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Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Seventeenth session

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Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda, annotations and proposed organization of work

Provisional agenda

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 - (b) Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in facilitating the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;
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5. United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice:
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6. Use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.
7. Policy directives for the crime programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as its governing body, including administrative, strategic management and budgetary questions.
8. Provisional agenda for the eighteenth session.
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10. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its seventeenth session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

In its resolution 2003/31, entitled “Functioning of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”, the Economic and Social Council decided that, with effect from the year 2004, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice should, at the end of each session, elect its bureau for the subsequent session and encourage it to play an active role in the preparation of the regular session as well as the informal intersessional meetings of the Commission, so as to enable the Commission to provide continuous and effective policy guidance to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme; and also decided that the Chairman should, whenever appropriate, invite the chairmen of the five regional groups, the chairman of the Group of 77 and China and the Presidency of the European Union to participate in the meetings of the bureau.

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/31 and rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission, at the end of its sixteenth reconvened session, on 30 November 2007, opened its seventeenth session for the sole purpose of electing a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. At that meeting, the Commission elected two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur, on the understanding that the officers for the other posts in the bureau would be designated at a later date.

In view of the rotation of offices based on regional distribution, the officers of the Commission for its seventeenth session would be from the following regional groups:

<i>Office</i>	<i>Regional group</i>	<i>Elected or designated officer</i>
Chairman	Group of African States	<i>(to be nominated)</i>
First Vice-Chairman	Group of Eastern European States	<i>(to be nominated)</i>
Second Vice-Chairman	Group of Latin American and Caribbean States	Luis Alberto Padilla (Guatemala)
Third Vice-Chairman	Group of Western European and other States	Thomas Stelzer (Austria)
Rapporteur	Group of Asian States	Spica A. Tutuhaturnewa (Indonesia)

A group composed of the five chairmen of the regional groups, the Chairman of the Group of 77 and China and the Presidency of the European Union has been established to assist the Chairman and participate in the meetings of the bureau, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/31.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

In its decision 2007/251, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission on its sixteenth session and approved the provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the Commission on the understanding that the provisional agenda, in particular the topic for the thematic discussion, would be elaborated upon during the intersessional period.

The Commission established an intersessional, informal, open-ended working group to make recommendations on the preparations for the thematic discussion to be held at the seventeenth session of the Commission, including its sub-theme and topics. On the recommendation of the working group, the sub-theme and topics for the thematic discussion for the seventeenth session were endorsed by the Commission at its reconvened sixteenth session, in November 2007.

Following the adoption of the agenda, the Commission may wish to establish a timetable and agree on the organization of work for its seventeenth session. A proposed organization of work for consideration by the Commission is contained in the annex to the present document.

The provisional deadline set for submission of draft resolutions for the seventeenth session is noon on 14 April 2008.

Documentation

Provisional agenda, annotations and proposed organization of work (E/CN.15/2008/1)

3. Thematic discussion on aspects of violence against women that pertain directly to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

An informal, open-ended working group chaired by Mr. Ayman Elgammal (Egypt) was established at the fifth intersessional meeting of the Commission, held on 25 September 2007, to consider the structure and focus of the thematic discussion. On the recommendation of the working group, the Commission, at its reconvened sixteenth session, decided that the sub-theme for the thematic discussion would be:

“Successful practices to prevent and eliminate violence against women and criminal justice responses to it, including effective strategies and practices to support the victims of violence: towards an integrated approach”

and that the topics for the thematic discussion would be as follows:

- (a) Successful practices to prevent violence against women;
- (b) Criminal justice responses to violence against women, including against women migrant workers;
- (c) Effective strategies and practices to support the victims of violence, including victims of sexual assault.

The report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth study on all forms of violence against women (A/61/122/Add.1) provided a comprehensive examination of that critical issue. Subsequently, the General Assembly adopted resolution 61/143, entitled “Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women”. In paragraph 17 of that resolution, the Assembly invited the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions to discuss, by 2008, the issue of violence against women in all its forms and manifestations, bearing in mind the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth study on all forms of violence against women, and to set priorities for addressing that issue in their future efforts and work programmes and to transmit the outcome of those discussions to the Secretary-General.

