



Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Salvador, Brazil, 12-19 April 2010

Distr.: Limited
18 April 2010

Original: English



Report of Committee I: agenda items 4, 7 and 9 and Workshops 1, 4 and 5

Addendum

Workshop 4. Links between Drug Trafficking and Other Forms of Organized Crime

Proceedings

1. At its 10th and 11th meetings, on 17 April 2010, Committee I held the Workshop on Links between Drug Trafficking and Other Forms of Organized Crime. The Workshop was organized in cooperation with the following institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network: the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and the National Institute of Justice of the United States Department of Justice. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Background paper on the Workshop on Links between Drug Trafficking and Other Forms of Organized Crime (A/CONF.213/15);

(b) Discussion guide (A/CONF.213/PM.1);

(c) Reports of the regional preparatory meetings for the Twelfth Congress (A/CONF.213/RPM.1/1, A/CONF.213/RPM.2/1, A/CONF.213/RPM.3/1 and A/CONF.213/RPM.4/1).

2. The Workshop was divided into four panels and a total of 12 presentations were made. At the 10th meeting, the Chair of the Committee made an introductory statement. The Moderator of the Workshop also made a statement. Three panels were held: the first dealt with drug smuggling and trafficking; the second focused on drugs and the larger political economy; and the third addressed the responses of Member States. During the discussion, statements were made by the representatives of Italy, the Russian Federation, China, Algeria and Colombia.

3. At its 11th meeting, the Committee heard the two remaining presentations of the third panel as well as the presentations of the fourth panel, which addressed



non-governmental and multilateral responses. During the discussion, statements were made by the representatives of Iran (Islamic Republic of), Norway, Azerbaijan, Argentina, Finland, Saudi Arabia and the Russian Federation. Statements were also made by a representative of the UNODC Country Office in Afghanistan and two individual experts.

General discussion

4. In his introductory statement, the Moderator noted that Member States, local governments and the international community could address the links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime in more effective ways. The presentations outlined the challenges involved in efforts to control drug trafficking and organized crime, describing both recent developments and promising strategies that offered hope for greater success in the areas of prevention and interdiction. The presentations and discussion incorporated the findings and input of experts from different regions and offered action-oriented recommendations to guide future efforts.

5. In the panel on drug smuggling and trafficking, the panellists identified the following key areas for attention: the organized counterfeiting of medicine, the globalization of amphetamine-type stimulants and cybercrime. They noted that increasing opportunities and public demand for illicit products had fuelled the development of organized networks to provide such products. It was observed that better national and international documentation of those problems, combined with technical assistance and capacity-building, were essential elements of an approach to prevent those forms of trafficking.

6. In the panel on drugs and the larger political economy, the link between organized crime and drug trafficking was related to conflict and security issues, terrorism and corruption. The linkage involved illicit efforts to control production, distribution markets, violent actions by those under the influence of drugs and crime committed to support drug use or production. Corruption had been found to facilitate illegal activity, defeat law enforcement responses and undermine the legitimacy of government and the trust needed for international cooperation.

7. The panel on responses of Member States focused on coordinated government action against drug-related violence, the impact of legislation and prosecutorial techniques and the development of better intelligence about criminal suspects and networks to enhance the success of prosecution. The need for improved international cooperation, strict penalties, protection of witnesses and appropriate legal tools to gather evidence was highlighted, as was the need to use inter-agency police task forces and information-sharing to fulfil the mandates of the relevant United Nations conventions through full implementation and the provision of technical assistance and training.

8. The fourth panel, on non-governmental and multilateral responses, discussed the role of non-governmental organizations, academia, regional organizations and United Nations policies in developing the information, programmes and security required to address the scope of organized crime and drug trafficking. The role of education, public awareness and data-gathering was highlighted to illustrate how research, education and evaluation could shed light on corruption, theft of cultural property and the assessment of other threats to the public welfare. Training was

recognized as a crucial element in informing the response by disseminating new and alternative approaches to the prevention, prosecution and punishment of organized crime in its many different forms. Democracy, human rights, security and development were recognized as four fundamental pillars in regional cooperation against threats posed by organized crime and threats to public security. In addition, there was an identified need to improve police capacity in post-conflict situations in order to enforce the rule of law to stabilize societies against the action of organized criminals.

9. In the general discussion that followed, several speakers reiterated that the international nature of trafficking in drugs and other illicit products required effective international cooperation. Participants noted the importance of the implementation of existing United Nations conventions and the need to utilize multilateral and bilateral treaties and agreements where they existed and to enhance cooperation and dissemination of intelligence among law enforcement agencies.

10. The importance of capacity-building was stressed by several participants. It was observed that greater attention must be given to counterfeit medicines, illegal fishing, precursor chemicals, links between organized crime and terrorism, cybercrime and the money-laundering activities of organized criminal groups in order to document more clearly the scope of those problems and the harm caused, as well as to raise international awareness.

11. Several speakers emphasized the need for better intelligence-sharing between Member States to promote international investigations. Reference was made to the importance of improving police capacity, especially in post-conflict areas, in order to combat the influence of organized criminal elements. The contribution that civil society and academia could make in education and research was highlighted as a way to support broader national and international efforts against organized crime and corruption.

Conclusions and recommendations

12. On the basis of the statements made during the panel discussion, the Workshop reached the following conclusions:

13. Effective responses to transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking, must be based on the establishment of an adequate legislative framework, capacity-building programmes and the strengthening of regional and subregional cooperation based on shared responsibility. The work of international organizations in this area required increased coordination and redoubled joint efforts to promote the implementation of multilateral treaties, principal among them the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, and to develop and implement comprehensive, sustained and consistent technical assistance programmes.

14. Lack of access to data persisted in many jurisdictions, and the analysis of organized crime was still virtually non-existent in several regions. Significant efforts were needed to allow for the examination of trends in organized criminal activity, as this type of criminal activity changes in response to law enforcement efforts.

15. Policy responses were dependent on accurate assessments of the threat posed by organized crime. Determining the risk posed by organized crime required specific assessments, because of the significant variations within countries and regions. The limited existing efforts needed to be consolidated and serve as a launch pad for more systematic and regular risk-assessment efforts around the world.

16. Numerous assessments had been made of the links between drug trafficking and other forms of trafficking. Those assessments had pointed to the crucial role of regional cooperation, and their outcomes needed to be translated into specific programmes to assist regions that so required. The delivery of assistance needed to become a priority, especially for the donor community. Furthermore, a synthesis of existing regional assessments and analyses was needed so that regions could learn from the experiences of others. Regular, periodic assessments conducted in a standardized manner were required in order to evaluate trends in illicit activities and the impact of criminal justice initiatives.

17. Too little effort had been made to assess objectively the effectiveness of methods to counter drug trafficking and other organized criminal activities. As a result, it remained difficult to evaluate the costs and benefits and the impact of such methods. It was likely that lessons were not systematically compiled or used to improve methods and to ensure that they responded to the constantly shifting nature of organized crime. The international community could and should work together to develop programmes for the revision of methods and the systematic analysis of lessons learned.

18. Face-to-face meetings for training and technical assistance had been shown to be a valuable way to promote trust and post-training cooperation among practitioners. The use of economic and development associations as a platform for crime-related agreements had been demonstrated to be an effective way to address shared crime-related issues. Information exchange and cooperation among law enforcement and intelligence agencies were keys to improved effectiveness against trafficking in all its forms. Training and capacity-building for legislators, policymakers, the judiciary and law enforcement authorities needed to be comprehensive and continuous, as new laws, international agreements, investigative techniques and changes in organized criminal activity required updated knowledge and skills.