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**Western Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting for the
Eleventh United Nations Congress on
Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**
Beirut, 28-30 April 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**
Beirut, 1 and 2 May 2004

Report of the Western Asian 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 Western Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice agreed that the action-oriented recommendations presented below, reflecting the Western Asian perspective, should be considered by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in preparing the draft declaration for submission to the Eleventh Congress. The Meeting stressed that such recommendations would require concerted action at the subregional, regional and international levels, with a view to strengthening cooperation in respect of criminal justice policies and procedures.

A. Substantive items

1. Effective measures to combat transnational organized crime

6. The Meeting recommended that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime intensify its activities to promote the ratification and subsequent implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I) and the three Protocols thereto (Assembly resolutions 55/25, annexes II and III, and 53/255, annex). The Meeting also recommended that all States that had not yet done so should ratify or accede to those international instruments as soon as possible.

7. The Meeting recommended that special attention should be given to facilitating and promoting universal adherence to and universal implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols, as that would be the best way to ensure consistent and effective action against all forms of organized crime, stressing the need to take fully into account regional or subregional specificities. The Meeting also recommended that:

(a) Donor countries and funding institutions should make adequate and regular financial contributions to the special account established in accordance with the Organized Crime Convention for an expanded programme for providing technical assistance to countries in need, in particular least developed countries and countries emerging from conflict, in order to enable them to become parties to and implement the Convention;

(b) Under the guidance of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime should provide technical assistance to countries in need that would enable them to strengthen their legislative framework and their capacity in law enforcement and other criminal justice matters.

8. The Meeting was convinced of the need for concerted efforts to shield society and the legitimate economy and to safeguard and further strengthen democratic institutions through measures to prevent organized crime. The Meeting therefore recommended that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, under the guidance of the Conference of the Parties, should devote attention to developing, in full cooperation with the countries concerned, technical assistance programmes aimed at the achievement of those objectives. Such technical assistance programmes should include educational components as a means of promoting respect for the rule of law as a pillar of democracy.

9. The Meeting recognized the fundamental importance of international cooperation in criminal matters, in particular extradition and mutual legal assistance. The Meeting recommended that the Eleventh Congress be requested to consider ways and means of increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of those forms of international cooperation.

10. The Meeting recommended that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and other international organizations, develop and implement technical assistance programmes to support Western Asian countries, upon request, in dealing with the smuggling of migrants.

11. The Meeting recognized the serious nature of trafficking in human organs, an activity in which organized criminal groups were increasingly engaging. Therefore, the Meeting recommended that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Eleventh Congress pay special attention to the possibility of launching the negotiation of an additional protocol to the Organized Crime Convention on that subject.

12. The Meeting called upon the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Eleventh Congress to discuss issues concerning the theft of cultural property and the protection of cultural heritage, pursuant to the declaration adopted by the international conference celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, held in Cairo from 14 to 16 February 2004.

13. The Meeting recommended that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Eleventh Congress pay particular attention to the development of effective measures to strengthen international cooperation in efforts to fight trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna. Those measures should also address the need to ensure adequate protection of marine life.

14. The Meeting recognized the rapid emergence of new forms of crime facilitated by the use of computers and computerized networks. Pursuant to a proposal made by the representative of Egypt, the Meeting therefore recommended that the Eleventh Congress consider the possibility of the negotiation of a new convention against cyber crime, focusing on transborder investigation, prosecution and adjudication of offences related to the abuse of computer networks and related technology. The Meeting also recommended that the new convention cover, inter alia: the formulation of clear strategies and measures for international cooperation, including in the areas of extradition and mutual legal assistance; the exchange of information; the provision of technical assistance in strategic planning and legislation; and the provision of support to research efforts to evaluate the impact of cybercrime on sustainable development.

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

15. The Meeting recognized that countries in Western Asia were experiencing grave threats posed by terrorist acts targeting the civilian population, civil infrastructure and law enforcement agencies. The Meeting 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.

16. The Meeting also 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, particularly in terms of professional training of criminal justice officials.

17. 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.