The United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice include the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (General Assembly resolution 52/86, annex). The Economic and Social Council later adopted resolution 2006/29, on crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women and girls, in which the Council urged Member States to consider using the Model Strategies and Practical Measures to the extent possible; strongly encouraged Member States to promote an active and visible policy for integrating a gender perspective into the development and implementation of policies and programmes in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice; requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to consider providing assistance to Member States in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women and girls; and encouraged UNODC to continue to develop tools and training manuals on criminal justice reform, with a gender perspective, and targeting the special needs of women in the criminal justice system, including women in prison settings.

The Model Strategies and Practical Measures, inter alia, emphasize the importance of implementing relevant and effective public awareness, public education and

school programmes that prevent violence against women (para. 14 (a)), initiating outreach programmes both for offenders and victims (para. 14 (c) and (d)), and supporting initiatives of civil society organizations seeking women's equality in order to raise public awareness of the issue and contribute to its elimination (para. 14 (f)).

The Model Strategies and Practical Measures also contain recommendations for action regarding criminal law (sect. I), criminal procedure (sect. II), police (sect. III), sentencing and correction (sect. IV) and victim support and assistance (sect. V).

Documentation

Report by the Secretary-General on crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women and girls (E/CN.15/2008/2)

Conference room paper on the thematic discussion on aspects of violence against women that pertain directly to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/CN.15/2008/CRP.1)

- 4. World crime trends and responses: 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) Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in facilitating the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime**

In its resolution 62/175, entitled "Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme", the General Assembly urged Member States and relevant international organizations to develop national and regional strategies, in cooperation with UNODC to address effectively transnational organized crime, including trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, as well as corruption and terrorism; reaffirmed the importance of UNODC and its regional offices in building capacity at the local level in the fight against transnational organized crime and drug trafficking; and urged all Member States that had not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the international conventions and protocols related to transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism.

In its resolution 2006/27, the Economic and Social Council requested UNODC to continue to promote the ratification of, and to assist, upon request, Member States in the implementation of, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,¹ within available extrabudgetary resources, not excluding the use of existing resources; also requested UNODC to organize a meeting on technical assistance for Member States in order to coordinate, with due regard to the work of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the work of agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as other relevant intergovernmental organizations, within available resources; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its seventeenth session on the

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

implementation of that resolution and thereafter to share its report with the Conference of the Parties.

In its resolution 16/1, the Commission underlined the fact that international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources, was often perpetrated by individuals and groups, including organized criminal groups, that might operate transnationally and that might also be engaged in other illicit activities, and recognized, in that regard, the important potential role of UNODC, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime² and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (General Assembly resolution 58/4, annex); encouraged Member States to provide information to UNODC regarding their use of the Organized Crime Convention and the Convention against Corruption for those purposes; and urged UNODC, subject to extrabudgetary resources, to invite interested Member States to an open-ended meeting of an expert group to share such information.

In its decision 16/1, the Commission requested the Executive Director of UNODC to report to it at its seventeenth session and to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime at its fourth session, on the implementation of that decision.

In its decision 16/2, the Commission, recalling its decision 16/1, endorsed the decision on the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, contained in the annex to that decision, approved at its intersessional meeting held on 1 August 2007. In the decision, the Commission, inter alia, decided that the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking was to be held in Vienna from 13 to 15 February 2008.

The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime held its third session in Vienna from 9 to 18 October 2006, and its fourth session is to be held in Vienna from 6 to 15 October 2008.

(b) Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in facilitating the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

The United Nations Convention against Corruption was adopted by the General Assembly on 31 October 2003 (resolution 58/4). The Convention entered into force on 14 December 2005, pursuant to article 68 of the Convention. The entry into force led to the establishment of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, which, pursuant to article 63 of the Convention, was to be convened no later than one year following the entry into force. The first session of the Conference of the States Parties was held in Amman from 10 to 14 December 2006. The second session was held in Nusa Dua, Indonesia, from 28 January to 1 February 2008.

