



United Nations

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

**Report on the thirty-third session
(8 December 2023 and 13–17 May 2024)**

Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2024
Supplement No. 10

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United Nations • New York, 2024

* Reissued for technical reasons on 22 July 2024.

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-third session, to be held on 5 and 6 December 2024, will be issued as *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2024, Supplement No. 10A* ([E/2024/30/Add.1](#)).

[29 May 2024]

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* In the context of the draft resolution, the term “associated with terrorist groups” has no internationally agreed definition, and therefore national definitions can encompass a range of degrees of association or affiliation with terrorist groups and should be interpreted according to domestic law.

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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-third session from 13 to 17 May 2024. The present document contains the report on that part of the thirty-third 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-third 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 the 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-third session of the Commission was “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”. The Commission held a thematic discussion on the topic.

The Commission decided to recommend 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”; and (c) “Preventing and countering violence against children by organized criminal groups and terrorist groups in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice”.

The Commission also decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution and decisions: (a) “Treatment of children associated with terrorist groups,^a including children who are recruited and exploited by those groups”; (b) “Re-election and appointment of members of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute”; and (c) “Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its thirty-third session and provisional agenda for its thirty-fourth session”.

The Commission adopted the following resolution and decision: (a) “Countering trafficking in persons in the context of rapid technological change”; and (b) “Report of

the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute”.

^a In the context of the draft resolution, the term “associated with terrorist groups” has no internationally agreed definition, and therefore national definitions can encompass a range of degrees of association or affiliation with terrorist groups and should be interpreted according to domestic law.

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 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 also 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 further its resolution [78/223](#) of 19 December 2023, in which it approved the agenda items and decided upon the main theme and the topics for the workshops of the Fifteenth Congress and also decided that the duration of the Fifteenth Congress should not exceed eight days, including pre-Congress consultations,

Recalling that, in its resolution [78/223](#), it decided that, in accordance with its resolution [56/119](#), the Fifteenth Congress would adopt a single declaration, to be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for its consideration, and that the Commission would give due consideration to the report of the Fifteenth Congress,

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 coronavirus disease (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,¹

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 Development² 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;

¹ [E/CN.15/2024/12](#).

² Resolution [76/181](#), annex.

4. *Notes* the progress made thus far in the preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;
5. *Decides* to hold the Fifteenth Congress in Abu Dhabi from 25 to 30 April 2026, with pre-Congress consultations to be held on 24 April 2026;
6. *Also decides* that the high-level segment of the Fifteenth Congress shall be held during the first two days of the Congress in order to allow Heads of State or Government and government ministers to focus on the main theme of the Congress and to enhance the possibility of generating useful feedback;
7. *Reiterates* its invitation to Member States to be represented at the Fifteenth Congress at the highest possible level, for example, by Heads of State or Government, government ministers or attorneys general, and to make statements on the theme and topics of the Congress;
8. *Also reiterates* its invitation to Member States to play an active role in the Fifteenth Congress by sending legal and policy experts, including practitioners with special training and practical experience in crime prevention and criminal justice;
9. *Requests* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in accordance with its resolution 73/184 of 17 December 2018, to begin to prepare, at intersessional meetings to be held following the regular part of its thirty-fourth session and well in advance of the Fifteenth Congress, a structured, short and concise draft declaration with a robust overarching political message addressing the main topics to be discussed at the Congress, taking into account the outcomes of the regional preparatory meetings, consultations with relevant organizations and entities and the relevant discussions held in preparation for the Congress, as well as the mandate and objectives of the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice;
10. *Encourages* Member States to finalize their negotiations of the Abu Dhabi declaration in a timely manner prior to the commencement of the Fifteenth Congress so that the declaration can be adopted on the opening day of the Fifteenth Congress, thereby following the approach taken in the preparations for the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Congresses;
11. *Decides* that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, during the in-session thematic discussion at its thirty-fifth session, will give due consideration to the report of the Fifteenth Congress;
12. *Takes note with appreciation* of the draft discussion guide prepared by the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, for the regional preparatory meetings and for the Fifteenth Congress;
13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to finalize the discussion guide in a timely manner, taking into account the recommendations of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as well as additional comments and feedback from Member States, in order to enable the regional preparatory meetings for the Fifteenth Congress to be held as early as possible in 2025;
14. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of the five 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;
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. *Invites* Governments to undertake preparations for the Fifteenth Congress at an early stage by all appropriate means, including, where appropriate, the establishment of national preparatory committees;

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, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to facilitate the participation of developing countries in the workshops, and encourages States, the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, other entities concerned and the Secretary-General to work together in order to ensure that the workshops are well focused and achieve practical results, leading to technical cooperation ideas and projects and documents for enhancing bilateral and multilateral technical assistance activities in crime prevention and criminal justice;

19. *Also 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;

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 Secretary-General to prepare a plan for the documentation for the Fifteenth Congress, in consultation with the extended Bureau of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

22. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to appoint a Secretary-General and an Executive Secretary of the Fifteenth Congress, in accordance with past practice, to perform their functions under the rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice;

23. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with the necessary resources, from within the overall appropriations of the programme budget for 2025 and the programme budget for 2026, to support the preparations for and holding of the Fifteenth Congress;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, in collaboration with Member States, a wide and effective programme of public information relating to the preparations for the Fifteenth Congress, to the Congress itself and to the follow-up to and implementation of its recommendations;

25. *Requests* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to accord sufficient time at its thirty-fourth 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;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure proper follow-up to the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its thirty-fourth session;

27. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eighty-first 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 Congress³ 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,⁴

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 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, inter alia, the good practices discussed during the workshop,⁵

Recalling 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),⁶ the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules),⁷ the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules)⁸ and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules),⁹ and at the same time acknowledging the need for standards and norms specifically focusing on reducing reoffending,

Emphasizing the importance of ensuring complementarity and, where appropriate, promoting synergy between United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice,

³ A/CONF.234/16.

⁴ Resolution 76/181, annex.

⁵ See A/CONF.234/16, chap. VII, sect. B.

⁶ Resolution 70/175, annex.

⁷ Resolution 65/229, annex.

⁸ Resolution 45/110, annex.

⁹ Resolution 40/33, annex.

Recalling its resolutions [76/182](#) of 16 December 2021, [77/232](#) of 15 December 2022 and [78/224](#) of 19 December 2023,

Recalling also its request to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, 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 on the topic, held from 6 to 8 April 2022,

Taking note of the discussions and progress made at the open-ended intergovernmental expert group meeting on model strategies on reducing reoffending, which was convened with the support of the Government of Japan on 4 and 5 September 2023, on the basis of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat,¹⁰ and reconvened from 25 to 28 March 2024, on the basis of the working paper prepared by the Chair,¹¹ in all official languages of the United Nations, at which the expert group recommended, *inter alia*, continuing to take into consideration in its work relevant provisions in existing United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, with respect for those existing standards and norms,

1. *Authorizes* the open-ended intergovernmental expert group on model strategies on reducing reoffending to continue its work within its mandate with a view to reporting to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its thirty-fourth session;

2. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to convene an additional meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group, with interpretation in all official languages of the United Nations, with a view to finalizing the development of model strategies on reducing reoffending;

3. *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;

4. *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;

5. *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.

¹⁰ [E/CN.15/2023/13](#).

¹¹ UNODC/CCPCJ/EG.9/2023/2.

Draft resolution III

Preventing and countering violence against children by organized criminal groups and terrorist groups in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹² the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,¹³ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,¹⁴ the Convention on the Rights of the Child¹⁵ and all other relevant international and regional treaties,

Recalling also the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, in particular those relating to juvenile justice,¹⁶

Recalling further its resolution 69/194 of 18 December 2014, entitled “United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”, and reaffirming that violence against children is never justifiable and that it is the duty of States to protect children, including those in conflict with the law, from all forms of violence and human rights violations and to exercise due diligence to prohibit, prevent and investigate acts of violence against children, eliminate impunity and provide assistance to the victims, including prevention of revictimization,

Bearing in mind that the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice recognize the key role played by the justice system in preventing and responding to violence against children and draw attention to the need for Member States to ensure that criminal law is used appropriately and effectively to criminalize various forms of violence against children, including forms of violence prohibited by applicable international law, as well as to prevent and respond to violence against children, including by ensuring the prohibition by law of the forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict and by implementing specific measures to prevent various forms of exploitation of children by criminal groups, with a view to, inter alia, increasing the diligence of criminal justice institutions in investigating, convicting and rehabilitating perpetrators of violent crimes against children,

¹² General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

¹³ General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

¹⁶ The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules), the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines), the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty, the Guidelines for Action on Children in the Criminal Justice System, the Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime, the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime, the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems, the guidelines for cooperation and technical assistance in the field of urban crime prevention, the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, the Guidelines for the Effective Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials.

