

Crime and drugs as impediments to security and development in Africa: strengthening the rule of law



Aide-memoire

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Introduction

1. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the African Union Commission are pleased to present information on the preparations for a round table for Africa which will take place at the African Union Conference Centre in Addis Ababa on 30 and 31 May 2005.
2. In a number of African countries, drugs, crime and corruption are undermining development efforts. These problems must be overcome if the benefits of sustainable development are to be realized. The round table will provide the opportunity for ministers and senior officials with national crime and drug control, and development portfolios to meet with heads of regional economic communities and representatives of the development partners in order to take stock of rule-of-law concerns across the continent. This gathering of major stakeholders in the area will be the first step in a process aimed at strengthening partnerships. Participants are expected to assess progress to date in the fight against “uncivil” behaviour and determine a priority programme of action for Africa over a five-year period. They will be encouraged to examine how this programme of action can be implemented with the support from all countries and institutions. The aim is to create sustainable mechanisms to ensure that the process of strengthening rule-of-law capacities in Africa can continue beyond the round table.
3. In order for partners in this process to begin consultations with a common understanding of the issues, UNODC has commissioned a study which analyses the constraints imposed by drugs and crime on African development. The findings of this study will be shared with all participants at the round table.

I. Tentative programme

4. Plenary meetings will be held on both days. Two working groups addressing specific topics will also be held on the first day. The round table will be formally inaugurated at an official dinner on the evening of the first day, at the Sheraton hotel.
5. The tentative programme is a work-in-progress; a final version will be provided at a later date.

**Sunday, 29 May
2005**

From 4 p.m. ■ Registration (hotel venue)

Monday, 30 May 2

H.E. President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria and Chair of the African Union

Opens the Round Table and delivers keynote address to delegates

7.30 p.m., Lalibela Grand Ballroom, Sheraton Hotel

From 8 a.m. ■ Registration at the African Union (AU) Conference Centre

9.30 a.m. Opening ceremony in the AU Plenary Hall

- Welcome address: Commissioner for Social Affairs, AU Commission
- Video message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations
- Statement by Executive Director, UNODC
- Statement by Chairperson, African Union Commission

10 a.m. 1st plenary meeting

- 1. Presentation of the executive summary of the UNODC study paper
- 2. Briefing on the “African common position on crime prevention and criminal justice”, presented at the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
- 3. Note to be taken of the Status of ratification of regional and international conventions on drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism
- 4. Note to be taken of the Declaration approved by the Eleventh Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
- 5. Presentation of the draft priority programme of action for Africa 2005-2010
- 6. Presentation of the topics for the working groups

11.30 a.m. BREAK

- Working Group I: Crime, poverty alleviation and sustainable development (*Committee room I*)
- Working Group II: Shaping and Resourcing an effective rule-of-law agenda for Africa (Plenary Hall)

1 p.m. LUNCH

2.30 p.m. resumed meetings

- Working Group I, including review of draft Addis Ababa Declaration
- Working Group II, including review of the draft Priority Programme of Action for Africa 2005-2010

7.30 p.m. **Official dinner at the Sheraton hotel**

Tuesday, 31 May 2005

9 a.m.	2nd plenary meeting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Remarks by the Co-Chairs▪ Introduction of the reports of the working groups:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Working Group I: Crime, poverty alleviation and sustainable developmentWorking Group II: Shaping and resourcing an effective rule-of-law agenda for Africa▪ Consideration of the revised draft priority programme of action for Africa 2005-2010
11 a.m.	BREAK
11.30 a.m.	resumed plenary meeting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Consideration of the Addis Ababa Declaration
1 p.m.	LUNCH
3 p.m.	3rd plenary meeting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Adoption of the Priority Programme of Action for Africa 2005-2010▪ Adoption of the Addis Ababa Declaration▪ Closing remarks by the Co-Chairs
5.30 p.m.	Closing ceremony

Follow-up

6. A report on the round table will be produced and distributed to all participants following the event.

II. Planning and organization

Partners

7. UNODC and AU will extend invitations to participate in the round table to:

- Ministers responsible for policy on drug and crime-related issues, and development from all African Governments;
- Regional and subregional organizations;
- Bilateral and multilateral agencies and organizations, including United Nations agencies and programmes;
- Selected public- and private-sector companies that are partners in the United Nation Global Compact;
- Civil society organizations in Africa.

