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## Third Committee

### Summary record of the 7th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 9 October 2013, at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Mr. von Haff (Vice-Chair). . . . . (Angola)

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*The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.*

**Agenda item 108: Crime prevention and criminal justice** (*continued*) (A/68/125, A/68/127 and A/68/128)

**Agenda item 109: International drug control** (*continued*) (A/68/126)

1. **Mr. Brownfield** (United States of America) said that there was universal agreement on the need to protect citizens from organized crime and widespread support for reviewing the relevant United Nations conventions in the light of experience. His Government was contributing to the preparations for the high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, to be held in Vienna in March 2014, and the special session of the General Assembly on drugs in 2016.

2. International crime was a matter not only for law enforcers but also for educators, civil society and the business community. Incarcerating everyone who consumed or possessed illegal drugs was neither possible nor necessary, but Governments should instead tackle multinational criminal enterprises. The Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols were the best instruments for investigating, prosecuting and dismantling such enterprises, and the international community must also take steps to address official corruption. The United Nations Convention against Corruption was a critical framework for raising standards and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) should be strengthened to improve criminal justice capacities around the world.

3. Demand for dangerous and illegal drugs had to be reduced. In the United States, overall drug use had declined by nearly one third in three decades and cocaine use had dropped by about 40 per cent over the previous five years, but abuse of prescription drugs remained serious. His Government was concerned by the spread of synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances, whose production outpaced international enforcement.

4. **Mr. Hisajima** (Japan) said that international cooperation was essential to the response to the growth of transnational crime. As a member of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Japan had been actively participating in United

Nations policy-making since 1992 and sought to ratify the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto and the Convention against Corruption. It had also been stepping up cooperation on crime prevention and criminal justice with UNODC. At their joint Strategic Policy Dialogue in June 2013, Japan and the Office had confirmed that they would focus on countering terrorism and international organized crime, including cybercrime. Japan had made repeated financial contributions to UNODC and hoped that it would continue to maintain transparency and accountability. Furthermore, Japan had been offering countries in South East Asia training courses for capacity-building through the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders since its establishment in 1962. Japan would work towards further development of the world's criminal justice response in close cooperation with the Institute.

5. Combating trafficking in persons was a political priority of his Government. According to the 2012 global report on trafficking in persons published by UNODC, its main targets were women and children. Emphasizing prevention, prosecution, protection and partnership, Japan supported a range of technical assistance projects, in particular in South-East Asia. Although the abuse of narcotic drugs remained a serious problem, new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants had become an acute threat in Japan and the rest of the world. It was important to control the precursor chemicals used in their manufacture, while combating illicit drug trafficking and preventing drug abuse. His Government had been advancing countermeasures against narcotic drugs, especially in Afghanistan and Myanmar, through financial contributions to UNODC and Japan's Official Development Assistance.

6. Japan attached great value to advancing international cooperation on cybercrime within existing international frameworks, such as the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime. Technical assistance to enhance criminal justice capacity to fight cybercrime was of particular importance. In May 2013, his Government had hosted a workshop in Tokyo on effective international cooperation in cybercrime investigation and prosecution.

7. **Mr. Cho** Young-moo (Republic of Korea) said that although the global community had made the world safer from drugs and crime, more coordinated

approaches were needed. His Government therefore welcomed the forthcoming high-level review and the special session of the General Assembly, due in 2014 and 2016, respectively. The principle of shared responsibility had become an important guideline for countering the problem.

8. His Government had been strengthening its cooperation with law enforcement agencies in the Asia-Pacific region, mindful that transnational criminal organizations tried to launder drug money in the Republic of Korea and hired its nationals as drug-carriers. His Government had been making financial contributions to the Global SMART (Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends) Programme and had launched a joint project against new psychoactive substances in cooperation with the World Customs Organization's Regional Intelligence Liaison Office. The Republic of Korea had strengthened cooperation with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries by launching the Asia-Pacific Information Coordination Centre for Combating Drug Crimes in September 2012.