Recalling its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and noting in particular the relevance of 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 its target 16.2, aimed at ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children,

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, and in particular paragraph 29 of the Declaration and the call contained therein to address the needs and protect the rights of children and youth, with due consideration to their vulnerabilities, to ensure their protection from all forms of crime, violence, abuse and exploitation both online and offline, such as sexual abuse and exploitation of children and trafficking in persons, noting the particular vulnerabilities of children in the context of smuggling of migrants, as well as recruitment by organized criminal groups including gangs, as well as by terrorist groups,

Recalling further that, in the Kyoto Declaration, States recognized the importance of international cooperation, including through capacity-building and technical assistance,

Recalling Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 26/3 of 26 May 2017 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into crime prevention and criminal justice policies and programmes and into efforts to prevent and combat transnational organized crime,

Emphasizing that children alleged as, accused of, or recognized as having infringed the law, particularly those who are deprived of liberty, as well as child victims and witnesses of crimes, should be treated with respect for their rights, dignity and needs, in accordance with applicable international law, including international human rights obligations, bearing in mind relevant United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, and taking into account also the age, gender, social circumstances and development needs of such children, as well as any disabilities that they may have,

Recalling its resolution [78/227](#) of 19 December 2023, entitled “Equal access to justice for all”, in which Member States, inter alia, affirmed 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,

Deeply concerned by the fact that children in the contexts of organized crime and terrorism are particularly exposed to crime and violence and face heightened risks of recruitment, abuse and exploitation by organized criminal groups and terrorist groups,

Deeply concerned also by the fact that children face growing risks of recruitment, abuse and exploitation by organized criminal groups and terrorist groups through the use of modern and evolving technologies, in particular online, including through social media and other online platforms,

Recalling its resolution [77/233](#) of 15 December 2022, entitled “Strengthening national and international efforts, including with the private sector, to protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse”,

Noting with appreciation the important work on child rights in the context of crime prevention and criminal justice conducted by United Nations entities, agencies, funds and programmes, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Children's Fund, and by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and relevant mandate holders and treaty bodies, and welcoming the active participation of civil society in this field of work,

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support Member States in preventing and countering violence against children, and taking note of the Strategy to End Violence against Children 2023–2030 of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children,

Recalling its resolution [76/270](#) of 21 June 2022, entitled “Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union”, in which Member States encouraged the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to enhance their cooperation in meeting their common objectives,

1. *Strongly condemns* violence against children, reaffirms the duty of the State to protect children from all forms of violence in both public and private settings, and calls for the elimination of impunity, including by investigating and prosecuting, with due process, and punishing all perpetrators;

2. *Urges* Member States, in accordance with fundamental principles of their domestic law, to remove any barrier that children may face in accessing or participating in the justice system, including any kind of discrimination, to pay particular attention to the issue of the rights of the child, including the child's best interests as a primary consideration, and in this regard to ensure that children in contact with the criminal justice system are treated in an age- and gender-sensitive manner, taking into account the specific needs of those children who are in particularly vulnerable situations;

3. *Encourages* Member States that have not yet integrated crime prevention and children's issues into their overall rule of law efforts to do so, and to develop and implement a comprehensive crime prevention and justice system policy, with a view to preventing the involvement of children in criminal activities, promoting the use of alternative measures to detention, such as diversion and restorative justice, adopting reintegration strategies for former child offenders and complying with the principle that deprivation of liberty of children should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, as well as to avoid, wherever possible, the use of pretrial detention for children;

4. *Calls upon* Member States to take all necessary and effective measures to prevent and counter the recruitment, abuse and exploitation of children by organized criminal groups and terrorist groups, including by adopting legal measures, consistent with their obligations under international law, aimed at prohibiting and criminalizing such practices and by promoting the accountability of perpetrators;

5. *Also calls upon* Member States to adopt specific measures aimed at preventing and countering the recruitment, abuse and exploitation of children online by organized criminal groups and terrorist groups;

6. *Encourages* Member States to foster collaboration among policymakers and government agencies, with the participation of educational institutions, the private sector, civil society organizations and children themselves, in order to prevent and counter the recruitment, abuse and exploitation of children by organized criminal groups and terrorist groups and to promote public participation and awareness of this issue;

7. *Emphasizes* the importance of recognizing the victim status of children subjected to recruitment, abuse and exploitation by organized criminal groups and terrorist groups and stresses that the recognition of victim status may not exclude

criminal liability and other forms of accountability of children alleged to have committed terrorist, criminal and other offences and does not exclude potential prosecution of such crimes in accordance with domestic law, and reiterates that all children formerly associated with such groups should be treated with respect for their rights, dignity, needs and the child's best interests and with due regard to their priorities, in accordance with applicable international law, including international human rights obligations, and bearing in mind relevant United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, prioritizing their reintegration;

8. *Calls upon* Member States to implement, and strengthen as appropriate, measures to assist in the rehabilitation and reintegration of children and youth who have been involved in any form of organized criminal group, including gangs, as well as in terrorist groups, while protecting their rights and giving full recognition to the importance of delivering justice and protecting the safety of victims of these criminal groups and that of society throughout the implementation of such measures;

9. *Encourages* Member States, as appropriate, to share information through bilateral and relevant multilateral platforms, such as the International Criminal Police Organization, on organized criminal groups and terrorist groups, and to make best use of its tools, resources and expertise in order to prevent and counter the recruitment, abuse and exploitation of children by organized criminal groups and terrorist groups;

10. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, to provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request, based on their priorities and needs and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, in implementing the present resolution;

11. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, upon availability of extrabudgetary resources, to facilitate an event on the margins of the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, gathering parliamentarians from all Member States, to exchange best practices in eliminating violence against children and promoting children's rights in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, including with the participation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union;

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

B. Draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council

2. The Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Draft resolution

Treatment of children associated with terrorist groups, * including children who are recruited and exploited by those groups

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹⁷ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,¹⁸ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,¹⁹ the Convention on the Rights of the Child²⁰ and all other relevant international and regional treaties,

Recalling also the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, in particular those relating to juvenile justice,²¹

Underlining the importance of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,²² and recognizing that a strong focus is needed on combating poverty, deprivation, inequality and discrimination in all its forms, including when they are present simultaneously, to protect children from the scourge of terrorism and to promote the resilience of children, their families and their communities, and the importance of promoting education for all and peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development,

Recognizing that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to peace, security and sustainable development, and that children are severely affected by this phenomenon,

Reaffirming that the acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations are activities aimed at the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy, at threatening the territorial integrity and security of States and at destabilizing legitimately constituted Governments, and that the international

* In the context of the present resolution, the term “associated with terrorist groups” has no internationally agreed definition, and therefore national definitions can encompass a range of degrees of association or affiliation with terrorist groups and should be interpreted according to domestic law.

¹⁷ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

¹⁸ General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

²¹ The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules), the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines), the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty, the Guidelines for Action on Children in the Criminal Justice System, the Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime, the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime, the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems, the guidelines for cooperation and technical assistance in the field of urban crime prevention, the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, the Guidelines for the Effective Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials.

²² General Assembly resolution 70/1.

community should take the steps necessary to enhance cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism in a decisive, unified, coordinated, inclusive and transparent manner,

Reaffirming also that Member States must ensure that any measures taken to counter terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, underscoring that respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law are complementary and mutually reinforcing with effective counter-terrorism measures and are an essential part of a successful counter-terrorism effort, noting the importance of respect for the rule of law so as to effectively prevent and combat terrorism, and noting also that failure to comply with these and other international obligations, including under the Charter of the United Nations, is one of the factors contributing to increased radicalization to violence and fosters a sense of impunity,

Recognizing that terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism have a detrimental effect on the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and impede the full enjoyment of political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights, and that they pose a threat to the territorial integrity and security of States, to the stability of Governments, to the rule of law and democracy and, ultimately, to the functioning of societies and international peace and security,

Recognizing also that it is the primary responsibility of States to protect children from the threats associated with terrorism, in accordance with relevant applicable domestic and international law, taking into account relevant provisions in the existing United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice relating to the rights of the child, including the child's best interests, and recognizing the role of child protection agencies, the health, education and social sectors, civil society, including community-based organizations, and families in creating a protective environment and preventing and responding to incidents of violence and abuse against children,

Strongly condemning the systematic recruitment and use of children to perpetrate terrorist attacks, as well as the violations and abuses committed by terrorist groups against children in all circumstances, including killing and maiming, abduction and rape and other forms of sexual violence, noting that such violations and abuses may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity, urging Member States to comply with the applicable obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and emphasizing the importance of accountability for such abuses and violations,

