. NDLEA had discovered and shut down six clandestine methamphetamine laboratories in Nigeria, and the authorities had apprehended and prosecuted 13 persons in connection with those laboratories. NDLEA, in partnership with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and the UK National Crime Agency, had made significant progress in covert operations to track any other clandestine laboratories. The Nigerian Government was working assiduously to support those efforts and was conducting specialized training for forensic officials.

75. Illicit drug cartels were targeting West Africa for methamphetamine production and recruiting unemployed youths as couriers. An effective way to counter that deadly trend was to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals. A joint monitoring team comprising officials from NDLEA and the National Agency for Food Drug Administration and Control monitored the activities of licensed importers of those chemicals.

76. Capacity-building and global collaboration with other nations in the fight against illicit drugs had remained the major focus for Nigeria. However, it was also important to consider the national context of the phenomenon in each State, particularly those in Africa.

77. **Mr. Mahmoud** (Egypt) said that it was imperative to intensify cooperation and coordination efforts to eliminate the support provided to terrorist organizations. His delegation noted with appreciation the role of UNODC in assisting several countries in the Middle East and North Africa with capacity-building in the field of criminal justice. UNODC should be provided with adequate, predictable and stable resources, including additional regular budget resources as well as voluntary contributions, to enable it to respond effectively to the increasing demand for technical assistance. It was also important to establish a transparent, efficient, inclusive and impartial mechanism to review the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols with the aim of assisting States parties in its implementation. His delegation commended the technical assistance provided by UNODC, in particular through its regional office in

Cairo, in the areas of trafficking in persons, drug addiction, corruption and juvenile justice.

78. Following the adoption of the European Parliament resolution in May 2013 on asset recovery by Arab countries in transition, he looked forward to effective cooperation in the repatriation of illegally acquired funds that had been transferred out of Egypt. His delegation urged the international community to stand firmly against trafficking in cultural property and take appropriate measures to restore Egypt's looted historical antiquities in accordance with the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.

79. It was important to set priorities and actions to be achieved before the meeting on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons in 2016 and there should be an increased focus on prevention, assistance for victims, management of resources, fundraising, data collection and analysis, in addition to partnerships with relevant stakeholders. In the context of preparations for the convening of the first regional conference on trafficking in persons in the Horn of Africa from 13 to 16 October 2014 in Khartoum, there was a need for an African regional mechanism to deal with trafficking in persons.

80. Drugs were a major concern for his Government, as they threatened national security and the lives of Egyptians, especially the youth. Egypt therefore applied the death penalty for drug-related crimes and would continue to do so.

81. **Mr. Nina** (Albania) said that Albania's approach to trafficking was based on the human rights of the victims and focused on prevention, prosecution of perpetrators and protection of victims, in accordance with the Palermo Protocol and the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. Amendments had been made to criminal legislation and to the Law on Legal Aid, thereby ensuring better access to justice for victims of domestic violence and victims of trafficking. Work was continuing on the drafting of the new National Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2017 to combat trafficking in human beings.

82. Trafficking in human beings was often a transnational criminal activity perpetrated by organized networks which adapted rapidly to change and used

very sophisticated technologies. Actions to combat that scourge should therefore also make use of those technologies. The Ministry of Internal Affairs had therefore launched the project "Addressing Trafficking in Persons through Mobile Technology Solutions" in March 2014. The smartphone application "Report and Save" had been developed with a view to raising public awareness of trafficking in persons, increasing partnership with communities, increasing the number of initial identifications of potential trafficking victims and providing quick access to assistance and information. The office of the coordinator against human trafficking was working on a draft document to address the recommendations contained in the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons and implement the Global Plan of Action.

83. The Government of Albania had recently adopted legislation to combat organized crime, introducing harsher punishment for perpetrators. It had stepped up its efforts in the fight against illegal production and distribution of cannabis. Since March 2014, over 2,000 plots of land used for narcotics cultivation had been completely destroyed. A total of 1,918 persons had been prosecuted, with 1,058 of them under arrest and 604 set free on bail, while a search was underway for 187 individuals. A total of 41 criminal groups had been dismantled. The end result was that Albania was no longer a country of origin for the illegal production of cannabis.

84. **Mr. Pavlichenko** (Ukraine), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his delegation wished to disassociate itself from the statement delivered at the previous meeting by the representative of Belarus on behalf of the presidency of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Ukraine had officially notified CIS that it did not recognize the capacity of the CIS presidency to represent the interests of the Commonwealth in contacts with international organizations. Ukraine did not recognize CIS as an international organization and did not coordinate its foreign policy with that regional formation. The Ukrainian delegation aligned itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union at the previous meeting.

*The meeting rose at 6.00 p.m.*