9. To counter money-laundering, the global community should track down and confiscate all the illegal assets of drug-related offenders. His Government had launched an international money laundering investigation team in 2010 to track illegal financing overseas and recover criminal proceeds. The Republic of Korea had hosted the Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation and the International Working Group Meeting on Drug Smuggling Responses, opportunities to share information and investigation techniques and enhance mutual legal assistance in the Asia-Pacific region. The Republic of Korea would be ratifying the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto in the near future.

10. A world leader in information and communications technologies, his country had experienced several massive-scale distributed denial-of-service attacks. The international community should develop technologies and mechanisms to secure the reliability and integrity of sensitive data and tackle borderless cybercrime. His Government provided technical assistance to law enforcement officials in developing countries willing to combat cybercrime and was interested in participating in the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development and the Trans-Eurasia

Information Network. The Seoul Conference on Cyberspace, on 17 and 18 October 2013, would address economic growth, cybersecurity, capacity-building and cybercrime.

11. **Ms. Kwek** (Singapore) said that according to the World Drug Report 2013 the number of drug users had increased by 18 per cent between 2008 and 2011, resulting in about 211,000 drug-related deaths. The same report observed that abuse of new psychoactive substances was growing. Each country should adopt policies and strategies that best suited its needs. Singapore had earned a reputation of safety and stability, with one of the lowest crime rates in the world, thanks to the tough stance of its enforcement agencies. Together with a zero-tolerance policy on drug abuse, the Government had taken an integrated multipronged approach to drug addiction, comprising legislation, preventive education, enforcement, treatment, rehabilitation and aftercare to reintegrate former addicts into society. Although the number of arrests for drug abuse had fallen between 1994 and 2012, there had been a recent upturn. In 2012, the Government had amended legislation to include powers to seize new psychoactive substances and limit their circulation, strengthening punishment for those who recruited the young or vulnerable to commit drug offences.

12. The Central Narcotics Bureau worked actively with schools and community partners, including the National Council against Drug Abuse. Social networking sites were used to connect an online anti-drug community of young people. Singapore took a differentiated approach to aftercare and provided more rehabilitation pathways for young abusers. A community rehabilitation centre would soon offer residential care after a short period of detention in the drug rehabilitation centre. Young people could continue their education or employment while attending structured counselling programmes, which minimized disruption to their daily lives and facilitated positive relationship-building with the community.

13. Singapore did not produce narcotics but syndicates tried to ship drugs through its territory. Approximately 85 per cent of the methamphetamine seized in 2012 had been destined for other countries. Singapore worked closely with its regional counterparts, conducting joint operations with enforcement agencies, resulting in large seizures of illegal drugs and arrests of drug traffickers. In 2012,

jointly with Australia and Sri Lanka, her country had held training programmes for drug enforcement officials from 19 countries.

14. **Ms. Anukul** (Thailand) said that Member States had benefited greatly from the technical support provided by UNODC. Thailand welcomed the UNODC Regional Programme for Southeast Asia and looked forward to enhancing its cooperation. While the cross-cutting nature of the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice and development had become more apparent, it was crucial to address the way in which they fitted in a broader context of development. Corrupt or ineffective governing institutions and weak justice systems often hindered States' ability to function and promote long-term economic growth and stability. Thailand had tabled a resolution on the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the post-2015 development agenda, which had already been adopted by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). In November 2013, Thailand would host the Bangkok Dialogue on the Rule of Law: Investing in the Rule of Law, Justice and Security for the post-2015 Development Agenda.

15. As a member of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Thailand had focused on crime against women and children. Her Government had offered to host an expert group meeting in February 2014 on the model strategies and practical measures on the elimination of violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and a second expert meeting in May 2014 on actions against femicide. At the General Assembly, together with Argentina and Austria, Thailand would be organizing a High-level Panel discussion on Taking Action against the Gender-related Killings of Women and Girls, on 18 October 2013. Thailand had recently ratified the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

16. New psychoactive substances posed significant challenges, and Thailand continued to promote work on sustainable alternative development while enhancing cooperation on law enforcement. Her country welcomed the Guiding Principles on Alternative Development approved by ECOSOC. Cooperation between the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Commission on

Narcotic Drugs and other human rights and development mechanisms was of crucial importance.

