

**NOTE ON THE THEMATIC DISCUSSION - 15th SESSION CCPCJ
“Maximizing the effectiveness of technical assistance
provided to Member States in crime prevention and criminal justice”**

Background

During its second inter-sessional meeting of 23 November 2005, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice agreed that the theme for the thematic discussion during the fifteenth session would be “Maximizing the effectiveness of technical assistance provided to Member States in crime prevention and criminal justice”. The meeting decided that an informal open-ended working group would be established to discuss the substantive focus and format of the thematic discussion.

The informal open-ended working group held two meetings, on 31 January 2006 and on 14 February 2006, and was chaired by Mr. Vasyl Pokotylo, Vice-Chairman of the Commission.

The following conclusions of the working group, were endorsed by the Commission at its third inter-sessional meeting of 27 March 2006:

A. Substantive guidelines for the thematic discussion:

The discussion will focus on the following four sub-themes:

1. Prioritization:

How to decide on priority issues and concerns in crime prevention and criminal justice, in particular for the UNODC Crime Programme.

- a) How to assess the needs of requesting states.

2. Stock-taking:

Stocktaking of the current UNODC Crime Programme in providing technical assistance to States.

- a) How to improve cooperation and complementarity of technical assistance activities at the programme development and implementation levels, including at the field level.
- b) How to achieve better cooperation and have joint technical work with the international aid community (UN system, IFIs, bilaterals, etc) as well as how to promote the alignment of donor assistance to national strategies/ priorities in the rule of law sector.

c) How to foster harmonization of donor assistance in the rule of law sector (sharing information, joint diagnostic reviews, joint assistance strategies, harmonized program/operational procedures, etc.).

3. Financial mobilization:

How to improve the financial support provided by Member States and how to mainstream crime issues into the development agenda.

4. Evaluation:

How to monitor implementation, evaluate and measure impact and how to use lessons learned.

B. Organizational guidelines for the thematic discussion:

1. Duration:

The thematic discussion shall take place on the second day of the fifteenth session, 25 April 2006, and consist of a morning and afternoon session.

2. Presentations:

Short presentations should be used to introduce and stimulate discussion. Sufficient attention should be given to views expressed by recipients of technical assistance.

UNODC was invited to make a presentation covering the four sub-items and outlining experiences made and problems faced with technical assistance projects in crime prevention and criminal justice.

The Secretariat should invite a number of international and regional organizations, such as DPKO, UNDP, OAS, NEPAD, ECOWAS, and SADC and development organizations, including the EBRD and the World Bank to make a short presentation.

3. Guidelines for discussion:

The following guidelines should underpin the thematic discussion at the fifteenth session:

(a) In order to have an interactive dialogue in the Commission, all participants must be prepared to focus on the theme and sub-themes agreed upon by the Commission and to follow the guidelines prepared during the inter-sessional period;

(b) There will be no national statement that will be read. It goes without saying that during their intervention on the sub-themes different Member States would bring to the attention of the Commission the experience of their Governments at the national level. In the framework of the rules of procedure applicable to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the views of NGOs would be welcomed;

(c) Each intervention shall be limited to a maximum of 3 – 5 minutes;

(d) The thematic debate will be moderated by Mr. Vasyl Pokotylo, Vice-Chairman of the Commission¹, who will act in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Functional Commissions of ECOSOC;

(e) The moderator is authorized to intervene to seek the cooperation of the speaker in respecting the time limit or in refraining from making a national statement;

(f) At the end of the thematic debate, the moderator will prepare conclusions drawing on the most salient points that were discussed during the thematic debate. These conclusions should not be seen as a text for negotiation as they are not binding on Member States, but they may be subject to a resolution, should that be the wish of the Commission.

(g) In view of the requirements to have a participation of all members and observers attending the Commission, the thematic debate will take place in a plenary mode, without round tables. The moderator of the thematic debate will keep the list of speakers with the liberty to select the speakers according to the thrust of the discussion. His objective is to stimulate the discussion and focus on specific issues relevant to the theme being addressed by the Commission.

¹ As adjusted, following the recommendation of the Fourth Extended Bureau Meeting of 2 March 2006.