In its resolution 62/175, the General Assembly reaffirmed the importance of the work of UNODC in the fulfilment of its mandate in crime prevention and criminal justice, including providing to Member States, upon request and as a matter of high priority, technical cooperation, advisory services and other forms of assistance; and recognized the progress made by UNODC in the delivery of those services in the areas of corruption, organized crime, money-laundering, terrorism, kidnapping and trafficking in persons.

² Ibid., vol. 2225, No. 39574.

In its resolution 62/202, entitled “Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption”, the General Assembly reiterated its commitment to preventing and combating corrupt practices at all levels; encouraged all Governments to prevent, combat and penalize corruption in all its forms, including bribery, money-laundering and the transfer of illicitly acquired assets, and to work for the prompt return of such assets through asset recovery; invited Member States to work on the identification and tracing of financial flows linked to corruption, the freezing or seizing of assets derived from corruption and the return of such assets; stressed the importance of mutual legal assistance, and encouraged Member States to enhance international cooperation; called for further international cooperation in support of national, subregional and regional efforts to prevent and combat corrupt practices and the transfer of assets of illicit origin; reiterated its request to the international community to provide technical assistance to support national efforts to strengthen human and institutional capacity aimed at preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of assets of illicit origin, as well as for asset recovery; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its sixty-third session a report on the implementation of that resolution.

(c) Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in facilitating the ratification and implementation of the international instruments to prevent and combat terrorism

In the plan of action of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (General Assembly resolution 60/288, annex, sect. III), Member States expressed their resolve to encourage UNODC, including its Terrorism Prevention Branch, to enhance, in close consultation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate, its provision of technical assistance.

In its resolution 62/71, entitled “Measures to eliminate international terrorism”, the General Assembly called upon all Member States, the United Nations and other appropriate international, regional and subregional organizations to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy; requested the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC to continue its efforts to enhance, through its mandate, the capabilities of the United Nations in the prevention of terrorism; and recognized, in the context of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), its role in assisting States in becoming parties to and implementing the relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism and in strengthening international cooperation mechanisms in criminal matters related to terrorism, including through national capacity-building.

The General Assembly in its resolution 62/172, entitled “Technical assistance for implementing the international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism”, requested UNODC, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to provide legislative assistance to Member States, upon request, and to facilitate the implementation of those instruments; urged Member States to strengthen international cooperation to prevent and suppress terrorism within the framework of the international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism and relevant United Nations resolutions, and in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, and to ensure adequate training of all relevant

personnel in executing international cooperation, and requested UNODC, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to provide assistance to Member States, upon request, to that end; requested UNODC, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to intensify its efforts to provide Member States with technical assistance, upon request, to strengthen international cooperation in preventing and suppressing terrorism by facilitating the implementation of the international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, in particular by training criminal justice officials on the implementation of those international instruments, in close coordination with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force; and requested UNODC, in coordination with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate, to continue to work with international organizations and relevant entities of the United Nations system, as well as with regional and subregional organizations, in the delivery of technical assistance, whenever appropriate and within its mandate, specifically to enhance legal cooperation, good practices and legal training in the area of counter-terrorism.

In its resolution 62/175, the General Assembly requested UNODC to enhance its technical assistance to Member States, upon request, to strengthen international cooperation in preventing and combating terrorism through the facilitation of the ratification and implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism, in close consultation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate of the Security Council, as well as to contribute to the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and invited Member States to provide the Office on Drugs and Crime with appropriate resources for its mandate.

