



**United Nations**

# **Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

**Report on the thirty-second session  
(9 December 2022 and 22–27 May 2023)**

**Economic and Social Council**

**Official Records, 2023**

**Supplement No. 10**



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*Note*

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

The report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its reconvened thirty-second session, to be held on 7 and 8 December 2023, will be issued as *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2023, Supplement No. 10A* ([E/2023/30/Add.1](#)).

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*Executive summary*

The present summary has been prepared pursuant to the annex to General Assembly resolution 68/1, entitled “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council”, in which it is stated that the subsidiary bodies of the Council should, *inter alia*, include an executive summary in their reports.

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held the regular part of its thirty-second session from 22 to 27 May 2023. The present document contains the report on that part of the thirty-second session, including the texts of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission, recommended by the Commission for adoption by the Economic and Social Council or recommended by the Commission for approval by the Council for adoption by the General Assembly.

During its thirty-second session, the Commission held a general debate. The Commission also considered strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions and the integration and coordination of efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, including issues related to the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the international instruments to prevent and combat terrorism, other crime prevention and criminal justice matters and other activities in support of the work of UNODC. Furthermore, the Commission considered the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, world crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fifteenth Congress. The Commission also considered its contributions to the work of the Economic and Social Council, including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The prominent theme for the thirty-second session of the Commission was “Enhancing the functioning of the criminal justice system to ensure access to justice and to realize a safe and secure society”. The Commission held a thematic discussion on the topic.

The Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the approval of the following draft resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly: (a) “Follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”; (b) “Reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration”; (c) “Enhancing the contributions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”; (d) “Technical assistance provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime related to counter-terrorism”; and (e) “Equal access to justice for all”.

The Commission also recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following decision: “Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its thirty-second session and provisional agenda for its thirty-third session”.

The Commission adopted the following resolution and decision: (a) “Taking action against trafficking in persons in business operations, public procurement and supply chains for goods and services”; and (b) “Report of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute”.



## Chapter I

### **Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention**

#### **A. Draft resolutions to be recommended by the Economic and Social Council for adoption by the General Assembly**

1. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice recommends to the Economic and Social Council the approval of the following draft resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly:

##### **Draft resolution I**

#### **Follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

*The General Assembly,*

*Emphasizing* the responsibility assumed by the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 155 C (VII) of 13 August 1948 and General Assembly resolution 415 (V) of 1 December 1950,

*Acknowledging* that the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice, as major intergovernmental forums, have influenced national policies and practices and promoted international cooperation in that field by facilitating the exchange of views and experience, mobilizing public opinion and recommending policy options at the national, regional and international levels,

*Recalling* its resolution [46/152](#) of 18 December 1991, in the annex to which Member States affirmed that the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice should be held every five years and should provide a forum for, inter alia, the exchange of views between States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines, the exchange of experiences in research, law and policy development and the identification of emerging trends and issues in crime prevention and criminal justice,

*Recalling also* the applicable provisions of its resolution [56/119](#) of 19 December 2001,

*Recalling further* the applicable provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996,

*Recalling* its resolution [57/270 B](#) of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, in which it stressed that all countries should promote policies consistent and coherent with the commitments of major United Nations conferences and summits, emphasized that the United Nations system had an important responsibility to assist Governments in staying fully engaged in the follow-up to and implementation of agreements and commitments reached at major United Nations conferences and summits and invited the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system to further promote the implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits,

*Recalling also* its resolution [76/181](#) of 16 December 2021, in which it endorsed the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the Fourteenth Congress, and requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to review the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration under the standing item on its agenda entitled “Follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”,

*Recalling further* its resolution [77/231](#) of 15 December 2022, in which it decided to hold the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2026, without prejudice to the timing of subsequent United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice and with a view to maintaining the five-year cycle of the congresses, in the light of the intensive follow-up process undertaken by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration,

*Recalling that*, in its resolution [77/231](#), it requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to approve at its thirty-second session the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops of the Fifteenth Congress, recommended that, building on the experience and the success of the Fourteenth Congress, all efforts be made to ensure that the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops of the Fifteenth Congress were interrelated and that the agenda items and workshop topics were streamlined and limited in number, and encouraged the holding of side events that were focused on and complemented the agenda items and workshops,

*Recalling also* its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

*Recalling further* its decisions 74/550 A of 13 April 2020 and 74/550 B of 12 August 2020, in which it decided to hold the Fourteenth Congress in 2021 instead of 2020 owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

*Encouraged by* the success of the Fourteenth Congress as one of the largest and most diverse forums for the exchange of views on and experiences in research, law and policy and programme development between States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines,

*Praising* the Government of Japan for conducting an intensive, succinct and fruitful Fourteenth Congress, despite challenging circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and mindful of the need to constantly look for ways to further improve the work of future congresses,

*Stressing* the importance of undertaking all preparatory activities for the Fifteenth Congress in a timely and concerted manner,

*Mindful of* the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the United Nations System, 2020–2030, and best practices in the preparations for, and the organization of, the Fifteenth Congress,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [E/CN.15/2023/11](#).

1. *Reiterates* its invitation to Governments to take into consideration the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>2</sup> when formulating legislation and policy directives and to make every effort, where appropriate, to implement the principles contained therein in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

2. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Government of Japan to work with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and through the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in ensuring appropriate follow-up to the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration;

3. *Requests* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in accordance with its mandate, to continue implementing the appropriate policy and operational measures for the follow-up to the Kyoto Declaration, including through the holding of intersessional thematic discussions to facilitate the sharing of information, good practices and lessons learned among Member States and relevant stakeholders, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;

4. *Notes* the progress made thus far in the preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

5. *Decides* that the duration of the Fifteenth Congress should not exceed eight days, including pre-Congress consultations;

6. *Also decides* that the main theme of the Fifteenth Congress shall be “Accelerating crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: protecting people and planet and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the digital age”;

7. *Further decides* that, in accordance with its resolution 56/119, the Fifteenth Congress shall open with a high-level segment, at which States will be invited to be represented at the highest possible level, for example, by Heads of State or Government, government ministers or attorneys general, and that representatives will be given an opportunity to make statements on the topics of the Congress;

8. *Decides* that, in accordance with its resolution 56/119, the Fifteenth Congress shall adopt a single declaration, to be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for its consideration;

9. *Also decides* that the Commission will give due consideration to the report of the Fifteenth Congress;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage the participation of representatives from relevant entities of the United Nations system in the Fifteenth Congress, bearing in mind the main theme, agenda items and workshop topics of the Congress;

11. *Approves* the following provisional agenda for the Fifteenth Congress, finalized by the Commission at its thirty-second session:

1. Opening of the Congress.
2. Organizational matters.
3. Advancing innovative and evidence-based crime prevention strategies towards social, economic and environmental development.
4. Promoting people-centred, inclusive and responsive criminal justice systems in a world of continuous change.

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<sup>2</sup> Resolution 76/181, annex.

5. Addressing and countering crime – including organized crime and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations – in new, emerging and evolving forms.
  6. Working better together to elevate cooperation and partnerships, including technical and material assistance and training, at the national, regional and international levels, in crime prevention and criminal justice.
  7. Adoption of the report of the Congress.
12. *Decides* that the following issues shall be considered in workshops within the framework of the Fifteenth Congress:
- (a) Building resilient societies, with a focus on protecting women, children and youth: fostering engagement, education and the culture of lawfulness;
  - (b) Ensuring equal access to justice for all: towards safe and secure societies while respecting the rule of law;
  - (c) Getting ahead: strengthening data collection and analysis to better protect people and planet in times of new, emerging and evolving forms of crime;
  - (d) Turning the digital age into an opportunity: promoting the responsible use of technologies in crime prevention and criminal justice.
13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, to prepare a discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings for the Fifteenth Congress and for the Congress itself in a timely manner in order to enable those meetings to be held as early as possible in 2025, and invites Member States to be actively involved in that process;
14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of the regional preparatory meetings and to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries in those meetings and in the Fifteenth Congress itself, in accordance with past practice and in consultation with Member States;
15. *Urges* participants in the regional preparatory meetings to examine the substantive items on the agenda and the topics of the workshops of the Fifteenth Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations to serve as a basis for the draft recommendations and conclusions for consideration by the Congress;
16. *Encourages* Member States to participate actively in the Fifteenth Congress by including in the composition of their delegations legal and policy experts, such as practitioners with special training and practical experience in crime prevention and criminal justice;
17. *Emphasizes* the importance of the workshops to be held within the framework of the Fifteenth Congress, and invites Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant entities to provide financial, organizational and technical support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network for the preparations for the workshops, including the preparation and circulation of relevant background material;
18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of ancillary meetings of non-governmental and professional organizations participating in the Fifteenth Congress, in accordance with past practice, as well as meetings of

professional and geographical interest groups, and to take appropriate measures to encourage the participation of the academic and research community in the Congress, and encourages Member States to actively participate in the above-mentioned meetings, as they provide an opportunity to develop and maintain strong partnerships with the private sector and civil society organizations;

19. *Encourages* States to undertake preparations for the Fifteenth Congress at an early stage and by all appropriate means, including, where appropriate, the establishment of national preparatory committees;

20. *Encourages* the relevant United Nations programmes, specialized agencies of the United Nations system 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 Fifteenth Congress;

21. *Requests* the Commission to accord sufficient time at its thirty-third session to reviewing the progress made in the preparations for the Fifteenth Congress, to finalize in a timely manner all outstanding organizational and substantive arrangements and to make its recommendations to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council;

22. *Welcomes with appreciation* the offer of the Government of United Arab Emirates to host the Fifteenth Congress, to be held in 2026;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure proper follow-up to the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Commission at its thirty-third session;

24. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

## **Draft resolution II**

### **Reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the outcome of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Kyoto, Japan, from 7 to 12 March 2021, as reflected in the report of the Congress<sup>3</sup> and in the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>4</sup>

*Reaffirming* the commitment expressed in the Kyoto Declaration to reduce reoffending through rehabilitation and social reintegration,

*Noting* the deliberations of the Fourteenth Congress under the agenda item entitled “Integrated approaches to challenges facing the criminal justice system”, during which, inter alia, the need for practical guidance for national criminal justice systems on reducing reoffending and the recommendation to develop new United Nations standards and norms on the issue of reducing reoffending were raised by some Member States,

*Noting also* the discussions held at the workshop on the topic “Reducing reoffending: identifying risks and developing solutions” and the three subtopics, as reflected in the report of Committee II of the Fourteenth Congress, in particular the encouragement given by some participants to Member States to share information on

<sup>3</sup> [A/CONF.234/16](#).

<sup>4</sup> Resolution [76/181](#), annex.

promising practices and consider the development, under the auspices of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, of model strategies to reduce reoffending that reflect, among others, the good practices discussed during the workshop,<sup>5</sup>

*Noting further* the efforts taken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to implement General Assembly resolution [76/182](#) of 16 December 2021, namely through convening, with the support of the Government of Japan, an online expert group meeting, during which a limited number of experts, participating in their individual capacity, met from 6 to 8 April 2022 to share information on promising practices and to identify a set of key elements to be considered for inclusion in draft model strategies on reducing reoffending,

*Recalling* its resolution [77/232](#) of 15 December 2022, in which it requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to convene a meeting of an open-ended intergovernmental expert group, with interpretation in all official languages of the United Nations, with a view to developing model strategies on reducing reoffending that could serve as useful tools for Member States, taking into consideration relevant provisions in the existing United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, current developments, research and tools, written contributions from Member States and, without prejudice, the output of the expert group meeting held from 6 to 8 April 2022,

*Recalling also* the standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice adopted or recommended by the General Assembly, including the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules),<sup>6</sup> the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules)<sup>7</sup> and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules),<sup>8</sup> and at the same time acknowledging the need for standards and norms specifically focusing on reducing reoffending,

1. *Encourages* Member States to develop comprehensive strategies or action plans to reduce reoffending through effective interventions for the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders;

2. *Also encourages* Member States to promote a rehabilitative environment in correctional facilities, including through designing and implementing effective treatment programmes based on an individual assessment of the needs of and risks faced by offenders, and to provide offenders with access to vocational and technical training and educational programmes to support them in developing the skills necessary for reintegration;

3. *Further encourages* Member States, as appropriate and in line with domestic legislation, to take into account the relevant and appropriate United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, mainstream a gender perspective into their criminal justice systems, support the development of necessary skills among offenders in correctional facilities and facilitate working opportunities, where appropriate, to promote the social rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders;

4. *Recognizes* the benefit that may be derived from incorporating respect for cultural diversity, based on respect for the rule of law, into rehabilitation and reintegration programmes;

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<sup>5</sup> [A/CONF.234/16](#), chap. VII, sect. B.

<sup>6</sup> Resolution [70/175](#), annex.

<sup>7</sup> Resolution [65/229](#), annex.

<sup>8</sup> Resolution [45/110](#), annex.

5. *Encourages* Member States to promote rehabilitation approaches and programmes within their judicial systems empowered to deal with specific problems, such as social or mental health issues;

6. *Also encourages* Member States to promote a rehabilitative environment in the community to facilitate the social reintegration of offenders with the active involvement of local communities, giving due regard to the need to protect society and individuals and the rights of victims and offenders;

7. *Further encourages* Member States to promote multi-stakeholder partnerships to reduce reoffending by fostering inter-agency coordination among relevant government authorities, such as employment and social welfare agencies and local governments, as well as public-private partnerships between those authorities and the community, including cooperating employers and community volunteers who support the long-term and social reintegration of offenders;

8. *Expresses appreciation* to Member States that shared with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, through written contributions, information on promising practices for possible inclusion in draft model strategies on reducing reoffending, for consideration by the open-ended intergovernmental expert group to be convened pursuant to its resolution [77/232](#);

9. *Takes note* of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat examining preliminary areas for consideration by the open-ended intergovernmental expert group;<sup>9</sup>

10. *Strongly encourages* Member States to actively participate in the meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group and to include in their delegations experts from a variety of relevant disciplines;

11. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to support the efforts of Member States to reduce reoffending through the promotion of rehabilitative environments and reintegration by providing technical assistance, including material support, upon request, to Member States, in particular developing countries, taking into account their needs and priorities, as well as challenges and restrictions;

12. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes outlined in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

### **Draft resolution III**

## **Enhancing the contributions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

*Recalling* its resolution [70/299](#) of 29 July 2016, in which it encouraged coherence of the General Assembly and its Main Committees, the Economic and Social Council, the specialized agencies and the functional commissions of the Council, and other intergovernmental bodies and forums with the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development towards the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

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<sup>9</sup> [E/CN.15/2023/13](#).

