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**Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting
for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime
Prevention and Criminal Justice**
Bangkok, 29-31 March 2004

**Seminar on Implementation of the United Nations
Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and
the Protocols Thereto and on Promotion of Ratification of
the United Nations Convention against Corruption**
Bangkok, 1 and 2 April 2004

Report of the Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 56/119 of 19 December 2001, on the role, function, periodicity and duration of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, the General Assembly decided that each congress should be preceded by regional preparatory meetings; and also decided to call future congresses United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice.
2. In its resolution 57/171 of 18 December 2002, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of regional preparatory meetings for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; and also requested him to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries in the regional preparatory meetings for the Eleventh Congress and at the Congress itself, in accordance with past practice.
3. In its resolution 58/138 of 22 December 2003, the General Assembly encouraged Governments to undertake preparations for the Eleventh Congress at an early stage by all appropriate means, including, where appropriate, the establishment of national preparatory committees, with a view to contributing to a focused and productive discussion on the topics and to participating actively in the organization of and follow-up to the workshops; reiterated its invitation to Member States to be represented at the Eleventh Congress at the highest possible level, for example, by heads of State or Government or government ministers and attorneys general, to make statements on the theme and topics of the Congress and to participate in thematic interactive round tables; and urged the regional preparatory meetings to examine the substantive items on the agenda and the workshop topics of the Eleventh Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations to serve as a basis for the draft recommendations and conclusions for consideration by the Eleventh Congress and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its fourteenth session.
4. In both its resolutions 57/171 and 58/138, the General Assembly encouraged the relevant specialized agencies, United Nations programmes and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as other professional organizations, to cooperate with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the preparations for the Eleventh Congress.

II. Conclusions and recommendations

5. The Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice agreed on the conclusions and recommendations presented below.

A. Substantive items

1. Effective measures to combat transnational organized crime

6. The Meeting recommended that all States that had not yet done so become parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

(General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I) and its three Protocols (resolutions 55/25, annexes II and III, and 55/255, annex) at the earliest opportunity.

7. The Meeting was convinced that every effort should be made to facilitate the universal implementation of the Organized Crime Prevention and its Protocols, as that would be the best way to ensure consistent and effective action against all forms of organized crime. Therefore, the Meeting recommended:

(a) That donor countries and funding institutions make adequate and regular financial contributions for an expanded programme of technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in order to enable them to become parties to and/or implement the Organized Crime Convention;

(b) That specific specialized advice and assistance be provided to States, at their request, and under the guidance of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Such assistance should include training for law enforcement and other criminal justice personnel, as well as for staff of the specialized entities responsible for coordinating the fight against organized crime.

8. The Meeting was convinced that the provision of effective technical assistance would benefit from a clear and consistent identification and assessment of technical assistance needs. The Meeting was also convinced that the effectiveness of technical assistance was essential to the achievement of the objectives of the Organized Crime Convention and its implementation. Therefore, the Meeting recommended:

(a) That States be assisted in identifying their needs and priorities in combating serious crime, including organized crime, and that technical assistance activities, implemented either bilaterally or through international organizations, be followed up in a concerted manner with a view to identifying region-specific lessons learned and developing best practices;

(b) That objective impact indicators be developed to assist the Conference of the Parties in reviewing the implementation of the Convention, paying attention to specific regional circumstances.

9. The Meeting was convinced of the importance of gathering and exchanging reliable data and other information on organized crime as a basis for more effective national and international cooperation. The Meeting therefore recommended that States in the region establish databases and develop mechanisms for the reliable analysis of data and sharing of information, either directly or through United Nations entities.

10. The Meeting was convinced that concerted efforts to shield society and the legitimate economy through preventive measures constituted one of the pillars of effective action against organized crime. It therefore recommended that attention be given to developing, in full cooperation with the countries concerned, technical assistance programmes aimed at the achievement of those objectives. Such programmes should benefit from the active participation and contribution of civil society and the private sector and should include educational components as a means of promoting a long-term culture of legality.