Documentation

Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2008/3-E/CN.15/2008/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in combating transnational organized crime and corruption (E/CN.15/2008/4)

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance in implementing the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism (E/CN.15/2008/5)

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening international cooperation in preventing and combating trafficking in persons and protecting victims of such trafficking (E/CN.15/2008/6)

Note by the Secretariat on world crime trends and responses: 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 (E/CN.15/2008/7)

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network (E/CN.15/2008/8)

Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in preventing and combating international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources (E/CN.15/2008/9)

Report of the Executive Director on the global initiative to fight human trafficking (E/CN.15/2008/10)

5. United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice

(a) Follow-up to the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

In its resolution 60/177, entitled “Follow-up to the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”, the General Assembly endorsed the Bangkok Declaration on Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Assembly resolution 60/177, annex) adopted by the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; invited Member States to identify areas covered in the Bangkok Declaration in which further tools and training manuals based on international standards and best practices were needed, and to submit that information to the Commission so that it might take it into account when considering potential areas of future activity by UNODC.

In its resolution 2006/26, entitled “Follow-up to the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”, the Economic and Social Council requested UNODC, within available extrabudgetary resources, to convene an intergovernmental group of experts with equitable geographical representation to discuss the Eleventh Congress and previous congresses, with a view to developing a methodology for capturing lessons learned for future congresses, and to submit a report to the Commission at its sixteenth session for its consideration. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Lessons Learned from United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held a meeting in Bangkok from 15 to 18 August 2006, and the report on the meeting (E/CN.15/2007/6) was considered by the Commission at its sixteenth session.

In its resolution 62/173, entitled “Follow-up to the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Lessons Learned from United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts; reiterated its invitation to Member States to implement the Bangkok Declaration and the recommendations adopted by the Eleventh Congress and encouraged Member States to consider utilizing the reporting checklist developed by the Government of Thailand on implementation of the Bangkok Declaration, as a useful self-assessment tool in their reporting on the follow-up to the Eleventh Congress.

(b) Preparations for the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

In its resolution 62/173, the General Assembly accepted with gratitude the offer of the Government of Brazil to host the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; requested the Secretary-General to initiate consultations with the Government and to report on them to the Commission at its seventeenth session; encouraged 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 UNODC in the preparations for the Twelfth Congress; requested the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of regional preparatory meetings and to prepare, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, a discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings for the Twelfth Congress, for consideration and approval by the Commission; and requested the Commission, at its seventeenth session, to finalize the programme for the Twelfth Congress and to make its final recommendations on the theme and on the organization of round tables and workshops to be held by panels of experts, through the Economic and Social Council, to the Assembly.

In addition, in its resolution 62/173, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide UNODC with the necessary resources, from within the overall appropriations of the programme budget for the bienniums 2008-2009 and 2010-2011, for the preparations for the Twelfth Congress; to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries in the regional preparatory meetings for the Twelfth Crime Congress and in the Congress itself; and to report on the follow-up to that resolution to the General Assembly, through the Commission at its seventeenth session.

At its intersessional meeting held on 25 September 2007, the Commission established an informal, open-ended working group on preparations for the Twelfth Congress, chaired by the Rapporteur at the sixteenth session of the Commission. The working group held three meetings in 2007 and agreed to recommend that the overarching theme of the Twelfth Congress would be “Comprehensive strategies for global challenges: crime prevention and criminal justice systems and their development in a changing world”. The working group planned to continue its work in 2008 and to forward its recommendations to the Commission at a subsequent intersessional meeting.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/CN.15/2008/14)

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

Instruments for gathering information on United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice

In section VII of its resolution 1992/22, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Commission should include in its agenda a standing item on existing United Nations standards and norms in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, including their use and application.

In its resolution 2003/30, the Economic and Social Council decided to group those United Nations standards and norms into categories for the purpose of targeted collection of information; requested UNODC, in collaboration with the institutes

comprising the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, to provide support to Member States requesting assistance with the use and application of those United Nations standards and norms.

In its resolution 2006/20, entitled “United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention”, the Economic and Social Council approved the information-gathering instrument for United Nations standards and norms related primarily to crime prevention, contained in the annex to that resolution, for purposes of dissemination; and requested the Secretary-General to convene an intergovernmental expert group meeting to design an information-gathering instrument in relation to United Nations standards and norms related primarily to victim issues and to study ways and means to promote their use and application.

