Draft report

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Addendum

II. Conclusions and recommendations (continued)

B. Substantive items and workshops

4 International cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime: (a) terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; and (b) new and emerging forms of crime (agenda item 6); and current crime trends, recent developments and emerging solutions, in particular new technologies as means for and tools against crime (workshop 4)

Summary of deliberations

1. The Meeting highlighted the paramount role of international cooperation to address and tackle all forms of crime, especially terrorism and transnational crime, such as trafficking in persons, narcotic drugs, cultural property and firearms, smuggling of migrants, poaching, illegal mining and illicit trafficking in precious metals, unreported and unregulated fishing, cross border motor vehicle theft, cybercrime and money laundering. The strengthening of bilateral and multilateral partnerships among relevant authorities was considered critical in the prevention of transnational organized crime.

2. A number of participants highlighted the importance of regional cooperation and coordination among practitioners and policy makers through regional mechanisms, to exchange good practices and work on joint solutions. It was noted that countries cannot work in silos, and that effective and timely information-sharing as well as enhanced technical assistance and capacity-building were essential to effectively responding to challenges. Information on the work of relevant mechanisms, such as the African Prosecutors Association (APA) was, amongst others, shared in this regard.

3. Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, which poses a serious threat to security, and transcends cultures and geographical boundaries, was noted as a major international challenge that required a comprehensive response. Reference was made to the risks relating to emerging forms of terrorism such as chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) terrorism.
4. The misuse of information and communication technology, facilitated a wide range of terrorism related activities, including financing of terrorism, incitement, recruitment, training, and spreading of propaganda material. Reference was also made to criminal activities, such as hostage-taking, kidnapping and drug trafficking aimed at raising funds for terrorist activities. A number of national efforts to address the root causes and modus operandi of terrorism were presented by participants.

5. Participants addressed the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, thereby highlighting the misuse of the internet, including social media, for recruitment purposes and reported on challenges in relating to the identification of offenders, and relating to social reintegration efforts when they return to their country.

6. The importance of implementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the United Nations Convention against Corruption, as well as the international conventions against terrorism, and relevant Security Council resolutions, including Security Council resolution 1372(2001) was highlighted.

7. The meeting stressed that enhanced capacity of law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners as well as strengthened international cooperation were key to address new and emerging forms of crime. The use of regional platforms for the regular exchange of practical and operational information amongst criminal justice practitioners and institutions was considered a priority. The need to enhance cooperation between member states, United Nations entities, international organizations, programme network institutions and civil society was underscored, and many participants commended the technical assistance provided by UNODC in various areas.

8. A number of participants referred to cybercrime as a serious threat to security and public order. It was noted that such crimes were no longer solely virtual but also physical when targeting physical infrastructure such as electricity plants. Reference was made to the importance of the work conducted by the open-ended intergovernmental expert group meeting on cybercrime, including with a view to discussing means to enhance international cooperation and find international solutions to counter cybercrime.

9. It was further highlighted that cybercrime was also major concern for financial institutions, regulatory agencies, and law enforcement agencies on a global scale, with e-commerce and cryptocurrency often being misused for illegal activities, creating a conducive environment for money laundering and financing of terrorism. Cooperation with the private sector was considered essential to successfully address these crimes.

10. Participants took note of the unprecedented speed of technological innovation and stressed the need for law enforcement agencies and criminal justice institutions to keep up with the technological developments in order to be equipped to effectively address crimes in its all forms and manifestations, and address challenges relating to new technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data, robotic process automation, virtual reality, internet. The importance of public-private partnerships was underlined in this context.

11. Participants mentioned that trafficking in wildlife, including trafficking in endangered species of wild fauna and flora as well as poaching and illegal mining had serious impact on the environment, and needed comprehensive and urgent responses, which give due consideration to linkages with transnational organized crime, corruption and money-laundering.

Outcome of deliberations

12. The following recommendations, which were not negotiated by the participants, were identified:

(a) Examine the best possible approaches to further enhance regional and international cooperation in criminal justice among practitioners, in particular, those
in central authorities, including with a view to enhancing mutual-legal assistance, extradition and transfer of offenders;

(b) Ensure effective implementation of the provisions of the three international drug control conventions, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the international conventions and protocols against terrorism;

(c) Increase the provision of technical assistance, including the provision of technical equipment, and capacity-building for criminal justice institutions and practitioners, enhance cooperation among member states, and with relevant United Nations entities, international organizations and programme network institute (PNIs); and call on UNODC and other relevant international and regional assistance providers to continue to provide technical assistance and capacity-building for countries in the region;

(d) Strengthen cooperation at the international, regional and sub-regional levels to address threats posed by terrorism including foreign terrorist fighters, hostage taking for ransom and financing of terrorism, and enhance timely information sharing and coordination among relevant authorities, logistical support for and capacity-building of practitioners in this regard;

(e) Enhance cooperation at all levels and provide training for criminal justice practitioners with regard to the evolving information and communication technologies and new technologies, such as artificial intelligence and big data, to and address their misuse;

(f) Support training and technical assistance in building cyber security skills within criminal justice institutions to get a better understanding of activities of cyber criminals and be able to keep up with equipment and technologies that enable the misuse of the internet;

(g) Promote increased domestic and international collaboration to address cybercrime, including data sharing, between governmental authorities as well as with the private sector and civil society;

(h) Consider building on the work of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group to conduct a comprehensive study of the problem of cybercrime with a view to enhancing international cooperation and finding effective international responses;

(i) Adopt effective measures to prevent and counter environmental crimes, such as trafficking in wildlife, including endangered species of wild fauna and flora as well as poaching, and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, including through strengthening legislation, law enforcement efforts, criminal justice responses and international cooperation and capacity-building.