18. The Meeting recognized the importance of the 1998 Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism. The Meeting also recognized that regional cooperation in combating terrorism was crucial. The Meeting therefore recommended that regional and subregional organizations continue to actively promote such cooperation, with the involvement of the Arab Council of Ministers of the Interior and the Arab Council of Ministers of Justice of the League of Arab States and to coordinate closely with other international organizations active in that field.

19. 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.

20. The Meeting called for increased efforts to conclude the negotiations on a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, carried out by the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996, which should include an agreed upon definition of terrorism.

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

21. The Meeting recommended that all States that had not yet done so become parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption as soon as possible, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 58/4 of 31 October 2003.

22. The Meeting recommended that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in cooperation with relevant regional institutions and financial agencies, develop special programmes for providing technical assistance to countries in Western Asia in order to assist those countries in developing their capacity to recover assets.

23. The Meeting was convinced that all States should strive for the effective and universal implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. To that end, the Meeting recommended that donor countries and financing institutions make adequate regular voluntary contributions for the provision of technical assistance to developing countries in need to enable them to become parties to and/or implement the Convention.

24. The Meeting recommended that measures be taken to prevent corruption in the public and private sectors, including in the judiciary and prosecution services, by promoting public awareness, strengthening transparency and accountability, ensuring adequate remuneration for public officials, including criminal justice personnel, and developing codes of conduct for public officials and transparent systems of procurement. The Meeting also recommended that the United Nations Development Programme, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, should continue providing technical assistance to reform prosecutorial services and promote judicial integrity. The Meeting further recommended that attention be given to developing programmes for young people, including programmes for the preparation of education and training curricula.

25. It was noted that corruption was a transnational phenomenon that affected all societies and economies, making international cooperation to prevent and control it essential. It was therefore vital that States adopt legislation that would enable them to cooperate effectively with other States in the investigation and prosecution of corruption cases.

4. Economic and financial crimes: challenges to sustainable development

26. The Meeting expressed concern at the emergence of new forms of economic and financial crime, involving offences related to credit card fraud, consumer fraud and identity theft. The Meeting therefore recommended that the Eleventh Congress pay special attention to the development of appropriate policies and measures for national action and international cooperation in those areas, including by exploring the possibility of negotiating international legal instruments.

27. The Meeting urged States to develop and implement national legislation that would be based on a clear understanding of the various manifestations of economic and financial crime. The Meeting called upon States to consider enacting appropriate laws, including criminal laws, that would afford the maximum possible protection to consumers, would encourage the establishment of consumer advocacy and protection associations and would ensure unimpeded access of the public to national courts to pursue claims against those endangering consumers' lives through defects in products or misleading or false advertisement. The Meeting further recommended that States consider introducing in their domestic legal systems the concept of corporate criminal liability.

28. The Meeting noted the importance of measures of control and regulation in preventing money-laundering and the movement of cash proceeds of crime. The Meeting recommended that the Eleventh Congress explore more effective measures to promote regional and international cooperation to prevent and combat money-laundering.

29. The Meeting recommended that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and relevant organizations and institutions develop and implement technical assistance programmes for the prevention and control of money-laundering in States requesting such assistance.

30. 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.

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

31. The Meeting highlighted the fact that the use and application of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice were important to criminal justice reform.

32. The Meeting recommended that States use and apply those United Nations standards and norms in their national programmes for criminal justice reform. More specifically, the Meeting recommended that the Eleventh Congress should consider ways and means of offering to States comprehensive strategic frameworks and plans of action, which would cover a predetermined period of time, based on the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.

33. In order to facilitate the implementation of the strategic frameworks and plans of action, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime should provide technical assistance and advisory services to States, upon request, to enable them to undertake programmes of criminal justice reform, including assistance to amend their criminal justice legislation and codes of criminal procedure.

34. In the area of capacity- and institution-building, the Meeting recommended that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in cooperation with the Naif Arab Academy for Security Sciences and other Arab regional entities, should design and deliver training for law enforcement officials, including prosecutors and the judiciary.

35. The Meeting noted the existing cooperation between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and some countries in Western Asia in the field of juvenile justice and measures to ensure the treatment of children in conflict with the law, particularly those deprived of their liberty, and encouraged the Office to expand those activities in other countries in the region requesting assistance.

