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Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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Draft report

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Addendum

United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice

1. At its 6th meeting, on 16 April 2008, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice considered agenda item 5, which read as follows:

“United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice:

“(a) Follow-up to the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

“(b) Preparations for the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.”

2. 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 and preparations for the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/CN.15/2008/14).

3. The Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) made an introductory statement. The Commission also heard statements by the representatives of Brazil, Canada, the United States, the Republic of Korea and Indonesia. The observer for Thailand also made a statement. Statements were also made by the observers for the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation, the World Society of Victimology and the World Federation of United Nations Associations (who spoke also on behalf of the Academic Council on the United Nations System).

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A. Deliberations

4. In her introductory statement, the Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs recalled that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2006/26 of 27 July 2006 had reiterated its invitation to Governments to implement the outcome of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and had requested UNODC to convene an intergovernmental group of experts to accumulate and consider lessons learned from past congresses with a view to developing a methodology for capturing lessons learned for future congresses. She noted that the General Assembly, in its resolution 62/173 of 18 December 2007, had taken note of the report on the meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Lessons Learned from United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held in Bangkok from 15 to 18 August 2006 and had endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Group of Experts (E/CN.15/2007/6, paras. 35-47). She also recalled the work of the informal, open-ended working group on preparations for the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. She gave a brief account of the preparations for the Twelfth Congress to be undertaken by the Secretariat, such as the preparations for the regional preparatory meetings and the discussion guide, consultations with the Government of Brazil and the establishment of a UNODC coordination group.

5. The representative of Brazil reported that Salvador, Brazil, had been chosen as the venue of the Twelfth Congress owing to its extensive accommodation, transport and convention infrastructure, as well as its importance for having been the first capital of Brazil and the fact that it had been included on the World Heritage List. He underlined the importance of identifying possible topics for discussion at the Twelfth Congress. He gave a brief account of the preparations made to date by his Government.

6. Several speakers expressed their Governments' appreciation to the Government of Brazil for its decision to host the Twelfth Congress and expressed their Governments' full support to that Government. Several speakers also expressed their Governments' commitment to following up on the outcome of the Eleventh Congress, including the Bangkok Declaration on Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (General Assembly resolution 60/177, annex), and gave an account of relevant activities carried out by their respective Governments.

7. Several speakers highlighted the importance of addressing specific areas of crime at the Twelfth Congress, such as the emergence and evolution of crime trends, the links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, cybercrime, money-laundering, trafficking in persons and violence against migrant workers. One speaker emphasized the need for the Twelfth Congress to address the situation of victims of crime and noted that the theme for the Congress should provide an opportunity to do so. The observer for the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders informed the Commission that his Institute was interested in organizing a workshop on overcrowding in correctional facilities.

8. One speaker expressed the hope that the framework developed by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Lessons Learned from United Nations

Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice would be utilized in the preparation of future congresses. Two speakers noted that at future congresses a limited number of agenda items should be selected in order to ensure in-depth consideration of each item. One speaker invited the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network to express any interest they might have in organizing workshops, urged the Secretariat to finalize the discussion guide as soon as possible and requested non-governmental organizations to consider how they could contribute to the Congress.