Preparatory activities

8. During the period leading up to the round table, UNODC will facilitate communication among the partners by:

- Collecting and sharing inputs from all partners: Governments, regional organizations, bilateral and multilateral organizations, the United Nations and the private sector;
- Providing a secure website to serve as a resource for all interested parties and as an arena for the exchange of ideas;
- Circulating the UNODC study;
- Circulating the AU Plan of Action on Drug Control in Africa (2002-2006), the African Common Position on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the report of the Second African Union Ministerial Conference on Drug Control, held in December 2004;
- Organizing consultations and coordinating the formulation of a draft plan of action for consideration at the round table;
- Encouraging the ratification of regional and international conventions on drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism;
- Encouraging African Governments to submit details of their national plans to fight crime and drugs to UNODC or AU.

Information for participants

1. Travel and accommodation

9. UNODC will cover the travel and accommodation costs and make flight arrangements for the head of delegation of African State delegations, and for the heads of the regional economic commissions and a number of other authorized partners. UNODC will also book hotel accommodation for those participants, upon request. Other participants are asked to make their own flight and accommodation arrangements. UNODC has an agreement with the Sheraton Hotel for a number of rooms to be reserved for participants; the hotel can be contacted directly at the following address:

Sheraton Hotel

Telephone: + (251) (1) 17-17-17

Fax: + (251) (1) 17-27-27

Single room (United Nations rate US\$ 106 per night)

Other hotels in Addis Ababa are:

Hilton Hotel

Telephone: + (251) (1) 51-84-00

Fax: + (251) (1) 51-00-2764

Ghion Hotel

Telephone: + (251) (1) 51-31-22

Fax: + (251) (1) 50-51-50

10. Those delegates who wish to bring guests should arrange travel and accommodation for them themselves; however, they should provide details to either UNODC or the African Union Commission.

2. Immigration requirements

11. Visas are required for all participants travelling to Ethiopia, except for nationals of Djibouti and Kenya. Participants from countries that have Ethiopian diplomatic missions are required by the Ethiopian immigration authorities to obtain their visa from those missions. For participants from those countries where there are no Ethiopian consulates, visas will be provided on arrival at Bole International Airport, Addis Ababa. Participants concerned should give prior notice to the AU Secretariat:

Dr. Kamel Essegħairi

Director, Social Affairs Department

African Union

P.O. Box 3243

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Telephone: + (251) (1) 51-35-22 or + (251) (9) 20-16-45 (mobile)

Fax: +(251) (1) 53-36-16

E-mail: EssegħairiK@africa-union.org

3. Transport in Addis Ababa

12. Participants will arrive at Bole International Airport, which is located five kilometres from the centre of Addis Ababa. Arriving participants are strongly recommended to use hotel shuttle buses or, if these are not available, blue or yellow taxis. Hotels can provide transport back to the airport for departing participants, who should notify their hotel of the date and time of their departure 24 hours in advance to ensure that the necessary arrangements are made.

13. Daily travel from the Sheraton hotel only to the conference hall will be arranged by the African Union Commission.

4. Registration

14. Participants are encouraged to register and obtain their identification badges at the Sheraton Hotel on Sunday 29 May, from 4 p.m. They can also register at the AU Conference Centre from 8 a.m. on 30 May. Personal identification must be presented to complete the registration process. For security reasons, identification badges should be worn by participants at all times during the round table and at all official social functions.

5. Health care

15. Prior to entry, visitors to Ethiopia must be in possession of a valid vaccination certificate for yellow fever. Vaccination against cholera is also required for any person who has visited or been in transit through a cholera-infected area within six days prior to arrival in the country.

6. Currency/banks

16. Visitors should declare all foreign currency in their possession on the blue currency declaration form upon arrival at Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa. There is no limit on the amount of money that may be brought into the country.

17. Ethiopian currency is denominated in birr and cents. The bank rate of exchange varies. The exchange rate is approximately 8.5 birr to the United States dollar and 12 birr to the euro.

18. Delegates are advised to convert funds into local currency at authorized banks. Acceptance of credit cards is limited to a few hotels and restaurants. It is therefore advisable to carry other means of exchange (traveller's cheques, for example) and an adequate amount of Ethiopian currency.

