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English only

**Commission on Crime Prevention
and Criminal Justice**
Reconvened twenty-second session
Vienna, 12-13 December 2013
Agenda item 9*
**Provisional agenda of the twenty-second session
of the Commission**

**Working methods and documentation of the Commission on
Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

Summary

The present conference room paper provides advance information for consideration during agenda item 9 of the reconvened twenty-second session of the Commission. It has been prepared by the Secretariat pursuant to Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice decision 22/2 in preparation for the new sub-item 3 (c) strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions: working methods of the Commission. It contains a summary of the views provided by Member States on the report of the Secretariat on documentation prepared for the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/CN.15/2013/13) and related documentation, as well as on methods of work in general.

* E/CN.15/2013/1/Add.1.



I. Introduction

1. In its decision 21/1 entitled, “Organization of work for the future sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”, the Commission, bearing in mind the need to maintain budget discipline, to use conferences services in a cost-effective manner and to conduct its work more efficiently, requested the Secretariat to provide a report related to documentation prepared for the Commission, including the costs and the number and frequency of issuance of those documents, the efforts made by the Secretariat to find internal efficiencies in the manner in which it produces such documents and the savings linked to those efficiencies, as well as recommendations on these issues, including exploring possibilities to further improve and reduce the yearly reporting requirements through a thorough examination of its current mandates, with a view to identifying outdated or duplicative mandates.

2. In its decision 22/2, the Commission requested the Secretariat to seek the views of Member States on the report of the Secretariat entitled, “Documentation prepared for the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice” (E/CN.15/2013/13) and related documentation, as well as on methods of work in general and to report on the views received at its next session for appropriate follow-up under agenda item 3. The present report is prepared in response to that request. The provisional agenda for the twenty-third session of the Commission, adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 26 July 2013, included under item 3 on “Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions” a new sub-item (c) entitled “Working methods of the Commission”.

3. By note verbale dated 28 August 2013, Member States were invited to provide their views by 16 October 2013 on that report, including the conclusions and recommendations, and on the related documentation referred to, as well as on ways to further improve the Commission’s methods of work in general. Member States’ attention was also drawn to the report entitled “Documentation prepared for the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice” which was available on the following website www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/Commission/working-methods-of-the-commission.html. In addition, the following documents are available for reference on the same website:

(a) Compilation on the methods of work of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, prepared by Canada in 2012 and updated by the Secretariat for 2013;

(b) Commission on Narcotic Drugs and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: General information on draft resolutions and draft decisions;

(c) Non-paper on the servicing of expert groups established by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, including the preparation of related documentation.

II. Comments received from Member States

4. The present report reflects the replies that were received from Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Canada, China, France, Lebanon, Morocco and

Pakistan. A reply was also received from Mexico on behalf of GRULAC. A summary of the replies received is included below. Requests for clarification of specific points were raised, for example particular paragraphs in secretariat reports needing clarification or elaborations, and these will be addressed separately.

GRULAC

5. GRULAC highlighted the need to continue the practice of preparing annual reports of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice including the resolutions and decisions adopted or passed by the Commission, and a summary of the discussions generated in each of the agenda items, focusing on policy outcomes, as well as the conclusions and recommendations arising from within the Commission. Taking into account resolution 52/14 of the General Assembly, dated December 22, 1997, Section B, which invited all intergovernmental bodies to consider, where appropriate, the possibility of reducing the length of their reports from 32 pages to 20 pages, GRULAC made a number of recommendations to support greater efficiency in the working methods of the Commission.

6. In addition to the above recommendations concerning the annual reports of the Commission, GRULAC made the following recommendations concerning pre-session and in-session documentation for the Commission, including its draft resolutions and decisions:

(a) Considering that the number of mandates is increasing due to the dynamics of international criminality, it was considered advisable to analyse the way in which mandates were given to the Secretariat, such as for the preparation of studies, questionnaires, reports, so that the preparation of these documents may be rationalized in terms of their frequency and length (maximum number of pages), insofar as it does not affect the objective of the mandate in question;

(b) (i) Similarly, it was considered that draft resolutions and documents subject to discussion during Commission sessions should be distributed electronically well in advance (except in cases where it is necessary to streamline the negotiation and adoption of documents). In particular, it should be established that the draft resolutions to be considered during the respective session, must be submitted one month prior to the start of the session. The Secretariat should ensure that the draft resolutions are available electronically on the website of UNODC in the six United Nations official languages no later than one week before the consultations, which usually take place on the business day before the start of the session;