17. **Ms. Fahmy** (Egypt) said that UNODC played an indispensable role in supporting Member States' efforts to combat transnational organized crime. In particular, Egypt appreciated the manuals on international cooperation in criminal matters. The Office should have adequate, predictable and stable resources, including additional regular budget resources, for carrying out its mandate. Voluntary contributions would enable it to meet increasing demand for technical assistance worldwide. Moreover, a transparent, efficient, inclusive and impartial mechanism must be established to review the implementation of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto and to assist States Parties. The issue should be re-examined at the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

18. Egypt was fully committed to its obligations as a State party to the international and regional treaties on combating drug trafficking, transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism. Thanks to cooperation with the UNODC regional office in Cairo, technical assistance had been provided in the areas of trafficking in persons, drug addiction, corruption, police and corrections reform, and juvenile justice. Her country looked forward to maximizing the benefit of the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative to repatriate illegally acquired funds. Egypt welcomed the adoption of the European Parliament resolution of 23 May 2013, on asset recovery by Arab Spring countries in transition, and looked forward to effective cooperation for the repatriation of illegally acquired funds. Egypt awaited the technical support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to retrieve stolen objects and repair damage to cultural heritage monuments. The international community should take appropriate measures to restore Egypt's looted historical antiquities in accordance with the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.

19. The High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, held in May 2013, had offered an opportunity to take stock. Before the next appraisal meeting, to be held during the General Assembly in 2016, greater

focus should be placed on prevention, assistance for victims, management of resources, fund-raising, data collection and analysis, and partnerships with the private sector, the media and civil society. While preparing for the high-level review to be held in 2014, Member States should pursue implementation of the targets 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. ECOSOC should devote a high-level event to a theme related to the world drug problem.

20. **Ms. Sabja** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that drugs jeopardized health, public safety and welfare, and involved countries of production, transit and consumption under the principle of shared responsibility. Bolivia had achieved political and economic autonomy in the fight against drug trafficking. The Government's doctrine targeted traffickers organizations instead of social organizations, thereby achieving higher levels of seizures and arrests than in the past, when the United States Drug Enforcement Administration had been in the country. Nationwide police coverage and international alliances had resulted in a record reduction of coca cultivation, with full respect for human and environmental rights. Since 2006, both anti-drug operations and cocaine seizures had increased enormously. The Government of the United States had criticized her Government's anti-narcotics fight in a recent report, yet Bolivia's efforts had won international support. The five-year national plan to reduce the demand for drugs focused on prevention, vulnerable communities, treatment and rehabilitation, reintegration and institutional development. The UNODC country director had described the plan as effective and in conformity with international standards.

21. Chewing coca was an ancestral practice of indigenous Amazonian peoples, but had been criminalized through the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. The Plurinational State of Bolivia had therefore withdrawn from that Convention and then acceded to it again, with a reservation concerning the right to use the coca leaf for cultural and medicinal purposes in its territory. Her Government would comply with the Convention within the framework of its Constitution.

22. Bolivia reiterated its commitment to the international efforts against drugs, in accordance with

the objectives of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. Bank secrecy, money laundering and tax havens should be addressed by means of UNODC instruments such as the International Money Laundering Information Network.

23. **Ms. Calcinari Van der Velde** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that crime prevention was directly related to sustainable development, the quality of life, democracy and human rights. Her Government had enacted legislation and taken domestic initiatives to prevent violence and crime, with promising results. At the international level, Venezuela supported the creation of an intelligence system to facilitate the capture and repatriation of persons accused of corruption. In July 2013, her country had signed the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

24. Her country had prioritized the fight against the world drug problem in all its manifestations, which required a comprehensive approach. The participation of organized communities in prevention was fundamental to the Government's strategy. The territory of Venezuela was free of illicit crops, as confirmed by the World Drug Report 2012. In 2013, nearly 37 tons of drugs had been seized, thanks to a tireless struggle against international criminal organizations. Since 2006, 109 leaders of drug trafficking organizations had been arrested and some had been extradited. Thanks to border patrols and new technologies, installations and equipment used for international drug trafficking had been detected and deactivated. Under her country's anti-drug legislation, there were plans to establish a national drug fund to fund prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. A national system already existed to treat Venezuelans affected by drug consumption.