7. Airline reservations

19. A number of international airlines operate to and from Addis Ababa. Participants must secure their return/onward air passage prior to their arrival in Addis Ababa. There are travel agencies in the AU administrative building that can assist with the reconfirmation of tickets and can provide travel and tour-related information.

8. General information about Addis Ababa

20. Addis Ababa is situated at a high altitude, 2,400 metres above sea level. Addis Ababa is known to have a low crime rate, however, similar precautions to those necessary in other metropolitan cities should be taken. The predominant language spoken in Addis Ababa is Amharic. English is widely understood. Communication is quite limited in French and minimal in Arabic and Italian.

21. In Ethiopia, people drive on the right-hand side of the road. Regulations forbid photography in certain areas and movement in those areas after nightfall is also restricted.

22. Additional information on Ethiopia and the AU can be found on the following websites:

<http://www.africa-union.org>
<http://www.ethio.com>
<http://tour.ethiopiaonline.net>

9. Climate

23. The average temperature in Addis Ababa during May is 18.4° C (64.6° F).

10. Electricity

24. Electric current in Ethiopia is 220-240 volts, 50 cycles AC and accessible via a 13-amp, two-pin (Italian) socket.

11. Departure tax

25. Delegates are reminded that there is a US\$ 20 or €15 departure tax and this must be paid in cash in either currency.

12. Daily subsistence allowance

26. Those delegates whose travel is being paid for by UNODC will be entitled to hotel accommodation, meals, and a pro-rated daily subsistence allowance. Terminal expenses will also be paid to cover ground transportation on arrival and departure. The daily subsistence allowance is calculated on the basis of the number of nights spent in Addis Ababa. At the end of the round table all delegates are expected to depart on the first available flight for the return journey. More information concerning the daily subsistence allowance will be provided directly to eligible participants.

13. UNODC contact point

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
Vienna International Centre
Africa and the Middle East Section
P.O. Box 500
A-1400 Vienna
Austria
(Fax: +43-1-26060 5975, e-mail address: carl.marsh@unodc.org)

III. Background to and rationale for the round table

27. Many African countries, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa, are contending with conflicts, urban violence and a range of illicit activities (for example, drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings, transnational organized crime and the smuggling of natural resources) that represent increasing obstacles to those countries' development. It is recognized that States in Africa are at differing stages in the process of building their prevention capacity, but the overall picture is one in which economic development is being hampered by "uncivil" behaviour.

28. The AU-UNODC round table will provide a unique forum for African Governments, regional economic commissions and bilateral and multilateral partners to discuss and find ways to combat drug and crime issues on the African continent. The round table is not designed to be a one-time exercise; on the contrary, it is envisaged as the beginning of a long-term process aimed at creating strong partnerships to address rule-of-law concerns and at building capacity within Africa to tackle crime and drugs. As stated in the introduction, this gathering together of the major stakeholders will be a first step towards a long overdue strengthening of partnerships to fight "uncivil" behaviour. The outcome of the round table will be a priority programme of action for the period 2005-2010.

29. Change is needed in the nature of official development assistance (ODA) to incorporate a strong rule-of-law dimension. What follows is a brief discussion of the reasons why such qualitative change is needed and how the round table is a prime opportunity to initiate this process. It is argued that a broader conception of development assistance, incorporating a rule-of-law dimension, will assist the ongoing efforts of the international community in the context of the Millennium Declaration, the Millennium Development Goals and the G8 Africa Action Plan. It will also complement the specific efforts the AU has made, in close collaboration with UNODC, to advance anti-drug and crime initiatives across the continent.

Surmounting obstacles to development

30. Ideally, resources needed to build crime control capacity in African countries should become a designated component within the development framework. Only recently has the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (DAC/OECD), through its security system reform,¹ extended development policy to include judicial and penal institutions, elected and duly appointed civil authorities responsible for control and oversight, and civil society institutions, including the media. While this is a positive development, unfortunately it is still not enough; what is needed is a comprehensive re-evaluation of assistance to better reflect the realities on the ground. Specifically, this means that a broad rule-of-law dimension must be fully incorporated into the development agenda or an equivalent remedy created to serve a similar end. Progress towards finding an appropriate solution is slowly under way and the AU-UNODC round table will be a unique forum that complements a number of major international events aimed at improving coordination of aid delivery that have already taken place. Notably, the Second International Round Table on Managing

¹ Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, *The DAC Guidelines; Helping Prevent Violent Conflict* (Paris, 2001), p. 15.

for Development Results, held in February 2004, and the DAC High- Level Meeting, held in April 2004, which advocated aid reform and the introduction of new approaches to achieve more integrated development and security policies, have pointed the way forward.