36. In view of the problems of poor prison conditions in most developing countries, including overcrowding and poor sanitary facilities and lack of health facilities, the Meeting recommended the adoption by the Eleventh Congress of the following draft resolution:

For human dignity: the Charter of Fundamental Rights of Prisoners

The Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/2 of 18 September 2000, in which heads of State and Government recognized that they had a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level,

Recognizing the pioneering role of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners,¹ adopted by the First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and approved by the Economic and Social Council in its resolutions 663 C (XXIV) of 31 July 1957 and 2076 (LXII) of 13 May 1977, recognized as the first instrument for the humane, fair and efficient management of detention and imprisonment,

¹ *First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Geneva, 22 August-3 September 1955: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 1956.IV.4), annex I.A.

Bearing in mind the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/111 of 14 December 1990, in which the Assembly recognized the usefulness of drafting a declaration of the human rights of prisoners,

Deeply concerned about the serious problems confronting many States as a result of prison overcrowding,

Having regard for the regional efforts in the promotion of basic rights of prisoners, as considered by the Pan-African Conference on Penal and Prison Reform in Africa, held in Ouagadougou from 18 to 20 September 2002, and the Latin American Conference on Penal Reform and Alternatives to Imprisonment, held in San José from 6 to 8 November 2002, and pursued by the African Union and the Organization of American States, as well as the Asian Conference on Prison Reform and Alternatives to Imprisonment, held in Dhaka from 12 to 14 December 2002,

Mindful of Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/36 of 21 July 1997, on international cooperation for the improvement of prison conditions, in which the Council took note of the Kampala Declaration on Prison Conditions in Africa, contained in the annex to that resolution,

Mindful also of Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/23 of 28 July 1988, on international cooperation aimed at the reduction of prison overcrowding and the promotion of alternative sentencing, in which the Council took note of the Kadoma Declaration on Community Service, contained in annex I to that resolution,

Convinced that formulating fundamental rights of prisoners will further the objective of upholding the principles of human dignity by the international community,

Adopts the Charter of Fundamental Rights of Prisoners, contained in the annex to the present resolution, with a view to ensuring its implementation by Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other entities and individuals concerned in all places of detention and imprisonment.

Annex

Charter of Fundamental Rights of Prisoners

I. Right to inherent dignity

Confinement of prisoners,² including poor and racially discriminated persons, should be managed in a humane manner and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person.³ There shall be no discrimination on the grounds

² The term “prisoners” applies to persons arrested or imprisoned by reason of a criminal charge against them, who are detained either in police custody or in prison custody (jail) but have not yet been tried and sentenced. It also applies to detained or imprisoned juvenile delinquents and offenders.

³ See the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment (General Assembly resolution 43/172, annex, principle 1) and the United Nations

of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.⁴ It is, however, desirable to respect the religious beliefs and cultural precepts of the group to which a prisoner belongs, whenever local conditions so require.⁵ Measures applied under the law and designed solely to protect the rights and special status of women (especially pregnant women and nursing mothers), children and juveniles, aged, sick and handicapped persons, shall not be deemed to be discriminatory. A prisoner must be treated by the prison system strictly in accordance with the conditions imposed in the imprisonment sentence without further aggravating the suffering inherent in such a situation.⁶

II. Right to separation, classification and treatment

A prisoner has the right to be placed in separate institutions or parts of institutions, taking into account his or her sex, age, criminal record, the legal reason for their detention and the necessities of treatment.⁷ A person detained for the purpose of delinquency or criminal investigation shall be presumed to be innocent until he or she is proved guilty.⁸ He or she shall not be obliged to be a part of the treatment and rehabilitation programme in the juvenile justice administration or prison system.⁹

III. Right to humane accommodation

A prisoner has the right to be accommodated in places that meet all requirements of health, with due regard to climatic conditions, appropriate cubic content of air, minimum floor space, lighting, heating and ventilation.¹⁰

IV. Right to decent food

A prisoner has the right to food of nutritional value adequate to health and strength, of wholesome quality and well prepared and served at usual hours.

Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of Their Liberty (Assembly resolution 45/113, annex, rule 12).

⁴ See the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners (Assembly resolution 45/111, annex, principle 2).

⁵ See the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners (principle 3).

⁶ See the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment (principle 5).

⁷ See the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex, art. 10, para. 2 (b)) and the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (rules 8 and 68).

⁸ See the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Assembly resolution 217 A (III), art. 11, para. 1), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (art. 14, para. 2), the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (rule 84, para. 2), the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment (principle 36) and the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (rule 89).

⁹ See the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (art. 10, para. 2 (a)), the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules) (Assembly resolution 40/33, annex, rule 13, paras. 3 and 4, and rule 26) and the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of Their Liberty (rules 17 and 29).

¹⁰ See the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (rules 9, 10 and 19).

Safe and clean drinking water shall be available to every prisoner whenever he or she needs it.¹¹

V. Right to health and medical care

A prisoner has the right to clean accommodation with proper living conditions, adequate diet, enough clothing and medical care, both preventive and curative, available in the country without discrimination on the grounds of his or her legal situation.¹²

VI. Right to legal consultation, a prompt and fair trial and equitable sentencing, including non-custodial sanctions

A prisoner has the right to communicate and consult with his or her legal counsel and to resort to the services of an interpreter to exercise that right effectively.¹³ He or she has the right to be heard promptly by a judicial or other authority with a power to review as appropriate the continuance of detention, including release pending trial.¹⁴ Decisions on the imposition of non-custodial measures on the offender shall be subject to review by a judicial or other competent independent authority, upon application by the offender. In the interest of reducing the use of imprisonment and rationalizing criminal justice policy through greater community involvement and promoting the offender's sense of responsibility towards society, he or she, in cases provided by law establishing criteria in respect of both the nature and gravity of the offence and his or her personality and background, the purposes of sentencing and the rights of victims, is eligible to be sentenced to a non-custodial sanction.¹⁵

VII. Right to independent inspections or supervision

A prisoner has the right to receive independent inspections or supervision appointed by and responsible to a competent authority distinct from the authority in charge of the administration of the place of detention or imprisonment and to communicate freely and in full confidentiality with persons who visit the places of detention or imprisonment, subject to reasonable conditions to ensure security and good order in such places.¹⁶

¹¹ See the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (rule 20).

¹² See the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (art. 25) and the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners (principle 9).

¹³ See the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (art. 14, para. 3), the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment (principles 11, para. 1, and 17, 18 and 32) and the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (rule 93).

¹⁴ See the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment (principle 11, para. 3).

¹⁵ See the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-Custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules) (Assembly resolution 45/110, annex, rules 1.4, 1.5 and 2.3).

¹⁶ See the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment (principle 29).

VIII. Right to reintegration

A prisoner has the right to obtain, within the limits of available resources, reasonable quantities of educational, cultural and informational material, including instructional material on exercising persons' rights, subject to reasonable conditions to ensure security and good order in the place of detention or imprisonment.¹⁷ A prisoner has the right to undertake a meaningful remunerated employment, which will increase his or her self-respect and facilitate reintegration into society and permit him or her to contribute to his or her own financial support and that of his or her family.¹⁸ Existing barriers should be limited and contact with families, friends and the outside community in general should be encouraged and increased.

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

37. The Meeting recommended that Workshop 1 focus on improvement of the effectiveness of extradition and mutual legal assistance measures, including strengthening the principle of *aut dedere aut judicare*. The Meeting also recommended that the Workshop be used as an opportunity to exchange information and experiences at the national and international levels and to find the best ways to promote increased knowledge and training for criminal justice officials and personnel.

Workshop 2. Enhancing Criminal Justice Reform, including Restorative Justice

38. The Meeting recommended that Workshop 2 explore ways and means of improving knowledge on the effects of imprisonment on women and juveniles and ways to raise their awareness of the functioning of the criminal justice system and the rights afforded to them by the system.

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

39. The Meeting recommended that Workshop 3 focus on sharing information and experiences on strategies for the prevention of crime, in particular urban crime, as well as measures to protect youth at risk. The Meeting also recommended that the Workshop focus on the most appropriate practical ways to make use of the relevant United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.