(ii) Likewise, GRULAC proposed to avoid, insofar as possible, the distribution of printed copies before and during the meeting (through the boxes), except in the situations described above, and suggested that interventions, presentations or speeches by panellists or speakers at the meetings of the Working Groups and Committees be made available electronically on the website of UNODC, so that they did not have to be physically distributed, although the delegations concerned could bring their own printed copies;

(c) In light of the above, GRULAC suggested that the possibility of making use of technological advances and increased use of electronic distribution should be explored. In this context, the Secretariat of UNODC was requested to present to

Member States the experiences of other international Organizations in Vienna (such as UNCITRAL and COPUOS), the United Nations headquarters in New York or other locations, in the use of technological resources in order to consider the possible use of them in the work of the Commission.

7. GRULAC highlighted the importance of allowing adequate time to both the Member States and the Secretariat to prepare working papers and, in general, streamline their work in the framework of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and the Commission Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Commission). In this regard, the Group would consider it valuable, starting from the 23rd session of the Commission in 2014, if the Commission started its session with an interval of at least six to eight weeks after the end of the session of the CND, in order to implement paragraph (a), Decision 21/1, entitled “Organization of the work of future sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”.

Australia

8. Australia referred to the secretariat’s report entitled “Documentation prepared for the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice” (E/CN.15/2013/13) and supported the report’s recommendations to improve and reduce yearly reporting requirements. Australia noted that the number of documents prepared for the regular session of the Commission had been increasing; reaching its highest level yet at the twenty-second session and there was a large volume of materials that Member States were required to review prior to the sessions. To the extent that pre-session reporting requirements could be streamlined (either through consolidating reports or reducing the frequency of reports) this would assist Member States in relation to the volume of material that needed reviewed prior to sessions. Australia emphasized the importance of a clear and concise executive summary in reports which articulated the pre-session reports’ recommendations, findings and conclusions. Australia also endorsed the standard word limit of 8,500 words for reports to the Commission and encouraged adherence to this word limit and, where possible, limited annexures. Australia also welcomed increased guidance from the Commission to Member States regarding what specific reports it intended Member States to comment on during sessions and which reports were for information only. Such guidance would assist Member States in their preparations for Commission sessions and will also ensure that the Commission continued its role as a forum for Member States to exchange expertise, experience and information on combating crime.

9. To the extent that the Commission imposed new reporting obligations in resolutions, the volume of existing pre-session reporting obligations was noted and Australia supported the recommendation to limit the number of new reporting obligations. This could be achieved through limiting the frequency of reporting obligations, seeking to operate on a “one in, one out” basis, and ensuring that new reporting obligations are not already adequately addressed in existing reporting obligations. Australia could accept the recommendation of the report of the Secretariat entitled, “Documentation prepared for the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice” to review the necessity of having all written reports in all languages, provided that representatives of participating Member States were equally and adequately briefed on matters to be considered in upcoming sessions. One possible option was to translate all resolutions and the executive summary of all reports into all six official United Nations languages and only

translate full reports into all languages where so requested by Member States. Australia supported oral reporting, where possible, provided these oral reports were recorded and maintained. Where necessary, a streamlined report could support oral reporting. Where mandates were in place for recurring pre-session documentation and agenda items, Australia welcomed the Secretariat report's recommendation to explore whether any of these reports could be considered on a biennial basis and the removal of any recurring agenda items which were no longer a priority.

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

10. Bolivia (Plurinational State of) supported the suggestions of the Secretariat contained in the report on documentation prepared for the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/CN.15/2013/13), which aimed at enabling a better medium and long-term control of efficiency and functioning in the process of preparing documents and implementing effective mechanisms and practices. Bolivia (Plurinational State of) stressed that in view of the large amount of documentation processed within the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, the rules to make its production and contents even more effective were necessary. For example, the document word limit of 8,500 words was necessary and as was a progressive review of mechanisms that were ineffective and anachronistic in view of the information technology tools currently available. Furthermore, the suggestions regarding a new organization of reporting obligations and the regulation of emerging mandates needed to fulfil strict requirements in terms of volume and periodicity (also in terms of financial implications, regarding emerging mandates) implied greater efficiency and accuracy during the process of drafting, processing, translating and printing documents. The possibility to submit oral reports also represented a step forward, especially if the implementation was undertaken at a global level, with the support of magnetic and digital Medias that appeared to be more convenient in terms of costs and performance. In addition, Bolivia (Plurinational State of) considered that there was an urgent need for an agenda with a cross-cutting vision for the coordination between the different subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC, in order to avoid duplication of information, functions and competencies between the Council's commissions and subsidiary bodies in competing thematic areas.