*Recalling also* its resolution [73/183](#) of 17 December 2018, in which it underlined the importance of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in actively contributing to the global follow-up to and supporting the thematic review of progress made in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals relating to its mandate,

*Recalling further* its resolution [75/290 B](#) of 25 June 2021, in which it referred to the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit, held under the auspices of the General Assembly, marking the midpoint of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

*Bearing in mind* that, in the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>10</sup> the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was invited to engage with other relevant stakeholders in order to strengthen global partnership in advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda,

*Underscoring* the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as the principal policymaking body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice,

*Noting* the important role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in collecting data and information relating to several indicators under the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 16,

*Noting also* that, pursuant to its decision 77/553 of 7 March 2023, the 2024 high-level political forum on sustainable development, to be held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, will review in depth several Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 16,

1. *Recalls* the commitment made by States to contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>11</sup> through their efforts in crime prevention and criminal justice, with the firm recognition that sustainable development and the rule of law are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, that crime is an impediment to sustainable development and that achieving sustainable development is an enabling factor for States to effectively prevent and combat crime;

2. *Underlines* the important role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in actively contributing to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda, within its mandate, and in contributing to the lead-up and follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals Summit held in September 2023;

3. *Welcomes* the thematic discussions on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, held by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice since 2021, which have also served as forums for discussing progress made in implementing the 2030 Agenda;

4. *Also welcomes* the contribution by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to the 2023 high-level debate of the General Assembly on the theme “Equal access to justice for all: advancing reforms for peaceful, just and inclusive societies”;

5. *Invites* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to continue developing policy and awareness-raising initiatives at the global level on accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 16, on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development,

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<sup>10</sup> Resolution [76/181](#), annex.

<sup>11</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels;

6. *Recalls* the role of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council in reflecting the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the interlinkages between them, and in this regard invites the Commission, within its mandate, to contribute through its work towards strengthening the capacity of national institutions through international cooperation and technical and material assistance to and training for Member States, especially for the benefit of developing countries, for the balanced and integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

7. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue supporting the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, within its mandate, in activities related to the accelerated implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 16;

8. *Encourages* Member States to continue raising awareness of the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and its relevance to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

9. *Also encourages* Member States to accelerate, as appropriate, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through their efforts in crime prevention and criminal justice, including through the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in 2026;

10. *Recognizes* the fundamental role of effective international cooperation in preventing and combating crime, and to this end underlines the importance of addressing, tackling and effectively responding to international challenges and barriers, in particular measures, that hinder such cooperation, and which are not consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and obligations under international law, and in this regard urges States, consistent with their international obligations, to refrain from applying such measures;

11. *Welcomes* the cooperation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, within its existing mandate, with other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, and encourages the Commission to further enhance its cooperation with all relevant intergovernmental bodies and forums with a view to advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including in the follow-up to the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit;

12. *Undertakes* to enhance multidisciplinary efforts to prevent and combat crime through cooperation and coordination between law enforcement and other criminal justice institutions, and other governmental sectors, as well as to support their work, by engaging in and fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships with the private sector, civil society, academia and the scientific community, and with other relevant stakeholders as appropriate;

13. *Requests* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to encourage Member States presenting voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum on sustainable development to share their experiences, progress made, challenges and impediments in implementing those aspects of the 2030 Agenda that are related to the work of the Commission;

14. *Encourages* Member States to consider including information on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda related to the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, including on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16, in their voluntary national reviews for consideration by the high-level political forum during its meeting to be held in 2024, and to share relevant

information contained in those voluntary national reviews with the Commission during its thirty-third session, in 2024, including in the context of the general debate;

15. *Invites* Member States and relevant United Nations entities, international and regional organizations, the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network and other relevant stakeholders to provide, as appropriate, to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, through its secretariat, for consideration during its thirty-third session, views on how the Commission can contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 16, and requests the Commission to transmit that information along with the outcome of its consideration to the high-level political forum at its meeting in 2024, within existing reporting requirements.

#### **Draft resolution IV**

### **Technical assistance provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime related to counter-terrorism**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that all acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivations, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed, and that they are to be unequivocally condemned,

*Reaffirming also* that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group,

*Stressing again* the need to strengthen international, regional and subregional cooperation to effectively prevent and combat terrorism, in particular by enhancing the national capacity of States through the provision of technical assistance, based on the needs and priorities identified by requesting States,

*Reaffirming* the responsibility of all States to uphold the Charter of the United Nations in its entirety and to fully respect the principles of sovereign equality and the territorial integrity of States and that of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States throughout all our efforts in preventing and combating crime,

*Emphasizing* the need to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism while fully respecting the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law,

*Recalling* the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace<sup>12</sup> and the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations,<sup>13</sup>

*Recalling also* all relevant United Nations resolutions on technical and legislative assistance in countering terrorism, particularly the most recent ones,<sup>14</sup>

*Recalling in particular* its resolution 74/175 of 18 December 2019, in which it, inter alia, called upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to further enhance technical assistance, upon request, for building the capacity of States parties to implement the international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism, as well as to follow up on the implementation of the United Nations Global

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<sup>12</sup> Resolutions [53/243 A](#) and [B](#).

<sup>13</sup> Resolution [56/6](#).

<sup>14</sup> Resolutions [72/194](#), [72/284](#), [73/174](#), [73/186](#), [73/211](#), [74/175](#) and [75/291](#) and Security Council resolutions [2133 \(2014\)](#), [2178 \(2014\)](#), [2195 \(2014\)](#), [2199 \(2015\)](#), [2253 \(2015\)](#), [2309 \(2016\)](#), [2322 \(2016\)](#), [2341 \(2017\)](#), [2347 \(2017\)](#), [2349 \(2017\)](#), [2368 \(2017\)](#), [2396 \(2017\)](#) and [2462 \(2019\)](#).

Counter-Terrorism Strategy,<sup>15</sup> its biennial review and other relevant United Nations resolutions, and recognizing the need for capacity-building to help Member States to understand the benefits of these conventions and protocols, so as to support States that are considering becoming States parties, in line with their legal frameworks,

*Reiterating* all aspects of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the need for States to continue the full implementation of all four pillars of the Strategy, and recalling its resolution [75/291](#) of 30 June 2021, entitled “The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: seventh review”, in which it, inter alia, requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue providing technical assistance to requesting States,

*Welcoming* the adoption by the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice of the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>16</sup> and in particular the actions that Member States committed to taking in order to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on technical assistance in implementing the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism,<sup>17</sup>

*Noting* the ongoing work under the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, and noting also the role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as the Chair of the Working Group on Criminal Justice, Legal Responses and Countering the Financing of Terrorism,

*Noting with appreciation* the ongoing work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support Member States in their efforts to prevent and counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism in the crime prevention and criminal justice context, including their efforts to address the conditions conducive to terrorism, reinforce development and social inclusion, promote the integration of the rule of law, human rights and gender equality, in a manner compliant with their obligations under domestic and international law, and reiterating that this work needs to be done in close coordination with Member States,

*Reaffirming* the primary responsibility of Member States and their respective national institutions in countering terrorism, concerned that terrorists continue to endeavour to exploit underlying conditions in some countries, such as the limited reach of Governments and lack of capacity to deliver essential services by law enforcement and security institutions, and emphasizing that enhancing the capabilities and capacities of State institutions, where applicable and upon request, to prevent and counter terrorism is a pivotal component for successful efforts against terrorism,

*Underscoring* the importance of a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, stressing the importance of relevant stakeholders, including civil society, in supporting and complementing the efforts of Member States in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and in this regard encouraging the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and youth in this process,

*Reaffirming* its concern that in some cases terrorists benefit from transnational organized crime as a source of financing or logistical support, recognizing that the nature and scope of the linkages between terrorism and transnational organized crime vary by context and in some contexts are evolving in scope and scale, and

<sup>15</sup> Resolution [60/288](#).

<sup>16</sup> Resolution [76/181](#), annex.

<sup>17</sup> [E/CN.15/2023/5](#).

emphasizing the need to coordinate efforts at the local, national, regional, subregional and international levels to respond to this challenge, in accordance with international and domestic law,

*Welcoming* the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the issue of children affected by terrorism, including on the prevention of the involvement of children with terrorist groups and on the rehabilitation and reintegration of those children, including children associated with foreign terrorist fighters, and taking note of the *Handbook on Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups: the Role of the Justice System* and its three related training manuals, and of the road map on the treatment of children associated with terrorist and violent extremist groups developed by the Office,

*Recognizing* that Member States may face challenges in obtaining and using admissible evidence, including digital, physical and forensic evidence, including in areas affected by armed conflicts, that can be used to help prosecute and secure the convictions of foreign terrorist fighters and those supporting foreign terrorist fighters,

*Taking note* of the Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Terrorism (2022–2027) of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which supports Member States, upon request, in preventing and countering terrorism through preventive, legal and criminal justice approaches, with a focus on the safety and protection of people,

*Taking note also* of the independent, in-depth evaluations of projects and programmes on preventing and countering terrorism that have been undertaken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate,

1. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the existing international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate and in close coordination with the relevant entities of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, to continue to provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request, for adherence to and legislative incorporation of those international legal instruments;

2. *Encourages* Member States to consider becoming parties to other relevant conventions to support international cooperation in criminal matters, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,<sup>18</sup> and to effectively implement relevant international instruments to which they are party and relevant United Nations resolutions, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide technical assistance to requesting States to those ends;

3. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue and enhance its assistance, upon request, related to international legal and judicial cooperation pertaining to countering terrorism, including in criminal matters related to foreign terrorist fighters, by fostering the development of strong and effective central and other relevant authorities for international cooperation in criminal matters;

4. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in collaboration with other relevant entities of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, to ensure that assistance provided to Member States in relation to preventing and countering terrorism is aligned with and relevant to the priority needs of the requesting States, taking into account their particular circumstances, including the national and regional context, as well as fully respecting applicable international law;

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<sup>18</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

5. *Recognizes* the fundamental role of effective international cooperation in preventing and combating crime, including terrorism-related crimes, and to this end underlines the importance of addressing, tackling and effectively responding to international challenges and barriers, in particular measures, that hinder such cooperation, and which are not consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and obligations under international law, and in this regard urges States, consistent with their international obligations, to refrain from applying such measures;

6. *Recognizes with deep concern* the overall rise in instances of discrimination, intolerance and violence, regardless of the actors, directed against members of religious and other communities in various parts of the world, including cases motivated by Islamophobia, antisemitism, Christianophobia and prejudice against persons of any other religion or belief;

7. *Calls upon* Member States to take appropriate measures to address the new and emerging threats posed by the rise in terrorist attacks on the basis of xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief, including through investigation, information exchange and cooperation, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide technical assistance to requesting States to those ends;

8. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate and in cooperation with Member States, other United Nations entities, regional and subregional organizations and relevant actors, to consider supporting initiatives to involve youth in the promotion of a culture of peace, tolerance and intercultural and interreligious dialogue and develop, as appropriate, an understanding of respect for human dignity, pluralism and diversity, including, as appropriate, through education programmes, as well as sports and physical activities, that could prevent and discourage their participation in acts of terrorism, violent extremism conducive to terrorism, violence, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination, and takes note of the guidance issued by the United Nations, including the technical and practical guides on preventing violent extremism through sport published by the Office;

9. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, to continue to provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request, related to collecting, analysing, preserving, storing, using and sharing forensic and electronic evidence for the investigation and prosecution of terrorism and terrorism-related offences and related to enhancing mutual legal assistance in that regard, recalls the *Practical Guide for Requesting Electronic Evidence Across Borders*, developed by the Office,<sup>19</sup> and takes note of the updated Model Law on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, with new provisions on electronic evidence and the use of special investigative techniques, and related technical tools on electronic evidence and international cooperation developed by the Office;

10. *Calls upon* Member States, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant United Nations entities that support capacity-building, to share best practices and technical expertise with a view to improving the collection, handling, preservation, admissibility, sharing and use of relevant information and evidence, consistent with domestic and international law, including digital evidence and information and evidence obtained in areas affected by armed conflict, in order to ensure the effective investigation and prosecution of those who have committed crimes, including foreign terrorist fighters returning and relocating to and from areas affected by armed conflict;

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<sup>19</sup> In cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the International Association of Prosecutors.