11. The Meeting recognized the fundamental importance of international cooperation in criminal matters, in particular extradition and mutual legal

assistance. It noted that there had been significant progress as a result of the successful negotiation and adoption of recent international legal instruments and the conclusion of an increasing number of bilateral agreements and arrangements in that field and recommended that the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice be requested to consider the possibility of the negotiation of an international convention on extradition and mutual legal assistance that would build on the successes achieved to date in order to overcome existing obstacles in those fields.

12. The Meeting recognized that, in an age of globalization, information technology and the rapid development of new telecommunication and computer network systems had been accompanied by the abuse of those technologies for criminal purposes. It therefore recommended that the Eleventh Congress consider proposing the negotiation of a new convention against cyber crime, with a view to creating the basis for effective collective action against that form of criminal activity.

2. International cooperation against terrorism and links between terrorism and other criminal activities in the context of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

13. The Meeting was acutely aware of the threat posed by terrorism to internal and external peace and security. It therefore recommended that States that had not yet done so ratify or accede to the 12 international instruments against terrorism. In implementing the provisions of those instruments, efforts should be made to ensure the protection of fundamental human rights and respect for international and humanitarian law.

14. In order to enhance the capacity of States to implement the international instruments against terrorism, the Meeting recommended that the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime intensify its efforts to provide technical assistance to States, at their request, in reviewing their domestic legislation and procedures and in strengthening their capacity for such implementation.

15. The Meeting recognized that action against terrorism could only be effective within the framework of the United Nations and recommended that the mandate of the Terrorism Prevention Branch be expanded and that the resources available to the Branch be strengthened.

16. The Meeting also recognized the importance of the 2001 Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Declaration on Joint Action to Counter Terrorism and the 2002 ASEAN Declaration on Terrorism. The Meeting further recognized that regional cooperation in combating terrorism and other forms of serious crime had proved to be effective. It therefore recommended that regional and subregional organizations continue to be actively engaged in promoting such cooperation and to coordinate closely with other international organizations active in that field.

17. The Meeting recalled that the Security Council, in its resolution 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001, had noted with concern the close connection between international terrorism and other forms of crime. The Meeting recommended that efforts be focused on ways and means of thoroughly examining that connection, improving the knowledge available of its implications and developing effective

measures to sever that connection and to prevent double standards and selectiveness, in accordance with international law and the relevant international legal instruments.

18. The Meeting noted the progress made by the Ad Hoc Committee established by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 in the negotiation of a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and called for its adoption as soon as possible.

3. Corruption: threats and trends in the twenty-first century

19. The Meeting welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (General Assembly resolution 58/4, annex) and was encouraged by the increasing number of signatories. It was convinced that the expeditious entry into force and subsequent implementation of the Convention were central to the efforts at the international level to fight corruption and therefore recommended that all States that had not yet done so become parties to the Convention as soon as possible.

20. The Meeting recognized the devastating effect that the transfer of illicit assets and funds had on national economies and development. It therefore recommended that, as asset recovery was an essential component of efforts to ratify the Convention against Corruption, States should give the highest priority to adopting the measures necessary to make asset recovery possible, in accordance with the Convention. The Meeting also recommended that specialized programmes of technical assistance be developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in cooperation with relevant regional institutions and financial agencies for the benefit of countries in the region, to assist them in developing their capacity to recover assets.

21. The Meeting was convinced that all countries should strive for the effective and universal implementation of the Convention against Corruption. For that purpose, it recommended that donor countries and financing institutions make adequate regular voluntary contributions for the provision of technical assistance to developing countries to enable them to become parties to and/or implement the Convention.