Canada

11. Canada recalled that during the 20th session of the Commission in April 2011, it had taken the lead on several Commission resolutions and decisions aimed at improving the methods of work of the Commission, i.e., Commission decision 20/1 entitled "Organization of work for the future sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice" and the relevant provisions of ECOSOC decision entitled "Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its twentieth session and provisional agenda and documentation for its twenty-first session" (2011/257). The renewal of commitments made in 2011 led to the adoption by the Commission of decision 21/1 entitled, "Organization of work for the future sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice". As a result, inter alia, the Secretariat prepared a report on documentation prepared for the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/CN.15/2013/13), for the Commission at its 22nd session. The Commission further adopted decision 22/2 entitled, "Organization of work for the future sessions

of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice” for appropriate follow-up.

12. For the twenty-first session of the Commission in April 2012, Canada prepared a document entitled, “Compilation on the methods of work of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice” (E/CN.15/2012/CRP.3) that provided an overview of key resolutions and decisions adopted up to 2011 by relevant intergovernmental bodies (GA, ECOSOC, Commission) impacting the Commission’s methods of work. The compilation was a substantial document that required regular updating in order to reflect new decisions and resolutions. Accordingly, UNODC had updated it and made it accessible on the UNODC website. Canada considered that there would be value in compiling, as resources permit, the resolutions and decisions in other official United Nations languages. Canada further observed that several background documents had been added to the UNODC website in support of the work of both the Commission and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). Canada welcomed UNODC’s initiative in this regard, but suggested these and other relevant documents would be best made accessible in one place on the website, for example the Rules of Procedure of the Functional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/5975/Rev.1). Another possibility could be to add links to the documents that were relevant to both Commissions on the pages dedicated to each Commission. Canada commented favourably on several of the documents,¹ and also indicated ways in which they could be improved, for example through the inclusion of additional information.

13. Canada made suggestions on documents available on the UNODC website relating to the Commission’s working methods:

(a) The “Delegates’ Handbook” contained useful information for delegates to both Commissions, including general information, conference services, side events, public and civil society services, facilities and services for delegations, as well as on the functioning of the Commissions, including the Plenary, the Committee of the Whole, and the process related to draft resolutions which may prove useful for delegates, particularly those attending either Commission for the first time;

(b) The information note entitled, “Commission on Narcotic Drugs and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: General information on draft resolutions and draft decisions” contained Frequently Asked Questions, practical tips on how to prepare draft resolutions and procedures and examples on wording used in draft resolutions and draft decisions. In relation the preparation of draft resolutions, it was noted that the document was silent on the need for draft resolutions to be accompanied by a statement of information, as set out in Commission resolution 4/3. It would also be useful if the document provided additional information on the distinction between a resolutions and decisions;

¹ These documents included the Delegates Handbook, the note entitled “Commission on Narcotic Drugs and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: General information on draft resolutions and draft decisions”, crime-related resolutions and decisions adopted by the UNGA, the ECOSOC and the Commission dating back to 1950, the report on documentation prepared for the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/CN.15/2013/13) and the non-paper on the servicing of expert group established by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, including the preparation of related documentation.

