

NOTE ON ITEM 9 PROVISIONAL AGENDA -15th SESSION CCPCJ “Revitalization of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”

Background

During its second intersessional meeting on 23 November 2005, the Commission agreed to include the issue of the revitalization of the Commission as a sub-item under agenda item 9 on “Strategic management and programme questions”, which would cover aspects such as its agenda, duration, methods of work, its role in relation to the governance of UNODC’s crime programme and the budgetary oversight of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund. 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. Issues to be considered by the Commission:

- (I) Role of the Commission in relation to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund with a view to entrusting the Crime Commission with similar budgetary authority towards the Crime Fund as that enjoyed by the CND towards the Fund of UNDCP**

- (II) Implementation of mandates entrusted to the CCPCJ as the principal policy-making body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice**

Consideration of :

- Achievements of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice since its establishment in 1992;
- The relationship with the Conference of Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Conference of State Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption;
- Focusing the substantive work and agenda of the CCPCJ;
- The role of the Commission in providing guidance to UNODC;
- Cooperation and coordination between the work of the Commission and other United Nations entities involved in activities in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice;

(III) Methods of work of the CCPCJ

Consideration of reviewing methods of work in order to enhance efficiency:

- Use of inter-sessional meetings;
- Timely submission and consideration of resolutions; Decisions on intergovernmental body to address (ECOSOC or GA) and on thematic focus;
- Use of questionnaires as information gathering instruments for the drafting of reports;
- Format of plenary discussions to ensure focused discussions;
- Length of statements by Member States.

B. Further action:

1. The working group agreed that the Commission should consider its role in relation to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund. Further information was needed on the practical steps required to provide the CCPCJ with budgetary authority over the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, as well as other relevant information, such as the possible financial implications of such an additional mandate.

2. The discussion on the revitalization of the Commission needed to continue in the capitals and within the regional groups. The background documentation, prepared by the Secretariat at the request of the working group¹, needed to be shared with counterparts, to ensure that delegations would come well-prepared to the Commission. Delegations were invited to prepare national position papers on the revitalization and to make them available well in advance of the fifteenth session.

¹ - Note by the Secretariat with an indicative list of suggestions made during the first session of the informal working group related to the issue of revitalization of the Commission;

- Note by the Secretariat on the role of the CCPCJ vis-à-vis the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund;

- Non-paper by the Secretariat on the main achievements of the CCPCJ since its establishment in 1992;

- Advanced copy of the future document, entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on Strengthening the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice" (FUTURE E/CN.15/2006/16).