25. Her country had signed 52 anti-drug cooperation agreements and took part in the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission. It had ratified three of the main anti-drug conventions under the inter-American system and seven of the eight United Nations anti-drug conventions, while supporting the efforts of regional cooperation bodies. The International Narcotics Control Board was the only body with competence for monitoring the implementation of international

anti-drugs treaties. Her Government had repeatedly expressed its rejection of unilateral reports on the matter. Furthermore, the issue of drugs was addressed by the General Assembly and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. It clearly did not fall within the competence of the Security Council.

26. **Mr. Ruiz** (Colombia) said that more effective ways of addressing the world drugs problem were needed, and States should assess the advantages and disadvantages of the current system. The results of the high-level review in 2014 would provide essential input for the special session of the General Assembly in 2016, which should result in a new international consensus.

27. A major challenge facing the international community was the definition of the post-2015 development agenda. The best architecture for that agenda would be based on sustainable development and designed to improve the living conditions of all people.

28. The fight against corruption was a priority for Colombia. Not only had it ratified the Convention against Corruption but it had also begun proactive implementation by participating in the elaboration of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the Pilot Programme for Implementation Review.

29. **Ms. Velichko** (Belarus) said that UNODC made a substantial contribution to combating transnational crime, including its new forms, and offered a necessary technical and advisory system to States in overcoming those problems. Her delegation called for the strengthening of UNODC by increasing donations, seeking new donors and convincing donors to provide resources that were not earmarked on political or other grounds. Her delegation welcomed the efforts of UNODC to combat trafficking in persons, including the presentation of its Global Report on Trafficking in Persons and the holding of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons in May 2013. In connection with the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the mandates of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme (A/68/127), it was disappointing that it provided insufficient information on the work of the Inter-agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in

Persons, a failing that should be remedied in future reports.

30. The growing phenomenon of trafficking in human organs, tissues and cells had been the subject of reports by the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children, and from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the World Health Organization. It was time for UNODC to join those efforts and consider developing an international instrument to address trafficking in human organs, tissues and cells.

31. A new national programme for combating crime and corruption over the period 2013-2015 was currently under way. Belarus had also begun its first review cycle under the review mechanism of the Convention against Corruption. Her Government had set up a High Technology Crimes Investigation Department. As cybercrime was a transnational phenomenon, an international legally binding instrument to combat it was urgently needed. It was also essential to step up international cooperation in the fight against drugs, focusing on consumption as well as production. States should be given more assistance in their efforts to stem the flows of drugs to and from Europe and the countries of Asia and Latin America.

32. **Mr. Krishnasswamy** (India) said that, according to the World Drug Report 2013, international mechanisms had not reduced the drugs problem but had stabilized it. The high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, to be held in March 2014, would be an important opportunity to examine implementation of the international drug control system, in particular in relation to the new psychoactive substances. It was satisfying that UNODC and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had begun international consultations to address the new challenge. India had already subjected one such substance, ketamine, to stringent control measures. Another major challenge was the use of synthetic drugs, based on precursor chemicals, which had valid industrial, scientific and medicinal uses. Their diversion and abuse should be controlled without affecting their legitimate uses. India supported the United Nations mechanisms for their control, such as the Pre-Export Notification (PEN) Online, developed

by UNODC/International Narcotics Control Board. In March 2013, India had issued a new regulation to control a large number of precursor chemicals, including ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. India was also contributing US\$ 200,000 to Phase IV of the Paris Pact initiative.