Concerned about the serious physical and psychosocial consequences of various forms of violence and crime, including terrorism, for the victims, especially child victims,

Mindful of the fact that child victims and witnesses of crime, including child victims of terrorism, require special protection, assistance and support appropriate to their age, gender, level of maturity and individual special needs in order to prevent additional hardship and revictimization as a result of their participation in the criminal justice process,

Noting the efforts of some States to repatriate their nationals, including children associated with terrorist groups, and to ensure their subsequent rehabilitation and reintegration,

Noting with appreciation the collaboration and synergies between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, other relevant United Nations entities and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), within their respective mandates, aimed at harnessing the capabilities and strengths of those organizations to

enhance the protection and welfare of children associated with terrorist groups, including children recruited and exploited by those groups,

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*, its three related training manuals and the road map on the treatment of children associated with terrorist and violent extremist groups developed by the Office,

1. *Urges* Member States to prevent and prohibit all forms of child recruitment and exploitation by terrorist groups, in accordance with their domestic law and consistent with their obligations under applicable international law, by adopting or strengthening relevant provisions, including through criminalization;

2. *Calls upon* Member States to develop or strengthen, as appropriate, measures to prevent the recruitment and exploitation of children by terrorist groups as a priority, with a view to effectively protecting children and society as a whole from future violence and promoting and protecting the rights of the child;

3. *Also calls upon* Member States to recognize, in accordance with their domestic law, that children recruited and exploited by terrorist groups have been victimized, that children otherwise associated with terrorist groups may also be victims or witnesses and that all should be treated as children and in a way that takes into account their best interests as a primary consideration, that promotes their physical and psychosocial recovery and reintegration and that fosters their health, well-being, self-respect and dignity through age- and gender-sensitive approaches, and stresses that the recognition of victim status may not exclude criminal liability and other forms of accountability of children alleged to have committed terrorist, criminal and other offences and does not exclude potential prosecution of such crimes in accordance with domestic law;

4. *Encourages* Member States to provide appropriate support to children associated with terrorist groups, including children recruited and exploited by those groups, in particular rehabilitation and reintegration support, including to children who have returned following repatriation, in accordance with domestic law and on a case-by-case basis, and in line with the child's best interests;

5. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to continue to assist Member States, upon request, in the repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration of children formerly associated with terrorist groups, including, as appropriate, in cooperation with other United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities and its secretariat;²³

6. *Urges* Member States, in accordance with domestic law and consistent with their obligations under international law, to take measures to ensure that children formerly associated with terrorist groups, including children exploited or recruited by those groups, and who are in contact with the justice system or other national authorities, are treated according to specific safeguards and in a way that prevents further victimization and is conducive to promoting their rehabilitation and reintegration;

²³ The Office of Counter-Terrorism serves as the secretariat of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and works together with the entities listed at www.un.org/counterterrorism/global-ct-compact/entities, in particular with the United Nations Children's Fund on issues relating to children.

7. *Encourages* Member States to share information on organized criminal and terrorist groups through bilateral and multilateral platforms such as the International Criminal Police Organization and to make best use of its policing capabilities, tools, resources and expertise in order to prevent and to counter the recruitment and exploitation of children by terrorist groups;

8. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, in close consultation with relevant United Nations offices responsible for the protection of children, within their respective mandates, to convene an intergovernmental expert group meeting, with interpretation into all official languages of the United Nations, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to share good practices and case studies and identify gaps and challenges relating to children associated with terrorist groups, with a view to developing principles and guidelines, including in child-friendly and accessible formats, that can serve as tools for Member States in the treatment of these children, and to report on the results of that meeting to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its session following the conclusion of the intergovernmental expert group meeting;

9. *Requests* the intergovernmental expert group, in the context of its meeting, to take into consideration relevant materials created by United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime road map on the treatment of children associated with terrorist and violent extremist groups, current developments and research, and to seek the views of children;

10. *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.

C. Draft decisions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council

3. The Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I

Re-election and appointment of members of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

The Economic and Social Council decides to approve the re-election of Carolina Lizárraga Houghton (Peru) and the nomination of Baba Tomoko (Japan) as members of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute.

Draft decision II

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

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its thirty-third session;

- (b) Reaffirms Commission decision 21/1 of 27 April 2012;
- (c) Approves the provisional agenda for the thirty-fourth session set out below.

Provisional agenda for the thirty-fourth 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;
 - (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 addressing new, emerging and evolving forms of crime, including crimes that affect the environment, smuggling of commercial goods and trafficking in cultural property and other crimes targeting cultural property.
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, including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

11. Provisional agenda for the thirty-fifth session of the Commission.
12. Other business.
13. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-fourth session.

D. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

4. The following resolution and decision adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

Resolution 33/1

Countering trafficking in persons in the context of rapid technological change

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

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

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

Reaffirming the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime²⁴ and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,²⁵

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,²⁶ and recognizing its integrated and indivisible nature,

Recalling also the importance of Sustainable Development Goal 16 for promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels,

Recalling further the importance of Sustainable Development Goal 17 for promoting, as appropriate, multi-stakeholder partnerships, including effective 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,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,²⁷ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights²⁸ and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,²⁹

Recognizing the important role of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons in fostering coordination and cooperation in the global fight against trafficking in persons, within the existing mandates of its members and partners,

²⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

²⁶ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

²⁷ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

²⁸ General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

²⁹ *Ibid.*

Recognizing also that rapid technological change has profoundly transformed societies, increased connectivity, promoted innovation and offered unprecedented opportunities, and that it has the potential to accelerate the realization of the 2030 Agenda and advance social development for all,

Noting that the availability and use of online communication platforms create new ways for perpetrators to commit crimes and may contribute to increased risks of exploitation and trafficking in persons,

Recognizing that:

(a) Human traffickers are increasingly taking advantage of digital technologies to reach larger audiences and expand their criminal activities by operating simultaneously and anonymously in different locations, and continually using and adapting digital technologies to avoid detection, investigation and prosecution,

(b) Human traffickers are using online tools to facilitate trafficking in persons, such as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons and the related financial transactions, and various forms of exploitation as provided for in article 3 (a) of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, as well as the sexual exploitation of children in the context of travel and tourism,

(c) The use of mobile applications and smartphones by children and adolescents makes them potentially vulnerable to trafficking in persons,

(d) Organized criminal groups, including terrorist groups involved in human trafficking, also use the Internet to facilitate this crime, and it is fundamental to counter such trafficking while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms in compliance with applicable obligations under domestic and international law,

(e) It is important to mainstream a gender perspective into crime prevention and criminal justice policies and programmes and into efforts to prevent and combat transnational organized crime, including trafficking in persons,

(f) The effectiveness of international cooperation and efforts by Member States to combat trafficking in persons online may be improved through the provision of technical assistance,

(g) Human traffickers are increasingly recruiting individuals through online advertisements for seemingly legitimate jobs and exploiting them by forcing them to perpetrate online fraud and scam operations, including through call centres, thereby subjecting victims to forced criminality, debt bondage and a range of abusive practices,

Recalling its resolution 32/1 of 27 May 2023, in which it called 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 in combating trafficking in persons,

Recognizing the potential of the Internet and emerging technologies to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and to assist victims and survivors,³⁰ and stressing

³⁰ 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.

the need for technology-based solutions to identify cases and victims of trafficking and for increased law enforcement cooperation in this regard,

Emphasizing the central role of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the global fight against trafficking in persons, in particular in providing technical assistance to Member States, upon their request, to counter trafficking in persons through implementing the Organized Crime Convention and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, by making use of existing capacity-building tools, lessons learned from Member States and expertise available in other international organizations,

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 urges States parties to those instruments to implement them fully and effectively;

2. *Reaffirms* that trafficking in persons, especially women and children, cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality or civilization;

3. *Also reaffirms* the importance of a holistic, inclusive and comprehensive approach and the need for all stakeholders to collaborate in a more concerted way in addressing the possible impacts, opportunities and challenges of rapidly evolving technologies in countering trafficking in persons in the digital age;

4. *Recognizes* the need for more coordinated and scaled-up global digital capacity-building efforts and stronger capacity-building support at the country level;

5. *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;³⁰

6. *Also encourages* Member States, in accordance with their domestic law, to ensure that identified victims of trafficking are not penalized for having been trafficked and that they do not suffer from victimization as a result of actions taken by government authorities, communities and families;

7. *Further encourages* Member States to adopt measures, in accordance with their domestic legal systems and relevant applicable international law, including human rights law, inter alia:

(a) To reinforce efforts to combat trafficking in persons online in the context of rapid technological change;