22. Recognizing that, in order to curb corruption, it was necessary to change the culture in both the public sector and the private sector, the Meeting recommended that States set up training programmes for high-level government officials and for financial managers in the public and private sectors, if necessary by providing technical assistance dealing with, inter alia, effective measures to prevent, detect, investigate, punish and control corruption, including: the use of evidence-gathering and investigative methods; building capacity in the development and planning of anti-corruption strategies and policies; training competent authorities in the preparation of requests for mutual legal assistance; evaluating and strengthening institutions, public service management and the management of public finances, including public procurement, and the private sector; preventing and combating the transfer of proceeds of corruption and recovering such proceeds; detecting and freezing the transfer of illicit proceeds; surveillance of the movement of proceeds and of the methods used to transfer, conceal or disguise illicit proceeds; appropriate and efficient legal and administrative mechanisms and methods for facilitating the return of proceeds; methods used in protecting victims and witnesses who cooperate

with judicial authorities; and training in national and international regulations and in languages.

23. In order to promote integrity, honesty and responsibility among public officials with a view to preventing corruption, the Meeting recommended that measures be taken to prevent corruption in the public and private sectors, including in the judiciary and prosecution services, by establishing or improving hiring and promotion procedures, ensuring adequate remuneration for criminal justice personnel and developing codes of conduct for public officials and transparent systems of procurement. It also recommended that bilateral and multilateral bodies provide assistance and technical cooperation for that purpose to States in the region, when necessary.

24. It was noted that corruption was no longer a local matter but a transnational phenomenon that affected all societies and economies, making international cooperation to prevent and control it essential. It was therefore vital that States that had not yet done so adopt legislation that would make it possible to assist other States in their efforts to investigate and suppress corruption by providing cooperation in the form of extradition, transfer of prisoners, mutual legal assistance, transfer of proceedings, law enforcement cooperation, joint investigations and special investigative techniques, as well as take all measures to ensure the efficiency of such cooperation. In that connection, the Meeting recommended that States establish and properly fund central authorities for mutual legal assistance, if possible allowing for the use of direct channels of communication.

25. The Meeting also recommended that States set up regulatory regimes for the private sector that would enhance opportunities for investment. It further recommended that States consider removing discrepancies between their regulations and those of other States, in order to prevent companies from choosing to operate in the country with the least stringent regulations.

4. Economic and financial crimes: challenges to sustainable development

26. The Meeting recognized that new forms of economic and financial crime, involving offences related to credit card fraud, consumer fraud, identity theft and cyber crime, had emerged as significant threats to the national economies of States in the region. It therefore recommended that the Eleventh Congress pay special attention to the development of appropriate policies and measures for national action and international cooperation, including by exploring the possibility of negotiating international legal instruments in those fields.

27. The Meeting noted that the importance of the informal sector and the cash-based economies in Asia required measures to control and regulate such economies to prevent money-laundering and the movement of cash proceeds of crime without victimizing those who had no access to the formal banking sector. It recommended that the Eleventh Congress explore the possibility of negotiating an international legal instrument against money-laundering.

28. The Meeting recognized the difficulties encountered in investigating and prosecuting complex cases involving money-laundering and other economic and financial crimes and highlighted the importance of effective international cooperation in that field. It therefore recommended that technical assistance programmes be developed and implemented in States requesting such assistance by

the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant organizations and institutions. Such programmes should focus on the provision of specialized expertise to law enforcement officials and other criminal justice personnel.

29. The Meeting recognized the central role of banks and financial institutions in the prevention of economic and financial crime, which made it necessary for: States to ensure that banks and financial institutions in their jurisdictions had in place effective compliance mechanisms for preventing the abuse of the financial system; businesses to exercise due diligence in their dealings with customers and financial transactions; and reporting mechanisms to be put in place to enable suspicious transactions to be reported to the national authorities.

30. The Meeting recognized that economic and financial crimes distorted free market economies, severely undercut legitimate investors and, therefore, represented a threat to sustainable economic growth and development. Therefore, the Meeting recommended that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime carry out appropriate studies, in cooperation with relevant institutions and other United Nations entities, on the incidence and seriousness of economic and financial crimes and the resource levels needed to address those problems.