11. *Stresses* the importance of the development and maintenance of effective, fair, humane, transparent and accountable criminal justice systems by Member States, in accordance with domestic law and applicable international law, as a basis for any strategy to counter terrorism, bearing in mind, as appropriate, the relevant and applicable provisions of the United Nations standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to take into account in its technical assistance to counter terrorism the elements necessary for building national capacity in order to strengthen criminal justice systems and the rule of law;

12. *Encourages* Member States to use, as appropriate, the platforms and tools developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including the Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime knowledge management portal, and further invites Member States to consider the use of the Office website on the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism,<sup>20</sup> to facilitate international cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism and to provide the Office with relevant information to promote the sharing of good practices and experiences, including the contact details of and any other relevant information about designated authorities for inclusion in its repository database;

13. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in cooperation with the International Criminal Police Organization and other relevant entities of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, to continue to provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request, with a view to building their capacity to responsibly collect, record and share biometric data in order to detect and identify terrorists, including foreign terrorist fighters, in compliance with domestic and international law;

14. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate in the area of countering and preventing terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, to continue to develop specialized legal knowledge and to continue to strengthen the provision of technical assistance to Member States, upon request, on effective measures for criminal justice responses addressing the prevention of terrorism in compliance with all their obligations under applicable international law, including human rights, refugee and humanitarian law;

15. *Calls for* increased attention and action at the national and international levels to assist Member States, upon their request, to ensure that all counter-terrorism measures comply with the rule of law and applicable international law, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law, and encourages in this regard the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to engage with and, upon request, provide support to Member States, within its mandate, to integrate and mainstream the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout its capacity-building projects and programmes across all four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;

16. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, to continue to provide technical assistance, upon request, to build the capacity of Member States in assessing their terrorist financing risks, effectively investigating and prosecuting cases of terrorist financing, effectively implementing asset-freezing mechanisms, strengthening their financial oversight and regulatory systems to deny terrorists the space to exploit, raise and move funds, and implementing effective inter-agency cooperation, in line with relevant international standards on countering money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, to comply with their applicable international obligations to prevent and combat the financing of terrorism;

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<sup>20</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2445, No. 44004.

17. *Encourages* Member States to further identify, analyse and counter any potential, existing and in some cases growing links between organized crime, illicit drug-related and other activities, fraud, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, in order to enhance criminal justice responses to those crimes, recognizing that terrorists could benefit from organized crime as a source of financing or logistical support and that the nature and scope of the linkages between terrorism and transnational organized crime vary by context, and calls upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, to support, upon request, the efforts of Member States in that regard;

18. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, to continue to support requesting Member States in the implementation of capacity-building programmes to strengthen crime prevention and criminal justice responses to the destruction of and trafficking in cultural property by terrorists;

19. *Rejects* attempts at the justification or glorification of terrorist acts that may incite further terrorist acts, calls upon all Member States to adopt such measures as may be necessary and appropriate, and in accordance with their obligations under international law, to prohibit by law incitement to commit a terrorist act or terrorist acts, and to prevent such conduct and deny safe haven to any persons with respect to whom there is credible and relevant information giving serious reasons for considering that they have been guilty of such conduct, and calls upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide technical assistance in this regard to requesting States;

20. *Calls upon* Member States to strengthen efforts to improve the security and resilience of critical infrastructure and the protection of particularly vulnerable or “soft” targets, such as infrastructure and public places, as well as to develop strategies to prevent, protect against, mitigate, investigate, respond to and recover from damage from terrorist attacks, in particular in the area of civil protection, and to consider establishing or strengthening partnerships with the public and private sectors in this regard, and calls upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request, with a view to strengthening their criminal justice responses as well as their strategies for reducing the risk of terrorist attacks on critical infrastructure;

21. *Also calls upon* Member States to strengthen their border management so as to effectively prevent the movement of foreign terrorist fighters and terrorist groups, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance to that end to requesting States;

22. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate and in collaboration with, when appropriate, relevant entities of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, to continue to provide assistance to requesting Member States in addressing the threat of foreign terrorist fighters, including returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters, where appropriate, through its capacity-building activities, with regard to enhancing their cooperation, developing relevant measures and appropriate criminal justice responses, preventing the financing, mobilization, travel, recruitment, training, organization and radicalization of foreign terrorist fighters, ensuring that any person who participates in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or in supporting terrorist acts is brought to justice and developing and implementing appropriate criminal justice responses, in compliance with relevant obligations under international and domestic law;

23. *Notes with appreciation* the cooperation between the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the Office of Information and Communications Technology of the Secretariat under

the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme in providing to Member States, upon request, related technical assistance to build their legislative and operational capacity, including in establishing terrorist screening databases and collecting, processing, analysing and effectively exchanging travel data such as advance passenger information and passenger name record data, and bearing in mind in this regard the International Civil Aviation Organization standards and recommended practices on passenger name record data adopted in June 2020;

24. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue, within its mandate, to develop its specialized knowledge of the international legal framework against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism as enshrined in the relevant conventions and protocols in order to continue to provide assistance to requesting Member States in the effective legal, operational and technical implementation of these instruments, including through capacity-building;

25. *Expresses concern* at the global dissemination of terrorist content through the Internet, including materials from real-world attacks, and recognizes the importance of multi-stakeholder approaches to address such threats, which are inclusive of Governments, private entities, civil society and academia, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide technical assistance to requesting States in this regard;

26. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate and in cooperation with other relevant entities of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, to continue to support innovative measures and approaches to build the capacity of Member States, upon request, in relation to the challenges and opportunities that new technologies provide, including human rights aspects, in preventing and countering terrorism;

27. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide, upon request, technical assistance for building the capacity of Member States in the development and implementation of assistance and support programmes for victims of terrorism, including victims of gender-based violence committed by terrorists, in accordance with relevant national legislation, human rights and applicable international law, with emphasis on the particular needs of women and children, and takes note in this regard of the *Model Legislative Provisions to Support the Needs and Protect the Rights of Victims of Terrorism*, developed by the Office together with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Office of Counter-Terrorism;

28. *Further requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to support requesting Member States, in accordance with relevant national legislation, in preventing the involvement of children in armed and terrorist groups and in ensuring that children alleged to have, accused of having or recognized as having infringed the law, particularly those who are deprived of their liberty, children who are victims and witnesses of crime, and children born of sexual violence committed by armed and terrorist groups are treated in a manner consistent with their rights, dignity and needs, including for psychosocial support, in accordance with national legislation as well as applicable international law, in particular the obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>21</sup> for States parties to the Convention, with the best interests of the child as a primary consideration, and, bearing in mind relevant applicable international standards on the rights of the child in the administration of justice in this regard, urges Member States, in accordance with their national law, to consider relevant measures to effectively reintegrate children formerly associated with armed groups, including terrorist groups;

29. *Encourages* the efforts of Member States, including through their competent agencies, to engage, where appropriate, with relevant actors, including

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<sup>21</sup> Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

religious authorities and community leaders with relevant expertise, in crafting and delivering effective counter-narratives and in countering narratives used by terrorists and their supporters, underlines that Member States, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, religious bodies and the media have an important role to play in promoting tolerance and facilitating understanding, inclusive dialogue and respect for religious and cultural diversity and human rights, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide, within its mandate, technical assistance to requesting States;

30. *Calls upon* all Member States, given the complex global security context today, to highlight the important roles of women in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, while avoiding their instrumentalization, and encourages the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in cooperation with other relevant entities of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, to assist Member States, upon request, in mainstreaming gender perspectives into criminal justice responses to terrorism in order to prevent the recruitment of women and girls as terrorists and to promote the full protection of women and girls from any form of exploitation or violence perpetrated by terrorists, consistent with their obligations under human rights law, also taking into account, as appropriate, inputs from relevant stakeholders, including civil society, and notes with appreciation the efforts of the Office in this regard;

31. *Encourages* civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to engage, as appropriate, in efforts to enhance the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including through interaction with Member States and the United Nations system, encourages Member States and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue engagement with civil society in accordance with its mandate, to support the role of civil society actors in the design, implementation and monitoring of the Strategy, and encourages Member States to create and maintain an enabling environment for civil society, including a legal framework that protects and promotes human rights, in accordance with international human rights law;

32. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, through its programmatic work on addressing prison challenges, to continue to support requesting Member States in taking appropriate measures, in line with domestic law, to maintain a safe and humane environment in prisons, taking into consideration the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules),<sup>22</sup> develop tools that can help to address radicalization to violence and terrorist recruitment and develop risk assessments to evaluate the susceptibility of prisoners to terrorist recruitment and radicalization to violence, and in facilitating the dissemination of information on approaches and promising practices pertaining to the prevention of radicalization to violence and terrorist recruitment of individuals in prisons;

33. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate and upon request, to provide support to Member States in building their own capacity for the evaluation of programmes and projects and facilitate the exchange of experiences and knowledge from the evaluations relating to preventing and countering terrorism;

34. *Expresses its appreciation* to Member States that have supported the technical assistance activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including through financial contributions, and invites Member States to consider making additional, sustainable voluntary financial contributions and providing in-kind support, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations,

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<sup>22</sup> Resolution [70/175](#), annex.

in particular in view of the need for enhanced, effective and coordinated delivery of technical assistance on criminal justice responses to prevent and counter terrorism;

35. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with sufficient resources to carry out activities, within its mandate, to assist Member States, upon request, in the implementation of the relevant elements of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;

36. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

## **Draft resolution V**

### **Equal access to justice for all**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets that are indivisible and integrated and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development, in which it recognized that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and in which it committed to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner,

*Recalling* Sustainable Development Goal 16, to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, and bearing in mind that the 2030 Agenda, inter alia, envisaged a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination,

*Recognizing* the importance of providing technical assistance and capacity-building, upon request, to Member States, in particular developing countries, to support their efforts in crime prevention and criminal justice, including in the area of access to justice,

*Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>23</sup> which affirms that all are equal before the law and all are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law, and that all are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of the Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination, and which also enshrines the key principles of equality before the law and the presumption of innocence, as well as the right to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, along with all the guarantees necessary for the defence of anyone charged with a penal offence, other minimum guarantees and the entitlement to be tried without undue delay,

*Recalling also* the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>24</sup> adopted by the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Kyoto, Japan, from 7 to 12 March 2021, in which Member States undertook to contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda through efforts in crime prevention and criminal justice, with the firm recognition that sustainable development and the rule of law are interlinked and mutually reinforcing,

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<sup>23</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>24</sup> Resolution 76/181, annex.

that crime is an impediment to sustainable development and that achieving sustainable development is an enabling factor for States to effectively prevent and combat crime,

*Recalling further* paragraph 48 of the Kyoto Declaration, in which Member States endeavoured to ensure equal access to justice and application of the law to all, including vulnerable members of society, regardless of their status, including by taking appropriate measures to ensure treatment with respect and without discrimination or bias of any kind by criminal justice institutions,

*Taking note* of all relevant United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, in particular the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials,<sup>25</sup> the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary,<sup>26</sup> the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct,<sup>27</sup> the Istanbul Declaration on Transparency in the Judicial Process and the measures for effective implementation of the Istanbul Declaration,<sup>28</sup> the Guidelines on the Role of Prosecutors,<sup>29</sup> the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers,<sup>30</sup> the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power,<sup>31</sup> the basic principles on the use of restorative justice programmes in criminal matters,<sup>32</sup> the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems,<sup>33</sup> the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules),<sup>34</sup> the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules),<sup>35</sup> the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules)<sup>36</sup> and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules),<sup>37</sup>

*Recalling* the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>38</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>39</sup> the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>40</sup> the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,<sup>41</sup> the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>42</sup> and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,<sup>43</sup>

*Underscoring* the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as the principal policymaking body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, and underscoring also the primary role and

<sup>25</sup> Resolution 34/169, annex.

<sup>26</sup> *Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Milan, 26 August–6 September 1985: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IV.1), chap. I, sect. D.2, annex.

<sup>27</sup> E/CN.4/2003/65, annex; see also Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/23, annex.

<sup>28</sup> A/73/831-E/2019/56, annexes I and II.

<sup>29</sup> *Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, 27 August–7 September 1990: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.IV.2), chap. I, sect. C.26, annex.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid., chap. I, sect. B.3, annex.

<sup>31</sup> Resolution 40/34, annex.

<sup>32</sup> Economic and Council resolution 2002/12, annex.

<sup>33</sup> Resolution 67/187, annex.

<sup>34</sup> Resolution 45/110, annex.

<sup>35</sup> Resolution 65/229, annex.

<sup>36</sup> Resolution 40/33, annex.

<sup>37</sup> Resolution 70/175, annex.

<sup>38</sup> Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

<sup>40</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid., vol. 660, No. 9464.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid., vol. 1465, No. 24841.

responsibility of Member States in defining their policies in enhancing the functioning of their criminal justice systems to ensure equal access to justice for all,

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 2019/22 of 23 July 2019, in which Member States, inter alia, recognized that certain members of society, such as children, victims of violence and individuals with special needs, are to be accorded additional protection and are more vulnerable when in contact with the criminal justice system,

*Emphasizing* the importance of respecting cultural diversity when designing and implementing policies and programmes relevant to access to justice, in accordance with national legislation,

*Recognizing* that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has severely affected the functioning of criminal justice systems and access to justice, especially for the poor and people in vulnerable situations,

*Affirming* the need to eradicate violence, discrimination and intolerance against people in vulnerable situations, Indigenous Peoples and local communities,

*Recognizing* that the primary responsibility for crime prevention and criminal justice, including mainstreaming a gender perspective, rests with Member States,

*Recognizing also* the different challenges in accessing justice faced by people living in rural and isolated areas and the need to adopt policies and programmes that are responsive to those challenges,

*Recalling* the mandate of the International Independent Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement, which includes coordinating its work and strengthening its engagement with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and making recommendations on the concrete steps needed to ensure access to justice for Africans and people of African descent subjected to excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officials,

*Recognizing* that access to legal aid is an essential element of fair, humane and efficient criminal justice systems that are based on the rule of law and that it is a foundation for the enjoyment of other rights, including the right to a fair trial, as a precondition to exercising such rights and an important safeguard that ensures fairness and public trust in the criminal justice process and can contribute to the progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights,

*Recognizing also* the importance of training criminal justice practitioners, such as police, lawyers and judges, to carry out their responsibilities in a non-discriminatory manner,

*Recalling* Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 27/6 of 18 May 2018, entitled “Restorative justice”,

*Underlining* the importance of effective international cooperation, carried out in a technical and impartial manner and to the fullest extent possible, in line with the obligations of States under international law and domestic legislation, and underlining also in this respect the importance of strengthening law enforcement cooperation and the exchange of information, as well as facilitating the procedures related to international cooperation, including, inter alia, mutual legal assistance requests and extradition, as appropriate and consistent with domestic law and applicable international obligations, to contribute to access to justice,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”,<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> [A/75/982](#).