31. The International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002, saw the adoption of the Monterrey Consensus, in which the international community asserted its resolve to eradicate poverty, achieve sustained economic growth and promote sustainable development in the context of a fully inclusive and equitable global economic system. It was noted at the conference that poverty and inequality could lead to despair and provide a breeding ground for violence, crime, corruption and terrorism. It was also noted that the level of aid from developed to developing countries remained significantly below the United Nations benchmark of 0.7 per cent of gross national income. Thus, the Monterrey Consensus calls upon donor States to strengthen and increase international aid in the form of ODA and foreign direct investment in order to assist countries in reducing poverty and furthering development. This call upon donor States, taken with the Doha Round of World Trade Organization talks (2002) aimed at reducing barriers to trade for developing countries to create a more equitable global economy, was welcomed by African countries.

United Nations Millennium Declaration

32. The United Nations Millennium Declaration is the overarching force guiding efforts to eradicate global poverty and promote sustainable development. Set out in the Declaration are the objectives of strengthening respect for the rule of law (at both the national and international levels), increasing efforts to combat crime, drugs and conflict, and strengthening cooperation between international and national agencies and Governments. Member States resolved to create an environment conducive to development and to the elimination of poverty (sect. III). Section VII of the Declaration is devoted to meeting the special needs of Africa.

33. Following consultations among international agencies, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, OECD, and the specialized agencies of the United Nations, the United Nations General Assembly recognized the Millennium Development Goals as part of the road map for implementing the Millennium Declaration. The Millennium Development Goals are: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equality and empower women, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensure environmental sustainability and develop a global partnership for development.

34. For many sub-Saharan African countries, however, achieving the Millennium Development Goals will be a major challenge without significant and sustained international assistance. The United Nations Development Programme's *Human Development Report 2003*² reported that 13 countries in sub-Saharan Africa have suffered development reversals since 1990 that have led to increased levels of poverty, weak governance and institutional incapacity to confront crime. Poor governance and a lack of peace and security act as barriers to development. Before

² UNDP, *Human Development Report 2003; Millennium Development Goals: A compact among nations to end human poverty.*

significant progress can be made in Africa towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, these issues must be addressed. By pushing for the inclusion of rule-of-law concerns in the development agenda, the round table will be an important opportunity for re-energizing and complementing the efforts of the international community and African Governments to combat poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Secretary-General Report to the 60th Session of the General Assembly.

35. The Secretary General's March 2005 report '*In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all*'³ is another significant initiative that looks at the special needs of Africa, together with global progress towards the Millennium Declaration, and will be considered at the 60th General Assembly of world leaders in New York in September 2005. Whilst there have been some significant positive developments over the last five years, the overall situation in much of Africa below the Sahara is one of continuing poverty and insecurity. Despite this, the Secretary General recognises the renewed energy and determination within African states to address these problems, but stresses that progress will only be guaranteed with the firm and sustained backing of the international community, in a spirit of partnership and solidarity. The importance of strengthening the rule of law is stressed, together with the crucial role of the UNODC in overseeing implementation of the existing UN conventions on crime and drugs in Africa and the rest of the world. Overall, this is an action-orientated paper calling on the international community to make good on its promises to assist developing countries attain the MDGs. It sets out an agenda that needs to be advanced in other forums, such as the forthcoming G8 Summit in July 2005.

G8 Africa Action Plan

36. The G8 has given further impetus to finding solutions to African problems. In 2002, under the Canadian Presidency, the G8 made a commitment to the continent through its Africa Action Plan. The plan aims to establish enhanced partnerships with African countries whose performance reflects the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) commitments, including the Peer Review Mechanism, and which have demonstrated political and financial commitment to governance and the rule of law and have pursued policies that spur economic growth and alleviate poverty.