(b) To counter human traffickers' use of technological advancements and new methods to target potential victims, including for the purpose of the forced perpetration of online scams;

(c) To intensify international, regional and subregional cooperation to combat trafficking in persons, as well as technical assistance for countries of origin, transit and destination aimed at strengthening their ability to prevent all forms of trafficking in persons;

(d) To increase and support prevention efforts in countries of origin, transit and destination by focusing domestically and globally on the demand that fosters all forms of trafficking in persons;

(e) To take measures to develop targeted awareness-raising campaigns, including for law enforcement, front-line service providers and at-risk industries, to identify the signs of online trafficking in persons and to develop specialized training for law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners;

(f) To advance digital literacy and education on the safe and secure use of technologies as means of prevention, in particular among women, children and persons in vulnerable situations and for reducing their risk of being trafficked;

(g) To take, consistent with domestic law, legislative or other measures, where appropriate, to facilitate the detection by Internet service and access providers or other relevant entities of child sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse material related to offences involving trafficking in children, as required by domestic frameworks, and to ensure, in compliance with domestic law, the reporting of such materials to the relevant authorities and their removal by Internet service and access providers or other relevant entities, including in conjunction with law enforcement in investigations and prosecutions;

(h) To prevent and counter online trafficking in persons by organized criminal groups, including terrorist groups;

(i) To put the rights and safety of children and persons in vulnerable situations at the centre of policies on the prevention of trafficking in persons and provide them with equal, safe and effective access to age-appropriate information, information on their rights and high-quality online resources, including on digital skills and literacy, to prevent their exposure and vulnerability to trafficking in persons;

(j) To cooperate with relevant civil society organizations in preventing and addressing technology-facilitated trafficking in persons, including through awareness-raising campaigns and by identifying and assisting victims of trafficking in persons;

(k) To cooperate with the relevant academic and research communities and, where relevant, the private sector to explore the impact of rapid technological development on trafficking in persons, including how such technologies can be utilized to prevent and combat trafficking in persons in its various forms and to assist victims of trafficking, and how to provide effective safeguards and oversight to ensure that technological developments, in particular the algorithms used in artificial intelligence-based solutions, do not facilitate or perpetuate existing patterns of inequality and discrimination;

(l) To provide technical assistance to developing countries, upon their request, to support their efforts to prevent, combat and prosecute trafficking in persons in the digital age;

8. *Reaffirms* the significant role of effective international cooperation in preventing and combating trafficking in persons, including in the area of mutual legal assistance and extradition;

9. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime:

(a) To continue providing, within its existing mandate, technical assistance and training to Member States, in particular developing countries, at their request, to improve and build capacities to prevent and combat trafficking in persons online;

(b) To encourage the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons to further explore the impact of various technologies on trafficking in persons in its work;

10. *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;

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

Decision 33/1

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

5. At its 7th meeting, on 16 May 2024, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice decided to transmit to the Economic and Social Council the report of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute ([E/CN.15/2024/9](#)), 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 meeting held from 17 to 19 October 2023.

Chapter II

General debate

6. At its 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th meetings, on 13, 14 and 15 May 2024, the Commission considered agenda item 3, entitled “General debate”.

7. At the 1st meeting of the thirty-third session of the Commission, on 13 May 2024, the following persons made statements:

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

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

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

Permanent Observer of the European Union (on behalf of the Presidency of the European Union)³¹

Minister of Justice and Human Rights of Peru (video)

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

Minister of Justice of Argentina

Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada (video)

Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government of the Philippines

National Prosecutor of Chile (video)

Police Commissioner General and Head of the National Counter-Terrorism Agency of Indonesia

Vice-Minister of Justice of Japan

State Minister, Ministry of Justice of Ethiopia

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations (Vienna)³²

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

Permanent Secretary for Justice of Thailand

Deputy Chief Justice of Uganda

Vice-Minister of Justice of China

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

First Vice-Minister, Ministry of Justice of Cuba

³¹ The following countries aligned themselves with the statement by the European Union and its member States: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

³² Also delivered a statement on behalf of Australia, Indonesia, Mexico, the Republic of Korea and Türkiye.

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

Senior Policy Adviser, Research and Strategy, of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Specialist Director, Ministry of Justice and Public Security of Norway

Secretary for Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage of Zimbabwe

Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Malta to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations (Vienna)³³

8. At the 2nd meeting of the thirty-third session of the Commission, on 13 May 2024, the following persons made statements:

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

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

Joint Secretary, eCourts, Ministry of Law and Justice of India

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

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

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations (Vienna)³⁴

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

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

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

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, Department of State, United States of America

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

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

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

Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations (Vienna)

³³ Also delivered a statement on behalf of the Group of Arab States.

³⁴ Also delivered a statement on behalf of a group of countries (Belarus, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe, as well as State of Palestine).

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

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

International Dossiers Coordinator, Ministry of Justice of Czechia

Justice of the Supreme Court of the Dominican Republic

Minister Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations (Vienna)

Legal Adviser of the Ministry of the Interior of Qatar

Vice-Minister for Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia (video)

Head of Command for Environment and Health, National Gendarmerie of France

Head of Unit for Combating Human Trafficking of the Ministry of the Interior of Belarus

Judge of Appeal and Chairperson of the National Committee on Criminal Justice Reforms, Judiciary of Kenya

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

Alternate Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations (Vienna)

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

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

Director, Human Resources and Office Services, International Development Law Organization

9. The observer for Israel and the representative of the United States made statements in exercise of the right of reply.

10. At the 4th meeting of the thirty-third session of the Commission, on 14 May 2024, the following persons made statements:

Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations (Vienna)

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

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

Military Prosecutor, Military Tribunal of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Director, Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime

Chair, Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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

11. At the 5th meeting of the thirty-third session of the Commission, on 15 May 2024, the following persons made statements:

Director, United Nations Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan

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

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Latvia to the United Nations (Vienna) (also on behalf of Estonia, Lithuania and Poland)

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

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

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

Minister Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations (Vienna)

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

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

Chargé d'affaires and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Permanent Mission of Jordan to the United Nations (Vienna)

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

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

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

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

Chargé d'affaires and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations (Vienna)

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

Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations (Vienna)

Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations (Vienna)

Minister Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations (Vienna)

Second Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Paraguay to the United Nations (Vienna)

Investigative Judge, State Security Service of Azerbaijan

Counsellor, Office of the Permanent Observer for the Sovereign Order of Malta to the United Nations (Vienna)

Human Rights Officer, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Director of Operational Support and Analysis, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

Head, Office of the Permanent Observer for the European Public Law Organization to the United Nations (Vienna)

Head of Training and Capacity-Building, International Anti-Corruption Academy

Legal Officer, Campus Watch

12. The representatives of South Africa, the United Kingdom and France made statements in exercise of the right of reply. The observers for the Russian Federation, Israel and Ukraine also made statements in exercise of the right of reply.

Chapter III

Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions

13. At its 5th and 6th meetings, on 15 May 2024, 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.7/2024/2-E/CN.15/2024/2](#));

(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.7/2024/3-E/CN.15/2024/3](#));

(c) Note by the Secretariat on the draft proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance for 2023 ([E/CN.7/2024/4-E/CN.15/2024/4](#)).

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

16. The observer for Albania, in her capacity as First Vice-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 Ghana (on behalf of the Group of African States), Canada, Japan, China and the United States.

18. A statement was also made by the observer for the Russian Federation.

Deliberations

19. Several speakers commended UNODC for its research, normative and operational work in the field of criminal prevention and criminal justice, including through its strong presence in the field and the support provided to Member States, in particular to developing countries.

20. Some speakers noted progress made in the implementation of the UNODC Strategy 2021–2025 and the regional strategic visions, and reported on ongoing programming in their countries. Appreciation was expressed to the Office for its continued efforts in implementing the United Nations reform initiatives and for its results-based management.

21. 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 forum for dialogue between the Office and Member States on budgetary, strategic and programmatic issues. Appreciation was expressed for the format in which the regular meetings of the working group and the annual dialogue with the Executive Director were conducted.
22. The challenging financial situation of the Office, due to the regular budget liquidity crisis and the decrease in the general-purpose fund, was noted with concern. The Office was encouraged to explore a creative programming and funding model and to use and distribute programme support costs in an effective and transparent manner.
23. The importance of the timely preparation and sharing of project reports and financial statements with donor countries was underscored. Some speakers called upon donor countries to provide the Office with extrabudgetary resources for conducting technical assistance and capacity-building activities in developing countries. Another speaker recommended that the Office reduce its overreliance on extrabudgetary resources in order to ensure independence and impartiality.
24. Concern was expressed about the liquidity crisis having an impact on the intergovernmental work of the Commission, and the hope was expressed that those effects would remain temporary.
25. 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.
26. 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.
27. Several speakers 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.
28. Appreciation was also expressed to UNODC for its continued efforts to work in close cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, international and regional organizations, academia and non-governmental organizations in advancing crime prevention and criminal justice.