1. *Notes with concern* that challenges to access to justice in criminal justice systems undermine the rule of law, the achievement of safe and secure societies, and the right to equal treatment before the law;
2. *Emphasizes* the right of equal access to justice for all, including people in vulnerable situations, and the importance of awareness-raising concerning legal rights, and in this regard commits to taking all necessary steps to provide fair, transparent, effective, non-discriminatory and accountable services that promote access to justice for all, including legal aid;
3. *Takes note* of the thematic discussion on enhancing the functioning of the criminal justice system to ensure access to justice and to realize a safe and secure society, held during the thirty-second session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which provided an opportunity for Member States, international organizations and civil society to exchange viewpoints on this matter;
4. *Recalls* its decision to hold a high-level debate on the theme “Equal access to justice for all: advancing reforms for peaceful, just and inclusive societies”, and invites the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to consider the outcomes of that debate;
5. *Encourages* Member States, in accordance with their domestic legislation and within their capacity, to ensure equal access to justice and application of the law to all, including by taking effective measures that are informed by relevant data, such as data on age and gender;
6. *Also encourages* Member States to collect and use quantitative and qualitative data, disaggregated by relevant factors, to ensure that criminal justice policies and programmes are informed by all available and relevant evidence and data;
7. *Further encourages* Member States to explore cross-sectoral, multidisciplinary, multi-stakeholder, holistic and integrated partnerships, strategies and approaches at the national level when developing measures to reduce inequities in the criminal justice system, and to advance equal access to justice and equal treatment before the law for all, including through restorative justice programmes;
8. *Encourages* Member States to promote the use of technology that fosters inclusive and equitable access to justice, including by addressing the challenges that the use of such technologies may pose for people in vulnerable situations;
9. *Also encourages* Member States to, as appropriate, employ different models of legal aid, and to consider effective ways to provide access to legal aid to ensure access to justice for all, without discrimination of any kind;
10. *Further encourages* Member States, in accordance with their domestic law, to promote and implement policies aimed at guaranteeing access to justice for people in vulnerable situations without sufficient means, through timely, effective, adequately resourced and affordable and, whenever possible, free legal aid promoted by the State with the appropriate support of relevant academic institutions;
11. *Affirms* the importance that certain members of society, such as children, persons with disabilities, those in vulnerable situations and victims of violence be given additional protection in order to access justice systems;
12. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue developing technical tools and training material based on United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice and to provide technical and material assistance to Member States, upon request, to ensure access to justice for all;
13. *Welcomes* the increased cooperation and coordination between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other United Nations agencies in the area of equal access to justice;

14. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to convene a meeting of experts, nominated by Member States, during the intersessional period, with interpretation into all official languages of the United Nations, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, with a view to sharing information on challenges, lessons learned, best practices and enabling factors needed to enhance the functioning of criminal justice systems to ensure equal access to justice for all;

15. *Recognizes* the fundamental role of effective international cooperation in preventing and combating crime, and to this end underlines the importance of addressing, tackling and effectively responding to international challenges and barriers, in particular measures, that hinder such cooperation, and which are not consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and obligations under international law, and in this regard urges States, consistent with their international obligations, to refrain from applying such measures;

16. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its thirty-fourth session on the meeting of experts and on the implementation of the present resolution;

17. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

## **B. Draft decision for adoption by the Economic and Social Council**

2. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

### **Draft decision**

#### **Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its thirty-second session and provisional agenda for its thirty-third session**

The Economic and Social Council:

- (a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its thirty-second session;
- (b) Reaffirms Commission decision 21/1 of 27 April 2012;
- (c) Approves the provisional agenda for the thirty-third session set out below.

#### **Provisional agenda for the thirty-third session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. General debate.
4. Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions:
  - (a) Work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
  - (b) Directives on policy and budgetary issues for the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme;

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- (c) Working methods of the Commission;
  - (d) Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters.
5. Thematic discussion on promoting international cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address organized crime, corruption, terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and other forms of crime, including in the areas of extradition, mutual legal assistance and asset recovery.
  6. Integration and coordination of efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and by Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice:
    - (a) Ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto;
    - (b) Ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;
    - (c) Ratification and implementation of the international instruments to prevent and combat terrorism;
    - (d) Other crime prevention and criminal justice matters;
    - (e) Other activities in support of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in particular activities of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, non-governmental organizations and other bodies.
  7. Use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.
  8. World crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.
  9. Follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.
  10. Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolutions [75/290 A](#) and [75/290 B](#), including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
  11. Provisional agenda for the thirty-fourth session of the Commission.
  12. Other business.
  13. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-third session.

### **C. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council**

3. The following resolution and decision adopted by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

## Resolution 32/1

### **Taking action against trafficking in persons in business operations, public procurement and supply chains for goods and services**

*The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,*

*Reiterating* its strong condemnation of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which constitutes an offence and a serious threat to human dignity and human rights, physical integrity and sustainable development,

*Reaffirming* the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime<sup>45</sup> and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,<sup>46</sup>

*Guided* by the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Reaffirming* the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29),<sup>47</sup> of the International Labour Organization, and recalling the adoption of the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, which recognizes that trafficking in persons for the purposes of forced or compulsory labour is the subject of growing international concern,

*Recalling* the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights<sup>48</sup> and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>49</sup>

*Recalling also* the adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons by the General Assembly in its resolution [64/293](#) of 30 July 2010, and underlining the importance of its full implementation,

*Recalling further* the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>50</sup> which reaffirms the commitment by Member States to take immediate and effective measures to, inter alia, eradicate forced labour and end modern slavery and trafficking in persons, as well as to promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities,

*Recalling* the importance of Sustainable Development Goal 17 for promoting, as appropriate, multi-stakeholder partnerships, including effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, as an important vehicle for mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources in the fight against trafficking in persons,

*Welcoming* the commitments by Member States to take effective measures to eradicate all forms of trafficking in persons,

*Bearing in mind* the obligations of Member States to exercise due diligence to prevent trafficking in persons, to investigate and punish perpetrators of trafficking in persons and to protect and empower victims,<sup>51</sup> and that not doing so may violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the victims,

*Recognizing* that trafficking in persons in business operations and supply chains for goods and services has been identified as a serious problem and a challenge that

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<sup>45</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 39, No. 612.

<sup>48</sup> General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>50</sup> General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>51</sup> The term “survivor” or “survivors” is not defined in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, but in some Member States it is used to acknowledge that victims of trafficking in persons can recover or have recovered from the trauma that they have endured.

needs to be addressed in various economic sectors, including those integrated into global markets,

*Being aware* that trafficking in persons for the purpose of labour exploitation increasingly takes place at the lowest tiers of business operations and supply chains as a result of complex and frequently outsourced recruitment and hiring practices,

*Recognizing* the need to increase and support prevention efforts in countries of origin, transit and destination by focusing on the demand and supply chains that foster all forms of trafficking and the goods and services produced as a result of trafficking in persons, and to raise awareness of the harmful consequences of using goods and services derived from victims of forced labour and other forms of exploitation,

*Recognizing also* the vulnerability of children to trafficking for labour exploitation and the special needs of child victims, and that persons with irregular immigration status and persons affected by conflict and fleeing conflict are at great risk of being subjected to trafficking for labour exploitation,

*Concerned* that criminals are increasingly exploiting new and emerging technologies, including the Internet, to carry out their illicit activities, such as for the purpose of recruiting for forced labour, while acknowledging the role that technology can play in reducing the risk of such exploitation, in particular the use of technology by businesses for the purpose of tracking the production of goods and services from their source to the final destination, and stressing the need for increased law enforcement cooperation in this regard,

*Commending* Member States that require business contractors supplying goods and services to governments to take effective and appropriate steps to address the risks of trafficking in persons in their operations and supply chains for goods and services, including steps aimed at preventing subcontractors and employees from participating in activities known to lead to trafficking,

*Commending also* those Member States that encourage or require private sector businesses to consider the risks of trafficking in persons in their own operations and in those of their subcontractors and suppliers, aiming to ensure that they address risks proactively,

*Welcoming* the growing number of businesses that embrace a core business model that takes account of the impacts of their activities and that have adopted, and operate in accordance with, the 10 principles of the United Nations Global Compact, aimed at promoting responsible business practices,

*Affirming* the importance of United Nations bodies continuing to implement the United Nations Supplier Code of Conduct of the Procurement Division of the Secretariat, in particular article 5, pursuant to which it is expected that all United Nations suppliers prohibit forced or compulsory labour in all its forms,

*Noting* the activities by the United Nations system organizations to enhance transparency in their procurement and supply chains and step up their efforts to strengthen protections against trafficking in persons in all United Nations procurement and to that effect request major suppliers to establish and implement anti-human trafficking policies and disclose information on measures taken to counter trafficking in persons in their operations and supply chains,

*Taking note* in this regard of the activities of the Procurement Network of the High-level Committee on Management of the United Nations, in particular the launch in March 2019 of the Task Force for the Development of a Joint Approach to Combating Human Trafficking and Forced Labour in Supply Chains,

*Welcoming* the activities of the Human Trafficking and Forced Labour Task Force, in particular its efforts to develop the policy framework on combating human

trafficking and forced labour in United Nations supply chains, which is based on the best practices outlined in normative frameworks and government guidelines, as well as on the activities of several international organizations, and was adopted by the High-level Committee on Management at its forty-fourth session, in October 2022,

*Welcoming also* the joint programme initiated by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration to develop a common framework and standards for measuring trafficking in persons for forced labour, discussed among experts in Vienna in November 2016 and reflected in the “Guidelines concerning the measurement of forced labour” adopted at the twentieth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, in October 2018,

*Noting with appreciation* the work of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons to provide a platform for the exchange of information, experiences and good practices on anti-trafficking activities, aimed at ensuring full and comprehensive implementation of all international instruments and standards of relevance for the prevention and combating of trafficking in persons and protection and support for victims of trafficking in persons and working towards a comprehensive, coordinated and holistic approach to trafficking in persons,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the thematic focus of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons in recent years on measures to prevent trafficking in persons in public procurement and in the procurement of goods and services by United Nations agencies and other relevant international and regional organizations,

*Noting with appreciation* the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Global Programme against Trafficking in Persons, and taking note of the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*,

1. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as a matter of priority, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, taking into consideration the central role of those instruments in the fight against trafficking in persons, and also urges States parties to those instruments to implement them fully and effectively;

2. *Invites* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) and its Protocol of 2014, of the International Labour Organization;

3. *Calls upon* Member States, including those that are countries of origin, transit or destination, to intensify their efforts to prevent and address, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters trafficking in persons for all forms of exploitation, including forced labour, and the goods and services produced as a result of trafficking in persons, and in this regard to put in place or to enhance preventive measures, including legislative and punitive measures to deter exploiters of trafficked persons, as well as ensure their accountability;

4. *Encourages* Member States to ensure that the promotion and protection of the human rights of victims of trafficking in persons, the prevention of trafficking in persons by addressing the social, economic, cultural, political and other contributing factors and the strengthening of the criminal justice response are at the centre of all efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and to protect, assist and provide redress to victims;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to assess the root causes of trafficking in persons, utilizing a gender-responsive, victim-centred and trauma-informed human

rights-based approach that helps to evaluate the influence of all factors, including socioeconomic inequalities, and the effectiveness and impact of policies, programmes and other initiatives aimed at preventing and combating organized crime, in order to subsequently adopt national policies and measures that can address those causes and respond more effectively to combating trafficking in persons;

6. *Urges* Member States to prevent and combat trafficking in persons in business operations and supply chains for goods and services, in accordance with their obligations under international and national law, and to this end to review and strengthen, as appropriate, the enforcement of relevant labour and other laws within their territories and jurisdictions that are aimed at, or have the effect of, requiring business enterprises, including recruitment agencies, to prevent and combat trafficking in persons in their operations and supply chains for goods and services, and to periodically assess the adequacy of such laws and address any gaps;

7. *Also urges* Member States to develop policies and undertake actions to assist and protect victims of trafficking in persons, in particular victims of gender-based violence, in their national strategies that deal with trafficking in persons in business operations, public procurement and supply chains for goods and services;

8. *Encourages* Member States to provide specialized training and capacity-building to law enforcement, criminal justice practitioners and labour inspection officials on preventing trafficking in persons, identifying potential cases of trafficking in persons in business operations and supply chains for goods and services and acting upon suspected or confirmed illegal practices;

9. *Invites* Member States to promote cooperation and coordination among governmental institutions, civil society and the private sector, including the media, as well as workers' and employers' organizations, to foster prevention and awareness-raising campaigns and to prevent trafficking in persons in supply chains from becoming common practice;

10. *Also invites* Member States to implement the recommendations on measures to strengthen procurement policies at the national, regional and international levels adopted at the eleventh meeting of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons established by the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention, in October 2021;<sup>52</sup>

11. *Encourages* Member States to develop relevant tools and provide gender-responsive and age-sensitive training to relevant stakeholders, including labour inspectors and law enforcement authorities, in partnership with the private sector, as appropriate, in order to build their capacity to respond to specific risks associated with trafficking in persons in supply chains and strengthen compliance with existing national regulations;

12. *Also encourages* Member States to cooperate with trade unions to establish and monitor prevention plans to mitigate the risks of trafficking in persons in public as well as private sector procurement activities;

13. *Further encourages* Member States to seek to address trafficking in persons in global supply chains, including by developing common public procurement standards, compliance requirements or codes of conduct and by harmonizing frameworks, including those guiding anti-trafficking efforts and sustainable procurement;