35. The Millennium Development Goals were important components of this engagement and the G8 reiterated that it would not work with Governments which disregarded the interests and dignity of their people.

37. At the G4 Summit in June 2004, an evaluation of African performance under the Africa Action Plan was undertaken in the thematic areas of freedom, prosperity and security. The Summit noted the poor coordination of aid programmes and welcomed efforts to have a single action programme to coordinate donations in each country. It also pledged support for a broader security effort.

³ Report of the Secretary-General (A/59/2005), March 2005, *In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all*.

38. This engagement will continue at the forthcoming G8 Summit in Gleneagles in July 2005, under the Presidency of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Africa is high on the United Kingdom agenda; in May 2004, the British Prime Minister chaired the first meeting of the Commission for Africa,⁴ a body of 17 influential experts in different spheres of work. The Commission's report, *Our Common Interest*, proposing practical action for Africa was released on 11 March 2005 and is to be presented at the G8 Summit. The report describes the serious and growing challenges many African countries face in dealing with weak governance, poor accountability and limited rule of law. It calls for capacity-building strategies to be designed by African Governments and supported by the international community. Thus, the Commission's report addresses the same concerns that the round table will address. The Governments of the United Kingdom and France, which are closely coordinating efforts for an Africa agenda at the G8 Summit, have strongly supported the initiative of holding the round table.

African Union initiatives

39. Following this discussion on global initiatives to combat poverty and promote sustainable development, attention can now turn to specific efforts made on the African continent. As United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has stated, "Africa has an indispensable contribution to make in ensuring that 2005 becomes a turning point for the continent, the United Nations and the world".⁵

40. The former Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the former United Nations Drug Control Programme worked closely from 1996 in the control of illicit trafficking and abuse of drugs and related crime. The close collaboration was maintained by the African Union and UNODC in the framework of implementation of the Plan of Action on Drug Control in Africa (2002-2006), which covers some elements of the agenda of the round table. In the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the Heads of State and Government expressed their determination to "promote and protect human and people's rights, consolidate democratic institutions and culture, and to ensure good governance and the rule of law". The Vision, Mission and Strategic Framework of the AU Commission underscored this commitment and the need to address structural causes of poverty and under-development.

41. The Second African Union Ministerial Conference on Drug Control in Africa, held in Mauritius in December 2004 on the theme "Mainstreaming drug control into socio-economic development in Africa", also underscored that drug and crime issues are development issues that require multisectoral efforts. The Ministerial Conference inter alia endorsed the African Common Position on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which was endorsed at the Fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held in Abuja, in January 2005. The Common Position, which is very relevant to the round table, will be presented at the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Bangkok, in April 2005.

⁴ See details at <http://www.commissionforafrica.org>.

⁵ United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, addressing the African Union Summit on 30 January 2005.

Economic and Social Council resolution

42. Against the background described above, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2004/32 (see annex), in which it requested UNODC to produce a concept paper to analyse the current situation with respect to major drug and crime issues affecting the African continent and to propose policy directives, strategies and priority focus to gain support for further assistance to Africa. The Council also requested UNODC to organize a special event, in coordination with the AU and interested Member States, to discuss ways of reducing impediments to economic growth and sustainable development caused by widespread criminality, and to ensure that appropriate responses to drug and crime issues are incorporated as core elements within bilateral and multilateral development assistance policies.

Round table

43. In pursuance of this resolution UNODC, in partnership with the AU, is organizing the round table for Africa. As part of the preparations, UNODC is in the process of completing a report which notes that many African countries continue to lack the necessary resources to combat crime and maintain effective rule of law. Where development has taken place, such as through rapid urbanization or the growth of tourism, criminality has also intensified. Tragically, it appears that the process of development can itself generate crime if measures are not taken to prevent it. The report concludes that specific efforts are therefore needed to include crime prevention as part of the development process. Without greater external technical assistance from international donors and enhanced interregional cooperation and coordination, many countries in Africa may not be able to muster sufficient momentum to escape “the prison of poverty”.⁶ As President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria has stated, “crime and criminality have become a global threat that requires the intervention of well-meaning and responsible Governments, organizations and individuals”.⁷

44. Building on recent efforts the round table will provide a fresh opportunity for donors and African partners to agree on the extent of rule-of-law needs, the priorities that must be dealt with in the short and medium term, and the resources that will be required for technical assistance. The discussions are intended to underscore the value of donor assistance and commitment, as well as to galvanize thinking on ways to devise new approaches to African development, together with African partners, and to fashion new rule-of-law policies and strategies to cope effectively with current and future challenges.