Chapter IV

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

29. At its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 14 May 2024, the Commission addressed agenda item 5, entitled “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”, pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2022/317.

30. 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.15/2024/7](#)).

31. Introductory remarks were made by the Chair of the Commission and by the Chief of the Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch of UNODC.

32. A statement was also made by Peter German, President and Executive Director of the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy, 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 13 May 2024 on the topic of the thematic discussion.

33. The panel discussion in the morning session was presided over by the Chair of the Commission and led by the following panellists: Jane Frances Abodo, Director of Public Prosecutions, Uganda; Jumpon Phansumrit, Deputy Attorney General, Thailand; Dana Maria Roman, Director, Ministry of Justice, Romania; and Christopher Smith, Deputy Director and Senior Counsel for Multilateral Affairs, Office of International Affairs, United States Department of Justice. An expert presentation was contributed by Cyril Gout, Director of Operational Support and Analysis, INTERPOL.

34. Statements were made by the representatives of Thailand, Finland, Belarus, Indonesia, Morocco, Brazil, Mexico and the United States.

35. Statements were also made by the observers for Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Viet Nam, the Russian Federation, Australia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Kuwait, Norway, Algeria and Colombia.

36. The observers for the African Union, the European Union (on behalf of the Presidency of the European Union)³⁵ and the Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice also made statements.

37. The afternoon panel discussion, also presided over by the Chair of the Commission, was led by the following panellists: Abdul Khaliq Shaikh, Inspector General of Police, Pakistan; Diana Stillo, Head of the Section for International Agreements and Interjudicial Cooperation, Ministry of Justice, Albania; Maria Garabito, Justice of the Criminal Chamber of the Supreme Court of the Dominican Republic; and Janet Henchey, Director General and Senior General Counsel, International Assistance Group, Justice Canada. Expert presentations were provided by Sun Ruiyun, Director, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Justice,

³⁵ The following countries aligned themselves with the statement by the European Union and its member States: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Türkiye and Ukraine.

China, and Sami Ryhaenen, Head of the Strategic Police Matters Unit, Transnational Threats Department, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

38. Statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom and Thailand.

39. Statements were also made by the observers for the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan and Serbia.

40. The observers for Stichting Wildlife Justice Commission, the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the International Legal Foundation also made statements.

A. Summary by the Chair

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

42. Many speakers emphasized that international cooperation was more important than ever to address organized crime, corruption, terrorism and other emerging crimes, including crimes that affect the environment and organized fraud.

43. Many speakers also reported on legal and other institutional measures, or reviews or reforms of related legal frameworks, that had been undertaken in their countries to enhance the effectiveness of international cooperation mechanisms, including in the areas of asset recovery and international cooperation involving electronic evidence.

44. Some speakers identified challenges that had hindered international cooperation, including different legal systems, a lack of standardized laws, jurisdictional conflicts, excessive formalities in handling mutual legal assistance and extradition requests, a lack of reciprocity leading to the denial of international cooperation requests, cultural and language barriers, an increased number of cases, a lack of record-keeping and a lack of financial resources to handle requests for mutual legal assistance.

45. With regard to existing challenges, many speakers stressed the importance of further advancing the use of such multilateral conventions as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, as well as regional and bilateral agreements or arrangements, as legal bases for international cooperation. The use of provisions such as the definition of the term "serious crime" in the Organized Crime Convention was mentioned as a tool for fostering international cooperation against emerging crimes. A number of speakers also highlighted the need for adequate and robust domestic legislation on international cooperation that could be used in the absence of treaty arrangements and the need to ensure respect for human rights in related proceedings.

46. Many speakers referred to the value and usefulness of informal networks and channels of communication before resorting to formal mutual legal assistance, or as a means of facilitating follow-up. They demonstrated the importance of regional judicial networks such as the European Judicial Network, the South-East Asia Justice Network and the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Asia and the Pacific, and of law enforcement networks such as the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities, to facilitate communication, coordination and trust-building among practitioners. Other networking initiatives mentioned were the Permanent Conference of Organized Crime Prosecutors and the Balkan Asset Management Interagency Network.

47. Other speakers reported good practices such as the efficient use of provisional arrest in advance of extradition, simplified extradition processes, the appointment of liaison officers, joint investigations, cooperation through INTERPOL channels and

the use of standardized templates and online guidance on how to draft mutual legal assistance requests.

48. Many speakers mentioned the key role of technology in combating crime, including organized crime and terrorism, and highlighted the need for resources and capacity-building in that regard. Some speakers noted that modern technology, artificial intelligence analytics and the establishment of specialized divisions for combating technology-facilitated crime could help countries to detect and combat crime. Embracing technological advancements and innovation were deemed crucial for policing, prosecutions and successful criminal justice outcomes on the one hand and for enhancing international cooperation in criminal matters on the other.

49. Some speakers considered efficient case management systems instrumental in keeping track of cases and generating statistical data, while others referred to the advantages of digitalizing the administration of justice and, in particular, processes of international cooperation.

50. Other speakers highlighted the use of videoconferencing as a practice that offered enormous advantages for international cooperation and as a time- and cost-saving tool for providing viva voce evidence in cases where it was impossible or undesirable for a witness to travel.

51. The advantages of using practices such as the electronic transmission of requests in international cooperation proceedings, especially since the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, were also emphasized by some speakers.

52. Secure systems of information exchange were considered a good practice that could offer solutions to facilitate timely and efficient communication between practitioners and promote the exchange of information among authorities involved in international cooperation in criminal matters, including follow-up on the execution of international cooperation requests.

53. The rapid increase in crimes involving electronic evidence was reported as an additional reminder of the acute need to streamline current methods for dealing with international cooperation requests involving such evidence, while overcoming challenges emanating from related sovereignty concerns. In that regard, cooperation between law enforcement authorities and communication service providers who had users' electronic data in their possession was mentioned as a key factor.

54. Many speakers mentioned the need to strengthen central authorities through training and the establishment of dedicated units to handle mutual legal assistance and extradition requests. Moreover, it was suggested that central authorities streamline internal processes and maintain flexibility in applying evidentiary requirements. Reference was made to the dual criminality requirement and the importance of interpreting it with a focus on the underlying conduct and not on the legal denomination or terminology of the offences in question.

55. Some speakers suggested that Member States partner with the private sector and civil society to build a unified approach to combating crime through international cooperation mechanisms. A number of speakers offered concrete examples of such partnerships.

56. Reference was made to challenges encountered in the field of asset recovery, including inadequate legal frameworks and a lack of resources to recover assets. A number of speakers mentioned the reuse of confiscated assets for social purposes and the confiscation of cryptocurrency as issues requiring further consideration.

57. Some speakers recalled the need to provide capacity-building support and called for long-term initiatives, including support for networks, as opposed to one-time training activities. A number of speakers expressed appreciation for the tools that UNODC had developed and expanded, such as the Sharing Electronic Resources and

Laws on Crime (SHERLOC) knowledge management portal and the online directory of competent national authorities, which allowed practitioners to easily identify contact persons in other countries. Appreciation was expressed for the work of UNODC through the Working Group on International Cooperation and expert group meetings as useful platforms for practitioners to share knowledge, experiences and expertise.

58. Many speakers highlighted the importance of reciprocity and balance with regard to assistance requests. Some speakers emphasized that targeted measures and sanctions hindered international cooperation in criminal matters. Other speakers stated that targeted measures and sanctions could be effective in addressing crime and that it was legitimate for States to take such measures.

B. Workshop organized by the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network 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

59. On 13 May, the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network organized a workshop on the same topic as the thematic discussion summarized above.

60. An introductory statement was made by the Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs of UNODC. For the first panel discussion, on the topic “Extradition, mutual legal assistance, law enforcement cooperation: issues, challenges, good practices”, organized by the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy, presentations were made by a panellist from the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and by a panellist from the International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre who was also the Chair of the Women against Transnational Corruption Hub. For the second panel discussion, on “Technical assistance for authorities involved in international cooperation in criminal matters, including mutual legal assistance and asset recovery, to combat organized crime, corruption and terrorism”, presentations were made by panellists from the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and the Basel Institute on Governance. For the third panel discussion, on “The role of private entities (banks and financial institutions) in international cooperation, mutual legal assistance and asset recovery”, presentations were made by panellists from the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, the Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice and the Directorate General for Justice and Consumers of the European Commission.

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

61. At its 6th and 7th meetings, on 15 and 16 May 2024, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice 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.”