14. *Encourages* Member States to cooperate with relevant business enterprises with a view to identifying and addressing trafficking-related risks at all levels in their operations and supply chains for goods and services, including through, where appropriate in accordance with domestic and international law and taking into account

<sup>52</sup> CTOC/COP/WG.4/2021/6, sect. II.B.

best practices or other promising measures developed in response to emerging trends in trafficking in persons, awareness-raising initiatives, increased transparency and due diligence in recruitment practices, ethical codes of conduct, grievance mechanisms, risk assessment, product certification and labelling, monitoring, auditing, verification, evaluation, victim protection and support and relevant company-wide strategies, policies and measures, while involving in those efforts, as appropriate, workers' and employers' organizations;

15. *Invites* Member States to encourage business enterprises to contribute to the fight against trafficking in persons, including by conducting awareness-raising, training and other relevant measures aimed at preventing trafficking in persons in supply chains;

16. *Welcomes* the humanitarian, legal and financial support provided by Member States, private sector organizations and individual donors through the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and encourages Member States and companies to make further contributions to the fund;

17. *Encourages* Member States to conduct awareness-raising campaigns about trafficking in persons, and in this regard invites Member States to join or support the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Blue Heart Campaign against Human Trafficking;

18. *Reaffirms* that trafficking in persons in the context of armed conflict, especially women and girls, cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, or civilization;

19. *Encourages* Member States, when considering the awarding of government procurement contracts for goods and services, to be guided by relevant due diligence practices that assess whether business enterprises take appropriate and effective steps to address the risks of trafficking in persons in their operations and throughout their supply chains for goods and services;

20. *Invites* Member States to share best practices for successful national, regional and international partnerships between the public and private sectors in combating trafficking in persons in business operations and supply chains for goods and services and in promoting evidence-based corporate social responsibility, and to strengthen international cooperation between all relevant actors in the prevention of labour exploitation;

21. *Encourages* Member States to share information on criminal activities, threats, emerging trends and *modi operandi* pertaining to trafficking in persons for labour exploitation and to make effective use of the experience and tools of the International Criminal Police Organization in combating trafficking in persons, in particular its databases and notices;

22. *Also encourages* Member States to consider cooperating with civil society organizations in preventing and combating trafficking in persons in business operations and supply chains for goods and services through activities such as awareness-raising campaigns, programmes to facilitate the identification of victims of trafficking and the provision of assistance to those victims;

23. *Calls upon* Member States to strengthen cooperation with international organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, as appropriate, for the provision of remedies to victims of trafficking in persons identified in business operations and supply chains for goods and services, including through the provision of protective services and access to justice;

24. *Encourages* Member States to consider implementing measures that may provide direct assistance to victims of trafficking in persons and related crimes in

business operations and supply chains for goods and services, to help with their social recovery and provide compensation or restitution for the damage suffered;

25. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to engage in dialogue with members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons and other relevant international organizations, in close consultation with Member States, so as to enable the Office to improve the collection and analysis of data on instances of trafficking in persons in business operations and supply chains for goods and services;

26. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in collaboration with other relevant organizations, to continue providing, within its existing mandate, technical assistance and training to Member States, at their request, in order to assist them in strengthening national capacities to effectively prevent and combat trafficking in persons in business operations and supply chains for goods and services;

27. *Urges* the organizations of the United Nations system to ensure that their activities, including procurement contracts for goods and services, do not contribute to any form of trafficking in persons and to request their suppliers to establish and implement counter-trafficking policies and disclose information on measures taken to counter trafficking in persons in their operations and supply chains for goods and services;

28. *Calls upon* the entities of the United Nations system to integrate the components of the policy framework on combating human trafficking and forced labour in United Nations supply chains into their procurement practices;

29. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes of the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

30. *Invites* the Secretary-General to include information on the implementation of the present resolution within the existing reporting obligations to the General Assembly under the item on crime prevention and criminal justice.

#### **Decision 32/1**

### **Report of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute**

4. At its 7th meeting, on 24 May 2023, the Commission decided to transmit to the Economic and Social Council the report of United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute ([E/CN.15/2023/8](#)), which had been prepared pursuant to article IV, paragraph 3 (e), of the statute of the Institute and approved by a decision of the Board of Trustees taken at its online meeting held on 19 and 20 October 2022.

## Chapter II

### General debate

5. At its 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 6th meetings, on 22 and 24 May 2023, the Commission considered agenda item 3, entitled “General debate”.

6. At the 1st meeting of the thirty-second session of the Commission, on 22 May 2023, the following persons made statements:

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations (Vienna) (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations (Vienna) (on behalf of the Group of African States)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations (Vienna) (on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations (Vienna) (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States)

State Secretary, Ministry of Justice of Sweden (on behalf of the European Union and its member States)<sup>53</sup>

Minister of Justice and Correctional Services of South Africa

Secretary of Justice of the Philippines

Minister of Justice of Paraguay

Minister of Justice of Namibia

Minister of Justice of Yemen

Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (video)

Minister of Justice and Law of Colombia (video)

Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada (video)

Vice-Minister of Justice and Public Security of Brazil

Inspector at Director-General Level of the Ministry of Justice of China

Vice-Minister of Justice of Japan

Vice-President of the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Justice of Panama

Deputy Prosecutor General of Turkmenistan

Principal Secretary for Correctional Services of the Ministry of Interior and National Administration of Kenya

Supreme Judge of the Supreme Court of Peru

Minister of Water, Forest, the Sea and Environment of Gabon (video)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations (Vienna)

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<sup>53</sup> The following countries aligned themselves with the statement: Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Republic of Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine.

Permanent Secretary for Justice of Thailand

Director General of the General Directorate of Crime Detection and Forensic Science of Bahrain

Secretary of State for Justice, Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of Angola

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of State of the United States of America

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations (Vienna)

7. At the 2nd meeting of the thirty-second session of the Commission, on 22 May 2023, the following persons made statements:

Member of the International Olympic Committee

Minister of Justice and Public Security of El Salvador (online)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations (Vienna)

Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations (Vienna)

Government Counsellor, Ministry of Justice of Finland

First Vice-Minister, Ministry of Justice of Cuba

Legal Adviser to the Minister of the Interior of Qatar

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the United Nations (Vienna)

International Dossiers Coordinator of the Ministry of Justice of Czechia

Deputy Head of the Department on New Challenges and Threats of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

Director of the Ministry of Home Affairs of India

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations (Vienna)

Alternate Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations (Vienna)

Deputy for International Cooperation of the Counterterrorism Agency of Indonesia

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations (Vienna)

Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs of Malaysia

Director of Intelligence and Counterterrorism of the Ministry of the Interior of Iraq

Undersecretary for Relations with the Judiciary of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of Argentina

8. The observer for Ukraine made a statement in exercise of the right of reply.
9. At the 3rd meeting of the thirty-second session of the Commission, on 22 May 2023, the following persons made statements:

First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations (Vienna)

Alternate Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations (Vienna)

Deputy Head of Drug Control and Combating Human Trafficking of the Ministry of the Interior of Belarus

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations (Vienna)

Senior Director of Human Rights and Relations with International Organizations of Israel

First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations (Vienna)

Deputy Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations (Vienna)

Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations (Vienna)

Executive Secretary of the Inter-Institutional Commission against Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking of Honduras

First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations (Vienna)

Deputy Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations (Vienna)

Director of Public Prosecutions of Uganda

Alternate Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations (Vienna)

Alternate Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations (Vienna)

Deputy Attorney General of the State of Palestine

Deputy Permanent Observer for the Sovereign Order of Malta to the United Nations (Vienna)

Assistant Director of Offences against Persons and Public Order of the National Prosecutions Office of the United Republic of Tanzania

Human Rights Officer of the Rule of Law and Democracy Section of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Assistant Director General for Culture of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (video)

Ambassador and Permanent Observer of the European Public Law Organization to the United Nations (Vienna)

Executive Director for Police Services of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

Dean and Executive Secretary of the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) (video)

Chair of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

10. At the same meeting, the representatives of Belarus and the Russian Federation, as well as the representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer, and the observers for Ukraine and Poland, made statements in exercise of the right of reply.

11. Also at the same meeting, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations (Vienna) refrained from exercising the right to speak and

agreed to have her contribution published on the website of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.<sup>54</sup>

12. At the 6th meeting of the thirty-second session of the Commission, on 24 May 2023, the following person made a statement:

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations (Vienna).

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<sup>54</sup> [www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/session/32\\_Session\\_2023/statements.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/session/32_Session_2023/statements.html).

## Chapter III

### Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions

13. At its 6th meeting, on 24 May 2023, the Commission considered agenda item 4, which read as follows:

“Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions:

(a) Work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(b) Directives on policy and budgetary issues for the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme;

(c) Working methods of the Commission;

(d) Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters.”

14. For its consideration of agenda item 4, the Commission had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2023/2-E/CN.15/2023/2](#));

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2023/3-E/CN.15/2023/3](#));

(c) Note by the Secretariat on the draft proposed programme plan for 2024 and programme performance for 2022 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2023/10-E/CN.15/2023/12](#)).

15. The Director of the Division for Management of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) made an introductory statement.

16. The representative of Ghana, in his capacity as Chair of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC, reported on the deliberations of the working group.

17. Statements were made by the representatives of Canada, the United States, Japan and China.

18. Statements were also made by the observers for the Sudan (on behalf of the Group of African States) and Mexico (on behalf of Group of Friends for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women).

### Deliberations

19. Many speakers commended the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC, noting that it acted as an important platform for dialogue between the Secretariat and Member States on budgetary, management and programmatic issues. Reference was made to the dialogue with the Executive Director as an opportunity to exchange views and strengthen collaboration.

20. The financial situation of UNODC, in particular the decrease in the general-purpose fund, was noted with concern. It was highlighted that adequate,

flexible and sustained funding was required for the Office to fulfil its mandates. The Office was encouraged to explore a flexible funding model and to increase transparency in the distribution of funds, in particular with regard to programme support cost funds. Reference was made to the direct cost recovery pilot, and the Office was requested to continue close consultations with Member States in that regard.

21. The UNODC Strategy 2021–2025, the UNODC Strategic Vision for Africa 2030 and the UNODC Strategic Vision for Latin America and the Caribbean 2022–2025, as well as the Global Programme on People-centred Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, were welcomed by several speakers. Appreciation was expressed for the Office's collaborative approach to developing regional strategies and integrated thematic programmes.

22. The Office's efforts to increase the accessibility and inclusiveness of intergovernmental meetings by using new technologies and modalities were welcomed.

23. Several speakers expressed their support for the continued efforts by UNODC to improve geographical representation and encouraged the Office to step up measures in that regard. It was also emphasized that the basis for candidate selection should be merit and competence, as enshrined in Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations.

24. The continued efforts by UNODC to improve gender parity at all levels was welcomed by several speakers. They encouraged UNODC to make further progress towards achieving gender parity and reiterated their support for gender mainstreaming in all aspects of the Office's programmatic work. It was noted that the implementation of the United Nations Office at Vienna/UNODC Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women 2022–2026 and actions to prevent and address sexual harassment and abuse at UNODC were essential for achieving comprehensive gender equality. Several speakers called upon UNODC and Member States to continue their efforts to mainstream a gender perspective into crime prevention and criminal justice policies and programmes and to work towards the comprehensive achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Reference was also made to the institution-wide efforts of UNODC in relation to disability inclusion through the implementation of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy.

25. Several delegations stressed the significance of collaboration and coordination between UNODC and other actors in advancing crime prevention and criminal justice and emphasized the need for UNODC to take a holistic and integrated approach to research, normative work and capacity-building, taking into account the perspectives and expertise of Member States and relevant stakeholders.

## Chapter IV

### **Thematic discussion on enhancing the functioning of the criminal justice system to ensure access to justice and to realize a safe and secure society**

26. At its 4th and 5th meetings, on 23 May 2023, the Commission addressed agenda item 5, entitled “Thematic discussion on enhancing the functioning of the criminal justice system to ensure access to justice and to realize a safe and secure society”, pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2022/317.

27. For its consideration of agenda item 5, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretariat containing a guide for the thematic discussion ([E/CN.15/2023/6](#)).

28. Introductory remarks were made by the Chair of the Commission and the Chief of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Section of UNODC. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences and the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women made statements.

29. A statement was also made by Jennifer Scherer, Principal Deputy Director of the National Institute of Justice of the Department of Justice of the United States, on behalf of the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, who reported on the workshop held by the institutes of the programme network on 22 May 2023 on the topic of the thematic discussion.

30. The panel discussion in the morning session was presided over by the Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and led by the following panellists: Motsamai Makume, Chair of the Board of Directors of Legal Aid South Africa; Jie Guo, Division Director, Legal Aid Centre, Ministry of Justice of China (online); Augusto Arruda Botelho, Vice-Minister of Justice and Public Security of Brazil; and Delphine Agoguet, Magistrate, General Inspection of Justice of France (online).

31. Statements were made by the representatives of the United States, Namibia, Morocco, Peru, the Russian Federation, Canada, Kenya, Saudi Arabia (video) and Thailand (video).

32. Statements were also made by the observers for Norway, Finland, Mexico, Indonesia, Argentina, Oman, Uganda and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

33. The observers for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations network on racial discrimination and protection of minorities (online) and the Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice also made statements.

34. The afternoon panel discussion, also presided over by the Chair of the Commission, was led by the following panellists: Kraiphol Aranyarat, Judge at the Office of the President of the Supreme Court of Thailand (online); Djamal Feloussi, Director of Studies, Ministry of Justice of Algeria; Diego Mauricio Olarte, Director of Criminal and Penitentiary Policies, Ministry of Justice and Law of Colombia; and Catherine McKinnon, Head of the Access to Justice Secretariat, Department of Justice of Canada.

35. Statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom, Canada (online) and Thailand (video).

36. Statements were also made by the observers for Mexico (online) and Norway.

37. The observers for the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the Association for the Prevention of Torture, the International Legal Foundation and Soroptimist International also made statements.

