Thematic discussion on environmental crime

Morning session

Challenges associated with combating emerging forms of environmental crime

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The purpose of this short presentation is to provide introductory remarks to facilitate discussion on the themes below:

**main theme -**

‘challenges posed by emerging forms of crime that have a significant impact on the environment’

**subthemes -**

(a) ‘emerging trends and challenges, including those linked to data collection and its analysis, criminalisation and criminal justice, and

(b) ‘challenges linked to related offences’
‘Challenges posed by emerging forms of crime that have a significant impact on the environment’

**Traditionally** ‘challenges’ have been approached in terms of:

- identifying **offender/s** and infiltrating criminal groups
- taking a **thematic**, commodity, industry/sector focus
- economic, social and environmental and **interrelated considerations**

**Emerging ‘challenges’** (and traditional forms of environmental crime due to the sophistication of offending) require:

- governmental **responses** (individually and collectively)
- **definitions** are important (e.g. environmental crime, transnational environmental crime and transnational organised crime)
“(a) emerging trends and challenges, including those linked to data collection and its analysis, criminalisation and criminal justice”

• **Data collection and analysis:**
  key concepts associated with the importance of clarifying differences between:
  • **Information**
  • **Intelligence**
  • **Evidence**

• **Criminalisation and criminal justice:**
  a variety of responses within and outside the criminal justice system are being used in complimentary ways to combat traditional and emerging forms of environmental crime
‘(b) ‘challenges linked to related offences’

• ‘Related offences’ here refers to ‘crossover crime’:

  Crossover crimes are crimes that are either committed as part of an ‘environmental crime’ or in parallel with such offending, for example:

  • Fraud/Theft of Carbon Trading Scheme permits (link to cyber crime)
  • Fisheries Crime involving organised crime (links to trafficking in humans, arms and drugs)
  • Money laundering of the proceeds of Illegal Logging (link to corruption)
‘(b) ‘challenges linked to related offences’ (continued)

*Crossover crimes require coordinated responses* (involving designated lead, support and ancillary agencies) from a range of agencies, for example:

- **mainstream law enforcement agencies** – police, customs/port authorities

- **environmental agencies** – scientific, regulatory and enforcement

- **intelligence agencies** – environment, law enforcement and security

- **prosecuting bodies** – criminal, civil and administrative

- **financial agencies** – tax and other regulatory bodies.
Thank you for your attention

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