

18 November 2016

English only

**Commission on Crime Prevention
and Criminal Justice**

Reconvened twenty-fifth session

Vienna, 1 and 2 December 2016

Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda*

Working methods of the Commission

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

Summary

The present conference room paper provides information for consideration under sub-item (c), entitled “Working methods of the Commission”, of item 3 on strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions for the reconvened twenty-fifth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. It has been prepared by the Secretariat in response to a proposal made during the regular twenty-fifth session of the Commission.

* E/CN.15/2016/1/Add.1.



I. Introduction

1. At the twenty-fifth session of this Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held from 23 to 27 May 2017, a proposal was made that UNODC once again circulate a note verbale inviting Member States to submit their views on ways to improve the working methods of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.
2. In a note verbale dated 9 September 2016, the Secretary-General invited Member States to provide their views by 28 October 2016 on ways to improve the methods of work of the Commission and noted that the Secretariat would make the information received available to the Commission at its next session.
3. By 3 November 2016, responses were submitted by Uruguay in its capacity as Chair of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC) and Spain. Those responses are contained in Chapter II of this document.¹
4. This document should be read in conjunction with the additional information on the working methods of the Commission included in the conference room paper, entitled “Working methods of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”(E/CN.15/2015/CRP.1) and in the conference room paper, entitled “Working methods and documentation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice” (E/CN.15/2013/CRP.12).²

II. Comments received from Member States

Group of Latin American and Caribbean States

5. GRULAC is pleased to submit the following suggestions to the Commission for its consideration:
 - (a) Strengthen coordination between the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies and the Secretariat of the Economic and Social Council, so that requests for the Commission’s inputs relating to the themes identified by ECOSOC are received in good time;
 - (b) Circulate the minutes of the meetings of the extended bureaux of the Commission to all permanent missions, rather than just to the chairs of the regional groups, with the aim of expediting consultations regarding nominations or requests for comments, especially those with short deadlines;
 - (c) Produce an annual report that follows up on implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Commission, following the example of document E/CN.15/2015/11, entitled “Implementation of resolutions and decisions relating to crime prevention and criminal justice adopted since 2012 in which action by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime was requested”;
 - (d) Distribute draft resolutions in all the official languages of the United Nations, in accordance with decision 20/1, in which the Commission decided that the Secretariat should ensure that all draft resolutions are made available in all six official languages of the United Nations at least three weeks before the start of the session of

¹ The comments are reproduced in the form in which they were received by the Secretariat. Official translations of the text from Spanish are included in this document.

² Additional information is available at the following website - http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Working-Methods.html.

the Commission. Informally distribute the English document among Member States once it has been approved;

- (e) Include an agenda item entitled “General debate”;
- (f) Consider making the thematic discussions part of the general report as a whole;
- (g) Apply clear and transparent rules regarding the order of the list of speakers in the “general debate”;
- (h) Suggest to the Chair that time limits be set for the reading of national and regional statements.

Spain

6. Spain submitted the comments provided below:

(a) Any changes in the methods that can be implemented to improve practices relating to the adoption of draft resolutions should preserve the principle of multilingualism;

(b) Bearing in mind the usual working system of the Commission, which consists of the Plenary, in which general or high-level statements are made, and the Committee of the Whole, in which the draft resolutions submitted by States are discussed, it is necessary to find ways to facilitate the participation, in all formal and informal meetings, of countries whose delegations consist of only a small number of representatives;

(c) Thought could be given to the possibility of adjusting the number of draft resolutions to be considered according to the number of days over which Commission sessions are held, taking into account, for example, the main theme of the session concerned, or ensuring that the number of draft texts reflects the geographical representation of the regional groups. This proposal would require general agreement to undertake any such selection of draft texts;

(d) It would be desirable to continue the practice of providing rooms at the United Nations to enable countries that submit draft resolutions to convene meetings before the beginning of Commission sessions in order to seek the earliest and broadest consensus possible;

(e) At the beginning of each session, the Secretariat and the Bureau of the Commission could prepare a workplan to ensure that all meetings of the Committee of the Whole dedicated to the consideration of draft resolutions are used for that purpose. This would avoid the adjournment of meetings, which usually leads to the convening of night meetings at which interpretation into the official languages of the United Nations is not available.