31. In order to support the efforts of developing countries in fighting economic and financial crime effectively, the Meeting recommended that appropriate technical assistance be made available to States in the region, especially in capacity-building.

5. Making standards work: fifty years of standard-setting in crime prevention and criminal justice

32. The Meeting recognized the importance of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, which covered a wide range of basic principles that were essential to effective, efficient and humane criminal justice systems.

33. The Meeting recommended that States use and apply existing United Nations standards and norms in their national programmes for crime prevention and criminal justice reform. More specifically, it recommended that States consider establishing and implementing comprehensive strategic frameworks and plans of action, which would cover a predetermined period of time and be inspired by United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.

34. In order to facilitate the practical use and application of the United Nations standards and norms, the Meeting recommended that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime be given the capacity to provide technical assistance to enable requesting States to undertake programmes of criminal justice reform, including assistance to amend their criminal justice legislation and codes of criminal procedure.

35. In the area of capacity- and institution-building, the Meeting recommended that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, in cooperation with the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation, provide appropriate training for law enforcement officials, including prison officials, prosecutors, the judiciary and other relevant professional groups, taking into account best practices at the international level.

36. The Meeting recognized the importance of providing support for crime prevention and criminal justice systems within the framework of peacekeeping operations and of providing assistance to countries emerging from conflict and to countries with economies in transition. It therefore recommended that criminal justice reform feature prominently in United Nations activities in those areas and that States and international financial institutions provide adequate funding to countries emerging from conflict and countries with economies in transition.

37. The Meeting recommended that States pay particular attention to juvenile justice and to measures to ensure the treatment of children in conflict with the law, particularly those deprived of their liberty, in conformity with applicable United Nations standards and norms and taking into account their gender, social circumstances and developmental needs. It also recommended that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice request the Eleventh Congress:

(a) To explore the possibility of developing an action plan for juvenile justice that would set targets for reducing the number of children arrested, detained or imprisoned;

(b) To explore the feasibility of the action plan aiming at reducing the number of such children by 25 per cent within 5 years and by 50 per cent within 10 years;

(c) To explore the possibility of developing a plan of action focusing on the collection and analysis of national data on children deprived of their liberty, with a view to promoting the prevention of juvenile delinquency and the use of alternatives to imprisonment and improving the conditions of children deprived of their liberty.

38. The Meeting took note of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of Prisoners, annexed to a draft resolution to be considered by the Eleventh Congress (see the report of the African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Eleventh Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (A/CONF.203/RPM.3, chap. II), held in Addis Ababa from 1 to 3 March 2004).

39. The Meeting noted the continued relevance of international humanitarian law to the appropriate functioning of criminal justice systems, especially when those systems were called upon to confront complex forms of criminal activity, such as organized crime or acts of terrorism when arising or committed in situations of armed conflict or internal violence. The Meeting therefore recommended that States ensure that humanitarian law became an integral part of their criminal justice systems and that the relevant international instruments and guidelines were consistently applied.

B. Workshops

Workshop 1. Enhancing International Law Enforcement Cooperation, including Extradition Measures

40. The Meeting recommended that Workshop 1 examine the operationalization of extradition and mutual legal assistance measures contained in international legal instruments. In that connection, the Workshop should examine ways of carrying out simulation exercises, in order to improve operational and intelligence compatibility.

It also recommended that the Workshop be used as an opportunity to exchange information and experiences at the national and international levels and to explore the most conducive ways of promoting research and structuring training and education programmes for law enforcement personnel. It further recommended that the Workshop explore the possibility of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime providing a forum for the negotiation of bilateral agreements or arrangements in the area of law enforcement cooperation.