## **A. Summary by the Chair**

38. The Chair's summary of the salient points, which was not subject to negotiation, is presented below.

39. Many speakers referred to the crucial role played by equal access to justice for all in upholding the rule of law, advancing public safety, protecting human and civil rights and promoting human dignity. Some speakers drew attention to equal access to justice as an essential enabler for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 16, and underlined the leading role of UNODC in supporting Member States through the provision of technical assistance and guidance.

40. Several speakers also highlighted the need to dismantle barriers to justice and to transform legal systems in order to realize equal justice for all regardless of income, age, gender, identity, ability, language, ethnicity, religion or other factors. Some speakers placed particular emphasis on addressing and countering racial discrimination in the criminal justice system, including by training justice actors and increasing diversity in the recruitment of law enforcement officers and judicial personnel, as a means of preventing the perpetuation of systemic disadvantages and bias and eliminating obstacles and inequalities.

41. Several speakers referred to their national legal frameworks, including newly adopted laws, and underlined the importance of incorporating relevant standards to strengthen access to justice for their citizens and to safeguard fundamental rights. Reference was made to the intercultural nature of criminal justice and the need for interaction and cooperation between States, communities and indigenous justice systems.

42. Many speakers stressed the important role of legal aid in making criminal justice systems fair, efficient and accessible, and noted that enhancing access to legal aid services, including through providers such as public defenders, pro bono lawyers, legal clinics and paralegals, furthered access to justice. Some speakers emphasized the need for the provision of specialized services for socioeconomically disadvantaged persons and those in vulnerable situations, including victims of crime and pretrial detainees. In that regard, speakers highlighted the need for comprehensive, clear and transparent criteria to determine eligibility and to ensure people-centred and needs-based service provision.

43. The key function of police services as first responders in situations of crime and violence was highlighted. Some speakers noted that the staff of such services should be carefully selected and trained and should reflect the populations that they serve in order to prevent discrimination and the mistreatment of suspects and victims. Some speakers also encouraged the improvement of multi-stakeholder coordination and collaboration to foster holistic service provision by law enforcement, in particular for victims.

44. With regard to specialized services for victims, many speakers reiterated the need to take a victim-centred approach that required context-specific interventions, in particular for victims of gender-based violence against women and girls and for victims of trafficking in persons. Speakers provided examples of holistic support services that ranged from free legal aid services to a multisectoral approach including access to social protection, to be delivered through a well-coordinated network of specialized justice actors.

45. Some speakers recognized the significance of alternative dispute resolution, mediation and, in particular, restorative justice as transformative, inclusive, and culturally relevant means of upholding the rights and needs of victims and affected communities, resolving disputes and seeking to repair harm by providing an opportunity for those who have committed crimes to take responsibility. Some speakers recommended implementing a multisectoral approach, with information-sharing across justice, health and social services.

46. Several speakers mentioned their countries' increased reliance on new and advanced technologies to strengthen access to justice, including through video recordings and virtual courtrooms. At the same time, a number of speakers noted the need to undertake evidence-based research to evaluate digital technological solutions against a robust human rights framework and the need to ensure the regulation of artificial intelligence and its potential integration into justice processes. The principled use and application of technology would entail the establishment of adequate human rights safeguards.

47. Many speakers called for increased international efforts to exchange experiences and share knowledge and information about challenges, best practices and lessons learned in order to enhance equal access to justice for all globally. In that regard, speakers placed emphasis on strengthening the evidence base for measures adopted by countries through empirical and disaggregated data collection and analyses.

## **B. Workshop organized by the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network on enhancing the functioning of the criminal justice system to ensure access to justice and to realize a safe and secure society**

48. The 1st meeting of the Committee of the Whole, held on 22 May 2023, was devoted to a workshop organized by the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network entitled "Enhancing the functioning of the criminal justice system to ensure access to justice and to realize a safe and secure society". The workshop was chaired by the Third Vice-Chair of the Commission and moderated by the observer for the Thailand Institute of Justice, a member of the programme network.

49. An introductory statement was made by the Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs of UNODC. For the first panel discussion, on the identification and empowerment of victims, presentations were made by panellists from the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations, the Association of University-based Law Clinics in Zimbabwe (Raoul Wallenberg Institute) and the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme. For the second panel discussion, on legal safeguards and protection in the criminal justice process, presentations were made by panellists from the National Institute of Justice and the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. For the third panel discussion, on realizing justice and a safe and secure society, presentations were made by panellists from the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and the Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice.

## **C. Action taken by the Commission**

50. At its 10th meeting, on 27 May 2023, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the approval of a draft resolution ([E/CN.15/2023/L.6](#)),

as revised, for adoption by the General Assembly, entitled “Equal access to justice for all”, sponsored by Albania, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ghana, Honduras, Israel, Japan, Namibia, Norway, Peru, South Africa, Sweden (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States. (For the text of the draft resolution, see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution V.) Upon the adoption of the draft resolution, as revised, the representative of Canada made a statement. The observer for South Africa also made a statement.

## Chapter V

### **Integration and coordination of efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and by Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice**

51. At its 6th and 7th meetings, on 24 May 2023, the Commission considered agenda item 6, which read as follows:

“Integration and coordination of efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and by Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice:

(a) Ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto;

(b) Ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

(c) Ratification and implementation of the international instruments to prevent and combat terrorism;

(d) Other crime prevention and criminal justice matters;

(e) Other activities in support of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in particular activities of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, non-governmental organizations and other bodies.”

52. For its consideration of agenda item 6, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2023/2-E/CN.15/2023/2](#));

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in combating transnational organized crime and corruption ([E/CN.15/2023/4](#));

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on technical assistance in implementing the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism ([E/CN.15/2023/5](#));

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network ([E/CN.15/2023/7](#));

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute ([E/CN.15/2023/8](#)).

53. Introductory statements were made by representatives of the Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch and the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch, the Chief of the Terrorism Prevention Branch and a representative of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Section of UNODC. A representative of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute also made an introductory statement.

54. Statements were made by the representatives of Thailand (video and in person), Canada, Angola, the United States, Qatar, Morocco, China, Kenya, Armenia, Peru, France and the Republic of Korea.

55. The observers for Algeria, Mexico, Indonesia, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Azerbaijan made statements. The representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer, also made a statement.

56. Statements were also made by the observers for the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and the Thailand Institute of Justice, as well as by the observers for the Born Free Foundation, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers and the Women's Federation for World Peace International.

## **A. Deliberations**

### **1. Ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto**

57. A number of speakers highlighted the increasingly complex nature of transnational organized crime and the growing threat that it posed to peace and security, and reiterated the importance of strengthening international cooperation to combat it.

58. They also noted the evolving nature of organized crime in all its forms, including trafficking in persons, the smuggling of migrants, firearms trafficking and money-laundering. The role of technology in exacerbating the evolution and impact of transnational organized crime was highlighted, and some speakers expressed concern about the negative impact of cybercrime. The ongoing work of the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes was noted, and hope was expressed that the instrument would become universal and available to all Member States.

59. Many speakers underlined the importance of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, as the only legally binding global instruments with almost universal adherence, for fighting organized crime and facilitating international cooperation in that area. Several speakers reiterated their support for the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto and stressed the need for States parties to fully engage in the review process. Some speakers shared their experiences in engaging with civil society representatives in the context of the Implementation Review Mechanism and offered to share information with other Member States in that context.

60. Some speakers shared information on legal, administrative and institutional frameworks and new initiatives established with regard to the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto. Some speakers expressed their appreciation for the capacity-building and research work undertaken by UNODC to support States parties in the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols.

### **2. Ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption**

61. Many speakers reiterated their commitment to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention and reported on measures taken to implement the Convention and to participate in the Mechanism. Several speakers stressed that the Mechanism played a crucial role in the efforts of Member States to implement the Convention effectively.

62. A number of speakers highlighted that 2023 marked the 20-year anniversary of the adoption of the Convention against Corruption by the General Assembly, and appreciation was expressed to the United States for offering to host the tenth session

of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, to be held in Atlanta in December 2023. A speaker noted that the priorities of her Government in hosting the tenth session of the Conference were to showcase the positive impact of the Convention on the fight against corruption in the past 20 years and how it could continue to guide efforts, in view of new challenges and threats, in the next 20 years. Moreover, the speaker noted that her Government would also support the individuals who worked on turning obligations under the Convention into action and would champion the role of civil society. She also stressed that her Government would promote a practitioner-focused approach to asset recovery by supporting stronger cooperation and coordination between law enforcement officials working to recover and return stolen assets.

63. The importance of strengthened international cooperation and coordination, including in the areas of law enforcement, mutual legal assistance and extradition, was underscored by several speakers.

64. A speaker emphasized the importance of the principles of sovereignty and non-interference in domestic affairs of other States in the area of preventing and combating corruption.

65. Appreciation was expressed for the role of UNODC as the secretariat to the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention and to the Implementation Review Mechanism, as well as for the Office's activities in supporting the work of States in preventing and combating corruption, including by providing technical assistance, which was essential.

66. The importance of ensuring transparency and integrity in efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda was noted.

### **3. Ratification and implementation of the international instruments to prevent and combat terrorism**

67. Many speakers underlined the importance of United Nations entities, including UNODC, in delivering technical assistance to requesting Member States, and highlighted the need to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Gender-sensitive responses to terrorism, respect for human rights and the need to protect victims of terrorism were highlighted. The importance of protecting vulnerable members of society from recruitment by terrorist groups was emphasized. The Office's capacity-building activities for requesting Member States were commended and, in that context, the recently launched UNODC Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Terrorism (2022–2027) was welcomed.

68. Most speakers reported on national legislation, policies and institutions established with a view to preventing terrorism and countering the financing of terrorism. Many speakers stressed the need for increased international cooperation for more effective responses aimed at countering terrorism.

69. Several speakers highlighted the threats posed by terrorism through the use of emerging technology and electronic tools and referred to measures that their countries had taken to address the activities carried out by terrorist groups on social media platforms and on the Internet.

70. Many speakers also referred to measures taken to improve border management, including with a focus on addressing the travel of foreign terrorist fighters and returnees to and from conflict zones.

71. Several speakers made reference to the threat of terrorist attacks based on xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief, and to recent technical assistance provided by UNODC on the topic.

72. The importance of the international coordination of counter-terrorism efforts was emphasized, and the Office's contributions to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and its cooperation with other United Nations entities and other stakeholders were welcomed.

73. The importance of the principles of sovereignty and non-interference in domestic affairs of other States, including in the area of countering terrorism, was emphasized by a speaker, who also expressed concern about the use of unilateral coercive measures.

#### **4. Other crime prevention and criminal justice matters**

74. Many speakers underscored their commitment to combating crimes that affect the environment, including illegal trafficking in wildlife, illegal mining, crimes in the fisheries sector, illegal logging and waste trafficking.

75. Several speakers expressed appreciation for the work of UNODC in preparing the conference room paper entitled "Strengthening the international legal framework for international cooperation to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife", pursuant to Commission resolution 31/1.

76. Several speakers expressed support for a potential additional protocol to the Organized Crime Convention on illicit trafficking in wildlife, while other speakers considered that the existing international legal framework was sufficient, emphasizing the need to enhance its implementation. Some speakers stated that the scope of such a protocol could be extended to include other crimes that affect the environment.

77. Some speakers emphasized the need for further assessment of the existing legal framework in order to identify possible gaps and solutions and to strengthen national capacity, inter-agency coordination and international cooperation.

78. Several speakers called upon Member States that have not yet done so to provide UNODC with their views pursuant to Commission resolution 31/1 and requested UNODC to prepare a summary for the reconvened session of the Commission, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

79. Some speakers encouraged the sharing of good practices in crime prevention and restorative justice and noted the importance of evidence-based crime prevention as well as community-based interventions involving families and those victimized by youth crime.

80. Several speakers highlighted the role of young people in crime prevention efforts to ensure that their perspectives were considered in relevant policies and programmes.

81. Examples of successful crime prevention practices that featured in the interventions of several speakers included the provision of personal development opportunities for young people, the promotion of interaction between law enforcement and young people, education and skills training, including through sports, as well as the use of youth councils to promote youth development, and the creation of safe neighbourhoods through environmental design.

#### **5. Other activities in support of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in particular activities of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, non-governmental organizations and other bodies**

82. Several speakers highlighted the contributions and work of UNODC and of the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme

network in advancing research and promoting capacity-building in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

83. The significance of coordination between the institutes and UNODC and the United Nations Development Programme was highlighted.

84. The workshop organized during the session by the institutes of the programme network on the topic “Enhancing the functioning of the criminal justice system to ensure access to justice and to realize a safe and secure society” was welcomed by some speakers.

## **B. Action taken by the Commission**

85. At its 7th meeting, on 24 May 2023, the Commission decided to transmit to the Economic and Social Council the report of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute ([E/CN.15/2023/8](#)), which had been prepared in accordance with article IV, paragraph 3 (e), of the statute of the Institute (Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/56, annex).

86. At its 10th meeting, on 27 May 2023, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the approval of a draft resolution ([E/CN.15/2023/L.7](#)), as revised, for adoption by the General Assembly entitled “Technical assistance provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime related to counter-terrorism”, sponsored by Albania, Australia, Canada, Chile, Honduras, Indonesia, Japan, Paraguay, Sweden (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union) and the United States. (For the text of the draft resolution, see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution IV.) Following the recommendation of the draft resolution, as revised, statements were made by the representatives of Italy and Austria and by the observer for Indonesia.

87. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted a draft resolution ([E/CN.15/2023/L.2](#)), as revised, entitled “Taking action against trafficking in persons in business operations, public procurement and supply chains for goods and services”, sponsored by Belarus, Honduras, the Russian Federation and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). (For the text of the resolution, see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 32/1.) Upon the adoption of the draft resolution, as revised, a statement was made by the representative of Belarus.

