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Chair: Mr. Braun (Luxembourg)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 106: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/74/125, A/74/126, A/74/127 and A/74/128)

Agenda item 107: Countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes (*continued*) (A/74/130)

Agenda item 108: International drug control (*continued*) (A/74/129)

1. **Mr. Ugarelli** (Peru) said that combating transnational organized crime, such as drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, illegal mining, money-laundering, corruption and cybercrime, was of great importance to Peru, which closely monitored developments in and commitments made to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the relevant subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council. The General Assembly played an important role as a forum for discussion and consensus and for addressing technical aspects such as the cross-cutting nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 16. His delegation reiterated its commitment and support for the work of the United Nations system, in particular that of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

2. **Ms. Bakytbekkyzy** (Kazakhstan) said that drug production and trafficking, transnational crime and terrorism were closely linked and posed a serious threat to national, regional and international security, well-being and development. The Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism, aimed at creating an international coalition to combat terrorism in all its forms, had been signed by 85 States since September 2018, and others were encouraged to join them in order to achieve a world free of terrorism by the 100th anniversary of the United Nations. States needed to determine how to mitigate the impact of drugs and prevent the demoralization of social institutions and the undermining of socioeconomic and political stability, alongside other global processes for poverty eradication and sustainable development. It was necessary to create people-centred development policy directives, with shared responsibilities, a balanced and comprehensive approach and priority given to health care, education, culture and social protection.

3. Kazakhstan had ratified all relevant major United Nations conventions and had been a frequent member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Because of its location in the Central Asian region, which many international criminal groups continued to use as both a

market and transit zone for drugs, Kazakhstan could provide numerous best practices and lessons learned. Her Government participated in UNODC counter-narcotics initiatives and strategies, including the Central Asian Regional and Information Coordination Centre, located in Almaty, and was committed to the consistent development of regional and global cooperation for maintaining peace and security. Kazakhstan collaborated closely with several regional and international cooperation organizations and had recently been elected Chair of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia, an organization that comprised 27 countries covering nearly all of Asia, for a two-year term beginning in 2020. Drug control issues were among the prime measures discussed by the Conference. Kazakhstan remained a ready partner of the United Nations, its Member States and other stakeholders to mobilize efforts to counter the illicit trafficking of narcotics globally.

4. **Mr. Iteboje** (Nigeria) said that his country was irrevocably committed to actively promoting a society free of drugs, having acted as lead facilitator of a ministerial declaration, adopted in 2019, aimed at strengthening national, regional and international action in that regard and building on similar political documents adopted in 2009, 2014 and 2016.

5. In line with its national master plan on drug control, the Government continued to tackle the trafficking, illicit cultivation and abuse of drugs and had destroyed thousands of hectares of illegal cannabis farmland to stem the tide of their widespread use in the country. Another source of national concern was the non-medicinal use of prescription opioids, cough syrups and other substances, mostly among women and young people. Proactive measures taken by the Government included conducting social media campaigns on the dangers of substance abuse, the need for access to treatment and the strengthening of preventive drug education strategies for primary school children. Noting with concern the linkages between the illicit drug trade and transnational organized crime, especially the financing of terrorism, all of which undermined national security and development, as well as social and human capital, the Government had enhanced drug-related law enforcement activities, targeting criminal wealth and the proceeds of drug crime, including by preparing to enact a law on the proceeds of crime.

6. International cooperation remained imperative, however, to enhance information-sharing that could lead to the arrest of offenders and seizure of their assets, prevent drug abuse and promote the rehabilitation and integration of drug users into society. He therefore called for enhanced regional and international

coordination, collaboration and partnership in tackling the scourge of drug trafficking, drug abuse, money-laundering and organized transnational crime.

7. **Mr. Castañeda Solares** (Guatemala) said that many of the benefits of globalization, such as improved communication, capital movements and international travel, had also created opportunities for transnational criminal groups to prosper, diversify and expand their activities. As a result, traditional criminal organizations and cartels were evolving and being partially replaced by smaller and more flexible global networks with international sources of capital. The proliferation of new technologies and borderless, real-time transactions had made international security more complex and dynamic, requiring concerted attention and global cooperation to combat new risks and threats.

8. Trafficking in persons in particular affected Guatemala and its neighbours. Despite widespread national and international efforts, a lack of jointly coordinated border security with specific objectives made it relatively easy to use the region to transport victims of various nationalities. The Government's efforts to combat transnational threats, unprecedented in the region, had led to considerable gains in combating corruption and increasing transparency, including an open government partnership initiative to improve access to information, fiscal transparency, civic participation, technological innovation and accountability. The Government had already created a robust criminal justice system through historically unprecedented increases to its justice budget.

9. The Government strongly supported the adoption of comprehensive measures, at all levels, to control and reduce the supply of drugs and promote the treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of abusers, in an effort to avoid stigmatizing individual users while not fostering impunity for related crimes. In September 2019, the Government had introduced a new policy, to provide a cross-cutting platform and tool for addressing drugs and addiction, with a view to supporting those affected through sustainable socioeconomic development. Delegations were encouraged to continue to develop comprehensive national, subregional, regional and international policies to lower the high cost of violence associated with the global drug problem.

10. **Mr. Khashaan** (Saudi Arabia) said that his Government had adopted legislation to combat cybercrime through regulation of the use of information and communications technologies (ICT) for such criminal purposes as identity theft, blackmail and the promotion of racist ideology, among other new phenomena. Obstacles remained, however. Weak

cooperation by online networks with legal authorities and law enforcement worldwide, together with the absence of digital identification in the virtual world and a multiplicity of laws criminalizing cybercrime, had led to a lack of effective preventive mechanisms to combat the criminal use of ICT, making it easier for criminals to exploit legal loopholes and difficult for Governments and legal entities to pursue and prosecute those responsible.