Workshop 2. Enhancing Criminal Justice Reform, including Restorative Justice

41. The Meeting recommended that Workshop 2 examine the need to undertake accurate assessments and methodological studies of the effects of imprisonment on vulnerable groups, in particular women and juveniles, and on ways of raising their awareness of the functioning of the criminal justice system and the rights afforded to them by the system. It also recommended that the Workshop focus its attention on alternatives to imprisonment, prison overcrowding, best practices in criminal justice reform, United Nations standards and norms applicable to children in conflict with the law and restorative justice.

Workshop 3. Strategies and Best Practices for Crime Prevention, in particular in relation to Urban Crime and Youth at Risk

42. The Meeting recommended that Workshop 3 be used as an opportunity to share information and experiences on the most promising approaches to and strategies for the prevention of crime, in particular urban crime, as well as measures to protect youth at risk. It also recommended that the Workshop focus on the most appropriate practical ways of making use of relevant United Nations standards and norms, including those applicable to children in conflict with the law, the guidelines for cooperation and technical assistance in the field of urban crime prevention (Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/9, annex) and the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime (Council resolution 2002/13, annex).

Workshop 4. Measures to Combat Terrorism, with reference to the Relevant International Conventions and Protocols

43. The Meeting recommended that Workshop 4 focus on the most appropriate ways to ensure the effective and expeditious exchange of criminal intelligence and other information at the national and international levels, in order to enhance cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of terrorist crimes. It also recommended that the Workshop explore ways of building or strengthening the capacity of law enforcement agencies or units for countering terrorism and the type of assistance that could be provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The Meeting further recommended that the Workshop pay particular attention to ways to safeguard the principle of due process of law and to ensure the protection of human rights, standards of international and humanitarian law and national sovereignty, while striking an appropriate balance with the need to prevent and prosecute terrorist crimes.

Workshop 5. Measures to Combat Economic Crime, including Money-Laundering

44. The Meeting recommended that Workshop 5 examine ways to apply information technology to law enforcement operations against economic crime and money-laundering, including data collection and analysis, especially in case management. It also recommended that the Workshop serve as a forum in which to explore the development of educational and training programmes for capacity-building in compliance with relevant international legal instruments. The Meeting further recommended that the Workshop explore special investigative techniques and their requirements, as well as the development of programmes for training law enforcement personnel in the use of such techniques, in particular in countries developing their legislative and law enforcement structures.

Workshop 6. Measures to Combat Computer-related Crime

45. The Meeting recommended that Workshop 6 examine current experience and existing national legal frameworks and arrangements for cooperation between States to combat computer-related crime, with a view to assessing the effectiveness of such frameworks and arrangements. It also recommended that the Workshop examine the most appropriate ways to promote cooperative arrangements between Governments and the private sector oriented towards ensuring the security of computer networks and communication systems and the existence of appropriate response mechanisms. The Meeting further recommended that the Workshop explore ways and means of enhancing the capacity of Governments to develop and apply adequate special investigative techniques and prosecutorial capabilities. Finally, the Meeting recommended that the Workshop deal with the use of modern technology in exploiting women and children, especially in relation to pornography and paedophilia.

III. Attendance and organization of work

A. Date and venue of the Meeting

46. The Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held in Bangkok from 29 to 31 March 2004.

B. Attendance

47. The following member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific were represented at the Meeting: Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, Turkey and Tuvalu.

48. The following States were represented by observers at the Meeting: Austria, Holy See and Spain.

49. The following entities of the United Nations system were represented by observers: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

50. The following institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network were also represented by observers: Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Australian Institute of Criminology, International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy and International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council.

51. The following entities and organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly were represented by observers: Association of South-East Asian Nations, European Commission, International Committee of the Red Cross and Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

52. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were represented by observers: Asia Crime Prevention Foundation, Defence for Children International, International Association of Prosecutors, International Council of Women, International Society for Criminology, Japan Federation of Bar Associations, Penal Reform International and Soroptimist International.

53. A list of participants is contained in annex I.

C. Opening of the Meeting

54. The Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was opened on 29 March 2004 by the observer for the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), who delivered a statement on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Commission.

55. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP stated that the Commission recognized the value of the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice. She noted that the Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held in Bangkok in November 1998, had, in the face of the challenges posed by transnational organized crime, called for the adoption of new legislative instruments and measures. In the intervening years, the international community had adopted new international instruments, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols, as well as the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Noting that the issues before the Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Eleventh Congress were extremely relevant to the work of ESCAP, she expressed confidence that the work of the Meeting, and of the Eleventh Congress itself, would reinforce ESCAP support for countries and areas in Asia and the Pacific in their efforts to strengthen national capacity-building and to develop and implement policies and programmes to address emerging and persistent development issues.

D. Election of officers

56. At its 1st meeting, on 29 March 2004, the Meeting elected, by acclamation, the following officers:

Chairman: Kampee Kaocharem (Thailand)

Vice-Chairmen: T. P. Sreenivasan (India)
Hirokazu Urata (Japan)
Taukelina T. Finikaso (Tuvalu)

Rapporteur: Ali Hajigholam Saryazdi (Islamic Republic of Iran)

57. The Deputy Attorney-General of Thailand expressed his pleasure at being elected Chairman of the Meeting and informed the Meeting of the measures put in place by his Government at the national level to prepare for the Eleventh Congress, which his country would host in April 2005. The national organizing committee of Thailand, chaired by the Minister of Justice, was responsible for the overall supervision of matters pertaining to the substantive aspects of the Eleventh Congress. Five subcommittees had also been established. He expressed his confidence that the in-depth discussion at the Meeting of the substantive topics and workshops would contribute to the success of the Eleventh Congress.

E. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

58. At its 1st meeting, on 29 March, the Meeting adopted its provisional agenda (A/CONF.203/RPM.1/L.1/Rev.1), which had been finalized in accordance with General Assembly resolution 58/138. The agenda read as follows:

1. Opening of the Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
4. Consideration of the substantive items on the agenda of the Eleventh Congress:
 - (a) Effective measures to combat transnational organized crime;
 - (b) International cooperation against terrorism and links between terrorism and other criminal activities in the context of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
 - (c) Corruption: threats and trends in the twenty-first century;
 - (d) Economic and financial crimes: challenges to sustainable development;
 - (e) Making standards work: fifty years of standard-setting in crime prevention and criminal justice.
5. Consideration of the topics to be considered by workshops within the framework of the Eleventh Congress:

- (a) Enhancing international law enforcement cooperation, including extradition measures;
 - (b) Enhancing criminal justice reform, including restorative justice;
 - (c) Strategies and best practices for crime prevention, in particular in relation to urban crime and youth at risk;
 - (d) Measures to combat terrorism, with reference to the relevant international conventions and protocols;
 - (e) Measures to combat economic crime, including money-laundering;
 - (f) Measures to combat computer-related crime.
- 6. Consideration of recommendations to serve as a basis for the draft declaration to be submitted by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its thirteenth session to the Eleventh Congress.
 - 7. Adoption of the report of the Regional Preparatory Meeting.

- 8. Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
- 9. Promotion of ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.
- 10. Recommendations for follow-up action.

59. At the same meeting, the Meeting approved its organization of work (A/CONF.203/RPM.1/L.1/Rev.1). The list of documents before the Meeting is contained in annex II.

IV. Proceedings of the Meeting

60. The substantive items of the agenda, as well as the topics of the workshops, were introduced by the Executive Secretary of the Eleventh Congress.

61. Statements were made by representatives of the following States: India, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Islamic Republic of Iran, Philippines, Russian Federation, Japan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Thailand, Tuvalu and Myanmar.

62. The representative of Thailand, the host country of the Eleventh Congress, made a video presentation on the preparations being undertaken for the Eleventh Congress. An information folder showing the commitment of the Government of Thailand to the success of the Eleventh Congress was distributed. All States in Asia and the Pacific and relevant organizations were encouraged to participate actively in the Eleventh Congress.