(c) The role of informal consideration of proposals to be tabled at the Commission was considered. The information note stated: “Proper procedure would indicate that no informal consideration of the draft can take place prior to introduction [before the Committee of the Whole (COW)]. However, to allow greatest flexibility and use of the limited time allocated to the COW, sponsors together with interested delegations may begin informal negotiations of draft resolutions before they have been circulated in the six official United Nations languages or introduced, as long as the Extended Bureau and the Commission are informed and agree.” Canada pointed out that over recent years, resolutions were frequently discussed in the COW after informal negotiation sessions had taken place, which had often resulted in proposed compromise language being presented to the COW at the same time as the original text of the resolutions. Since many delegations may not have had the opportunity to participate in the informal negotiations, the practice has often led to mixed results. While Canada recognized that this procedure had allowed the Commission to deal with the ever-increasing number of draft resolutions, it queried whether this had been done at the expense of more inclusive discussions and a better informed consensus;

(d) UNODC had recently made available on its website all crime-related resolutions and decisions adopted by the UNGA, the ECOSOC and the Commission dating back to 1950. Access to past resolutions and decisions of the Commission was invaluable. Canada suggested that it would also be useful to develop a thematic index (in addition to the current chronological one). In this way, a Member State wishing to introduce a proposal on a given topic could have ease of access to past resolutions (and existing mandates) relevant to the topic at hand.² Such an endeavour would be labour intensive as it would necessitate systematically going through every resolution and decision to ensure that all references to a given issue was captured, but Canada considered that the investment would be well worthwhile. Given the number of resolutions adopted by the Commission each year, such an index could highlight how crime prevention and criminal justice issues had evolved and been addressed by the Commission and it would also help to improve consistency and accountability, while reducing unnecessary repetition;

(e) In the context of the streamlining of reporting obligations, Canada made the following comments and suggestions:

(i) The time may have come to review the reporting mandates of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) with a view to possibly limiting the number, frequency and length of reports being submitted by UNICRI to the Commission. Canada questioned why this report needed to be printed and disseminated in all languages on a yearly basis. The relevant reporting mandates are contained in the Statute of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (ECOSOC resolution 1989/57, Annex), more specifically in Article IV, paragraph 3(c) and in Article V, paragraph 2(d) of the Statute:

a. Canada pointed out that according to Article IV, paragraph 3(c) of the Statute, the Board of Trustees shall “report periodically to the Economic

² The Secretariat is working with UNOV’s Information Technology Section on a database to enable online thematic searches of crime prevention and criminal justice-related resolutions and decisions.

and Social Council through the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control (now the Commission)” (emphasis added). While such periodic reports would need to be submitted through the Commission to ECOSOC, nothing in this mandate required the Institute to report to the Commission every year. Canada suggested that perhaps it would be sufficient for UNICRI to report to ECOSOC (via the Commission) every five years. On other years, UNICRI could submit a few paragraphs for inclusion in the report on the activities of the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, as do the other institutes;

b. As for Article V, paragraph 2(d) of the Statute, it states that the Director of the Institute shall “submit to the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control the reports approved by the Board”. This could be interpreted as not only including the annual report, but all reports approved by the Board, including ad hoc reports on the activities of the Institute (as per Article V, paragraph 2(c) of the Statute). Given the potential number and length of such reports, and the fact that these are only meant for the Commission and not ECOSOC, Canada queried why these reports could not be submitted as Conference Room Papers (CRPs), which would not necessitate translation into languages;

(ii) When the Secretariat was preparing reports summarizing the views of Member States on a given topic, the report preparation could be suspended until sufficient responses had been received, or alternatively such reports could be presented orally;

(iii) At the last Commission session, most resolutions requested the Secretary-General to prepare reports on the implementation of the resolutions for the next session. Canada stated that the number of reports requested from the Secretariat at each session should be limited and Member States needed to put more thought into the reporting obligations. Another issue related to the circumstances in which reports were prepared within the regular budget, rather than with extra-budgetary resources. The current reporting obligations imposed on the Secretariat were not considered to be tenable in the current UNITED NATIONS budgetary situation;

(iv) Canada had serious concerns about the suggestion contained in the report on documentation prepared for the Commission (E/CN.15/2013/13) that it may not be necessary to have written reports in all languages. Canada could not accept that important texts would not be produced in all official languages of the United Nations. This went to the heart of the substantive and political validity of the work of the Commission and the ability to find common approaches to the global challenge of crime. If texts were not drafted and discussed in the official languages, the validity of the results would be compromised, because many delegates, especially legal and scientific crime experts, could not fully understand them. The shared objective in the United Nations was to reach global understandings about crime and a global consensus on responses to it. Without consensus, then genuine cooperation would remain elusive on the implementation of effective crime prevention and criminal justice measures. It was also noted that only limited parts of the UNODC website were currently available in languages other than English;