33. Terrorism remained a grave threat to world security and stability, taking many innocent lives and endangering free democratic societies. State-sponsored cross-border terrorism was of particular concern to India. There could be no tolerance for States sheltering, arming, training or financing terrorists, or allowing terrorist acts to be launched from their territories. Globalization and information and communication technology provided a platform for terrorists to operate across continents, which required a global response. The international community must conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism to strengthen the normative framework. As a State Party to the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols and the Convention against Corruption, India had enacted domestic legislation and entered into bilateral agreements to prevent money laundering and fight terrorism and organized crime. It was also a member of the Financial Action Task Force.

34. India was deeply concerned at the worldwide increase in trafficking in persons. The 2010 Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons provided a holistic and comprehensive framework. His country was also concerned about cybercrime, economic fraud, education-related fraud and identity theft, and their links with other criminal and terrorist activities. Cybercrime called for more effective global responses, including stronger national capacity-building and international cooperation. The comprehensive study of the problem of cybercrime prepared by UNODC under the auspices of the expert group offered useful input to the debate.

35. **Mr. Chir** (Algeria) said that the Secretary-General's report on international cooperation against the world drug problem (A/68/127) drew attention to the emergence of new psychoactive substances that were proliferating at an unprecedented rate. In addition, the global drug problem had become more complex owing to links to arms trafficking, corruption, cybercrime, piracy, terrorism, and illegal trafficking in weapons and human beings. With its long and porous borders, the Sahel region was particularly vulnerable to such activities.

36. The most effective tools for the prevention of transnational organized crime were poverty eradication and economic and social development. He stressed the need to pay attention to the links between international efforts to combat drugs and promote economic development in the post-2015 development agenda. The time had come to institute an implementation mechanism for the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and to give genuine force to the Salvador Declaration adopted by the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

37. His delegation welcomed security measures taken under the African Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2007-2012). As a transit country, Algeria took a particular interest in implementation of the three United Nations anti-drug conventions. The national agency for drug control and drug addiction was in the process of implementing a strategy for the period 2011-2015 based on the three pillars of prevention, treatment and suppression. Prosecution was waived for persons willing to submit to medical detoxification treatments. Measures were also in place to provide care for victims of human trafficking in accordance with international instruments. His delegation supported the Security Council's call on the African Union to strengthen its counter-terrorism framework, and called for criminalization of the payment of ransom to terrorist groups.

38. **Ms. Alsaleh** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that her country was a party to most of the international instruments against transnational organized crime, illegal drugs and human trafficking, and had harmonized its national legislation with those instruments. In 2010, it had enacted legislation to combat human trafficking and trafficking in human body parts, even though those crimes had been extremely rare in the country.

39. Mercenaries and Al Qaida elements from over 83 countries were currently being trained, armed, and deployed to her country from neighbouring States in order to kill Syrian citizens, with support from regional and international parties that had their own expansionist aims. Human trafficking had become widespread on Syrian territory and in so-called humanitarian camps in neighbouring countries. The flight of civilian populations had led to a horrific rise in trafficking in human body parts in border areas, where unlicensed organizations had set up field



hospitals with the full knowledge of the authorities in neighbouring States. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other organizations had found that organized crime, child labour and the trafficking of Syrian girls were rife in the camps. A plan of action was urgently needed and the Governments of the countries on whose territory the camps were located should be held responsible. The United Nations and international community would be able to stop the trafficking in persons and smuggling of mercenaries if certain Member States abided by their legal obligations and displayed the necessary political will to combat corruption and terrorism.

40. **Ms. Naeem** (Maldives) said that her country was inherently vulnerable to transnational crime, in particular the international drug trade and human trafficking. Having acceded to the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on 4 February 2013, the Maldives had begun to implement its provisions. The police regularly coordinated with INTERPOL and other international authorities and had stepped up vigilance with regard to the Somali piracy problem. Earlier in 2013, the Government had proposed legislation to establish a legal framework to tackle piracy within the country's territorial waters. In May, the United Nations Trust Fund for the Fight against Piracy had approved a US\$ 2 million package for affected nations, including the Maldives.