63. Statements were also made by the observers for the following organizations: Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council, Penal Reform International, Asia Crime Prevention Foundation, Defence for Children

International, International Committee of the Red Cross, Soroptimist International and International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy.

64. When reviewing the draft recommendations relating to substantive item 2, some speakers stressed that appropriate attention must be paid to the root causes of terrorism, such as poverty and social injustices, as well as to the need to avoid making any connection between terrorism and religion. Some speakers recommended that every effort be made by the States in Asia and the Pacific, as well as other States, to expedite the entry into force of 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 (Assembly resolution 55/255, annex). Other speakers stressed the need to ensure that people were not deprived of their right to self-determination by being associated with terrorism, as well as the need to draw a clear distinction between terrorism and religion by using an agreed legal definition of “terrorism”.

V. Adoption of the report and closure of the Meeting

65. At its 6th meeting, on 31 March 2004, the Meeting considered and adopted its report (A/CONF.203/RPM.1/L.2), as orally amended. Closing statements were made by the Executive Secretary of the Eleventh Congress and the Chairman of the Meeting.

VI. Seminar on Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto and on Promotion of Ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

66. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime decided to use the occasion of the regional preparatory meetings for the Eleventh Congress to continue its activities to promote the ratification and subsequent implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto and the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The regional preparatory meetings were also deemed to offer an opportunity for States to provide guidance to the Secretariat on the organization of the inaugural session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

67. The Seminar on Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto and on Promotion of Ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption held in Bangkok on 1 and 2 April 2004 began with a presentation by a representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The representative informed the seminar participants that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air had entered into force on 29 September 2003, 25 December 2003 and 28 January 2004, respectively; and that the Ad Hoc

Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime had held its thirteenth session for the purpose of preparing draft rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the first session of which would be held in Vienna from 28 June to 9 July 2004. The seminar participants were also informed that the General Assembly, by its resolution 58/4 of 31 October 2003, had adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption and that the Convention had been opened for signature at the High-level Political Conference for the Purpose of Signing the Convention, held in Merida, Mexico, from 9 to 11 December 2003.

68. Participants reiterated the commitment of their Governments to ratifying or acceding to the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols as soon as possible. During the discussion, a number of speakers emphasized the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, which had not yet entered into force and, compared with the other instruments, appeared to be lagging behind in terms of the number of ratifications and accessions. There was recognition of the fact that efforts towards the ratification of the Firearms Protocol had encountered some difficulties, arising in part from the technical nature of some of its provisions, which might require special legislation. Many participants highlighted the need for their Governments to receive technical assistance in developing and implementing the required legislation, as well as in strengthening national capacities and law enforcement mechanisms that would be necessary for compliance with the Convention and its Protocols.

69. In connection with the Convention against Corruption, the seminar participants were informed about the status of signatures since the conclusion of the High-level Political Conference, as well as plans for future activities related to the promotion and entry into force of the new instrument.

70. There was agreement that the Convention against Corruption was a major step forward in action against corruption and the development of international law. The complexity of its provisions, especially in relation to asset recovery, attracted the attention and interest of participants, who highlighted the need for technical assistance to be made available, upon request, to countries in Asia and the Pacific. Participants also called for the expeditious development of a legislative guide for the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, using as a model the legislative guides being developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and each of and its Protocols.

