



Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice



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Rapporteur-General: Antoinette Ifeanyi **Oche-Obe** (Nigeria)

Addendum

International cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime: terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and new and emerging forms of crime

Proceedings

1. At its 14th and 15th plenary meetings, on 11 March 2021, the Congress considered agenda item 6, entitled “International cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime: (a) terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; (b) new and emerging forms of crime”. For its consideration of the item, the Congress had before it the following documents:

(a) Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on international cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime: terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and new and emerging forms of crime ([A/CONF.234/7](#));

(b) Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on developments regarding crime prevention and criminal justice as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic ([A/CONF.234/15](#));

(c) Discussion guide for the Fourteenth Congress ([A/CONF.234/PM.1](#)).

2. The 14th plenary meeting was chaired by Robinson Njeru Githae (Kenya). A representative of the Secretariat introduced the agenda item. A summary of the conclusions of workshop 4, on the topic “Current crime trends, recent developments and emerging solutions, in particular new technologies as means for and tools against crime”, was presented by the Chair of that workshop. Statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Canada, China, Kuwait, Thailand, Indonesia, South Africa, Viet Nam, Singapore, France, Honduras, the Russian Federation, Cuba, El Salvador, Argentina and Italy.

3. The 15th meeting was chaired by Alessandro Cortese (Italy). Statements were made by the representatives of the United States, Armenia, Nigeria, Mexico, Brazil, Kyrgyzstan, Iraq, Kenya, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Turkey, Angola, Romania, India, Norway, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Azerbaijan, Algeria, Morocco and Jordan.

4. During the 14th meeting, the representative of the United States made a statement in exercise of the right of reply, in accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure. During the 15th meeting, the representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cuba



and Turkey made statements in exercise of the right of reply, in accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure.

General discussion

5. Several speakers underscored that international cooperation in criminal matters was key to combating transnational crime and terrorism in a globalized society, and conveyed support for multilateralism. Other speakers highlighted the utility of the mutual legal assistance and extradition provisions in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Some speakers expressed support for the working groups on international cooperation under the conferences of the parties to those conventions as useful platforms for the exchange of good practices.

6. Some speakers highlighted the central role of technical assistance in updating legislative frameworks and in training criminal justice practitioners, and others emphasized the need for coordination among donor and recipient countries, with a view to maximizing the results of their efforts. A number of speakers expressed appreciation for the support of UNODC for the development of regional networks of criminal justice practitioners, which provided a basis for the timely exchange of information and best practices on judicial cooperation. Several speakers referred to their countries' efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants through international cooperation, with full respect for the rights of victims, and highlighted the challenges encountered. A number of speakers commended UNODC for the development of tools aimed at facilitating international cooperation among national criminal justice practitioners, such as the SHERLOC knowledge management portal, the directory of competent national authorities and the Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool.

7. Successful examples of international cooperation to counter terrorism were presented, including mutual legal assistance and information exchange at the regional level. Speakers reported on national legislation, policies and action plans adopted to prevent and counter terrorism. In particular, speakers highlighted new legislation and policies that responded to recent manifestations of terrorism, aligned existing legislation with international instruments and standards, including those relating to human rights, and integrated whole-of-society responses. Other speakers underlined the importance of international instruments in preventing and countering terrorism, making reference also to the 19 international legal instruments against terrorism.

8. Several speakers expressed growing concern about the links between terrorism and other forms of crime. References were made to the links between terrorism and environmental crime, corruption, illicit financial flows, money-laundering, trafficking in drugs, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. Many speakers referred to measures to combat the financing of terrorism, including the development of national policies and mechanisms to implement relevant resolutions of the Security Council, as well as recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force. It was mentioned that public-private partnerships could be useful in bringing together the financial sector, regulators, law enforcement agencies and other government entities to collaboratively identify, assess and mitigate key and emerging risks related to money-laundering and terrorism financing. Reference was also made to the development of training programmes for law enforcement and criminal justice officials to improve the monitoring of the financing of terrorist groups.

9. Some speakers referred to the possibility of the COVID-19 pandemic having an effect on terrorist activity. Travel restrictions might have prevented terrorists from crossing borders, but the increased use of online tools for communication might have exposed more people to online radicalization and recruitment. Some speakers referred to legislative, policy and operational measures taken to identify and counter online terrorist content to prevent recruitment and radicalization to violence by means of the Internet.

10. Several speakers referred to the importance of protecting children recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups, which they considered an integral part of a comprehensive strategy against terrorism. One speaker recommended the creation of global standards to protect children, including policies on the prevention of children being recruited or associated with terrorist groups, rehabilitation and reintegration, and justice for children.

11. Speakers conveyed the need for more coordinated international efforts to combat crimes affecting the environment, including trafficking in wildlife products, timber, precious metals and stones and marine products. They also called for coordinated efforts to tackle trafficking in falsified medical products and trafficking in cultural property. Some speakers underscored the added value of new technologies and artificial intelligence for combating organized crime, including environmental crime and money-laundering. Member States were encouraged to develop and implement domestic legal measures to protect their own cultural heritage and to recover and return unlawfully trafficked cultural property that appeared within their borders. Illegal mining was mentioned as a major threat and a priority area for international cooperation. The work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in that field was commended, and further international cooperation was encouraged. Some speakers called for continued cooperation among international agencies such as INTERPOL and UNODC to address those forms of crime.

12. Some speakers highlighted the economic damage caused by cybercrime and the increased threats posed by organized criminal groups accessing new technologies. Some speakers welcomed the establishment, pursuant to General Assembly resolution [74/247](#), of an open-ended ad hoc intergovernmental committee of experts to elaborate a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes. It was underscored that a new treaty should not conflict with existing instruments. Some speakers commended the work of the Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime. The need for the continuation of a forum for the exchange of experiences in preventing and combating cybercrime was underscored. Various speakers highlighted the importance of technical assistance and capacity-building and expressed appreciation for the work of the UNODC Global Programme on Cybercrime.

13. Speakers highlighted the additional burden on existing agencies and mechanisms of international cooperation in criminal matters as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was considered that the pandemic had exposed the most vulnerable members of the community to severe economic and social challenges, as well as to increased exploitation by criminal groups. The pandemic had also presented challenges in terms of the timely transmission of requests and logistics related to the transportation of extraditable or transferable persons.