41. Although drugs were not grown or produced in her country, large quantities of high-grade cocaine had reached its shores. Its territory had been abused as a trans-shipment point for illicit trade, despite the Government's cooperation with its international partners. Her Government was grateful for the regional activities of UNODC, including drug law enforcement and technical cooperation with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. Her Government thanked UNODC for its capacity-building assistance, which had contributed to the effective implementation of other instruments to combat transnational organized crime and helped the Maldives to provide rehabilitation for victims of the drug trade. According to a 2012 report produced by the Asia Foundation, gangs were becoming increasingly common in the Maldives, above all in the capital. The correlation between drugs and gang violence was clear and had been exacerbated by weak democratic institutions and corruption. To strengthen institutional frameworks, the Government had established a special

court to deal with drugs-related cases. Treatment-based approaches had replaced punitive measures for minor offences, differentiating between addicts, peddlers, dealers and traffickers. The new court had considered its first case in August 2012, and since then many addicts had been successfully treated by rehabilitation centres.

42. The biggest institutional threat in her country was undoubtedly corruption. The Maldives was party to the Convention against Corruption and her Government hoped for full implementation of its provisions by 2014. It had lent full support to an independent Anti-Corruption Commission. By addressing corruption, the Maldives also hoped to limit human trafficking. The demand for cheap labour had led to abuses in local industries and unsavoury recruiting practices abroad. While legislation was still before Parliament, the Government was exploring other avenues to protect victims, opening a shelter earlier in 2013 and activating a border control system to prevent illegal entry.

43. **Mr. Diyar Khan** (Pakistan) said that his Government had passed the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance in 2002 and set up the Anti-Trafficking Unit within the Federal Investigation Agency. Corruption was another serious problem for most developing economies and Member States should do more to exchange information and overcome obstacles arising from bank secrecy laws. Pakistan had acceded to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and had set up a special financial monitoring unit within the State Bank of Pakistan to cooperate with other countries.

44. Drugs and transnational organized crime went hand in hand. More attention tended to be paid to supply than to demand, even though increased demand for drugs in the developed world increased incentives for producers in the poorer countries. Pakistan was a State Party to the United Nations anti-drug conventions and had taken the necessary steps for their effective implementation. Although its illicit opium crop had been greatly reduced, Pakistan continued to suffer as a transit country. In partnership with UNODC, his Government had launched the 2010-2014 Country Programme, which took all facets of the problem into account.

45. A concerted regional approach was needed. Pakistan was part of the UNODC Rainbow Strategy



and the Triangular Initiative, but the scale of the problem called for comprehensive assistance including technical equipment. His Government also participated in the UNODC regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries and the Paris Pact initiative.

46. Pakistan's Access to Justice Program, launched in 2002, had reduced the backlog of court cases, and an immigration screening programme (Personal Identification Secure Comparison and Evaluation System, or PISCES) was used to monitor the international movement of criminals. Pakistan hoped that drugs and international crime would receive due attention at the high-level review to be held in Vienna in 2014, and at the special session of the General Assembly due in 2016.

47. **Ms. Sucuoğlu** (Turkey) said that there was a clear linkage between the drug trade and the financing of international terrorism. Cooperation among States and regional and international organizations must be comprehensive and holistic. Implementation of the United Nations conventions had to be strengthened. Human trafficking was a modern form of slavery and a crime against humanity. The findings of the 2012 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons were alarming, and international efforts should focus on the protection of victims and their rights. Her delegation had therefore welcomed the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, held in May 2013.

48. Turkey played an active role in international initiatives in the fight against narcotics. Advocating the principle of collective responsibility, Turkey cooperated with the international drug control system based on the relevant treaties. Within the framework of the United Nations and in cooperation with UNODC, it sponsored the Paris Pact initiative, the Global Afghan Opiate Trade project and the Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe. Turkey had been a regular donor to the Crime Fund and the Drugs Programme of UNODC.