(v) While being supportive of efforts to reduce expenditure and environmental impact through the digitization of conference materials and publications, as delegations were either bringing their own copies to the meeting or coming prepared to download them as needed, Canada expressed concern over the suggestion that digital meeting records could replace traditional reports. While Canada supported similar efforts in relation to the digitization of the reports of the Commission and limiting the number of hard copies being produced, it was considered that written reports as an official record of the sessions were essential and must continue to be produced (albeit mainly in electronic form). Canada disagreed with the suggestion that the written reports from each Commission session could be replaced by digital records i.e. audio or video recordings. Practical terms, as it would take hours to listen to the recordings, this would tantamount to having no report other than the resolutions and decisions. Unless the discussions were captured in a resolution or decision, they would not be adequately reflected anywhere. In Canada's view, the value of the Commission lay not only in its resolutions, decisions and mandates, but also in its role as a body where information about crime was shared and debated. Before clear decisions could be made, consensus on difficult issues could take many years to develop. The substantive deliberations were considered to be just as important, if not more so, than any resulting decisions, because they helped governments find common ground and compromise solutions to shared problems;

(vi) Canada welcomed the Secretariat's non-paper on the servicing of expert groups established by the Commission, including the preparation of related documentation, the relevant terminology, the servicing of open-ended expert group meetings, as well as its recommendations, such as the need for Member States to be as precise as possible in terms of their expectations; ensure that specific language is included in mandating resolutions; and consult the relevant sections of UNODC well in advance of Commission sessions. Canada also made several comments in relation to the non-paper seeking clarification or suggestions of a specific nature that will be addressed in due course.

China

14. Concerning documentation preparation, China stated that pursuant to the relevant rules and practices of the United Nations, formal documentation shall be circulated in six official languages. The Secretariat's current tight budget notwithstanding, these rules and practices regarding provision of documentation in six official languages should not be deviated from, as this ensured that consideration of documentation by Member States could be undertaken equitably and efficiently. China recommended that the Secretariat arranged funding of conference services appropriately to meet the increasing demand for translation costs. It was also recommended that the Secretariat sought a better balance between documentation streamlining and quality assurance; specifically, that the contents and abstracts of discussions, in suitable length and form, be retained in reports for the convenience of Member States to review in future.

15. Regarding draft resolutions on sessions of the Commission, the current practice was that Member States shall submit draft resolutions to the Secretariat at least one month prior to a session and the Secretariat shall provide the draft

resolutions in six official languages at least one week prior to the pre-session discussions. China recommended that, in addition to these requirements, the Secretariat provide English versions of draft resolutions at least three weeks prior to sessions so that Member States may be more fully prepared.

16. China stated that regarding research programmes requiring collection of information and data from Member States, such as the crime classification survey to be conducted soon for statistical purposes, it was recommended that the Commission formulate the programme plans in advance and notify Member States of them, including their duration and means of implementation, for the convenience of Member States in making overall arrangements and preparations beforehand.

France

17. France considered that the Secretariat report entitled “Documentation prepared for the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice” contained useful insights to streamline the work of the Secretariat and make savings for UNODC. However, France found it useful to consider innovative solutions in order to achieve productivity gains in the management of UNODC, such as releasing reports on UNODC’s website and the need to restrict to the minimum necessary requests for documents and to limit their length. France attached particular importance to multilingualism, which was, for any international organization, a fundamental means of achieving its objectives. In France’s view, the cost of multilingualism should not be regarded as that of a simple operation and there was a need for the reports to be written in all official languages of the United Nations. In addition, France believed that the audio recordings of the proceedings did not replace written reports for reasons of efficiency in studying the material.

Lebanon

18. Lebanon stated that any reduction of the Commission’s report’s length should not occur at the expense of losing the meaning of deliberations in the text. Small delegations that could not be present in all meetings (plenary and ancillary meetings) relied on the reports to be informed about all discussions. Therefore, Lebanon preferred that the brief summary of deliberations contained in the report, focusing on the policy findings and conclusions reached, should faithfully reflect the dynamics of the discussion and the different positions taken. The proposal of the Secretariat regarding increasing the use of digital meeting records as a possible alternative to hard copy records required prior discussion among Member States before implementation.