Annex I

List of participants

Regional members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Australia	Damian Facciolo
Bangladesh	Chowdhury Qamrul Ahsan, M. Abdul Aziz Sorkar
Brunei Darussalam	Joanna Dato Haji Danial
Cambodia	Thong Lim
India	T. P. Sreenivasan, Leela K. Ponappa, T. P. Seetharam, D. K. Chakraborty
Indonesia	Romli Atmasasmita, Wisnu E. Pratignyo, Akmal Darwin, Listyowati, Bambang Witjaksono, Andhika Chrisnayudhanto
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Ali Hajigholam Saryazdi
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Lao People's Democratic Republic	Khamkong Liemphrachanh
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Maldives	Abdul Shakoor Abdulla
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Philippines	Antonio V. Rodriguez, Maria Lourdes V. Ramiro Lopez, Linda L. Malenab-Hornilla, Marshall Louis Al Ferez, Vyva Victoria M. Aguirre, Jose Victor Chan-Gonzaga, Alexander E. Bacarro, Ercy Nannete M. Tomas
Republic of Korea	Kim Chong-hoon, Yoon Nam-guen, Yun Hyun-soo, Jang Joon-oh
Russian Federation	Andrey Melanik, Boris Miroshnikov, Nicolay Ovchinnikov, Arkady V. Tonkoglas, Alexander Goncharov, Sergey Krutov, Nikolay Otarshchikov, Vladimir V. Pronin
Singapore	Goh Lam Kiong, Christopher Goh Eng Chiang
Thailand	Kampree Kaocharern, Prapun Naigowit, Trakul Winitnalyapak, Sirisak Tiyanpan, Piyatide Jermhansa, Tongthong Chandransu, Wichayuth Chongpayuha,

Phornprapha Kiaewkia, Kobkiat Kasivivat, Pitikan
Sithidej, Paitoon Sawangkamol, Kraisorn
Barameeauychai, Sirawet Chandharath, Sasivimol
Tanesarnti, Sudjit Janenoppakanjana, Wimai Srichantra,
Titaporn Utensute, Pornpit Norapoompipat, Siwakorn
Kuralanavej, Naras Savestanan, Paisith Sungkahapong,
Somorek Tangkharawekhun, Wisit Wisitsora-At, Vitaya
Suriyawong, Khun Ying Porntip Rojanasunar, Somchai
Siripunt, Rachanikorn Sarasiri, Premrat Wilaranayam,
Peeraphan Prempooti, Sehanat Prayoonrat, Weerachat
Sribunma, Chaiyot Sintuprasit, Thammanoon Ruengdit,
Piyatida Chongudomliuk, M. R. Krita Kritakara,
Choombhon Lerfathekam, Adiskdi Tunyakul, Prasert
Suttison, Nakul Kolkich, Krisada Chinavichanana,
Paisal Ekhanit, Witaya Jeradechakul, Tipatida
Pisitkassern, Manop Mekprayoonthong, Manopchai
Vongpakdi, Morakot Srisawasdi, Tanee Sangrat,
Viraphand Vacharathit, Kriangsak Kittichaisaree,
Voradet Viravakin, Tana Wesgosith, Pimwadee
Soveratanapong, Prathan Chularojmontri, Amnart
Netayesupha, Uthei Arthivsch, Mongkol Chirachaisakul,
Karuna Phunpetch, Opat Varophat, Pravitt Roykaew,
Wipon Kittasnasorchai, Poravich Makormwatana,
Santane Ditsayabut, Jirasawat Suraidhidhamrong,
Sunisa Sathapornsermsuk, Nakul Kolkich, Sophon
Namsiri, Sanchai Srisakda

Turkey

H. Avni Aksoy

Tuvalu

Taukelina T. Finikaso

States represented by observers

Austria, Holy See, Spain

United Nations Secretariat

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Office
on Drugs and Crime

Institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network

Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of
Offenders, Australian Institute of Criminology, International Centre for Criminal
Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy, International Scientific and Professional
Advisory Council

Intergovernmental organizations

Association of South-East Asian Nations, European Commission, International Committee of the Red Cross, Sovereign Military Order of Malta

Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

General consultative status: Asia Crime Prevention Foundation, International Council of Women, Soroptimist International

Special consultative status: Defence for Children International, Japan Federation of Bar Associations, International Association of Prosecutors, Penal Reform International, World Society of Victimology

Annex II

List of documents

A/CONF.203/PM.1	Discussion guide
A/CONF.203/RPM.1/L.1/Rev.1	Provisional agenda and proposed organization of work
A/CONF.203/RPM.1/L.2	Draft report of the Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting
