



ELEVENTH UN CONGRESS ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Bangkok, Thailand 18-25 April 2005



21 April 2005

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

Committee I today held a workshop on enhancing international law enforcement cooperation, including extradition measures. It identified the major challenges to cooperation in law enforcement and touched upon a range of issues, including the importance of information sharing and international cooperation.

Committee Chairman and Secretary-General of the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation Kunihiro Horiuchi said international law enforcement should be re-examined, keeping in mind issues including political offences, reciprocity, and prima facie evidence of guilt, not only in the context of extradition, but also in international law enforcement cooperation in general.

Edmundo Oliveira, Professor of Criminal Law at the University of Amazonia, Brazil, pointed out that crime had generally become more violent. In the early 90s, some 23 per cent of all offences were violent. In 2000, the figure had risen to about 35 per cent.

N. Masamba Sita, Director of the UN African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, said the high prevalence of organized crime was related to low police performance, low quality of the rule of law and low human development levels.

Ulrich Kersten, Special Representative of Interpol to the UN, said that Interpol was prepared to provide all necessary support for the law enforcement community in combating transnational organized crime. He said it was a matter of convincing member countries of the importance of information sharing.

Roberto Di Legani, Head of the Organized Crime Groups Unit, Europol, said it was important to direct more efforts towards suspicious financial transactions, identification of criminal proceeds and asset seizures, as money was the “backbone” of organized crime.

The representative of Ghana said that extradition was the most effective means of cooperation between States in penal matters.

The Chinese representative felt that cooperation in the area of proceeds recovery needed to be strengthened; the Chilean representative felt that current systems and procedures for international cooperation were very slow.

The representative of France said his country had begun an initiative with South-Eastern European countries, and had created a regional centre in Zagreb to fight transnational organized crime.

Workshop 4 today discussed measures to combat terrorism, with reference to the relevant international conventions and protocols.

(more)

Two of today's ancillary meetings dealt with young people, specifically concerning how to prevent youths from becoming either victims of criminal exploitation or perpetrators of violence. Other meetings looked at the impact of restorative justice measures on legal frameworks in select "emerging" and "established" countries, and at what legal aid services are available in the criminal justice system worldwide, with a special focus on Africa. Restorative justice is loosely defined as a concept that seeks to restore the interests of all the parties affected by a crime, including the offender.

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