62. 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.7/2024/2-E/CN.15/2024/2](#));

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in combating transnational organized crime and corruption ([E/CN.15/2024/5](#));

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on technical assistance in implementing the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism ([E/CN.15/2024/6](#));

(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.15/2024/8](#));

(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.15/2024/9](#));

(f) Note by the Secretary-General on the nomination of one candidate for membership on, and one candidate for re-election to, the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute ([E/CN.15/2024/13](#));

(g) Report of the Secretariat on strengthening the international legal framework for international cooperation to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife ([E/CN.15/2024/14](#)).

63. Introductory statements were made by the Chief of the Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch, the Chief of the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch and a representative of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC. A representative of UNICRI also made an introductory statement.

64. Statements were made by the representatives of Uganda, Thailand, Canada, Indonesia, China, Armenia, the United States, India, Mexico, Morocco, the United Kingdom and Japan.

65. The observers for Malaysia, the Russian Federation, Algeria, the United Republic of Tanzania, Peru and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea made statements.

66. The observer for the European Union made a statement.

67. Statements were also made by the observers for OHCHR (video) and INTERPOL.

68. Statements were also made by the observers for the Thailand Institute of Justice, the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, the Stichting Wildlife Justice Commission, the Born Free Foundation and Campus Watch.

A. Deliberations

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

69. Many speakers highlighted the importance of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, inter alia, in facilitating international cooperation to address transnational organized crime. Some speakers noted the recent ratification of the Protocols to the Convention by their States.

70. Several speakers reiterated their countries' commitment to and support for the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto and encouraged States parties to further engage in the review process, including by involving civil society in order to enable an inclusive process and by providing voluntary contributions to support it.

71. Several speakers underscored the fact that organized crime in all its forms remained at levels which undermined security, the rule of law and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and that those deleterious effects were exacerbated by the misuse of technology by organized criminal groups. The multifaceted and increasingly complex nature of organized crime in its various manifestations, such as trafficking in persons, the smuggling of migrants and corruption, was noted by several speakers, and the need to enhance international coordination and cooperation in that regard was highlighted.

72. Some speakers expressed support for the work of the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes.

73. Some speakers shared information on legislative, institutional, operational and capacity-building initiatives undertaken by their Governments to implement the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, such as the elaboration of specific legislation, victim protection measures, awareness-raising campaigns and mechanisms of collaboration for law enforcement bodies and the judiciary. Several speakers expressed the readiness of their Governments to share experiences and collaborate with other States parties to counter transnational organized crime.

74. The role of UNODC in supporting States parties with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, including through capacity-building and technical assistance, was underscored.

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

75. Several speakers reiterated their commitment to the 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. Speakers stressed that the Mechanism played a crucial role in the efforts of Member States to implement the Convention effectively, and emphasized the importance of completing the second cycle of the Mechanism while also advancing discussions on its next phase.

76. Some speakers highlighted that 2023 had marked the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention against Corruption by the General Assembly.

77. A number of speakers noted the important role of civil society in the framework of the Mechanism and in preventing and countering corruption.

78. A speaker noted that his Government had been honoured to host the tenth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which had been widely attended, inclusive and productive, and which had seen the adoption of 12 resolutions and 2 decisions on a wide range of important topics, such as whistle-blower protection, gender equality, measures to address corruption involving organized criminal groups, transparency and integrity, and the next phase of the Mechanism. He noted that the Conference had set out a vision for the next 20 years. He highlighted in particular the multi-stakeholder engagement at the tenth session through the organization of a civil society forum, which had set a new precedent.

79. The importance of strengthened international cooperation, including in the areas of law enforcement cooperation, mutual legal assistance and extradition, was underscored by several speakers. It was noted that full use should be made of the Convention as a legal basis in that regard, which could be complemented by bilateral agreements. The importance of the effective implementation of chapter V (Asset recovery) of the Convention was highlighted. Reference was also made to the links between corruption and trafficking in persons and the need to gain better knowledge in that area.

80. Appreciation was expressed for the role of UNODC as the secretariat of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention and of the Implementation Review Mechanism, and for the Office's activities in supporting the work of States in preventing and combating corruption, including by providing technical assistance. The work of UNODC in establishing regional hubs and platforms for fast-tracking the implementation of the Convention was highlighted.

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

81. 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. The Office's capacity-building activities for requesting Member States were commended, including activities in the context of the UNODC Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Terrorism (2022–2027). 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 highlighted.

82. Many speakers underlined the importance of ratifying and effectively implementing the 19 international legal instruments against terrorism, and several speakers reported on their States' adherence to those instruments. Some speakers

highlighted the importance of continued UNODC support in the form of reviews of the compliance of national policy and legislation with human rights standards and the rule of law.

83. Several speakers emphasized the importance of protecting children associated with terrorist groups and developing prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies.

84. Some speakers highlighted the threats posed by terrorist acts carried out through the use of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence; the growing risk of violent extremism, to which young people were particularly vulnerable; and the threat of terrorist attacks based on xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief.

85. Many speakers referred to the measures their Governments had taken to improve border management and counter the financing of terrorism, and some speakers reported on national policies and legislation that had been established in line with recommendations. Some speakers highlighted the need to adopt a whole-of-society approach, promote gender mainstreaming and adopt terrorism responses grounded in the rule of law.

4. Other crime prevention and criminal justice matters

86. Referring to the report entitled “Strengthening the international legal framework for international cooperation to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife”, contained in a conference room paper prepared pursuant to Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 31/1, many speakers welcomed the fact that the information provided by Member States in that report showed that illicit trafficking in wildlife was criminalized in most of the responding States.

87. Some speakers expressed support for a potential additional protocol to the Organized Crime Convention, while other speakers emphasized the need for improved implementation of the existing legal framework. Some speakers stated that the scope of such a protocol could extend beyond illicit trafficking in wildlife to include other crimes that affect the environment.

88. Some speakers emphasized the need for further assessment of the existing legal framework in order to identify possible gaps and solutions.

89. Many speakers underscored their countries’ commitment to countering crimes that affect the environment. At the same time, they noted the lack of a common approach, which led to difficulties in the detection, investigation and prosecution of such crimes, as well as in international cooperation.

90. Some speakers highlighted the need for concerted action to address crimes that affect the environment, including in the context of the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in 2026. Speakers also highlighted that such concerted action could include strengthening the international legal framework, as well as enhanced international cooperation, intelligence-sharing, the use of financial investigations, joint operations and increased capacity-building.

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

91. The contributions made by the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network to the crime prevention and criminal justice agenda were highlighted. Reference was made to a number of recent activities undertaken by the institutes, including the advancement of research and the sharing

of knowledge on topics such as restorative justice, the protection of victims, the implementation of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, in particular in the area of treatment of prisoners, violence against women, access to justice, the reduction of reoffending, policing, data collection and improving technologies associated with criminal justice.

92. Reference was made to the *PNI Newsletter*, published by the programme network with the aim of promoting cooperation within the network and with United Nations entities and national and international stakeholders through the dissemination of information and the sharing of knowledge.

93. The institutes were encouraged to continue their research and programmes, consistent with their mandates, to address, among others, the topic of international cooperation involving the public and private sectors.

94. The workshop held during the session by the institutes of the programme network on the topic “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” was welcomed.

B. Action taken by the Commission

95. At its 7th meeting, on 16 May 2024, 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.15/2024/9](#)), 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).

96. At the same meeting, the Commission decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that it approve the re-election of Carolina Lizárraga Houghton (Peru) and the nomination of Baba Tomoko (Japan) as members of the Board of Trustees of UNICRI (see [E/CN.15/2024/13](#)). (For the text of the draft decision, see chap. I, sect. C, draft decision I.)

97. At its 10th meeting, on 17 May 2024, the Commission decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a revised draft resolution ([E/CN.15/2024/L.4/Rev.1](#)), as further revised, entitled “Treatment of children associated with terrorist groups,** including children who are recruited and exploited by those groups”, sponsored by Albania, Australia, Belgium (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Indonesia, Japan, Morocco, North Macedonia, Norway, the Philippines, the United Kingdom and the United States. (For the text of the draft resolution, see chap. I, sect. B.) Following the recommendation of the revised draft resolution, as further revised, the representative of Indonesia and the observer for Australia made statements.

98. At the same meeting, the Commission decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council the approval of a revised draft resolution ([E/CN.15/2024/L.6/Rev.1](#)), as further revised, for adoption by the General Assembly, entitled “Preventing and countering violence against children by organized criminal groups and terrorist groups in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice”, sponsored by Albania, Andorra, Australia, Belgium (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Brazil, Canada,

** In the context of the draft resolution, the term “associated with terrorist groups” has no internationally agreed definition, and therefore national definitions can encompass a range of degrees of association or affiliation with terrorist groups and should be interpreted according to domestic law.

Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Indonesia, Japan, North Macedonia, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States and Viet Nam. (For the text of the draft resolution, see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution III.) Following the recommendation of the revised draft resolution, as further revised, the representative of Italy made a statement.

99. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted a draft resolution (E/CN.15/2024/L.2), as revised, entitled “Countering trafficking in persons in the context of rapid technological change”, sponsored by Belarus, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). (For the text of the resolution, see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 33/1.) Upon the adoption of the draft resolution, as revised, the representative of Belarus highlighted the successful adoption of the resolution and expressed the readiness of his Government to work with others on its implementation. The representative of Canada expressed the commitment of his Government to fighting trafficking in persons and underlined that, with the constructive engagement of all parties, the resolution had become a solid document. He stated that joining consensus on the resolution should not be construed as an endorsement or recognition of Belarusian leadership in the fight against trafficking in persons. He called upon Belarus to cease its support for what his delegation deemed an unjustifiable and unprovoked war of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, its weaponization of migrants and its enabling of the unlawful deportation and forced transfer of Ukrainian children. The representative of the United States expressed appreciation for the constructive engagement of all parties to keep the resolution focused on trafficking in persons. She underlined that the participation of her delegation in the negotiations and the decision to join consensus should not be construed as a legitimization of Belarus and its human rights record, especially with respect to trafficking in persons. The observer for Australia expressed appreciation to all delegations for their constructive work towards a useful resolution. He stated that the participation of Australia in multilateral negotiations and its decision to join consensus should not be interpreted as a legitimization of Belarus as a sponsor or of its human rights record, nor as recognition of its leadership in trafficking in persons. The observer for the Russian Federation rejected and condemned the allegations made by previous speakers against his country and regretted that discussions in the Commission were being politicized by some countries that followed their own political agendas, which he qualified as inappropriate, a degradation of multilateral diplomacy and a lack of professionalism. He further underlined that all States members of the Commission had an equal right to table draft resolutions that fell under the mandate of the Commission. In addition, he noted that some delegations had attempted to conduct business using improper means and to rank States, and that they manifested hypocrisy, since the three specific countries (Canada, United States and Australia) who had initiated the accusations had no moral right to do so.

100. The observer for Ukraine recalled a General Assembly resolution from 2 March 2022 and stated that it deplored the support by Belarus to the unlawful use of force against Ukraine, which had caused massive displacement of women and children and had thereby generated risks of human trafficking. She expressed concern about the tabling of a draft resolution by Belarus, which could be seen as an attempt to distract the attention of the international community from Belarus being an accomplice to the Russian aggression, and she called upon Belarus to adhere to its international obligations and stop enabling what she referred to as the aggressive war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, which, she noted, would be the best contribution by Belarus to ending human trafficking. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran called upon all delegations to refrain from politicizing the agenda and the resolutions. The representative of Belarus made a statement in exercise of the right of reply.³⁶

³⁶ The statement has been made available on the website of the thirty-third session of the Commission.

Chapter VI

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

101. At its 7th meeting, on 16 May 2024, the Commission considered agenda item 7, entitled “Use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice”.

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

(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.15/2024/10);

(b) Report on the meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group on the development of model strategies on reducing reoffending held virtually on 4 and 5 September 2023 and in Vienna from 25 to 28 March 2024 (E/CN.15/2024/15);

(c) Conference room paper containing a summary of the General Assembly high-level debate on “Equal access to justice for all: advancing reforms for peaceful, just and inclusive societies” (E/CN.15/2024/CRP.3).

103. A representative of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Section of UNODC made an introductory statement.

104. Statements were made by the representatives of South Africa, Thailand (video), Japan, Canada, China and the United States.

105. Statements were also made by the observers for the United Republic of Tanzania and Algeria.

106. The observer for OHCHR and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children (video) also made statements.

107. Statements were also made by the observers for Campus Watch and the Friends World Committee for Consultation.

Deliberations

108. Many speakers confirmed that the standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice provided useful guidance that could be adapted to national contexts to promote effective and fair criminal justice systems, better prevent crime and strengthen community safety.

109. Some speakers highlighted the importance of those standards and norms in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 16, and commended the efforts of UNODC in promoting their application and use through technical tools and assistance.

110. Several speakers highlighted the importance 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, including through the increased use of non-custodial measures. Speakers also described new legislation and policies implemented in that regard.

111. Many speakers referred to the ongoing effort to develop model strategies on reducing reoffending with a view to preventing recidivism through the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders. They expressed their commitment to contributing their expertise to that process and shared information on national programmes aimed at promoting the rehabilitation and social reintegration of offenders.

112. Many speakers identified equal access to justice for all as a requirement for achieving peaceful and just societies. They described new legislation and policies through which related standards and norms had been incorporated into domestic legal and institutional frameworks. In that regard, speakers emphasized the relevance of access to legal aid services, in particular for persons in vulnerable situations, as well as that of protection for victims of crime and restorative justice.

113. Some speakers addressed the issues of gender-based violence against women and girls and violence against children and described actions taken to improve the response capacity of criminal justice practitioners in that regard. Some speakers also underlined the importance of preventing crime and violence, especially among young people. Violence against children was highlighted as a widespread problem with substantial human and economic costs, and a call was made to invest in prevention and protection services for children in order to achieve peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

114. Several speakers noted both positive and negative aspects of digital technologies and artificial intelligence in the administration of justice and advocated stronger regulation and compliance with international human rights obligations in that regard.

Chapter VII

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

115. At its 8th meeting, on 16 May 2024, the Commission considered agenda item 8, entitled “World crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice”. For its consideration of the item, 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.7/2024/2-E/CN.15/2024/2](#));

(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.15/2024/11](#)).

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

117. Statements were made by the representatives of South Africa, Canada, Thailand, China, Indonesia, Mexico, the United States and the United Kingdom.

118. Statements were also made by the observers for Singapore, Azerbaijan, the Russian Federation, Viet Nam, Colombia, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Algeria.

119. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences (video) also made a statement.

120. The observers for INTERPOL, Penal Reform International and the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime made statements.

121. The observer for Ukraine made a statement in exercise of the right of reply.

Deliberations

122. Several speakers expressed appreciation for the work of UNODC in preparing the report on world crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice ([E/CN.15/2024/11](#)). They emphasized the importance of having comparable data for monitoring crime and criminal justice systems, including data on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The critical role of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes as a tool to collect, produce and disseminate data was highlighted. Speakers also emphasized the need to update the International Classification to improve data on emerging types of crime, such as cybercrime and crimes that affect the environment. Furthermore, the speakers acknowledged the support provided by UNODC to Member States in adopting international methodologies to enhance their data.

123. Building upon the analysis of sex-disaggregated data presented in the report, some speakers stressed the importance of inclusive data, such as on gender, for a better understanding of the experiences of various groups within society. Such data were considered critical for developing and monitoring programmes to address crime that had a disproportionate impact on specific groups.

124. Several speakers underscored the increasing impact of cybercrime in their countries. Some speakers also noted that the proliferation of technology and social media, as exploited by transnational organized crime syndicates, had amplified the scale and complexity of scam and fraud operations and compounded the challenges faced by law enforcement authorities. Speakers also referred to the use of online scams for trafficking in persons and the disproportionately large involvement of

young people, as both offenders and victims, in cybercrime. The speakers explained the measures that their countries were taking to combat cybercrime, and some acknowledged that the fast-evolving nature of cybercrime hampered the ability of the criminal justice system to address it, requiring the criminal justice system to evolve as well. In addition, speakers highlighted current regional and global initiatives to address cybercrime and noted that its cross-border nature made an international response necessary. Some speakers requested that UNODC take the lead in developing new methodologies to address cybercrime.

125. Many speakers stressed the importance of combating crimes that affect the environment. They highlighted the efforts made by their countries to counter wildlife trafficking, illegal mining and other crimes that affect the environment.

126. A number of speakers noted the involvement of organized criminal groups in cybercrime and crimes that affect the environment. Some speakers noted how the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, as well as other, regional agreements, served as critical instruments to address emerging crimes.

127. Several speakers also expressed their commitment to achieving Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda. Some speakers acknowledged and regretted the lack of progress towards the achievement of Goal 16.

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

128. At its 8th meeting, on 16 May 2024, 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”.

129. 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.15/2024/12](#));

(b) Conference room paper containing a discussion guide for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/CN.15/2024/CRP.1);

(c) Conference room paper containing the Chair’s summary of the third round of thematic discussions on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration (21 and 22 September 2023) (E/CN.15/2024/CRP.2).