19. Regarding resolutions, Lebanon suggested setting a ceiling for the number of resolutions to be examined during each session according to set priorities. Priority should be given to resolutions that linked directly to the prominent topic of the session’s thematic debate; new resolutions in terms of topic and contents, within the mandate of the Commission; and resolutions aiming to reflect or adopt the outcome and recommendation of the working/expert groups established by the Commission. Member States should be urged to merge or consolidate different draft resolutions addressing the same topic into a single text. The remaining resolutions, particularly recurring ones, should be discussed before the reconvened session. Furthermore, the possibility of submitting recurring resolutions on a biennial basis should be

considered, especially if no new elements were noted since the last one adopted that should be reflected in a new resolution.

Pakistan

20. Pakistan stated that standard pre-session reporting may be done by the Secretariat on a biennial basis; and preference may be accorded to having a consolidated document prepared by the Secretariat on a biennial basis, compiling several reports. The standard pattern of reporting to the Commission could be reviewed, with shorter introductions that referred to mandating resolutions with specific paragraphs, and omitting repetitive explanations of the mandates. It was also suggested that written reports may be published only in the English language; however recommendations if any could be considered for translation into all other United Nations languages and made available online. Another option could be to have “executive summaries” of reports in all official United Nations languages that could be published in writing, while detailed reports in English only could be available online. Furthermore, while reporting on the implementation of decisions and resolutions, tables and statistics should be used to the extent possible instead of detailed explanations.

III. Conclusions and recommendations

Number, frequency and contents of documents produced

21. The majority of changes proposed to current working methods related to the number and frequency of pre-session documents. Member States noted the growing volume of documentation for the Commission, and supported limiting new reporting obligations, as well as streamlining existing ones. Suggested methods for streamlining documentation included consolidating reports or reducing their frequency, where possible, consolidating reports, limiting the number of reports requested, and making greater use of new technologies where appropriate. Oral reporting might be acceptable for some Member States, if records of such reports were maintained or if they were supported by a streamlined written report. Recurrent reporting could be made in a consolidated form, and on a biennial or less frequent basis. Reports on the views requested from Member States on given topics could be given orally unless sufficient responses were received. Given the growing number of mandates, it was recommended that the way in which mandates were given to the Secretariat should be studied, in order to rationalize the frequency and length of reports.

22. Most Member States supported having all pre-session reports translated into all six official United Nations languages, while some would consider having only parts of the reports in all six languages, with the balance in English only. Several Member States expressed serious concerns about the suggestion that it may not be necessary to produce texts in all official languages of the United Nations. While some Member States considered that audio recordings could in part replace written reports, others were of the view that recordings could not replace written reports.

23. Member States expressed the view that the current practice should continue of including in reports of the Commission's annual sessions, resolutions, decisions, as well as a summary of the discussions focusing on policy outcomes.

24. It was valuable to have access to information on the methods of work, resolutions and decisions of the Commission on UNODC's website. The importance of keeping it up-to-date was noted, and, in some instances, the Secretariat may need to provide additional information.

Resolutions and decisions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

25. The importance of having draft resolutions available well in advance of sessions was emphasized, although the recommendations concerning lead times and required languages varied. Greater use of technological advances to distribute draft resolutions and reports in a timely manner was recommended to limit the distribution of printed copies as much as possible.

26. Consideration should be given to reviewing the increasingly prevalent practice of informally considering draft proposals before they are tabled at the Commission, in order to ensure that the discussions are inclusive and any consensus is well-informed.

27. An online thematic index of the Commission's decisions and resolutions should be developed to improve consistency between resolutions and decisions, accountability for their implementation, and reduce unnecessary repetition.

Recommendations

28. It is recommended that the Commission consider:

(a) The comments of Member States on the report of the secretariat on documentation prepared for the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/CN.15/2013/13), and related documentation and the Commission methods of work in general, contained in the present report, with a view to deciding on steps towards conducting its work more efficiently, and how to improve and reduce its yearly reporting requirements;

(b) Requesting the secretariat to present to Member States the experiences of other international Organizations in Vienna (such as UNCITRAL and COPUOS), the United Nations headquarters in New York and other locations, in the use of technological resources in order to consider the possible use of them in the work of the Commission;

(c) Requesting the secretariat to develop an online thematic index of the Commission's decisions and resolutions, and invite donors to provide contributions for this purpose.