49. The international community must be vigilant with regard to new forms of international organized crime, such as cybercrime, identity-related crime, piracy and other crimes at sea, environment-related crimes, and the production and trafficking of fraudulent medicines. Turkey had made significant contributions to the international fight against piracy

off the coast of Somalia, cooperating with countries in the region to eliminate conditions that were conducive to criminal activities.

50. Although the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols provided the basic legal framework, a legal instrument to address crimes involving cultural property was needed. Welcoming the adoption of a resolution on the return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin (A/RES/67/80) at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, her delegation called for a review mechanism based on the principles of efficiency and transparency. She welcomed the fact that the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption had become an integral part of the Convention system, while also noting that there was room for further improvement.

51. **Mr. Ulibarri** (Costa Rica) said that his country had ratified the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, adhered to the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force and served on the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering in South America. It was increasingly clear that existing strategies would not overcome drug trafficking and organized crime. Destination countries must reduce demand for drugs and strengthen social and health programmes aimed at consumers. International financial centres and weapons-producing countries should deprive drug traffickers of their funding. The entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty, which Costa Rica had ratified on 25 September 2013, was therefore of great importance.

52. His Government welcomed the decisions to hold the high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem in 2014 and the special session of the General Assembly in 2016. Costa Rica joined Guatemala and Mexico in calling for more effective international responses to drug trafficking, taking into account health and human rights. The Antigua Declaration of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States was a step in the right direction.

53. His Government's comprehensive strategy on drug, money and weapon seizures had already

produced results. The murder rate had dropped significantly between 2010 and 2013 while seizures of illicit drugs had increased. The Executive had just proposed legislation to improve the instruments for combating money laundering. As an active participant in the Central American Security Strategy, his Government looked forward to implementing the new regional programme being negotiated with UNODC and welcomed the establishment in Mexico in 2012 of the first UNODC regional liaison and partnership office. The resolution on international cooperation against the world drug problem should include an allocation of additional resources to UNODC from the regular budget to meet the growing demand for assistance.

54. **Mr. Elbahi** (Sudan) called on the international community to define terrorism as an international crime and to coordinate its efforts in such a way that developing countries, including those in a post-conflict situation, could more easily combat drug trafficking and terrorism. Sudan had made efforts to combat transnational organized crime, money laundering and trafficking in human body parts. Fulfilling its obligations to INTERPOL and in compliance with the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, his country was conducting joint patrols with the Central African Republic and Chad under the tripartite agreement on border security. It had also signed bilateral security agreements with Chad, Libya and South Sudan.

55. His Government had recently published a report on human trafficking, describing the national efforts made to combat it. Sudan had ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols, and International Labour Organization Conventions No. 38 on the minimum age for admission to employment and work and No. 182 on the worst forms of child labour. In addition to a national plan to combat violence against children, it had implemented policies on woman's empowerment, violence against women, displacement, persons with disabilities and family protection. It had enacted several laws against terrorism, trafficking in persons and drugs. A number of programmes were in place to help the victims of drug abuse and in 2012 a study had been conducted on the prevention of drug abuse among students. His country was deploying every effort to combat transnational organized crime, drugs and terrorism, but developing countries needed international assistance

not only to combat those scourges but also to address their causes.

56. **Ms. Kupradze** (Georgia) said that her Government was prioritizing reform of the judicial system in order to enhance democracy while upholding the principles of transparency, accountability and the rule of law. Georgia was pursuing intersectoral cooperation on policymaking and implementation through inter-agency councils on criminal justice reform, corruption and drugs. Significant legislative amendments had been adopted since 2012 to establish an effective criminal justice system based on the respect and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Reforms to the prosecution service, jury trial and the protection of victims' rights were intended to make them compatible with international standards, including those of the European Union and Council of Europe. A special working group was working on the application of European and international standards to juvenile justice. In cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund, State agencies were analysing the country's penal system.

57. International mechanisms for fighting corruption needed to be strengthened. During the previous decade, Georgia had carried out fundamental anti-corruption reforms, transforming its educational, judicial and penitentiary systems and freeing the police and public sector from corruption. In view of the importance of transparent and accountable public institutions, the process required constant efforts to sustain achievements.