88. The observer for Ukraine made a statement in which she recalled the General Assembly resolution of 2 March 2022, in which the Assembly had deplored the involvement of Belarus in the unlawful use of force by the Russian Federation against Ukraine. She stated that that aggression had resulted in dire human rights and humanitarian consequences, causing massive displacement of people, including women and children, and that the support of Belarus for that aggression itself generated enormous risks in term of human trafficking. She further stated that, according to available information, more than 1,000 Ukrainian children were in the territory of Belarus as part of the decisions of the Government of Belarus, as well as individual decisions of the Union State of Russia and Belarus, but that the real numbers could be much higher. She stated that the actions of the Russian Federation and Belarus in relation to Ukrainian children clearly indicated a planned, precalculated process of forcible deportation of children from Ukraine with the aim of their ideological re-education, assimilation with the population of the Russian Federation and their exploitation in the interests of the Russian Federation, and that the deportation exposed children to other possible violations of their rights. She stated that her delegation considered the resolution tabled by Belarus on action against trafficking in persons with disappointment and concern, and as an attempt to misuse the United Nations to distract the attention of the international community from Belarus being an accomplice to the aggression of the Russian Federation, and that her

delegation called upon Belarus to adhere to its international obligations and end its enabling of the aggressive war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, which would be the best contribution of Belarus to international efforts aimed at addressing human trafficking.

89. The representative of the Russian Federation also made a statement. He stated that, very briefly, in connection with the statement that had just been made by the representative of Ukraine, his delegation would like to state that it categorically rejected the accusations made, and his delegation wished to point out that those accusations were entirely inappropriate at that stage, at that point in time and in the context of work on the resolutions that the Commission was currently considering.

90. The representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer, made a statement. She stated that the position of the European Union was consistent and well known: the European Union and its member States were firmly committed to enhancing international cooperation to combat trafficking in persons and fully supported the important efforts by UNODC to combat that heinous crime. She further stated that, throughout the week, they had shared their dismay that a resolution on such an important topic had been tabled by a country that blatantly violated the Charter of the United Nations and international law. She stated that Belarus continued to support the Russian Federation in its aggression against Ukraine, was instrumentally using migrants from third countries for political purposes and had committed serious human rights violations against its own citizens, and that the European Union and its member States strongly condemned those actions. She further stated that the lack of compliance by Belarus with its obligations under international law demonstrated its utter disregard for human rights. She stated that the European Union and its member States considered that the influence, weight and perception of the resolution would be seriously tarnished by the lack of credibility of its sponsor, and that the Belarusian authorities could no longer claim to have any leadership on actions against trafficking in persons. She recalled that the European Union had stated in the pre-session consultations of the Commission that it could not engage with Belarus for the reasons mentioned, and that it had asked Belarus to withdraw or postpone its proposal; the European Union regretted that such a decision had not been taken. However, the speaker stated that she would like the Commission to recognize that, throughout the week, the European Union and its Member States had engaged in the negotiation process carried out in the Committee of the Whole, led by the distinguished Ambassadors of Germany and of the Dominican Republic, in good faith and with full respect for multilateralism. She stated that, although the resolutions had been adopted, the European Union and its member States hoped that future discussions in the Commission would become more constructive to keep the Vienna spirit of consensus and not undermine the international rules-based system.

91. The representative of the United States made a statement. She stated that the United States reiterated its concern about adopting such a text sponsored by only one member, Belarus, which had an abysmal track record on anti-trafficking initiatives and had engaged in the callous exploitation of vulnerable migrants and the orchestration of migrant smuggling. She stated that her delegation could accept the text within the resolution itself, but that the cynical effort of Belarus to whitewash its own reputation and international profile through that manipulative action was not worthy of that forum, and that her delegation believed that it could not go unremarked or unanswered. She underscored the sheer hypocrisy of Belarus initiating a resolution during the session as it continued to support the brutal and unprovoked invasion of a sovereign nation, deplored in countless international forums, most notably in the General Assembly. She further stated that the actions of Belarus over the past 15 months had helped to fuel a humanitarian crisis, causing the forced internal and external displacement of millions of innocent civilians, that that country's own actions had sharply heightened the risk of human trafficking, as well as migrant

smuggling, and that the self-serving action of Belarus in tabling that text served only to detract from the work and overall mandate of the Commission, not to enhance it.

92. The observer for Australia made a statement. She stated that Australia was committed to strengthening global action to counter the scourge of trafficking in persons and that Australia looked forward to continuing to promote effective global and regional responses to trafficking in persons and welcomed the commitment of the Commission to strong action on that important issue. She stated that her delegation was firmly committed to strong action to address human trafficking and the use of forced labour in global supply chains and that her country took a transparency approach to combating all forms of modern slavery in global supply chains and operations and was proud to work with international and regional partners, industry, unions and community responders to prevent and respond to trafficking in persons and to support and protect victim-survivors. She stated that her delegation had been pleased to support multilateral efforts and engage constructively over the course of the session to promote effective international responses to the use of modern slavery in supply chains. She further stated that her delegation continued to hold concerns about the purported multilateral leadership by Belarus on this issue and regretted that the lack of compliance by Belarus with its obligations under international law risked undermining the rules and norms to which the international community had agreed and the rules-based international order upon which the international community depended. She stated that Australia condemned the support by Belarus of the illegal and immoral invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation. She also stated that her delegation welcomed the fact that the resolution now belonged to all and looked forward to seeing Belarus abide by the resolution, as actions spoke louder than words.

93. The representative of Canada made a statement. She stated that, like others, her delegation was deeply concerned that Belarus continued to support the illegal and immoral invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation. She also stated that her delegation held serious concerns about the deterioration of human rights in Belarus and the country's instrumentalization of migration as a political tool. She stated that through those actions, Belarus had given up any claims it might ever have had to international leadership on the issue of trafficking in persons. She stated that it would now be held accountable for implementing its own resolution on the matter, and expressed the hope that in the future the actions of Belarus would be aligned with the political commitments expressed in the resolution.

94. The representative of the United Kingdom made a statement. He stated that his delegation wished to add its voice to the ones that had spoken on the issue of Belarus and the resolution. He stated that his delegation believed that the way in which the resolution had been introduced, by a sole actor seeking to take a leadership role in this forum without any consent from its other members or any consultations, was both damaging to the Commission and also lacked the self-reflection that his delegation would consider an important part of that Vienna forum and the "spirit of Vienna". He stated that his delegation believed that the actions by Belarus to take migrants and to weaponize them against its neighbours had consequences, and, as had been stated by the delegate from Australia, actions spoke louder than words. He expressed hope that Belarus could live up to the language in the resolution, to which all had agreed, and that in future, if such actors brought forward resolutions which proved to be controversial, that they could do so in a way that was both consultative and constructive and that added value to the work of the Commission, which his delegation truly believed was important. He stated that the Commission existed to enhance all countries' lives and to bring forward positive policy decisions on issues that mattered to all, that it was a real honour and obligation to be part of the Commission, and that he hoped that it would be treated with equal respect or with commensurate respect in the future. His delegation wished to add its voice to those to be included in the report and wished to condemn the continued illegal war waged by

the Russian Federation on Ukraine, which had also seen specific actions that related to the resolution, in particular the forced deportation of children, which his delegation condemned in the strongest terms.

95. The representative of Cuba made a statement. He stated that his delegation was grateful to all those who had contributed to the tremendous effort behind the outcomes that the Commission had achieved during the session, especially with regard to the topics that had just been addressed. He stated that Cuba reiterated its policy of zero tolerance towards any form of trafficking in persons and that, accordingly, his delegation had worked hard to achieve a positive outcome through the draft resolution contained in document [E/CN.15/2023/L.2](#), which the Commission had just adopted. He further stated that, in the view of Cuba, the resolution would enable the Commission to continue its work to counter that scourge facing humanity. He stated that it was regrettable, however, that the work of the Commission was becoming politicized, and that his delegation hoped that in the future the “spirit of Vienna” would prevail in the face of such conduct and that the right of all States to submit resolutions, whether or not they were adopted by the States members of the Commission, would be respected.

96. The representative of Belarus made a statement. He stated that his delegation had no intention of engaging in a politicized discussion and that, moreover, his delegation believed that the Commission was not the place for such a discussion. He further stated that his delegation’s response to the accusations made, and to similar accusations levelled against his Government previously, was contained in the statement made by the delegation of Belarus during the general debate at the same session and in his delegation’s statement made in exercise of the right of reply, which had also been delivered during the general debate.

97. The representative of the Russian Federation made a statement. He stated that his delegation would like to draw the attention of all colleagues to the rationale for the conduct of the delegations of the European Union and the Anglo-Saxon countries. He stated that they, having supported the work on the document submitted by Belarus, and having aligned themselves with it, themselves had made their position obvious, and that that was a form of hypocrisy. He also stated that it seemed to him that the statements of those countries simply demonstrated their attitude to the matter, to the documents and to the Commission. He further stated that it was not at all clear why they behaved first in one way, then in another, and that that constituted hypocrisy and double standards. He also stated that they had demonstrated that to the whole world and should be responded to accordingly. He stated that, secondly, it was a completely inappropriate time for politicized discussions, when the Commission was discussing resolutions, and that those delegations had demonstrated to the whole world their attitude towards other countries.

98. The observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement. He stated that UNODC, in particular the Commission, was by nature a technical body, and that the discussions in the Commission should therefore not be politicized and political issues should be raised in the right bodies. He stated that his delegation believed that it was the sovereign right of all member States to table resolutions in the Commission and other UNODC bodies. He also stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran had constructively engaged in the negotiation of all resolutions tabled during the session of the Commission, and that his delegation appreciated the countries that had participated in the negotiation of those resolutions. He stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran would support all countries that tabled resolutions in future sessions and invited other countries to engage constructively in the negotiations of the Commission.

## Chapter VI

### Use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice

99. At its 7th and 8th meetings, on 24 and 25 May 2023, the Commission considered agenda item 7, entitled “Use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice”.

100. For its consideration of agenda item 7, the Commission had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice (E/CN.15/2023/9);

(b) Working paper prepared by the Secretariat for the open-ended intergovernmental expert group meeting on model strategies on reducing reoffending (E/CN.15/2023/13).

101. The Chief of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Section of UNODC made an introductory statement. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association also made statements.

102. Statements were made by the representatives of Thailand, Japan, the United States, China, Morocco, Kenya and Qatar.

103. Statements were also made by the observers for South Africa and Indonesia.

104. The observer for the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice made a statement.

### Deliberations

105. A number of speakers highlighted the importance of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice in laying the foundation for crime prevention and effective responses to organized crime, terrorism and corruption. The standards and norms provided flexible guidance that could be adapted to national contexts to promote effective, fair and humane criminal justice systems upholding the rule of law. Speakers commended the efforts of UNODC in promoting the application of the standards and norms through technical tools and assistance.

106. Many speakers described new legislation and policies incorporating the standards and norms into domestic legal and institutional frameworks. Speakers emphasized the relevance of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules) in improving prison conditions and reducing incarceration through the increased use of non-custodial measures.

107. Several speakers referred to ongoing efforts to develop model strategies on reducing reoffending. At the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Kyoto, Japan, in March 2021, reoffending had been identified as a common challenge faced by criminal justice systems, and speakers expressed their commitment to contributing their experiences and expertise in the process of developing new standards and norms in that area. Speakers shared

information on national programmes aimed at promoting the rehabilitation of offenders and their safe re-entry into the community.

108. Access to legal aid services, including for victims of crime, and the integration of a gender perspective into the treatment of offenders were identified as crucial components in enhancing equal access to justice for all, including marginalized members of society. Several speakers emphasized the value of restorative justice programmes in enhancing victim-centred responses to crime and rehabilitation prospects for offenders.

109. Some speakers addressed the issue of gender-based violence against women and girls and described national efforts to improve the response capacity of criminal justice practitioners in that regard. Highlighting violence against children as a widespread, multifaceted form of violence that remains largely invisible, undetected and unpunished, a call was made for the full application of existing standards and norms in the delivery of justice for children.

110. Some speakers underlined the importance of collecting and producing high-quality statistics relating to crime and criminal justice in assessing progress towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda. Many speakers emphasized the need to strengthen the sharing of knowledge and information about challenges and lessons learned in the application of the standards and norms.

## Chapter VII

### World crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice

111. At its 8th meeting, on 25 May 2023, the Commission considered agenda item 8, entitled “World crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice”.

112. For its consideration of agenda item 8, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2023/2-E/CN.15/2023/2](#));

(b) Note by the Secretariat on world crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice ([E/CN.15/2023/10](#)).

113. A representative of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch of UNODC made an introductory statement.

114. Statements were made by the representatives of Thailand, China, France, Italy, the United States, the Russian Federation, Canada, the United Kingdom, Kenya, Angola, Paraguay, Ghana and Morocco.

115. Statements were also made by the observers for South Africa, Indonesia, the United Arab Emirates, Poland, Slovenia, Jordan, Spain, Malaysia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Kuwait, Türkiye, Oman and Egypt, by the representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer, and by the observers for Uganda and Madagascar.

116. The observers for Penal Reform International, the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, PANGEE ONG Ingénierie de pain, the Wildlife Justice Commission and the Born Free Foundation also made statements.

### Deliberations

117. Several speakers expressed appreciation for the work of UNODC in the preparation of the document on world crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice ([E/CN.15/2023/10](#)). The importance of comparable crime data as a means of measuring progress, including progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and of identifying good practices in crime prevention and criminal justice was emphasized.

118. Several speakers emphasized the importance of addressing gender-based violence and homicide, noting that there had been an increase in such crimes during the pandemic. The increased vulnerability of women in conflict situations was noted, and gender-based cybercrime was mentioned. Concern was expressed about the growth of bias crimes more broadly, and speakers noted the need to track bias in the operations of criminal justice systems, including through disaggregated data. The need to increase diversity in the composition of law enforcement agencies was also noted.