130. An introductory statement was made by the Secretary of the Commission.

131. Statements were made by the representatives of Pakistan (on behalf of a group of countries³⁷), Japan, Thailand, China, Canada, South Africa, the United States and Morocco.

132. Statements were also made by the observers for the United Arab Emirates, Costa Rica, the Russian Federation and Colombia.

133. The observers for the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, INTERPOL, the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime and the Japan Federation of Bar Associations also made statements.

A. Deliberations

134. Many speakers expressed appreciation to the Government of Japan for the active intergovernmental follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in implementation of the Kyoto Declaration. Several speakers reiterated their resolve to continue promoting the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration in the lead-up to the Fifteenth Congress, to be held in the United Arab Emirates in 2026.

135. Several speakers welcomed the annual intersessional thematic discussions of the Commission, including the third round, held in September 2023, which had brought

³⁷ Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, China, Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Yemen, as well as the State of Palestine.

together crime prevention and criminal justice experts from Member States, United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations and civil society. UNODC was commended for supporting the Commission in organizing and following up on the thematic discussions.

136. Many speakers expressed appreciation to the Government of the United Arab Emirates as the host country of the Fifteenth Congress and reaffirmed their support for the preparatory process.

137. Several speakers noted the relevance of the overarching theme of the Fifteenth Congress. The emphasis of the agenda of the Congress on, inter alia, new, emerging and evolving forms of transnational organized crime, as well as on evidence-based crime prevention and criminal justice policies, was welcomed. It was noted that the Fifteenth Congress would provide the international community with an opportunity to identify and design strategies to address new and emerging trends in crime prevention and criminal justice.

138. With regard to the regional preparatory meetings for the Fifteenth Congress, scheduled for 2025, several speakers noted their importance in the overall preparatory process. Appreciation was expressed for the discussion guide for the Fifteenth Congress prepared by the Secretary-General in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network.

139. Some speakers noted that the outcome of the Fifteenth Congress should be short, concise and focused, with forward-looking substantive recommendations.

140. Several speakers underscored the critical role of the United Nations crime congresses in fostering an exchange of views among a broad range of experts in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice, and stressed the importance of engaging all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, in the preparations for the Fifteenth Congress.

141. The Commission was invited to consider holding, jointly with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, a meeting to address the nexus between drugs and transnational organized crime, in the context of the substantive preparations for the Fifteenth Congress and for the 2029 review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of progress made in implementing all international drug policy commitments.

142. In a joint statement, a group of delegations condemned religious hatred expressed by any means, noting that it encouraged discrimination, violence and various forms of crime that posed challenges to criminal justice systems, and underlining the need to increase global public awareness of the dangerous nature and negative impact of such acts and to ensure effective international cooperation to prevent and combat related crimes.

B. Action taken by the Commission

143. At its 8th meeting, on 16 May 2024, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council the approval of a revised draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly ([E/CN.15/2024/L.3/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 Albania, Belgium (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), the Dominican Republic, Japan, North Macedonia, Norway, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States and Viet Nam. Prior to the recommendation of the revised draft resolution, the Chief of the Budget Section of the United Nations Office at Vienna and UNODC read out a statement on the financial

implications of its adoption (see conference room paper E/CN.15/2024/CRP.4, available on the UNODC website). Following the recommendation of the revised draft resolution, the representatives of the United Kingdom and Japan made statements.

144. At its 10th meeting, on 17 May 2024, the Commission decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council the approval of a revised draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly ([E/CN.15/2024/L.5/Rev.1](#)) entitled “Reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration”, sponsored by Albania, Belgium (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Indonesia, Japan, North Macedonia, Norway, Paraguay, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States and Viet Nam. (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

145. At its 9th meeting, on 17 May 2024, 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”.

146. For its consideration of agenda item 10, the Commission had before it a conference room paper on how the Commission can contribute to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda (E/CN.15/2024/CRP.5).

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

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

149. A statement was also made by the observer for Colombia.

150. The observers for OHCHR and INTERPOL also made statements.

Deliberations

151. Some speakers reported on their countries’ efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 16, and shared key highlights of their respective voluntary national reviews. The importance of continued monitoring of the implementation of the Goals, including through voluntary national reviews, was underscored.

152. Some speakers stressed that crime was a significant challenge and impediment to economic growth and social development, thus highlighting the need for strengthened international cooperation. The Summit of the Future, to be held in September 2024, represented a key opportunity in that regard to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to revitalize multilateralism.

153. The important role of the Commission in supporting Member States in advancing the attainment of Goal 16 was emphasized by several speakers. The Commission was invited to continue cooperating with other relevant intergovernmental bodies, including bodies outside the United Nations system, in order to foster synergies and ensure a holistic approach to preventing and countering crime and advancing criminal justice.

154. It was also noted that the Fifteenth Crime Congress, to be held in the United Arab Emirates in 2026, would be instrumental in further strengthening global crime prevention and criminal justice efforts and thereby building peaceful, just, prosperous and sustainable societies that could help to prevent and build resilience against future crises.

Chapter X

Provisional agenda for the thirty-fourth session of the Commission

155. At its 9th meeting, on 17 May 2024, the Commission considered agenda item 11, entitled “Provisional agenda for the thirty-fourth session of the Commission”.

Action taken by the Commission

156. At its 9th meeting, on 17 May 2024, the Commission decided to recommend 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-third session and provisional agenda for its thirty-fourth session” ([E/CN.15/2024/L.7](#)). (For the text of the draft decision, see chap. I, sect. C, draft decision II.)

Chapter XI

Other business

157. At its 9th meeting, on 17 May 2024, 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-third session

158. At its 10th meeting, on 17 May 2024, the Commission adopted by consensus the report on its thirty-third session ([E/CN.15/2024/L.1](#) and E/CN.15/2024/L.1/Add.1–7), as orally amended.

Chapter XIII

Organization of the session

A. Informal pre-session consultations

159. At its reconvened thirty-second session, held on 7 and 8 December 2023, the Commission agreed that its thirty-third session would be held from 13 to 17 May 2024, with informal pre-session consultations on 10 May 2024.

160. At the pre-session consultations, chaired by the First Vice-Chair of the Commission, José Antonio Zabalgoitia Trejo (Mexico), the Commission conducted a preliminary review of the draft resolutions that had been submitted by the deadline of 15 April and addressed organizational matters for the thirty-third session.

B. Opening and duration of the session

161. The Commission held the regular part of its thirty-third session in Vienna from 13 to 17 May 2024. The Chair of the Commission opened the session. The President of the General Assembly addressed the Commission in a video message. The Executive Director of UNODC made an opening statement.

C. Attendance

162. The arrangements for the organization of the thirty-third session were shared with delegations on 8 April 2024.

163. The thirty-third session was attended by representatives of 36 States members of the Commission. Also attending were observers for 92 other States Members of the United Nations, observers for 2 non-member States, representatives of 3 entities of the United Nations system and observers for 12 institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, 18 intergovernmental organizations and 75 non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. A list of participants is contained in document [E/CN.15/2024/INF/2](#).

D. Election of officers

164. 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-second session, on 8 December 2023, opened its thirty-third session for the sole purpose of electing its Bureau for that session. At that meeting, the Commission elected the members of the Bureau.

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

<i>Office</i>	<i>Regional group</i>	<i>Officer</i>
Chair	Eastern European States	Ivo Šrámek (Czechia)
First Vice-Chair	Latin American and Caribbean States	José Antonio Zabalgoitia Trejo (Mexico)
Second Vice-Chair	Western European and other States	Gabriela Sellner (Austria)

<i>Office</i>	<i>Regional group</i>	<i>Officer</i>
Third Vice-Chair	Asia-Pacific States	Aftab Ahmad Khokher (Pakistan)
Rapporteur	African States	Mohamed Amine Boukhris (Morocco)

166. 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 provided for in Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/31.

167. During the thirty-third session of the Commission, the extended Bureau met on 15 and 16 May 2024 to consider matters related to the organization of work.

E. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

168. At its 1st meeting, on 13 May 2024, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda and proposed organization of work ([E/CN.15/2024/1](#)), which had been approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2023/330. 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 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.

F. Documentation

169. The documents before the Commission at its thirty-third session are listed in conference room paper E/CN.15/2024/CRP.7.

G. Closure of the session

170. At the 10th meeting, on 17 May 2024, the Executive Director of UNODC and the Chair of the Commission made closing statements. A closing statement was also made by the observer for the Sudan. A closing statement was also made by the observer for the European Union (on behalf of the Presidency of the European Union).³⁸

³⁸ Both statements are included under agenda item 13 in the journal of the thirty-third session.