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Draft report

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Addendum

Follow-up to the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

1. At its 5th meeting, on 26 April 2006, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice considered agenda item 5, entitled "Follow-up to the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice". For its discussion of the item, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/CN.15/2006/7).

2. The Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs of UNODC made an introductory statement. The Commission also heard statements by the observer for Panama (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), the representatives of Japan, the Republic of Korea, Canada, Thailand, the United States, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Brazil and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Statements were also made by the observers for Liechtenstein, Algeria, Qatar and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The observers for the Penal Reform International, the World Society of Victimology and the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation also made statements.

Deliberations

3. The Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs expressed her sincere gratitude to Member States, participating organizations and experts for their commitment and hard work, which had made possible the success of the Eleventh United Nations



Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Bangkok from 18 to 25 April 2005. She thanked in particular the host of the Eleventh Congress, the Government of Thailand, for the great efforts made in organizing the Congress and the wonderful hospitality. The Director noted the importance of follow-up to the Congress, in particular the Bangkok Declaration on Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, adopted at the high-level segment of the Eleventh Congress (A/CONF.203/18, chap. I, resolution 1), and drew the attention of the participants to the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.15/2006/7), in which possible options for follow-up were outlined, which had been discussed by the Commission at its fourteenth session.

4. Speakers expressed their profound appreciation for the hospitality, style and kindness with which participants at the Eleventh Congress had been received by the people and the Government of Thailand and its outstanding organization. They highlighted the importance of the recommendations of the Eleventh Congress in guiding the direction the international community should take with respect to crime prevention and criminal justice. The Bangkok Declaration manifested the shared political commitment to build a strategic alliance in crime prevention and criminal justice and speakers expressed appreciation for its approval by the Economic and Social Council and later endorsement by the General Assembly.

5. Some speakers noted the complementary roles of the congresses and the Commission. They emphasized that the revitalization of the Commission could not be discussed without recognizing the important contribution made by the congresses. Every five years the congresses brought together large groups from the entire criminal justice community to examine long-term crime patterns and trends and to discuss the reactions of the international community, whereas the Commission, with its annual sessions, was the United Nations policy-making body in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice able to take practical and timely decisions, including on emerging crime-related matters.

6. Discussions took place with respect to the methodology to be used when reviewing the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration. Some speakers made specific proposals on the issue of follow-up to the Bangkok Declaration. While some speakers felt that action plans and questionnaires should be prepared and administered by the Secretariat on priority aspects of the Bangkok Declaration, the view was also expressed that the issuing of further questionnaires for completion by Member States would result in low response rates and, in turn, limit their value in analysing global efforts by Member States. Other speakers proposed instead to use the resolutions adopted by the Commission for the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on specific issues of priority concern for the purpose of providing follow-up.

7. The Government of Thailand proposed as a way forward that an intergovernmental group of experts with equitable geographical representation be convened to discuss the best ways to operationalize the recommendations set forth in the Bangkok Declaration and to identify priority areas for UNODC. Many speakers expressed support for the Thai initiative. It was emphasized that the proposed group should also consider the issue of methodology for congress follow-up so as to set a clear standard practice for future congresses. The Commission at its next session would consider the outcome of the expert group. A number of speakers supported the proposal, noting that such an expert group could develop mechanisms

for follow-up to forthcoming congresses. One speaker expressed the view that such an expert group might not be opportune as this should be a matter that the Commission should take up itself as soon as possible following the Eleventh Congress, preferably at its current or next session.

8. Representatives reported on national progress made with respect to implementation of the Bangkok Declaration. Particular reference was made to the ratification and implementation of the international instruments against transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism. In that context, promoting international cooperation in criminal matters was identified as a critical issue to be addressed by Member States and the Commission. Representatives of many States reported on their efforts to promote international cooperation, in particular in extradition, mutual legal assistance and asset forfeiture, at the bilateral, regional and international levels. Increased cooperation between law enforcement agencies and financial intelligence units was also mentioned. Some speakers reported on training courses organized on specific aspects of the Bangkok Declaration. The need for strong domestic efforts to protect and support victims and witnesses of crime was emphasized by several representatives, while others referred to their action to combat newly emerging forms of crime, such as cybercrime.

9. While States should continue their efforts to ratify the international legal instruments against transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism, the need to put in place effective mechanisms for their implementation in particular was emphasized by many speakers. In that regard many representatives underlined the importance of providing technical assistance to developing countries, countries with economies in transition and countries emerging from conflict, in order to build national capacity to tackle problems related to crime. It was noted that UNODC needed to be furnished with the resources necessary to provide such assistance, in particular in support of ratification and implementation of the international instruments against transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism.

10. Brazil and Qatar reiterated their respective offers to host the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in 2010.