¹⁷ See the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (art. 10, para. 2), the Body of Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners (principle 28) and the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (rule 40).

¹⁸ See the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (rule 65) and the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners (principle 8).

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

40. The Meeting recommended that Workshop 4 focus on the most appropriate ways to enhance cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of terrorist crimes. The Meeting also recommended that the Workshop explore ways to build or strengthen the capacity of law enforcement agencies 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 promoting compliance with relevant international conventions and protocols against terrorism while seeking ways to safeguard the protection of human rights and to ensure adherence to the standards of international law and humanitarian law, taking into due account the need to respect the principles of national sovereignty and the specific nature of the legal systems of States.

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

41. The Meeting recommended that Workshop 5 focus on promoting more widespread use by law enforcement authorities of information technology, including data collection and analysis, especially in case management, to fight economic crime and money-laundering. The Meeting also recommended that the Workshop explore ways and means of developing educational and training programmes for capacity-building, especially in the investigation and prosecution of economic and financial crime. The Meeting further recommended that the Workshop explore ways to promote appropriate special investigative techniques and assess requirements, especially in countries developing their legislative and law enforcement structures.

Workshop 6. Measures to Combat Computer-related Crime

42. The Meeting recommended that Workshop 6 examine the most appropriate ways to promote cooperation, exchange of expertise, knowledge and know-how between Governments and the private sector for the establishment and operation of mechanisms for preventing and controlling cybercrime and ensuring the security of computer networks. 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.

III. Attendance and organization of work

A. Date and venue of the Meeting

43. The Western Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held in Beirut from 28 to 30 April 2004.

B. Attendance

44. The following member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia were represented at the Meeting: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.
45. The following Member State was represented by observers at the Meeting: Thailand.
46. The following entities of the United Nations system were represented by observers: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
47. The following institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network were also represented by observers: Naif Arab Academy for Security Studies and International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council.
48. The following intergovernmental organization was represented by an observer: League of Arab States.
49. Penal Reform International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, was represented by an observer.
50. A list of participants is contained in annex I.

C. Opening of the Meeting

51. The Western Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was opened on 28 April 2004 by the representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, who outlined the main purpose of the Meeting. He expressed his gratitude to the Ministry of Justice of the Government of Lebanon for hosting the Meeting.
52. In his opening statement, the Chairman of the Meeting, Samir Chamma (Lebanon), noted that, because developments in information technology and in the field of communications, organized crime was becoming increasingly transnational and thus required a concerted response by the international community. He noted that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which had entered into force on 29 September 2003, had a crucial role to play in that response. He highlighted the link between transnational organized crime and terrorism, emphasizing the need to differentiate between terrorism and the peoples' right to resist occupation. He noted that combating terrorism would entail an examination of the root causes of terrorism, bearing in mind that violence bred violence. He emphasized that it was important to acquire in-depth knowledge of the political, economic, social and cultural dimensions of terrorism. He stated that there was a need to organize an international conference on the subject, under the auspices of the United Nations, which would also tackle the question of defining terrorism. He also highlighted the importance of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

D. Election of officers

53. At its 1st meeting, on 28 April 2004, the Meeting elected, by acclamation, the following officers:

Chairman: Samir Chamma (Lebanon)

Vice-Chairman: Zakaria Al-Ansari (Kuwait)

Rapporteur: Saeed Al-Khamri (Yemen)

E. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

54. Also at its 1st meeting, the Meeting adopted its provisional agenda (A/CONF.203/RPM.4/L.1), which had been finalized in accordance with General Assembly resolution 58/138. The agenda read as follows:

1. Opening of the Western Asian 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.
55. At the same meeting, the Meeting approved its organization of work (A/CONF.203/RPM.4/L.1). The list of documents before the Meeting is contained in annex II.

IV. Proceedings of the Meeting

56. The substantive items of the agenda, as well as the topics of the workshops, were introduced by the representatives of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
57. Following the introduction of the substantive items and topics of the workshops, the participants engaged in an exchange of views and dialogue about recommendations to be considered by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and by the Eleventh Congress.
58. A statement was made by the observer for Thailand, the host country of the Eleventh Congress.
59. Statements were also made by observers for the following: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council, League of Arab States and Penal Reform International.