In its resolution 2007/21, entitled “Information-gathering instrument in relation to United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice”, the Economic and Social Council approved the questionnaire on United Nations standards and norms related primarily to victim issues (E/CN.15/2007/3, annex); requested the Secretary-General to forward the questionnaire to Member States; invited Member States to reply to the questionnaire; requested UNODC, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to seek information from relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and from the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network and other relevant United Nations entities with respect to their capacity to provide technical assistance in relation to the areas outlined in the questionnaire; and requested the Secretary-General to convene, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources and to the outcome of discussions at the second session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption on its information-gathering mechanism, an open-ended intergovernmental meeting of experts, in cooperation with the institutes of the Programme network, to design an information-gathering instrument in relation to the independence of the judiciary and the integrity of criminal justice personnel.

In its resolution 2007/21, the Economic and Social Council also requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its eighteenth session on the basis of information gathered using the questionnaire on the use and application of United Nations standards and norms related primarily to victim issues, in particular with regard to the following areas:

- (a) Difficulties encountered in the application of United Nations standards and norms related primarily to victim issues;
- (b) Ways in which technical assistance can be provided to overcome those difficulties;
- (c) Useful practices in addressing existing and emerging challenges in that field;
- (d) Suggestions from Member States on ways to further improve existing standards and norms.

Strengthening basic principles of judicial conduct

In its resolution 2007/22, entitled “Strengthening basic principles of judicial conduct”, the Economic and Social Council invited Member States to continue to encourage their judiciaries to take into consideration the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct when reviewing or developing rules with respect to the professional and ethical conduct of members of the judiciary; requested UNODC, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to translate the commentary on the Bangalore Principles into all official languages of the United Nations and to disseminate it to Member States, international and regional judicial forums and appropriate organizations; and requested the Secretariat to submit the Bangalore Principles and the commentary on it to the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption at its second session.

In the same resolution, the Economic and Social Council requested UNODC, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to continue its work aimed at developing a guide on strengthening judicial integrity and capacity and to circulate the guide to Member States for comments; to convene an open-ended intergovernmental expert group, involving the Judicial Group on Strengthening Judicial Integrity and other international and regional judicial forums, to finalize the guide on strengthening judicial integrity and capacity, taking into account comments received from Member States; to develop and implement technical cooperation projects and activities aimed at supporting Member States, upon their request, in developing rules with respect to the professional and ethical conduct of the members of the judiciary, as well as in their implementation of the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct; and to explore the development of technical cooperation projects and activities aimed at strengthening the integrity and capacity of other criminal justice institutions, in particular prosecution services and the police, in cooperation with the initiatives of States and relevant international organizations.

In the same resolution, the Economic and Social Council invited Member States to make voluntary contributions, as appropriate, to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund to support UNODC in providing technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, upon request, to strengthen the integrity and capacity of their judiciaries, including through the use and application of the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its seventeenth session on the implementation of that resolution.

Guidelines on justice for child victims and witnesses of crime

In its resolution 2005/20, entitled “Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime”, the Economic and Social Council adopted the Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime, contained in the annex to that resolution; invited Member States to draw, where appropriate, on the Guidelines in the development of legislation, procedures, policies and practices for children who were victims of crime or witnesses in criminal proceedings; called upon Member States that had developed legislation, procedures, policies or practices for child victims and witnesses to make information available to other States, upon request and where appropriate, and to assist them in developing and implementing training or other activities in relation to

the use of the Guidelines; and recommended that Member States bring the Guidelines to the attention of relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions.

In the same resolution, the Economic and Social Council called upon UNODC to provide technical assistance, within available extrabudgetary resources, not excluding the use of existing resources from the regular budget of UNODC, as well as advisory services, to Member States, upon request, to assist them in the use of the Guidelines; requested the Secretary-General to ensure the widest possible dissemination of the Guidelines among Member States, the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network and other international, regional and non-governmental organizations and institutions; invited the institutes of the Programme network to provide training in relation to the Guidelines and to consolidate and disseminate information on successful models at the national level; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its seventeenth session on the implementation of that resolution.

Strengthening the rule of law and the criminal justice systems in Africa

In its resolution 2006/21, entitled “Implementation of the Programme of Action, 2006-2010, on strengthening the rule of law and the criminal justice systems in Africa”, the Economic and Social Council welcomed the outcome of the Round Table for Africa on Crime and Drugs as Impediments to Security and Development in Africa: Strengthening the Rule of Law, hosted by the Government of Nigeria in Abuja on 5 and 6 September 2005, embodied in the comprehensive Programme of Action, 2006-2010; invited all African States and regional and subregional institutions to mainstream crime and drug control measures in their national and regional development strategies, to mobilize all national stakeholders and to make every effort to allocate national resources for the implementation of the Programme of Action; invited the Chairman of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to notify the Commission of the African Union of the need for its member States to endorse the Programme of Action, 2006-2010; invited the Commission of the African Union to present the Programme of Action, 2006-2010, to the next Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union for its endorsement; and invited bilateral and multilateral aid agencies and financial institutions to review as appropriate their funding policies for development assistance and to consider including a crime prevention and criminal justice component in such assistance.

In the same resolution, the Economic and Social Council requested UNODC, within available extrabudgetary resources, not excluding the use of existing resources from the regular budget of UNODC, to support the implementation of the Programme of Action, 2006-2010, in cooperation with all African States, the African Union and other regional organizations, in particular in the context of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development; invited Member States to make adequate voluntary contributions for the implementation of the Programme of Action, 2006-2010; and requested the Executive Director of UNODC, within available extrabudgetary resources, not excluding the use of existing resources from the regular budget of UNODC, to devote high priority to the implementation of the Programme of Action, 2006-2010, and to present a progress report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its seventeenth session.

Providing technical assistance for prison reform in Africa and the development of viable alternatives to imprisonment

In its resolution 2006/22, entitled “Providing technical assistance for prison reform in Africa and the development of viable alternatives to imprisonment”, the Economic and Social Council invited Member States to develop and adopt measures and guidelines to ensure that the particular challenges of HIV/AIDS in pretrial and correctional facilities are adequately addressed; invited UNODC to develop further tools and training manuals, based on international standards and best practices, in the area of penal reform and alternatives to imprisonment, in particular in the areas of prison management, legal advice and assistance and the special needs in prison of women and children, as well as of persons with mental illness and the physically challenged; requested UNODC, in cooperation with relevant partners, to continue to provide advisory services and technical assistance to Member States, upon request, in the area of penal reform, including restorative justice, alternatives to imprisonment, HIV/AIDS in prisons and the special needs of women and girls in prisons; also requested UNODC, within available extrabudgetary resources, not excluding the use of existing resources from the regular budget of UNODC, to develop a programme of technical assistance for Africa in penal reform and provision of alternatives to imprisonment, building on the commitments made at the Round Table for Africa and in its Programme of Action, 2006-2010; and requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of that resolution to the Commission at its seventeenth session.

Strengthening the rule of law and the reform of criminal justice institutions, including in post-conflict reconstruction

In its resolution 2006/25, entitled “Strengthening the rule of law and the reform of criminal justice institutions, including in post-conflict reconstruction”, the Economic and Social Council encouraged UNODC to further develop its comprehensive programme in strengthening the rule of law and the reform of criminal justice institutions with a continued focus on vulnerable groups, such as women and children, countries with economies in transition and countries in post-conflict situations and the need for capacity-building at the field office level, and to develop innovative approaches and partnerships in that area; also encouraged UNODC, within available resources, to continue to provide long-term sustainable technical assistance in the area of criminal justice reform to Member States in post-conflict situations, in cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat and other relevant entities, and to increase synergies between the involved agencies; invited UNODC, within available resources, to provide its expertise, where appropriate and upon request, to the Peacebuilding Commission and the rule of law assistance unit, in the ongoing work of the Rule of Law Focal Points Network and other relevant entities; invited relevant entities of the United Nations system, including the World Bank, as well as organizations such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, to increase their cooperation and coordination with the United Nations entities concerned with supporting the rule of law, including UNODC, in order to promote a more integrated approach to the provision of assistance for building capacity in the area of the rule of law and criminal justice reform; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its seventeenth session on the implementation of that resolution.

Documentation

Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2008/3-E/CN.15/2008/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime (E/CN.15/2008/11)

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening justice and integrity through technical assistance in developing, transitional and post-conflict societies, with a focus on Africa (E/CN.15/2008/12)

7. Policy directives for the crime programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as its governing body, including administrative, strategic management and budgetary questions

In its resolution 61/252, section XI, entitled “Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as its governing body”, the General Assembly authorized the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as the principal United Nations policymaking body on crime prevention and criminal justice issues, to approve, on the basis of the proposals of the Executive Director of UNODC, bearing in mind the comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the budget of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, including its administrative and programme support costs budget.

In its resolution 2007/19, entitled “Strategy for the period 2008-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime”, the Economic and Social Council approved the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for UNODC. In the same resolution, the Council requested the Executive Director of UNODC to incorporate the strategy for the period 2008-2011 into the strategic framework and to present the latter to the relevant intergovernmental bodies, for their consideration and approval; to prepare the consolidated budget for the biennium 2008-2009, as well as for the biennium 2010-2011, for UNODC, based, inter alia, on the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for UNODC; to submit to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its reconvened sixteenth session a report identifying the medium-term strategy activities projected for the period 2008-2009 and the estimated cost of implementing them; and to report, through the programme performance report, to the Commission on progress made in the implementation of the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for UNODC.

In its resolution 16/6, entitled “Budget for the biennium 2008-2009 for the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund”, the Commission approved the projected use of general-purpose funds in the biennium 2008-2009, and invited Member States to provide contributions totalling at least 6,437,000 United States dollars; endorsed the estimates for the programme support cost funds and special-purpose funds as indicated in the resolution; and noted that the estimated resource projections were subject to the availability of funding. In the same resolution, the Commission requested the Executive Director to submit to it at its seventeenth session a report on the financial difficulties faced by UNODC when implementing its mandates and to provide a list of all resolutions that had not been implemented during the previous five years owing to lack of resources; to submit annual reports to the Commission on ways and means of improving the financial situation of UNODC, including the situation of the field offices and on the programmes

and initiatives to be implemented by UNODC in the bienniums 2008-2009 and 2010-2011 and how they conformed with the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for UNODC, as reflected in the proposed strategic framework of the United Nations for the period 2008-2011; and to submit to the Commission at its seventeenth session a detailed account of the exemptions and reductions provided to donors from the 13 per cent programme support costs during the past three years and the basis for such exemptions and reductions.

For the consideration of item 7, the Commission will have before it a note by the Secretary-General on the preparation of the strategic framework for the period 2010-2011. The Commission is invited to review the proposed biennial programme plan for UNODC and provide its comments to the Secretary-General. The proposed biennial programme plan, modified as appropriate, will be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-eighth session. Its recommendations thereon will be transmitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session when it considers the strategic framework for the biennium 2010-2011 proposed by the Secretary-General.

In accordance with article IV, paragraph 3 (e), of the statute of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/56, annex), the Board of Trustees of the Institute shall report periodically to the Economic and Social Council through the Commission (formerly called the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control). In accordance with article IV of the statute, which was adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1989/56, the Commission elects members of the Board of Trustees of the Institute upon nomination by the Secretary-General and endorsed by the Council.

Documentation

Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2008/3-E/CN.15/2008/3)

Report of the Executive Director on financial issues and difficulties faced by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in implementing its mandates and an initial assessment of the ways and means of improving the financial situation (E/CN.7/2008/11-E/CN.15/2008/15)

Report of the Executive Director on programmes and initiatives to be implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the bienniums 2008-2009 and 2010-2011 (E/CN.7/2008/12-E/CN.15/2008/16)

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.15/2008/13)

Note by the Secretary-General on the nomination of members of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (E/CN.15/2008/17)

8. Provisional agenda for the eighteenth session

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission will have before it the provisional agenda for its eighteenth session. With respect to the duration of the session and the submission of draft resolutions, the Commission should review the experience gained thus far and is invited to consider its programme of work in

relation to the duration of its subsequent sessions, as well as the appropriateness of the recent practice with respect to the deadline for the submission of draft resolutions. The Commission should also devote attention to the selection of the themes for the thematic discussion at its subsequent sessions and consider making more definite arrangements on the duration of its future sessions.

9. Other business

No issues that need to be raised under item 9 have come to the attention of the Secretariat and no documentation on the item is currently foreseen.

10. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its seventeenth session

The Commission will adopt the report on its seventeenth session on the afternoon of Friday, 18 April 2008, the last day of the session.

Annex

Proposed organization of work

1. In its decision 1997/232, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in addition to plenary meetings, should be provided with full interpretation services for a total of 12 meetings for informal consultations on draft proposals and for meetings of open-ended working groups, with the precise allocation of time for the different types of meetings to be determined by the Commission under the agenda item entitled "Adoption of the agenda and organization of work", on the understanding that no more than two meetings would be held concurrently, in order to ensure maximum participation of delegations.
2. The proposed organization of work has been prepared in accordance with the agenda agreed at the intersessional meeting of the Commission held on 25 September 2007, at which the Commission decided that its seventeenth session would have a duration of five days, from 14 to 18 April 2008, and that the session would be preceded by informal consultations on Friday, 11 April 2008. As soon as discussion on an item or sub-item has been concluded, the Commission may wish to proceed to the following item or sub-item. Suggested meeting times are from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.
3. The proposed organization of work is presented below.

Informal pre-session consultations, 11 April 2008

Date and time

Friday, 11 April

10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Informal consultations
3-6 p.m.	Informal consultations

Seventeenth session, 14-18 April 2008

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Plenary</i>	<i>Committee of the Whole</i>
Monday, 14 April			
10 a.m.-11 a.m.		Opening	
	1	Election of officers	
	2	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work	
11 a.m.-1 p.m.	4	World crime trends and responses: integration and coordination of efforts by UNODC and by Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice	Workshop of the institutes comprising the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network on violence against women

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Plenary</i>	<i>Committee of the Whole</i>
3-6 p.m.	4	World crime trends and responses (<i>continued</i>)	Informal consultations: consideration of draft resolutions
Tuesday, 15 April			
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	3	Thematic discussion on aspects of violence against women that pertain directly to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	Informal consultations: consideration of draft resolutions (<i>continued</i>)
3-6 p.m.	3	Thematic discussion on aspects of violence against women that pertain directly to the Commission (<i>continued</i>)	Informal consultations: consideration of draft resolutions (<i>continued</i>)
Wednesday, 16 April			
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	4	World crime trends and responses (<i>continued</i>)	Informal consultations: consideration of draft resolutions (<i>continued</i>)
3-6 p.m.	5	United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice	Informal consultations: consideration of draft resolutions (<i>continued</i>)
Thursday, 17 April			
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	6	Use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice	Informal consultations: consideration of draft resolutions (<i>continued</i>)
3-6 p.m.	7	Policy directives for the crime programme of UNODC and the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as its governing body, including administrative, strategic management and budgetary questions	Informal consultations: consideration of draft resolutions (<i>continued</i>)
Friday, 18 April			
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	8	Provisional agenda for the eighteenth session	Informal consultations: consideration of draft resolutions (<i>continued</i>)
	9	Other business	
3-6 p.m.	10	Adoption of the report of the Commission on its seventeenth session	