119. Some speakers mentioned cybercrime as an area of growing concern. Several speakers referred to the use of the Internet for sexual exploitation, including of children, as a particularly pressing issue. The use of the Internet to recruit trafficking victims was also mentioned. Some speakers welcomed the ongoing work of the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes.

120. Many speakers emphasized the importance of addressing crimes affecting the environment, as reflected in the Kyoto Declaration. The importance of international cooperation in dealing with the issue was discussed, as wildlife, timber and mineral markets were frequently transcontinental and the impact of crimes affecting the environment was global. The need for technical assistance and capacity-building in tackling crimes that affect the environment was noted, especially for developing countries, which often suffered particularly serious consequences of such crimes.

121. In the context of crimes that affect the environment, reference was made to wildlife crime, illegal logging, illegal land clearing, illegal mining, illegal fishing and illegal industrial activities.

122. Several speakers expressed ongoing concern about various forms of human trafficking and migrant smuggling, including the use of technology and maritime channels to commit those crimes.

123. The observer for the United Arab Emirates introduced a new initiative on the theme “Law enforcement for climate”. With regard to crimes that affect the environment, the observer noted that the aims of the initiative were to support research and the analysis of patterns and trends, raise awareness, promote national, regional and international cooperation and coordination among law enforcement agencies and support the effective implementation of the Organized Crime Convention.

124. Many speakers noted the initiative with appreciation and interest and announced that they would consider how the initiative could be implemented so as to complement existing efforts and how to best contribute to it.

125. Some speakers referred to the added value that a new international legal instrument in the area of crimes that affect the environment might have.

## Chapter VIII

### **Follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

126. At its 8th meeting, on 25 May 2023, the Commission considered agenda item 9, entitled “Follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”.

127. For its consideration of agenda item 9, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice ([E/CN.15/2023/11](#));

(b) Conference room paper containing the Chair’s summary on the thematic discussions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration (5–7 December 2022) ([E/CN.15/2023/CRP.1](#));

(c) Conference room paper containing proposals on the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice ([E/CN.15/2023/CRP.5](#)).

128. Introductory statements were made by the Secretary of the Commission and a representative of the secretariat of the Commission.

129. Statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Thailand, China, the United States, Canada and Armenia.

130. Statements were also made by the observers for the United Arab Emirates, the Sudan (on behalf of the Group of African States), Egypt and Norway.

131. The observers for the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice also made statements.

#### **A. Deliberations**

132. Appreciation was expressed to Japan as the host country of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for its leading efforts in the implementation of the outcome of the Fourteenth Congress. A number of delegations welcomed the efforts undertaken by UNODC and Member States since the adoption of the Kyoto Declaration.

133. The holistic and integrated approach taken by the Commission in the follow-up to the Fourteenth Congress was commended. Reference was made to the annual intersessional thematic discussions of the Commission, including the second round, held in December 2022, which facilitated an interactive exchange of views among Member States, United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and academia on good practices and lessons learned in advancing the criminal justice system. The enhanced contribution made by other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, and by the Council itself, to the thematic discussions was welcomed.

134. Some speakers reported on their countries' efforts to implement the commitments contained in the Kyoto Declaration, including with regard to the following: the implementation of United Nations standards and norms; the empowerment of young people in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice; safeguarding victims' rights and protecting witnesses; countering the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings; mainstreaming a gender perspective into criminal justice policies; preventing and countering corruption; and preventing and combating terrorism. Information was also shared on steps taken at the national level to strengthen the criminal justice system, including reducing recidivism through rehabilitation and reintegration efforts.

135. The importance of providing adequate and sustainable funding to enhance the provision of capacity-building and technical assistance to developing countries in the implementation of international commitments aimed at strengthening the criminal justice system was reiterated.

136. Many speakers expressed their appreciation to the Chair of the Commission and to the Government of Japan for the tabling of a resolution on the follow-up to the Fourteenth Congress and the preparations for the Fifteenth Congress. Several speakers welcomed the adoption of a comprehensive and forward-looking overall theme for the Fifteenth Congress, emphasizing the importance of accelerating efforts to strengthen crime prevention and criminal justice responses in the context of the broader global agenda. It was highlighted that the Fifteenth Congress would set the stage for shaping the global framework regarding crime prevention and criminal justice in the critical period leading up to the final review of the 2030 Agenda.

137. Many speakers expressed their appreciation to the Government of the United Arab Emirates as the host country of the Fifteenth Congress and reaffirmed their support in the preparatory process. The importance of building upon the success of the Fourteenth Congress in the preparations for the next Congress was underscored.

138. The focus of the agenda of the Fifteenth Congress on, inter alia, new, emerging and evolving forms of transnational organized crime was welcomed. The importance of discussing pertinent challenges, including cybercrime, corruption, gender-based violence and crimes that affect the environment was mentioned. Continuing the discussion on the development and implementation of evidence-based crime prevention and criminal justice policies was regarded as essential.

139. Several speakers emphasized the valuable expertise of civil society and academia in supporting the global efforts by Member States to address existing and emerging crime prevention and criminal justice challenges. The role of the United Nations crime congresses as forums for the exchange of views among a broad range of participants was highlighted.

140. Some speakers expressed their appreciation to the late Gary Hill for his valuable contribution to the enhanced engagement of civil society in the United Nations crime congresses.

## **B. Action taken by the Commission**

141. At its 8th meeting, on 25 May 2023, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the approval of a revised draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly ([E/CN.15/2023/L.4/Rev.1](#)) entitled "Follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice", submitted by the Chair on behalf of the Commission and sponsored by Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Norway, Paraguay, South Africa, the Sudan, Sweden (on behalf of the

States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Switzerland, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States. (For the text of the draft resolution, see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I.) Prior to the recommendation of the revised draft resolution, a representative of the Secretariat read out a statement on the financial implications of its adoption (see conference room paper E/CN.15/2023/CRP.9). Following the recommendation of the revised draft resolution, the representative of Japan made a statement.

142. At its 10th meeting, on 27 May 2023, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the approval of a draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly ([E/CN.15/2023/L.3](#)) entitled “Reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration”, sponsored by Australia, Canada, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ghana, Honduras, Japan, Morocco, Namibia, Paraguay, Peru, South Africa, Sweden (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States. (For the text of the draft resolution, see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II.) Following the recommendation of the draft resolution, the representative of Japan made a statement.

## Chapter IX

### **Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolutions [75/290 A](#) and [75/290 B](#), including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

143. At its 9th meeting, on 25 May 2023, the Commission considered agenda item 10, entitled “Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolutions [75/290 A](#) and [75/290 B](#), including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

144. For its consideration of agenda item 10, the Commission had before it a conference room paper on the contributions by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular in the lead-up to the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in 2023 (E/CN.15/2023/CRP.4).

145. Introductory statements were made by a representative of the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies and a representative of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs of UNODC.

146. Statements were made by the representatives of Thailand, China, Canada and the United States.

#### **A. Deliberations**

147. A number of speakers underlined the role of the Commission as the principal policymaking body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. It was noted that the work of the Commission was interconnected with that of other United Nations bodies. The cooperation undertaken in that regard was welcomed.

148. The contribution of the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals was highlighted, and it was stressed that the policy goals relating to crime prevention and criminal justice and the 2030 Agenda were interlinked and mutually reinforcing. Some speakers expressed appreciation for the recommendations of the Council for enhancing the work of its subsidiary bodies and the alignment of their work with the 2030 Agenda. Reference was made to the Sustainable Development Goals Summit to be held in September 2023, during which the United Nations would conduct a midterm assessment of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. A speaker also made reference to the Global Development Initiative, aimed at raising awareness of development issues.

149. Reference was made to the commitments made by Member States in the Kyoto Declaration. Examples were provided in relation to gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women, equal access to justice and implementing and promoting United Nations standards and norms. Appreciation was expressed for the organization of the 2022 thematic discussions on the implementation of the Declaration. Some speakers also emphasized the importance of enhancing international cooperation in criminal justice.

## **B. Action taken by the Commission**

150. At its 10th meeting, on 27 May 2023, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the approval of a revised draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly ([E/CN.15/2023/L.5/Rev.1](#)) entitled “Enhancing the contributions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, sponsored by Algeria, Andorra, Burkina Faso, Canada, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ghana, Honduras, Israel, Japan, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, South Africa, the Sudan, Sweden (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States. (For the text of the draft resolution, see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution III.) Following the recommendation of the revised draft resolution, the representative of Ghana made a statement.

## **Chapter X**

### **Provisional agenda for the thirty-third session of the Commission**

151. At its 9th meeting, on 25 May 2023, the Commission considered agenda item 11, entitled “Provisional agenda for the thirty-third session of the Commission”.

#### **Action taken by the Commission**

152. At its 9th meeting, on 25 May 2023, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a draft decision entitled “Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its thirty-second session and provisional agenda for its thirty-third session” ([E/CN.15/2023/L.8](#)). (For the text of the draft decision, see chap. I, sect. B.)

## **Chapter XI**

### **Other business**

153. At its 9th meeting, on 25 May 2023, the Commission considered agenda item 12, entitled “Other business”. No issues were raised under the agenda item.

## Chapter XII

### **Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-second session**

154. At its 10th meeting, on 27 May 2023, the Commission adopted by consensus the report on its thirty-second session ([E/CN.15/2023/L.1](#) and [E/CN.15/2023/L.1/Add.1–8](#)).

## Chapter XIII

### Organization of the session

#### A. Informal pre-session consultations

155. At its reconvened thirty-first session, held on 8 and 9 December 2022, the Commission agreed that its thirty-second session would be held from 22 to 26 May 2023, with informal pre-session consultations to be held on 19 May 2023, the working day preceding the first day of the session.

156. At the informal pre-session consultations on 19 May 2023, chaired by the Second Vice-Chair of the Commission, Laura Faxas de Jorgensen (Dominican Republic), the Commission conducted a preliminary review of the draft resolutions that had been submitted by the deadline of 25 April 2023 and dealt with organizational matters for the thirty-second session.

#### B. Opening and duration of the session

157. The Commission held the regular part of its thirty-second session in Vienna from 22 to 27 May 2023. The Chair of the Commission opened the session. The President of the General Assembly addressed the Commission. The President of the Economic and Social Council also addressed the Commission. The Executive Director of UNODC made an opening statement.

#### C. Attendance

158. The arrangements for the organization of the thirty-second session had been endorsed by the Commission by means of a silence procedure that ended on 30 January 2023. In accordance with those arrangements, the session was conducted in a hybrid format.

159. The thirty-second session was attended by representatives of 37 States members of the Commission. Also attending were observers for 99 other States Members of the United Nations, observers for 2 non-member States, representatives of 7 entities of the United Nations system and observers for 15 institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, 18 intergovernmental organizations and 69 non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. A list of participants is contained in document [E/CN.15/2023/INF/2](#).

#### D. Election of officers

160. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/31 and rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission, at the end of its reconvened thirty-first session, on 9 December 2022, opened its thirty-second session for the sole purpose of electing its Bureau for that session. The Commission elected the Chair, the Second Vice-Chair, the Third Vice-Chair and the Rapporteur. The office of the First Vice-Chair remained vacant.

161. At its first meeting, on 22 May 2023, the Commission considered agenda item 1, entitled “Election of officers”, and in the absence of a nomination, the position of First Vice-Chair remained vacant.

162. In view of the rotation of offices based on regional distribution, the officers elected for the thirty-second session of the Commission and their respective regional groups are listed below.

<i>Office</i>	<i>Regional group</i>	<i>Officer</i>
Chair	African States	Mary Wangui Mugwanja (Kenya)
First Vice-Chair	Eastern European States	(vacant)
Second Vice-Chair	Latin American and Caribbean States	Laura Faxas de Jorgensen (Dominican Republic)
Third Vice-Chair	Western European and other States	Götz Volker Carl Schmidt-Bremme (Germany)
Rapporteur	Asia-Pacific States	Jun Yamazaki (Japan)

163. A group composed of the Chairs of the five regional groups, the Chair of the Group of 77 and China and the representative of or observer for the State holding the presidency of the European Union was established to assist the Chair of the Commission in dealing with organizational matters. That group, together with the elected officers, constituted the extended Bureau foreseen in Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/31.

164. During the thirty-second session of the Commission, the extended Bureau met on 24 and 25 May 2023 to consider matters related to the organization of work.

## **E. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

165. At its 1st meeting, on 22 May 2023, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda and proposed organization of work ([E/CN.15/2023/1](#)), which had been approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2022/339.

The agenda was as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. General debate.
4. Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions:
  - (a) Work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
  - (b) Directives on policy and budgetary issues for the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme;
  - (c) Working methods of the Commission;
  - (d) Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters.
5. Thematic discussion on enhancing the functioning of the criminal justice system to ensure access to justice and to realize a safe and secure society.
6. Integration and coordination of efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and by Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice:
  - (a) Ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto;

- (b) Ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;
  - (c) Ratification and implementation of the international instruments to prevent and combat terrorism;
  - (d) Other crime prevention and criminal justice matters;
  - (e) Other activities in support of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in particular activities of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, non-governmental organizations and other bodies.
- 7. Use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.
  - 8. World crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.
  - 9. Follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.
  - 10. Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolutions [75/290 A](#) and [75/290 B](#), including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
  - 11. Provisional agenda for the thirty-third session of the Commission.
  - 12. Other business.
  - 13. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-second session.

## **F. Documentation**

166. The documents before the Commission at its thirty-second session are listed in conference room paper E/CN.15/2023/CRP.10.

## **G. Closure of the session**

167. At the 10th meeting, on 27 May 2023, the Director of the Division of Treaty Affairs read out a closing statement by the Executive Director of UNODC. The Chair of the Commission also made a closing statement.

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