58. The problem of conventional arms and ammunition posed serious threats to world peace and security. Creating an effective legally-binding mechanism for curbing illegal arms flows should, therefore, be a priority for the international community. Adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty, whose elaboration Georgia had supported from the outset, had been a major achievement.

59. **Mr. Desta** (Eritrea) said that the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons had been an important forum for assessing the necessary global response. Eritreans had long suffered at the hands of traffickers and his Government had led the struggle to prevent trafficking and mitigate its effects on individuals and societies, raising public awareness,

providing assistance to victims, bringing perpetrators to justice and cooperating with other States. Close coordination with Egypt and Sudan had helped to combat trafficking in persons but much needed to be done to eradicate it. The tragic incident at Lampedusa, where the victims had been African migrants, including Eritreans, had raised the question of how to enhance cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination. Without such cooperation, organized criminal elements would continue to exploit the vulnerabilities of migrants. Trafficking in persons was perpetuated by criminals who made use of generous funding, vicious propaganda, safe havens and acts of destabilization. His delegation had called on the United Nations to launch an independent and transparent investigation to bring justice to Eritrea and the victims, while bringing to account all those responsible. The fight against human trafficking was ultimately linked to the struggle for peace, stability and socioeconomic development and a more equitable global order. The Eritrean people had struggled for over two generations for dignity and human rights, and remained steadfast in their effort to combat human trafficking.

60. **Ms. Arenas Aguilar** (Guatemala) said that her Government had confronted violence and organized crime in a clear framework of respect for human rights. The authorities had strengthened law enforcement against trafficking by setting up a specialized police force, prosecution units and two new special courts. Guatemala recognized the role of regional criminal research institutions in addressing the enforced disappearance of Central American migrants, a growing phenomenon. She thanked UNODC for helping her country to combat trafficking in persons and migrants, and the General Assembly and the donor community for supporting the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala, whose mandate had been renewed until September 2015.

61. Since February 2012, Guatemala had been promoting the global debate on the drug problem, advocating an approach that did not criminalize or stigmatize addicts but offered them care and rehabilitation. Guatemala had informed the General Assembly that the war on drugs had not yielded the expected results. Without abandoning international cooperation against transnational crime, every country should be free to make proposals for new responses to the drug problem. Guatemala had set up a national commission to investigate the consumption, trafficking

and production of drugs. With other countries in the region, it had proposed a new global strategy based on an open and inclusive debate leading to the special session of the General Assembly in 2016, which should adopt policies based on public health, prevention and damage reduction. Her Government also saw the Antigua Declaration of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States as a step in the right direction.

62. **Mr. Sin** (Myanmar) said that the high-level review in 2014 should be an opportunity for exchanging ideas and experiences. Myanmar had been fighting illicit narcotic drugs for decades, acting in the area of prevention, while strengthening legislation and enforcement. Measures had been taken to achieve the Government's goal of eliminating drug trafficking and production by 2014, including a plan to eradicate opium cultivation. In 2012, his Government had destroyed an area of poppies three times greater than the previous year. To raise the living standards of nationals living in border areas, numerous development projects had been conducted since 1992, including one for opium poppy growers to switch to alternative cash crops. Funding was urgently required, however, and he called on the international community and donors to continue providing assistance for crop substitution programmes. The 15-year Narcotic Elimination Plan was due to expire in 2014, but the Government was preparing to extend it for another five years.

63. Myanmar was working with other ASEAN members to create a drug-free region by 2015 and looked forward to more financial and technical assistance. The Government believed that the best way to achieve the goal was to eliminate production and had been relentlessly working to that end. In May 2013, his country had hosted a ministerial-level meeting of the six signatory nations to the 1993 Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control in the Greater Mekong sub-region. The Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on Drug Control Cooperation, adopted at the meeting, was designed to enhance cross-border cooperation, share best practices, strengthen alternative development programmes and promote cooperation in drug law enforcement to suppress illicit drug production and trafficking.

*The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.*