45. In addition, through the round table discussions, UNODC and the AU will have established mechanisms to capture data on the full extent of bilateral and multilateral technical assistance to all countries in Africa. This data can then be communicated to all partners to assist them in better coordinating and assessing the use of resources in technical assistance programmes.

⁶ Nelson Mandela, addressing the Annual Meeting 2005 of the World Economic Forum, 3 February 2005.

⁷ Olusegun Obasanjo, addressing the West African Police Chiefs Committee, 23 September 2004.

Conclusion

46. Unless the three pillars on which nations are built—government, society and the economy—are safeguarded, the threat posed by the spread of illicit activities will continue to inhibit growth and development in Africa. It is now increasingly accepted that security and development are interdependent and must be considered in an integrated manner. Without effective rule of law, millions of Africans remain vulnerable to “uncivil” behaviour. If rule-of-law capacity can be strengthened, more effective measures can be taken to tackle drug and crime issues. The timing is propitious for holding a round table for Africa; it will provide a prime opportunity for consideration of ways to adjust official development assistance policies and practices to include a drug control and crime prevention dimension. It is hoped that the priority programme of action that will be approved at the round table will contribute to improving human security and, in so doing, improve prospects for sustainable development in Africa. The Round Table fits right into the initiatives of the international community to focus on Africa’s needs, in partnership with the Member States of Africa, in order to come closer to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Annex

Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/32

Implementation of technical assistance projects in Africa by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which heads of State and Government pledged to support the consolidation of democracy in Africa and to assist Africans in their struggle for lasting peace, poverty eradication and sustainable development, thereby bringing Africa into the mainstream of the world economy,¹²⁷

Concerned at the fact that Africa has in recent years become a significant zone of transit, trafficking and abuse of drugs and trafficking in firearms and human beings, and bearing in mind that a number of African countries are facing post-conflict instability,

Welcoming the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, entitled “Development, security and justice for all”,¹²⁸ in which it was underlined that drug abuse and trafficking, organized crime, corruption, terrorism and the spread of HIV/AIDS had all impeded sustainable development in Africa,

Mindful of the difficulties encountered by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the implementation of its projects in Africa,

1. *Reaffirms* that recent developments in Africa call for particular attention, especially in the fight against drugs and crime;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to donor countries that have supported projects related to drug and crime issues on the African continent through their voluntary contributions to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and invites them to continue their efforts, and invites other potential donor countries to provide similar support;

3. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to improve the implementation of its projects in Africa, both at headquarters and in the field, and encourages the Office to continue those efforts;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to produce a concept paper to analyse the current situation with respect to major drug and crime issues affecting the African continent and to propose policy directives, strategies and priority focus to gain support for assistance to Africa;

5. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in coordination with the African Union and interested Member States and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to promote an exchange of views, based on the results of the concept paper, by organizing an appropriate special event among interested Member States, relevant agencies and institutes providing technical assistance to Africa, as well as those promoting South-South cooperation, in order:

¹²⁷ General Assembly resolution 55/2, para. 27.

¹²⁸ E/CN.7/2004/9-E/CN.15/2004/2.

(a) To discuss ways of reducing impediments to economic growth and sustainable development caused by widespread criminality, such as drug trafficking, organized crime and corruption;

(b) To ensure that appropriate responses to drug and crime issues are incorporated as core elements within bilateral and multilateral development assistance policies in the context of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and other relevant initiatives;

(c) To explore ways of maximizing existing resources, including official development assistance, that could lead to improvements in the tackling of drugs and crime issues and to the strengthening of criminal justice institutions;

6. *Requests* Member States in the African region where projects are being implemented to mobilize national stakeholders and to make every effort to facilitate the implementation of such projects;

7. *Invites* Member States to promote synergies between technical assistance provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and bilateral and regional cooperation activities in the African region, in particular in the context of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its fourteenth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*47th plenary meeting
21 July 2004*