11. National laws to counter cybercrime were required to take into consideration issues of privacy and sovereignty, while the adoption of international legislation was necessary to address the problem at the regional and global levels. While Saudi Arabia supported increased digitalization in every field of government to replace the use of paper and planned to create effective electronic platforms for use by both individuals and businesses, the use of cryptocurrency instead of traditional currency could make it easier for criminal and terrorist networks to hide their transactions on the Internet. There was currently no framework regulating or guaranteeing oversight over such transactions.

12. It was important today to deal with both the real and digital worlds on an equal basis; any laws adopted or implemented in the real world must have its equivalent in the virtual world. To achieve that, the international community must enhance cooperation through the relevant bodies, including by raising awareness among communities about the safe use of technology and highlighting the methods used by criminals online. It was also necessary to develop the capabilities of those working in digital and information security through training.

13. **Ms. Gebrekidan** (Eritrea) said that progress in preventing crime and promoting the rule of law was essential for inclusive economic growth, poverty eradication and environmental protection. In the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea Basin, transnational crimes were undermining human security, socioeconomic progress, the rule of law and regional security, as well as destroying local flora and fauna and preventing the region from unlocking its potential. Although regional cooperation had been undermined by inter-State conflict and zero-sum politics, positive developments in the past year had created a new impetus for better coordination, as countries in the region worked together to establish a foundation for the free movement of goods, finances and people. Unless adequately addressed, however, crime-related difficulties would grow to undermine that vital goal. Combating and reducing transnational organized crime was therefore an integral part of regional integration efforts.

14. In early 2019, a workshop co-organized by UNODC had been held in Asmara, bringing national and regional law enforcement agencies together to discuss challenges and share best practices. Eritrea had also participated in a liaison magistrate initiative piloted by the Government of Italy to foster international operation against trafficking in persons, through cooperation between prosecutorial services. Eritrea was committed to working with neighbouring States, both bilaterally and within the framework of regional initiatives, to tackle crime in all its forms and manifestations. Strongly committed to global efforts to tackle all forms of crime, her Government had signed a comprehensive cooperation framework with UNODC in July 2019 to help Eritrea to close gaps relating to rule of law and human rights, crime and justice, gender sensitivity and inclusivity, in an effort to enhance national capacity, economic integration and regional and global security.

15. **Mr. Hernández Elotlán** (Mexico), speaking as a youth delegate, said that his delegation welcomed the acknowledgement of the new realities surrounding the global drug problem, which had taken a profound toll on public health and human rights in his country. The Government favoured the inclusion of the views of civil society, regional organizations, academia and the scientific community in discussions on the issue.

16. Following the special session of the General Assembly of 2016, the focus of international debate on drugs had shifted to include the importance of prevention, human rights and the gender perspective, the principle of shared responsibilities and the need to both improve access to controlled substances for medical purposes and strengthen cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime. Practical recommendations stemming from hard evidence and best practices were now available and must be gradually implemented, and the same efforts needed to be applied to reducing supply and demand through a cooperative and comprehensive global approach.

17. Welcoming the United Nations system common position on international drug control, which incorporated the perspectives of more than 30 system agencies, funds and programmes, he said that Member States must intensify their cooperation with all of those entities to find solutions that combined regulation with prevention, public health and human rights. Prohibition alone was insufficient to ensure the effective implementation of existing international instruments and mechanisms, given current realities. In that respect, he also acknowledged the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its political declaration of 2019.

18. Comprehensive approaches to crime prevention and criminal justice were needed to combat corruption, illicit financial flows and irresponsible trade and trafficking in firearms, rather than multilateral punitive action. Efforts by Mexico included study and work grants for over 900,000 young people. Potential benefits of such approaches included destigmatization and reduced inequality. It was also necessary to examine past experience and lessons learned through open and constructive dialogue, in particular within the Third Committee.

19. **Mr. Rugeles** (Colombia) said that corruption was a global issue with transnational implications and a barrier to development, which explained its inclusion, together with bribery, in the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 16. With corruption and bribery covering some 2 per cent of global gross domestic product, it was necessary for Member States to develop policies, strategies and legislation to combat the phenomenon and strengthen their capacities to investigate and prosecute such acts. As the eighth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption approached, the international community must strengthen its efforts to criminalize and effectively suppress corruption, as well as come up with innovative ideas for implementation during the lead-up to the special session of the General Assembly against corruption in 2021.

20. His delegation was deeply concerned about the negative impact of the smuggling of commercial goods, which had yet to be defined under United Nations technical and political crime prevention scenarios, in particular when carried out by transnational organized criminal groups. All Member States needed to acknowledge the growing ties among such criminal activities as money-laundering, corruption, illicit wildlife trafficking, trafficking in persons, the smuggling of migrants and the financing of terrorism. Improved coordination and cooperation among States was also necessary to combat the criminal use of ICT, through technical assistance to improve the national laws of developing countries and strengthen the capacity of their Governments to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute such activities. Tools were also needed for countries to be able to fight cybercrime and keep the Internet free, open and safe. Rather than begin negotiations for a new convention specifically on cybercrime, however, it was more important to build capacities and cooperation on the basis of existing treaties. The global drug problem was a scourge on both society and the environment. Colombia was therefore

committed to fighting it head on, and to combating all transnational crimes.

21. **Mr. de Souza Monteiro** (Brazil) said that, in an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world, criminal organizations operated across all regions and countries, constantly adapting their strategies to profit from the suffering of others. In order to combat all forms of transnational crime efficiently, the international community needed to address its underlying causes. Effective anti-crime strategies required not only preventive policies aimed at eradicating poverty, improving health and education, empowering women and girls and combating discrimination, but also law enforcement mechanisms through which decisive action could be taken against criminal networks and perpetrators brought to justice while ensuring full respect for human rights.

22. In 2019, the Government had put into place a plan to reduce violence and criminal activity, proposed a draft bill addressing shortcomings in the country's justice system and created a national programme aimed at improving the effectiveness of action against crime. It was also fully committed to fighting corruption at all levels, as evidenced by recent high-profile investigations and convictions. Such efforts by the appropriate institutions helped to strengthen democracy and the rule of law.

23. Integrated, balanced and multidisciplinary drug policies were needed that addressed demand through public awareness campaigns and the treatment and rehabilitation of victims, while tackling supply by dismantling networks and bringing to justice the beneficiaries of drug trafficking and associated crimes. It was also necessary to improve health services, increase the number of qualified health professionals, avoid the stigmatization and marginalization of users and address vulnerabilities relating to viruses associated with drug use. Because criminal organizations were not bound by national borders, the complexities of the drug market, including trafficking and money-laundering, could be addressed only through enhanced intelligence and inter-agency cooperation. Brazil had actively strengthened such cooperation with its neighbours and would continue to do so.

24. **Ms. Hassan** (Egypt) said that global efforts must be unified to combat transnational organized crime in all its forms by addressing the connections between criminal networks and terrorist groups in order to dismantle them. The Government had adopted a national strategy, including both legislative and development efforts, and had created a national committee to combat trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants.

Among the first countries to recognize the grave threat of terrorism, Egypt had adopted a comprehensive approach that encompassed both the military and security aspects and the socioeconomic, political and cultural aspects. International cooperation was required, however, to prevent the use of ICT by terrorist organizations and address the spread of religious extremist rhetoric.

25. A signatory of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, Egypt had hosted the first African Anti-Corruption Forum, which had resulted in a comprehensive strategic action plan to combat corruption across the continent, including through education and scientific research, as well as technical support and resource capacity-building. In addition, the Government had developed an indicator to measure corruption in Africa; created a continental platform to follow up on corruption and efforts to combat it; developed a secure digital mechanism to gather real-time information on money-laundering and corruption; and created a legal framework for cooperation among African States to reclaim revenues of corruption, as a protocol to the African Union Convention. Addressing all the challenges of transnational organized crime required a comprehensive approach based on the participation of all countries and relevant regional and international organizations in order to effectively weaken and paralyse the networks perpetrating such crimes.

26. **Mr. Barro** (Senegal) said that, in adopting the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation in 2015, his country had committed itself to promoting the rule of law, both nationally and internationally, and to attacking drug trafficking and other forms of organized criminal activity, which posed serious threats to socioeconomic and political stability and sustainable development.

27. Political will and coordinated international cooperation, together with innovative, holistic and preventive approaches and targeted social policy, were required to advance crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, as well as to fight impunity, which was the primary obstacle in combating transnational criminal groups. Countries of the West Africa subregion had therefore established a framework for strengthened cooperation among criminal justice systems and had adopted a five-year action plan to better combat terrorism. Senegal had also joined an initiative to adopt

a new multilateral treaty on mutual legal assistance and extradition.

28. Having made the fight against cybercrime, terrorism and drug trafficking a national priority, the Government had established an interministerial anti-drug committee, an addictions centre in Dakar and a special police division for cybercrime, as well as a regional vocational institution aimed at building the capacity of African States to fight delinquency, terrorism and radicalization and to develop digital means for investigating cybercrime. It had also politically committed Senegal to combating trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants through the ratification of all relevant conventions and protocols and their incorporation into its national law. The sixth edition of Dakar International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa would be held in November 2019 and would address the topic of current challenges of multilateralism. His delegation called on all Member States to follow through on their commitments so that innovative and concerted solutions could be found to the increasingly complex and interconnecting problems associated with all forms of organized crime.

29. **Mr. Gabche** (Cameroon) said that, with millions of people worldwide reportedly affected by drug use and increasingly using opioids, a common practice in his country was polydrug addiction, which involved the abuse of multiple drugs, including psychotropic drugs and prescription painkillers, especially among young people. In response, the Government had developed a strategy aimed at tackling the institutional, legislative and social aspects of the phenomenon, which included the creation of a national committee to combat drugs, legislation to control their production and use and criminal code provisions aimed at combating trafficking and consumption. Nationwide public awareness campaigns had also been used, targeting mainly young people, most recently in early 2019. As a result of those measures and the response of the international community, Cameroon had avoided a market invasion by new psychoactive substances. Nevertheless, as the global drug problem continued to be a growing threat, owing to the increasing mobility of people and goods, the Government continued to strengthen the commitment and efforts of Cameroon to fight it.

30. Among the numerous transnational organized crimes that posed significant threats to national security, stability and the rule of law worldwide, terrorism and violent extremism were the most worrying for Cameroon, which had, in recent years, been subject to terrorist attacks in several regions. His delegation remained concerned about the close connection between drugs and violent extremism, as the use of psychotropic

substances by both secessionists and Boko Haram members increased the risk of attacks, while drug trafficking provided financial support to terrorist networks and groups. It was therefore logical and necessary to fight both scourges together.

31. **Ms. Al-kuwari** (Qatar) said that the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, which was financed by Qatar and implemented by UNODC, was designed to accelerate the implementation of the Doha Declaration, particularly in developing countries. The programme could benefit up to 600,000 people in a number of sectors: on the one hand, it bolstered capacity and raised awareness among judiciary and law enforcement actors, and, on the other hand, it included training initiatives, such as Line Up Live Up, which helped prevent young people from entering a life of crime by providing them with sports opportunities. The Government remained committed to the Global Programme and was working closely with Japan in preparation for the next United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Kyoto.

32. Mindful of the criminal misuse of ICTs, the Government was making every effort to strengthen information technology security and encourage international cooperation in the fight against cybercrime. It aimed to improve its national capacity in that regard, in cooperation with UNODC, and to strengthen its information technology networks. The Emir of Qatar had declared that his country was ready to host an international conference under the aegis of the United Nations on the treatment of such issues in international law. The Government would also soon host the fifth edition of the Smart City Expo Doha in November 2019, and, in parallel, a core group meeting of the Munich Security Conference.

33. **Mr. Mikhaylov** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation supported the central role played by the United Nations in coordinating efforts to tackle transnational organized crime, drugs and corruption on the basis of international law. With the help of technology, transnational organized crime was becoming globalized and jeopardizing the development of States and entire regions. While recognizing that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime was the most important comprehensive instrument for tackling international crime, his delegation welcomed the establishment of a corresponding review mechanism and hoped that States would do their utmost to ensure that it was launched during the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to that Convention in 2020.

34. The United Nations should play a leading role in helping the international community to work together to counter corruption, including through the development of sports. His delegation had actively supported the adoption of a resolution on sports during the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption. It had subsequently worked with Italy, Brazil, India, China, South Africa and UNODC to hold two international conferences in Vienna on countering corruption in sport and appreciated the efforts by UNODC to organize a special session on countering corruption during the General Assembly in 2021. His delegation welcomed the conclusions of the ministerial segment of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and understood the importance of ensuring consistent compliance with the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the 2014 joint ministerial statement and the outcome document of the 2016 special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem.

35. The Russian Federation would continue to promote a world without drug abuse, in strict compliance with the three international drug control conventions, instead of a world tolerant of drugs. The legalization of drugs, including cannabis, for recreational purposes was a gross violation of international law. His delegation also took note of attempts to interfere in other States' internal affairs by accusing them of pandering to the drug trade. The Russian Federation firmly objected to such an approach and called for international cooperation on drug control to be based on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, with full respect for States' sovereignty and territorial integrity.

36. **Mr. Kuzmin** (Russian Federation) said that it was encouraging that the topic of ICTs had aroused such interest in the international community. It was clear from the relevant report of the Secretary-General (A/74/130) that most Member States had difficulties gathering evidence in such cases because the data was often located under a foreign jurisdiction or the crime itself had been committed from abroad. Differences in codes of criminal procedure also made it challenging for law enforcement bodies to work together, especially since traditional channels of cooperation, such as for the provision of legal assistance, were ineffective and often slow. The failure to resolve those problems meant that, according to United Nations estimates, crimes related to ICTs had caused \$1.5 trillion in damage to the global economy in 2018.

37. Cybercrime, including data theft and hacking, was gradually becoming a fully-fledged industry, since terrorist groups and criminal organizations were

actively using the dark web to access the black market for drugs, weapons and other criminal material. Existing regional mechanisms helped to contribute to tackling cybercrime but could never develop into a global platform since they were designed for the local context, involved a limited number of States and were incompatible with each other, as had been evident in some international investigations. Despite the dimensions of the problem, the international community had not formed a common system for cooperation in international law and did not even have shared terminology, which had resulted in soaring private and public sector spending on cybersecurity.

38. The main aim should be to develop simple and understandable common rules on cybercrime under the aegis of the United Nations, taking into account the facts, without excluding any country and in compliance with the principles of the sovereign equality of States and non-interference in their internal affairs. All Member States should be involved in drafting those rules, as should major organizations and bodies such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the International Telecommunication Union and UNODC. It was also critical to draw on the experience of regional organizations and the intergovernmental expert group on cybercrime, which had already done considerable work in that field.

39. **Mr. Stefanile** (Italy) said that combating such threats to peace, security and sustainable development as the growing illegal drug market, ongoing trafficking in persons, the exploitation of migrants, illegal financial flows funding criminal and terrorist activities and the misuse of modern technologies to commit and facilitate crime had been made more complex owing to increased global connectivity and mobility. The full implementation was consequently required of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, as well as of the review mechanism adopted in 2018 by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. His Government was therefore keen to continue the long-standing cooperation of Italy with UNODC and all other relevant international institutions involved in preventing crime and tackling illegal drugs. It strongly supported the work of the central authorities and specialized agencies, which enabled effective judicial cooperation at the international level, and was willing to offer its experience and expertise.

40. The Government steadfastly supported the creation of genuinely transparent societies and institutions through the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16, which could be accomplished by disseminating a culture of legality, with a particular

focus on youth and education, enhancing access to justice and advancing the protection of human rights for all. Close attention must also be paid to defending the rights of the most vulnerable, including the victims of crime, with a focus on the misuse of the Internet and social media by criminal and terrorist groups. It was necessary to find new and effective ways to address the threat posed by virtual assets and related payment methods, as well as by the redirection of criminal profits and financing to terrorists. In that context, enhancing data collection, statistics and analysis would serve to support evidence-based policies.

41. **Ms. Kipiani** (Georgia) said that her Government had developed an action plan to prevent crime, protect human rights, support the establishment of a fair and independent judiciary and safeguard the neutrality, efficiency and accountability of participants in the criminal justice system. Crime prevention tools continued to be enhanced, including through a pilot project aimed at identifying gaps and ensuring the gradual implementation of community-oriented policing throughout Georgia. Intelligence-led policing was another initiative implemented to gather information on crime and establish a unified crime analysis system to better manage risks.

42. The Government had adopted a national anti-drug strategy, reflecting human rights principles and existing international standards, to develop national measures to prevent crime, provide treatment and rehabilitation and reduce demand, supply and harm, with a particular focus on raising awareness of the consequences of drug consumption. It had also implemented various reform initiatives that had led to more effective border management through centralization and the simplified coordination and exchange of information. Supported by international partners, the equipment and capacity development of border police had continued, with significant changes made in 2018 to coast guard protection. The Government also planned to strengthen the justice system in an effort to prevent juvenile delinquency, protect the rights and interests of children, safeguard their welfare and development and ensure the rehabilitation and resocialization of juveniles in conflict with the law, including through the provision of legal and psychological assistance, the amendment of hearings procedures for child victims or witnesses and the creation of a diversion and mediation programme to provide minors with alternatives to criminal liability.

43. **Ms. Larson** (United States of America) said that UNODC, guided by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, continued to play a leading role in developing global responses to transnational organized crime and

illicit drugs. The work of the Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime, the lead United Nations forum for studying and addressing cybercrime, should be strengthened, but not undermined or duplicated, by that of the Third Committee.

44. Drugs, organized crime and cybercrime affected the lives of United States citizens more directly than ever before, in part owing to the wide availability and cheap production costs of synthetic opioids, which posed a global challenge that demanded a multilateral response. The ministerial declaration adopted in 2019 by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as well as the three international drug control conventions and the agreements on which consensus had already been reached, provided a foundation for guiding further work on the issue. Great progress had been made worldwide since the signing of the Global Call to Action on the World Drug Problem in 2018, a commitment since extended by the United States to the private sector as well.

45. While international cooperation was also crucial to combating the ever-present global threat of cybercrime, any new treaty or model law would undermine the progress made in applying existing conventions and treaties in the investigation and prosecution of cybercrime and in providing technical assistance to countries for their effective use. Her delegation looked forward to the upcoming Conference of the States Parties to the Convention against Corruption and the launch of preparations for the 2021 special session of the General Assembly. Member States were encouraged to approach the special session, and United Nations anti-corruption policy in general, with a view to identifying how best to implement the existing solid legal framework. It also recognized the efforts of Japan in hosting the fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2020 and in guiding attendees towards a powerful and concise political declaration.

46. **Mr. Hermida Castillo** (Nicaragua) said that his country recognized the validity and relevance of all United Nations anti-drug conventions and advocated their effective application. Deregulation and legalization promoted the proliferation of drug use and contravened the terms of existing international drug control instruments. In combating the global drug problem, it was necessary to respect national priorities and legal frameworks, as outlined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law. While his delegation supported greater international cooperation, it reiterated the importance of common but differentiated responsibilities, including through

sharing best practices and making logistical and financial resources more available to transit countries.

47. Nicaragua considered the safety of its citizens to be fundamental for ensuring social, political and economic stability and fostering improved quality of life, peace, justice, well-being and development for families. That safety was assured by its various judicial and law enforcement institutions, including its national police force, recognized in 2014 by the United Nations Development Programme as a model for community-oriented public safety. Additional efforts to combat the various manifestations of crime included a series of specific policies and programmes that had borne highly positive results, making Nicaragua the safest country in Central America, the third least violent in Latin America and, with one of lowest crime rates on the continent, one of the least vulnerable countries to organized crime and a major factor in regional stability, peace and security. As a result of the national anti-crime policies and international cooperation policies developed by the Government, Nicaragua was a containment wall against international organized crime, gangs, terrorism and drug activity, and it remained committed to further strengthening its position as such.

48. **Ms. Manusinghe** (Sri Lanka) said that her country remained deeply concerned about the growing vulnerability of States in the face of transnational organized crime, terrorism and cybercrime. In order to prevent and combat such crimes, the Government was upholding the rule of law nationally and had enhanced its bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation efforts. Mutual legal assistance and extradition were essential forms of international cooperation in criminal matters.

49. Since ratifying the Convention on Cybercrime in 2015, the Government had strengthened its commitment to improving its existing legislation in accordance with international standards, including by adopting a comprehensive cybersecurity strategy and drafting new legislation on cybersecurity and data protection to address evolving challenges. It had also initiated a review of its criminal justice measures and had approved legislative amendments to better address child safety online and child pornography. In the light of the Easter Sunday terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka on 21 April 2019, her Government had condemned all forms of racism, hatred and violent extremism and had echoed the Secretary-General's concerns about the increase in hate crimes globally and his call for enhanced preventive efforts, including by addressing their roots causes and strengthening State institutions in line with the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate

Speech. Her delegation welcomed United Nations initiatives on combating that scourge.

50. The global drug problem remained a common and shared responsibility of all States that required a comprehensive and integrated approach focused on individuals, families and society as a whole in order to effectively counter its multifaceted challenges. Leaving no one behind and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals also required complementary and mutually reinforcing action to counter the world drug problem, which affected young people predominantly. Governmental efforts by in that regard included the establishment of a dedicated board responsible for formulating a national policy on prevention, control, treatment and rehabilitation, strengthening customs and law enforcement capabilities, studying and developing a harmonized legislative approach to drug-related offences and launching education campaigns in schools and communities.

51. **Mr. Hassani Nejad Pirkouhi** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that UNODC reports indicated that some 76 per cent of worldwide seizures of opium and 30 per cent of seizures of heroin had been made in Iran. Achievements of that kind came at a price: the Government currently deployed a regular force of some 30,000 law enforcement personnel on its eastern border, thousands of whom had been killed or maimed. Iran had a balanced drug policy aimed at reducing demand and minimizing the negative consequences of drug abuse, in line with the international drug control conventions. The number of drug addicts in Iran who had access to treatment services was triple the global average, The Government promoted the rehabilitation and social reintegration of individuals while advocating alternative punishments to imprisonment. At the international level, the imposition of illegal unilateral sanctions had greatly disrupted the anti-drugs campaign by hampering cooperation on drugs control and the implementation of bilateral and regional initiatives. In accordance with the principle of shared responsibility, it was incumbent on countries which directly benefited from drug-related interventions by Iran to provide technical assistance and equipment to support his country's joint projects with UNODC.

52. The problem of the evolving nature of transnational organized crime was a global issue that required global solutions. No State could overcome such threats in the absence of coordinated international cooperation within the United Nations, particularly at a time in which multilateralism was under attack. His delegation was concerned by the lack of political will demonstrated by some Member States, particularly in their inadequate fulfilment of chapter V of the United

Nations Convention against Corruption on asset recovery. The lack of an inclusive international framework on cybercrime was also problematic, since existing instruments were inapplicable at the international level. Owing to the complex nature of cybercrime and the need for Governments to keep pace with rapid technological changes and the modes of operation of organized criminal groups, a context-specific, resilient and collective international instrument on cybercrime was essential.

53. **Mr. Zambrano Ortiz** (Ecuador) said that his Government was committed to achieving the 2030 Agenda, including Goal 16. Democratic institutions could only be strengthened if Member States were successful in preventing crime, promoting criminal justice and international drug control and combating corruption. Transnational organized crime remained a threat to public safety and a barrier to social, economic and political development. International cooperation and the sharing of experiences was vital for preventing crime and building fairer and more efficient criminal justice systems. His delegation welcomed the inclusion of the use of ICTs for criminal purposes in the Third Committee's agenda, since cybercrimes not only violated human rights but also harmed economies. Any solutions to the problems created by transnational criminal activities would help to strengthen multilateralism and international cooperation.

54. The world drug problem was complex and dynamic, with many causes. His country's public policies were based on full respect for human rights and were focused on addressing the socioeconomic issue of drugs through a comprehensive, balanced and gender-sensitive approach that treated addiction as a health problem. Ecuador focused its coordinated programmes of information, prevention and control on vulnerable groups, while also addressing associated activities such as drug trafficking.

55. **Mr. Itegoje** (Nigeria) said that his country continued to make its justice system more efficient and harmonized with global best practices. By amending its law on extradition, the Government had brought its national legislation into compliance with relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, thereby building the national capacity to combat corruption and transnational organized crimes. It supported all legal instruments aimed at fighting trafficking in persons, which posed a devastating threat to its victims and represented a throwback to the days of the slave trade. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration was a particularly effective tool in that regard. The Government had been proactive in stemming the tide of trafficking in persons by

introducing laws to incorporate the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols into law in 2013 and by establishing an agency to enforce laws relating to trafficking in person and a department dedicated to the rehabilitation of victims.

56. ICTs had the potential for extreme good but also for extreme harm, not least through the dissemination of fake news, child pornography and virulent radicalism. The only logical response for the international community was to cooperate beyond each country's legal and criminal jurisdictions. The seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly provided Member States with the much-needed impetus to step up their efforts in that regard.

57. **Mr. Othman** (Malaysia) said that international laws and long-established multilateral practices were currently under threat as a result of the rise of transnational and drug-related crime and the exploitation of technology by criminals and terrorists. Owing to the magnitude and complexity of the related challenges facing the international community, collaboration across borders was essential, especially among security and law enforcement agencies at both the national and the international level. Malaysia would continue to support the efforts of international and regional entities, especially UNODC, and civil society to combat such phenomena. At the national level, transnational crime, terrorism and extremism needed to be tackled in a more comprehensive manner, including by imposing stricter enforcement and legislative measures, building the capacity of law enforcement agencies and strengthening inter-agency cooperation.

58. **Ms. Rodríguez Abascal** (Cuba) said that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs must continue their work to tackle drugs and crime and not have their responsibilities diminished or their work duplicated by other forums, which also undermined their authority. Her delegation supported the establishment of a review mechanism for the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto with similar characteristics to the one established for the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The Government had a national plan in place on preventing and countering trafficking in persons for the period 2017–2020.

59. ICTs had dramatically transformed the international security situation and had increased the potential to destabilize peace. Her delegation therefore supported the establishment of an international convention to combat cybercrime, increase international cooperation and democratize governance of the Internet.

ICTs should be used to boost socioeconomic development, promote peace, improve awareness and eradicate poverty and social exclusion, on the basis of close compliance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law. Her delegation condemned the irresponsible actions and global domination of the Government of the United States in that respect, since it sought to undermine multilateralism, ignore international law, legitimize the military use of cyberspace and use the Internet for destabilization and the promotion of war, interventionism, subversion and unilateralism.

60. The cost of the scourge of drug abuse was enormous, as it reproduced cycles of poverty, violence and various forms of criminal behaviour and social exclusion. The problem would not be solved by militarizing countries, legalizing drugs or treating them as harmless substances. Cuba supported the existing international framework for drug control, as well as the intergovernmental bodies that monitored compliance with the three international drug control conventions, and considered the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the main United Nations body for dealing with the global drug problem. Cuba had a zero-tolerance policy on the production, consumption and trafficking of drugs and complied with all international obligations to combat organized crime and provide international cooperation in that area. It also had a good record in dealing with crimes such as international terrorism, drug trafficking, money-laundering, piracy and trafficking in persons.

61. Lastly, her delegation considered that the practice of producing unilateral reports on other States was unacceptable and should be abolished.

62. **Ms. Ahmed** (Sudan) said that her Government was drawing up a national strategy on combating drugs, had enhanced the powers of relevant financial investigations units and was improving its international cooperation with respect to mutual legal assistance requests, the extradition of wanted persons and the confiscation of funds. The Government was committed to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem and had signed numerous bilateral cooperation agreements related to drugs, including on exchanges of visits, information exchange and judicial cooperation. A representative of the Sudan had headed the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna at its sixty-second session in March 2019.

63. The Government had adopted a national law on trafficking in persons in line with the latest international

developments in that field and had also passed a law on combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. It would continue to work with regional and international partners under the Khartoum Process, which had been launched in 2014, and particularly appreciated the model of cooperation used with the European Union. It had signed several bilateral agreements with neighbours on the control of borders to prevent smuggling by organized criminals and terrorists and had hosted a workshop in Africa on cybercrime in Khartoum in 2015. It welcomed initiatives launched to establish special local centres to combat terrorism and study root causes of it and advocated the concept of intercivilizational and intercultural dialogue. It also greatly appreciated the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption and its aim to coordinate various anti-corruption policies and laws in Africa.

64. **Ms. Bouchikhi** (Morocco) said that solutions to transnational organized crime should be tailored to the nature of the crime and be implemented both in the physical world and online. Owing to its geographical location, Morocco faced numerous cross-border security threats and the Government had therefore adopted a three-pronged strategy, focusing on legislation, prevention and action to fight crime. In line with relevant international conventions to which her country was party, including the Convention on Cybercrime, she emphasized the importance of preventing and combating transnational organized crime through legislation. Moreover, the Government had set up a dedicated national office and a number of regional units to provide technical support during investigations into cybercrime cases. In the prevention sphere, various activities had been organized in Morocco to raise awareness, including campaigns in schools, magazine publications and the organization of police open days. To combat crime, a comprehensive strategy on crime had been promoted in line with relevant United Nations recommendations prioritizing international cooperation. One key goal was to curb both the supply and demand of drugs and thereby protect the most vulnerable groups of society, in particular young people, from the threat of drug abuse. A large amount of psychotropic and synthetic substances and pills had been seized in Morocco in 2019, mostly from the country's eastern border. Morocco remained a credible partner in efforts to combat transnational organized crime and was committed to increasing international cooperation, especially among judicial and police bodies.

65. **Ms. Abraham** (Trinidad and Tobago) said that the geographical location of her country had made its people vulnerable to transnational organized crime and

trafficking. The continued escalation of youth crime and violence, coupled with an increase in gang activities, was also of significant concern. Trinidad and Tobago would host the second United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States in 2020. It staunchly supported the mandate of the International Criminal Court, which was a beacon of hope to all victims of crimes seeking justice, and encouraged Member States to join the Court in order to make it truly universal. Her Government recognized that ICTs could be exploited for use by criminal and terrorist organisations and had thus been working on a national cybersecurity strategy to reduce her nation's vulnerability.

66. The drug trade posed a particular threat to the security and sustainable development of small islands States. Trinidad and Tobago had signed and ratified the three major international drug conventions. It was also committed to the principles of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem and had incorporated into its national drug control plan the recommendations agreed at the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem. Trinidad and Tobago had also engaged in numerous international and regional cooperation agreements on drug control and had recently committed to various programmes focused on building the capacity of institutions and competent authorities to reduce the demand and supply of drugs. Her country greatly appreciated the valuable contributions of women in addressing transnational organized crime and drug trafficking in the Caribbean region.

67. **Ms. Pobee** (Ghana) said that the growing tendency for ICTs to be used in criminal activities was disturbing and undermined their potential for sustainable development. Cybercrimes posed serious challenges to law enforcement and security agencies, since vices perpetrated on online platforms required cooperation and information-sharing among States. Ghana therefore endorsed the call to establish mutual legal assistance treaties among States and had already ratified the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection and the Convention on Cybercrime. States must focus on strengthening national legal frameworks and building their capacity to fight cybercrime. Owing to the growing number of people active on the Internet, her Government had introduced two laws in 2008 to regulate cyberspace in Ghana and expected to pass a law on cybersecurity by the end of 2019 that would pave the way for the establishment of a cybersecurity authority and a cybersecurity fund. The

Government had also launched public awareness campaigns to sensitize the public to the dangers of the online safety of children, sextortion and blackmailing involving obscene content. Such efforts could be significantly enhanced with tools such as anti-cybercrime forensic laboratories, for which Ghana would greatly welcome support from donors. Her delegation supported calls to increase the allocations of funds to UNODC.

68. **Ms. Horbachova** (Ukraine) said that the global fight against illicit drugs and transnational organized crime required close international cooperation and the full support of United Nations institutions. Her delegation particularly appreciated the role of UNODC in ensuring the application of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto and welcomed the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as the principal United Nations policymaking body in that regard. Given that the world drug problem was multidimensional and required a holistic approach, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board and UNODC were instrumental in fostering partnership and dialogue in the delivery of technical assistance to Member States, including through joint implementation of projects. The ministerial segment of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had given a major impetus to the future international drug policy and the resulting ministerial declaration should serve to reaffirm shared commitments to addressing the world drug problem.

69. The Government was determined to continue its implementation of the initiative entitled "Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants" in partnership with the International Organization for Migration. Her country's commitment to such instruments was, however, impeded by ongoing external aggression that had resulted in the internal displacement of some 1.7 million Ukrainians and the temporary occupation of parts of the Ukrainian territory by the Russian Federation.

70. Her delegation supported further international cooperation and global initiatives among international organizations and States in the area of cybersecurity. The security service of Ukraine had recently established a centre to prevent, track and analyse cyberattacks and improve countermeasures with partners. Given that protecting critical infrastructure from malicious activities was more of a political than a technical challenge, it was essential to maintain trust among partners. Since 2014, amidst continuing Russian military aggression, Ukraine had faced an

unprecedented number of cyberattacks to critical infrastructure, no doubt as a result of Russian hybrid warfare.

71. **Ms. Uthaiwan** (Thailand) said her country had been working with stakeholders to make its criminal justice system more effective, fair and human-centred. It was also proud to have provided training to countries in the region on the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) and the associated guidance document and index of implantation. Recognizing the vital role of education and sports in crime prevention, the Government had organized a national extracurricular programme in primary and secondary schools to promote lawfulness and crime prevention.

72. Her delegation welcomed the establishment of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, which should help to address gaps in the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime by encouraging the sharing of best practices and the provision of technical assistance. To fight corruption, the Government had passed an anti-corruption law in July 2018 in compliance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption. As part of its commitment to the three international drug control conventions, the Government was focused on reducing demand for drugs through health-centred policies and the promotion of drug prevention in communities and schools. On the supply side, it advocated alternative development as a way of promoting alternative livelihoods and sustainable income opportunities and was intensifying its information exchange and border cooperation with neighbouring countries.

73. **Mr. Islam** (Bangladesh) said that his Government was harmonizing its national legislation with international conventions and protocols on crime prevention and justice. With a rise in the number of conflicts and level of violence worldwide, poor, marginalized and vulnerable people were increasingly falling prey to human traffickers. As a country of origin, transit and destination, Bangladesh maintained a zero-tolerance policy to trafficking in persons and had recently acceded to the Protocols to the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Within the United Nations, Bangladesh sought to strengthen the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, supported the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and was part of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking. It highly commended the role played by

UNODC in the prevention of trafficking in persons, drug control and the improvement of criminal justice. At the regional level, Bangladesh had been using the platforms of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation to make progress in the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime.

74. Drug trafficking and related abuses posed significant socioeconomic challenges for Bangladesh because the country was located on the drug production, transit and consumption route. His Government had therefore updated the Narcotics Control Act in order to impose more severe sentences and had taken steps to improve the enforcement of related laws and to encourage youth engagement in productive activities. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh had also taken a stand against corruption by making sure that the anti-corruption commission could prosecute corruption-related offences. In the face of a spate of terrorist attacks, Bangladesh had adopted a zero-tolerance stance to terrorism and extremism and remained deeply engaged in counter-terrorism efforts at the United Nations. To address the threat of cybercrime, it had formed the National Digital Security Council and the Digital Security Agency to oversee the enactment of relevant laws. Lastly, its cybersecurity incident response team regularly collaborated with equivalent teams around the world.

75. **Mr. Bakhtiyorzoda** (Tajikistan) said that the increasing volume of drug trafficking and recreational drug use posed a serious threat to the stability of societies and undermined efforts to ensure that young people led a healthy lifestyle. Tajikistan recognized the important role of the International Narcotics Control Board in monitoring and promoting national compliance with the provisions of the three international drug control conventions. Tajikistan was a party to all three conventions and called on all parties to adhere to their commitments thereunder. More support was needed, however, for countries that were in the front line of drug trafficking.

76. Tajikistan had many years of experience in tackling drug trafficking and, over the previous year alone, had carried out some 70 special operations against smugglers and had brought about a nationwide decrease in drug trafficking. The national strategy to combat illicit drug trafficking for the period 2013–2020 was a central element of the country's bilateral and multilateral relations and was designed to eliminate the causes of drug trafficking in society by focusing on the nexus of drug trafficking and terrorism. Drug trafficking was a breeding ground for terrorism and organized

crime and therefore required joint and coordinated actions at the regional and international levels within the framework of the three international drug control conventions. In cooperation with the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union, his country had convened a high-level international conference in May 2019 on international and regional cooperation on countering terrorism and its financing through the prevention of illicit drug trafficking and organized crime, which had proven to be a useful platform for exchanging views and sharing best practices.

77. **Mr. Liu Jiefeng** (China) said that there was an urgent need to enhance international cooperation with respect to cybercrime. National legislation on cybercrime tended to be fragmented, while the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime did not address the area sufficiently and regional conventions varied greatly in terms of content and the number of signatories and could therefore never represent a global solution. China supported the drafting of a global convention on cybercrime, facilitated by the United Nations, to serve as a universally acceptable basis for global governance of cybercrime. The convention should penalize the increasingly serious crimes being committed online, tackle new challenges that arose as a result of new technologies and help Member States to harmonize their laws and practice. China had actively participated in the discussions on General Assembly resolution [73/187](#) on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes, welcomed its adoption and considered that there should be discussions on cybercrime every year at the Assembly. China appreciated the work done by the open-ended intergovernmental expert group on cybercrime to fulfil its multi-year plan and expected the working group to abide by the spirit of relevant Assembly resolutions and to provide the international community with relevant recommendations on cybercrime.

78. **Mr. Thein** (Myanmar) said that his country had adopted a new drug control policy in 2017 that was in compliance with the three international drug control conventions to which Myanmar was a party and should help to boost the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In June 2018, a hotline had been established in Myanmar for reporting drug-related issues. While poppy cultivation in his country had decreased by 9.1 per cent in 2018, growing amounts of psychotropic stimulant tablets, methamphetamine and precursor chemicals had been produced in neighbouring countries and been trafficked into Myanmar. In response, the drug enforcement police of Myanmar had

conducted special operations to detect vehicles smuggling heroin and other drugs, leading to a dramatic increase in its seizure of psychotropic drugs.

79. Myanmar was working closely with relevant United Nations agencies and neighbouring countries, particularly Thailand, to develop alternatives to poppy cultivation. There were many success stories in Shan state, in particular, of farmers embracing sustainable development. UNODC had helped many farmers to switch from the commercial production of opium to coffee and was also working with Myanmar to strengthen the country's cross-border cooperation on drug trafficking. Legislative and judiciary bodies were encouraged to work in line with new guidelines issued in Myanmar with an emphasis on treating drugs-related issues as health issues rather than on criminalizing drug users. Nevertheless, the dramatic increase in global illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse among young people in recent years posed a serious threat to economic well-being and could impede the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Ultimately, the problem of illicit drugs required a collective response from countries linked in the demand and supply chains.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.