V. Adoption of the report and closure of the Meeting

60. At its 6th meeting, on 30 April 2004, the Meeting considered and adopted its report (A/CONF.203/RPM.4/L.2), with oral amendments.
61. A closing statement was made by the Minister of Justice of Lebanon. He stated that his Government attached great importance to the ability of the United Nations to address problems of global significance and to help in finding appropriate solutions. He noted that States had increased their expectations of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as its responsibilities included supporting Governments in their efforts to deal with problems that had a significant effect on the political, social and economic situations of their countries, such as corruption,

terrorism and organized crime. The recommendations of the Meeting reflected principles that formed the basis for international cooperation aimed at solving those problems. He was pleased that the recommendations had been discussed and adopted in what he termed “the spirit of Beirut”: a spirit of openness, mutual respect and willingness to cooperate.

62. The observer for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime also made a statement.

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

63. 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.

64. 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 Beirut on 1 and 2 May 2004 began with a presentation by a representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The representative informed the 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.

65. 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. Participants expressed the view that in Arab countries great importance was attached to the Firearms Protocol. Participants also requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the League of Arab States to urge those Arab States that had not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto.

66. In connection with the preparations for the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention, participants emphasized the need to obtain the necessary documentation, including invitations, in time to make adequate preparations. The representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime provided information on the draft rules of procedure for the Conference (CTOC/COP/2004/3), including the draft rules governing participation of parties, signatories and non-signatories.

67. Participants were informed that the General Assembly, in its resolution 58/4, 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. Participants were informed that the Convention would remain open for signature at United Nations Headquarters until 9 December 2005.

68. There were discussions about the status of signatures since the conclusion of the High-level Political Conference and about plans for future activities related to the promotion and entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

69. There was agreement that the United Nations Convention against Corruption was a major step forward in action against corruption and the development of international law. Participants welcomed the fact that International Anti-Corruption Day would be celebrated annually on 9 December, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 58/4.

Annex I

List of participants

Member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Egypt	Desouky Aly Fayed, Hany Hanna Sedra, Mohsen Abdul Kader Awad El-Atawy, Abdel-Rahim Am
Iraq	Tahsin A. Aena, Safaa S. Ahmed
Jordan	Hisham Oweiss
Kuwait	Zakariya Al-Ansari
Lebanon	Bahige Tabbarah, Samir Chamma, Raymond Oueidat, Jean Fahd, Jean Daniel, Ali Al-Shair, Jean Salloum, Pierre Kanaan
Qatar	Saad Jassim Al-Khulaifi, Abdulla D. Al-Kuwari, Mohamed Hama Al-Athba, Mohamed Nasser Al-Humaidi, Bakr R. Al-Qaysi
Saudi Arabia	Faisal Al-Zowawi, Khalifa Alkhalifa
Syrian Arab Republic	Marouam Al-Masri, Mowafaq Al-Yaghshi, Ali Deeb, Mohammed Ali Al-Salh, Ahmad Hamsi El-Khoury, Ibrahim Al-Nasar, Mohamed Ammar Talab, Baria Koudsi
Yemen	Saeed Abdo Al-Khamri, Abdullah Ayed Al-Ansi

States represented by observers

Thailand	Tongthong Chandransu, Vitaya Suyriyawong, Nuntarth Tepdolchai, Assanee Sangkhanate, Udomkaan Wazotamasikkadit, Chintaporn Sornsing, Thaweesak Woraphiwut, Perasak Srisuphol, Thongchai Chareonpol, Sopon Siriratana, Mongkol Chirachaisakol
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United Nations Secretariat

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

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

Naif Arab Academy for Security Sciences, International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council

Intergovernmental organization

League of Arab States

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

Penal Reform International

Annex II

List of documents

A/CONF.203/PM.1	Discussion guide
A/CONF.203/RPM.4/L.1	Provisional agenda and proposed organization of work
A/CONF.203/RPM.4/L.2	Draft report
