

Promoting international cooperation and strengthening capacity to combat the problem of transnational organized crime committed at sea

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Recalling the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988¹ and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,² which, inter alia, contain provisions regarding cooperation in combating illicit trafficking activities at sea, and other relevant international conventions,

Recalling also that all actions taken by States to combat unlawful conduct at sea must be in accordance with their rights and applicable obligations under international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,³

Convinced that transnational organized crime at sea is a global problem that may threaten security, stability and the rule of law, undermines economic prosperity and sustainable development and may threaten the environment, making international cooperation to prevent and control it essential,

Emphasizing that all States, in particular States parties to the various relevant conventions, have a shared responsibility to take steps to counter the threat of transnational organized crime committed at sea, and the importance of enhancing international cooperation at all levels to fight all forms of transnational organized crime at sea that fall within the scope of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto,

Noting with concern the continuing problem of transnational organized crime committed at sea, including illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, and threats to maritime safety and security, including piracy, armed robbery at sea, smuggling and terrorist acts against shipping, offshore installations and other maritime interests, and noting the deplorable loss of life and adverse impact on international trade, energy security and the global economy resulting from such activities,

Noting also with concern that the problem of transnational organized crime committed at sea has a significant impact on the environment,

Recognizing the need to provide sustained capacity-building assistance, including on financial and technical aspects, by relevant international organizations and donors to Member States, upon request, with a view to further strengthening their capacity to take effective measures against the multiple facets of international criminal

¹ Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

² Ibid., vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

³ Ibid., vol. 1833, No. 31363.

activities at sea, in line with the relevant international instruments, including the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto,

Gravely concerned about the continuing threat posed by piracy and armed robbery at sea targeting vessels, including traditional fishing boats,

Emphasizing the need to address the plight of the seafarers and crews victimized by acts of piracy,

Welcoming the technical assistance provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate and upon request, to States, with a view to preventing, combating and eradicating transnational organized crime at sea, in accordance with relevant international instruments, including the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols, and welcoming the cooperation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with relevant United Nations bodies, international organizations and other bodies,

Welcoming also the support provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to States parties, including relevant technical assistance in the application of the Organized Crime Convention to new forms and dimensions of transnational organized crime committed at sea,

Welcoming further the work carried out jointly by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Customs Organization under the Container Control Programme and the impact of the Programme on maritime safety and security in the container trade supply chain,

Welcoming the work that has been conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the issue of trafficking in persons on fishing vessels,

Welcoming also the work carried out, inter alia, through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime counter-piracy programme, and encouraging its further effective implementation to achieve fair and efficient trials and the humane and secure detention of suspected and convicted pirates in Somalia and other regional States,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Director on combating the problem of transnational organized crime committed at sea,⁴

1. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,¹⁰⁶ the United Nations Convention against Corruption⁵ and other relevant conventions and to take appropriate measures to ensure their effective implementation;

2. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue providing technical assistance to Member States, upon request, to facilitate the full implementation of the Organized Crime

⁴ E/CN.15/2013/17.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

Convention and the Protocols thereto, in order to more effectively combat transnational organized crime committed at sea;

3. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide Member States with technical assistance, upon request, in the areas of capacity-building in the criminal justice sector and the implementation of the conventions relevant to combating transnational organized crime committed at sea, as well as maritime piracy, in particular maritime piracy off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Guinea, and requests the Office to continue to brief Member States on a regular basis on the implementation of its relevant programmes, including its counter-piracy programme;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its existing mandate, to cooperate with relevant United Nations agencies and regional and international organizations; multilateral initiatives, including the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia; and individual Member States engaged in combating maritime piracy;

5. *Urges* Member States to strengthen international cooperation at all levels to combat transnational organized crime committed at sea;

6. *Encourages* Member States to continue cooperating with each other in the use of relevant and applicable regional and international mechanisms for law enforcement cooperation;

7. *Also encourages* Member States to take appropriate measures, consistent with their domestic legislation and legal frameworks and in accordance with their rights and obligations under applicable international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,¹⁰⁷ to strengthen law enforcement with a view to preventing, combating and eradicating transnational organized crime committed at sea;

8. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, to cooperate with Member States, relevant United Nations bodies, international organizations and other bodies and mechanisms, where appropriate, with regard to the sharing of information on its technical assistance activities related to transnational organized crime, in particular those related to tackling the challenges posed by transnational organized crime committed at sea;

9. *Invites* Member States to consider all research conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime that relates to transnational organized crime committed at sea;

10. *Also invites* Member States to share their experiences and concerns with other Member States and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the possible gaps and vulnerabilities in tackling transnational organized crime committed at sea;

11. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to reconvene a meeting of the expert group, as was defined in Commission resolution 20/5, to continue work, in close consultation with Member States, on the recommendations contained in the report

of the Executive Director on combating the problem of transnational organized crime committed at sea⁶ and, for this purpose, to request Member States, through the chairs of the regional groups, to nominate experts;

12. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for these purposes in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

13. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

⁶ E/CN.15/2013/17.